



ISAA

National Newsletter

Independent Scholars Association of Australia Inc

The Boab tree is self-sustaining; it draws on its own resources

President's Report

Welcome to the December 2020 Newsletter.

We have kept ISAA functioning and benefitted by our access to Zoom since the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic prevented face-to-face meetings. These have been successful with more of our members who have constraints on travel able to participate. My thanks to Past President Christine Yeats for her excellent leadership as well as to our 2019/2020 Council. I look forward to working with the 2020/21 Council - Dr Rodney Nillsen Vice President, Dr Christine Jennett, Secretary, Mr Stephen Horn, Treasurer, and Dr Alan Roberts, Dr Lesley Potter, Dr Hilary Yerbury and Mr Ian Keese as the four Council members. Christine Yeats will continue to support Council in the role of Past President. I am most appreciative of the past work of Ian Keese who so ably edited newsletters over the last three years.

Christine Yeats has offered to take over the Public Officer position as well as the Newsletter Editor position where she produces four newsletters every year. She has offered a new section - *Scholarly Reflections*. Members are invited to provide short articles (500-550 words) on their research, reflections or exploration of subjects of topical interest. This is in addition to any other information that could be useful or of interest to ISAA members, including details of fellowships, awards, conferences, published works and presentations.

It has been a difficult year for all of us and we are delighted that so many of our former members have recently rejoined. New members are always welcome. It may be that some of the academics who have left their universities because of necessary restructuring given their financial constraints would be happy to join us. I will be writing to all our members asking that they consider inviting at least one of their colleagues or contacts to join us.

Our most active State group is NSW and the State Committee has agreed to offer its Seminars, Open Forums, Work-in-Progress events and all other activities to all ISAA members by Zoom. We are looking forward to ACT and Victoria reviving their State committees, and will welcome members from other States offering to set up ISAA groups, given that Zoom meetings may be replacing face-to-face meetings for some time. When some Covid-19 constraints are lifted, it may be possible in the future for us to offer hybrid meetings using both Zoom and face-to-face.

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MEMBERSHIP

\$100—Full members
\$65—Concessional
\$120—Household
\$80—Concessional Household

President's report (continued)

Dr Susan Steggall continues to do a sterling job in managing and updating the ISAA website, and has established an ISAA Facebook page. Council has been reviewing the need for a new more modern website as part of our plan to provide more services to our members. This is part of our strategy for attracting new members and encouraging former members to rejoin. There are several ways members can be involved in ISAA: presenting Work-in-Progress sessions, attending talks, and contributing to the Bulletin, the Newsletter, the Facebook page and the website.

Given the parlous position of tertiary education and the universities in this country, a small Advocacy Committee has been established consisting of Hilary Yerbury, Rod Nilsen and myself and our first output, a position paper, is being finalised.

We plan to follow up our last letter to the Commonwealth Minister and Shadow Minister for Education with two more letters shortly, one to express our views about budget decisions and another to comment on our concerns about the challenging effects of the pandemic and government policy decisions on women and girls in tertiary education. Another issue of major concern is the difficulties being experienced by the TAFE system. We would welcome other members contributing their expertise to this Committee.

I welcome suggestions for suitable, interesting speakers and ideas for activities.

Season's greetings and wishes for success to Council members to keep safe and healthy in a continuing 'COVID normal' Australia in 2020.

*Shirley Randell AO
President*

Vale Patricia Gaut

14 October 1925 – 26 November 2020

It was with great sadness that I learnt of the death of Dr Patricia Gaut after a long illness. Patricia was not only a prolific writer but also a gifted writing teacher. She was something of a mentor to me in my early days of writing when she was both President of the Society of Women Writers NSW (1998-2000) and editor of the Society's newsletter. She judged many of the Society's competitions and for years led a successful and very popular writers' group at the Willoughby Arts Centre.

