

# **PHA PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER**

**No. 27 - 6 December 2007**



## **PHA CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Don't forget to join us at our annual Christmas Party, which this year is being held at History House, 133 Macquarie Street next **Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> December**, beginning at 5.30pm. This is a good opportunity to meet friends and colleagues from the history profession.

We are asking those who attend to make a small contribution of \$10 each towards the cost of refreshments.

For catering purposes, we need to know by Tuesday if you will be coming – if you have not already done so, please send an email to Ruth Banfield at [secretary@phansw.org.au](mailto:secretary@phansw.org.au) or ring the PHA message service on 9252 9437.

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### **JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR PHA MEMBERS!**

#### **Indigenous Redfern History Project**

The City of Sydney's History Program has funding to *'engage a writer or several writers to research, record (oral) and write a history of the Indigenous community of Redfern'*

Recognising that it would be challenging to get an outcome that spoke with many voices from a community that is very protective of its own history, it was decided in 2006 to produce an anthology of works that have been important in shaping this community. Some preliminary work on the project has already been carried out, and a supporting framework has been established.

The outcome will be a book of important and revealing writings, articles, interviews, artwork, reports and so on, covering the widest possible range of different voices recording the lives of the Redfern Indigenous community. It will be organised in a way that makes it accessible to the general reader as well as providing useful material for the more serious scholar. It is proposed to commission some new short targeted pieces, in consultation with Indigenous writers to give it an up to the minute feel.

#### **Scope of Work:**

- Complete a literature survey through liaison with relevant institutions and repositories.
- Organise discussions and/or workshops with relevant community groups to promote the aims of the project and create an inclusive relationship with

people involved directly and by association with the history of the Indigenous people of Redfern. Target groups will be developed in consultation with working party.

- Provide recommendations concerning appropriate material for inclusion in the anthology to the working party and others, particularly Indigenous, as appropriate.
- Organise the selected material to the stage where it will be presented to a publisher, including clearing copyright and reproduction rights.

It is anticipated that the work will take up to the equivalent of 4 months, with some time overruns in relation to receiving in new work commissioned in the course of the project. The successful applicant may be required to make themselves available for limited engagement at times after the work has been completed (eg for - liaising with publisher.) This would be considered to be additional work, and would be separately negotiated and remunerated.

**Support:**

The working party will provide ongoing advice and support to the project, and will actively assist in facilitating positive connections with the Indigenous community. It is anticipated that the successful applicant will provide their own office space, but if required, temporary space will be available on a short term basis at Town Hall House.

**Remuneration:**

The successful applicant will be remunerated \$25,000 plus GST. In addition, any costs incurred in researching, photographic, copying and clearance fees will be covered by the City. Funding will also be made available to cover the costs of events such as workshops and promotional material required to facilitate the project. There is also a limited amount of funds available to pay for specific pieces of research as required, and to pay honorariums to Indigenous contributors. The details of what is required will evolve from your recommendations and discussions with the working party as the project develops.

**Expressions of interest to be received by Wednesday 19th December 2007**

addressed to:

Kiersten Fishburn, Senior Cultural Development Manager,  
Town Hall House, GPO Box 1591, SYDNEY 2001

For further information contact Shirley Fitzgerald, 9265 9613

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**Small Research Project - Illawong**

PHA has been approached by the proprietor of a boatshed in Sutherland Shire who is preparing a report for heritage listing. The boatshed was used for building and repairing boats from the late 1950s until comparatively recently. A heritage report has already been prepared, but the client now requires some additional information:

- Was this the oldest or most substantial boatbuilding shed in the Sutherland Shire?

- How many other sheds were operating in the period of the Bindley and Roberts shed?
- What was the number, age and characteristics of the sheds operating prior to the Bindley and Roberts shed?
- How many boatbuilding business survive today in the Shire and what are comparative characteristics to the subject site?

If you are interested in tackling this project, please contact Pauline Curby for additional information: phone 9527 7214 or email [pcurby@iprimus.com.au](mailto:pcurby@iprimus.com.au)

This job opportunity has previously been circulated to the PHA "Small Projects Panel", but nobody responded. It is now available for all members to consider. Please let us know if you are engaged for either of these projects, so that PHA can assess the effectiveness of our communications with members.

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## **OUR NEW WEBSITE IS FUNCTIONAL**

At your first opportunity, make sure that you visit the re-designed PHA internet website at [www.phansw.org.au](http://www.phansw.org.au). The new look is consistent in appearance with our revised information leaflets, copies of which are available by contacting the Secretary at [secretary@phansw.org.au](mailto:secretary@phansw.org.au). Bookmarks are also available now. Matching display banners and other promotional material are currently being prepared.

The text has been carried forward from the previous website. Please check your personal details as listed under the "Member List" and "Historian Register" tabs, and advise PHA of any corrections not later than 20<sup>th</sup> December so that the old files can be dumped.

Our thanks are due to Vice-President Virginia Macleod and graphic designer Verity Gill for developing this modern corporate image for PHA NSW.

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## **PHA CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

The first CPD activity for 2008 will be a visit to the University of Sydney Archives on Thursday, **14<sup>th</sup> February**, between 3.00 – 5.00pm. As well as the administrative records of our oldest university and the various institutions that have amalgamated with it, the Archives hold the personal archives of individuals and bodies closely associated with the University as well as a large collection of photographs. Arrangements for this seminar will be announced early in the New Year.

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"Our Place" is the theme for Heritage Week in 2008. The PHA contribution will be a workshop on History, Heritage and Conservation Planning, conducted by two of our members who are experts in this field – Anne Claoue-Long from ACT Heritage and Bruce Baskerville from the NSW Heritage Office. This workshop will be held at History House on Saturday, **5<sup>th</sup> April 2008**, from 10.00am to 12 noon. It will be open to the public as well as PHA members, so it will be publicised in the program booklet to be issued soon by the National Trust (NSW). Full details will follow in later Newsletters so that you can be sure of getting a place.

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## **NOW AND THEN**

The December issue of State Records' electronic newsletter is now available – <http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/staterecords/>

Amongst the interesting items for professional historians:

- A new version of *Archives Investigator* has been launched, with additional facilities for searching.
- Additional Primary Application Packets received from Lands Department.
- More images of public buildings in NSW are now on *Photo Investigator*.
- Christmas competition – win a free book.
- Seminar on women's history, 12 March 2008.

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### **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE NEWS**

A special meeting of the PHA Management Committee is being held this month to discuss three projects that we plan to launch in the New Year:

- An employment service for PHA members, identifying job opportunities in fields other than history or heritage, where our skills and training can be useful.
- A 'showcase' publication to display the work of PHA NSW members to a wider audience.
- A PHA prize for an essay in the field of public history written by a university student.

Further details will be announced as these schemes develop.

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### **HISTORY QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

This week's quotation is from a popular author who died last month:

"So much of Australia's history took place outside the law there was more attempt to hide it than record it."

Eric Rolls, *A Million Wild Acres*, 1981, p.77

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### **DISCLAIMER**

The President's Newsletter is not an official publication of Professional Historians Association (NSW) Incorporated, and is not to be construed as representing PHA policy. It is a personal circular from the current President to other members of PHA, and is not intended for general distribution.