



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT 2016

ABN 91 000 027 654

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Associate Professor
Carol Liston

2016 was another important year for the Society as we submitted the development application for the History House Project. It has been an arduous yet valuable journey to get to this stage. The process involved extensive input from members, our architects and an array of building consultants to ensure that our proposal respects the heritage value of the building while providing long-term viable spaces for the Society to fulfil its core objective – the advancement of education in the field of Australian history. It was wonderful to learn as the year closed that the development application would be approved early in 2017.

Reports summarising the Society's events, outreach program, publications and digital projects, membership services, as well as details of the grants and certificates awarded by the Society, appear further within this report but I would especially like to highlight that the RAHS currently has the highest number of affiliated members since the introduction of this membership category in 1934. Affiliated Societies are often the first point of contact for people seeking to understand their history. The RAHS is committed to supporting our affiliate and individual members in all their endeavours to contribute to our knowledge of Australian history through their research, lectures, publications, documentaries and digital resources.

'Times Are A-Changing – History and Innovation' was the theme of the RAHS Conference, held at Centro CBD, Wollongong. Delegates had the opportunity to hear talks and discuss how the digital revolution is influencing how we research and produce history. Accessing primary records still remains critical to writing informed histories, regardless of whether you do this

research at home online or need to leave your home – sometimes with a passport and a suitcase – to visit the relevant archives.

Many members are aware of RAHS concerns about the changes to land-record accessibility due to the closure of the Land and Property Information (LPI) online shop and the planned outsourcing of its registration services as well as access to historical records. I have recently spoken to the media about the Society's dismay at the land titles registry privatisation plans and the risks of removing these records from the custody of the bureaucrats who have been their guardians for centuries. Protecting our historical records and ensuring they are publically accessible is just as critical for our cultural heritage as preserving historically significant places and objects.

In December 2016 review copies of *Shady Acres: Politicians, Developers and Sydney's Public Transport Scandals 1872-1895* by Lesley Muir arrived at History House. I know many members have been looking forward to reading the fruits of Lesley's extensive research on one of her favourite topics. The completion of this publication was possible due to the generous donation from the Estate of Brian Madden, and the editing and project management provided by RAHS member Joy Hughes.

Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues and staff for their support and hard work this year. Dr Siobhán Lavelle OAM and Dr Anne-Maree Harriet Cox Whitaker resigned from Council in September 2016. I wish to acknowledge their contribution. Emeritus Professor David Carment AM and Mr Geoffrey White OAM kindly agreed to fill these vacant positions. As past Councillors, both have been previously involved in discussions on the History House Project thus offering continuity that will support us through the next project stages.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dr Kathrine Reynolds FRHistS

It is again with great honour and pleasure that I present my Treasurer's Report to the Royal Australian Historical Society. This year the RAHS recorded a surplus of \$3,849, which is very satisfying. We also received a significant amount of donations, namely \$501,105 in building donations to assist with our refurbishment. We sincerely thank our members and friends for their support for this important project as we almost have enough money to finance the project. Therefore it is with great pleasure we can announce that we finally received development application approval so we can now move forward at a much faster pace throughout 2017.

As well as donations to the building refurbishment we also received \$32,500 in total to our Publications and Research Fund, and Library Fund. Furthermore the family of the late Lesley Muir and Brian Madden provided \$45,000 to cover the costs of publishing Lesley's book *Shady Acres*, all the proceeds of which are being donated back to the RAHS. We sincerely thank the family for their generosity in this matter and will see that these funds remain 'isolated' in a special Lesley Muir Publication Fund, which will enable the RAHS to continue publishing significant works relating to Australian history, and also add to our financial stability.

We humbly thank all who financially contribute to the Society through subscription fees, donations, supporting raffles, purchasing items in our online shop and paying event fees. We know how hard earned much of this money is and we are grateful that the RAHS is so well regarded by its members and friends.

We are also very grateful to our political friends and members who have assisted us in many ways. We continue to enjoy the funding so generously given to us by the Arts NSW Cultural Grants Program in supporting regional history. Arts NSW also provided funding to support the RAHS seminar program in regional areas such as Coffs Harbour and Central Coast, and Western Sydney. We have had many requests for these highly popular seminars, so far run by Carol Liston, Christine Yeats and myself.

Similarly, I would like to thank the Hon Mark Speakman MP, Attorney General (previously Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, and Assistant Minister for Planning) who provided us \$52,000 in 2015/2016 to run the Heritage Grants program. The RAHS submitted an application for additional funding for 2017/2018 for this popular grants program.

We also administered another State Government initiative through the Transport Heritage Grants Program, which provided \$150,000 funding for Transport Heritage Projects across the State.

Other grants that supported RAHS projects in 2016 were:

- \$9,500 from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage to update the History House Conservation Management Plan, a core requirement for the recent development application;
- \$7,590 from the National Library of Australia for conservation work on the Foster Press Clippings (scrapbook) collections.

Our raffles are a constant support for us and we raised enough at the RAHS Conference to contribute towards the costs of new sound equipment for our auditorium. A special 'thank you' must go to *Ancestry* for generously donating two *Ancestry* subscriptions. This support, while humbling for us, also acknowledges the huge amount of volunteer work that underpins local history and the RAHS. Whether we are members, councillors or friends, we are all volunteers who value history.

Our financially restrained approach that enabled us to make a small profit was again supported by tireless efforts from our staff, as well as Councillors who took on duties previously

performed by staff such as the eNews, which Councillor Jan Koperberg has so generously continued to undertake. Our online shop continues to grow and our staff are ever vigilant in sourcing grants to develop our website, library and outreach projects.

Again, this has been another successful year for grants and we are fortunate to have the expertise of Ms Suzanne Holohan and her team. We sincerely acknowledge their hard work.

The RAHS building programme is proceeding as expected, and again we thank Mr Alan Croker, our honorary architect, Mr Robert Gasparini and Design 5, for their persistence. With the development application now passed, we anticipate 2017 will be the year our work is carried out. We ask again for your tolerance and patience during this very important period and look forward to joining together to celebrate and share the joys of the work, especially a lift opening on all floors.

