

FAHS Newsletter

Editor:
Esther Davies

GPO Box 1440
Canberra ACT 2601
Phone: (02) 6295 2837

Email: fahs@history.org.au
Web: www.history.org.au

No. 30/2009
December 2009

CONTENTS

From the President	2
Serving and promoting local history and heritage	2
Two other pieces of good news	2
2009 Annual General Meeting, Brisbane, 23 - 25 Oct 2009	3
Visits to historical sites in Brisbane	3
Old Government House	3
The Commissariat Store	3
State Library of Queensland – John Oxley Library	4
Queensland Art Gallery † Gallery of Modern Art	5
Report of meeting	5
Annual general meeting	5
Annual Report of the President – 2008/09	5
Quarterly meeting	6
Feature article – History and Heritage – who should care?	6
Issues of concern for historical societies	8
Insurance cover for historical societies	8
Proposed national curriculum	9
Closure of National Archives of Australia offices	9
Online Australian Historical Societies Support Group	10
Disaster planning for historical societies	10
Storing collections in high bushfire risk areas	11
National Cultural Policy discussion	11
News from constituent members	12
Canberra and District Historical Society	12
Historical Society of the Northern Territory	12
History Trust of South Australia	13
Royal Australian Historical Society	13
Royal Historical Society of Queensland	13
Royal Historical Society of Victoria	14
Royal Western Australian Historical Society	14
Tasmanian Historical Research Association	15

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Serving and Promoting Local History and Heritage

If you have not done so, I urge all readers to open the FAHS website and browse through it. The website was recently redesigned and rebuilt by our Executive Officer, John Davies, funded by a special grant from the Minister for the Environment, Heritage & the Arts, Hon Peter Garrett. You can access it at www.history.org.au. The website explains the constituency, role and personnel of the Federation, and provides links to a wide range of societies and services. What I would especially like you to look at, is the Support menu which provides information about services already provided by the FAHS, and others we intend to expand in the coming months. There are four particular aspects:

First, one of the major roles of the FAHS is advocacy for the historical and heritage community. We have been particularly active at the federal level in recent months, but we seek also to represent local societies if there are particular issues facing them. Formerly, we have issued an annual advocacy form that invites societies to bring matters to our attention. That may continue, but we also provide access to the form on the web. It can be filled out and submitted at any time.

Second, we have been examining the problem that some societies face in finding appropriate insurance. This Newsletter provides advice on that matter, and it is repeated in the website. The information will be updated as required.

Third, in the light of such dreadful events as the Victorian bushfires and Queensland floods in 2009, it is clear that all societies should have a Disaster Plan. Many do, but we have placed on the website guidance material for societies that have yet to undertake a Disaster Plan.

Finally, we intend to provide guidance on the establishment and operation of historical and heritage societies. The RHSV is preparing a revised version of its document, and when that is available it will be either mounted on our site or a link will be provided to the RHSV site.

Two other pieces of good news.

As most will know, about \$8 million of grants to community heritage projects under the Jobs Fund was announced recently by Minister Garrett. A good proportion went to historical societies, which were given the privilege and recognition of being treated as a separate category in the funding. FAHS office bearers were involved in the selection process. Not all applications were successful, and this was mainly because the grants were focussed on the conservation of heritage buildings, and many societies had projects that were associated more particularly with collections. The experience underlined the huge unmet demand for community heritage assistance and specifically for movable cultural heritage. The FAHS is working hard to have these needs recognised and met.

At its recent annual general meeting, the Federation elected Professor Emeritus Jill Roe from Macquarie University as a Fellow of the FAHS. Unfortunately Professor Roe has since suffered an injury and the presentation will have to be delayed until some time in 2010.

Don Garden
President.

