

History Council of New South Wales Inc

Annual Report 2018



"History binds us together as a community. The History Council of NSW performs vital work in showcasing the work of historians and the value of history. History Week is a wonderful festival encouraging community engagement with people, places and the past, as well as grand ideas and global history. Through its programs and advocacy, the History Council of NSW is helping build a prosperous and tolerant nation based on respect, reconciliation and diversity."

- Dr Lisa Murray, City of Sydney Historian, HCNSW member, and 2018 Annual History Lecture speaker

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

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am very pleased with the response to the History Council of NSW's (HCNSW) 2018 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 2019.

This year we continued to expand our programs, hosting our popular Speaker Connect beyond History Week, connecting History professionals with community organisations across NSW. I am also proud of our efforts to offer more programs in regional areas, in particular the important collaboration that we continued with Central West Libraries and support from Orange City Council to provide a History seminar their Readers and Writers Festival. We hope to expand on these programs and develop further partnerships, particularly in regional NSW, in the years ahead.

The HCNSW is extremely 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 during 2018 would like to say a special thank you to the many members who supported our work. Your enthusiasm and generosity are what makes our role meaningful.

We are grateful to De Bortoli Wines for their continued financial and in-kind 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 2018 Max Kelly Medal and to an anonymous donor for their continuing support of the Aboriginal History Prize.

We would also like to acknowledge the invaluable and continued support of our long-term cultural partners – City of Sydney; Macquarie University (Department of Modern History, Politics and International Relations); National Archives of Australia; NSW State Archives and Records; Property NSW (Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority); Reserve Bank of Australia; Royal Australian Historical Society; State Library of New South Wales; Sydney Living Museums; University of New England; University of Newcastle; University of Technology, Sydney (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences).

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

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
Martyn Killion, State Archives and Records NSW

STAFF

Nicole Cama, Executive Officer (January-May)
Catherine Shirley, Executive Officer (May onwards)
Amy Way, Programs Officer (January-September)
Alexandria Hawkins, Administrative Assistant
Lucy King, Programs Officer (September-December)

OUR WORK

92 History Week events
6 general programs
12 Speaker Connect talks
231 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. The HCNSW has played an integral role in planning and organising History Week and will continue to do so in 2018.

"It is a great week and gets a lot of people to come along to history events that otherwise wouldn't. You also get to meet others who are interested in history and learn from them, which is always fun"

The theme for History Week 2018 was Life and Death. HCNSW members were invited to explore life's defining moments and the impact of death on communities across time.

On 31 August, the State Library of NSW and HCNSW continued their long standing 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. An audience of 120 attended.

A total of 92 events (compared with 80 in 2017) were registered in 2018, which included exhibitions, talks, tours and more.

Forty-nine (47 in 2017) of the events were held in Sydney, 15 (13 in 2017) in Greater and Western Sydney, and 28 (19 in 2017) in regional NSW.

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:

- 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.

The HCNSW received 9 applications (down from 14 in 2017) from potential hosts and 14 presentation proposals from speakers (down from 18 in 2017). The talks were held free of charge and were open to the public.

"It's a great program - well-conceived, well-executed, and offers valuable opportunities both to speakers and to communities interested in attending high quality historical events."

A total of **12 Speaker Connect sessions** were held during History Week 2018 after some additional hosts were approached directly by HCNSW staff:

Alison Wishart	The Impact of the 1918-1919 Influenza Pandemic in Australia 5 September, Lake Mac Libraries
Alison Wishart	Using Oral History to Inform Family History Research 3 September, WEA Sydney
Fiona Reilly	Lest We Forget: How the Great War Changed What We Wore in the Face of Death 5 September, Mosman Library
Ian Willis	Death of Men in Training at the Liverpool Field Hospital 1915 3 September, Nowra Library
Isobelle Barrett Meyering	Activist Commemorations: Remembering the Life of Bessie Guthrie 5 September, Sydney Mechanic School of Arts

- Fiona Reilly Punk: So What's New?
6 September, Fairfield City Museum & Gallery
- Dr James Dunk Darling's Suicides
8 September, Wollongong City Libraries
- Michelle Cavanagh Veiled Warriors: Lives and Deaths of Australian Nurses in War
3 September, Mudgee Town Hall Theatre
- Pauline Conolly In the Footsteps of Governor Macquarie
6 September, Singleton Public Library
- Dr Rachel Franks Execution as Entertainment
3 September, Sutherland Shire Libraries
- Dr Rachel Franks Why We Read True Crime
5 September, Woollahra Library
- Yvonne Fletcher Maud Butler: You Can't Fight, You're a Girl
4 September, Lake Mac Libraries



Advertising poster created for the Alison Wishart Speaker Connect Event at the Belmont Library, 5 September 2018

Annual History Lecture Awards & Prizes

The Annual History Lecture (AHL), *Warnings from the Grave*, was presented by the HCNSW on 4 September at The Mint, Macquarie Street, Sydney and was delivered by Dr Lisa Murray, City of Sydney Historian. It was recorded by the ABC and broadcast in the Big Ideas program on Radio National in November 2018.

