



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT 2017

ABN 91 000 027 654

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Associate Professor Carol Liston AO

This year opened with an important milestone for the Society - on 3 January 2017 the City of Sydney approved the development application for the History House building project. It has been an arduous journey to get this far. We next undertook a limited excavation of the Phillip Lane loading bay to carry out geotechnical investigations to ensure that the foundations of the 1970s addition to the original building could definitely support the proposed extension. It was a great relief to learn that the foundations are strong enough.

Our architects, Design 5 and an array of consultants are now working on the detailed construction documentation required for the building tender process. An essential component is the replacement of our aging lift which raises complex design issues so that we can meet compulsory safety legislative requirements to accommodate a full-length ambulance stretcher, without structural changes to the lift shaft.

Fundraising has been a constant concern of the Council. The RAHS is aware that many of our members support their own local historical societies and community groups and are on limited incomes. We thank them for their donations and bequests. I urge members to continue to support our efforts, as the building changes are essential if we are to encourage the study of Australian history in our own premises. Our staff worked hard on a number of state and federal grant applications but none were successful, so we will be looking at additional funding avenues to raise the final one million dollars.

On April 21 2017, *Shady Acres: Politicians, Developers and Sydney's Public Transport Scandals 1872-1895* by Lesley Muir was launched by Dr Robert Freestone at History House. At our conference in October 2017 I spoke on Lesley's research interests and the passion we both shared for researching land records. Many members will remember how Lesley and I travelled across NSW running seminars on land research. In 2017, RAHS Councillors continued to travel across the state as part of the RAHS regional seminar program, and as guest speakers for affiliated organisations.

The RAHS, in conjunction with Mrs Hurley, wife of our patron the Governor of New South Wales, His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), is working on a history of the wives and consorts of the Governors of NSW. Members of the vice-regal families have enthusiastically supported the project. RAHS Vice President Dr Christine Wright is the lead co-editor of

the project. RAHS member Joy Hughes, who provided generous research assistance to *Shady Acres*, is assisting with this publication project. A companion oral history project is supporting research into recent vice-regal families and professional historian Roslyn Burge is conducting interviews with Governors' families and staff. In partnership with the State Library of New South Wales, these interviews will become available through Amplify, a SLNSW platform for delivering digitised audio materials.

Reports summarising the Society's events, outreach program, publications and digital projects, membership services and community engagement appear further within the report. However, I would like to highlight the increasing number of people who are visiting the RAHS library webpages. Many RAHS collection items are visible on the National Library of Australia's Trove portal. We will continue to work behind the scenes to make our collection more accessible in 2018.

The core objective of the Society – the advancement of education and research in Australian history – is achieved through the work of our councillors, volunteers and staff, as well as the financial support from members through subscriptions and donations. Visitors to History House can see how our staff and volunteers work well together, bringing in different skill sets across the generations. The strength of the RAHS depends on active councillors and members who work with staff to deliver activities that support our objective. I would like to thank them for their contribution.

Finally, I wish to thank Emeritus Professor David Carment AM, Mr Geoffrey White OAM, Ms Jan Koperberg and Mr Christopher Maxworthy who served on the RAHS Council during the year. Although no longer councillors, we very much appreciate their ongoing contributions to the RAHS.

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 members of the RAHS. In 2018, the Society recorded a surplus of \$3,783, which is very satisfying as our continuing financially restrained approach enabled us to make a small profit.

We also received a significant amount from donations, namely \$464,696, to assist with our building project. We sincerely thank our members and friends for their support for this project, which will ensure History House remains part of our rich and diverse heritage.

The Society spent \$225,000 in architectural, consultant and application costs to reach the development approval stage, and anticipate that the costs to prepare construction documentation and structural testing will be an additional \$300,000. It is therefore critical that the construction phase goes ahead as we will have incurred \$525,000 in merely getting to the construction. It is therefore with great earnestness that the RAHS is currently working on raising the final one million dollars required for construction. All contributions from members and friends are vital to get us to the final stage of actually building. We will be looking at other sources from outside our membership base.

Members also contributed \$36,940 to our Publications and Research Fund, and Library fund. This included contributions to support the Governors' wives and consort project, which RAHS President Carol Liston discussed in her 2017 report.

In 2017, the Society earned \$8,302 in book sales and royalties from the sale of Shady Acres by the late Dr Lesley Muir. The family of the late Lesley Muir and Brian Madden provided the funds to cover the publishing costs, with Brian Madden's children, Peter Madden, John Madden and Robyn Madden, together with Lesley's cousin John Dean, assigning copyright of the publication to the RAHS. The RAHS Council approved a motion to use royalties and proceeds from the sale of Shady Acres to support future RAHS publications and research initiatives.

We are also very grateful to our political friends and members who have assisted us in many ways. We thank the Hon. Don Harwin MLC, Member of the Legislative Council, Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy and Utilities, and Minister for the Arts, Vice-President of the Executive Council, for funding regional community and history projects through the 2017 Cultural Grants Program. Create NSW also provided funding to support the RAHS Seminar Program in Wauchope, Moree and Central Coast, as well as Western Sydney.