FAHS 2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 23, 24, 25 October 2009

Highlights of the Brisbane weekend for the Federation of Australian Historical Societies included visits to the following historical sites:

Old Government House: <http://www.ogh.qut.edu.au/>

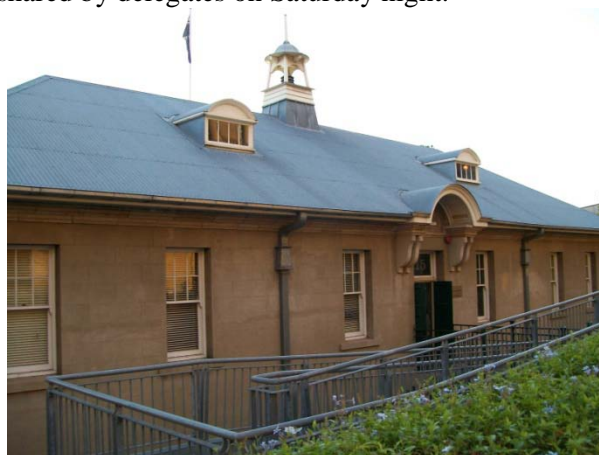
Old Government House is one of Queensland's most significant heritage buildings, built in 1862 and restored in 2009 at a cost of \$15 million as part of the 150th Anniversary celebrations of the founding of Queensland. The FAHS delegates were given a guided tour of the building, including the interpretative display rooms which tell the story of the House and all who lived and worked there, and afternoon tea was served in the courtyard.



Old Government House in the grounds of the University of Queensland

The Commissariat Store: <http://www.queenslandhistory.org.au/>

This building's first two floors were built by convicts in 1829 and is the second oldest building in Queensland. A third floor was added in 1913. The Commissariat Store is the home of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland and much of it is used for exhibitions. It was also the venue for a beautifully catered meal shared by delegates on Saturday night.



Entrance to the home of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland, originally the Commissariat Store: entry is into the top floor of three levels at 115 William Street



The Commissariat Store viewed from the rear which faces the Brisbane River. The plaque on the top floor wall shows the date of construction as 1829.

State Library of Queensland – John Oxley Library: www.slq.qld.gov.au

Located within the Cultural Centre on Southbank, overlooking the river, this magnificent library was voted Australia’s ‘building of the year’ in 2007. Its five levels of unique spaces offer research and information services and a variety of public programs whose details were explained in a guided tour.



Brisbane River viewed from inside the State Library of Queensland



FAHS delegates and partners in the open-air courtyard in the Cultural Centre on Southbank during the guided tour of the State Library of Queensland

Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art: <http://qag.qld.gov.au/>

The original building displays historical and early modern collections, while the new Gallery exhibits Australian and international art in a spectacular, spacious, light-filled building on the south bank of the Brisbane River which was visited on Saturday afternoon by delegates.

FAHS MEETING AT COMMISSARIAT STORE, SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER 2009

Delegates in attendance

Margaret Anderson (SA); David Carment (NSW); Esther Davies (ACT); Nick Drew (Treasurer; WA); Yvonne Forrest (NT); Don Garden (President; VIC); Helen Henderson (WA); Joan Hunt (VIC); Ian Jack (NSW); Ruth Kerr (Secretary; QLD); Lennie McCall (WA); Carolyn Nolan (QLD); Di Snowden (TAS); Jean Stewart (QLD).

John Davies (Executive Officer)

Annual General Meeting:

After the discussion about matters arising from the previous year's AGM held in Sydney, reports were presented by the President and Treasurer. The election of office bearers took place, when David Carment became Senior Vice President in place of Ian Jack. Emeritus Professor Jillian Rowe was awarded a Fellowship for her contribution to community history. Delegates gave reports on the 2009 year's activities and achievements for their States or Territories. It was agreed that the 2010 AGM would be held in Albany and hosted by the Royal Western Australian Historical Society, and the AGM closed.



President of FAHS Don Garden at left and delegates at the Annual General Meeting 2009

Annual Report of the President

Associate Professor Don Garden presented his Annual Report for 2008/09 at the AGM. In it he concentrated on three priority areas for his role as President of the FAHS:

- to lobby at the federal level for recognition of the invaluable contribution of community historical and heritage societies and museums to the collection and presentation of Australian cultural heritage, and to gain financial and other support.
- to facilitate communication and the sharing of experiences and expertise across the community heritage movement.
- to provide assistance to societies where it is needed and in the development of training manuals.