Patricia Gaut joined ISAA late in 2001 and in 2008 was judge for the NSW Short Article Competition. She and her partner Hans Goodman were frequent attendees at ISAA National Conferences (Hans was an early editor of the NSW Bulletin and ISAA website coordinator for many years after its creation around 2005).

A love of music led to Patricia's longtime career as a music teacher. She was also a dancer and a sculptor before gaining a PhD in creative writing that resulted in publication of her mystery novel *The Three Arrows* (1999). She also wrote fiction for young adults as well as editing six anthologies of short stories.

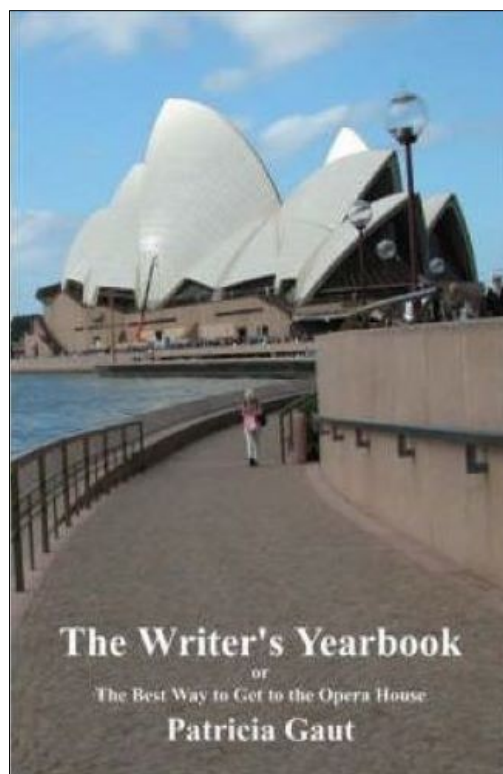
Vale Patricia Gaut cont.

Her non-fiction, *The Writer's Yearbook or The Best Way to Get to the Opera House* (2004), contains fifty-two chapters of invaluable, practical, information for both aspiring and experienced writers.

The book's title reveals Patricia's fanciful side: When a tourist at Circular Quay asked her the best way to get to the Opera House, Patricia's reply was 'Practise! Practise! Practise!' In 2009 she published *Sympathetic Vibrations*, a collection of writings that reflected on and summarised her journey through life and art.

I will always remember her soft, deceptively gentle voice that, with a hint of steel, could deliver trenchant observations about the craft of writing. 'Kill your darlings' was one of her favourites.

Susan Steggall



ISAA NSW Report

The NSW Group Committee has continued to meet during Covid via Zoom. We met on 21 September and 15 October. Our last meeting for 2020 was on 19 November. Hopefully sometime in 2021 we will be able to conduct our meetings again at the State Library of NSW.

Past events

The active Public Affairs Reading Group met on 13 October via Zoom to discuss Margaret Simons' biography of Penny Wong: *Passion and Principle* (Black Inc. 2019) introduced by Christine Jennett.

The group also met on 1 December when *A Rightful Place: A Road to Recognition* edited by Shireen Morris (Black Inc. 2017) was discussed. Three members, (Sybil Jack, Rodney Nillsen and Jan Todd) introduced different chapters of this book.

Professor Richard Kemp (UNSW) a cognitive scientist and forensic psychologist presented the

second Open Forum for 2020 on the 5 November. Professor Kemp gave a fascinating and informative talk, illustrated with interactive videos, on the topic of *The Psychology of Eyewitness Memory*. This forum was again held via Zoom and was enjoyed by the eleven participants.

Christmas Party

This year's Christmas gathering will be different. City Tattersalls Club has been booked so that members can attend a Christmas luncheon. This event will be held on Wednesday 9 December commencing at 12 noon. Members will pay for their own meal and drinks.