Similarly, I would like to thank the Hon. Gabrielle Upton, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Local Government, and Minister for Heritage who provided \$27,000 in 2017 to run the Heritage Grants Program.

The RAHS also has a contract with Transport NSW and Transport Heritage NSW to administer the Transport Heritage Grants Program, which provided \$154,000 in funding for transport heritage projects across the state. This is the third successful year of running this program. We hope that the transport history session at the 2017 RAHS Conference inspired our affiliated societies to consider applying for a grant for this program. In 2017, Shoalhaven Historical Society received \$8,850 to support the publication project Going South: The Kiama to Bomaderry Railway.

Our raffles continue to generate funds to support various projects. At the 2017 RAHS Conference we raised enough to contribute to the costs of a new scanner for the RAHS Library, which will be able to scan glass slides. Special thanks must go to Ancestry for their ongoing generosity of donating two Ancestry subscriptions for our conference raffle, and to Cowra Family History Group for contributing the very

popular raffle fruitcake prize. We also had two book sales at History House and online book sales on our website, which contributed an additional \$4,000 revenue. All these purchases add up and help support projects that we could not otherwise afford. We are always grateful to receive donations of high-quality history books that we can rehouse to our members.

As in previous years, the 2017 Annual Report is an opportunity to express gratitude to fellow Councillors, volunteers and members who, with staff, help the RAHS achieve so much with very limited financial resources. Thank you.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

INCOME STATEMENT

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Donations received	32,012	32,501
Specific bequests and donations for History House Project	464,696	501,105
Grants received	65,000	65,000
Dividend and interest received	85,600	82,368
Rental income	150,294	150,436
Subscriptions received	134,688	112,455
Other income	118,080	148,844
Total Income	1,050,370	1,092,709
EXPENDITURE		
Accounting and Contract Services	13,180	22,940
Employee Benefit Expenses	264,712	262,293
Grants expended	65,000	65,000
History House expenses	55,454	57,913
Other expenses	67,611	94,962
<i>JRAHS</i> and <i>History</i> Magazine	29,002	29,131
Postage, printing and stationery	32,102	30,581
Depreciation	20,863	21,198
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	547,924	584,018
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR BEFORE TRANSFERS		
	502,446	508,691
TRANSFER TO OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		
History House Building Project Donations	464,696	501,105
Other	33,967	3,737
SURPLUS	3,783	3,849

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES		
ASSETS		
Cash	1,769,816	1,539,573
Receivable and other current assets	48,626	45,710
Financial assets	1,113,055	1,115,314
Property, plant and equipment	15,023,169	14,885,152
Total Assets	17,954,666	17,585,749
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and other liabilities	172,592	304,165
Provisions	15,937	15,635
Total Liabilities	188,529	319,800
Net Assets	17,766,137	17,265,949
EQUITY		
Reserves	16,818,423	16,322,018
Retained Surplus	947,714	943,931
Total Equity	17,766,137	17,265,949

BEQUESTS MADE IN 2017

The RAHS wishes to express gratitude for Helen Hartmann's generous bequest of \$20,000 to the RAHS. It will be used to support the History House Building Project, as ensuring the long-term viability of the home of the RAHS is the most befitting way of honouring Helen's legacy.

Helen attended the 2015 RAHS Annual Conference at Bankstown. Helen, who believed in the importance of preserving local history, made a donation at the conference so that we could digitise a photograph album, which contained images of Tenterfield from the early 1920s – late 1930s. The album was one of six donated by Lyle and Jennie Osborne from Narellan Vale. They had stored the albums for over twenty years in their family home before donating them to the RAHS.

SERVICES TO OUR MEMBERS

RAHS EVENTS AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Christine Yeats, Chair of Committee

In 2017, the RAHS continued its established tradition of offering its members and friends a dynamic seasonal events calendar. This was made possible by the commitment of the RAHS Events Committee, RAHS volunteers and staff, and through collaborating with organisations such as State Archives and Records NSW, WEA, Australian Society for History of Engineering and Technology, Oral History NSW, Professional Historians Association NSW & ACT, National Archaeology Week, Society of Australian Genealogists, Independent Scholars

Association of Australia (NSW Chapter) and RAHS Affiliated Societies, both local and regional.

The 2017 calendar featured seminars and workshops that focus on our key goal to develop historical expertise in the community that supports history and heritage projects. Our popular day lecture series at History House provided an opportunity for members to listen to research findings from new and established historians, many of which were podcast so regional members could enjoy them too.

All events provided a much-valued way for members and friends to connect with others who share a passion for Australian History. In particular, the RAHS Conference at Cowra on 28-29 October was a wonderful opportunity for members to network and learn about the history of an important regional town.

