

History Council of New South Wales Inc

Annual Report 2017



historycouncilnsw



“

Through its activities and ethos the History Council of NSW demonstrates that history is vital, fun and deeply embedded in our communities.

- Associate Professor Michelle Arrow, member, 2017 Annual History Lecture speaker

The History Council of New South Wales is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW



Contents

FROM THE PRESIDENT	3
ABOUT US	4
Vision	4
Objectives	4
Our Team	4
OUR WORK	5
History Week	5
History Week Speaker Connect	6
Annual History Lecture	7
Awards and Prizes	8
Feedback	8
Other Events and Programs	10
How to get a job in history	10
Newcastle Writers Festival	10
Sydney Writers' Festival	11
History Councils roundtable AHA Conference	11
The value of history	11
Orange Readers and Writers Festival	11
General Speaker Connect	12
Internship program	12
MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS	14
FINANCIAL MATTERS	15
Matters in detail	15
OUR SUPPORTERS	16

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am very pleased with the response to the History Council of NSW's (HCNSW) 2017 program. I am looking forward to continuing our professional development activities for people who work in history at all career stages and collaborating further with our members across the state in 2018.

This year we expanded our programs, hosting our popular Speaker Connect beyond History Week, connecting history professionals with community organisations across NSW, and offering more professional development opportunities. The team is particularly proud of the employability seminars we introduced, aimed at students and emerging professionals, which will continue in 2018. I am also proud of our efforts to offer more programs in regional areas, in particular the important collaboration we established with Central West Libraries and support from Orange City Council for their Readers and Writers Festival. We hope to expand on these partnerships in the years ahead.

The HCNSW is grateful for the support of the NSW Government through Create NSW, without which it could not host its wonderful range of history programs. Our staff, Nicole Cama and Amy Way, would like to say a special thank you to the many members who have supported our work. Your enthusiasm and endless creativity are what makes our role meaningful.

We are grateful to De Bortoli Wines for their continued generous support, sponsoring the Deen De Bortoli Award for Applied History. Our sincerest thanks go to Geoffrey Jones for his generous donation of the prize money for the 2017 Max Kelly Medal.

We would also like to acknowledge the invaluable and continued support of our long-term cultural partners – Sydney Living Museums, State Library of NSW, Department of Modern History at Macquarie University, City of Sydney, Royal Australian Historical Society, Dictionary of Sydney and Inside History Magazine.

Associate Professor Tanya Evans



ABOUT US

Vision

We aim to ensure that history, in all its diverse forms, is an important part of the cultural life of the people and communities of New South Wales.

Objectives

History is often an under-represented part of the cultural industries. We provide services and programs which aim to build capacity within the history sector and showcase the importance of history. We focus on five key areas: awareness, diversity, excellence, advocacy and outreach.

Our objectives are to:

- provide a forum for identifying and responding to issues of relevance to the practice of history
- support history's role in informing and shaping public debate, policy and future planning
- recognise the diversity of historical perspectives, including those of Indigenous peoples, and encourage excellence in historical practice
- facilitate communication within the history community and provide opportunities for collaboration
- provide professional development activities and opportunities for our members and audiences across NSW.

Our Team

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tanya Evans, President
Stephen Gapps, Vice President
Andrea Fernandes, Secretary
Richard Neville, Treasurer
David Carment, Executive Member
Nancy Cushing, Executive Member

Martyn Killion, State Archives and Records NSW
Lisa Ford, University of New South Wales
Megan Martin, Sydney Living Museums
Michael McDonnell, School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry, University of Sydney
Mari Metzke, Individual representative
Lisa Murray, City of Sydney
Louise Trott, Australian Society of Archivists
Christine Yeats, Royal Australian Historical Society*

GENERAL COUNCIL

Matthew Allen, University of New England
Jeannine Baker, Macquarie University
Michelle Cavanagh, Individual representative
Anna Clark, University of Technology, Sydney
Mirjana Djukic, St Lazarus Serbian Orthodox Church
Alexandria Hawkins, Student representative

*Christine Yeats is serving the remainder of Christine Wright's term (from September 2017 to the elections in 2019). The HCNSW would like to acknowledge Christine Wright for her service on the General Council.

