



Past, Present, Future

The Newsletter of the Heritage Futures Research Centre

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The newsletter

This quarterly newsletter aims to keep you informed about up-coming events, such as seminars, conferences and public talks, as well as news and items of information relevant to heritage, with a particular focus on the New England region and the work of HFRC members.

Unless otherwise requested the newsletter will be emailed to members. It will be also be available on-line once we establish our web page. If you know anyone you suspect might like the newsletter feel free to pass it on *but do please suggest that they contact HFRC about membership.*

Membership

Membership of the HFRC is entirely voluntary and free. There are two categories, member or associate, depending upon the degree of involvement one wants with the organisation. Members are those persons who are willing and able to become involved in all the various activities of the Centre, such as research projects, meetings, seminars and public events. Associates are those persons, who for whatever reason, merely wish to be kept informed of the Centre's activities, receive the *Newsletter* and possibly attend seminars. New membership is welcomed. So please, do spread the word and encourage those colleagues, friends and associates you think might be interested in HFRC to read the *Newsletter* and contact the editor.

Schedule for HFRC business meetings for 2004

3 June, 1 July, 5 August, 2 September, 7 October, 4 November and 2 December.

Meetings will be held at UNE in the School of Human and Environmental Studies, Room HES 3. They will commence at 4.00 pm and conclude at around 5.00 pm.

Schedule for HFRC seminar series for 2004

It is intended that all seminars will be held in HES 3 on the second Wednesday of the month and that they will commence at 1.00 pm and conclude at around 2.00 pm.

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| 9 June | Mr Graham Wilson
Heritage advisory work with local government |
| 14 July | Professor Iain Davidson
Cultural Heritage in Budapest |
| 11 August | Dr Janis Wilton & Camilla McRae
Family ties, Newstead stories |
| 8 September | Dr Frank Bongiorno
New England in state politics: a regional history |
| 13 October | Dr Andrew Piper
The social and economic role of cultural heritage in the community |

Archaeology Society Revived

Enthusiastic students have revived the University of New England Archaeological Society. As part of National Archaeology Week this group hosted a number of events for each day of the week. There was a quiz night, a viewing of the new movie 'Troy', special talks and exhibitions, a feast of ancient royal Phrygian essence as found in the Tomb of King Midas himself, as well as other events. This new group is dynamic and exciting. Their next meeting is to be held on Monday 1 June at 7.00 pm in HES 7. Anyone interested in joining the society or finding out about what it is about can either attend this meeting or else contact Dean Willis on 0422 649 310 or email him on dwillis2@pobox.une.edu.au.

McLean's Corner Heritage Conservation Project

It was reported in the last newsletter that differences over design had seen implementation of interpretative displays and signage, at the former McLean's Corner and now site of Armidale's Coles Complex, delayed. Negotiations have successfully taken place between the parties concerned which has seen these differences resolved. It is hoped that the main interpretative display will be officially opened by the Mayor and the Vice Chancellor during the Australian Archaeological Association's conference in mid-December.

HFRC Web Page

Martin Auster, with some assistance from Janis Wilton and Andrew Piper, has been working on establishing an electronic presence for HFRC. A draft web page has been developed and it is currently being reviewed and refined. It is intended that by the time of the next edition of *Past, Present, Future* this web site will be available to both members and the public, and that a version of the newsletter can be presented with images.

The HFRC Logo

Some readers may wonder at the symbolism of the HFRC's logo. When looking for an icon to associate with the Centre Pam Watson and Iain Davidson were attracted to the many stained glass images in the windows of Booloominbah. In the end though it was a Booloominbah ceiling painting that was taken by Pam as the basis for the HFRC logo that she designed. Using a computerised drawing program she created the distinctive star-shaped emblem, symbolic of a central node reaching out into the landscape. The russet, green and blue that make up the colour scheme of the logo are representative of the hues of the countryside.

Uralla Regional and Identity-Defining Project

This is a co-operative community-university project, under the direction of John Ryan, which aims to publish on the history and heritage of Uralla. The principal community partners in the project are the Uralla Historical Society, the Uralla Shire Council and local Uralla historian Arnold Goode. As with John's previous project *Writing Tenterfield*, it is hoped that more than half of the contributors will come from the Uralla area, include as many women as possible, and cover the 150 or so years of white settlement, as well as having a Koori content. Other members of HFRC who are involved include Robert Haworth and Graydon Henning. Various former staff members of UNE who are involved include Ken Dempsey and Peter Metcalfe, as well as Laurie Piper of CSIRO. It is hoped that the final resultant

publication will be an exciting history covering the topics of settlement, gold mining, and Uralla's bohemian past, as well as a cultural history. The book will be able to be utilised as a walking guide, generously illustrated with photographs and maps. It is hoped to keep the price down so that the book will appeal to schools and many other sections of the community.

