
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

ABN 91 000 027 654

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

RAHS President Dr Iain Stuart

I would like to begin by acknowledging all the hard work undertaken by RAHS staff, notably our General Manager Suzanne Holohan, as well as Phillip Jaworski, Donna Newton and Maryanne Byrne. Councillors and members on our various committees also provided valuable support and advice on various matters. The RAHS provided a number of opportunities for members and emerging professionals to undertake volunteer work. I would like to acknowledge their support to the Society. During 2022 both Phillip Jaworski and Elizabeth Heffernan successfully applied to join the Professional Historians Association and I congratulate them on their success.

History House Project

The dominant issue this year has been starting construction on the History House project. At the start of 2022 we had the funding in place to commence construction, but it took over six months to get the documentation associated with the construction certificate in place. This was very slow despite the fortnightly meetings of the History House committee as there was a post-COVID building boom which sucked up resources available to prepare the documentation.

In June the documentation was finalised, and we then got our preferred builders A.J. Bristow to revise their tender pricing. This process took until the end of July 2022. The updated quote was higher than the 15%-20% price rise that the RAHS anticipated. The revised quote was \$4.4 million, compared to the May 2021 quote of \$3.8 million. The difference in costs was partly explained by:

- a 25% increase in material and labour costs due to inflation and global shortages, which added \$950,000 to the May 2021 cost estimate.
- a better understanding of electrical and other service requirements as part of preparing the construction certificate

This increase can be seen in the context of rapidly increasing building costs reported as being 46% in the first half of 2022 and an annual inflation rate of 7%.

The rest of the year has been spent evaluating various construction/funding solutions to this shortfall. I undertook a review of the whole project in August 2022 where the Council looked at a number of options for the project and ultimately resolved to continue the History House project.

Without going into detail, the Council has determined to seek a loan of \$500,000 from a bank or other financial institution secured by History House and served from projected rental of the new space. It is considered that the loan would be a circuit breaker given that building costs are increasing at a greater rate than the RAHS can raise donations and funds. The RAHS would initially use its cash reserves and the sale of its share portfolio to fund construction costs. It would also continue to seek donations and grants and only use bank loan/drawdown facilities in the later stages of the project if required.

The RAHS is also looking into the sale of air rights – a program facilitated by the City of Sydney as a way of further funding conservation works to the 1870s interior of History House.

The History House committee consists of Suzanne Holohan, Councillors Iain Stuart, Christine Yeats and Craig McPherson with Carol Liston and Katherine Reynolds to provide advice and continuity. In particular, Carol and Christine have an encyclopaedic knowledge of the fabric of History House which has proven to be exceptionally useful. The committee also meets with Robert Gasparini from our architects Design 5.

Thanks to members and donors for their continued patience and donations to the History House project. Although construction has not started the project has commenced with the RAHS obtaining a construction certificate. Resolution of the History House project is a key focus for 2023 as completion of the project will allow the Society to return to normal.

Member Services

COVID has changed how the RAHS delivers services to members. The RAHS continues to develop new operational procedures, staff and volunteers combining working together remotely and at History House. The team at History House continue to support members

with research help from the library, grant and insurance queries from accounts and promoting members' projects and research findings on RAHS social media platforms.

We continued to increase our presence online and deliver events via Zoom. The RAHS is currently migrating and updating its content to a new website, which will have better security and accessibility features. Cybersecurity risk is something that all organisations have to manage now, including historical societies. We are also developing the website so it can host more historical content.

In 2022, the RAHS launched resources dedicated to the history of agricultural shows in New South Wales, from the early colony to the present. The project aims to encourage local and community historians to explore the history of agricultural shows in their local areas and promote the importance of agriculture in shaping New South Wales history.

Library

The library has been closed pending the start of History House construction and the need to pack up the library during the works. In the meantime, the RAHS is working on a new online library catalogue, for which we have purchased the software for a new system (Softlink's Liberty). Like all data migrations, the initial attempt did not go smoothly as the RAHS was overconfident about our data integrity in the existing cataloguing systems. Donna Newton and volunteer Shaani Hutto have undertaken a significant amount of work cleaning up the data in the current catalogue so it can be migrated into the new system. It is anticipated that this will occur shortly.

When the system is operational it will also be accessible via TROVE which will make searching our library so much easier for members and others. Once this is complete, the RAHS will then focus on making its extensive image collection of nearly 11,000 images available online, which will be a wonderful resource for local and community historians. It is expected that cataloguing the images will take several years.