The full text of the President's Report can be downloaded here: [FAHS President's Report 2008-09](#)

Quarterly Meeting:

President Don Garden reported on successful meetings with Federal Ministers with whom a supportive relationship is being developed. Executive Officer John Davies updated information about the FAHS website redevelopment and guidelines for Fellowship and Merit Awards. Quarterly reports from the member organisations were presented. Joan Hunt gave a PowerPoint presentation to explain how to access and subscribe to My Connected Community (mc²), particularly Australian Historical Societies Support Group



Delegates present reports from each member organisation at the meeting.

Heritage issues, including the Regional Hubs Project, disaster planning, public liability insurance and the Collections Council of Victoria provided points for discussion. An update on the current National Curriculum on history teaching in Australian schools was given. Many ideas were raised, exchanged and considered.

(Report: Joan Hunt, RHSV delegate)

FEATURE ARTICLE

History and Heritage- Who should Care?

by Professor David Dolan
Curtin University

I have often been asked HOW I got interested in history and heritage, but when the editor of this journal asked me to write about WHY it was the first time.

HOW is a personal story, easier to explain but ultimately of less importance. I grew up in Adelaide and as a typical teenage boy my chief interests were girls, football, photography and surfing, but also high on the list was personal mobility. I spent a lot of time exploring nearby suburbs and parks on my bike, and then later started to go further afield in a series of old cars (mainly Austins and Wolseleys).

On the bike, I became aware that Colonel Light Gardens was unlike any other local neighbourhood, and soon became fascinated by the concept of the garden suburb. From the cars, I discovered many fascinating ruins including half-demolished mining buildings and abandoned farmhouses and rural chapels. I spent hours at these places, trying to imagine what they were like and how they functioned in their heyday, and taking photos on a box brownie before upgrading to an instamatic camera.



Old Onslow townsite

On my first visit to Melbourne, aged 14, I stayed with a widowed aunt who lived in Toorak. I would take a daily walk around the area, and discovered Wardell's St John's Toorak, and a some unusual flats and a house whose striking style was explained by their being designed by Walter Burley Griffin --- the story of whose international career instantly fascinated me.

Another aspect of HOW, was to do with the ecclesiastical connections of the maternal side of my ancestry. With four priests among my extended family, I spent a lot of time hanging around churches, of the neo-gothic variety, with Dodd pipe organs and windows depicting Holman Hunt's *Light of the World*. One day my grand-father told me how, as a teenager on a visit to England, he was taken to Hunt's studio and saw the large third (1904) version of this painting which later toured Australia before taking up permanent residence in St Paul's cathedral, London. I was hooked for life on the Pre-Raphaelites, and eventually decided to study art and architectural history when I got to university.

The personal bridge from HOW to WHY was the discovery that it is personally liberating if your horizons and self-esteem are not dependant on competition for material goods and conspicuous consumption. Life and the world are just so much more interesting and enjoyable when you learn and know about past as well as present art, places and people.

There are usually limits to one's empathy, and sadly the history we were taught at school nearly deadened our arousal. Ancient cultures were intriguing, but as teenage students we felt no connection with European political history. It was hard to take seriously the stories of relatively historically recent people who wore silly hats and rarely washed undies, and believed in absurd religious dogmas or that a king who was really just a gang boss had two bodies and divine authority and was worth dying for. And who could care about the nuanced spiritual concerns of someone called "the Landgravine of Thuringia" ? You had to laugh.

This condescension diminished with life experience, though some of us would still nominate among our favourite books *The March of Folly* (1984) by Barbara Tuchman, despite the disdain of academic historians. But we consolidated a preference for Australian, British and imperial 19th and 20th century

history, and in particular its surviving physical evidence available for direct experience and interrogation --- what we call heritage.