Launch of DOTARS publication

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Transport and Regional Services, the Hon John Anderson MP recently opened the new UNE Student Services Centre on 4 May. At this function, attended by HFRC representatives, the DPM also launched the Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS) publication *Community and Campus: the Benefits of Engagement*.

In the foreword to this new publication the DPM states that it will provide 'communities and universities with ideas and examples of ways in which they can work together towards common goals, and [it] shows clear principles that can provide a way of making deep and lasting connections between communities and their institutions of higher education.' It was therefore appropriate, given HFRC's commitment to engagement with local and regional communities in mutually beneficial partnerships, research and information sharing, that it should be profiled in this new book. Indeed, HFRC should feel a certain degree of pride being the only UNE institution to be profiled as a case study in the publication, under the sub-heading 'Cultural Heritage and the Shaping of Regional Identities'.

Register of *Pinus sylvestris* (Scots Fir)

The fashion for native plants that has been taken up by many gardeners in the past few decades is welcome, but we should not overlook the heritage value of the many exotic trees that were planted in the nineteenth century. If these do not cause environmental problems, there is no reason why they should not be enjoyed for their beauty and utility, and remind those of us of Anglo-Celtic origin of the boreal forests our ancestors lived in for many millennia. Most of the deciduous exotics have a life of several centuries but the conifers usually have a shorter life span. The Scots Fir (*Pinus sylvestris*), the only indigenous conifer of the British Isles, was a favourite of the early settlers and there were widespread plantings. It is a well-behaved tree as its seed does not spread indiscriminately like some of the North American conifers that have been planted *en masse* in Forestry plantations. Unfortunately, many of the original avenues of Scots Firs around old homesteads are reaching the end of their

natural lives. If they are replaced at all, it is often with the commercial pines of the forestry plantations. As with the English Elms that grow so prolifically in the cooler regions of Australia and New Zealand, the Scots Fir is becoming rare in the British Isles. The remnants in temperate Australia represent a pool of valuable genetic diversity that might, at some future time, come to the aid of the revival of these species in their homelands.

It is important, therefore, that we find out where species such as Scots Firs are growing and try to encourage their sustainability by regular staged plantings. For this purpose HFRC is proposing the setting up of a register of Scots Fir in the New England region. Those with information or who wish to help with this register should contact Dr Robert Haworth, School of Human & Environmental Studies, UNE, Armidale, NSW 2351, or phone 02 6773 2006, or email: rhaworth@pobox.une.edu.au. Further information relating to this project will be posted on the HFRC web page, when this is available, in the near future (see above).

Gamilaraay Resource Use Project

The Gamilaraay Resource Use Project (GRUP) continues to collect new and valuable information about natural resource use by Gamilaraay people, including a successful week of fieldwork to the Moree, Toomelah-Boggabilla and Mungindi 1-7 May. A highlight of this fieldwork was a day-trip to Boobera Lagoon with two Elders from Toomelah who indicated the significance of this place and its natural resources for Gamilaraay people. Preparations are currently under way to conduct a research consultancy in the Taringa Nature Reserve, north of Warialda. This is only a preliminary survey but it offers the opportunity to test some of the observations thus far made about resources, resource use and their occurrence within the Gamilaraay landscape.

In addition to ongoing fieldwork GRUP continues to make progress on the development of the computer database for our resource use data. Likewise we continue to work with the University Lawyers and Gamilaraay community members on an Intellectual Property agreement that ensures that this project is of and for the Gamilaraay community and that the information from our individual informants is appropriately protected.

Family Ties

This project aims to locate, document and utilise the variety of available sources related to the history of the Newstead pastoral property, near Inverell. It's purpose is to provide material for the Tom Roberts Festival held in Inverell every four

years, for the adaptive reuse of the old homestead by its new owners (the Bruderhof Community) and to interpret sites of significance in and around Newstead. Janis Wilton and Camilla McRae have continued their work on this project. As part of Armidale's Wool Expo festivities, the Family Ties team and the Bruderhof Community collaborated in establishing an exhibition at NERAM linked to the exhibiting of Tom Roberts' 'Golden Fleece' painting (which was on display until 30 May). Further, Janis would like to inform readers that a sample of the Family Ties database will soon be available on-line.