STAFF

Nicole Cama, Executive Officer
Amy Way, Administrative Assistant

OUR WORK

80 History Week events

6 general programs

17 Speaker Connect talks

227 members

\$6,500 in awards and prizes

History Week

The HCNSW initiated History Week in 1997 to showcase the rich and diverse history being produced across New South Wales. Its objectives are to:

- Showcase history in an innovative and exciting format
- Provide educational experiences that reach students and the general public, and promote lifelong learning opportunities
- Present audiences with rich and diverse histories relevant to all aspects of our community
- Attract new audiences to history, demonstrating it is exciting, relevant and all around us.

History Week provides a united umbrella under which participating organisations and individuals

can promote their work and reach a broad audience.

“ Every year the History Council goes above and beyond to host a range of events catered to not only historians, but also the public. It is plain to see how much time, effort, and organisation goes into running these events. Thank you for all your hard work, it is appreciated.

The HCNSW has played an integral role in planning and organising History Week and will continue to do so in 2018.

The theme for History Week 2017 was popular culture. Members were invited to celebrate popular culture across the decades, to investigate its

construction and analyse its impact on communities and individuals.

On 1 September the State Library of NSW and HCNSW continued their longstanding partnership to launch History Week at the NSW Premier’s History Awards. The HCNSW played a support role in the running and promotion of the awards, providing advice on suitable judges and promoting the call for nominations, shortlist and results.

A total of 80 events (compared with 92 in 2016) were registered in 2017, which included exhibitions, talks, tours and more.

The Department of Modern History, Macquarie University once again collaborated with HCNSW in organising a symposium. ‘Hashtags, Heroines, and Histories: popular culture in history’ took place on 4 September at the State Library of NSW and attracted an audience of 36 people.

Forty-seven of the events were held in Sydney, 13 in Greater and Western Sydney, and 19 in regional NSW. Feedback surveys were circulated to audience members, host organisations and speakers. Representatives from 18 host organisations responded and noted attendance varied from 10 to 150 people.

History Week Speaker Connect

History professionals were invited to travel to organisations in Sydney and regional NSW to deliver exciting and thought provoking talks on popular culture. The program aims to:

“ The speaker was superb and the audience was very involved. Everything is made so easy for organisers: if I had any enquiries, I received excellent support.

- Connect history professionals with organisations across NSW and provide regional audiences with cultural enrichment opportunities
- Promote the work of history professionals to wider audiences and raise the profile of history
- Provide professional development and paid opportunities to history professionals.

We received 14 applications from potential hosts and 18 presentation proposals from speakers.

“ It was a very well organised event, and a great opportunity to present my research in a public context.

Twelve talks by 11 speakers were hosted by a variety of organisations across Sydney and NSW. Speakers were offered a \$300 honorarium and the talks were held free of charge.

Alison Wishart	May Gibbs in Popular Culture 6 September, Five Dock Library
Alison Wishart	The popular culture of long distance love 7 September, Singleton Public Library
Carol Roberts	Plein air, place and passion: artist Greg Hansell 4 September, Mudgee Town Hall
Cathy Perkins	The Mirror’s Writing Women 3 September, Dickson St Space
Chelsea Barnett	“What sorta man are you anyway”: Contested Masculinities in Australian Post-war Cinema 2 September, Toronto Library
Fiona Reilly	Punk: So What’s New? 6 September, Fairfield City Museum & Gallery

