
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

ABN 91 000 027 654

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

RAHS President Carol Liston AO

They say that ‘when the going gets tough, the tough get going!’ This has been the Royal Australian Historical Society in 2021. Faced with another year of COVID disruptions from lockdowns to restrictions, the Society has continued to adapt its operational activities to the circumstances that we faced. The health of our staff and members was our primary concern which meant limiting many activities to on-line formats. However, in the process, we endeavoured to be strategic in the manner in which we approached our changing circumstances. At the back of our mind was the need to move forward with our building extension and lift replacement to ensure that History House could again shine as a key heritage building open to the public and the headquarters of our activities, a place our members could enjoy in safety.

Thanks to the energy of our General Manager, Suzanne Holohan, we were successful in applying for COVID support grants which enabled us to move our operations entirely online with staff working from home. This was successful on a global scale as Suzanne returned to Ireland for several months to support her family yet still continued to manage our activities, albeit in a different time zone. I particularly want to thank the History House staff – Donna Newton, Maryanne Byrne and Phillip Jaworski – for their willingness to develop new work procedures, resolve operational issues and keep in touch with our members who sought research help from the library, grant and insurance queries from accounts, and even help with managing Zoom attendances and PowerPoint layouts from our digital administration. Our staff spent most of the year working from home, with occasional forays to check that all was secure in History House, and regular online team meetings which I attended. It was impressive to watch them resolve issues for the benefit of our members. I would also like to thank our bookkeepers, Company Prophets, who provided timely and effective advice to assist moving online and adjusted their workflow for Suzanne’s different time zone in Ireland.

As the report below shows, despite a year of personal isolation, the Royal Australian Historical Society was still very active in offering a great range of historical

presentations for our members via Zoom. We are particularly grateful for the continuing active involvement of former president Christine Yeats as head of the Events Committee. Christine had been required to step down under our Constitution’s nine years’ limit on councillors. Moving our events online via Zoom has enabled more of our members to participate in the Society’s activities than would have been possible had we held them as usual in History House. This change will have a long-term impact on the Society’s planning for future events, as we want to continue this engagement with our members outside Sydney CBD, and even interstate and internationally. Our challenge will be to also find a strategy for providing more face-to-face interaction between members.

Our reconfiguration of the Society’s technology to enable off site work has now been extended to a new library software system. As migration of our data into the new system continues, this will mean that members will have greater access to the RAHS library resources in the future. We are discovering the depth of our collections in areas that we had not previously investigated, so as the transition process continues through 2022 it will reveal exciting new research information for our members. Our publications have also moved online to the members’ area of the website as part of our strategy to control costs in a difficult environment, but also to provide a more timely and efficient link to a varied and informative cross section of historical knowledge.

At the back of our minds throughout all the activities in 2021 was the need to commence the building extension project and replace the lift. COVID has not been helpful as it is leading to increased building costs. Just as we think we have the funds, the costs go up. Nevertheless, this is an essential project if History House is to continue as a functioning space for the Royal Australian Historical Society. Our technology advances in 2021 mean that we are well placed to continue all our operations away from the building with minimal interruptions once construction starts. We are now hopeful that this will occur in the first half of 2022. Once the lift has been replaced and the rear of the building refurbished, we hope to have income streams that can be invested in repairs and further restoration of the Macquarie Street original 1870s

building, especially its wonderful interiors with the fine timberwork in the stairs and doorways, the parquet flooring, and the elaborate plasterwork in the reception rooms. I particularly want to thank our donors, large and small, whose contributions to the building fund show that they understand how essential this project is.

Several initiatives taken by your Council in 2021 were possible because of the COVID support grants of the City of Sydney, Create NSW, and the NSW State government more broadly. We are grateful for this support for a small arts and cultural organisation such as the Royal Australian Historical Society. These initiatives included additional hours for our digital support officer, funding an internship to employ an early career historian and supporting Aboriginal history through a series of Aboriginal Family History seminars. Inspired by the success of these activities we will look for further opportunities in these areas. We are now working on a Reconciliation Action Plan under the leadership of councillor Peter Hobbins.

Finally my thanks to the members of the executive committee and the entire council for their support during a challenging year. The figures from the Treasurer show that this was also a more successful year than we imagine.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Treasurer's Report

Dr Kathrine M. Reynolds FRHistS

I present my Treasurer's report to the members of the RAHS for the year of 2021 with great pleasure. I would also state for the record that I offer this report with great respect for the small number of staff employed by the RAHS who have valiantly managed to battle on and keep the RAHS running from their homes in this year of pandemic and COVID-19. Their absolute dedication to the RAHS has produced a remarkable effort and is to be highly commended. The past year has also been a learning curve for staff, Councillors and members alike. Being severely challenged by COVID-19, variable restrictions and illness, the RAHS has managed through its online activities, to appeal to a more diverse group of people and we look forward in the future to building on our COVID-19 experience and to continue to address issues pertinent to our diverse rural members through these online media.