It freed the imagination to see that things and values had been different before, and therefore could be different again in the future. The present was not the only possibility. You didn't have to accept the LBJ or George Bush version of geopolitics.

That's the story of my generation and peer group; but why should anyone else care, especially today's youth? If you are getting older and you still believe that history and heritage matter, it must be for the sake of others. We old conservationists won't be here for long to enjoy the historic places we fight to save, and we won't be here to endure the collapse of the natural environment circa 2040 if pollution isn't curbed soon. But we do care for our children and grandchildren and all the people and animals yet unborn, and want them to have a decent future.

Future generations can have an enriching and intellectually meaningful life and culture if we work now and continuously to encourage the ongoing study and promulgation of history and the preservation of heritage in all forms: built, indigenous, maritime, intangible, art and museum collections, etc., etc.. But we can't expect the young to necessarily value it all while they are still young. A bit like organising to finance your children's healthcare and education, it is the duty of each generation of those who have matured and learnt to ensure the survival of scholarship and art and heritage, so those who are younger can also learn from it as they mature – more than that, so that they CAN mature intellectually.

ISSUES OF CONCERN FOR HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Comprehensive and Flexible Insurance cover for Historical Societies

Background

Following requests by some societies affiliated with constituent members of the Federation, a number of insurance schemes providing affordable insurance cover for not-for-profit organisations have been investigated. Unfortunately, most of those proved impractical or unsatisfactory for one reason or another.

However, without prejudice or endorsement, the Federation draws the attention of societies to the Local Community Insurance Services (LCIS) offered through Local Government Risk Services, a division of Jardine Lloyd Thompson Pty Ltd (JLT). The LCIS provides a broad range of insurance products that have been tailored to meet the specific needs of community group clients. This scheme is supported by The Local Government Association of South Australia, Local Government Association of Queensland, Western Australian Local Government Association and the Municipal Association of Victoria.

Historical societies qualify for cover under the LCIS

Insurance is available for community and Not For Profit Organisations (NFPOs) who have the following characteristics:

- Provide services to the broader community;
- Have an annual turnover/funding less than \$5,000,000;
- Does not distribute profits to its members;
- Located in New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, South Australia, Queensland, Northern Territory, Victoria or Western Australia;
- Comprises mainly of "volunteer" members; and
- Provide a public benefit or serve a charitable purpose.

The Kalamunda Historical Society in Western Australia is insured under this Scheme and is happy with both the cost and the coverage.

Quotations can be obtained by filling out the online quotation application form. However, if you would like to make enquiries with LCIS about insurance for your community group or are unable to obtain a quote through the online system we suggest you contact them by phone **1300 853 800** or fax 08 8235 6448.

When calling they need to know about your group to understand what you need. If possible please have the following information available.

- What do you do?
- How many members do you have?
- What is your annual turnover?
- Where are you located?
- What is your claims history and who has been your insurer over the past 5 years?

Before doing this it is recommended that you visit the LCIS website at <http://www.localcommunityinsurance.com.au/profile.aspx> for further details

Proposed National Curriculum

According to a recent communication from the Australian Curriculum.Reporting Authority, the draft curriculum for K-10 English, mathematics, science and history will be released mid February and they will seek public consultation to May 2010. FAHS proposes to participate in this consultative process and will welcome input from historical societies and individuals regarding the proposed history curriculum.

Closure of Darwin, Hobart and Adelaide National Archives of Australia offices

Opposition to the closures has continued on various fronts.

The FAHS has written to the Minister, Senator J. Ludwig MP, opposing the closure, emphasising that digitisation is not a satisfactory solution (and only a very small proportion of records have been digitised anyway) and that closure of the regional offices is an equity issues for Australians living in regional and remote areas.

The issue was raised in the Senate on 17 November. See [Adelaide Advertiser 18Nov2009](#)

The Northern Territory government has announced that it has lodged a submission to stop the closure of the Darwin office of the NAA.