- James Findlay Sydney on Screen: how the moving image shaped a city
4 September, Ashfield Library
- Marc Rerceretnam Cycling Communities: Bicycle Clubs in Australia
2 September, The Wollondilly Heritage Centre and Museum
- Matthew Allen Popular Culture as Political Performance: The Meaning of Public Drinking in Colonial NSW
2 September, Camden Library
- Pauline Conolly The Self-Made Surgeon
5 September, Nowra Library
- Rachel Franks Crime Pays: Crooks, History and Popular Culture
5 September, Corrimal District Library and Community Centre
- Richard Waterhouse Mozart and 'The Doll': the Elizabethan Theatre Trust and the Institutionalisation of Cultural Hierarchy
6 September, Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts



Dr Matthew Allen and HCNSW Executive Officer, Nicole Cama (centre), with staff at Camden Library, image courtesy Pauline Kidd



Dr Chelsea Barnett entertains her audience at Toronto Library, image courtesy HCNSW Intern, Allie Hawkins

Annual History Lecture

The Annual History Lecture was presented by the HCNSW, in partnership with Sydney Living Museums, on 5 September at The Mint, Sydney and was delivered by Dr Michelle Arrow, Associate Professor of Modern History at Macquarie University.

Dr Arrow presented her lecture 'The Popular is Political: struggles over national culture in 1970s Australia'. Her talk examined the prominence of 'ocker' culture in the 1970s and its connection to the women's movement and other social and political issues at the time. ABC Radio National's Big Ideas program recorded the lecture and broadcasted it on 25 September.



Annual History Lecture 2017, photo by TWH Photography

Awards and Prizes

The Annual History Citation was awarded to Emeritus Professor David Carment, AM, the Max Kelly Medal to Marian Lorrison, the Deen De Bortoli Award for Applied History to Jodie Stewart and the Aboriginal History Prize to Ruby Arrowsmith-Todd’.

“ Since I began to study history only a few years ago, the History Council has been a source of inspiration and encouragement. I am forever thankful that such organisations exist to stimulate historical dialogue and inspire individual historians at all stages of their careers.

Feedback

History Week audience survey data*		
Which category below includes your age?	2016	2017
Under 25	6.9%	16.7%
26-35	5.2%	20%
36-50	31%	20%
Over 50	56.9%	43.4%
Is this the first time you have participated in History Week?	Yes = 55.2% No = 44.8%	Yes = 30% No = 70%
How many History Week events did you attend?	1 = 53.4% 2 = 19% 3 = 20.7% 4 = 6.9% 5 = 0%	1 = 50% 2 = 36.7% 3 = 10% 4 = 3.3% 5 = 0%

* A full report of the survey results can be provided upon request to admin@historycouncilnsw.org.au

Other Events and Programs

How to get a job in history

On 31 January the HCNSW hosted a free employability seminar aimed at students and early career professionals. 'How to get a job in history' featured lightning talks from Mark Dunn, Jacqui Newling, Linda Brainwood, Andrea Fernandes, Nicole Cama and Amy Way, and was chaired by Assoc/Prof Tanya Evans.

“
Before attending this event, I was worried that I wouldn't make it far in a History-related career if I didn't obtain a PhD. But after listening and questioning the speakers I learnt that having a PhD isn't always necessary which has boosted my confidence.

Speakers shared their experiences and tips on how to kick-start a career in the history, providing insights from a range of areas including cultural organisations and museums, heritage, public history, policy and government, and academia. The session was fully booked out within 24 hours, welcomed a total of 62 participants and received 28 responses to the feedback survey.

The majority of survey respondents were history professionals (66.7%) and the two largest age groups were under 25 (37.5%) and 36-50 (29.2%). Eighty percent of respondents reported a desire to find a job in the history sector, with the majority indicating an interest in research or archives and public history, curatorial and museum work. All respondents indicated they would recommend the event to others.

We published notes from the day on our website for those who could not attend:

historycouncilnsw.org.au/get-job-history-resource-sheet

Newcastle Writers Festival

The HCNSW presented a panel, 'From Research to Publication: Turning ideas into prize-winning history books', to 65 audience members at the Newcastle Writers Festival on 7 April.