In 2021, the Society recorded a small loss of \$1,392 down from \$5,825 in 2020, after transfers of dedicated money of \$83,308 to its various funds. Once again, this is an extraordinary result and a tribute to our staff and Councillors in the face of a viral pandemic that

saw the cessation of almost all our activities. Christine Yeats, Chair of the Events committee and a former past president, is also to be commended for her enthusiastic and successful positioning of events that could be run remotely by Zoom or off-site, thereby assisting our financial position. We are grateful, as always to our members and government as so many of our projects are funded by grants or donations. Member subscriptions have also contributed to our financial position with more people joining or renewing their membership despite a reduction in activities, seeing a further \$113,174 added to our financial position.

During almost a decade as RAHS treasurer, I have stressed that the Society must live within its means and this is of course critical as we enter our building phase, hopefully commencing in March 2022. I am delighted to report that Ms Holohan and her staff continue to seriously find ways to reduce running costs. Last year, for the first time, members were happy to receive digital copies of our publications which saved the RAHS a lot of money in publications and postage costs. Money was also saved as the staff worked from home.

Like many other businesses COVID-19 struck the RAHS very hard, curtailing our activities, reducing our income from venue hire, and conference and event income. Once again, the RAHS found it necessary to cancel our Annual Conference (despite the mammoth amount of work done by the Affiliated Societies Committee) and to keep History House closed, sending our staff home to work. They rose magnificently to the occasion, determining who might come in and collect mail and keep an eye on History House for such events as water damage. The Affiliated Societies Committee is to be commended for the excellent on-line event they organised to replace the Annual Conference, called *Exciting New World: Australian Life in the 1920s and 1930s* which produced a surplus of \$1,735 plus an additional \$370 generated from an associated online raffle.

The RAHS was eligible for government assistance, including the JobKeeper and JobSaver payment schemes, receiving \$108,000 of the \$264,000 spent in 2021 on wages and which partly offset the reduction in income from loss of rental and events. The RAHS also received \$60,000 in grant funding as part of the Create NSW Arts Rescue and Restart package. This was used to upgrade IT, develop online resources, employ an intern, and fund additional digital media projects to better connect with members far removed from Sydney.

Building Project

The start date appears to be March 2022. We thank our members and friends again for their continued support of the RAHS, and their ongoing commitment to our

building project which has been a long and drawn-out affair. In 2021, we received \$83,308 in building donations, a reduction on previous years, possibly due to the pandemic but also to members reticence as they wait to see the building work actually commence. We are most grateful for these donations and thank all our members and friends for their generosity especially Mr Geoffrey White OAM and Mrs Sally White OAM for their continuing support. Currently we have \$2.6 million in cash to pay for the building, most donated by members whose help is gratefully acknowledged. We also have a small share portfolio of approximately \$800,000 in value which has provided a small but regular source of income over the years. If needed, the shares can provide a small amount of contingency money. We are still grappling with extra building costs due to the pandemic which has caused labour shortages and supply-chain issues, but we are in the process of resolving these with our builder.

Again, I would thank the many people who help the RAHS. We are particularly grateful to the Hon. Don Harwin, who in his previous role as Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs and the Arts, increased the funding for regional community and history projects through the 2021 Cultural Grants Program. Twenty-two projects of which fourteen were regionally based, received financial support under this program.

For seven years, the RAHS has successfully run the Transport Heritage Grants Program managed by Transport NSW and Transport Heritage NSW. In 2021, we were able to fund twelve transport heritage projects of which seven were regionally based.

One of our long-term members, Robert (Bob) Pauling who was also a long-term member and contributor to the Manly, Warringah and Pittwater Historical Society, left us a bequest which we propose to use on IT and library costs related to the building project.

Due to COVID-19 we moved our book sales online and these sales through our website contributed an additional \$810. I would also acknowledge the work of the Events Committee and of the Chair, Christine Yeats who tirelessly finds speakers who might help us with these events. We are always grateful to receive donations of high-quality history books that we can rehouse to our members. Insurance administration is of great economic use to us, netting \$18,431 in administration fees and a further \$25,000 from grant administration fees.

A special vote of thanks must be given to Ms Suzanne Holohan, our General Manager, and her staff for their hard work. The RAHS Annual Report is always 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. To all who help us at the RAHS, and to all affiliated society members who work so tirelessly in their own communities saving history, we say, "Thank you".

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

INCOME	2021	2020
Donations received	17,567	8,254
Specific bequests and donations for History House Project	83,306	385,455
Grants received – Create NSW	85,000	65,000
Dividend and interest received	53,334	44,405
Rental income	58,989	83,694
Subscriptions received	113,174	103,927
Other income	135,790	78,540
COVID-19 Support: JobKeeper, Cashflow boost, JobSaver	58,018	153,468
TOTAL INCOME	605,178	922,743

EXPENDITURE

Accounting and Contract Services	36,150	32,840
Employee Benefit Expenses	248,370	262,618
Grants expended - Create NSW	85,000	65,000
History House expenses	49,305	57,014
Other expenses	53,636	62,616
<i>JRAHS</i> and <i>History Magazine</i>	29,250	26,801
Postage, printing and stationery	15,958	17,919
Depreciation	5,595	11,773
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	523,264	536,581
SURPLUS BEFORE TRANSFERS	81,914	386,162

TRANSFER TO OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

History House Build Project Donations	83,306	385,455
Other	0	6,532
DEFICIT	-1,392	-5,825

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2021	2020
ASSETS		
Cash	2,744,154	2,736,058
Receivable and other current assets	19,920	58,861
Financial assets	782,288	715,444
Property, plant and equipment	17,130,263	17,014,371
TOTAL ASSETS	20,676,624	20,524,735