Lesley Potter
Chair ISAA NSW

Scholarly Reflections

Contributors

Dr John James OAM
Tony Minchin
Reverend Dr John Moses
Peter D Nixon

Dr Alice C Paul
Dr Sue Steggall
Dr Ian Willis

Dr John James OAM—*The embrasure figures of the Chartres Royal Portal*

“Was this a portrait of the bishop of Chartres when the Royal Portal was being assembled? This was Geoffroi de Lèves who had been bishop for over thirty years between 1116 and 1149. Lindy Grant describes him as ‘the leader of the moderate reformers in the French church, and the most politically adept, and thus, politically prominent of his many colourful contemporaries ... he was the great conciliator of his time. Where there was discord, Geoffrey brought peace.’ Here is the man to oversee the reconciliation of royalty and sainthood, the past and the present. His role in France was immense. With Abbot Suger, he could have promoted the political value of figured portals.”

This is an extract from Part 3 of a 9-part series on the history of the Royal Portal in the cathedral of Chartres. It is the most famous sculptured portal in France, and one of the best known to both scholars and the public. There have been no recent attempts to unravel its complex history and the multitude of errors that occurred because it took four years to carve and assemble.

The masters were pretty independent in those days and changed the design to suit themselves, and with four different builders involved, the consequences of their many design changes are written through the errors left in the portal. The trick is to find them and then interpret – that’s how history is written!

And why the changes? One, was that they had no forward funding arrangements and could build only in short campaigns with the money available at the time. Two, the builders would run out of work after a few months and be busy on another job when more money came. Three, and this is the most amazing of all, they had no way to communicate their plans - no way to share either their designs or their measurements with their clients nor (and here lay the real source of their building errors) with each other.

The multitude of errors show the master's inability to pass information on to their successors. It was not a matter of confidence, of which there was no shortage, but the result of there being no agreed units of measurement after the disintegration that followed the decline of Roman jurisdiction.

Yet masons still had to issue precise directions to the quarry if stones were to fit snugly on site. This is where geometry took the place of measure. By the time they built the portal around 1140, foot units were not required, and instead the masters relied on a practical man's geometry to draw the templates that told his men exactly what to do.

In this case the geometry was derived from the gap between the towers that was divided into parts, and these parts used to determine all the details. On the practical level, the method was straightforward and, at least in the earlier years, simple.

The hundreds of tools that remain are all aids to geometry (squares, rods, compasses and dividers), and there is not one foot unit, nor anything we would call a tape measure divided into regular units.

For those who are interested, here are the links to the three parts I have finished so far.

The embrasures

<https://www.creationofgothic.org/COGA/files/articles/Chartres-Portal-3.pdf>

The lower lintels

<https://www.creationofgothic.org/COGA/files/articles/Chartres-Portal-6.pdf>

The tympanum

<https://www.creationofgothic.org/COGA/files/articles/Chartres-%20Portal-7.pdf>

Scholarly Reflections

Dr John James OAM—*The embrasure figures of the Chartres Royal Portal (cont.)*



A detail of the head



The whole sculpture.

Scholarly Reflections (cont.)

Tony Minchin—*Bad Business Behaviour*

What is to be done about ugly corporations that carry on business contrary to the public interest? We see some small corporations whose bad behaviour is local and some big corporations whose malign power is international. The problem suggests its own solution: disincorporate them.

Following 19th century practice, the legislature creates corporations (limited liability companies) via corporations law and then takes little interest in them. The gift of incorporation has been given too freely. A corporation is an artificial creation but a legal person who lives forever with much freedom to act. 'Corporations have neither bodies to be punished, nor souls to be condemned; they therefore do as they like.' (Lord Chancellor Thurlow d.1806)

In the 19th century, legislatures facilitated the creation of corporations to encourage investors to put money into commercial projects with minimal risk to themselves. This enabled the creation of big commercial ventures able to make long-term commitments, and enabled small investors to participate in them. This was in the public interest and continues to the present time.