The Europeans in Australia

Anyone venturing into the School of History, Classics and Religion is likely to have passed Alan Atkinson's office. Had they looked in they would have seen Alan busy working on *The Europeans in Australia*. Those who have had the pleasure of reading *The Europeans in Australia*: volume I will have been eagerly awaiting volumes II and III. Alan has been kind enough to write the following progress report.

Having just finished volume 2 of my book, *The Europeans in Australia* (which is due out in August), I've made a start on volume 3. A central events in this third volume is federation. Ideas about federation are, of course, central to the national heritage. A good deal of new research work has been done over the last ten years, partly because of the centenary of federation in 2001 but partly also because of interest in national identity which emerged in the 1990s — and which played a large part in the campaign for a republic. So the relationship of history and heritage is a vexed issue here as it often is also at the regional and local level. What we want to believe about the nation, as something which belongs to us now, isn't necessarily consistent with the documentary evidence from the period.

But more fundamentally, the overwhelming importance of the nation in our daily lives and in everything we read, makes it really hard to come to terms with a situation where it didn't exist and where people had to make up their minds whether they wanted to bring it into existence or not. Looking back, it all seems pre-ordained. It had to happen. Arguments on the other side couldn't make sense. Obviously that's not true. I'm mainly concerned now with what might have been the arguments on the other side. That probably means setting aside the fact that federation is a precious part of the Australian heritage. It's just another example of the way in which history and heritage, which really depend on each other, are also often at odds.

Tenterfield's New Heritage Advisor

As the newly appointed heritage Advisor for the northern NSW town of Tenterfield, Museum Planning Services Australia (MPSA) Director Richard Wesley has been involved in several interesting heritage projects including the restoration of the main street's verandahs. Richard is also implementing strategies to ensure the preservation and implementation of the town's other cultural heritage sites and assists with the management of the Community Heritage Fund. This fund, supported by the NSW Heritage Office, assists individuals in the restoration of privately owned, historically significant buildings in and around Tenterfield.

National Railway Heritage Conference

This year and next represent the 150th anniversary of railways in many Australian states. Despite rail's socio-cultural importance to, and influence in, the development of Australia this significant event is receiving only minor State or Federal support. Grassroot community organisations have contacted the University of New England's Heritage Futures Research Centre (HFRC) about the possibility of sympathetic university people assisting in promoting/facilitating a conference on rail heritage.

HFRC is supportive of the national railway heritage conference (NRHC) concept and 150th anniversary of rail. Indeed, HFRC member John Ryan has stated that the journal *Australian Folklore* intends to devote this year's journal to the subject of the 150th anniversary of rail in Australia. HFRC has taken a lead role in investigating the feasibility of a conference. We believe that such a conference would be more likely to achieve success if HFRC were to partner itself with other significant railway heritage stakeholder organizations. HFRC is looking for organisations that would be willing to partner us in convening this conference. At present HFRC is discussing the conference concept with other groups to ascertain their interest in becoming involved with this project. The concept has been enthusiastically received by some members of the rail heritage community, especially volunteer groups associated with the development of the Australian Railway Monument (ARM).

The ARM is a multimillion dollar redevelopment of the rail station and depot at Werris Creek. This project will see the creation of a national memorial to commemorate those workers who lost their lives in the course of their employment on the railways of Australia.

The ARM project has the support of the current state minister for rail. The first stage of this

project is due to be officially opened in September 2005. It has been suggested that this would be an opportune time to hold a rail heritage conference, in that it could be held in conjunction with this activity. However, as Werris Creek does not have the facilities necessary to convene such a conference, it has been suggested that it be held in Tamworth. This would be helpful also in view of the country music associations with railway songs and ballads.

The HFRC committee working on this project believes that the conference should be political and exciting, as well as historical and commemorative, and that it should be held in September 2005. Without being too prescriptive at this stage, some thought has gone into planning the conference structure. The conference would most likely run over three days. There would be two days of papers and the third day would be taken up with a field trip to Werris Creek and the official opening of the first stage of the ARM, hopefully on a specially commissioned heritage train being pulled by an old steam or diesel locomotive.

An initial listing of potential sessions includes:

- Railway Folklore and Railway Stories
- Railway Development History
- Railway Labour History
- Railway Heritage Interpretation: museums and tourism
- Railway Heritage Conservation: management, philosophy, policy and implementation
- The Australian Rail Monument
- The Future of Rail

Anyone interested in becoming involved with this project is asked to contact the HFRC at HFRC@une.edu.au or Andrew Piper on 02 6773 2764.