Finally, I am aware of the extraordinary contribution of time that our Councillors, volunteers and members make who, with staff, help the RAHS achieve so much with very limited finances. Thank you.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The auditors have prepared the summarised financial statements below. A full version of the audited accounts is available to members on request.

The result for the year, inclusive of financial assets increment, donations and bequests, is a surplus of \$508,691. The operating result before the increments, and after the transfer of specific donations and bequests, is a small profit of \$3,849. The net assets of the RAHS increased by \$603,466 to \$17.3 million. This increase is primarily due to the growth in funds in the RAHS Building Fund bank account due to the generous donations of our supporters.

INCOME STATEMENT

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Donations received	32,501	73,569
Specific bequests and donations for		
History House Project	501,105	564,529
Grants received	65,000	40,500
Dividend and interest received	82,368	105,661
Rental income	150,436	147,868
Subscriptions received	112,455	108,804
Other income	148,844	111,480
Total Income	1,092,709	1,152,411

EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Accounting and		
Contract Services	22,940	14,360
Wages and oncosts	256,755	242,568
Grants expended	65,000	40,500
History House expenses	57,913	60,441
Other expenses	100,500	82,516
JRAHS and History Magazine	29,131	29,217
Postage, printing and stationery	30,581	21,772
Depreciation	21,198	21,663
Total Expenditure	584,018	513,037
Surplus for the year	508,691	639,374

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Cash	1,539,573	983,756
Receivable and other current assets	45,710	87,692
Financial assets	1,115,314	1,091,632
Property, plant and equipment	14,885,152	14,806,675
Total Assets	17,585,749	16,969,755
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and other liabilities	304,165	284,917
Provisions	15,635	22,355
Total Liabilities	319,800	307,272
NET ASSETS	17,265,949	16,662,483
EQUITY		
Reserves	16,322,018	15,760,894
Retained Surplus	943,931	901,589
TOTAL EQUITY	17,265,949	16,662,483

2016 SERVICES TO OUR MEMBERS

RAHS EVENTS AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Christine Yeats, Chair of Committee

During the past twelve months the RAHS continued its established tradition of offering its members and friends a dynamic seasonal events calendar, made possible by the commitment of the RAHS Events Committee, RAHS staff and volunteers. The 2016 Calendar featured a range of new events, which were presented in conjunction with fellow organisations such as WEA, Australian Society for History of Engineering and Technology, Oral History NSW, History Council of NSW, Professional Historians Association NSW&ACT, National Archaeology Week, and RAHS Affiliated Societies, both local and regional. In July the RAHS hosted the NSW History Fellowship Exhibition *This is Where They Travelled: Historical Aboriginal Lives in Sydney* as part of NAIDOC Week. The exhibition was developed by Dr Paul Irish and the La Perouse Aboriginal Community Researchers. Further highlights included Australia Day at History House, featuring our "Pot Luck with History", series of lectures and the seminar marking the 400th anniversary of Dirk Hartog's landing, which brought new audiences to History House, and regional seminars at Bankstown, the Central Coast and Coffs Harbour. These regional seminars would not have been possible without the generous support of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and Heritage Council. An afternoon tea has held at History House in July to celebrate the invaluable contribution of its team of volunteers. All events throughout 2016 proved a much-valued way in which to connect with like-minded members and friends who share a common passion for Australian history, and 2017 will prove no exception.

Event Type	2016	2015	2014	2013
Seminars	4	4	3	1
Workshops	13	9	14	12
Day Lectures	11	10	12	12
Evening Lectures	1	1	4	9

Joint Lectures/Special Lectures	13	18	12	19
Webinars	0	7	9	0
Excursions/Tours	16	7	5	7
Launches and Cocktail Evenings	2	2	2	3
Open Days	1	1	2	4
Fundraisers and Exhibitions	1	2	3	2
Annual Events	3	3	3	3
RAHS Volunteers' Event	1	0	0	0
TOTAL	66	64	69	72

2016 Regional Seminars supported by grant funding from Arts NSW

Regional seminars form an important part of the RAHS outreach program. They provide an opportunity to share skills, discuss different aspects of practising history and to share research on New South Wales local and community history. Each seminar included a skills-based training and local history research component.

Bankstown Western Sydney Seminar: 6 August – Bankstown City Library and Knowledge Centre, Bankstown, NSW. Convened by RAHS in conjunction with Bankstown City Library and Knowledge Centre.

The Royal Australian Historical Society in conjunction with Bankstown City Library and Knowledge Centre presented a one day seminar on Saturday 6 August 2016. The seminar included the following sessions: *Land Title Records* – Carol Liston; *Keeping Track of your History Research* – Kathrine Reynolds; *Furnishing your Ancestor's House* – Christine Yeats.

Central Coast Regional Seminar: 20 August – Gosford City Lions Hall, East Gosford, NSW. Convened by RAHS in conjunction with Central Coast Family History Society.

The Royal Australian Historical Society in conjunction with Central Coast Family History Society presented a one day seminar on Saturday 29 October 2016. The seminar included the following sessions: *Accessing Land Title Records: How to access them from home and understand what they mean* – Carol

Liston; *Researching and Recording German Migration History to Australia* – Kathrine Reynolds; *Furnishing your Ancestor's House* – Christine Yeats.

Coffs Harbour District Regional Seminar: 29 October – Cavanbah Centre, Coffs Harbour, NSW. Convened by RAHS in conjunction with Coffs Harbour District Family History Society.

The Royal Australian Historical Society in conjunction with Coffs Harbour District Family History Society presented a one day seminar on Saturday 29 October 2016. The seminar included the following sessions: *Accessing Land Title Records: How to access them from home and understand what they mean* – Carol Liston; *Researching and Recording German Migration History to Australia* – Kathrine Reynolds; *Furnishing your Ancestor's House* – Christine Yeats.