The Max Kelly Medal was awarded to Jessica Urwin, Aboriginal History Prize to Meg Foster, Deen De Bortoli Award for Applied History to Dr Peter Prince.



The **Annual History Citation** was awarded to Professor Lyndall Ryan in recognition of her research and teaching in women's and Indigenous History, and her service to the profession in contributing to the development of Australian Studies and Women's Studies.

Professor Lyndall Ryan accepting her award, 2018.
(Photo credit: TWH Photography, courtesy HCNSW)

In total 115 guests attended the AHL, compared with 94 in 2017. The HCNSW offered a discounted student ticket to attract a broader audience. Of the 115 guests, 9 were students, 23 complimentary/VIP, 41 HCNSW members (or Professional Historians Association NSW & ACT members), 42 General Admission.

A list of sponsors for the Annual History Lecture is provided on the last page of this report.

"A great night. The Annual History Lecture was very interesting and I met so many new people in the history field...it was great to speak to the prize winners too."

Feedback about History Week

Directly following History Week, HCNSW sent out surveys to hosts, speakers and invited attendees to evaluate events. This was in addition to surveys and attendance sheets that had been circulated to hosts prior to History Week.

The 2018 surveys received a total of 37 responses (compared to 30 in 2017), but only one of these was from a guest. It is believed that this is because we did not offer inducements to participate in the surveys (ie, in 2017 participants were offered the chance to win 12-months' digital access to *Inside History* magazine, which is now defunct and no longer an HCNSW partner). Here is a precis of responses to the Surveys:

- Event Host Survey - 17 responses
- Event Guest Survey - 1 response
- Speaker Connect Host survey - 9 responses
- Speaker Connect Speaker survey - 10 responses

Feedback from surveys indicated that while the majority of hosts were happy with the timing, variety and quality of promotion, several indicated that, often due to the scale/difficult location of their venue, they would have preferred for promotion to have begun earlier and crossed more mediums, with one host in particular noting that in a previous year her event had been promoted on the radio.

(Note: Each year, the HCNSW creates a media/publicity guide for host members, it contains helpful hints on how to publicise their History Week event and encourages hosts to contact us at admin@HistoryCouncilNSW.org.au for more information. A number of hosts took us up on this offer.)

Other feedback

- Several hosts and speakers also noted that they would like to have been more involved with the registration process for their events. While this option was available, many hosts appear not to have realised this, so this will need to be made clearer during the application process for next year.
- One or two hosts expressed concern that the PDF program was not available on our site earlier than it was. This was due to a slow registration trickle in 2018, which led to HCNSW staff extending the deadline of registration. Our intention for 2019 is to advertise a closing date of mid-June in an attempt to resolve this issue.

- We received positive feedback from many hosts that their events attracted good crowds, including many guests who may not otherwise have visited. Although some expressed sentiments that: "I feel that it is a very effective way to bring approachable History to audiences but would really like to try to reach a younger, schools or tertiary audience in the future"
- We will take into consideration all the feedback received in 2018, and adjust our timelines and work processes where possible and viable within our existing resources.

For a more comprehensive report of History Week 2018 [click here](#) (pdf)

Other Events and Programs

Newcastle Writers Festival

The HCNSW presented a panel, 'Making Family and Local Histories Global' to 60 audience members at the Newcastle Writers Festival on 7 April. The target audience was students, family historians and family History researchers/writers.

Assoc/Prof Nancy Cushing (University of Newcastle), Professor Andrew May (University of Melbourne), Dr Julie McIntyre (University of Newcastle) and Sue Ryan (Newcastle Regional Library), shared their skills and experience in connecting family and local histories with current issues and audiences. After the guest speakers delivered their session, answered questions from the participants who were invited to share their ideas and/or research for feedback.

Social media was used extensively at the event, as evidenced by the following Tweets on Friday 6 April 2018:

<https://twitter.com/MichWatsonOz/status/982063590243876865>
<https://twitter.com/amywayness/status/982064958283309057>
https://twitter.com/Uni_Newcastle/status/982060395660742656
https://twitter.com/Uni_Newcastle/status/982065730249154561
https://twitter.com/Uni_Newcastle/status/982070379756703746
<https://twitter.com/amywayness/status/982073866985005056>
https://twitter.com/Uni_Newcastle/status/982073887818067968
<https://twitter.com/MichWatsonOz/status/982077104404643840>
<https://twitter.com/amywayness/status/982076726065836033>

Funding for this session in the form of staff resources and program costs were drawn from Create NSW's Service Organisation Program funding for 2018. This session was presented by the History Council of NSW with support from the School of Humanities and Social Science, University of

Newcastle. In line with practice in previous years, the HCNSW did not charge admission to the NWF event. All speakers gave their time voluntarily.