Reconciliation Action Plan

Under the leadership of Councillor Dr Peter Hobbins, the RAHS has made significant progress on the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). The Society's RAP was developed in consultation with Uncle Shayne Williams, and led by a working group comprising Dr Peter Hobbins, Dr Iain Stuart, Dr Michael Bennett, Graham Shirley, Craig McPherson, Adjunct Associate Prof Carol Liston and Suzanne Holohan. It was conditionally endorsed by Reconciliation Australia and the RAHS is waiting on approval for the final version.

In 2023, the RAHS will form a RAP Committee to implement the plan and to keep the RAP current.

Heritage Committee

The RAHS has kept busy responding to notifications regarding heritage listings. We receive these from the Heritage Council of NSW and endeavour to respond with support or in some cases with additional information. This year we do not reach the highlight of the 4,000 plus words on the Tocumwal Hanger listing. Still, nevertheless we made some contributions, and the informal feedback is that our contributions are valued and often the only comments received about a proposed listing. In 2023, we will endeavour to list the comments that the Heritage Committee has made about listings so that members can see what we have been doing. I would like to note Elaine Phillip's hard work in assisting this committee.

Publications

In 2022, we have revitalised the Publications Committee, giving it oversight of *History* magazine and the *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*. The committee has been active in documenting and streamlining the publication process. This has been needed as our journal is being published mostly online.

Adjunct Associate Professor Carol Liston AO, the long-term editor of the *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society* has announced her retirement and will leave the role at the end of 2022. Her editorship of the journal has been a significant amount of work for which the Society is truly grateful. Our proof-reader Joy Hughes has also retired, again after many years of distinguished service. Proofreading is a highly skilled art which is the foundation on which a journal rests and we thank Joy Hughes for her service to the Society.

Events

Events are still getting back on their feet following COVID. It seems likely that the Society will offer a mixture of face-to-face and Zoom events. Zoom presentations do allow for all members to join in but of course lack the full experience of a face-to-face event.

The overall attendance numbers for events are very pleasing and the RAHS regularly gets applications from memberships following the lectures. More people book than attend but this is probably the result of conflicting schedules. The RAHS is competing with a great many other groups offering free lectures – via Zoom and in person.

The RAHS online seminar *Country Calling: History of the Land* was hosted via Zoom on 22 October 2022. There were two sessions *Facing the Truth: How to Create*

History with Aboriginal Peoples and *Best on Show: Country Shows and their Communities*. Both sessions had equally interesting and informative speakers. The latter session ties in with the RAHS's initiative in recording the history of agricultural shows. RAHS intern Jessica Buckton researched and produced a short video on agricultural shows that was shown during the conference and was well received. We also announced that our annual conference will be hosted at Wagga Wagga in 2023.

Financials

The financial reports are presented separately and have been subject to audit. Essentially the RAHS has recorded a loss primarily due to a lack of building tenants as we prepared for the start of the History House project and uncontrollable rises in costs such as insurance which the Society has no control over. The loss reflects the urgency of commencing the History House project.

There is further information in the annual report on our activities and the ways our members and friends supported the Society in achieving its goal of promoting the understanding of Australian History during 2022.

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 2022 with great pleasure. Again I would state that I have great respect for the small number of staff employed by the RAHS who have again managed to keep the RAHS running throughout 2022, working from home as well as coming into the office. In doing so, they display their complete dedication to the RAHS. Their generosity of spirit in running the RAHS during difficult times (building and COVID) is to be greatly commended. The past year has again demanded much from staff and Councillors as well as members. Again, our online activities have been important, and we continue to reach a more diverse group of members including those from our rural areas. Many of our costs such as insurance, utilities and maintenance have significantly increased by \$29,255 making a difficult financial situation (preparing for building) even more stressful.

In 2022, the Society recorded a loss of \$42,283 up from \$1,392 in 2021, after transfers of dedicated money of \$132,503 to its various funds. Once again, this is an extraordinary result and a tribute to our staff and Councillors after another year of History House being shut in anticipation of the building work beginning and thus no income from rental. Also in the face of COVID-19 the RAHS saw the cessation of almost all its activities. Again, I sincerely thank Mrs Christine Yeats, Chair of the

Events committee and RAHS Senior Vice-president, who enthusiastically and successfully ran an assortment of events and excursions for members, some remotely by Zoom or off-site, thereby assisting our financial position by \$4,030. 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 seeing a further \$105,153 added to our financial position.

Again, I am delighted to report that Ms Holohan and her staff have continued to reduce running costs. Digital copies of our publications have again saved the RAHS a lot of money in publications and postage costs. Book sales generated a further \$1,368 in income.