2016 Seminars at History House

Saturday 1 October 2016

In the wake of Dirk Hartog – The contribution of Dutch exploration to Australia's history – Keynote Speaker: Dr Edward Duyker OAM, FAHA. Speakers: Paul Brunton OAM, FAHA – *The Tasman Map and its significance*; Linda Emery – *Dutch involvement in Australia during WWII*; Dr Karen Entwistle – *History and Operations of the VOC in Indonesia (the former Netherlands East Indies)*; Professor Adrian Vickers – *Indonesian Pearl Divers*.

2016 Workshops

The RAHS organised thirteen workshops this year with support from a number of organisations including Oral History NSW and WEA Sydney. The aim of the RAHS workshop program is to provide participants with practical skills to support their history related projects.

Saturday March 12

RAHS/OHNSW Workshop: *Making Digital History – For Oral and Public Historians*

Friday April 8

RAHS Conservation Workshop 1/3: *Document Folders and Phasebox* – Margaret Scott

Wednesday April 13

RAHS/WEA: *Opening up the City's*

Memory Bank – Spotlight on the City of Sydney Archives – Michael Smith

Friday May 13

RAHS Conservation Workshop 2/3: *Solander Box* – Margaret Scott

Wednesday May 18

RAHS/WEA: *Furnishing Your Ancestor's House* – Christine Yeats

Friday June 10

RAHS Conservation Workshop 3/3: *Binding* – Margaret Scott

Wednesday June 15

RAHS/WEA: *Scanning your Photographs* – Paul Taylder

Wednesday June 29

RAHS/WEA: *History with a Difference: Researching and writing thematic history with a local focus* – Paul Convy

Thursday August 18

RAHS/OHNSW: *An Introduction to Oral History: Key principles that everyone should know* – Paula Hamilton

Wednesday October 12

RAHS/WEA: *Writing Engaging Family and Local History* – Noeline Kyle

Saturday October 29

RAHS/OHNSW Workshop: *Capturing Memories: Oral History in the Digital Age* – Janis Wilton and Andrew Host

Monday November 14

RAHS/OHNSW: *An Introduction to Oral History: Key principles that everyone should know* – Anisa Puri and Scott McKinnon

Wednesday November 16

Facts and Fictions: Pictures as Historical Evidence – Richard Neville

2016 Day Lectures

Traditionally on the first Wednesday of each month, this series is an opportunity for RAHS members and the wider community to hear speakers discuss their research interests on a wide range of Australian history topics.

Wednesday February 3

The voyages of Willem Janzoon (Dutch) and Luis Vaz de Torres (Spanish) in 1606 and the first European discovery of Australia – Ian Burnet

Wednesday March 2

Minding Her Own Business: Colonial Businesswomen in Sydney – Catherine Bishop

Wednesday April 6

The Red Cross and the Liverpool Field Hospital: Hope and Despair during 1915 – Ian Willis

Wednesday May 4

William Buelow Gould: Convict Artist of Van Diemen's Land – Garry Darby

Wednesday June 1

Doris Fitton – Independent Woman of Theatre and Theatrical Dame – Carolyn Lowry

Wednesday July 6

Writing History: Engaging with Children – Vashti Farrer

Wednesday August 3

Yabba: Cricket's Legendary Barracker – Richard Cashman

Wednesday September 7

Kismet: The Australian Gallipoli POWs – Jennifer Lawless

Wednesday October 5

Sailing with Cook: James Burney's Writings of Passage – Suzanne Rickard

Wednesday November 2

Derby Leprosarium and its Aboriginal Inmates – Charmaine Robson

Wednesday December 3

Women Journalists at War – Jeannine Baker

2016 Evening Lectures

Wednesday February 17

History is Hot: UNSW postgraduate students present their research – Speakers: Antje Kühnast, Anthea Compton, Jess Parr, Kate Colgan and Katharine Jacka

2016 Joint Lectures

Thursday February 18

RAHS/ASHE: *Inside Pine Gap – Its Technical Intelligence Surveillance Role* – David Rosenberg

Tuesday March 8

RAHS/ASHE: *Wartime Innovation: Learning from Loss* – Damien McDonald

Wednesday April 20

RAHS/WEA: *Sydney's History – An Amazing Past* – City of Sydney Historians

Tuesday April 26

RAHS/ASHE: *Early Metal Railway Bridges in NSW* – Bill Phippen

Saturday May 14

RAHS/NAW: *First Footprints along the Parramatta River* – Jillian Comber

Tuesday May 24

RAHS/ISAA (NSW): *The Brontes and re-reading 'Wuthering Heights'* – Debra Adelaide

Thursday May 26

RAHS/ASHE: *Space-Related Research*

and Innovation in the Australian Defence Scientific Service – Kerrie Dougherty

Thursday June 30

RAHS/ASHE: *Sydney's Horse-drawn Buses* – Duncan MacAuslan

Monday September 5

RAHS/History Council of NSW: *The Role of the Botanic Gardens in our understanding of innovative gardens created since the 1980s* – Howard Tanner

Thursday September 29

RAHS/ASHE: *Caldwell-Vale: The Men and their Engineering* – Jim Longworth

Thursday October 27

RAHS/ASHE: *Newcastle's First Water Supply: The 'Walka' Scheme* – Bill Jordan

Wednesday November 23

RAHS/ISAA (NSW): *Gardens of History and Imagination: Growing New South Wales* – Gaynor MacDonald, Janet George and Catherine Rogers.

2016 Special Lectures

Wednesday April 27

National Trust Heritage Lecture
RAHS Lecture: *The Emperor's Shadow: Betsy and the Balcombe family of St Helena and New South Wales* – Anne Whitehead

2016 Excursions and Tours

Thursday May 5

RAHS/National Trust Heritage Festival Excursion – Royal Australian Navy's Garden Island

Thursday May 25

RAHS/National Trust Heritage Festival Excursion – *Walking with Passion: Walk Kings Cross* with RAHS Councillor Judith Dunn as tour guide

Monday July 4 – Friday July 8

(NAIDOC WEEK/NSW History Fellowship)
Nine tours organised by Dr Paul Irish and La Perouse Aboriginal Community Researchers based on exhibition *This is Where They Travelled: Historical Aboriginal Lives in Sydney* that was hosted at History House during NAIDOC Week.