Ms Pearl Ogden, member of the Historical Society of the Northern Territory and who was awarded a Merit Award by the Federation, has galvanised a campaign in Darwin along with the small number of archives staff there and has been on ABC radio news:

7.45AM ABC RADIO NEWS 11/12/09

The Northern Territory Government says it's made a submission to the Federal Government to stop the National Archives office in Darwin from closing. The National Archives is set to shut its Darwin office in Milner next year and six jobs will be lost. The Government says the Territory's Arts Minister has written to the federal minister responsible asking that the closure not go ahead. **Pearl Ogden** is a Darwin based historian.

OGDEN: We will lose our history and we will lose our heritage. We will lose everything because it's not only 1911 to 1978, there is some earlier material going back to the turn of the century and there is a little bit of material after 78 that will go to Canberra or it'll be split up and it'll end up in Sydney and Canberra and perhaps Brisbane. ENDS.

Pearl has also been quoted in the *Australian* of 16 December 2009 on the point. The article by Lex Hall refers to Kevin Rudd's speech in Parliament in 2001 (as Member for Griffith) stating he was 'deeply concerned' when the National Archives of Australia was threatening to close the Brisbane regional office then.

(Source: aus-archivists@archivists.org.au – 11 December 2009; *Australian* 16 December 2009 p.7)

Ms Ann Picot, a professional archivist at University of Sydney has been co-ordinating responses to the closures. She has emphasised the stated reasons for the proposed closures and the community's reactions to them and possible responses, as follows:

- The Director-General is saying quite firmly that it is a consequence of the budget cuts across government and is regrettable. What has emerged from the NAA Forum meetings is that remarkably little planning seems to have gone into the decision and the arrangements the NAA needs to put in place for the relocation of the records, for support for Commonwealth agencies in those states and the NT, for the future of the staff, and future access to the records are sketchy at best.
- The community's responses are hardening and are being mobilised. Completed petitions are being received from around the country.
- Organisations are sending letters and emails to the Minister controlling the NAA, Senator Ludwig MP, with a copy to the closest MHR.
- The budget cuts causing the proposed closures create a risk of Commonwealth records not being preserved.

(Source: Archives ListServ – 8 December 2009)

Consider joining the online Australian Historical Societies Support Group

The online **Australian Historical Societies Support Group**, through an arrangement between the Federation of Australian Historical Societies (FAHS) and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, is one of the *My Connected Community* (mc²) groups initiated and funded by the Victorian Government's Connecting Communities policy.

The Australian Historical Societies Support Group offers participating historical societies, like-minded bodies and their members a variety of free, easy to use Web-based services which they can use to communicate with each other across the nation and the world on any topic that is of interest or concern to their organisations.

The mc² website provides easy access to online technologies now available for communicating between group members. Features of mc² include a forum, an events list, space for sharing files, space for sharing photos, a links page and a chat room.

Details on how to join the Group are available on the [FAHS website](#)

Disaster planning for historical societies

All historical societies should consider how to protect their collections, buildings and people, and draw up a disaster plan which is appropriate to their particular circumstances.

"[Be prepared – guidelines for small museums for writing a disaster preparedness plan](#)" was published by the Heritage Collections Council in 2000. Whilst written for "small museums", it is also relevant for historical societies, whether large or small. It contains a case study in disaster unpreparedness, and includes training needs, safety and damage checklists and templates based on established disaster plans.

“Be Prepared” can be downloaded in PDF format (461KB) using the above link. Alternatively, it can be accessed at the following site (which also includes further introductory material) :

http://www.collectionsaustralia.net.au/sector_info_item/2

Storing collections in high bushfire risk areas

With the arrival of the bushfire season, it is timely that the Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material has released an information sheet [Storing collections in high bushfire risk areas](#), aimed at assisting individuals and those working with cultural collections to reduce the risks of fire when storing their precious possessions.