Like many other businesses, COVID-19 struck the RAHS very hard, curtailing many of our activities. This year, the RAHS' Affiliated Societies' Committee organised an online seminar, called *Country Calling: History on the Land* which generated a surplus of \$1,350. We hope that with the 2023 conference to be held in Wagga Wagga, we can again resume our networking and enjoy getting together and talking about our shared love of history, as well as selling books and raffle tickets.

Grants and Bequests

We are very grateful to the Hon. (Ben) Benjamin Cameron Franklin, MLC, Member of the Legislative Council, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Regional Youth funding, for providing funding to regional community and history projects through the 2022 Cultural Grants Programme. Eighteen projects received financial support totalling \$60,000 under this programme. This is the eighth year the RAHS has run the Transport Heritage Grants Programme managed by Transport NSW and Transport Heritage NSW. In 2022, ten transport heritage projects received a total of \$148,649 in grant funding.

The RAHS received additional funds of \$27,708 from the bequest made by Robert (Bob) Pauling. Robert was a long-term member and contributor to the Manly, Warringah and Pittwater Historical Society. In 2022, the RAHS also received a \$50,00 bequest from the Estate of Phillipa Morris. Phillipa was a member of the RAHS and an active member of the Mosman Historical Society, serving on its committee from 2011. Phillipa Morris made an important contribution to local history through her work as a research officer for local studies at Mosman library and as a contributor to articles to the Lost Mosman website and the Mosman Historical Society's newsletter. The bequest will be used to support RAHS projects, including a new library system that will promote the regional and community items in the RAHS Collection.

Building Project

The start date continues to be pushed back but we are hopeful of a start early in 2023. We thank our members and friends again for their continued support of the RAHS, and their ongoing commitment to our building project which saw a further \$132,053 in donations to the building fund, up on last year's donations of \$83,038. Again, we understand our members' reticence to donate as they wait to see the building work actually commence. We are most grateful for all the donations we receive 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 \$2.5 million in cash to pay for the building, most donated by members whose help is gratefully acknowledged. Our small share portfolio of approximately \$800,000 continues to provide a small but regular source of income while we resolve extra building costs due to the pandemic, labour shortages and supply-chain issues.

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. A special vote of thanks must be given to Ms Suzanne Holohan, our General Manager, and to her staff for their hard work. 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 | 2022 | 2021 |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Dividend and Interest received | 76,210 | 53,334 |
| Bequests: | | |
| Made during financial year | 77,709 | 47,424 |
| Bequests: | | |
| Drawdown from previous years | 45,000 | 0 |
| Donations Received: | | |
| History House Project | 132,503 | 83,306 |
| Donations received: Other | 69,714 | 17,567 |
| Grants Received: Create NSW | 85,000 | 85,000 |
| Other Income | 65,286 | 88,366 |
| Rental Income | 22,069 | 58,989 |
| Subscriptions Received | 105,153 | 113,174 |
| COVID-19 Support: | | |
| JobKeeper, Cashflow boost, JobSaver | 3,297 | 58,018 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 681,941 | 605,179 |

EXPENDITURE

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Accounting and Audit Services | 49,528 | 52,477 |
| Depreciation | 6,998 | 5,595 |
| Employee Related Expenses | 280,748 | 272,108 |
| Grants expended: Create NSW | 85,000 | 85,000 |
| History House Expenses | 78,560 | 49,305 |
| IT, Internet and Phone expenses | 22,083 | 11,398 |
| Insurance | 24,383 | 25,756 |
| JRAHS and History Magazine | 29,030 | 29,250 |
| Other Expenses | 11,470 | 2,703 |
| Postage, Printing and Stationery | 15,630 | 15,958 |
| Offset: Expenses funded by grants | -11,710 | -26,285 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 591,721 | 523,264 |
| SURPLUS BEFORE TRANSFERS | 90,221 | 81,914 |

TRANSFER TO OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| History House Build Project Donations | 132,503 | 83,306 |
| DEFICIT | -42,283 | -1,392 |

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Cash | 2,663,796 | 2,744,154 |
| Receivable and other current assets | 30,683 | 19,920 |
| Financial assets | 782,893 | 782,288 |
| Property, plant and equipment | 17,156,269 | 17,130,263 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 20,633,641 | 20,676,624 |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| Accounts payable and other liabilities | 111,174 | 199,493 |
| Provisions | 63,327 | 56,285 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | 174,501 | 255,778 |
| NET ASSETS | 20,459,140 | 20,420,847 |
| EQUITY | | |
| Reserves | 19,633,947 | 19,553,370 |
| Retained Surplus | 825,194 | 867,476 |
| TOTAL EQUITY | 20,459,140 | 20,420,847 |

SERVICES TO OUR MEMBERS

RAHS Events and Outreach

Ms Christine Yeats, Chair of the Events Committee

The RAHS continued to deliver a full calendar of online and other events in 2022 for members and supporters. Its success in implementing the technology and digital media processes, which enabled it to transform how it delivers online lectures, seminars, and workshops, means the RAHS can engage with its regional and interstate members and reach an overseas audience.