Tuesday September 20

Sydney Hospital Complex – Lucy Osburn -Nightingale Foundation Museum

Tuesday September 20

Historical Tour of Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital

Thursday November 3

Royal Australian Navy's Garden Island

Sunday November 6

Full Day Tour Comparing Two Macarthur Properties – Bella Vista Farm and Elizabeth Farm with RAHS Councillor Judith Dunn as tour guide.

Monday December 5

Walking with Passion: Walk Kings Cross – with RAHS Councillor Judith Dunn as tour guide.

2016 Launches and Cocktail Evenings

Tuesday May 24

RAHS/Thredbo Historical Society/Perisher Historical Society: *Cocktail Evening and Talks*

Monday July 4

Launch of NSW History Fellowship Exhibition – *This is Where They Travelled: Historical Aboriginal Lives in Sydney* – Dr Paul Irish/La Perouse Aboriginal Community Researchers.

2016 Exhibitions

Monday July 4 – Friday July 8 (NAIDOC Week)

NSW History Fellowship Exhibition – *This is Where They Travelled: Historical Aboriginal Lives in Sydney* – Dr Paul Irish/La Perouse Aboriginal Community Researchers

It is often wrongly assumed that Aboriginal people disappeared from Sydney in the nineteenth century, or lost their cultural links to the area. NSW History Fellow Paul Irish and researchers from the La Perouse Aboriginal community in Sydney created this exhibition, which maps the lives of a number of Aboriginal people with connections to the coastal part of Sydney, in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

2016 Open Day

Tuesday January 26

History House Open Day: *Pot Luck History and Book Sale* – Speakers: Carol Liston – *Female Orphan School at Parramatta and Convicts and Land*; Christine Wright – *The lingering legacy of Chinese gold diggers on the Braidwood goldfields*; Ian Jack – *George William Evans, explorer and surveyor, in the Hawkesbury and The Macquarie Arms Hotel, Windsor: its bicentenary*; David Carment – *Mosman's Artists' Camps*;

Christine Yeats – *Australia's Romani convicts*; Margaret Hogge – *The Fellowship of First Fleeters*

2016 Annual Events

Wednesday March 16

New Members Evening

Tuesday April 19

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday December 13

RAHS Christmas Party

2016 RAHS Volunteer Events

Friday July 29

A Celebration of RAHS Volunteers

The RAHS hosted an afternoon tea at History House to celebrate the invaluable contribution of its team of volunteers.

RAHS LIBRARY

Donna Newton, RAHS Librarian

The RAHS Library is a key resource for the Society and its members, with over 61,000 items on Australia history. The RAHS Library collection grew by 0.7% compared to the previous year, 2015. Along with members' publications, in 2016 we received items for the library from Halstead Press, Beverley McClymont, the estate of George A. Hardwick and the estate of Brian Madden.

The collection is broken down as follows:

Collection Item	2016	2015
Books	24,560	24,151
Journal/History/ Conference	3,957	3,922
Serials and selected contents index	3,689	3,689
Photograph Collection	11,432	11,432
Glass Slide Collection	7,614	7,614
Manuscripts	1,058	1,058
Press Clippings	7,255	7,255
Walker Slides	1,939	1,939
Total	61,504	61,060

The following table illustrates how members and researchers have used the library in 2016 compared to 2015. There was significant growth in visitors to the RAHS library (seventy-six percent) and viewers of the RAHS website pages (two hundred and thirty percent increase).

Measure	2016	2015
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Number of registered visitors. Seventy percent of visitors were either RAHS members or an Affiliated Society member. The remainder were visits from the general public.	314	178
Number of website views for RAHS library pages.	5,208	1,572
Entries added to Book Database. Twenty entries were from Heritage or Cultural Grant recipients.	496	281
Entries added to JRAHS, History and Conference Database.	39	47
eNewsletters from Affiliated Societies submitted to Library.	270	215
JRAHS article requests.	76	58
JRAHS submissions.	15	18
Requests to use images from the RAHS collection.	22	16

This year saw significant increases in the number of people and organisations using the RAHS Library. As always the research interests of RAHS Library users were varied and interesting, and included many first-time visitors to our library. Research areas included historical statues of Sydney; historical images relating to the RAHS excursions to see the RAHS tablets at Kendall's Glen and Kendall's Rocks at Gosford; the history of NSW mounted police; the RAHS Historical Tablet for the First Government House Site; James Samuel Bray (1840-1918), naturalist and museum curator at St John's College, University of Sydney. We received many library queries on topics relating to the people, events, suburbs, towns, streets, and buildings of New South Wales. We also had requests for information on past RAHS people and events.

RAHS Staff and volunteers successfully promoted the library collections in numerous ways, which has contributed to the number of people using the library as a research resource. Simple internet searches on 'Australian history' and 'Australian history library' now place the RAHS and the RAHS Library among the first few results, due to a considered approach to Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) on the RAHS website. This has greatly assisted the broadening of reach for the RAHS Library online, which in turn results in physical use of the RAHS Library at History House.

The RAHS Library also experienced an increase in the number of visitors

who had been referred from other libraries in Sydney and further afield. RAHS Volunteers also made major contributions to the expansion of visibility of historical images in the RAHS Photograph Collection via online galleries on Flickr and Historypin. In 2016 I delivered a presentation on the RAHS Library to Bankstown Family History Group at Bankstown Sports Club, and conducted library tours for the annual RAHS New Members Evening; Hunters Hill Historical Society; Ku-Ring-Gai Historical Society, Anglican Historical Society (Sydney Diocese); Blue Mountains Historical Society; Australian Society of Archivists (NSW Branch); University of the Third Age (U3A); Hawkesbury U3A Genealogy and the Australasian Team; and State Library of New South Wales Information and Access Services. We were very pleased with positive reports from these tours.

