

BOOKNOTES PUBLISHED IN THE RAHS JOURNAL 2008-2016

by Anne-Maree Whitaker
Book Review Editor

Ian Hancock, *The Liberals: a history of the NSW Division of the Liberal Party of Australia 1945-2000*, Federation Press, Sydney, 2007, xi + 388 pages; ISBN 978 186287 659 0.

In the early 1980s ALP Senator John Faulkner set a trivia quiz question seeking the names of the eight state Liberal leaders since Neville Wran had become Labor leader. This was a somewhat cruel reminder of the Liberals' disarray in the 1970s and 1980s after the lengthy reign of Sir Robert Askin from 1959 to 1975. The history of the NSW Liberals is, in fact, relatively short and Askin's sixteen years as leader and ten as Premier represent the highlight of their electoral success. This study by Professor Ian Hancock looks not only at the parliamentary party, but also at the Liberals' head office, the branches and factions. Probably the most significant figure in head office was John Carrick who served as General Secretary from 1948 to 1971 (and Senator from 1971 to 1987). The black and white photographs provide startling flashbacks (was Philip Ruddock ever that young?) although the quality of the reproductions of newspaper pictures is not always as good as might be desired. The book would also have been improved by some appendices listing parliamentary leaders and party officials. [June 2008]

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Helen Ennis, *Photography and Australia*, Reaktion Books, London, 2007, 158 pages; ISBN 9 781 86189 323 9.

The peril of writing a history of photography is that the book looks far too attractive to be a scholarly work. But this is far more than just a picture book, and is supported by academic apparatus in its survey of Australian photography since the first daguerrotype was taken in 1841. Helen Ennis, a senior lecturer in art theory at ANU, covers photography's distinctive Australian characteristics with an emphasis on its role as art rather than journalism. She explores the ways in which photographs reveal the racial, social and political tensions in Australian history and reflect the colonial experience of a settler society and its indigenous hosts. Aboriginal people are represented both by the ethnographic pictures of the nineteenth century and by the works of indigenous photographers since the 1970s. Ennis also investigates how views of landscape have evolved. The striking photographs in the book come from public and private collections throughout the country. Many familiar images are included, from Joe Byrne's body outside the Glenrowan lock-up (1880) to Harold Cazneaux's harbour bridge study (1931) to Gough Whitlam pouring soil into the hand of Vincent Lingiari (1975) and beyond. [June 2008]

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Terry Kass, *Sails to Satellites: the Surveyors General of NSW (1786-2007)*, Department of Lands, Bathurst, 2008, xii + 484 pages; ISBN 9780975235454.

The post of Surveyor General is the second oldest in NSW, after the Governor, dating from the appointment of Augustus Alt in 1786. Surveying was vital to the expansion of settlement,

the creation of farms and villages and later roads and railways, towns and cities. This well-illustrated book by professional historian and former RAHS councillor Terry Kass covers far more than the careers of the 27 Surveyors General over the last 220 years. Introductions to each section elucidate topics such as the equipment used by surveyors, land measurement, road building, land title registration and land valuation. The administrative history of the Lands Department is also covered, including the establishment of the Central Mapping Authority in 1951 and the Geographical Names Board in 1966. These days satellite imagery and digital surveying systems have revolutionised the work of surveyors but the romance of the early years continues to fascinate. The book has a useful bibliographical essay and copious colour illustrations, many of maps and plans which lose their full relevance in those black and white photocopies which are routinely issued from the Department of Lands. [June 2008]

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Margaret Betteridge, *Sydney Town Hall: the building and its collection*, City of Sydney, Sydney, 2008, 248 pages; ISBN 9780975119648.

Sydney Town Hall is familiar to us all, and familiarity possibly makes us underestimate the grandeur of what is claimed to be the largest and most ornate late nineteenth-century civic building in Australia. Built in stages between 1869 and 1889, the external design of the Town Hall was influenced by the latest architecture in Paris, Britain and the USA. This stunning full-colour book concentrates on the history of the town hall rather than the activities of its occupants. The hundreds of illustrations include details of the building and its ornamentation, photographs, drawings, paintings and plans. Because the Town Hall also has an important collection of artworks and objets d'art the book also contains pictures of Sydney, the International Exhibition of 1879, memorabilia from wars and mementoes of the 2000 Olympics. Among artworks selected for inclusion in this book are portraits of many lord mayors although mysteriously Frank Sartor (1991-2003) is not among them. The book is a feast to the eye and would make a delightful (although rather weighty) gift for the departing overseas visitor. [June 2008]

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Melissa Harper, *The Ways of the Bushwalker: on foot in Australia*, UNSW Press, Sydney, 2007, xv + 348 pages; ISBN 978 086840 968 9.

The origin of bushwalking in Australia was in 1788 when George Worgan wrote to his brother about his rambles with a knapsack through the woods around the settlement at Sydney. This lively study goes on to look at mountain guides and the passion for walking tours in the nineteenth century and the twentieth-century 'real bushwalkers' versus 'hikers' controversy. Melissa Harper is a lecturer in Australian studies at the University of Queensland and this study began life as her 2003 Sydney University PhD thesis. It has turned into a fascinating book full of information about the many characters and eccentrics who have indulged in and promoted this simplest of Australian pastimes. Along the way we learn of the 'mystery hike' craze of the 1930s organised by the railways which attracted thousand of walkers, and about bushwalkers as environmental activists and custodians of wilderness. Harper concludes with a consideration of the conflicting claims on use of the countryside by bushwalkers and four-wheel-drivers. As the cover note advises, this well-illustrated and referenced book is just the one to slip into your swag. [June 2008]

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Raymond Apple, *The Great Synagogue: a history of Sydney's big shule*, UNSW Press, Sydney, 2008, x + 342 pages; ISBN 978 086840 927 6.