The events and outreach program included our monthly Day Lecture and Special Lecture series. The Special Lectures were introduced during the COVID lockdown to complement the popular Day Lectures 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 also offered online seminars and workshops that focused on its key goal of developing historical expertise in the community. In particular, *Country Calling: History on the Land*, which was presented via Zoom on 22 October, included a morning session on how historians, researchers and historical societies can work with Aboriginal Peoples to create history. The afternoon session highlighted the importance of agricultural and country shows to local and community history. By providing these events online, greater numbers of members based in regional areas could learn new skills and connect with the history community.

With the easing of COVID restrictions, the RAHS was able to resume its program of excursions and tours to locations around Sydney. These included *Sites and Crimes on Sydney's Waterfront*, *Rookwood Cemetery Bus Tour* and *Sydney Tramway Museum*. These excursions provided a popular addition to the program of online events.

The ongoing partnership with the WEA and National Archaeology Week to deliver events throughout the year provided the RAHS with the opportunity to engage with those outside its circle of members and supporters and to further the knowledge and understanding of the historical practice.

| Event Type | 2022 | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Seminars and Workshops | 5 | 18 | 12 | 11 | 14 |
| Lectures – Day, Evening, Joint, Special | 17 | 19 | 8 | 26 | 24 |
| Excursions and Tours | 6 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 14 |
| Launches/Cocktail Evenings | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Other | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| TOTAL | 29 | 39 | 25 | 47 | 61 |

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.

Outreach seminar: *Country Calling: History on the Land*

Session A – Facing the Truth: How to Create History with Aboriginal Peoples

Session B – Best on Show: Country Shows and their Communities

Saturday 22 October 2022 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 Committee Report.

2022 WORKSHOPS

Tuesday 22 February 2022 – *Family History Meets Local History Using Trove*

RAHS workshop via Zoom in conjunction with the WEA

Presented by Carol Liston AO and Christine Yeats

This workshop guided participants through the resources available through the National Library of Australia's Trove database, exploring how to link family and local history research.

Wednesday 15 June 2022 – *The Stories Behind the Pictures: Shedding Light on the Photographic Materials in the NSW State Archives*

RAHS workshop via Zoom in conjunction with the WEA and NSW State Archives

Presented by Anna Gray and Jennifer Sloggett

This workshop discussed the photographic materials held in the NSW State Archives and guided participants on how to use them for their research.

Wednesday 24 August 2022 – *Lawyers and Land*

RAHS workshop via Zoom in conjunction with the WEA

Presented by Carol Liston AO and Christine Yeats

This workshop discussed how you can find out about your ancestors through the solicitor records in the State Library of NSW and how to link them to the online Historical Land Records Viewer.

2022 DAY LECTURES

Wednesday 2 February 2022 via Zoom – *The Unfinished Nation: Contesting Symbols of Australia*

Presented by Richard White

Wednesday 2 March 2022 via Zoom – *Deep Blue History: Writing Australia and the Pacific: A History*

Presented by Ian Hoskins

Wednesday 6 April 2022 via Zoom – *The Wardian Case: How A Simple Box Moved Plants and Changed the World*

Presented by Luke Keogh

Wednesday 4 May 2022 via Zoom – *Sound Citizens: Australian Women Broadcasters Claim Their Voice, 1923-1956*

Presented by Catherine Fisher

Wednesday 1 June 2022 via Zoom – *Australia's Great Depression*

Presented by Joan Beaumont

Wednesday 6 July 2022 via Zoom – *Vandemonians: The Repressed History of Colonial Victoria*

Presented by Janet McCalman AC

Wednesday 7 September 2022 via Zoom – *No Slavery in a Free Land? Anti-Slavery and Australia*

Presented by Jane Lydon

Wednesday 5 October 2022 via Zoom – *'Tumble Down White Fellow': The Bathurst War 1822-1824*

Presented by Stephen Gapps

Wednesday 2 November 2022 via Zoom – *For the Term of His Natural Life (1927): A Film Lost and Found*

Presented by Graham Shirley

Wednesday 7 December 2022 via Zoom – *Our Food and Cookery Experts: Revealing the Australian Women's Weekly food editors who transformed the way Australians ate*

Presented by Lauren Samuelsson

2022 EVENING LECTURES

Wednesday 18 May 2022 via Zoom – *Known Unknowns: The Archaeology of the Devonshire Street Cemetery*