The use of RAHS photographs and resources in the RAHS eNewsletter and on social media continues to be successful in promoting the library collection. The *This Week in History* section of the RAHS eNewsletter included items on RAHS monument unveilings and excursions; building openings such as new Prince Alfred Hospital, QVB, State Theatre. There was also a story on Queen Elizabeth II's 1954 Royal Tour of Australia to honour her ninetieth birthday.

There have been increasing requests to use items from the RAHS Library collections. Permission to use RAHS images was granted to MacMillan Education Australia, National Museum of Australia, Sydney Living Museums, Sydney Bus Museum, the Australian National Museum of Education, and the NSW Parliament. *Governor Macquarie's Commissariat Stores constructed in 1812* [unknown artist, oil on canvas], an item from the RAHS Artwork Collection, is currently on loan to the Museum of Sydney for inclusion in the exhibition *Demolished Sydney*.

Conservation work on the Foster Press Clipping Collection scrapbooks was successfully completed, with several volumes undergoing treatment and all volumes rehoused in archival custom boxes. This project was funded by a grant from the National Library of Australia. The remaining Osborne Collection photograph album containing images of Tenterfield and surrounds has been scanned, completing this project. This

was possible due to a generous library donation from one of our members.

The RAHS was one of six organisations invited by His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), Governor of NSW, to participate at a Government House and Gardens Open Day on 12 June as part of the celebrations for the ninetieth birthday of Queen Elizabeth II. RAHS Councillors and RAHS Staff had a wonderful opportunity to provide information and materials about the RAHS to visitors. The Society also received a share of the gold coin donations made by the public during the open day.

Members' subscriptions and donations greatly assist the RAHS Library. We would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support. The library also generates income through book sales, including the RAHS online bookshop, as well as inter-library loans and photographic reproductions.

The RAHS Library Committee continues to provide welcome advice to ensure that our library evolves in a way that best services our members and the broader community of history researchers and enthusiasts.

RAHS PUBLICATIONS, WEBSITE AND DIGITAL MEDIA

RAHS Staff

In 2016, The RAHS produced six publications for its members – two editions of the *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society* (JRAHS) and four editions of *History* magazine.

The *JRAHS* contained articles by both academic and community scholars. Topics covered in 2016 included the Aboriginal Bruny Islanders before settlement by the British; the rabbit industry in South-East Australia 1870-1950; E.F. Vickery and his dream of a New World on the South Coast of New South Wales; James Stephen's Doctrine of a White Australia; Marrickville's Memory of War: defining personal and communal loss in Sydney's Inner West.

History magazine included articles of general Australian historical interest that were primarily researched and written by RAHS members and affiliated societies' members. It also contained articles on developments

in historical research, updates on the activities of the RAHS and its affiliated societies, book reviews and book notes on publications on NSW local and community historical. The editors for 2016 were RAHS Councillors Christine Wright (March and December), Lynne Allen (June), and Christine Yeats (September).

In late 2016 the RAHS, the Madden Family and Halstead Press announced the long awaited publication of Lesley Muir's investigation into political corruption, developer donations and the impact of powerful lobby groups on the design and construction of Sydney's metropolitan railway and tramway network in the 19th century. With an introduction by Elizabeth Farrelly, *Shady Acres Shady Acres: Politicians, Developers and Sydney's Public Transport Scandals 1872-1895* foreshadows the transport shortcomings that the city and its suburbs endure today.

The RAHS eNewsletter continues to be an effective method of communication between the RAHS and its members and friends, particularly with those in regional areas. The Society is very grateful for the news stories and other contributions from individual members and affiliates.

RAHS staff and volunteers continue to add content to the RAHS website. In 2016 a section specifically dedicated to the History House Project was launched as a means of providing members and donors with information on the project goals. This year also saw the successful implementation of the online RAHS conference booking form.

Social media allows the RAHS to learn about its online audience and is an easy way for us to keep in touch with our members and friends. It provides opportunities to broaden our reach, which has resulted in new memberships and increased event attendance. Social media enables the RAHS to inform its members and the public of the latest developments in community and local history and heritage, and is a very effective way to share with the history community the information on the Society's Library collections. The Society's use of social media continues to grow – we attracted 1609 new followers on Facebook (an increase of 57% in 2015) during the year, and we doubled the number of followers on Twitter. The RAHS has a social media presence on Facebook,

Twitter, Flickr, Historypin, Pinterest, Tumblr and Instagram. Our most popular social media post for 2016 was a call out for contributions to the Anne Zahalka Street Photography Project. The RAHS asked its members and friends, on behalf of the artist, to send images of family members taken by street photographers during the 1930s – 1960s. Two Facebook posts publicising the project reached over 11,000 people.

Other popular posts included the sharing of an article from ArtsHub on funding cuts to the National Library of Australia's Trove database in early 2016, and a permanent exhibition of the lives of the Parramatta Female Factory Women, *Herstory: Lives of the Parramatta Female Factory Women* at the museum of the Parramatta and District Historical Society, in Hambledon Cottage. Both posts reached approximately 5,000 people.

Our online friends also eagerly shared information, and identified a number of locations depicted in images from the RAHS Collection on its Flickr channel, particularly the RAHS/Osborne Photograph Collection of images of Sydney during the 1920s – 1930s.

RAHS Staff and volunteers continued to produce audio/visual content for the Society's website and YouTube channel. The Society would like to acknowledge the support of its network of historians and heritage advocates who kindly give up their time to share with us their expertise. Subscribe by visiting the RAHS YouTube channel to keep up to date with uploads as they happen.

The Society looks forward to new opportunities in digitally connecting with both individuals and organisations, and is excited about the possibilities that its website and social media platforms offer in providing services to its members, particularly to those in regional areas whose contact with the RAHS may be limited by distance.

RAHS AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

Lynne Allen, Chair of Committee

This year was another busy year for the Affiliated Societies Committee, the members of which give freely of their time, expertise and energies to represent you and your society.

Once again we administered the Cultural Grants with applications amounting to

\$149,405 and had the difficult task of distributing the \$50,000 available. The projects of the successful applicants were identified as enhancing our knowledge of the history and heritage of Australia in interesting and innovative ways. It is highly recommended that assistance and guidance with the project development, the grant application and the realisation of the completed project be sought from the RAHS staff and ASC members. We would like to thank Arts NSW for the twenty percent increase in funding for this grants program for 2016 – 2018. In 2017, organisations will need to apply for grants using the online system SmartyGrants.