Heritage New England

HFRC has decided to facilitate the writing of a new book on the heritage of New England. This publication is meant, among other things, to push forward the broad research objectives of the Heritage Futures Research Centre. One of the Centre's main concerns is the definition of geographical regions, and especially New England, from a heritage point of view. In other words, in HFRC we are interested in understanding how, over time, people within this region have nourished a sense of regional attachment. In the case of national patriotism, a lot depends on popular notions of history, on some sort of knowledge of the national story and a sense of being part of it. We cannot expect anything so clear cut within a region like ours,

which has no government of its own and few cultural institutions working to build up a collective memory. If there is indeed a regional memory and a sense of regional geography, then it has been sustained in other ways.

Probably all the planned 26 chapters will explore this issue. In terms of economic exploitation, how far and for what periods have the human population seen something distinctive about some region which can be identified as New England? In terms of mobility, is it possible to find patterns of movement and migration with distinctly regional dimensions? With what ease or difficulty did local people look beyond some kind of regional boundaries for items of common consumption, entertainment and so on? Where boundaries do seem to have existed it cannot be taken for granted at all that they were the same boundaries for every purpose. So although it might be possible to say that some places are unquestionably New England (Armidale, for instance), others will be a lot more doubtful – Tamworth, Moree and so on.

In the end this book will really be about attitudes. Objects, material and immaterial, become heritage because people think of them as such. They have a value solely in the eye of the beholder. We are not only asking how current ideas about the region have been shaped by its history but also how such ideas in the past were shaped by memory, habits and the stories of everyday life.

The book will not be so much about new research but more about new writing. It is presumed that contributors will have material already to hand which will allow them to write on their designated topic. It's understood that each of the chapters will be a new and original piece of work, at least in some respects, and that by putting all the chapters together in a single publication we will be doing something which is valuable and new.

The editorial committee managing this project has been approaching individuals to write specific chapters. Initial planning for the publication is now well advanced with nearly all of the essays already promised. It is intended that this new book will be published in mid-2005.

An Archaeological Management Plan for Armidale

As reported in the last newsletter Dr Pam Watson has been busy developing an archaeological management plan for Armidale. This project intends to redress inadequacies in the Armidale/Dumaresq Council's current knowledge of the archaeological heritage assets of the town and use these findings as basis for strategic

planning and management of the archaeological resources of the town, especially in relation to development. The results of this study will be incorporated into the current Local Environmental Plan (LEP) for Armidale. Pam has stated that the project should be completed within the next six weeks. It is intended to publish some of the outcomes of Pam's research in the next newsletter.

Local Government Records a Target for Preservation.

The Heritage Centre of UNE has been successful in obtaining a grant from the State Records Authority of NSW for \$44,484. This money is to work specifically on upgrading the existing inventory of Local Government records held in UNE Archives for inclusion on the State Archives web based catalogue. This grant was awarded as part of the Archives in the Bush Program.

As part of this program, the State Records Authority will also fund professional visits to all local councils in the region by University Archivist, Bill Oates. The challenge of meeting recordkeeping guidelines for the preparation and transfer of this history is complicated by the pressures of amalgamation. State Records anticipates that funding this partnership with UNE, to provide local recordkeeping advice on the preservation and transfer of Local Government records, will ensure that valuable cultural heritage is saved for future generations.

Donation of books to Heritage Centre

The Heritage Centre has received a donation of over 140 books on the subject of Architecture from Dr John Ferry. This collection represents John's special interest in the subject and will form a new section in the reference collection of the Heritage Centre. Currently the Heritage Centre reference collection contains many regional historical works in the Chris Buckley Collection as well as general texts for historical reference gleaned from Dixson Library. We thank John for his generosity and hope that others will use this new resource.