Assoc/Prof Tanya Evans, Professor Frank Bongiorno (Australian National University), Emeritus Professor David Carment AM, and publisher Phillipa McGuinness (NewSouth Publishing) spoke about the process of submitting a book proposal, negotiating with publishers, promoting your work and achieving recognition. After each speaker's' presentation, the panel provided feedback and tips to audience members who shared their experiences of writing and publishing their own works.

We published a summary of the workshop on our website:

<https://historycouncilnsw.org.au/nwf-2017-summary/>

Sydney Writers' Festival

On 25 May the HCNSW presented a panel session, 'Documenting Hardship', at the Sydney Writers' Festival. The session featured Sydney Living Museums' Caroline Butler-Bowdon as chair alongside the winners of the 2016 NSW Premier's History Awards – Assoc/Prof Tanya Evans, Professor Ann McGrath and Emeritus Professor Stuart Macintyre.

To a full house the panelists explored the various challenges they have faced, and continue to face, when exploring sensitive topics in their work. Macintyre discussed the hardships endured by his historical subjects, McGrath talked about uncovering intergenerational trauma and prejudices surrounding race, and Evans focused on the emotional impact of undertaking historical research. All of the speakers had a lively discussion about audience, approaching research, the writing process and ethical concerns around telling other people's stories.

We published a summary of the session on our website:

<https://historycouncilnsw.org.au/summary-notes-documenting-hardship-at-the-sydney-writers-festival/>

History Councils roundtable AHA Conference

On 4 July the History Councils of NSW, Victoria and South Australia participated in a roundtable session at the Australian Historical Association's National Conference, 'Entangled Histories', hosted by the University of Newcastle. Speakers included Dr Annmarie Reid, Margaret Birtley, David Carment and Assoc/Prof Tanya Evans (panel chair). The session was organised by the HCNSW.

The value of history

As a result of the AHA roundtable the four History Councils in Australia – HCNSW, History Council of Victoria, History Council of South Australia and History Council of Western Australia – collaborated on a statement about the Value of History.

Building on the History Relevance campaign, developed by history-focussed organisations in the United States of America from 2012, the history councils have adapted the Value of History Statement. It will be made available for feedback in early 2018.

Orange Readers and Writers Festival

On 21 July the HCNSW presented an all-day workshop, 'Voices from the past: Uncovering local and personal stories', as part of the Orange Readers and Writers Festival. The workshop was presented in partnership with Central West Libraries and supported by Create NSW and Orange City Council.

“ Each speaker gave practical tips for accessing historical details online. Each speaker brought the joys and discovered pleasures of writing to life. I have been inspired! ”

The speakers, Alison Wishart, Carrolline Rhodes, Marian Lorrison and Trudi Mayfield, shared their ideas and experiences in historical research and storytelling.

In the lead up the event was featured in the *Central Western Daily* and our Executive Officer, Nicole Cama, spoke on ABC Central West Breakfast about the workshop alongside Trudi Mayfield. Thirty-six people participated in the workshop and 20 people provided feedback.

The majority of respondents described themselves as a history supporter, cultural/history worker and writer. All respondents indicated it was their first HCNSW event and they would recommend it to others, with 80% rating the session five out of five stars in terms of usefulness and 90% rating the quality of the speakers five out of five.

We published notes from the day on our website for those who could not attend:

historycouncilnsw.org.au/voices-past-workshop-notes

General Speaker Connect

We expanded our popular Speaker Connect program beyond History Week to take place throughout the year. We received seven applications from potential hosts and 18 presentation proposals from speakers. Five talks were hosted by a variety of organisations across Sydney and NSW. Speakers were offered a \$300 honorarium and the talks were held free of charge.

Catherine Bishop	Not Just Pin Money: Australia's Forgotten Colonial Businesswomen 8 March, Whitlam Library Cabramatta
Babette Smith	The Making of the Australian Working Class 8 June, Ashfield Library
Lisa Murray	Sydney Cemetery Adventures 15 June, Sutherland Shire Library
Naomi Parry	The state of New South Wales during the Great War 18 August, Stapleton Avenue Community Centre
James Dunk	Order and Disorder: Madness in Penal New South Wales 25 November, Moruya Museum

Internship program

Our Internship program provides an opportunity for students enrolled in history or related disciplines at a tertiary level to gain experience working for a history organisation.