This history of Australia's oldest synagogue was written by its former rabbi, Raymond Apple, and thirty-one members of the congregation including RAHS benefactor Morris Forbes, historian Suzanne Rutland and writer Susan Bures. It covers the history of the building, one of the great treasures of Sydney, and of its rabbis and ministers, and the congregation and community which it has served since 1878. Chapters are devoted to religious facilities, liturgy and music, publications and the celebration of the synagogue's various anniversaries. A section on women notes that despite its Orthodox principles the Great Synagogue has been at the forefront of increased female participation which has brought 'vast changes' in the last fifteen years. The book concludes with a series of memoirs about 'growing up at the Great' from the 1920s to the 1940s. It is well illustrated, mostly in black and white, and has appendices including a digest of annual reports since 1898 and a glossary. [June 2008]

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Robert Crawford, *But Wait, There's More... a history of Australian advertising 1900-2000*, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 2008, xii + 300 pages; ISBN 9780522853223.

Much of our folk memory is derived from advertising. The jingles and slogans for products such as Aeroplane Jelly, Vegemite and Toohey's beer are part of our cultural heritage as surely as literature, music and film. Robert Crawford from the National Centre for Australian Studies at Monash University has written a number of articles on advertising history and has now produced a full-length scholarly study which is nevertheless accessible to the general reader. From the unsophisticated spruikers of 1900 to the amazing technology of 2000, advertisers have wooed the public with appeals to vanity, health and patriotism. This is the first detailed history of the Australian advertising industry, exploring its development from a disorganised group of individuals selling newspaper space to a multi-billion dollar industry run by multinationals. It focuses on individuals as much as companies and campaigns, and even covers the billboard defacing by the BUGA-UP group in the 1980s. The book has some illustrations but the topic begs for more. [December 2008]

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Peter Stanley, *Invading Australia: Japan and the Battle for Australia 1942*, Viking, Melbourne, 2008, x + 307 pages; ISBN 9780670029259.

Historians dream of unleashing the type of debate which has greeted Peter Stanley's new book on World War 2, which argues that, contrary to popular belief, Japan did not intend to occupy Australia. The year 1942 saw the bombing of Darwin, midget submarine attack on Sydney Harbour, and the retreat along the Kokoda Track. Schools were evacuated from Sydney and other cities as the public anticipated further incursions, but was there really a 'battle for Australia' in the same way as the 'Battle of Britain'? Peter Stanley was principal historian at the Australian War Memorial for 20 years and is now Director of the Centre for Historical Research at the National Museum of Australia. In this book he discusses Australian attitudes to Japan before, during and after the War. He argues that Japan's wartime leaders

thought about invading Australia but decided not to. By the time Prime Minister John Curtin and General Douglas MacArthur realised this they could not resist from the propaganda that invasion was likely, which had allowed the introduction of conscription and other measures central to the war effort. [December 2008]

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Robert Irving and Noel Irving, *Donald Thomas Esplin, Sydney architect: his life and work*, authors, Sydney, 2008, vi + 198 pages; ISBN 9780646490021.

Donald Esplin was a notable contributor to Sydney's architectural history, designing more than 500 projects in the city and suburbs and in rural NSW. His work included houses, apartment blocks, office buildings, warehouses, factories, shops, memorials and the garden suburb of Buffalo City in Goulburn. Esplin was born in 1874 in Hay, western NSW, received his professional training in Melbourne and lived in Sydney for more than 65 years until his death in 1960. His work spanning the period 1897 to 1940 has been catalogued by RAHS past President and Fellow and noted architectural historian, Bob Irving, and his son Noel Irving. This A4 sized book contains copious illustrations including photographs, drawings and plans of Esplin's designs which included the Astor Flats in Macquarie Street and 50 houses in North Sydney, few of which survive. Modestly the authors do not claim Esplin as a 'great Australian architect' but hail him as a prodigious builder whose endeavours contributed valuably to the 'marvellously creative phases of Federation and Inter-War architecture'. Many local historians and heritage practitioners will be grateful for their diligent research.

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Neil Cadigan, *A Man Among Mavericks: Lester Brain: Australia's greatest aviator*, ABC Books, Sydney, 2008, xi + 238 pages; ISBN 978 0 7333 2096 5.

Lester Brain was praised in 1929 as 'the best aviator in Australia' after his rescue of the airmen Anderson and Hitchcock who became lost while searching for Kingsford Smith and Ulm. Along the way the 22-year-old Brain was also the pilot for the first Qantas scheduled flight in 1925. The author tracked his subject across Australia to such far flung places as Broome, Alice Springs, Cloncurry and Longreach. He was helped by an oral history interview with Brain recorded in 1977 and now held in the National Library of Australia. After his early stint with Qantas Brain trained many of Australia's pilots in World War 2, and later went on to be general manager of TAA from its founding in 1946 until 1955. He was thus a link between the early days when flying was 'a brave and even foolhardy adventure' and the post-war era of commercial expansion until aviation was just another way to travel. The book is a lively account of an overlooked figure, but irritatingly has no index to help you revisit interesting passages. [December 2008]

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Jim Allen, *Port Essington: the historical archaeology of a north Australian 19th-century military outpost*, Sydney University Press, Sydney, 2008, xvi + 141 pages; ISBN 978-1-920898-87-8.