'Times Are A-Changing' and Bob Dylan's Nobel Prize shone a very timely focus on our RAHS Conference which was held in Wollongong in the beautiful Illawarra. Grace Karskens set the tone of the conference with her delivery of the Lesley Muir Address with a lively, entertaining and stimulating exploration of the people of the early Hawkesbury/ Nepean district. Subsequent speakers entertained us with both academic and practical takes on the challenge of change and innovation, with the audience engaging energetically when given the opportunity for questions. The Business Session was very popular with spirited discussions on the need for regular reviews of constitutions, dealing with local authorities and financial viability.

RAHS Conferences are a great way to meet old friends and make new ones. The importance of networking should never be underestimated. The Business Session is an opportunity to find out what is going on in the world of history and to have your say in the governance of the RAHS. The conferences also afford an occasion to be informed and entertained, as well as to acquire new skills which can enhance your contribution to your community. The 2017 RAHS Conference will be held in Cowra on October 28-29 and we would love to welcome you. This conference will be co-hosted by the Cowra & District Historical Society and the Cowra Family History Group who are already enthusiastically preparing to make your stay, in this beautiful area, exceptional. We encourage you to extend your stay to revel in the fascinating history and superb food and wines of the region.

We are sad to lose two valuable members from the ASC and thank them sincerely for their dedication and valuable input over the last few years. Ian Granland, representing Special Interest Groups,

resigned from the ASC on 4 November 2016, and Audrey McCallum, a City representative, resigned on 9 November 2016. Both Ian and Audrey will be missed.

Remember, the Affiliated Societies Committee is your committee, established to support your society in its valuable role as preserver and protector of the nation's heritage.

RAHS MEMBERSHIP DATA

There was a slight increase in membership in 2016 compared to the previous year. The membership profile is changing. Affiliated Societies' members are at an all time high. However individual members have declined. This partly reflects changing demographics with long-term members moving into the senior membership category.

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
AFFILIATED SOCIETIES MEMBERS						
Fewer than 15	49	46	45	43	42	45
Fewer than 30	73	75	75	72	69	61
Fewer than 50	62	54	52	51	53	53
Between 51-100	93	101	101	101	101	95
More than 100	82	71	68	70	68	69
More than 200	22	24	24	26	26	26
More than 300	16	16	17	18	18	17
TOTAL AFFILIATED SOCIETIES						
	398	387	382	381	377	366

INDIVIDUAL AND PAIRS MEMBERS						
Individual Members	308	364	347	339	303	270
Household Pairs (x2)	51	65	64	70	61	43
Students	15	18	28	20	12	11
Senior Members	481	435	506	507	474	376
Senior Pairs (x2)	92	83	85	94	79	77
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS AND PAIRS						
	947	965	1,030	1,030	929	777

CORPORATE MEMBERS						
	6	7	7	5	1	0

LIBRARY SUBSCRIBERS						
	129	119	127	130	128	134

NON-SUBSCRIBING MEMBERS						
Honorary Fellows	5	5	6	5	5	5
Life Members	19	19	19	21	24	26

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Members						
50 years	7	8	9	13	10	12
Free and Exchange	36	34	35	37	35	39
TOTAL NON-SUBSCRIBERS	67	66	69	76	74	82
TOTAL SUBSCRIBERS	1484	1,478	1,546	1,546	1,435	1,277
OVERALL TOTAL	1,551	1,544	1,615	1,622	1,509	1,359

2016 – RAHS AND THE COMMUNITY

Representation on History and Heritage Boards

The RAHS is represented on the Federation of Australian Historical Societies by Judith Dunn and Ian Jack; the Geographical Names Board of New South Wales by Terry Kass; the History Council of New South Wales by Christine Wright; the State Records of NSW Community Advisory Committee by Christine Yeats; the National Archives Consultative Forum by Jan Koperberg; the Roads and Maritime Services Heritage Committee by Ian Jack.

Grant Programmes

The Cultural Grants Program is an Arts NSW devolved funding program administered by the Royal Australian Historical Society on behalf of the NSW Government. This program assists historical research and publication of local, community and regional history projects. \$40,500 (ex GST) was distributed to grant projects in 2015.

The following organisations were 2016 Cultural Grant recipients: Albury City Band; Armidale and District Historical Society; Australian Society of Lacemakers of Calais; Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations; Bondi Icebergs; Campbelltown and Airs Historical Society; Central Coast Family History Society; Deepwater Jockey Club; Friends of Bella Vista Farm; Gynea Community Aid Information Service; Hornsby Shire Historical Society; Kogarah Historical Society; Liverpool Genealogy Society; Macleay River Historical Society; Maitland City Council; Moorebank Heritage Group; Moruya and District Historical Society; New England Regional Art Museum; Opus Sydney

Opera House; Shoalhaven Historical Society; Thredbo Historical Society; University of Wollongong Library; Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society; Willawarrin Hall Committee.

The Heritage Grants Program is one of the Community, Youth and Senior Heritage projects administered by the Royal Australian Historical Society on behalf of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage. This program assists local history and archives projects and is open to individuals and organisations. In 2015, \$23,400 (ex GST) was distributed to projects under this program.

The following organisations and individuals received a 2016 Heritage Grant:

The City of Liverpool and District Historical Society; Braidwood and District Historical Society; Danny Loyden; Howard Matthew; Millthorpe Village Committee; Parkes Shire Council; Patrick Kennedy; Port Macquarie Historical Society; St Paul's Anglican Church Burwood ;Anna Sutton; Russell Workman; Wyong Family History Group.

The Transport Heritage Grants Program is a NSW Government funded program, administered by the Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS), with the support of Transport Heritage NSW (THNSW). Introduced in 2015, this grants program assists with sustainable projects to restore and conserve rail, tram and bus heritage assets (which are not eligible for other Government funding), to educate the community about NSW transport heritage and for innovative digital research and print interpretation projects. \$150,000 (ex GST) was distributed to recipients in its inaugural year.