Employability Seminar - How to get a job in History

On 16 April 2018, the HCNSW ran a seminar 'How to get a job in History' for a target audience of students and early career History professionals.

The objectives of the seminar were to provide professional development and support for existing HCNSW members as well as students and early career History professionals; to promote the professional practice of History and demonstrate its diversity; to provide networking opportunities within the History sector; to partner effectively with other organisations in the delivery of services, specifically the State Library of NSW; to raise the profile of the organisations involved and encourage membership/support.

The speakers were Dr Kiera Lindsey, Dr Stephen Gapps, Minna Muhlen-Schulte, Laura Signorelli and Nicole Cama. The session was chaired by Associate Professor Tanya Evans.

Approximately 70 people attended, with 31 of those being young people/students.

The History Council of NSW (HCNSW) collected feedback both in person and through surveys, with overwhelmingly positive responses from the 27 responders. Data from the 27 survey responders was as follows:

- Over 55% indicated they were students, 25% History enthusiasts, and 14% History professionals
- 44% (aged under 25), 29% (26-35), 11% (36-45)
- 85% of the respondents do not work in either a paid or unpaid capacity in a History related organisation
- The most important skills they think they need to work in the sector? Interpersonal, research and communication skills
- 81% said this was their first History Council of NSW event
- 70% rated the seminar 5/5 for usefulness (22% rated it 4/5)
- 81% rated all speakers 'excellent' (14% rated 4/5)
- 100% said they'd recommend the event to others

Funding for this session in the form of staff resources and program costs were drawn from Create NSW's Service Organisation Program funding for 2018. The HCNSW also charged admission for non-HCNSW members to help off-set program costs.

The HCNSW partnered with the State Library of NSW, who provided the venue for the event free of charge, and organised Laissez-Faire catering at a reduced cost.

Sydney Writers' Festival

On 3 May the HCNSW presented a panel session, 'Immersive Histories', at the Sydney Writers' Festival (SWF). The session featured Sydney Living Museums' Caroline Butler-Bowdon as chair alongside the winners of the 2017 NSW Premier's History Awards – Peter Hobbins and Adam Clulow – and Senior Judge, Paul Ashton. The intention of the seminar, which was held at Carriageworks, was to present audiences with a professional development opportunity to hear from recent award-winning historians on how they craft and write about certain historical subjects within their works. The target audience was students, History enthusiasts, amateur and professional historians.

To a full house of approximately 165 people, the panelists explored how historical narratives can create a powerful experience for the reader when grounded in evidence and embedded with a strong sense of place.

Although we did not conduct a survey of participants (no registration details were taken due to the way in which the SWF was organised), we received in-person feedback from attendees during and after the session. Many attendees reported that they really enjoyed the session and learned a lot from it, especially in relation to writing style and the nexus between historical and creative writing. A lot of online feedback was recorded indicating a high level of audience satisfaction.

Social media/online impressions

Tweets from Caroline Butler-Bowdon

<https://twitter.com/cbbmuse/status/991877112419110917>

<https://twitter.com/cbbmuse/status/991899574410166274>

From HCNSW

<https://twitter.com/HistoryNSW/status/991586861125693440>

<https://twitter.com/HistoryNSW/status/991835767495249920>

<https://twitter.com/HistoryNSW/status/991854996600770560>

<https://twitter.com/HistoryNSW/status/991854581888905217>

<https://twitter.com/HistoryNSW/status/991853138415042560>

<https://twitter.com/HistoryNSW/status/991856033650757632>

<https://twitter.com/HistoryNSW/status/991858401792614400>

<https://twitter.com/HistoryNSW/status/991863636590149632>

<https://twitter.com/HistoryNSW/status/991865087878053888>

<https://twitter.com/HistoryNSW/status/991865460650950656>

<https://twitter.com/HistoryNSW/status/991867272074477573>

Funding for this session in the form of staff resources and program costs were drawn from Create NSW's Service Organisation Program funding for 2018. In line with practice in previous years, the HCNSW did not charge admission to the SWF event to help off-set program costs.

Orange Readers and Writers Festival

On 27 July the HCNSW presented a 5-hour seminar, 'Touring Tastes: exploring histories of Australian food and culture', as part of the Orange Readers and Writers Festival.

The seminar examined how food and travel are at the centre of Australian life, both as a means of survival and pleasure. The central seminar questions were: how do the practices surrounding food and travel shape local and national cultures? How have Australians kept themselves nourished through times of war and struggle? What can food tell us about personal and social values? And how do historians unravel the meaning behind our favourite pastimes?