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable and other liabilities	199,493	209,987
Provisions	56,285	42,657
TOTAL LIABILITIES	255,778	252,645

NET ASSETS	20,420,847	20,272,091
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EQUITY

Reserves	19,553,370	19,403,221
Retained Surplus	867,477	868,868
TOTAL EQUITY	20,420,847	20,272,089

SERVICES TO OUR MEMBERS

RAHS Events and Outreach Ms Christine Yeats, Chair of Events Committee

In 2021 the RAHS continued to face the challenge of delivering its events and outreach programs, while also adhering to continuing COVID-19 restrictions. Fortunately, it was well prepared for this contingency. Building on its 2020 achievements in implementing the technology and digital media processes that transformed the way it delivered online lectures, seminars, and workshops, the RAHS offered a full calendar of events for members and supporters in 2021.

Although most of the planned excursions had to be cancelled or postponed owing to the COVID-19 restrictions, the RAHS bolstered its program of events by initiating a series of monthly Special Lectures. These Special Lectures were introduced to complement the popular Day Lectures, which are presented on the first Wednesday of the month. Together these events have provided people from across Australia with the opportunity to listen to research findings from emerging and established historians.

The RAHS continued to offer seminars and workshops that focus on its key goal of developing historical expertise in the community that supports history and heritage projects. By providing these events online, greater numbers of members based in regional areas were able to learn new skills and connect with the history community.

The RAHS has also been able to engage with new audiences through its online events. A new outreach seminar series titled *Finding Your Ancestors: Researching Aboriginal Family History in NSW* was hosted via Zoom on the first Tuesday of every month from April to

December. This initiative was in addition to the online Regional and Western Sydney seminars offered in 2021, which are supported by Create NSW.

The continuing partnership with the WEA through a series of workshops throughout the year has also meant that the RAHS can engage with those outside its circle of members and supporters to further the knowledge and understanding of the historical practice.

Event Type	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Seminars and Workshops	18	12	11	14	18
Lectures – Day, Evening Joint, Special	19	8	26	24	20
Excursions and Tours	1	2	5	14	8
Launches/Cocktail Evenings	0	0	1	1	4
Other	1	3	4	5	5
TOTAL	39	25	47	61	55

REGIONAL, WESTERN SYDNEY AND OUTREACH INITIATIVES FUNDED BY CREATE NSW

Regional and Western Sydney seminars are an important part of the RAHS outreach program. Seminar programs include skills-based training and local history research components, which are designed around the training needs of local historical societies and community groups.

This year we delivered the seminars online. This made our programs more accessible to audiences, especially members of our regional historical societies.

I would like to thank Create NSW for its continuing support of this program. The funding they provided was critical in ensuring that the RAHS could continue to support local and community history across the state.

Hawkesbury Regional Seminar – *But is there more? Researching our colonial history in the Hawkesbury area*

Wednesday 20 October 2021 via Zoom presented in collaboration with Hawkesbury Central Library

RAHS President Carol Liston AO and Christine Yeats discussed ways of making the best use of the recently digitised Australian Joint Copying Project material, the Court of Claims records and related land and property information to learn more about the life and times of the Hawkesbury's early settlers. Michelle Nichols OAM spoke about the local history resources in the Hawkesbury Library.

Outreach seminar series: *Managing Local Societies in Changing Times*

Wednesday 28 April 2021 via Zoom

Wednesday 28 July 2021 via Zoom

This seminar series was designed for regional, metropolitan and Western Sydney historical societies and focused on how they could best continue their important role in preserving the history of their local communities during COVID-19. Topics included governance, collection management, planning digitisation projects, strategic planning, attracting new members and supporters. It was hosted by Christine Yeats, Linda Emery and Suzanne Holohan.

Outreach seminar series: *Finding Your Ancestors: Researching Aboriginal Family History in NSW*

Hosted by RAHS via Zoom on the first Tuesday of every month from April to December 2021.

The RAHS hosted nine online seminars which provided people with the opportunity to ask questions to historians and Aboriginal experts from libraries, archives and communities. Historians Paul Irish and Michael Bennett were joined by special guests including:

- Sherilyn Dean, Assistant Director of the AIATSIS Family History Unit
- Melissa Jackson and Ronald Briggs, State Library of NSW (Indigenous Services Team)
- Adrian Atkins, Link-Up (NSW)
- Ruth Waite, Kempsey Library
- Rebecca Bateman, Assistant Director of Indigenous Engagement at National Library of Australia
- Bronwyn Gerry, Acting Senior Archivist in the Aboriginal Historical Records Team at Aboriginal Affairs NSW
- Michael Bell, Indigenous Liaison Officer, Australian War Memorial
- Wendy Gallagher, NSW State Archives

Outreach seminar: *Exciting New World: Australian Life in the 1920s and 1930s*

Saturday 6 November 2021 via Zoom

This event was organised by the RAHS Affiliated Societies Committee which has extensive skills in organising the annual RAHS Conference. Details on this event are contained in the RAHS Affiliated Societies Report.

WORKSHOPS

Wednesday 17 February 2021 – *The Street Where They Lived: Every Street Has a Story to Tell*

RAHS workshop via Zoom in conjunction with the WEA

Presented by Christine Yeats, Angela Phippen, and Jenny Sloggett

This workshop discussed the available resources to research the history of a street and how to structure your history of a street project.