Port Essington on the Northern Territory's Cobourg Peninsula was the destination of Ludwig Leichhardt's epic journey in 1844-45. It was also the site of the 1840s military settlement called Victoria which became the longest lasting of three failed attempts to establish a British settlement on Australia's north coast before 1850. This venture is now the

subject of the inaugural monograph produced by the Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology and written by Emeritus Professor Jim Allen of La Trobe University. In 1966 Allen was a young archaeologist who conducted the first professional excavation of a European site in Australia. His later doctoral thesis on the settlement integrated the written sources with material evidence produced by archaeological excavations. In the decade following the excavation Port Essington became the subject of an ABC television drama, paintings by Russell Drysdale and a musical composition by Peter Sculthorpe. This adaptation of the thesis contains many tables and illustrations of building ruins and relics unearthed in the excavation. It also provides a potted history of European exploits in the Northern Territory during the mid-nineteenth century. [December 2008]

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Jennifer Clark, *Aborigines and Activism: race, Aborigines and the coming of the Sixties to Australia*, University of Western Australia Press, Perth, 2008, vii + 308 pages; ISBN 9780980296570.

The social and political history of the 1960s continues to fascinate those who spent their formative years during that heady decade. It was a time of civil rights agitation in the United States and Northern Ireland, violent revolution in Paris and Prague, and anti-colonial agitation in Africa. Jennifer Clark is a senior lecturer in Australian and American history at the University of New England. She has brought her international perspective to bear on this examination of Aboriginal activism from the Sharpeville massacre in South Africa in 1960 to the 1972 Aboriginal tent embassy in Canberra. Along the way she examines the protest of the Yolngu people of Yirrkala against bauxite mining in 1963, the stirring of interest among white university students which led to the 'freedom rides' of 1965, and the 1967 referendum which allowed the Commonwealth parliament to legislate on Aboriginal issues for the first time. This is an important element of the 1960s politicisation which also saw the birth of the women's movement and the re-emergence of anti-war activism in Australia. [December 2008]

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F.W. Nicholas and J.M. Nicholas, *Charles Darwin in Australia*, Cambridge University Press, Melbourne, 2008, xx + 260 pages; ISBN 978 0 521 72867 6.

This anniversary edition of a book first published in 1989 commemorates the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of the publication of *The Origin of Species*. It is based on transcriptions of the entire Australian section of Darwin's diary in 1836 when he visited Sydney, the Blue Mountains, Bathurst, Hobart and King George Sound. The book is lavishly illustrated including works by Augustus Earle and Conrad Martens, both of whom had been Darwin's shipmates on *Beagle*. The authors are Frank Nicholas, emeritus professor of animal genetics at the University of Sydney, and Australiana librarian Jan Nicholas. They have provided a commentary on Darwin's diaries and also interwoven comments by other members of the ship's company including Captain Robert FitzRoy and Philip Gidley King (junior). A postscript follows the later careers of Darwin's contemporaries who feature in his diary. Even though most of the Darwin material used in the book is now available on-line, the colour illustrations and high-quality paper make this a much more appealing format for the bibliophile. [June 2009]

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John Hirst, *Freedom on the Fatal Shore: Australia's first colony*, Black Inc, Melbourne, 2008, xi + 497 pages; ISBN 978 1 86395 207 1.

This new publication reprints John Hirst's two classic books on early New South Wales, *Convict Society and its Enemies: a history of early New South Wales* (1983) and *The Strange Birth of Colonial Democracy: New South Wales 1848-1884* (1988). Hirst was senior lecturer in history at La Trobe University for many years and is now deputy chairman of the Australian National Museum. When Robert Hughes's *Fatal Shore* was published in 1988 its publicity claimed that it was 'the first book seriously to examine the convict experience in Australia'. Hirst reports that he was 'ropeable', although somewhat mollified by the tribute to him in Hughes's introduction. While Hughes played up the horrors of the convict system, Hirst found 'normality' among the horrors and declares that 'any convict with skill or merely just a willingness to work would be most unlucky not to do well'. This new double edition will be welcomed by students wanting to study these long out-of-print Australian history classics or by those whose first editions have succumbed to overuse. [June 2009]

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Malcolm Prentis, *The Scots in Australia*, University of NSW Press, Sydney, 2008, xii + 334 pages; ISBN 978 1 921410 21 5.