RAHS in conjunction with National Archaeology Week

Presented by Iain Stuart

2022 SPECIAL LECTURES

Wednesday 23 March 2022 via Zoom – *The Convict Valley: The Bloody Struggle on Australia's Early Frontier*

Presented by Mark Dunn

Wednesday 27 April 2022 via Zoom – *Dear Prime Minister: Letters to Robert Menzies, 1949-1966*

Presented by Martyn Lyons

Tuesday 14 June 2022 via Zoom – *Joseph Conrad's Eastern Voyages*

Presented by Ian Burnet

Wednesday 20 July 2022 via Zoom – *History of the Australian Backyard*

Presented by Judy Horton OAM

Wednesday 17 August 2022 via Zoom – *Crime, Punishment and a Noseless Hangman in Colonial New South Wales*

Presented by Rachel Franks

Thursday 27 October 2022 via Zoom – *Elizabeth and John: The Macarthurs of Elizabeth Farm*

Presented by Alan Atkinson

2022 EXCURSIONS

Sunday 27 February 2022

RAHS Excursion – *Sites and Crimes on Sydney's Waterfront* co-ordinated by Judith Dunn OAM

Tuesday 15 March 2022

RAHS Excursion – *Balmoral Walk* co-ordinated by David Carment AM

Thursday 16 June 2022

RAHS Excursion – *St Mary's Cathedral* co-ordinated by Donna Newton

Sunday 26 June 2022

RAHS Excursion – *Rookwood Cemetery Bus Tour* co-ordinated by Judith Dunn OAM

Thursday 29 September 2022

RAHS Excursion – *Museum of Freemasonry* co-ordinated by Donna Newton

Wednesday 30 November 2022

RAHS Excursion – *Sydney Tramway Museum* co-ordinated by Donna Newton

2022 OTHER EVENTS

Tuesday 12 April 2022 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 | 2022 | 2021 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Books | 23,530 | 23,726 |
| Journal/History/Conference | 4,295 | 4,194 |
| 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 | 60,815 | 60,907 |

The RAHS Library book collection decreased from the previous year. In preparation for implementing our new web-based library catalogue in 2023, we deaccessioned duplicate items as well as books that did not meet the RAHS Collection Policy criteria.

The following table provides additional key library statistics.

| Measure | 2022 | 2021 |
|---|-------|-------|
| Number of registered visitors – 98% RAHS members or affiliated societies' members | 10 | 12 |
| Number of visitors to RAHS library web pages | 1,820 | 2,480 |
| Number of publications added to Books and More Database | *129 | *39 |
| Number of other items added to Books and More Database [VF material] | *15 | **2 |
| Entries added to <i>JRAHS</i> , <i>History</i> and Conference Database | 102 | 59 |
| E-Newsletters from affiliated societies submitted | 295 | 284 |
| <i>JRAHS</i> article requests | 29 | 28 |
| Articles submitted to <i>JRAHS</i> | 17 | 12 |
| Requests to use images from the RAHS collection | 21 | 38 |

* 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:

- Original remaining 1830s cottage on Strathern / Maxton Park property, Goulburn, owned by Henry Howie / Alexander Kinghorne.
- Early boatbuilding in NSW.
- Nineteenth-century NSW women postmistresses.
- Captain Francis Hixson.
- Research for NSW Local Government heritage-listed Lane Cove property 'Osborne House', built in 1906 for former Prime Minister William Morris 'Billy' Hughes and renamed 'Kermadec' in the 1920s.
- History of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company (CSR) in Australia.
- Aspects of the British Southern Whale Fishery (1775-1861), including if any members of its ships' crews migrated to Sydney.
- History of the postcards published by the NSW Bookstall Company.
- Yandilla, a Darling Downs property breeding John Macarthur's merino sheep.

In 2022, we continued using photographs from our collection in our e-Newsletter and our other social media platforms to promote our research resources. We also had several requests for items in our photograph and glass slide collections for personal research, theses, publications, exhibitions, articles and websites.

We are currently working on the new RAHS library online catalogue, which will be launched in 2023. It will contain catalogue information on our books, serials, *JRAHS* and *History* magazine articles. We will then commence cataloguing and migrating the RAHS image-based collections into the new online catalogue. This project is funded by a Create NSW grant.

We want 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 and Digital Media

We hope our members found the publications we produced in 2022 enjoyable and insightful. This included two editions of the *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society (JRAHS)* and four editions of *History* magazine.

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 2022 included: a French explorer's account of Hobart and Port Arthur; Canberra and the Frontier Wars; Governor Richard Bourke and assisted immigration; and a re-examination of the evidence against women transported to Australia.