Wednesday 23 June 2021 – *Digging a Little Deeper: Biographical Research and Writing with a Twist*

RAHS workshop via Zoom in conjunction with the WEA

Presented by Heather Garnsey and Susan Steggall

This workshop explored biographical research and writing. It encouraged participants to explore family relationships, the impact of major events in the subject's childhood and the events happening around them.

Wednesday 18 August 2021 – *Moving Image and Picture Research for Historians*

RAHS workshop via Zoom in conjunction with the WEA

Presented by Joy Hughes and Graham Shirley

With a focus on 19th and 20th century picture sources in NSW and the Australian sources of moving image, this workshop examined the sometimes-complex issues of access and reproduction.

Wednesday 25 August 2021 – *Tips and Techniques for Dating Historic Photographs*

RAHS workshop via Zoom in conjunction with the WEA

Presented by Gionni Di Gravio OAM

Workshop participants learnt about the different methods of arranging and dating photographs adopted by archivists and allied professionals for historical research.

2021 DAY LECTURES

Wednesday 3 February 2021 via Zoom – *On Foot in Australia: Walking as a Path to Knowledge*

Presented by Melissa Harper

Wednesday 3 March 2021 via Zoom – *The Tasman Map: The Biography of a Map*

Presented by Ian Burnet

Wednesday 7 April 2021 via Zoom – *The Tragic Story of Cassim and Abdullah*

Presented by Mark St Leon

Wednesday 5 May 2021 via Zoom – *That Luminous Moment: The 'Wild and Enthusiastic' Ways of Artist, Mystic and Republican Adelaide Ironside (1831-1867)*

Presented by Kiera Lindsey

Wednesday 2 June 2021 via Zoom – *Truganini: Journey through the apocalypse*

Presented by Cassandra Pybus

Wednesday 7 July 2021 via Zoom – *Secret and Special: The Untold Story of the Z Special Unit in the Second World War*

Presented by Will Davies

Wednesday 4 August 2021 via Zoom – *Regina's*

Complaint: Philip Roth, Penguin, and the end of the literary censorship system in Australia

Presented by Patrick Mullins

Wednesday 1 September 2021 via Zoom – *The Countess from Kirribilli*

Presented by Joyce Morgan

Wednesday 6 October 2021 via Zoom – *Rum: A Distilled History of Colonial Australia*

Presented by Matt Murphy

Wednesday 3 November 2021 via Zoom – *The Brilliant Boy: Doc Evatt and the Great Australian Experiment*

Presented by Gideon Haigh

Wednesday 1 December 2021 via Zoom – *French Connection: Australia's Cosmopolitan Ambitions*

Presented by Alexis Bergantz

2021 EVENING LECTURES

Wednesday 19 May 2021 via Zoom – *Tales of Sunny Corner: Gold Mining, Silver Smelting, and the Birth of Broken Hill*

RAHS in conjunction with National Archaeology Week

Presented by Iain Stuart

2021 JOINT LECTURES

Wednesday 21 April 2021 via Zoom – *The Real Sacred River: Truth-Telling and the Power of Regional Histories*

RAHS in conjunction with the Independent Scholars Association of Australia (ISAA)

Presented by Grace Karskens

2021 SPECIAL LECTURES

Wednesday 10 February 2021 via Zoom – *Hearing Maud: Deafness in the Archives*

Presented by Jessica White

Friday 12 March 2021 via Zoom – *Indigenous Intermediaries and the Art of Encounter*

Presented by Tiffany Shellam

Friday 25 June 2021 via Zoom – *Floating Prisons: Irish Convict Hulks and Voyages to NSW*

Presented by Anne McMahon

Wednesday 21 July 2021 via Zoom – *Cooking Up a Storm: Mina Rawson in Colonial Queensland*

Presented by Jodi Frawley

Wednesday 22 September 2021 via Zoom – *Frances Burke: Designer of Modern Textiles – Sydney Connections*

Presented by Nanette Carter and Robyn Oswald-Jacobs

Tuesday 12 October 2021 via Zoom – *'A Useful Accessory' with Too Much Cabbage and Jesus Christ*

Presented by Catherine Bishop

2021 EXCURSIONS

Wednesday 16 June 2021

RAHS Excursion – *Reserve Bank of Australia Museum* co-ordinated by RAHS Librarian Donna Newton

2021 OTHER EVENTS

Tuesday 13 April 2021 via Zoom

RAHS Annual General Meeting

RAHS Library

Donna Newton, RAHS Librarian

The RAHS Library is recognised by the National Library of Australia as holding a culturally significant collection. It is a key research resource for RAHS members and the broader history community, with over 60,000 items on Australia history. The table below provides an overview of the collection.

Collection Item	2021	2020
Books	23,726	23,782
Journal/History/Conference	4,194	4,135
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	60,907	60,904

The RAHS Library book collection decreased from the previous year due to deaccessioning of duplicate and excess items that do not meet our Collection Policy criteria.

The following table provides additional key library statistics.