But now many corporations are created for other reasons. These include hiding the identity of individual venturers and avoiding tax and social responsibilities. Too many corporations carry on business in ways contrary to the public interest and leave others to pick up the pieces. Limited liability can in practice mean letting the consequences of business failure fall on creditors, employees, contractors, customers, taxpayers or the environment; the owner shareholders suffer limited loss.

Official regulators are plenty but remedial action is scarce. It's time for the legislature itself to face up to its responsibility for creating so many ugly corporations. The legislature and corporations both need to be reminded that granting corporate status was intended to be in the public interest. And why in perpetuity?

What past legislators made, present legislators can unmake. Corporate law could be amended to provide for corporations to be terminated for continued bad behaviour, leaving the owner shareholders exposed to the real world. The prospect of possible termination would itself prompt better behaviour.

A competent regulator directly responsible to the legislature could gather evidence and make recommendations on termination. It would also help if the narrow legal requirement that directors act in the best interests of the company were widened to include the public interest.

Reverend Dr John Moses—*Christianity versus the 'Murderous Utopias': The Church Struggle against Communism and National Socialism*

Both Communism and National Socialism advanced formulas to change the world. The advocates of both ideologies believed they were "scientific." Marxism-Leninism projected itself as a way to achieve a classless society in which first the expropriators would be expropriated and replaced by a dictatorship of the working class. This would ensure the production would no longer be for the benefit of a few plutocrats but would accrue to the benefit of the producers themselves who would be rewarded according to their needs. In reality, however, the system was taken over by the so-called Nomenklatura, the apparatchiks of the various world communist parties. These behaved as a law unto themselves until the "implosion" of Communism began in 1989.

National Socialism as the German version of fascism was based on a doctrine of the superiority of the so-called Aryan race which had a mission from Providence to eliminate or subjugate all inferior races, such as Jews and Slavs, and create a new world order ruled over by the physically and mentally advanced Teutonic race of tall, blond and blue-eyed superior beings, the new "chosen race."

Both the above 'systems became the most notorious murderous Utopias in human history. They have now been consigned to the dung heap of history. The exceptions are countries such as China, North Korea and Cuba which still claim to be based on the doctrines of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism.

Scholarly Reflections (cont.)

Reverend Dr John Moses— "Christianity versus the 'Murderous Utopias': The Church Struggle against Communism and National Socialism (cont.)

It needs to be remembered that the main opposition to Marxism-Leninism and National Socialism came from the Christian Church. It had an agenda formulated by St Paul which he summarised in his Epistle to the Romans, his longest and most systematic formulation of the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth. Paul had, in short, composed the "Christian Agenda" for human kind. In it he spelled out the principles by which human beings should treat each other and in particular he elaborated on the centrality of a government that preserved law and order and which protected all citizens regardless of race or religion.

Peter D Nixon— *SETI – A terrestrial point of comparison*

This summarises my presentation (1) to the 2019 SETI/IBHA Conference (2) and may be read in conjunction with my presentation to the 2017 ISAA Conference (3).

If SETI is successful, that is if we receive some communication from intelligent beings outside our solar system, can we assume that they will be any more secure in their cosmic context than we feel in ours? Allowing that they will be more technically advanced, does this necessarily mean that they maintain the social practices required to live sustainably in their world, or might they be intending to colonise ours? I present a terrestrial point of comparison that supports Big History (4) objectives for the future of humanity (5). The original Australians, commonly called Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders or ATSI peoples, arrived by sea from South-East Asia.

Having extended over the continent, the only regular 'international' contact they had was with PNG. (6) It has been estimated that the original Australians and their descendants lived and, for most of the time, thrived there for nearly 70,000 years. The Australian continent was the world, for the isolated original Australians. Approximately 300 years ago Extra Terra Australis Intelligence (ETAI) arrived and later claimed the continent as its own. Looking back, it appears a better outcome could have been achieved by ETAI if it had learned from the original Australians about how to live in their land. Despite the losses endured by the original Australians resulting from colonisation, their descendants have maintained, developed and adapted their culture and, in a very dignified way, advanced the interests of their communities. A question arises concerning whether global humanity has the resilience that the original Australians and their descendants have shown.