History magazine 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 is responsible for sourcing articles from a range of potential contributors. The editors for 2022 were Carol Liston (March), Christine Yeats (June), Iain Stuart (September) and Peter Hobbins (December). Topics covered in 2022 included: Australia's 'other' bushrangers; the Pillars of Bathurst; the Australian history industry; and Sydney's Hyde Park air raid shelter.

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 2022. Some of our top stories included: the official book launch of *Playing Their Part: Vice-Regal Consorts of NSW* at Government House in February; our response to the ABC's decision to make 58 library and archive positions redundant in June; celebrating 200 years of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW in July; the passing of the Museums of History NSW Bill in September; and the listing of the 1816 Appin Massacre site on the NSW State Heritage Register in November. The RAHS is very grateful for the news stories and other contributions made from our individual members and affiliates, as it ensures our content covers a diverse range of historical interests.

The RAHS continues to have an active social media presence on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. We now have over 6,500 followers on Facebook, 2,000 on Twitter, and 1,500 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 10 new videos on various aspects of Australian history.

Our website was accessed by 61,419 users throughout 2022 (slightly down from 63,427 in 2021) – a 3% decrease since 2021. Our users were predominantly from Australia (78%), with others from the United States, China, United Kingdom, Canada, and New Zealand. Seventy-four blog posts were added to the RAHS News page in 2022, which primarily included information about upcoming events, newly published books on Australian history, advocacy stories, and other relevant information/updates.

In September we launched *Competition, Community, Country: Agricultural Shows in NSW*, a new history website that showcases the social, cultural and educational significance of agricultural shows in NSW. The site features five themes that were researched by Macquarie University intern Jessica Buckton, who also assisted with promoting the site and developing library resources. The site includes a community contributions section for members of the public to share their stories. Other updates to the website included purchasing cybersecurity insurance to mitigate the risk of data breaches, which has become an increasing issue since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2023, we will be launching a new website, which will have a new look and improve accessibility for people with disabilities.

The Society looks forward to new opportunities in 2023 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 Committee

RAHS Councillor Lynne Allen, Chair of Committee

The year began with the hope that we would be able to resume our normal lives, but COVID still had more surprises and setbacks. Once again, the good people of Bathurst were hopeful that by October, the much awaited and twice cancelled RAHS Conference would finally come to fruition. However, only a couple of months into 2022, the Affiliated Societies Committee had to make the frustrating decision to bow to the continuing threat posed by the virus and abandon the Bathurst Conference.

Not to be beaten, acknowledging that we had a duty to our members to provide a stimulating activity and buoyed by the success of the 2021 Zoom Conference, we set about putting together the 2022 Zoom Conference *Country Calling: History on the Land*. The

enthusiasm and expertise of our wonderful History House staff once again came to the fore, ensuring another successful online conference.

Our first session, *Facing the Truth: How to Create History with Aboriginal Peoples*, featured historians, curators, and archaeologists who practice truth-telling in their history-making. Dr Mariko Smith (Australian Museum), Dr Stephen Gapps (historian and curator) and RAHS President Dr Iain Stuart explored this theme in their presentations and provided useful insights to historical societies on collection management, writing history and community engagement.

The second session, *Best on Show: Country Shows and their Communities*, brought together community historians to take a closer look at the importance of agricultural shows to our local history. RAHS Councillor Judith Dunn OAM talked about the evolution of agricultural shows and what local information you can learn from them. Liz Harfull (historian and author) explored the history of food and cookery at country shows. RAHS Vice President Graham Shirley examined how agricultural shows have been captured by moving image media since the early twentieth century. This session also featured the President's Address, the presentation of Certificates of Achievement, and raffle prizes.

The good news is that 2023 will see a return of the long-awaited in-person Annual Conference. All roads will lead to Wagga Wagga on the weekend of 21-22 October this year to celebrate gathering face-to-face, sharing our passion for history, renewing old acquaintances and networking with like-minded people. Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society are hosting this event and have been working with the Affiliated Societies Committee for some months to ensure a triumphant return to face-to-face conferences. Those who attended the Zoom Conference would have seen Geoff Burch present a very comprehensive, enthusiastic and warm invitation to attend the conference in Wagga. Watch the RAHS website and social media for updates.

In 2022 there were twenty-eight applications for the Create NSW Cultural Grants program, which provides \$60,000 for local and community history projects. A total of \$106,000 of funding was requested, making it a competitive process. Eighteen applicants were successful, and details about their projects are published in the March 2023 *History* magazine.

If you intend to apply for a Cultural Grant in the 2023 program, start planning now by drawing up an action plan. Be clear about the project for which you intend to pursue funding, scope the work needed to bring the project to a conclusion and seek out a formal quote for

the work. Don't hesitate to get in touch with the staff at History House and discuss your proposal with them. The staff are very knowledgeable and will provide sage advice.