Measure	2021	2020
Number of registered visitors – 98% RAHS members or affiliated societies' members	12	92
Number of visitors to RAHS library web pages	2,480	3,410
Number of publications added to Books and More Database	*39	*155
Number of other items added to Books and More Database	**2	**26

Entries added to <i>JRAHS</i> , <i>History</i> and Conference Database	59	36
E-Newsletters from affiliated societies submitted	284	313
<i>JRAHS</i> article requests	28	47
Articles submitted to <i>JRAHS</i>	12	21
Requests to use images from the RAHS collection	38	23

* Publications contained in the database also include items held in our Rare Books Room; the reference collection; directories and yearbooks.

** Other items in the database include souvenir programs, pamphlets and brochures; bibles; maps; newspaper clippings; CDs/DVDs and microfilm/microfiche resources.

Due to continued COVID-19 restrictions, the RAHS followed government advice and only allowed limited visits to the library by appointment. However, there was a large increase in online research queries. While many researchers focused on local, family, and biographical interests, other examples included:

- Dynes Ltd, steel & wire products and their work on the Sydney Harbour Bridge
- George Allen's involvement with the Aborigines Protection Society
- the Forum Club in Sydney which existed from 1930-1967
- commercial travellers/salesmen through regional NSW
- Colebrook Mission Church at La Perouse
- convict Mary Hyde, partner to both Captain John Black and Simeon Lord
- Sydney's first pilot schooner vessel of the 1860s

In 2021, we continued to use photographs from our collection in our e-Newsletter and on social media to promote our research resources. We had numerous requests for items in our photograph and glass slide collections for personal research, theses, publications, exhibitions, articles, website entries and media releases.

We also used restrictions on library visits as an opportunity to review our ephemera and excess publications. Items that did not meet our collection criteria were donated to Noel Butlin Archives, ANU Canberra; National Trust (NSW); Westpac Archives; and City of Sydney Archives.

Thanks to funding from the NSW government as part of the COVID-19 Arts Rescue and Restart Package, the RAHS was able to engage a library consultant to provide us with a roadmap for upgrading our library catalogue. The funding will also cover the costs of implementing

our new web-based library catalogue in 2022.

We would like to thank the NSW government, members and volunteers for their support in ensuring that the RAHS library continues to be an important educational and research resource.

RAHS Publications, Website and Digital Media

Phillip Jaworski, RAHS Membership Services/Digital Media

The RAHS was a successful recipient of a Create NSW Arts Rescue and Restart Package, which supported our digital media initiatives in 2021. These initiatives included a public history internship and the creation of additional online content.

One of its main outcomes has been the launch of *Researching Soldiers in Your Local Community*. This project was supported by RAHS Intern Elizabeth Heffernan and consists of a website, research guide, instructional videos, and community contributions. The project aims to assist students, local historians, and history groups in researching local soldier stories from recruitment to commemoration. The website continues to receive community submissions.

We hope our members found the publications we produced in 2021 enjoyable and insightful. This included two editions of the *JRAHS* and four editions of *History Magazine*. Due to COVID, both issues of the *JRAHS* were only provided digitally through the members' area of the website.

The *JRAHS* is the oldest journal of Australian history – first published in 1906. It contains original, previously unpublished non-fiction scholarly articles, reviews, and images. The content is submitted by both academic and community scholars. Topics covered in 2021 included: the military command of Maurice O'Connell between 1838-1847; the arming of NSW Police after the 1894 Bridge Street Affray; Catholic toleration and revolutionary ideals in early NSW; and the impact of Mount Tambora's 1815 volcanic eruption on the Australian colonies.

History Magazine evolved from the Society's newsletter, and its current format was first introduced in 1988. *History* provides articles of general historical interest, developments in historical research, book notes, forthcoming events, and other relevant news. Each issue of *History* is produced with a guest editor who has the responsibility for sourcing articles from a range of potential contributors. The editors for 2021 were Christine Yeats (March), Ian Willis (June), Judith Dunn (September) and Mark St Leon (December). Topics covered in 2021 included: the rise, fall and

revival of drive-in theatres in Australia; the City of Campbelltown's bicentenary celebrations; early horseracing in NSW; and the role of Greystanes House in the making of the 1936 film, *Rangle River*.

The RAHS e-Newsletter continues to serve as an effective way to communicate relevant news, information and events to our members and friends. Over 3,000 people are subscribed to our e-Newsletter, with 15 issues circulated in 2021. Some of our top stories included: the withdrawal of the Metro-Minerva Theatre's development application; the exposure of the 1893 *Buster* shipwreck at Woolgoolga; the National Trust of Australia's independent forum on the review of the NSW Heritage Act; the listing of the Waterloo Creek Massacre Site on the State Heritage Register; and reporting on the search for descendants of the Perry and Ham families, whose family burial vault was discovered at Central Station in 2019. The RAHS is very grateful for the news stories and other contributions made from our individual members and affiliates, as it ensures our content is current and covers a diverse range of historical interests.

The RAHS has an active social media presence on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. We now have over 6,500 followers on Facebook, 1,900 on Twitter, and 1,200 on Instagram. We also saw a steady increase in our followers on YouTube, as we made a greater effort to add more content on this platform, including 18 new videos on various aspects of Australian history.

Our website was accessed by 63,427 users throughout 2021 (up from 58,154 in 2020) – an increase of 9% since 2020. Our users were predominantly from Australia (83%), with others from the United States, China, United Kingdom, Ireland, and New Zealand. 59 posts were added to the RAHS News page in 2021, which primarily included information about upcoming events, newly published books on Australian history, advocacy stories, and other relevant information/updates.