Pens and Presses Exhibition

A new exhibition, entitled 'Pens and Presses: Education and Print in Nineteenth-Century New England', opened at the Museum of Printing, on Friday 14 May. The exhibition, which is the result of collaboration between NERAM's Museum of Print and the University of New England's Heritage Centre, is open for viewing until 10 October. HFRC member Nicole McLennan has worked with Printing Museum manager Michelle Arens and Benjamin Thorn, also from the Printing Museum, over the past 12 months preparing the

displays. The exhibition was funded by a grant from the NSW Ministry for the Arts, and supported by loans of material from the UNE Heritage Centre, Calala Cottage Museum in Tamworth, Land of the Beardies History House at Glen Innes, McCrossin's Mill at Uralla, Inverell's Pioneer Village and Gunnedah's Water Tower Museum. It is complemented by permanent displays in the Museum of Printing. The exhibition focuses on public schools and local newspapers as the disseminators of literacy in colonial communities

Australian Archaeological Association Conference 2004

The Australian Archaeological Association (AAA) is one of the largest archaeological organisations in Australia, representing a diverse membership of professionals, students and others with an interest in archaeology. It aims to promote the advancement of archaeology; to provide an organisation for the discussion and dissemination of archaeological information and ideas; to convene meetings at regular intervals; to publicise the need for the study and conservation of archaeological sites and collections; and, to publicise the work of the Association.

The Division of Archaeology and Palaeoanthropology at the University of New England will host the 2004 AAA conference, from 13-15 December. The theme of the conference will be Networks and Narratives. Social networks are construed by some as the very basis of human cultural interaction and some archaeologists have attempted to identify the process of their emergence and maintenance in the archaeological record. How do archaeologists go about recognising them in the past, and how have they been maintained? What is the role of narratives in maintaining them, and how do archaeologists hope to deal with the evanescence of spoken stories?

At another level, we can also discuss the role of networks in the business of doing archaeology, and the role of narratives about the past in teaching, researching and publicising archaeology. For more information visit the website at www.une.edu.au/aaa/ or contact the organisers at aaaune2004@pobox.une.edu.au.

Our Grandchildren Won't Believe It

After labours of more than 12 years, the Wongwibinda, Aberfoyle and Wards Mistake Historical Research Group have finally completed their important work, *Our Grandchildren Won't Believe It*, on this general community and area to the nearer north east of Armidale. The members have covered a period of about 150 years, from

the earliest white settlement in the area and the progressive divisions of the original three runs, to the community's contribution in distant wars, and their adaptation to many economic and social changes in their surprisingly discrete region.

One of our members, Dr John Ferry gave much invaluable guidance to them as to the earlier historical aspects of the various settlements. The volume has 450 pages, and Associate Professor John Ryan wrote the Introduction and he will launch the copiously illustrated book for the group at the Wongwibinda Hall, Wongwibinda on Sunday, 30 May, 2004.

A warm invitation was extended to all our members to meet many of the surviving contributors, well over 100 — as well as the two present editors — and to share in a unique and historical community occasion, the sort of which is not likely to occur again in our area for many years.

First International Symposium on Roadside Memorials— June 25, 26, 27, 2004, UNE

Memorial culture and grief expression reflect social values. As a community of scholars with common interests, it is timely that we meet to discuss our understanding and encourage each other to explore new directions. The symposium focuses especially on roadside memorials to road crash victims. Of all tragic death, road trauma is likely to affect us all in some way, at some time.

Papers will examine the phenomenon of roadside memorialisation from the perspective of any relevant discipline including, for example, death studies, history, studies in religion, anthropology, sociology, folklore, road safety, architecture, landscape architecture, studies in grief and mourning, and studies in memorial culture. Commentary will also be given on several photographic and artistic exhibitions.

For further information please contact Dr Jennifer Clark, at the School of Classics, History and Religion, UNE, or jclark1@pobox.une.edu.au, or visit the website at <http://www.une.edu.au/arts/scch.htm/roadmem.html>.

Armidale and District Historical Society

Formed in late 1959, the Armidale and District Historical Society aims to promote knowledge and interest in local history, including the New England area and especially Armidale. Meetings are held with a guest speaker at 7.30 pm on the third Tuesday of each month, February to October, with an excursion in November. The usual meeting place is Kent House, 141 Faulkner Street (opposite Central Park). Visitors are always

welcome. An annual journal is published containing the text of many of the talks given during the previous year together with other articles and book reviews. The membership fee is \$30.00 and is due at the annual meeting in April. Further information can be obtained from Judy Grieve, President, phone (02) 6775 1205 or by writing to the Secretary, PO Box 692, Armidale 2350.

Contributions Welcome

Contributions to the Newsletter are most welcome. Please let us know about events, seminars, news or other relevant items that should be included in the newsletter. The editor's contact details are: Dr Andrew Piper, Heritage Futures Research Centre, C/- School of Human & Environmental Studies, UNE, Armidale, NSW 2351, or phone 02 6773 2764, or email: andrew.piper@une.edu.au.