

Professional Historians Association (NSW) Prize, 2010

The [Professional Historians Association NSW](#) (PHA NSW) endowed a prize of \$500 for the best project or essay relevant to Public or Applied History submitted for examination in a second or third year undergraduate course at the University of New England in 2010. The prize is part of a pilot scheme working towards planning for a longer term PHA (NSW) Public History Prize for undergraduate students of history across New South Wales.

UNE's well-established and recognised history in the delivery of local, family and applied history courses attracted the PHA to offer the prize at UNE in 2010.

The recipient is Gary Boyce who is in his third year of part-time candidature in the [Advanced Diploma in Local, Family and Applied History](#). The particular project focused on the City of Sydney

Fire Station and was submitted as his second assignment in HIST 335 Heritage Conservation. The assignment required him to evaluate and critique the relationship between heritage conservation planning and heritage conservation practice using a local case study and, in so doing, to gain an insight into the work of public historians. It required engagement with primary sources and with existing scholarship, an ability to integrate



his research into both a narrative history of the site and an analysis of its significance, an ability to evaluate differences between planning and practice, and a demonstration of the skills required to present a highly professional work. Gary's project excelled in all areas.

The other assignments shortlisted for the prize were Michelle Hovell for her case study on the Landsborough Museum ; Maureen Player for her oral history project with her war bride mother-in-law; and Bronwyn Sims for her oral history project with her aunt. All these were of an excellent standard.

All the shortlisted assignments provide examples of the skills and insights students are bringing to the diverse range of public and applied history units offered at UNE. This fits well with the PHA's – and UNE's – interest in promoting public history as a distinctive practice which seeks to engage with and inspire diverse audiences. It also fits in well with showcasing the variety of arenas in which public and applied history graduates can apply their skills and can gain employment.

In this tradition, and building on its record in teaching applied history, UNE continues to offer diplomas in [local, family and applied history at both undergraduate and postgraduate level](#). As well, from 2011, it will be offering a new award – the [Bachelor of Historical Inquiry and Practice](#) – which focuses specifically on the professional development of historians.