The following were 2016 Transport Heritage Grant recipients:

Restoration and conservation category

Dorrigo Steam Railway & Museum; Glenreagh Mountain Railway; Goulburn Crookwell Heritage Railway; Lachlan Valley Railway Society; Oberon Tarana Heritage Rail; Richmond Vale Preservation Group; Steam Tram & Railway Preservation Society; Sydney Bus Museum; Sydney

Tramway Museum; The Omnibus Preservation Society; 3801 Ltd.

Research and publication category

Australian Railway Historical Society (NSW); Carriageworks: Dictionary of Sydney; Lachlan Valley Railway Society.

Education category

Lachlan Valley Railway Society.

Certificates of Achievement

Certificates of Achievement provide recognition to those members of affiliated societies whose contribution is significant and noteworthy to both their society and the community.

The following people were awarded Certificates of Achievement in 2016:

Jean Campbell – Botany Bay Family History Society; Iain Carolin – Marrickville Heritage Society; Philip Lee – Macleay River Historical Society; Phillipa Morris – Mosman Historical Society; Margaret Morrison – Parkes & District Historical Society; Helen Ruttley – Shoalhaven Historical Society.

Heritage

In 2016 the Society established a Heritage Working Group of three RAHS Councillors to assist with reviewing and co-ordinating RAHS responses to proposed changes to the State Heritage Register. RAHS Vice-President Christine Wright, RAHS Councillors Bruce Baskerville and Jan Koperberg reviewed all notices circulated by the Heritage Council of NSW on changes to the State Heritage Register. Fellow RAHS Councillors and RAHS members also provided support.

Overall the RAHS sent twelve letters to the Heritage Council including support for the recommendations to list the Sirius Apartment Building in The Rocks, the Parramatta Female Factory Precinct, Dobell House in Wangi Wangi, and 'The Greatest Wonder of the World and The American Tobacco Warehouse and Fancy Goods Emporium' in Gulgong. The Society also submitted feedback on the Macquarie Street Strategic Framework to the NSW Minister for Finance Services and Property, Dominic Perrotet.

2016 – RAHS PEOPLE

The Council

In 2016, the Council comprised:

President

Associate Professor Carol Liston, BA (Hons), PhD, FRAHS

Senior Vice President

Ms Christine Isabel Yeats, BA, DipLib, DipArchAdmin

Vice President

Dr Christine Anne Wright, BA (Hons), PhD

Treasurer

Dr Kathrine Marnya Reynolds, BA, MSc, PhD, FRHistS

Councillors

Mrs Lynnette Aileen Allen, MA, DipEd, Grad Dip Local, Family & Applied History

Mr Bruce Baskerville, BA (Hons), Dip FHS, APHA, FFAHS

Mr Phillip Ian Black BSc, Dip Ed

Emeritus Professor David Sulman Carment AM, BA (Hons), PhD, FACE, FFAHS (from 5/10/2016)

Ms Judith Madeline Dunn, OAM, FPDHS

Ms Jan Koperberg

Dr Siobhán Kathleen Lavelle, OAM, MA, PhD (to 30/09/2016)

Mr Christopher Grahame Maxworthy BA, BEE, MBA

Dr Anne-Maree Harriet Cox Whitaker, MA, PhD, FRHistS, FRAHS (to 29/09/2016)

Mr Alexander Geoffrey Duckett White OAM (from 5/10/2016)

Nine RAHS Council meetings were held at History House in 2016.

COMMITTEES

The Society's committees bring together a wide range of people who have a shared interest in supporting the key activities of the Society. The RAHS committees develop draft policies for consideration of the Council as well as supporting staff with core activities. The committees are reformed each year after the Annual General Meeting. Members of the Affiliated Societies Committee that represent city, regional and special historical interest groups are selected during the business session at the RAHS Conference.

Below is a list of the committees and their members that were active in 2016:

Affiliated Societies Committee

Ms Lynne Allen (Chair), Ms Judith Dunn (Vice Chair), Ms Jan Koperberg, Mr Ian Granland, Ms Trudy Holdsworth, Mrs Leonie Knapman, Mrs Audrey McCallum, Ms Angela Phippen, Ms Lorraine Neate

Events Committee

Ms Christine Yeats (Chair), Emeritus Prof David Carment, Dr Kathrine Reynolds, Dr Christine Wright, Ms Margaret Dalkin, Mrs Judith Dunn, Ms Suzanne Holohan

Executive Committee

Associate Professor Carol Liston (President), Ms Christine Yeats (Senior Vice-President), Dr Christine Wright (Vice President), Dr Kathrine Reynolds (Treasurer), Ms Lynne Allen (Council Representative)

Library and Archives Committee

Ms Christine Yeats (Chair), Associate Professor Carol Liston, Dr Ian Jack, Associate Professor Julia Horne, Ms Donna Newton

Publications and Research Fund Committee

Associate Professor Carol Liston (Chair), Dr Kathrine Reynolds, Dr Christine Wright

VOLUNTEERS

The RAHS thanks all of its volunteers for the incredible contribution that they make to the Society. Although each volunteer performs different types of work, each gives their time generously and joyously.

2016 Certificate of Appreciation

The RAHS introduced Certificates of Appreciation in 2014 to honour the contribution made by RAHS volunteers. The 2016 Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to RAHS Member Alison Billing for her hard work and dedication in managing the RAHS Online Shop, where the Society sells new and pre-loved history publications.

The volunteers for 2016 (excluding councillors and people with solely committee roles) are tabled below.

Maria Apostolou

Researching/adding publications to the RAHS Online Shop, lecture podcast production, online exhibitions.

Alison Billing

Researching/adding publications to the RAHS Online Shop

Alexandra Clarke

Lecture podcast production, online exhibitions.

Margaret Coleman

Organising and arranging display cabinet material, documenting bookplates/provenance for Rare Books collection, assisting with other library projects, running conservation workshops for RAHS members

Margaret Dalkin

Organising and supporting events, reviewing website content, proof reading, writing booknotes for *History* magazine.