Event Type	2017	2016	2015	2014
Seminars and Workshops	18	17	13	17
Lectures – Day, Evening, Joint	20	25	29	28
Excursions and Tours*	8	16	7	5
Launches/Cocktail Evenings	4	2	2	2
Other	5	6	6	8
Webinars	0	0	7	9
TOTAL	55	66	64	69

*The 2016 Excursions and Tours figures include the nine tours during NAIDOC Week led by Dr Paul Irish and the La Perouse Aboriginal Community which were based on the exhibition *This is Where They Travelled: Historical Aboriginal Lives in Sydney* that was hosted at History House during NAIDOC week.

2017 REGIONAL SEMINARS SUPPORTED BY GRANT FUNDING FROM CREATE NSW

Regional seminars are an important part of the RAHS outreach program. Seminar programs include skills based training and local history research components, which are designed based on the training needs of the regional historical societies.

Wauchope District Regional Seminar: 18 March 2017 – Wauchope Country Club, 24 King Street, Wauchope, NSW. Convened by RAHS in conjunction with Wauchope District Historical Society Inc.

The Royal Australian Historical Society in conjunction with Wauchope District Historical Society presented a one-day seminar on Saturday 18 March 2017. The seminar included the following sessions: *Accessing Land Titles Records: How to access them from home and understand what they mean* – Associate Professor Carol Liston AO; *Furnishing your Ancestor's House* Christine Yeats; *Research tips and tactics* Associate Professor Carol Liston AO and Christine Yeats.

Moree Regional Seminar: 8 July 2017– Moree Town and Country Club, 5 Frome Street, Moree, NSW. Convened by RAHS in conjunction with Gwydir Family History Society Inc.

The Royal Australian Historical Society in conjunction with Gwydir History Society presented a one day seminar on

Saturday 8 July 2017. The seminar included the following sessions: *Accessing Land Title Records: How to access them from home and understand what they mean* Associate Professor Carol Liston AO; *Furnishing your Ancestor's House* Christine Yeats; *Unlocking Trove's hidden gems: Government Gazettes*.

Central Coast Family History Society Regional Seminar: 19 August – Gosford City Lions Hall, rear of 8 Russell Drysdale Street, East Gosford, NSW. Convened by RAHS in conjunction with Central Coast Family History Society Inc.

The Royal Australian Historical Society in conjunction with Central Coast Family History Society presented a one-day seminar on Saturday 19 August 2017. The seminar included the following sessions: *Convicts from another angle* Associate Professor Carol Liston AO; *The WWI Soldier's Return: Was it a land fit for heroes?* – Christine Yeats; *Research Trails* – Associate Professor Carol Liston AO and Christine Yeats.

2017 WESTERN SYDNEY SEMINAR SUPPORTED BY GRANT FUNDING FROM CREATE NSW

Introduction to building your research skills: 5 August 2017 – RAHS in conjunction with Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG) and State Archives and Records NSW

This seminar provided an introduction on how to make the best use of the free online indexes and digitised records on the State Archives and Records website plus the rich resources of the Land Kiosks, located in the State Archives reading rooms. It also included sessions on research ethics and how best to organise research results.

Speakers: *Searching State Archives' website and online indexes* - Martyn Killion; *Getting to know the LPI 'Kiosks' in State Archives' reading room* – Dr Terry Kass; *Research ethics and the online environment* Dr Naomi Parry; *'It's there somewhere' Tips on organising your research* – Christine Yeats

2017 SEMINARS AT HISTORY HOUSE

Indigenous Oral Histories: 29 July - RAHS in conjunction with Oral History Association of NSW

This seminar was for anyone interested in oral history work with members of Indigenous communities. It was chaired by Kate Waters, an experienced professional historian with expertise in ethical approaches to conducting oral history interviews with Aboriginal communities.

Speakers: Associate Professor Heidi Norman *Researching Aboriginal land rights*; Dr Dino Hodge *Exploration into Indigenous Australian queer histories*; archivist Kirsten Thorpe, who leads the Indigenous Services team at the State Library of NSW.

Land Titles Records: August 23

Speaker: Associate Professor Carol Liston AO

Land Titles Records: November 9 2017

Speaker: Associate Professor Carol Liston AO

2017 Seminars at Richmond Villa

People of Millers Point, 1880-1930: June 22 2017 – RAHS in conjunction with SAG

This seminar explored a range of State Archives and Records NSW sources that could be used to research the lives of those who made their homes in Millers Point between 1880–1930. Speaker: Gail Davis

2017 Tours

RAHS Norfolk Island Tour: 18-25 AUGUST 2017

RAHS Councillor Judith Dunn OAM led another very successful eight-day tour of Norfolk Island. The group consisted primarily of people from historical societies across New South Wales. The packed itinerary included two half-day tours of the convict settlement, three museums and the cemetery. One of the highlights was a 'History in the making tour' where attendees learnt how to make building lime, to work flax, produce tow and make ink from the sap of the bloodwood tree. *'We arrived back in Sydney tired but inspired from soaking up Norfolk Island history and with many new friends from historical societies throughout NSW'* reported Judith in the September 2017 edition of the RAHS e-Newsletter.