The speakers were Richard White (Associate Professor of History, University of Sydney), Diana Noyce (professional food historian), Dr Blake Singley (curator, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies), and Lauren Sameulsson (PhD Candidate, University of Wollongong). The seminar was chaired by Catherine Shirley (Executive Officer, History Council of NSW).

Twenty-five people participated in the workshop, with comments taken on the day as feedback. Registrations showed that the majority of attendees were History supporters, cultural/History workers and writers. Verbal feedback about the content was positive, with a number of attendees requesting that the HCNSW extend the time of the seminar to its previous full-day length and provide and charge for food, to enhance networking opportunities.

The workshop was presented in partnership with Central West Libraries and supported by Create NSW and Orange City Council. Funding for this session in the form of staff resources and program costs were drawn from Create NSW's Service Organisation Program funding for 2018 as well as a \$1,000 donation from the Orange City Council. The HCNSW also charged admission (\$15 General, \$10 Student and HCNSW Members) to help off-set program costs.

General Speaker Connect

In 2018, the Speaker Connect program continued beyond History Week to take place throughout the year. We received five applications from potential hosts and twenty-one presentation proposals from speakers. Two talks were hosted in Sydney and NSW outside of History Week,

with many of the others held during History Week. Speakers were offered a \$300 honorarium and the talks were held free of charge.

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 offered involvement in our History Week program and assisted in organisation, promotion and implementation of History Week events.

We received six applications and engaged one intern for a 4 week period leading up to and during History Week. Lucy King (Sydney 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

Media & Communications - Trends 2016-18

	2016	2017	2018
Website page views	92,176	111,252	108,643
Twitter impressions*	328,200	477,100	210,800
Twitter followers	1,527	1,914	2304
Facebook followers	unknown	unknown	2,788
Facebook Likes	2,248	2,472	2,796
HCNSW Newsletter subscribers	1,500	1,592	1,680

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

The HCNSW communicates with its member organisations and individuals, sharing information about their activities, and offering advice on how best to engage audiences online.

History Week received extensive publicity, which was generated organically through social media and word of mouth.

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. In 2018, the events site was improved to create greater interactivity for audiences, in particular regional audiences. 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.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

The full Auditor's Report for 2018 can be made available on request.

In 2018 the HCNSW generated an income of \$116,087 (\$119,739 in 2017) and ended the year with a surplus of \$6,926 (\$966 in 2017).

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 (\$5,000 in 2017), membership subscriptions \$24,337 (\$15,919 in 2017), event income \$4,409 (\$4,103 in 2017) and donations \$940 (\$1,697 in 2017).
- Total expenses were \$123,013 (\$120,705 in 2017). Expenses included employee benefits (wages and superannuation) \$77,159 (\$75,352 in 2017), administration fees \$4,055 (\$2,119 in 2017), awards and prizes \$6,500 (same as 2017), event costs \$19,214 (\$13,974 in 2017)*, Annual History Lecture \$0 (\$5,392 in 2017)*, travel expenses \$3,339 (\$2,440 in 2017) and rental expenses \$5,455 (\$5,000 in 2017). In addition, vital support was provided by HCNSW's partners - De Bortoli Wines, City of Sydney, Macquarie University (Department of Modern History, Politics and International Relations), National Archives of Australia, NSW State Archives and Records, Property NSW (Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority), Reserve Bank of Australia, Royal Australian Historical Society, State Library of New South Wales, Sydney Living Museums, University of New England, University of Newcastle, University of Technology, Sydney (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences)

Despite funding challenges, the HCNSW remains in a secure position to continue its key activities and develop some new programs in 2019.

* Note - Annual History Lecture costs in 2018 were bundled with overall Event Costs, thus the difference in the two years' expenditure for each item.

OUR SUPPORTERS

MAJOR SUPPORTER

Create NSW

CULTURAL PARTNERS

1. City of Sydney
2. Macquarie University (Department of Modern History, Politics and International Relations)
3. National Archives of Australia
4. NSW State Archives and Records
5. Property NSW (Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority)
6. Reserve Bank of Australia
7. Royal Australian Historical Society
8. State Library of New South Wales
9. Sydney Living Museums
10. University of New England
11. University of Newcastle
12. University of Technology, Sydney (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences)

SPONSORS

De Bortoli Wines

Geoffrey Jones

Anonymous donor

Orange City Council

The History Council of NSW is grateful to its many corporate and individual members for their continued support. In particular we would like to thank De Bortoli Wines, a departing sponsor in 2018, and welcome new sponsors, The Centre for Applied History at Macquarie University and the Addison Road Community Centre Organisation, both of which will be supporting prizes and awards in 2019.

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