This question is being explored in a book manuscript in preparation concerning the idea that the development of character creates Goldilocks moments (7) in the lives of individuals within structured intergenerational conversations. This enhances understanding of cultural evolution AS IT HAPPENS. Four examples of structured intergenerational conversations are described concerning the way the original Australians handled knowledge (8), education practices in a 20th Century Russian school (9), a method for tertiary level teaching of creative writing (10) and a South Australian workforce study.

Endnotes

1. Nixon P (2019) *SETI – A terrestrial point of comparison*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9fm3rMOFWX0&list=PL2DlytCDRCnSglJ9_nCbEFWhFgTgYmR-&index=25> Accessed 23/10/2020.
2. SETI/IBHA (2019) Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence / International Big History Association. Milan conference program can be accessed from:
<<https://bighistory.org/2019-life-in-the-universe-conference-information/#:~:text=The%20Symposium%20is%20organized%20jointly,July%2017th%20and%2018th%2C%202019>> Accessed 23/10/2020.
3. Nixon. PD (2017) *Situating Human Generations in Big History*. Revolution, Activism and Social Change, Independent Scholars Association of Australia. 2017 Conference Proceedings (In press).
4. Nixon. PD (2017) *Situating Human Generations in Big History*. Revolution, Activism and Social Change, Independent Scholars Association of Australia. 2017 Conference Proceedings (In press).

Scholarly Reflections (cont.)

Peter D Nixon—*SETI – A terrestrial point of comparison*—Endnotes (cont.)

5. Mulvaney J & Kamminga J (1999) *Prehistory of Australia*. Allen & Unwin, Sydney.
 6. Spier F (2015) *Big History and the Future of Humanity*. Wiley Blackwell. Pp. 63-65.
 7. Nixon, PD (2018) Situating human generations in Big History. *Journal of Big History*. 2(2): 53-77.
 8. Cockerill A, *Each One Must Shine: The Educational Legacy of V. A. Sukhomlinsky*. Peter Lang Publishing, NY: EJR Language Service Pty. Ltd, 1999; 2009.
 9. Brophy K, *Patterns of Creativity: Investigations into the sources and methods of creativity*. Rodopi, Amsterdam, NY, 2009.
 10. Nixon, PD (2010) *Being there: Integrating a new generation allied health Professional workforce in publicly provided domiciliary aged care*. University of South Australia & Domiciliary Care SA. Supported by an Australian Post-graduate Award Scholarship. (State Library of South Australia Call No. 331.7613621 N736 b).
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Dr Alice Coolican Paul—*Working from home after Covid – what's next?*

The NSW Government has announced that from 14 December 2020 employers will no longer be mandated to 'allow an employee to work at the employee's place of residence if it is 'reasonably practicable to do so'. (1) The Government is encouraging a return to workplaces, but with a Covid-19 Safety Plan in place and staggered start and finish times.

With vaccines available soon, we may see an end to the present Covid public health measures. What then for working from home?

Currently working from home arrangements are underpinned by State public health orders and federal legislation, supported by award variations introduced by the Fair Work Commission. JobKeeper amendments to the *Fair Work Act 2009*, a scheme of economic incentives subsidising businesses greatly affected by coronavirus, were introduced in April 2020 for a period of six months; these were subsequently extended and apply through to 28 March 2021.(2) One of the JobKeeper 'enabling directions' allows these employers to require an employee to work from another location including the employee's home.(3)

In the absence of these special Covid-related provisions, the key workplace laws facilitating working from home are to be found in the National Employment Standards, being certain rights to request flexible working arrangements. (4) The grounds are limited to carer's responsibilities, disability or being 55 or over. There are no general avenues of enforceable redress. (5)

Pre-Covid-19, these formalised flexible working arrangements were under-utilised.(6) Even though the right to request remains, we can anticipate increasing pressure to expand the ability to work from home and perhaps a claim of right to do so.