The author has a number of previous works on Australian Scots under his belt, but this is more than just a rehash of those prior studies. It ranges from the convict era to the modern day, looking at issues such as religion, sport, politics, settlement and popular culture. There is something for everyone, including early NSW Governors Macquarie and Brisbane; Prime Ministers Andrew Fisher and Bob Menzies; a 'Scottish-Australian cricket fantasy XI' ranging from Simpson and Redpath through Miller, Davidson and Thomson to Gilchrist and MacGill of recent memory; musicians Bon Scott and John Paul Young; and a host of details and insights born from a lifetime of study. Bagpipes, highland dancing and tartan of course receive due consideration, as do the Gaelic language and the influence of Scots in many other aspects of Australian life and development. This is a worthy addition to the historiography of ethnic groups in Australia and includes satisfyingly detailed endnotes but, irritatingly, no bibliography. There are some illustrations but it is essentially a study in words rather than pictures. [June 2009]

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Diane Kirkby, *Voices from the Ships: Australia's seafarers and their union*, University of NSW Press, Sydney, 2008, 432 pages; ISBN 978 086840 902 3.

This history of the Seamen's Union of Australia covers the period since 1972, following on from the centenary history by Brian Fitzpatrick and Rowan Cahill, *History of the Seamen's Union of Australia 1872-1972* (1982). The author is professor of history at La Trobe University and has previously published on the history of eating and drinking and women's work in the hotel industry. This book was commissioned by the Maritime Union of Australia, which was formed out of the Seamen's Union (along with the Waterside Workers' Federation and others) in 1993. The backbone of the book is material from over fifty interviews conducted by the author with union members. The book focuses on specific campaigns and events but also connects the history of the maritime industry to the wider social and economic world. It covers not only industrial activism but also campaigns over the Vietnam War, apartheid in South Africa, the 1980 Olympic Games boycott, and Aboriginal land rights. The book is well-illustrated and has a bibliography but no footnotes. [June 2009]

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Paul Ham, *Vietnam: the Australian war*, HarperCollins, Sydney, 2007, xviii + 814 pages; ISBN 978 0 7322 8237 0.

This mammoth account of the Vietnam War by journalist Paul Ham tells the story of the 10-year conflict which saw 520 Australian servicemen killed. It draws on hundreds of accounts by soldiers, politicians, aid workers, entertainers and the Vietnamese people to reconstruct the full history of Australia's longest military campaign. His account of the decolonisation of Indochina begins with the annihilation of the French at Dien Bien Phu and continues through the departure of the Australians and Americans in 1973. Ham considers the difference between Australian and American operations, concluding that there might have been a different outcome to the war if the Australian military philosophy in Phuoc Tuy province had been more widely adopted. As it was the war cost 58,000 US dead and Vietnamese casualties of over 1 million. The book has useful maps and full endnotes and bibliography. Appendices include the Australian honour roll and a list of units involved in Vietnam. There is also discussion of Vietnamese resettlement in Australia and of the aftermath for 50,000 Australian servicemen and women. [June 2009]

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Nathan Garvey, *The Celebrated George Barrington: a spurious author, the book trade and Botany Bay*, Hordern House, Sydney, 2008, viii + 327 pages; ISBN 978 187556 754 6.

George Barrington was a celebrity pickpocket who was transported to Botany Bay in 1791. He became chief constable at Parramatta and died in 1804. His authorship was attributed to the book *A Voyage to Botany Bay* (1795), which as Garvey notes was 'a cleverly structured mix of plagiarism and fiction' which appeared in 'a dizzying number of republications, translations and adaptations'. The 'Barrington' book was undoubtedly the most widely circulated account of the early years of European settlement in Australia. The fact that it was clearly fictitious has led to some neglect of it by historians. The present book is based on Nathan Garvey's doctoral thesis in the English Department at the University of Sydney, and includes 50 pages of references as well as a generous 90-page bibliography itemising various editions of the 'Barrington' version of the colony. It includes an account of publishing history in England and continental Europe in an era when the book trade operated unhindered by copyright laws. [June 2009]

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Heather Goodall and Allison Cadzow, *Rivers and Resilience: Aboriginal people on Sydney's Georges River*, UNSW Press, Sydney, 2009, xii + 327 pages; ISBN 978 1 92141 074 1.

Two distinguished historians have turned their expertise to create a new approach to urban Indigenous history by focusing on the Georges River in Sydney's south. Indigenous people who live in modern Australian cities are often assumed to come from elsewhere, but Goodall and Cadzow disprove this view by their examination of the continuity of Aboriginal communities in the densely settled suburbs lining the Georges River as it passes through Campbelltown, Liverpool, Fairfield, Bankstown, Kogarah, Rockdale, Hurstville and Sutherland. Beginning with Pemulwuy the book traces stories such as those of Dharawal man Kogi or Goggey (1830s), Biddy Giles (1850-90) and King Burruga (1920-40). Later sections draw heavily on oral history and recapture the childhood pleasures of life in the riverside

suburbs when they were still almost out in the countryside. At the same time the involvement of local Indigenous people in political and social movements is given its due coverage. The book has over thirty illustrations, footnotes and index but it follows the annoying modern publishing fashion of not including a bibliography. [December 2009]

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David W. Cameron, *'Sorry, Lads, But the Order is to Go': the August offensive, Gallipoli, 1915*, UNSW Press, Sydney, 2009, xiv + 370 pages; ISBN 978 1 74223 077 1.