Its objectives are to:

- Create vocational opportunities for students and/or young people in a professional organisation in the history sector

- Cater for the professional development of students and/or young people by providing workplace skills development
- Assist in relationship management with HCNSW members, especially those in regional areas
- Raise the profile of history throughout New South Wales.

Applicants were given the choice of involvement in two of our main programs: History Week and the Speaker Connect program. For both of these programs, the intern assisted in organisation, promotion and implementation of either a History Week event or a monthly Speaker Connect talk.

We received ten applications and engaged two interns, for both a Speaker Connect event and during History Week. Trent Hughes (University of Notre Dame Australia) assisted with initial organisation for a Speaker Connect event held in June 2017. Alexandria Hawkins (Macquarie University) assisted with the organisation and promotion of History Week and also attended several events during History Week, publishing blogs about her experience.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

	2015	2016	2017
Website page views	47,145	92,176	111,252
Twitter impressions*	31,500	328,200	477,100
Twitter followers	969	1,527	1,914
Facebook reach**	132,217	319,249	260,435
Facebook likes	1,590	2,248	2,472
Subscribers	1,409	1,500	1,592

* Times a user is served a Tweet in timeline or search results. Statistics provided by Twitter Analytics.

** The number of unique people who saw HCNSW posts according to Facebook statistics.

The HCNSW communicates with its member organisations and individuals, sharing information about their activities, and offering advice on how best to engage audiences online. The statistics over three years show an encouraging upward trend, with a discernible shift from Facebook to Twitter as the social media platform with the greatest reach.

History Week received extensive publicity, which was generated organically through social media and word of mouth. Articles and postings were published in various newspapers and websites including *Port Macquarie News*, *Bega District News*, *Hunter Valley News*, *Wauchope Gazette*, *Camden Haven Courier* and City of Sydney's What's On. History Week was also featured on ABC Drive and 2SER Breakfast Radio.

We are always looking to improve the user experience of our website. In 2017 we launched an online events listing for History Week, events.historyweek.com.au, in addition to the downloadable program. The aim was to create a way our members' events could be both clearly displayed and readily accessible, and also able to be sorted by region. The tool was developed by digital producer, Nick Clark (clarx.com.au).

FINANCIAL MATTERS

The full Auditor's Report for 2017 can be made available on request.

In 2017 the HCNSW generated an income of \$119,739 (\$112,490 in 2016) and ended the year with a deficit of \$966 (\$10,493 surplus in 2016).

Matters in detail

- The major source of income received was government grants with \$80,000 from Create NSW.
- Other income sources were sponsorship \$5,000, membership subscriptions \$15,919, a bequest \$10,000, event income \$4,103 and donations \$1,697.
- Total expenses were \$120,705 (\$101,997 in 2016). Expenses included employee benefits (wages and superannuation) \$75,352, administration fees \$3,518, awards and prizes \$6,500, event costs \$13,974, Annual History Lecture \$5,392, travel expenses \$2,440 and rental expenses \$5,000. In addition, vital support was provided by HCNSW's partners - De Bortoli Wines, State Library of NSW, Sydney Living Museums, City of Sydney, Royal Australian Historical Society.
- Despite funding challenges, the HCNSW remains in a secure position to continue its key activities and develop some new programs in 2018.

OUR SUPPORTERS

MAJOR SUPPORTER

Create NSW

PARTNERS

Macquarie University

State Library of NSW

Sydney Living Museums

City of Sydney

Dictionary of Sydney

Royal Australian Historical Society

Inside History Magazine

SPONSORS

De Bortoli Wines

Geoffrey Jones

The History Council of NSW is grateful to its many corporate and individual members for their continued support.

Become a member or donate at <http://bit.ly/HCNSWSupport>