The Society looks forward to new opportunities in 2022 to increase our presence on our digital platforms and connecting with various individuals and organisations, particularly with those in regional areas whose contact with the RAHS may be limited by geographical distance.

RAHS Affiliated Societies

RAHS Councillor Lynne Allen, Chair of Committee

We approached 2021 with high hopes of a slow but steady return to the world we had known and launched into preparations for the rescheduled RAHS Annual Conference to be hosted by Bathurst District Historical

Society. We knew that RAHS members were keen to resume participating in this annual event which had been cancelled the previous year. The venue was booked and an impressive array of speakers was assembled before we sadly were forced to cancel the event in June as another wave of coronavirus threatened to overwhelm us.

Members of the ASC were devastated but determined to provide RAHS members with an opportunity to connect with other members and to share ideas and strategies. And so, the 2021 Zoom Conference was born! The ASC set to work identifying an appropriate theme and decided that *Exciting New World: Australian Life in the 1920s and 1930s* reflected the optimism with which we want to approach the future. The decision was made to divide the program into two sessions, one AM and the other PM.

As participants in the AM session entered the conference site, they were treated to a kaleidoscope of images reflecting the 1920s and 1930s. This segment was so popular that many requested that the segment be repeated which RAHS Digital Officer Phillip Jaworski was happy to arrange. The AM session was chaired by Adjunct Associate Professor Carol Liston AO, RAHS President, and consisted of three speakers. We were delighted that the speakers we invited were as enthusiastic about presenting online as we had hoped. Scott MacArthur (Marrickville Heritage Society), Dr Anna Wong (Director, ACT Historic Places) and Graham Shirley (RAHS Councillor) presented engaging and thought-provoking topics which were received by the online participants. Presentations included: *Australian Architecture in the 1920s: Building for a Healthy World*; *Hopes and Dreams of the New Federal Capital: The Calthorpes' House Collection and Mrs Calthorpes' Shopping Spree*; and *1920s and 1930s: Entertainment Media Revolution*. A huge thank you to our speakers for their willingness to participate on what was quite short notice.

The PM session was hosted by Dr Peter Hobbins, RAHS Councillor, and was devoted to offering affiliates support and stimulating ideas. RAHS General Manager Suzanne Holohan offered invaluable advice on several aspects of the digital world and was supported by Elizabeth Heffernan who undertook the project *Researching Soldiers in Your Local Community* whilst an intern at History House. Lorraine Neate (Illawarra Historical Society) outlined the process for registering your society to participate in the NSW Government Dine & Discover program, and Samantha Friend (Bathurst District Historical Society) entertained us with the hoary old question of when and what to deaccession. The PM session culminated in Chat Rooms which afforded the participants an opportunity for that all important networking of which COVID-19 has deprived us.

Thank you to all the speakers and participants for making the Zoom Conference such a success. However, it would not have been the success it was without the enthusiastic and brilliant support from the RAHS staff – Suzanne, Phillip, Donna, Maryanne & Elizabeth.

In 2021 there were 44 applications for the Create NSW Cultural Grants program, double the 2020 number. This made the grants very competitive for the \$60,000 available for distribution. 22 applications were successful. If you are intending to apply for the 2022 program, please contact the staff at History House and discuss your proposal with them. The staff are very knowledgeable and will provide sage advice.

2021 has been another difficult year and the Affiliated Societies Committee is very conscious that COVID-19 has presented many challenges. We encourage you to contact us if you have concerns. Remember, the Affiliated Societies Committee is your committee, established to support your society in its valuable role as preserver and protector of the heritage of NSW.

RAHS Membership Data

This year there was a small decrease in membership numbers primarily in the senior categories. Library subscribes also declined.

AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Societies with fewer than 15 members	64	60	56	51	55
Between 16-30	58	64	69	74	75
Between 31 - 50	55	58	55	49	53
Between 51-100	106	97	95	94	101
Between 101-200	67	69	73	73	80
Between 201-300	9	16	15	20	20
More than 300	14	13	13	13	14
TOTAL AFFILIATED SOCIETIES	373	377	376	374	398

INDIVIDUAL AND PAIRS MEMBERS

Individual Members	312	319	310	309	303
Household Pairs (x2)	35	38	46	48	47
Students	11	11	6	13	10
Senior Members	430	451	442	493	503
Senior Pairs (x2)	74	92	96	89	93
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS AND PAIRS	862	911	900	952	956

CORPORATE

MEMBERS	5	5	6	3	6
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LIBRARY

SUBSCRIBERS	79	91	115	108	133
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Honorary Fellows	4	4	5	5	5
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Life Members	17	17	17	17	19
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Members 50 years	6	6	6	6	6
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Free and Exchange	31	32	36	35	36
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TOTAL NON-

SUBSCRIBERS	58	59	64	63	66
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TOTAL

SUBSCRIBERS	1,319	1,384	1,397	1,427	1,493
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OVERALL TOTAL	1,377	1,443	1,461	1,500	1,559
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RAHS AND THE COMMUNITY

Representation on History and Heritage Boards

As of the 31 December 2021 the RAHS is represented on the Federation of Australian Historical Societies by RAHS Councillor Judith Dunn OAM and RAHS member Christine Yeats; the Geographical Names Board of New South Wales by RAHS member Terry Kass; the National Archives Consultative Forum by RAHS Councillors Peter Hobbins and Iain Stuart.