The August Offensive was the last major attempt by the Allied forces at Gallipoli to break the stalemate that had persisted since the landings on 25 April 1915. It began with a diversionary attack at Lone Pine on the afternoon of 6 August 1915, which succeeded in taking a heavily defended complex of Turkish trenches but cost the lives of 2,000 men of the 1st Infantry Brigade. The main attacks followed that night, but by 10 August the offensive had failed. This new study uses letters, diaries and interviews of both Commonwealth and Turkish soldiers to recreate the five days which devastated communities throughout Australia. Its author, David Cameron, is a biological anthropologist who conducted a preliminary archaeological survey of the Anzac Gallipoli battlefields in 2003. Lone Pine saw seven Victoria Crosses awarded to Australians, although more should have been awarded for the unsuccessful main attacks on Chunuk Bair and Hill Q. The book is well illustrated with photographs and maps, and has a select bibliography of secondary sources. [December 2009]

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Simon Adams, *The Unforgiving Rope: murder and hanging on Australia's western frontier*, University of Western Australia Publishing, Perth, 2009, xxv + 285 pages; ISBN 978 1921401 22 0.

According to author Simon Adams there could be no greater evidence of a society's struggle with its historical demons than to look at whom it hanged and why. More than 150 people were hanged in Western Australia between its foundation in 1840 and the abolition of capital punishment in 1964. The author is professor of history at Monash University and was formerly Executive Dean of Arts and Sciences at the University of Notre Dame in Fremantle. In *Unforgiving Rope* Adams concentrates on the period from 1840 to World War I to present an unusual social history of Western Australia. His case studies cover race relations between white settlers, Indigenous Australians and Chinese sojourners. The eleven featured cases involve the darkest of human activities including rape, cannibalism and the stealing of children. Far from being just sensationalistic, the book locates the victims and perpetrators within the backdrop of their era to elucidate wider social issues on the frontier interface that was nineteenth century Western Australia. There is a select bibliography and the contemporary sources including newspaper accounts are itemised in the endnotes. [December 2009]

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Peter G. Bolt, *William Cowper (1778-1858): the life and influence of Australia's first parish clergyman*, Bolt Publishing, Sydney, 2009, 514 pages; ISBN 9780 980357 95 0.

William Cowper arrived in Sydney 200 years ago in 1809 to become the first incumbent of the parish of St Phillip, Sydney. Fifty years later when he was buried from the same church, Sydney closed down and 25,000 people lined its streets to witness his state funeral. This new biography explains the life and times of this pioneer Anglican cleric, who for the first ten years after his arrival was the only clergyman permanently resident in Sydney. Cowper contributed to the founding of schools connected with his parish, as well as The Kings School and St Paul's College at the University of Sydney. He published a series of catechisms and tracts aimed at improving the religious and moral tone of the town, and was a moving force in many Evangelical societies. Cowper's memorial tablet in St Philip's Church is inscribed: 'He laboured with constancy and zeal for the salvation of his fellow men'. The book has extensive footnotes and bibliography, although its five illustrations which serve as chapter headings are unfortunately too small to make the impact they deserve. [December 2009]

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Craig Wilcox, *Red Coat Dreaming: how colonial Australia embraced the British Army*, Cambridge University Press, Melbourne, 2009, xvii + 179 pages; ISBN 978 0 521 19360 3.

This is a different type of military history, which looks at the nineteenth century before there was an Australian Army and before practical reforms substituted khaki for the red coat which had distinguished the British Army since its adoption in 1660. Thousands of Australians enlisted in the British Army, and thousands more served in it before migrating here. The author Craig Wilcox's previous book, *Australia's Boer War*, was shortlisted for the NSW Premier's History Prize in 2003. He has now turned his attention to physical traces such as art and artefacts which present an aspect of the relationship between colonial Australians and the British Army. These include Indigenous Australian Bungaree who was painted wearing a red coat as a symbol of authority, to the Hero of Waterloo hotel in Sydney's Rocks, to the first Australian Victoria Cross winner (in the Indian Mutiny) who became a hermit on the Hawkesbury and died under another name in 1899. Full colour illustrations complement each story and there are extensive footnotes and a thorough index. [December 2009]

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David Clune and Ken Turner (eds), *The Governors of New South Wales 1788-2010*, Federation Press, Sydney, 2009, xxii + 666 pages; ISBN 978 1 86287 743 6.

As we commemorate the bicentenary of the arrival of Governor Lachlan Macquarie it may escape our notice that over the past 222 years there have been 37 governors of New South Wales. This new biographical dictionary is one of the last fruits of the Sesquicentenary of Responsible Government Committee whose publishing programme has sponsored 31 books and seven on-line projects. Macquarie is even-handedly assessed by Emeritus Professor Brian Fletcher, who is one of six former councillors of the RAHS (including two past presidents, J.M. Bennett and Carol Liston) among the 23 authors. There is much to learn here, and many surprises beyond the well-known events such as the arrest of Governor Bligh in 1808 or the dismissal of Premier Lang in 1932. The book has two tables itemising personal and career details of the governors, and a comprehensive index. It also has copies of colour portraits of all the governors drawn from the Government House collection, and some photographs of interest including all four Government Houses (Sydney's two plus Parramatta and 'Hillview' at Sutton Forest). [June 2010]

Note: the Book Review Editor is the author of one of the chapters in *The Governors of New South Wales 1788-2010*.

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Don Garden, *Droughts, Floods and Cyclones: El Niños that shaped our colonial past*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne, 2009, xiv + 414 pages; ISBN 978 1 92150 938 4.