2017 WORKSHOPS

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

Wednesday 15 April

RAHS/WEA Workshop: *An introduction to social media: making it work for your projects* – Suzanne Holohan and Graham Sciberras

Wednesday 21 April

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

Friday 22 June

RAHS Workshop: *'Whereas we the members...'* - *reviewing your organisation's constitution and regulations* – Dr Bruce Baskerville and Suzanne Holohan

Saturday 29 July

RAHS/WEA: *How to read old handwriting* – Gail Davis

Wednesday 20 September

RAHS/WEA: *Trove: A 'flagship discovery service' for all researchers* – Christine Yeats

Saturday 7 October

RAHS/OHNSW: *Capturing Memories: Oral History in the Digital Age* – Pauline Curby and Andrew Host

Thursday 9 November

RAHS: *Land Titles Records Research* – Associate Professor Carol Liston AO

Wednesday 15 November

RAHS/WEA: *Annabella Boswell's Table: researching family history through objects* – Carolyn Williams

Saturday 25 November

RAHS/Professional Historians Association NSW: *Trove Workshop* – Christine Yeats

2017 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 1 February

Enterprise and Diversity: Greek-Australian Occupational Pursuits, 1810 to Present – Leonard Janiszewski

Wednesday 1 March

New South Wales and the Great War – Dr Naomi Parry

Wednesday 5 April

The Summit of Her Ambition: The Spirited Life of Marie Byles
Anne McLeod

Wednesday 3 May

Direct Hit: The Bombing of Darwin Post Office –
Professor Brett Bowden

Wednesday 7 June

A Complicated Love Affair: An Illustrated History of our Relationship with the NSW Coast – Dr Ian Hoskins

Wednesday 5 July

Recovering the Reputation of Signor Augusto Lorenzini –
Megan Martin

Wednesday 2 August

Murder at Myall Creek – The Trial that Defined a Nation –
Mark Tedeschi

Wednesday 6 September

The Aboriginal People of Coastal Sydney – Dr Paul Irish

Wednesday 4 October

Kilmainham to Kalgoorlie: the life and times of Hugh Mahon –
Dr Jeff Kildea

Wednesday 1 November

Women's Business: Midwives on the Mid North Coast of NSW to 1950 – Dr Noeline Kyle

Wednesday 6 December

Nature and Education in Early Twentieth Century New South Wales
– Carolyn Williams

2017 EVENING LECTURES**Thursday 2 November**

History is Hot: UNSW postgraduate students present their research – Speakers: Elicia Taylor, Bryce Abraham and James Farquharson

2017 JOINT LECTURES**Tuesday 28 February**

RAHS/ASHET: *Case Study: 1914 Grand Prix Delage – Resurrecting a Sole Survivor* – David Rosenberg

Thursday 30 March

RAHS/ASHET: *Woomera and the Anglo-Australian Joint Project* – Kerry Dougherty

Thursday 27 April

RAHS/ASHET: *Yaralla, Concord - its landscape heritage* –
Stuart Read

Thursday 8 June

RAHS/ASHET: *Saving the Powerhouse Museum* –
Lindsay Sharp

Tuesday 5 September

RAHS/ASHET: *Flying the 'Southern Myth': Pioneering Flight Simulation in Australia* – Dr Peter Hobbins

Tuesday 3 October

RAHS/Independent Scholars Association of Australia (NSW Chapter) Open Forum: *Reflections on Writing Australian Press History* – Elizabeth Morrison

Monday 23 October

RAHS/ASHET: *Hadrian's Wall: Boundary Monument for the Northern Frontier of Roman Britannia* – John F Brook

Thursday 23 November

RAHS/ASHET: *Corrugated Iron – Australia's Iconic Building Material* – Judith Dunn OAM

2017 SPECIAL LECTURES**Wednesday 27 April – National Trust Heritage Lecture**

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

2017 EXCURSIONS**Wednesday 15 February**

RAHS Excursion: Rocks Discovery Museum and YHA Big Dig site with Dr Bruce Baskerville

Friday 24 March

RAHS Excursion: Tour of Government House with
Donna Newton

Sunday 21 May

RAHS/National Archaeology Week Excursion: *Tour of Central Park, Broadway – Evolution from fresh water creek and brewery to high-end urban village* with Anita Yousif

Wednesday 14 June

RAHS/SAG Tour: Millers Point with Ralph Hawkins

Wednesday 12 July

Australian Galleries at the Art Gallery of New South Wales with Donna Newton

Thursday 7 September

Victoria Barracks, Paddington with Donna Newton

Saturday 6 September

RAHS Excursion: Park House with Judith Dunn OAM

2017 LAUNCHES AND COCKTAIL EVENINGS

Wednesday 5 April

RAHS member's book launch: *Hugh Mahon: Patriot, Pressman, Politician' Volume I: the years from 1857 to 1901* by Jeff Kildea