The practical experience of working from home is now widespread, significantly more extensive than pre-Covid. Most have an opinion about it. Attitudes vary on all sides, and the debate will be informed by this recent history. Already there are calls for different workplace arrangements.

The Fair Work Commission has put forward for discussion between unions and employers some proposals to facilitate working from home. Recently, the ACTU released a Working from Home Charter, signalling that this topic is a live industrial issue. It does not assert an entitlement to work from home, rather the emphasis is on maintaining existing workplace protections whilst doing so. Employers want to avoid cost increases and to maintain effective control of work. The debate has far to go, and may yet be fashioned by the diverse views of individual employees arising from the momentous workplace changes wrought by Covid.

Endnotes

1. *Public Health (Covid-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order (No. 5) 2020*, cl. 6; Announcement by NSW Premier 25 November 2020, reported *Sydney Morning Herald*, 26 November 2020 p.14.

Scholarly Reflections (cont.)

Dr Alice Coolican Paul— *Working from home after Covid – what's next?* —Endnotes (cont.)

2. Part 6-4C *Fair Work Act*, which commenced on 9 April 2020, was inserted as part of *Coronavirus Economic Response Package (Payments and Benefits) Act 2020*. Initially these provisions were to cease at the end of September along with other JobKeeper provisions; legislation extending them was passed on 3 September 2020.
 3. Section 789GF *Fair Work Act* allows employers to direct employees to work 'at a place that is different from the employee's normal place of work, including the employee's home'. Other enabling directions allow for changing an employee's duties and stand downs.
 4. See s. 61(2)(b), requests for flexible working arrangements are an NES; also ss.65-66.
 5. Section 44(2) *Fair Work Act* no court order; s.739(2) limits on FWC.
 6. The Report of the Senate Select Committee on the Future of Work and Workers, Recommendation 16, p. 9 and pp. 27-29.
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Dr Sue Steggall—The Art of fiction/writing art in fiction

In a presentation to NSW ISAA in October I discussed novels whose plots revolved around art in some way. The books ranged across genres of historical fiction, mysteries, biography and literary fiction epitomised by Gail Jones' novel *The Death of Noah Glass*. Robert Dixon defines the moment when Jones' protagonist takes copious notes in front of a painting by Piero della Francesca depicting Saint Jérôme reading from an open book as ekphrasis: the text and images of one book, and the description of a painting in a notebook, contained within another book. (1) Some novels involved artworks from the Renaissance and Baroque eras. Robyn Cadwallader lit up the world of 14th-century manuscripts. Heather Rose framed her story around a 2010 performance by artist Marina Abramović. Iain Pears painted a masterly portrait in words of an artist hell bent on revenge.



A selection of novels discussed

Fiction transports readers far from their everyday lives, 'art' fiction perhaps more so because readers have 'a fascination with the act of creation and the mysteries of inspiration'. (2) Gail Jones and Dominic Smith believe art works speak to us across time and nations. So much of how we see ourselves – in relation to the environment and to history – is a result of visual culture that provides a fascinating intersection between the personal and the historical. (3) Sometimes the artworld is called upon to explore political, social or ethical issues, such as *The Lacuna*, in which Barbara Kingsolver featured the muralists and surrealists of the 1930s through the lives of Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera. Curious as to why Elizabeth Durack would paint as Eddie Burrup, an Aboriginal man, I learnt that she did it out of respect for elders known in childhood rather than renown or remuneration. I used this idea in *Tis the Doing Not the Deed* in which a 'doing' for noble reasons also had unfortunate consequences.

Scholarly Reflections (cont.)

Dr Sue Steggall—The Art of fiction/writing art in fiction (cont.)