Betty Goodger

Indexing Affiliated Societies' newsletters and journals, reorganising materials in the library.

Trudy Holdsworth

Completed her researching, updating and amending the Fighting Sons database from the 1917 publication Australia's Fighting Sons of the Empire, assisting with various library projects, proofreading material when required.

Jenifer Jagielski

Online exhibitions.

Mary Sciberras

Lecture podcast production, online exhibitions, research assistance.

Margaret Scott

Organising and arranging display cabinet material, conservation workshops, continuous repairing of items when found through collection, documenting bookplates/provenance for Rare Books collection.

Margaret Tobin

Organising assorted uncatalogued library material, library shelving, researching publications for addition to the RAHS Online Shop.

STAFF

Full-time

General Manager: Suzanne Holohan, BA (Hons), BComm (Hons).
Appointed Company Secretary from 29/05/2016

Librarian: Donna Newton, Dip Lib Inf, ALIA (Tec)
Digital Media/Administration:
Graham Sciberras, BA Comm IntSt (Hons)

Part-time

Finance/Grants/Insurance
Administrator: Maryanne Byrne,
BBus, M Events Management

The Society also paid professional fees for legal and financial services.

STUDENT PLACEMENTS

The RAHS hosted two student placements during 2016 – Year 10 students Michael Lavaring and Victor Liang. During their time at History House both Michael and Victor carried out research using the RAHS Library collections, built a series of webpages with text and images, and were involved in the production of RAHS lecture podcasts.

BEQUESTS AND BENEFACTIONS

1915 to 1943

Greaves, William Albert Braylesford (1915)*

King, Sir Kelso (1917)*

Loewenthal, Charles Jacob (1917)*

Hordern, Sir Samuel (1919)*

Dixson, Sir William (1922)*

Halloran, Aubrey (1922)*

Backhouse, Judge Alfred Paxton (1922)*

Hawley, Arthur (1923)*

Foster, Josephine Ethel (1924)*

Welch, William (1925)*

Friend, Owen Esmond (1925)*

Barbour, Emily Hume (1925)*

Dunlop, Blanche (1927)*

Powell, John Joseph (1927)*

Wentworth, William Charles III (1927)*

Campbell, Cristina (1935)*

Bales, Richard S. (1941)*

Ferguson, Sir John Alexander (1941)*

Hallstrom, Sir Edward John Lees (1943)*

Saunders, O. (1943)*

1943 to 1986

Stephen, Alfred Ernest (1943)*

Cohen, Sir Samuel (1945)*

Bales, Mrs R. (1945)*

Rofe, Thomas Ernest Fulton (1945)*

Cridland, Frank (1947)*

Parle, F. A. (1948)*

Moberley, Laura Ethel (1955)*

Armstrong, H. C. (1959)*

Laurence, Kathleen Joan (1971)*

Archer, Frederick P. (1977)*

Wentworth, William Charles IV (1981)*

King, Dr (Alice) Hazel Kelso (1983)*

Slade, E. R. (1983)*

The Estate of Catherine Jane Livingstone (1983)

Else-Mitchell, Justice Rae (1984)*

Cubis, Dorothy Crawford (1984)*

Bench, Dorothy (1986)*

Ross, Valerie J. (1986)*

Sutton, Colonel Ralph (1986)*

Estate of Dr Alan Thirlwall Denneen (1986)

1986 to Date

Estate of Dr Alan Thirlwall Denneen (1986)

Goldston-Morris, Maurine (1987)

Londish, Sidney (1989)

Estate of Janet Cosh (1990)

Concord-Stapleton, Dr Clare (1990)

Liston, Associate Professor Carol Ann (1993)

Cox, Richard Wyatt (1993)*

Scott, Jean Buchanan (1994)*

Veich, Roger Vanhome (1995)*

Estate of Cassandra Irene Furey (1996)

Estate of Joan Matthews (2001)

Estate of Donald Munro Armstrong (2002)

Estate of Nellie Glenora Mackie (2003)

Estate of Ruth Watson (2005)

Estate of Morris Zion Forbes (2007)

Estate of June Adams (2008)

Estate of Dora Elizabeth Gardiner (2011)

Macquarie Bank (2012)

Estate of Dr Lesley Anne Muir (2013)

Estate of Brian Madden (2016)

* Deceased Estate

SOCIETY HONOURS

The RAHS Council recognises contributions to the advancement of education in the field of Australian history in three categories, namely Fellow, Honorary Fellow and Medallist.

FELLOWS

Members of the Society who, in the judgement of the Council, have rendered service in advancing the knowledge of Australian history and in furtherance of the objects of the Society, shall be eligible for appointment as Fellows. Under the Society's regulations, the number of Fellows shall not exceed twenty-five and not more than three Fellows may be appointed in a calendar year.

Dr Rosemary Annable, FFAHS

Emeritus Professor Brian Fletcher, OAM, FAHA

Professor Stephen Garton, FAHA, FASSA

Robert Irving, OAM

Dr Ian Jack, FRHistS

Keith A. Johnson, AM, FSG, FSAG

Associate Professor Carol Liston

Dr Peter Reynolds, OAM

Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Sherington

Dr Anne-Maree Whitaker, FRHistS

HONORARY FELLOWS

Persons who, in the judgement of the Council, have rendered valuable service in advancing the knowledge of Australian history, shall be eligible for appointment as Honorary Fellows. Under the Society's Regulations, the number of Honorary Fellows shall not exceed ten and not more than one Honorary Fellow may be appointed in a calendar year.

Emeritus Professor Alan Atkinson, FAHA

Dr Shirley Fitzgerald

Professor Kenneth S. Inglis, AO, FAHA, FASSA

Dr Dennis Norman Jeans

Dr Beverley Kingston, FASSA

MEDALLISTS

The award of Medallist for Distinguished Service shall be made by the Council to those members of the Society who, in its judgement, have made an outstanding contribution to the promotion of the work of the Society.

Mr Richard d'Apice, AM, KCSG