Thursday 20 April

RAHS member's book launch: *The Convict Lottery: forced removal of surplus population: a study of convict transportation* by Peter K B Edwards

Friday 21 April

RAHS book launch: *Shady Acres: Politicians, Developers and Sydney's Public Transport Scandals 1872-1895* by Lesley Muir

Thursday 11 May

RAHS member's book launch: *Hidden in Plain View: The Aboriginal people of coastal Sydney* by Paul Irish

Tuesday 27 June 27

RAHS/Thredbo Historical Society: *Sydney Cocktail Function and Anniversary Book Launch*

Thursday 9 November 9

RAHS member's book launch: – *Educational reform and Environmental Concern* by Dr Dorothy Kass

2017 OTHER EVENTS

Thursday 26 January

History House Open Day: *Pot Luck History* and RAHS Book Sale

Tuesday 14 March

RAHS new members' evening

Tuesday 18 April

RAHS Annual General Meeting

Thursday 9 November 9

RAHS/ISAA Open Forum – *Reflections on Writing Australian Press History* with Dr Elizabeth Morrison

Tuesday 12 December

RAHS Christmas Party

RAHS LIBRARY

Donna Newton, RAHS Librarian

The RAHS Library is a key resource for the Society and its members, with over 60,000 items on Australia history. The RAHS Library collection grew by 0.7% compared to the previous year, 2016.

Collection Item	2017	2016
Books	24,978	24,560
Journal/History/Conference	3,985	3,957
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

The following table illustrates how members and researchers have used the library in 2017 compared to 2016. The number of registered library visitors was down as we did not organise as many library tours in the second quarter of the year due to uncertainty around the start date for the History House project.

Measure	2017	2016
Number of registered visitors - 70% RAHS members or Affiliate Society members. The remainder were visits from the general public.	185	314
Number of visitors to RAHS library web pages.	6,840	5,208
Entries added to Book Database - 21 entries were Heritage, Cultural or Transport Heritage Grant recipients	418	496
Entries added to <i>JRAHS</i> , <i>History</i> and Conference Database	28	39
E-Newsletters from Affiliated Societies submitted to Library	249	270
<i>JRAHS</i> article requests	54	76
<i>JRAHS</i> submissions	16	15
Requests to use images from the RAHS collection	31	22

As always, the research interests of RAHS Library users were varied and included a number of interstate and overseas visitors: from Western Australia, New Zealand, France, Ireland and Wales.

Research areas included Melville Island convicts and their connection to St John's Cemetery, land leases through rural NSW; history of Devonshire Street Cemetery; early shipbuilders in Northern NSW; French surgeon Dr Louis Laure (1830-1912) and his work in Australia 1870-1900; Australian fiddle player Stan Tracey, Limerick NSW; Sydney and Suburban Hydraulic Power Co; Point Frederick Pioneer Park Cemetery; the initial hotels issued with liquor licenses by Governor John Hunter in NSW 1798.

The majority of library online and email query topics related to the people, events, suburbs, towns, streets, history and buildings of New South Wales. We also had requests for information on past RAHS members. and events. Some of this material was sourced for exhibitions.

The use of RAHS photographs and resources in the RAHS e-Newsletter and on social media continues to be successful in promoting the library collection – resulting in increasing requests to use items from the RAHS Library collections. In 2017, permission to use RAHS images was granted to the Australian Consulate General in China for use in their inaugural Australia Day Official Reception in Phuket, Thailand, hosted by our newly opened Australian Consulate General; Western Kentucky University; Channel 7 News; Office of Environment and Heritage for Blue Mountains Heritage Centre; Urbis Pty Ltd, Heritage Consultants; State Library of New South Wales; Casey & Lowe, Archaeology & Heritage; Liverpool City Council; Transport Heritage; Bankstown Sports Club; DBL Pub Group; Hawkesbury Regional Museum; Walsh Bay Precinct Association; State

Archives and Records NSW; St Thomas Church, North Sydney; and the DoubleBand Film Company, Northern Ireland.

In 2017, an integrated index was developed for RAHS Serials holdings of our affiliated societies and other history organisations and is now available on the Library Catalogue section of the RAHS website thanks to the efforts of RAHS volunteers Simon Bestre, Mary Sciberras, Margaret Tobin and Sophie Robinson. The serials collection was highlighted as ‘having an exceptional level of significance because it documents local history research activities across NSW in a way no other publications do’ in the *2014 Significance Assessment of the RAHS Library collection*, a report funded by a grant from the National Library of Australia.

The RAHS purchased a disaster bin in 2017. The contents of this 120 litre wheelie bin can be used by staff to respond before, during or after to a small, localised disaster situation (e.g. burst water pipe) if necessary.

Members’ subscriptions and donations continue to greatly assist the RAHS Library. We would like to thank everyone for their on-going support.