Climate change and extreme weather events are increasingly in our thoughts so this study of Australian and Pacific weather in the second half of the nineteenth century is very timely. Its author Don Garden taught environmental history at the University of Melbourne for many years and is now the president of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies. He focuses on three periods when 'droughts and flooding rains' played havoc: 1864-1869, 1876-1878 and 1895-1903. His geographical range extends beyond Australia to French Polynesia, Fiji, New Zealand and the tropical Pacific and he has mined archives and newspapers in those places as well as London and Paris. Garden concludes that extreme weather such as droughts, floods and cyclones severely retarded the development of the colonies and that it took decades for colonists to adjust to the climate. The book includes comprehensive footnotes and bibliography, a good index and 16 appendices (mainly on rainfall). Along with 7 maps there are 40 other illustrations, many of them dramatic contemporary depictions of calamities such as storms and bushfires. [June 2010]

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Margaret Fitzherbert, *So Many Firsts: Liberal women from Enid Lyons to the Turnbull era*, Federation Press, Sydney, 2009, xi + 286 pages; ISBN 978 1 86287 717 7.

Enid Lyons became the first woman minister in a Federal Liberal government when she was appointed Vice-President of the Executive Council in 1949. Since then there have been six others, five of them appointed by John Howard between 1996 and 2007. Margaret Fitzherbert's latest book follows on from her previous study *Liberal Women: Federation to 1949* which was shortlisted for the NSW Premier's History Awards in 2004. The Liberal Party's list of 'firsts' includes appointments of individuals such as the first woman whip (Senator Annabelle Rankin in 1951) and first female Senate President (Senator Margaret Reid in 1996). Policy initiatives range from free school milk in 1950 to Federal funding of childcare in 1972 to cervical cancer vaccination in 2007. Ironically given the short reign of Malcolm Turnbull as Federal Liberal Leader and the staying power of three-times Deputy Leader Julie Bishop, Fitzherbert may regret not using Bishop's name for the 'era' in her title. There are comprehensive footnotes, bibliography and index and appendices listing women of all parties in Federal parliament. [June 2010]

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Tom Frame, *Evolution in the Antipodes: Charles Darwin and Australia*, University of NSW Press, Sydney, 2009, viii + 307 pages; ISBN 978 1 92141 076 5.

The sesquicentenary in 2009 of Darwin's great work *On the Origin of Species* triggered renewed interest in his fleeting visit to Australia in 1836. Tom Frame, former Anglican Bishop to the Australian Defence Force and now Director of St Mark's National Theological Centre, brings a unique perspective to an analysis of Darwin's life and work. In this study he explores whether evolution and Christianity are compatible; 'whether it is possible for us to believe in God and Darwin at the same time'. He points out that Darwin's

theory was probably the most important scientific advance since Copernicus 300 years earlier, challenging as it did the assumption of intelligent design in the universe. Frame concludes that Darwin, like Christianity, can be (and has been from time to time) taken over by extremists and tends towards the conclusion that evolution is another manifestation of God's influence rather than a contradiction of it. The work is supported by solid footnotes but is in the end a very personal study of Darwin's influence on Australian life. [June 2010]

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Kirsten McKenzie, *A Swindler's Progress: nobles and convicts in the age of liberty*, University of NSW Press, Sydney, 2009, 344 pages; ISBN 978 1 74223 110 5.

Lord Byron's adage that 'truth is always strange, stranger than fiction' is nowhere more comprehensively demonstrated than in this factual study of a bizarre episode in colonial New South Wales. In May 1835 a man charged with forgery in a Sydney court claimed he was Viscount Lascelles, heir to one of Britain's great fortunes. If Kirsten McKenzie's day job as senior lecturer in British imperial history at the University of Sydney sounds a bit dull, this book will prove just how entertaining the more eccentric members of the British aristocracy can be. The tale of the disappearance of the real Viscount Lascelles, and the theft of his identity by the swindler John Dow, is reminiscent of the saga of the Tichborne claimant which was played out 30 years later. McKenzie must have had tremendous fun researching and writing this book, but just to prove that this strange story is indeed truth the narrative is underpinned by footnotes and bibliography. There are also some lovely colour images and portraits of the Harewood family. [June 2010]

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Bruce Kercher and Brent Salter, *The Kercher Reports: decisions of the NSW Superior Courts 1788 to 1827*, Francis Forbes Society for Australian Legal History, 2009, xlv + 895 pages; ISBN 978 0 97511 035 5.

This mammoth work will provide the raw material for histories and novels for many years to come. Bruce Kercher, emeritus professor of law at Macquarie University, has compiled an electronic database of decisions of the Superior Courts of New South Wales 1788-1899, which can be accessed at <http://www.law.mq.edu.au/scnsw/>. This book contains 213 of them covering a period of 39 years from the arrival of the First Fleet to the era covered by *Dowling's Select Cases 1828-1844* which was published by the Francis Forbes Society in 2005. While cases covering important legal principles are included, this is no dry tome. Early court reports provide important evidence of the evolution of the unique society of early Sydney, and were often the only place where colloquial voices were recorded. The case reports are supplemented by an informative introduction including short histories of the various courts and biographies of the judges. While the mammoth volume is rather too heavy for bedtime reading, it will be worth its weight in gold to historians of early Sydney. [June 2010]

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Robert Freestone (ed), *Cities, Citizens and Environmental Reform: histories of Australian Town Planning Associations*, Sydney University Press, Sydney, 2009, xii + 406 pages; ISBN 978 1 92089 935 6.