Paintings – lost, stolen or copied – are popular subjects. Novels involving forgeries often centre around relatively recent art, it being easier to obtain materials contemporaneous with the artwork than their equivalents from earlier centuries. Yet in all good art mysteries, seemingly impossible situations must arise logically within the narrative and secondary artworks invented to provide credibility for the star of the show must pass the ‘could be real’ test.

Northern hemisphere writers frequently focus either on centuries-old art, or imagery that owes much to Provence, the Impressionists and Van Gogh. Indigenous art notwithstanding, Australian art has a relatively short history compared to the centuries of European visual creativity, and the range of art embedded in ‘Australian’ novels is often less conventional. Whatever its provenance, art in fiction enhances any reading experience. I leave the last word to Robyn Cadwallader:

While language, belief, politics (and in the Middle Ages, food, dress and culture) are very different from ours, we can reach back and connect with them in the beauty of their creativity. Such delicate and fine artwork ... shows us how these 14th-century artists saw transcendence, playfulness and beauty in the world around them.(4)

Endnotes

1. Robert Dixon, ‘Figures in Geometry: *The Death of Noah Glass* by Gail Jones’, *Sydney Review of Books*, 7 September 2018.
2. Carol Cram, ‘Art in Fiction’, <https://www.artinfiction.com/>; (accessed 3 July 2020).
3. Email responses to Susan Steggall, 13 and 15 October 2020, respectively.
4. Email response to Susan Steggall, 21 October 2020.

Dr Ian Willis—Macarthur regional newspapers and the creation of a national pioneering hero

A research passion of mine for some time has been the local newspapers of the Macarthur region on Sydney’s southwestern urban fringe. As part of this work I have recently had published in *Media History* (UK) an article called ‘Local Newspapers and a Regional Setting in New South Wales: Parochialism, Mythmaking and Identity’. (doi.org/10.1080/13688804.2020.1833710).

The article explores the role and history of local newspapers in the three New South Wales market towns of Campbelltown, Camden and Picton that made up the Macarthur region. Each community had a series of local town-based newspaper mastheads from the 1880s, some lasting longer than others. Most of these newspaper titles carried a geographic identifier that reflected by locality and circulation. Examples included *Camden News*, *Camden Advertiser*, *Picton Post*, *Picton Advocate*, the *Campbelltown News*, and the area’s first newspaper *The Campbelltown Herald and Camden, Liverpool, Appin, Picton and Menangle Advertiser* (1880).

These local newspapers were run by hard-bitten owner-editors who were salt-of-the-earth people who had printer’s ink running in their veins. They survived on the smell-of-an-oily-rag and were assisted by family members who doubled as reporters, printer’s assistants, photographers, stringers and ‘Jack-of-all-trades’. Amongst these colourful characters and local identities were: the gold-field printer and colonial-newspaper baron William Webb who owned a string of country newspapers; English journalist William Sidman who had his lead-type face confiscated in Paris for bullets during the Franco-Prussian war; and New Guinea war veteran and printer Syd Richardson, the first regional newspaper baron.

Local newspapers used local history to allow their readers to reflect on their past by storytelling and creating an understanding of their cultural heritage. The local press published the first pioneer histories from the reminiscences of the area’s colonial settlers. The first of these were the memoirs of JB (John Benson) Martin’s the Clerk of Petty Sessions and Registrar for Campbelltown, Picton and Camden from 1852 to 1887. Benson’s memoirs were serialised in the *Camden Times* in 1883 and then republished as a book the following year called *Reminiscences*.

Scholarly Reflections (cont.)

Dr Ian Willis—*Macarthur regional newspapers and the creation of a national pioneering hero* (cont.)