RAHS PUBLICATIONS, WEBSITE AND DIGITAL MEDIA

RAHS Staff

In 2017, 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 2017 included James Stephen’s Doctrine of a White Australia; flooding in Maitland; Long Cove; Marrickville’s Memory of War: defining personal and communal loss in Sydney’s Inner West; the cremation of Devan Singh in Albury, July 1905; bicycle clubs in Australia; the life of Alexander Green; Surgeon William Redfern in London and Edinburgh 1828–33.

The 2017 *History* magazine editors were RAHS Councillors Christine Yeats (March and December), Bruce Baskerville (June), and Christine Wright (September). *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 history.

The RAHS e-Newsletter 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 as it ensures that the content is current and covers a diverse range of historical interests.

The RAHS has a social media presence on Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, Historypin, Pinterest, Tumblr and Instagram. The Society’s use of social media continues to grow – Facebook followers increased by 12%, and we doubled the numbers of

followers on Twitter. Currently our main focus is Facebook as it is still the most popular platform in Australia. However increasing numbers are using YouTube and Instagram, in particular younger age brackets, so we will look at increasing content on these platforms in 2018–19.

Our most popular social media post for 2017 was informing Facebook followers of the City of Sydney’s launch of its new online Historical Atlas of Sydney, which made more than 500 maps from 1883 to 1972 available to researchers. Social media posts on online historical resources were popular throughout 2017, as were advocacy stories: the successful campaign to list the Parramatta Female Factory and Institutions Precinct generated a lot of interest and comments. The overall pattern is that RAHS social media followers are most interested in hearing about increased online accessibility to research resources, and initiatives to protect heritage items.

The Society looks forward to new opportunities in digitally connecting with both individuals and organisations, particularly to those in regional areas whose contact with the RAHS may be limited by geographical distance. The RAHS would also like to thank Graham Sciberras for the role he played in redesigning the website and improving our social media presence in the last five years. We wish him all the best in his new role.

RAHS AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

Lynne Allen, Chair of Committee

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

Once again we administered the Cultural Grants with applications amounting to \$108,588 and had the difficult task of distributing the \$50,000. This was the first year that the RAHS administered this grant program using the online software Smartygrants. If you are considering applying this year then we would recommend that you discuss your project with RAHS Staff or members of the Affiliated Societies Committee. The online system provides increased transparency so it is critical that applicants provide accurate budgets supported by quotes. We would like to thank Create NSW for supporting the rollout of the online application process and for providing funding for 2018.

‘Finding Lost Places, Lost People’ was the theme of the 2017 Conference. It was a wonderful success and we would like to thank everyone who contributed, including Cowra Council, Cowra Family History Group, Cowra and District Historical Society, the RAHS Affiliated Societies, as well as the speakers and delegates who ensured that everyone discovered something new about New South Wales’ history.

We had delegates from 37 historical societies who reconnected with friends and learned new skills to share with their local and community history organisations. The conference highlights the importance of networking to share ideas on both history projects and managing an organisation. Many delegates actively participated in the popular Sunday morning Business Session, during which the RAHS Affiliated Societies Committee facilitated debates on managing historical organisations. Topics were selected based on legislative

changes that impact historical societies and suggestions from societies.

The 2018 RAHS Conference will be held in Port Macquarie on October 20–21 and the RAHS and the local historical societies would love to welcome you to the area and encourage you to extend your stay.

We also wish to welcome our two newest members of the Affiliated Societies Committee – Olga Sedneva (St Georges Historical Society) and Samantha Friend (Bathurst District Historical Society).

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 2017 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.

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
AFFILIATED SOCIETIES MEMBERS						
Fewer than 15	55	49	46	45	43	42
Fewer than 30	75	73	75	75	72	69
Fewer than 50	53	62	54	52	51	53
Between 51-100	101	93	101	101	101	101
More than 100	80	82	71	68	70	68
More than 200	20	22	24	24	26	26
More than 300	14	16	16	17	18	18
TOTAL AFFILIATED SOCIETIES	398	397	387	382	381	377
INDIVIDUAL AND PAIRS MEMBERS						
Individual Members	303	308	364	347	339	303
Household Pairs (x2)	47	51	65	64	70	61
Students	10	15	18	28	20	12
Senior Members	503	481	435	506	507	474
Senior Pairs (x2)	93	92	83	85	94	79
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS AND PAIRS	956	947	965	1,030	1,030	929
CORPORATE MEMBERS	6	6	7	7	5	1
LIBRARY SUBSCRIBERS	133	129	119	127	130	128
NON-SUBSCRIBING MEMBERS						
Honorary Fellows	5	5	5	6	5	5

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Life Members	19	19	19	19	21	24
Members 50 years	6	7	8	9	13	10
Free and Exchange	36	36	34	35	37	35
TOTAL NON-SUBSCRIBERS	66	67	66	69	76	74
TOTAL SUBSCRIBERS	1,493	1,479	1,478	1,546	1,546	1,435
OVERALL TOTAL	1,559	1,546	1,544	1,615	1,622	1,509

RAHS AND THE COMMUNITY

REPRESENTATION ON HISTORY AND HERITAGE BOARDS

The RAHS is represented on the Federation of Australian Historical Societies by Judith Dunn OAM and Ian Jack; the Geographical Names Board of New South Wales by Terry Kass; the History Council of New South Wales by Christine Yeats; the State Records of NSW Community Advisory Committee by Christine Yeats; the National Archives Consultative Forum by Jan Koperberg (to 25 August 2017); the Roads and Maritime Services Heritage Committee by Ian Jack; the History Panel of the Heritage Council of NSW by Ian Jack.