Planning, or the lack of it, seems to spark high emotions in Sydney. This new national study of the town planning movement over the last century or so reminds us of the great

achievements and the noble failures of a profession which is always subject to the decisions of politicians and purse-string holders. Robert Freestone is joined by eight other authors to present 12 chapters on urban planning around Australia. Their focus is on the voluntary town planning associations which brought together leading urban reformers and town planning advocates in all the nation's capital cities just before World War 1. The NSW TPA, for example, had John Sulman as President from 1913 to 1925, and George Taylor (husband of *Building* magazine editor Florence) was an officebearer from 1913 to 1920. In the days before the National Trust the TPA was at the forefront of several campaigns against the proposed demolition of heritage buildings. The book is generously endowed with 79 figures and 11 tables, a good index and chapter endnotes but no bibliography. [June 2010]

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Michael Pearson and Jane Lennon, *Pastoral Australia: fortunes, failures and hard yakka: a historical overview 1788-1967*, CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne, 2010, x + 210 pages; ISBN 978 064309 699 8.

Pastoral Australia had its genesis in 2006 as a report for the federal government designed to provide the historical context for the selection and assessment of heritage places related to 'pastoralism'. The authors between them have 60 years experience in heritage conservation planning in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland and apply this to provide a national perspective. While not claiming to be a social or environmental history, the book recognises that pastoralism impelled the spread of modern human settlement across Australia and therefore it sheds some light on exploration and settlement as well as its major focus of sheep and cattle grazing. Special subjects are treated in 24 'boxes' which mostly occupy a full page. These features include dogs, waler horses, rabbits, shearing, water, and the Country Women's Association. The contribution of Indigenous Australians is integrated throughout the text including drovers, stockmen and women, and the 'walk-offs' of 1966. The book includes six maps and an interesting selection of photographs as well as a fold-out timeline. [December 2010]

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John Hirst, *Looking for Australia*, Black Inc, Melbourne, 2010, 272 pages; ISBN 978 186395 486 0.

This portrait of Australia as a nation with its own political culture takes the form of a collection of essays by one of the country's most distinguished historians. John Hirst was a reader in history at La Trobe University for many years and has latterly featured in the public eye as author of the history of Australia for new citizens and a prominent participant in John Howard's 2006 History Summit. All but one of these essays were previously published between 1988 and 2008 in publications such as *The Monthly*. They are grouped in sections headed 'Telling the History', 'National Character', 'Political Life', 'A Nation of Immigrants' and 'A British Dependency'. The first of these includes a review of the best 11 Australian history books and a discussion of narrative versus theme in historical writing as well as the 21-page potted history of Australia for immigrants which Hirst wrote in 2007. Other topics include convictism, bushrangers, Australian Rules football, compulsory voting, republicanism, multiculturalism and whether Curtin was our greatest Prime Minister. This is a book of ideas with no illustrations to distract the reader. [December 2010]

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Lennard Bickel, *This Accursed Land: Douglas Mawson's incredible Antarctic journey*, Woodslane Press, Sydney, 2010, vi + 281 pages; ISBN 978 192168 304 6.

Captain James Cook sailed into the Antarctic Circle and began investigations of the southern ocean, but it was the Russian Fabian Bellingshausen who first sighted the Antarctic land mass in 1820. Since then the white continent has fascinated explorers and adventurers and accounts of the heroic era of polar exploration continue to interest readers. Douglas Mawson was born in Yorkshire, England in 1882 but emigrated to Australia with his family when he was a toddler. Entering Sydney University at the age of sixteen he graduated in engineering and science and became a lecturer at the University of Adelaide in petrology — the study of the origin and structure of rocks. He led an expedition to Antarctica in 1912 which explored large areas of the Antarctic coast, describing its geology, biology and meteorology, and more closely defining the location of the south magnetic pole. In 1916 the American Geographical Society awarded Mawson the David Livingstone centenary medal. This new account of Mawson's journey includes 4 maps and 31 photographs, as well as information on the survival of Mawson's hut. [December 2010]

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Andy Macqueen, *Frederick Robert D'Arcy: colonial surveyor, explorer and artist circa 1809-1875*, author, Sydney, 2010, 272 pages; ISBN 978 064653 359 9.

This biography of colonial surveyor Frederick D'Arcy is brought alive on the first page by the dismissive comment of Major Mitchell: 'a wild and inconsiderate youth, not without talent but he is so troublesome and noisy in the drawing room that I can only employ him as a clerk'. The young man went on to be the first European to explore the Colo area in the 1830s, and married colonial heiress Sophia Garling. Their descendant Andy Macqueen had a career as a water resources engineer and has also been an enthusiastic bushwalker and conservationist since the 1960s. His book reveals the challenges faced by surveyors such as D'Arcy who had to contend not only with the bush, climate, and bushrangers but also with assistants and superiors who often had conflicting priorities. This handsome self-published volume has lavish illustrations including three of D'Arcy's own artworks and 15 other paintings and drawings, and 25 maps (13 by D'Arcy). Appendices contain many of D'Arcy's letters and the research sources are itemised in footnotes. The endpaper contains a family tree of D'Arcy's direct and collateral descendants. [December 2010]

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Bob James, *They Call Each Other Brother: secret societies and the strange slow death of mateship in Australia 1788-2010*, author, Newcastle, 2010, 238 pages; no ISBN.