During 2021 Sydney Metro sought to consult with the RAHS regarding the reburial of unidentified human remains exhumed from the Devonshire Street Cemetery during the Sydney Metro construction at Central. RAHS President Carol Liston AO and RAHS Councillor Judith Dunn OAM attended and provided valued input to the process, which is on-going.

RAHS Administered Grant Programs

The Cultural Grants Program is a Create NSW devolved funding program administered by the RAHS on behalf of the NSW Government. This program assists historical research and publication of local, community and regional history projects. \$59,953 (GST inclusive) was distributed to grant projects in 2021.

The following organisations were 2021 Cultural Grant recipients: Addison Road Centre for Arts, Culture, Community & Environment Ltd; Australian Jewish Historical Society Inc; Australian Lebanese Historical Society Inc (Far North Coast Branch); Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc; Bingara District Historical Society; Cessnock City Council; Condobolin & District Historical Society Inc; Cowra Family History Group Inc; Don Dorrigo & Guy Fawkes Historical Society Inc; Friends of Bella Vista

Farm Park Inc; Gerringong & District Historical Society Inc; Glen Innes & District Historical Society; Gosford Branch Library; Illawarra Historical Society Inc; Kytherian Association of Australia; Lennox Head Residents Association Inc Heritage Committee; Moruya & District Historical Society Inc; Port Macquarie Historical Society Inc; Rule of Law Institute of Australia; Shoalhaven Historical Society Inc; The Balmain Association Incorporated; Wagga Wagga & District Historical Society Inc.

The Transport Heritage Grants Program is a NSW Government funded program, administered by the RAHS with the support of Transport Heritage NSW (THNSW). It aims to help the NSW community rediscover the culture, events and people that shaped transport over the past 160 years, as well as assist with the restoration and conservation of NSW's valuable heritage assets. The total amount awarded in 2021 was \$179,536.

The following organisations were 2021 Transport Heritage Grant recipients: Tumbarumba Historical Society; Bathurst Rail Museum; Sydney Tramway Museum; Australian Railway Historical Society (NSW Division); Rail Motor Society; Sydney Bus Museum; ACT Heritage Rail Holdings; Tenterfield Railway Preservation Society; Sydney Heritage Fleet; East Coast Heritage Rail; Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway; Sydney Electric Train Society.

RAHS Certificates of Achievement

RAHS 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 this certificate in 2021: Rod Aanensen – Marrickville Heritage Society; Bruce Cain – Kempsey Family History Group; Beverley Earnshaw OAM – Kogarah Historical Society; Janice Eastment – Ryde District Historical Society; Peg Harvey – Berrima District Historical & Family History Society; Helen McDermott – Gerringong & District Historical Society; Jennifer Myers – Lake Macquarie Family History Group; Warren Oliver – Lake Macquarie Family History Group; Kevin Shaw – Ryde District Historical Society; Kerima-Gae Topp – Friends of St John's Cemetery, Parramatta / Friends of Mays Hill Cemetery / Hills Historical Society / Parramatta Female Factory Friends.

RAHS Heritage Committee

The RAHS Heritage Committee consists of RAHS President Carol Liston; Councillors Linda Emery, Craig McPherson, Mark St Leon, Graham Shirley, Iain Stuart; and RAHS member Elaine Phillips.

When the NSW Heritage Council advises the RAHS of proposed changes to the State Heritage Register, the

Heritage Committee reviews the proposals and responds to them on behalf of the RAHS. The Heritage Committee sent a total of eight letters this year. Consultations were:

Waterloo Creek Massacre Site

McCrossin's Mill Precinct

City Administrative Centre, Newcastle (former)

World War II Aeroplane Hanger, Tocumwal

Harris Creek Rail Bridge

Billagoe (Mount Drysdale) Cultural Landscape

Badangi (Holloway Park, Greendale Park, Smoothey Park, Milray Reserve, Badangi Reserve, Berry Island Reserve, Berrys Creek, Gore Cove and part of Balls Head Bay)

Kurrumbede Homestead Complex

The RAHS also featured stories about heritage listings in its e-Newsletter for the Waterloo Creek Massacre Site and Coffs Harbour Jetty.

RAHS PEOPLE

The Council

In 2021, the Council comprised:

President

Ms Christine Yeats, BA, DipLib, DipArchAdmin to 13 April 2021

Adjunct Associate Professor Carol Liston, AO, BA (Hons), PhD, FRAHS from 13 April 2021

Senior Vice President

Adjunct Associate Professor Carol Liston, AO, BA (Hons), PhD, FRAHS to 13 April 2021

Mrs Linda Emery, BA from 13 April 2021

Vice President

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

Treasurer

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

Executive Member

Mrs Linda Emery, BA to 13 April 2021

Dr Iain Stuart, BA (Hons), M Env Sci, PhD from 13 April 2021

Councillors

Ms Pauline Curby, MA, DipEd

Mrs Judith Dunn, OAM, FPDHS

Dr Peter Hobbins, BA, BSc (Hons), M Medical Hum, PhD

Mr Craig McPherson, B.Des (Arch), M.HeritCons,
M.ICOMOS from 13 April 2021

Dr Mark St Leon BEc, GCertTQM, MBus, MA
(Hons), PhD, CA

Mr Graham Shirley

Dr Iain Stuart, BA (Hons), M Env Sci, PhD

Associate Professor Richard White, BA (Hons), DipEd
In 2021, the RAHS Council held twelve online meetings.

