



historycouncilnsw

14 March 2016

Professor Paul Ashton
Chair, Dictionary of Sydney
Co-Director Australian Centre for Public History
University of Technology, Sydney

Dear Professor Ashton,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my support for the Dictionary of Sydney as both a professional historian and the Executive Officer of the History Council of New South Wales, an organisation with whom the Dictionary has shared a fruitful cultural partnership this past three years.

I have both volunteered and worked for the Dictionary of Sydney over the past two years. I regularly appear as one of their guest historians on 2SER radio, sharing the many gems from the Dictionary. I've written articles for the Dictionary, three on ships of the First Fleet, and more recently, a powerful story from the City of Sydney LGA - a story about a humble roll of honour found several years ago in the attic of the former Ultimo Presbyterian Church.

The Dictionary of Sydney is more than just articles - it is a comprehensive network of linked data and historical material. The database enables the Dictionary to present accessible, engaging historical content and is an important part of the growing discipline that is digital history. There is multimedia in the Dictionary that is not digitised anywhere else, demonstrating that like repositories such as the National Library of Australia's Trove, the Dictionary is a hub of cultural data.

What countless volunteers and Dictionary of Sydney staff have created, in the end, is a diverse, multi-layered network of connections between people and place. And like all cultural assets it needs to be fostered, supported and funded. The President, Emeritus Professor David Carment, joins me in saying the History Council of NSW looks forward to working with the Dictionary of Sydney in its new entity in the years to come.

Yours sincerely

Nicole Cama
Executive Officer
History Council of NSW

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