Since Black Saturday, we all recognise that fires of a catastrophic degree can cause damage on a scale previously unimagined. However, stories have emerged that some treasures did survive, even paper items. While not a guarantee that items will not suffer damage, minimising risk through the storage methods recommended in the information sheet may offer some hope for items that have to be left behind on evacuation.

The AICCM website contains further information about the handling and care of salvaged items, particularly those damaged by fire or water. If you are affected by fires, you should retain damaged keepsakes that are still recognisable, even if damaged and dirty, as they may be salvageable.

Consult a conservator before you throw them away. Conservators can be contacted via the AICCM website or through state and national cultural institutions. The AICCM is the professional organisation for conservators in Australia.

The [AICCM website](#) has the [information sheet](#) and [media release](#) and further information about the handling and care of salvaged items, particularly those damaged by fire or water.

(Above article based on AIMMC media release, Dec 2009)

National Cultural Policy discussion

Arts Minister Peter Garrett has announced that he wishes to create a National Cultural Policy.

The FAHS has made a [submission](#) supporting the direction being taken, but regretting that virtually no reference is made to cultural heritage.

The FAHS encourages historical and heritage societies to contribute to the blog discussion on the Minister’s website: <http://nationalculturalpolicy.com.au/>

We believe we need to make the case strongly for the crucial role of historical and heritage societies and museums in researching, communicating, conserving and caring for Australia’s cultural heritage.

Please respond to the issues that are raised on the Minister’s website and contribute evidence of the ways in which you are contributing to the creation, communication, conservation and care of Australia’s cultural heritage.

If you wish to be involved further, please see the Museums Australia website - www.museumsaustralia.org.au/site/NatCultPolicy.php

The deadline is Monday February 1, 2010.

NEWS FROM CONSTITUENT MEMBERS

Canberra and District Historical Society

A recent development, which has created a great deal of interest has been a revival of historical excursions. The most recent, and somewhat different, of these tours took place on Tuesday 20 October 2009 when Anne Marie Driver organised a CDHS group to visit the Lower Molonglo Water Treatment works. In bright sunshine participants assembled in the car park, had an official photograph taken and were then ushered into a seminar room where Wayne Harris, retired Chief Engineer of the Centre, provided a well-illustrated, comprehensive history of ACT Sewerage Works from their inception in 1915. Then, armed with this excellent background information, the group saw the works from a viewing platform and relived the exciting days of the Canberra fire crisis, which temporarily stalled the works. Afterwards Anne Marie provided a sumptuous morning tea in the Centre's staff common room (of course all washed their hands thoroughly beforehand).

This year has also seen the culmination of at four years' work with the launch of the Canberra and District Historical Society's *Gateway* website in April. At the launch, members and guests were shown how the Gateway website is organised and how to search for resources held in organisations across Canberra and the district. Although the ACT Heritage grants, which have assisted in the funding of this project for the past four years, have now run their course, the Gateway website will continue to expand, with Shirley Campbell as controller. CDHS is greatly indebted to the Gateway project coordinator Julia Ryan and her team for what has been long and, at times, arduous process in achieving such a valuable resource for Canberra historians and researchers.

For more information regarding the "Gateway" project and CDHS :

www.canberrahistory.org.au/

Esther Davies (Junior Vice-President FAHS)

Julia Ryan (CDHS delegate)

Historical Society of the Northern Territory

The weekend of 14-17 August saw 33 members and guests line up across the new bridge over the Victoria River prior to entering Bradshaw Station. On the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf, it was known for many years as 'Bradshaw's Run', owned by Captain Joseph Bradshaw, cousin of Aeneas Gunn. The Australian Army bought the station in 1996, now using it for training purposes. We visited the Station homestead, now lived in by caretakers and sometime guests, what was left of the 1905 homestead and some climbed the Yanbarran escarpment to Packhorse Cutting which provided a route to the Koolendon Valley. Packhorse Cutting is listed on the Commonwealth Register of the National Estate

In September we joined with the CDU University in celebrating the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth. The Society arranged a boat trip on Darwin Harbour with Emeritus Professor Alan Powell talking about the visit to the harbour by the *Beagle* and the later development of the waterway. Professor Powell's talk will be published as one of the HSNT's Occasional Papers.