GRANT PROGRAMMES

The Cultural Grants Program is a Create NSW developed 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. \$50,000 (ex GST) was distributed to grant projects in 2017.

The following organisations were 2017 Cultural Grant recipients: Australasian Pentecostal Studies Centre; Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations; Central Coast Family History Society; Coleambally-Darlington Point Country Education Fund; Convict Trail Project; Dangar Island Historical Society; Gynea Community Aid Information Service; Hillston Historical Society; Lennox Head Residents Association; Mosman Historical Society; Port Macquarie Historical Society; St Clair Museum, Goulburn; Shoalhaven Historical Society; Wagga Waga & District Historical Society; Watsons Bay/Vaucluse Social History Group; Waverley Woollahra Arts Centre Co-op; Wellington Historical Society; Windellama Historical Society.

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 2017, \$23,400 (ex GST) was distributed to projects under this program.

The following organisations and individuals received a 2017 Heritage Grant: Clyde River & Batemans Bay Historical Society; Co.As.It. Italian Association of Assistance; Fort Street High School Archives; Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group; Lennox Head Heritage Committee; Olga Sedneva; Russell Workman; Darian Zam.

The Transport Heritage Grants Program is a NSW Government funded program, administered by the Royal Australian Historical Society 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. In 2017, \$154,000 was distributed to projects under this program.

The following were 2017 Transport Heritage Grant recipients, grouped by category:

CATEGORY ONE: RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Lachlan Valley Society Co-op; Illawarra Light Rail Museum; Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway; Richmond Vale Preservation Co-op; South Pacific Electric Railway Co-op and Sydney Tramways Museum (two grants); Sydney Bus and Truck Museum; The Rail Motor Society; Zig Zag Railway (three grants).

CATEGORY TWO: EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION PROJECTS

Shoalhaven Historical 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 2017: Hazel Brombey – Randwick & District Historical Society; Ross Cleary – Canowindra Historical Society and Museum; Lavinia Ford – Berrima District Historical & Family History Society; Ronda Gaffey – Parramatta Female Factory Friends; Mary Oakenfull – Marrickville Heritage Society; Debbie Sommers – Port Macquarie Historical Society.

HERITAGE

Established in 2016, the Heritage Working Group of three RAHS Councillors assists with reviewing and coordinating responses to proposed changes to the State Heritage Register. RAHS Vice-President Christine Wright, RAHS Councillors Bruce Baskerville, Jan Koperberg (to August 2017) and Philip Black (from August 2017) 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 sixteen letters to the Heritage Council including support for the recommendations to list Roxy Theatre and Peter's Café Complex, Maitland; Bidura House Group, Glebe; Bulli Cave, Kentlyn; South Head General Cemetery, Vaucluse; Cliefden Caves Area; Liverpool Courthouse (former) and Warringah Civic Centre Precinct.

The committee also organized letters of support for Hawkesbury City Council's notice of motion for the refurbishment and ongoing care of the existing historic Windsor Bridge.

RAHS PEOPLE

THE COUNCIL

In 2017, the Council comprised:

President

Associate Professor Carol Liston, AO, 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

Executive Member

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

Councillors

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

Mr Phillip Ian Black BSc, Dip Ed

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 (to 29 September 2017)

Ms Pauline Curby, MA, Dip Ed

Ms Judith Madeline Dunn, OAM, FPDHS

Mrs Linda Emery, BA (from 29 September 2017)

Dr Peter Hobbins, BA, BSc (Hons), M Medical Hum, PhD (from 18 April 2017)

Ms Jan Koperberg (to 25th August 2017)

Mr Christopher Grahame Maxworthy BA, BEE, MBA (to 18 April 2017)

Mr Alexander Geoffrey Duckett White OAM (to 18 April 2017)

Associate Professor Richard White, BA (Hons), Dip.Ed. (from 29 September 2017)

Nine RAHS Council meetings were held at History House in 2017.

COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES

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. The RAHS also forms working parties that are dedicated to delivering a specific project. In 2017, the Society established an editorial board for the JRAHS.

Below is a list of the committees and their members that were active on 31 December 2017.