The Affiliated Societies Committee is very conscious that COVID-19 continues to present many challenges to our affiliates. We encourage you to contact the RAHS if you have concerns. 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 increase in membership compared to the previous year.

AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

| | 2022 | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 |
|--------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Societies with fewer than 15 members | 62 | 64 | 60 | 56 | 51 |
| Between 16-30 | 64 | 58 | 64 | 69 | 74 |
| Between 31 - 50 | 58 | 55 | 58 | 55 | 49 |
| Between 51-100 | 101 | 106 | 97 | 95 | 94 |
| Between 101-200 | 64 | 67 | 69 | 73 | 73 |
| Between 201-300 | 9 | 9 | 16 | 15 | 20 |
| More than 300 | 14 | 14 | 13 | 13 | 13 |

TOTAL AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 372 | 373 | 377 | 376 | 374 |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

INDIVIDUAL AND PAIRS MEMBERS

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Individual Members | 307 | 312 | 319 | 310 | 309 |
| Household Pairs (x2) | 32 | 35 | 38 | 46 | 48 |
| Students | 17 | 11 | 11 | 6 | 13 |
| Senior Members | 462 | 430 | 451 | 442 | 493 |
| Senior Pairs (x2) | 64 | 74 | 92 | 96 | 89 |

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS AND PAIRS

| | 882 | 862 | 911 | 900 | 952 |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Corporate Members | 6 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 3 |
| Library Subscribers | 78 | 79 | 91 | 115 | 108 |
| Honorary Fellows | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| Life Members | 13 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 |
| Members 50 years | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Free and Exchange | 31 | 31 | 32 | 36 | 35 |
| TOTAL Non-subscribers | 54 | 58 | 59 | 64 | 63 |
| TOTAL Subscribers | 1338 | 1319 | 1384 | 1397 | 1427 |
| OVERALL TOTAL | 1392 | 1377 | 1443 | 1461 | 1500 |

RAHS AND THE COMMUNITY

Representation on History and Heritage Boards

As of the 31 December 2022 the RAHS is represented on the Federation of Australian Historical Societies (FAHS) by RAHS Councillor Judith Dunn OAM and RAHS Senior-Vice President Christine Yeats (Christine is also President of the FAHS); the Geographical Names Board of New South Wales by RAHS member Carol Liston AO; the National Archives Consultative Forum by RAHS President Iain Stuart.

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 in historical research and publication of local, community and regional history projects. \$59,105 (GST inclusive) was distributed to grant projects in 2022.

The following organisations were 2022 Cultural Grant recipients: Armidale Family History Group Inc; Ashfield and District Historical Society Inc; Burwood and District Historical Society Inc; Cape Banks Family History Society Inc; Chinese Australian Historical Society Inc; Clyde River and Batemans Bay Historical Society Inc; Cowra Shire Council; Deniliquin and District Historical Society Inc; Deniliquin Genealogy Society Inc; The Fellowship of the First Fleeters; The Haberfield Association Inc; Milton-Ulladulla Family History Society Inc; Mosman Historical Society Inc; Port Macquarie Historical Society Inc; Rylstone and District Historical Society Inc; Shoalhaven Historical Society Inc; Tabourie Lake Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc; Women's Abortion Action Campaign.

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 2022 was \$148,649.

The following organisations were 2022 Transport Heritage Grant recipients: 10 Class Locomotives Ltd; Albury and District Historical Society; Capital Region Heritage Rail; Illawarra Light Railway Museum Society; New England Railway; Steam Tram and Railway Preservation Society; Sydney Bus Museum; Sydney Heritage Fleet; Sydney Tramway Museum; Rail Motor 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 2022: Gary Luke – Australian Jewish Historical Society; Allan Douch – Bermagui Historical Society; Robyne Ridge – Blue Mountains Historical Society; Dorothy Warwick – Friends of Linnwood; Robert Nash – Huguenot Society of Australia; Karen Eldridge – Lake Macquarie Family History Group; Arthur Radford – Lake Macquarie Family History Group; Wendy Simes – Moruya and District Historical Society; Jenny Bryant – Shoalhaven Historical Society; Brian Forrester – Shoalhaven Historical Society; Barbara Hinnrichsen – Shoalhaven Historical Society; Cathy Jones – Strathfield-Homebush District Historical Society; Daphne Salt – Wauchope District Historical Society.