The local press lionised pioneer settler stories, and the most important of these were the exploits and activities of the New South Wales Corps officer Captain John Macarthur. This storytelling reached a fever pitch around the centenary anniversary of Macarthur's death in 1934 in the local and Sydney press. His image and exploits appeared in books, plays, postage stamps, currency and documentaries, and his name was used as a federal electoral division, an urban growth centre, a railway station, a Sydney suburb and a shopping centre. The historical legacy of the

Macarthur story was to turn the exploits of a colonial figure into a local legend and national hero.

Local newspaper baron Syd Richardson created a regional newspaper using his name, the *Macarthur Advertiser*, in the 1950s. The *Macarthur Chronicle* appeared in the 1980s, and both contributed to the construction of the regional identity across the three towns that now make up the Macarthur region.



Members' Publications, Presentations and Activities

Sybil Jack

Publications

Jack, Sybil — 'Katarina Jagiellonica and Sophie of Mecklenburg-Güstrow: 'Power, piety, and patronage' in *Forgotten Queens In Medieval And Early Modern Europe Political Agency, Myth-making, and Patronage*, Valerie Schutte and Estelle Paraque eds, Routledge, London, pp.94-113, 2019.

Jack, Sybil — 'Rome or Rathven: Us and them in the Catholic Highland missions in the 17th and 18th centuries', *Sydney Society for Scottish History Journal*, vol 18. Sydney, NSW, Sydney Society for Scottish History 2019.

Jack, Sybil — 'Buchanan versus the Portuguese Inquisition: Personal, Philosophical, or Political?' *Literature & aesthetics: the journal of the Sydney Society of Literature and Aesthetics*, 30 (1). Sydney, Sydney Society of Literature and Aesthetics, pp. 23-60., 2020.

'Jack Sybil — 'Fable and fiction in the creation of contemporary beliefs about the past in Scottish Highlands' in *Memory and Foresight in the Celtic World': Perspectives from the Late Medieval through Modern Periods*, Lorna G. Barrow and Jonathan M. Wooding, eds, Sydney, Sydney University Press, 2020.

Colleen Morris

Publication

Colleen Morris and Brett Summerell and Beverley Allen *Botanic Endeavour: the Florilegium Society celebrates the Banks and Solander collection* The Florilegium Society at the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney Inc, Hunters Hill, New South Wales, 2020.

Shirley Randell

Publications

Randell, Shirley & Hilary Yerbury, *An Exploration of the Metaphors and Images used to Describe Leadership in Two Different Cultural Contexts*, *Frontiers in Education*, Volume 5, Article 151, open access journal, Lausanne, Switzerland, 19 August 2020.

Randell, Shirley, *National Ambassador's Message on COVID 19 and Older Women*, National Older Women's Network Newsletter, Sydney, 18 October 2020.

Presentations

Randell, Shirley, International Opening Speaker, Orientation Program for students in the Bachelor of Arts and Modern Languages, Social Sciences, and Business Administration at Leading University, Sylhet, Bangladesh, via Zoom from Canberra, 7 November 2020.

Shirley Randell (cont.)

Board Activities

Randell, Shirley, Vice Chair, Sport Matters (*Assistant Editor, Curriculum for Physical Education Teachers in the Pacific*, University of the South Pacific, September 2020 and *Grant Application, Technical Proposal and Capacity Building Facility, and Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls*, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, 4 November 2020 .

Randell, Shirley, Coordinator of International Relations, Australian Graduate Women (*Regular reports to AGW members and assistance in writing a second advocacy letter from AGW about university funding to the Minister for Education*).

Christine Yeats

Presentations

Accessing land title records for Western Sydney and Linking people and places and discovering how they lived — Part 2 of the RAHS/Create NSW Western Sydney Seminars Land and Community Life, 17 November 2020.

RAHS/WEA Joint Workshop *Getting to know the AJCP*, 25 November 2020.

Committees

Elected Senior Vice President Federation of Australian Historical Societies (FAHS) at the AGM on 24 October 2020.

Elected Vice President Graduate Women NSW at the AGM on 31 October 2020.