AFFILIATED SOCIETIES COMMITTEE

Ms Lynne Allen (Chair), Ms Judith Dunn (Vice Chair), Ms Jan Koperberg (Blue Mountains), Dr Peter Hobbins (specialist), Ms Samantha Friend (Bathurst), Ms Trudy Holdsworth (Cumberland), Ms Angela Phippen (specialist), Ms Lorraine Neate (Wollongong), Olga Sedneva (St George District)

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)

FELLOWSHIP AND MEDALS COMMITTEE

Associate Professor Carol Liston (Chair), Mr Keith Johnson (Fellow), Professor Geoffrey Sherington (Fellow), Dr Nancy Cushing (Historian), Ms Pauline Curby (Professional Historian), Ms Christine Yeats (Councillor), Dr Bruce Baskerville (Councillor)

HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Dr Christine Wright, Dr Bruce Baskerville, Mr Phillip Black

PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH FUND COMMITTEE

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

EDITORIAL BOARD FOR THE JRAHS

Associate Professor Carol Liston (Chair), Dr Kathrine Reynolds, Dr Christine Wright, Ms Christine Yeats, Dr Bruce Baskerville, Dr Peter Hobbins, Emeritus Prof David Carment

CONSTITUTION REVIEW WORKING PARTY

Bruce Baskerville (Chair), The President, K Reynolds, C Yeats, S Holohan

HISTORY HOUSE WORKING PARTY

President (Chair), Dr Kathrine Reynolds, Ms Christine Yeats, Suzanne Holohan

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES WORKING PARTY

Ms Christine Yeats (Chair), Associate Professor Carol Liston, Ms Suzanne Holohan and Ms Donna Newton

VOLUNTEERS

The RAHS thanks all of its volunteers for the incredible contribution that they make to the Society.

Simon Bestre

Cataloguing library accessions, library shelving, researching and assisting with the RAHS Serials holding project.

Alison Billing

Researching/adding publications to the RAHS Online Shop.

Margaret Coleman

Organising and arranging display cabinet material, documenting bookplates and provenance for RAHS Rare Books Collection, and assisting with other library projects.

Margaret Dalkin

Organising and supporting events, reviewing website content, proofreading and writing book notes for *History* magazine.

Mona Finley

Supporting production of book notes for *History* magazine.

Betty Goodger

Indexing RAHS Affiliated Societies' newsletters and journals, and re-organising materials in the library.

Trudy Holdsworth

Collating minutes and adding to central database, library projects, proofreading material when required and collating RAHS submissions to State Heritage Register List.

Jan Koperberg

Collation of articles and production of RAHS e-Newsletter.

Wendy Platt

Assisted with organising afternoon teas for monthly RAHS day lectures.

Elaine Phillips

Support production of book notes for *History* magazine.

Sophie Robinson

Library projects, library shelving and assisting with RAHS Serials holding project.

Mary Sciberras

Lecture podcast production, online exhibitions, research assistance and collated RAHS information on History House furniture assets.

Margaret Scott

Organising and arranging display cabinet material, continuous repairing of items when found through collection, documenting bookplates/provenance for Rare Books collection and organising library shelf materials.

Laura Signorelli

Podcast production, managing the RAHS shop and indexing digital collections donated to the RAHS library.

Bron Stepowski

Sorted and organised both uncatalogued photographs and albums from RAHS collections, and then scanned these images into the working folders on the library computer in preparation for cataloguing.

Catherine Stuart

Digitising photograph collections and managing the RAHS Flickr Channel. Catherine also assisted with consolidating information on the RAHS Serials Collection for a consolidated index.

Margaret Tobin

Organising assorted uncatalogued library material, library shelving and assisted with consolidating information on the RAHS Serials Collection for a consolidated index.

2017 CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

The RAHS introduced Certificates of Appreciation in 2014 to honour the contribution made by RAHS volunteers. The 2017 Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to the following RAHS Members:

Leonie Knapman

For her dedication as an enthusiastic member of the RAHS Affiliated Societies Committee for twelve years, participating in both planning and facilitation of RAHS Conferences.

Laura Signorelli

For her hard work in carrying out a variety of projects for the RAHS including podcast production, managing the RAHS shop, and indexing collections donated to the RAHS library.

Catherine Stuart

For her dedication in managing the RAHS Flickr Channel. Over the last six months Catherine has digitised several RAHS Photograph Collections previously unseen by the public and uploaded them to Flickr, making these images accessible online for the first time.

STAFF

FULL-TIME

General Manager: Suzanne Holohan, BA (Hons), BComm (Hons)

Librarian: Donna Newton, Dip Lib Inf, ALIA (Tec)

Membership Services /Digital Media: Graham Sciberras, BA Comm IntSt (Hons) to 5/12/2017

PART-TIME/CASUAL

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

Membership Services/Digital Media: Laura Signorelli BA (Hons) from 11/12/2017

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

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 Medalist.

FELLOWS

Members of the Society who, in the judgment 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.

Alan E. J. Andrews

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, AO

Dr Peter Reynolds, OAM

Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Sherington

Dr Anne-Maree Whitaker, FRHistS

HONORARY FELLOWS

Persons who, in the judgment 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 Medalist for Distinguished Service are made by the RAHS Council to those members of the Society who, in its judgment, have made an outstanding contribution to the promotion of the work of the Society.

Mr Richard d'Apice, AM, KCSG