RAHS Committees and RAHS 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 RAHS also forms working parties that are dedicated to delivering a specific project.

Below is a list of the committees and their members as at 31 December 2021.

Affiliated Societies Committee

Ms Lynne Allen (Chair), Mrs Judith Dunn (Vice Chair),
Adjunct Associate Professor Carol Liston (Councillor),
Ms Samantha Friend (Bathurst), Ms Lorraine Neate
(Wollongong), Ms Angela Phippen (Specialist), Dr Peter
Hobbins (Councillor, Special interests), Mr Graham
Shirley (Councillor).

Events Committee

Ms Christine Yeats (Chair), Emeritus Professor David
Carment, Mrs Judith Dunn, Dr Kathrine Reynolds,
Mr Graham Shirley, Ms Suzanne Holohan, Associate
Professor Richard White.

Executive Committee

The President Adjunct Associate Professor Carol
Liston, Mrs Linda Emery (Senior-Vice President), Mrs
Lynne Allen (Vice President), Dr Kathrine Reynolds
(Treasurer), Dr Iain Stuart (Council Representative).

Fellowship and Medals Committee

The President Adjunct Associate Professor Carol Liston
(Chair/Councillor/Fellow), Mr Keith Johnson (Fellow),
Professor Geoffrey Sherington (Fellow), Associate
Professor Nancy Cushing (Professional Historian), Ms
Pauline Curby (Professional Historian/Councillor),
Associate Professor Richard White
(Historian/Councillor).

Heritage Committee

The President Adjunct Associate Professor Carol
Liston, Dr Iain Stuart, Mrs Linda Emery, Dr Mark St
Leon, Mr Graham Shirley, Mr Craig McPherson, Ms
Elaine Phillips.

Editorial Board for the *JRAHS*

The President Adjunct Associate Professor Carol Liston
(Chair and editor of *JRAHS*), Ms Christine Yeats,
Emeritus Professor David Carment, Dr Peter Hobbins,
Dr Rosemary Kerr, Dr Kathrine Reynolds, Dr Mark St
Leon, Associate Professor Richard White.

History House Working Party

The President Adjunct Associate Professor Carol Liston
(Chair), Ms Suzanne Holohan, Mr Craig McPherson,
Dr Kathrine Reynolds, Dr Iain Stuart, Ms Christine Yeats.

Library and Archives Working Party

The President Adjunct Associate Professor Carol
Liston, Ms Suzanne Holohan, Ms Donna Newton,
Ms Christine Yeats.

Reconciliation Action Plan Working Party

The President Adjunct Associate Professor Carol Liston,
Dr Michael Bennett, Dr Peter Hobbins, Ms Suzanne
Holohan, Mr Craig McPherson, Mr Graham Shirley,
Dr Iain Stuart, Dr Shayne Williams.

Strategic Review Working Party

The President Adjunct Associate Professor Carol Liston
AO, Ms Suzanne Holohan, Mr Craig McPherson,
Dr Mark St Leon.

Volunteers

The RAHS would like to thank all its volunteers for
the incredible contribution that they make. Our 2021
volunteers included: Brei Dwyer, Elizabeth Heffernan,
Ryan Lung, Elaine Phillips, Maximilian Reid, Mary
Sciberras, Margaret Scott and Bron Stepowski.

2021 Certificate of Appreciation

The Society acknowledges RAHS member Bron
Stepowski's achievements and contributions as a
valuable RAHS Volunteer. Since 2017, he has
diligently sorted, digitised and organised approximately
2,500 previously uncatalogued photographs, glass slides
and albums from RAHS collections in preparation for
inclusion into our image databases. Bron has also
digitised, as high-resolution copies, sixty percent of our
catalogued glass slide collections.

Staff

Full-time

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

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

Part-time

Finance/Grants/Insurance Administrator: Maryanne
Byrne, BBus MMgt AOS

Membership Services/Digital Media: Phillip Jaworski, BA (Hons)

Create NSW-funded intern position: Elizabeth Heffernan, BA (Hons)

The Society also paid professional fees for book-keeping 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.

Dr Rosemary Annable, MA, DPhil, FFAHS

Emeritus Professor David Carment, AM

Professor Stephen Garton, BA (Hons), PhD, FAHA, FASSA

Robert Irving, OAM, ARMTC, FRAIA

Alfred Brian Maxwell James, OAM, MA, Dip Arts, Dip FHS

Keith A. Johnson, AM, FSG, FSAG

Adjunct Associate Professor Carol Liston, AO, BA (Hons), PhD, DipFHS

Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Sherington, MA, PhD

Dr Anne-Maree Whitaker, MA, PhD, FRHistS, FRAHS

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

Dr Beverley Kingston, FASSA

Medallists

The awards 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.

Margaret Coleman, OAM

Mr Richard d'Apice, AM, LL.B, FSAG

Margaret Scott