Yvonne Forrest (HSNT delegate)

History Trust of South Australia

Highlights of the year for the History Trust included another very successful SA History Week in May, the State History Conference in early August and strong attendances at all three Trust museums. SA History Week involved 246 individual organizations who together offered 337 activities. We estimate that over 60,000 South Australians took part in an event during the extended week. There is strong pressure to increase the duration of the event to a fortnight or a month, but that will depend on funding. To date the History Trust has presented History Week from within existing resources, but the continued production of a printed program is increasingly in doubt. Although the program has been provided on our web site from the beginning, there is great community attachment to a hard copy version.

The State History conference this year was held on Yorke Peninsula in August, with the principal venue in Kadina and associated events and tours in adjoining towns. Over 200 delegates came together to enjoy a range of excellent papers.

Also during the year the South Australian Historical Society presented its excellent monthly lecture series, while the SA History Council's popular annual lecture featured Hon. Bob Carr.

Margaret Anderson (HTSA delegate)

Royal Australian Historical Society

Following the successful passage of amendments to New South Wales heritage legislation that considerably reduced its effectiveness, the Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS) is cooperating with the History Council of New South Wales and the Professional Historians Association to ensure that the amended legislation works as well as possible in history's interests.

RAHS and History Council representatives recently attended a meeting organised by the New South Wales government's Heritage Branch to discuss specific issues associated with listing and de-listing heritage items. This involved the development of criteria to identify whether long-term conservation of an item was necessary, assess reasonable or economic use and assess undue economic hardship. The RAHS Council also established a Heritage Committee to field referrals from the Heritage Branch. Although the RAHS loses its right under the amended legislation to have a nominee on the state's Heritage Council and there is no guarantee it will include an historian, strategies are being developed to continue to have an appropriately qualified historian on the Council.

Finally, the RAHS President, Ian Jack, had a useful meeting with the Liberal spokesperson on heritage, Catherine Cusack, to discuss the New South Wales Opposition's heritage policies should it be elected to power.

David Carment (Senior Vice-President FAHS)

Royal Historical Society of Queensland.

RHSQ has contributed to Queensland's 2009 Sesquicentenary celebrations, particularly with its lecture series. The four 2009 *Queensland History Journals* have been issued as larger format Sesquicentenary Journals, and Exhibitions have followed the theme. Emeritus Professor Kay Saunders delivered the Clem Lack Memorial Oration. Dr Jennifer Harrison and Dr John Steele were joint John Douglas Kerr Medallists. Retiring Manager Allan Bell was awarded an Honorary McGregor Medal. Membership is growing.

At the Society's AGM on 20 August 2009 Carolyn Nolan was elected President to replace Dr Denver Beanland who is now involved with the new Futures Committee. A workshop in February 2010 will

focus on future needs and aspirations. The Constitution and Rules are under review to make sure they remain relevant. Former State Auditor General Barrie Rollason is Treasurer.

Further grant funding is being sought, with one Councillor designated Grants Officer; a substantial grant of \$35,000 plus GST has been received from Jupiters Casino Gaming Fund, for restoration of the photographic panoramas. The [Bulletin](#) is now online and the Journals will be digitised in conjunction with the University of Queensland.

RHSQ was pleased to host the AGM of the FAHS in Brisbane on 25 October 2009, and the General Meeting that followed.

Carolyn Nolan (RHSQ delegate)

Royal Historical Society of Victoria

The Society was represented at the 170th anniversary celebration at the Melbourne Athenaeum on 12 November by EO Kate Prinsley and Vice President Lenore Frost.

Past President Prof. Weston Bate and Janice are hosting a stylish garden party and luncheon to help celebrate the RHSV centenary, at their home on Mornington Peninsula. Guests are encouraged to don a touch of 1909 dress and arrive in a motor charabanc from Frankston railway station. On this occasion the Centenary address book will be on sale and the VHJ Centenary issue launched.