RAHS Heritage Committee

The RAHS Heritage Committee consists of RAHS President Iain Stuart, Councillors Linda Emery, Craig McPherson, Graham Shirley, Mark St Leon, and RAHS members Carol Liston and 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 twelve letters this year. Consultations were:

Arrawarra Headland and Stone Fish Traps

Ulong Timber Sawmill

Loftus Junction Signal Box (former)

Singleton Watermills Archaeological Site (and moveable heritage)

Little Bay Miocene Geological and Ochre Site

Fitz Roy Iron Works Archaeological Site

Wingello Park

Glenlee

Kameruka Golf Course

Appin Massacre Cultural Landscape

South Head Cultural Landscape (including RMP 9-inch 12-ton gun)

Toorale Homestead Precinct and Toorale Woolshed Precinct

The RAHS also featured stories about heritage listings in its e-Newsletter for Billagoe (Mount Drysdale)

Cultural Landscape, Lambing Flat Riot Site and Associated Banner, Bathurst City Uniting Church and Chapel, and Appin Massacre Cultural Landscape.

RAHS PEOPLE

The RAHS Council

In 2022 the RAHS Council comprised of the following members:

President

Adjunct Associate Professor Carol Liston, AO, BA (Hons), PhD, FRAHS to 12 April 2022

Dr Iain Stuart, BA (Hons), M Env Sci, PhD from 12 April 2022

Senior Vice President

*Mrs Linda Emery, BA to 12 April 2022

Ms Christine Yeats, BA, DipLib, DipArchAdmin from 12 April 2022

Vice President

*Mrs Lynnette Allen, MA, DipEd, Grad Dip Local, Family & Applied History to 12 April 2022

Mr Graham Shirley from 12 April 2022

Treasurer

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

Executive Member

Dr Iain Stuart, BA (Hons), M Env Sci, PhD to 12 April 2022

Mrs Linda Emery, BA from 12 April 2022

Mrs Lynnette Allen, MA, DipEd, Grad Dip Local, Family & Applied History from 27 May 2022

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

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

Ms Alison Wishart, BA (Hons), MCultHeritage, GradDipInfMgmt from 30 September 2022

Associate Professor Richard White, BA (Hons), DipEd

*Mrs Linda Emery and Mrs Lynette Allen served as Councillors from 12 April 2022 onwards.

**On 12 April 2022, Dr Kathrine Reynolds stepped

down as RAHS Councillor as she had served three consecutive terms on the RAHS Council (as per *Clause 31, RAHS Constitution*). At their first meeting after the Annual general meeting, the elected Councillors appointed Dr Kathrine Reynolds as Treasurer, a role which need not be filled by an elected Councillor (as per *Clause 34, RAHS Constitution*)

In 2022, 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 2022

Affiliated Societies Committee

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

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

Dr Iain Stuart (President), Ms Christine Yeats (Senior Vice President), Mr Graham Shirley (Vice President), Dr Kathrine Reynolds (Treasurer – non-Councillor), Mrs Lynne Allen (Council Representative), Mrs Linda Emery (Council Representative).

Fellowship and Medals Committee

Ms Pauline Curby (Chair: Professional Historian/Councillor), Dr Iain Stuart (President), Adjunct Associate Professor Carol Liston (Fellow), Mr Keith Johnson (Fellow), Professor Geoffrey Sherington (Fellow), Associate Professor Richard White (Historian/Councillor).

Heritage Committee

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

History House Working Party

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

Publications Committee

The President Dr Iain Stuart (Chair), Ms Linda Emery, Dr Peter Hobbins, Mr Phillip Jaworski, Adjunct Associate Professor Carol Liston, Dr Mark St Leon, Ms Christine Yeats.

Library and Archives Working Party

Adjunct Associate Professor Carol Liston, Ms Suzanne Holohan, Ms Shaani Hutto, Ms Donna Newton, Ms Alison Wishart, Ms Christine Yeats.

Reconciliation Action Plan Working Party

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

Strategic Review Working Party

The President Dr Iain Stuart, Ms Suzanne Holohan, Adjunct Associate Professor Carol Liston AO, 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 2022 volunteers included: Rebell Barnes, Jessica Buckton, Kevin Dudeney, Brei Dwyer, Elizabeth Heffernan, Shaani Hutto, Elaine Phillips, Maximilian Reid, Margaret Scott and Bron Stepowski, and Samuel White.

Staff

Full-time

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

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

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

Part-time

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

The Society also paid professional fees for book-keeping services.

The RAHS would like to thank Company Prophets for their book-keeping services this year and for ensuring that the RAHS meets all its financial reporting obligations. This is critical in ensuring the RAHS maintains its DGR and charity status.

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, ARMTTC, 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

Christine Yeats, BA, DipLib, DipArchAdmin

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 Medallist 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