RHSV Vice-President Dr Simon Smith has recently launched his book "Maverick Litigants" and will give a lecture at the Society's rooms on Tuesday 9 February 2010, entitled "The Governor-General, the entertainer and a tale of two vexatious litigants" (reminding us that Australia cherishes its eccentrics, dissenters, rascals, ratbags, cranks and agitators). Simon is a lawyer and insurance historian.

More than a thousand of the RHSV's 4000 glass (lantern) slides are known as the Robert Law Collection, received in the early 1930s. An exhibition of these will be held in February 2010, and are being progressively digitised thanks to a grant from the Ian Potter Foundation and the efforts of RHSV volunteers.

Joan Hunt (RHSV delegate)

Royal Western Australian Historical Society

Western Australian textile artist Wendy Lugg is creating new work inspired by local history as she undertakes a short term artist residency with the Royal Western Australian Historical Society in a mutually beneficial arrangement. Funding from the WA Department of Culture and the Arts has enabled the Society to host Wendy Lugg's residency. The artist is being afforded an opportunity to delve deeply into the Society's comprehensive collection of costume and heritage artefacts, as well as its library resources of printed materials, manuscripts, photographs and maps, in order to develop artworks exploring the intertwining of history, place and identity. For the Society, the residency activities have offered a new means to encourage the community to reflect on, explore and experience the stories contained in its state's material cultural heritage.

Throughout the residency this year the community has been able to view the artist's work and inspirations on display in one of the Society Museum's exhibition showcases Wendy has regularly shared sessions with the Society's local history volunteers, giving a 'show and tell' of her progress and highlighting interesting discoveries she makes. The progress of the residency is being shared

through a blogspot in which the artist describes her discoveries and processes, seeking a response from readers and setting up a dialogue with the broader community.

In addition to her residency activities at Stirling House, the artist's visits have included metropolitan and regional affiliated societies and museums, speaking and conducting workshops at Kalgoorlie – Boulder, Mundaring, Fremantle, Cockburn and Rockingham.

In October Wendy accepted a new role of Honorary Artist in Residence to the Royal Western Australian Historical Society for the next two years.

Contact for further information

www.histwest.org.au

www.wendylugg.com

www.wahistoryresidency.blogspot.com

Lennie McCall (RWAHS Delegate)

Tasmanian Historical Research Association

The 10th Biennial Tasmanian Local History Conference, *Manufacturers and Traders of Van Diemen's Land 1820-1860*, was held on 10 October 2009 at Wrest Point, Hobart. In conjunction with the conference, the organizers, the Hobart Town (1804) First Settlers Association Inc, held an Art Competition. Artists were invited to present up to three pieces of work, depicting a still-standing building, bridge or structure built before 1860 in Tasmania. Dr. Stefan Petrow was key-note speaker and several other THRA members presented papers.

An excursion was held on 28 June to the national trust property, *Runnymede*, in Hobart. It was the home of the family of Captain Charles Bayley for more than 100 years and was named after his favourite ship. The house contains rich collections of material related to the whaling and maritime interests of the family, as well as artworks and family possessions of the previous owner Francis Nixon. Another excursion was held on 4 October to Woodsdale which included a magnificent country morning tea (jelly cakes and cream puffs) followed by an inspection of the church, the old school museum, and three new displays: a sheep interpretation centre, a machinery shed, and a bridal display of wedding gowns from the district. Following lunch, the group visited two historic houses in the Stonehenge district: *Stonehenge*, a Henry Hunter mansion, which is still a family home; and the remains of *Greensburn*, later *Swanston*, built in the 1850s.

The 2009 Eldershaw Lecture was held in Hobart 8 September. Distinguished New South Wales historian, Dr James Broadbent presented a paper entitled 'India, China, Australia: Trade and Society', the subject of his most recent research project, which has a sizable Tasmanian component.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The activities of the FAHS are supported with funds provided under the Australian Government Grants to Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisations programme.