Before the twentieth century brought us insurance and the welfare state, fraternal or friendly societies provided financial and social services to individuals, often according to their religious or political affiliations. Some friendly societies also served ceremonial and friendship purposes. Bob James has spent over 20 years studying fraternal societies after first noticing the arcane symbols in May Day, Eight Hours and other 'trade union' banners; symbols such as the heart in the hand, the temple and columns, and the use of women as decoration. In this new work he links the activities of friendly societies (including freemasons and trade unions) to the Australian tradition of mateship. Along the way he considers topics such as sectarianism, social capital, and the role of the Australian Natives Association in promoting the federation of the Australian colonies. The book has copious footnotes and some fascinating illustrations of certificates as well as photographs and cartoons. There is a

comprehensive index although it is somewhat frustrating that the table of contents does not include page numbers. [December 2010]

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Martin Gibbs, *The Shore Whalers of Western Australia: historical archaeology of a maritime frontier*, Sydney University Press, Sydney, 2010, vi + 165 pages; ISBN 978 192089 962 2.

Every winter from 1836 to 1879 small wooden boats set out from the bays of Western Australia's south-west coast to hunt migrating humpback and right whales. For the first few years until permanent communities became established the men working in the industry camped on shore. This latest volume in the studies in Australian historical archaeology series is based on Martin Gibbs's 1995 University of Western Australia PhD thesis. The author is now a senior lecturer at Sydney University, and president of the Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology. His study is grounded in thorough historical research on European and Aboriginal whale hunting to set the background for his specific archaeological investigation of a shore whaling site at Cheyne Beach, 50 kilometres north-east of Albany. The artefacts and physical evidence located by Gibbs's excavations provide a fascinating picture of life in these little-documented settlements. An appendix includes information on 20 other sites along the West Australian coast, and the book is generously illustrated with photographs, sketches and tables. [December 2010]

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Malcolm Prentis, *A Concise Companion to Aboriginal History*, Rosenberg Publishing, Sydney, 2011, 264 pages; ISBN 978 1 92171 903 5.

This companion grew from a short glossary compiled to assist teachers with basic information on Aboriginal history when the topic became compulsory back in the 1990s. It provides an overview of Australian Aboriginal history from creation stories involving the Dreaming through to Aboriginal cultural and political activity in the twenty-first century. Its author Malcolm Prentis is professor of history at the Australian Catholic University where he has taught Aboriginal history for many years. The bulk of the book is taken up with a dictionary running from Abaroo (a Dharug girl orphaned by the 1789 smallpox epidemic) to Yuranigh (a Wiradjuri man who guided Thomas Mitchell's 1845-46 expedition). The dictionary includes places as well as people, and topics such as historical events, pioneering work by anthropologists and archaeologists, art and music, literature and film, sport, religion and politics, historical controversies and social issues. Many entries have further reading indicated, and the volume contains a bibliography of additional works. A 50,000-year timeline concludes with Kevin Rudd's 2008 apology to the Stolen Generations. The book includes over 70 illustrations including ten maps. [June 2011]

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John McClymont, *James Houison 1800-1876: Parramatta's forgotten architect*, Parramatta and District Historical Society, Sydney, 2010, xiv + 222 pages; ISBN 978 0 98034 491 2.

The Houison family has provided the RAHS with two of its presidents, Andrew Houison in 1901 and 1908 and Keith Houison in 1950-1952. This biography of their father and great-grandfather respectively is the life's work of another RAHS luminary, our late lamented Senior Vice-President John McClymont. James Houison arrived in Sydney in 1832

as a 32-year-old carpenter and clerk of works from Nairn in Inverness-shire. He began his colonial career by building verandahs on some of the 'Villas of Darlinghurst' and soon graduated to bigger and better projects. In a career spanning nearly 40 years James Houison changed the face of his adopted home, Parramatta. He worked on Parramatta Gaol and designed the nave and chancel of St John's Cathedral. He designed Perth House in Parramatta for George Oakes, and his own home which still stands on the other side of George Street. Coincidentally Oakes's Sydney town house is now the RAHS's History House. The book includes a building timeline, summary of Houison's descendants, and analysis of his last will and testament. Over 120 illustrations include views of Houison buildings which are no longer standing. [June 2011]

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Skye Krichauff, *A Journey through Narungga History*, Wakefield Press, Adelaide, 2011, xi + 203 pages; ISBN 978 1 86254 910 4.

The latest in what might be called a new genre of Aboriginal literary history recreates the complex and diverse relations between the Narungga people of South Australia's Yorke Peninsula and the Europeans who settled there in the nineteenth century. Since 2004 Skye Krichauff has been working with the Narungga Aboriginal Progress Association as a history researcher. She has built this book from an array of historical sources, ranging from Matthew Flinders's 1802 log book to oral histories collected in the 1960s. Stories told by descendants of both groups about the colonial past are another feature of the *Journey*. The book challenges stereotypes of Aboriginal passivity, aggression and victimisation and instead portrays relations between Narungga and Europeans as both creative and complex. Among figures resurrected from the archives are Melaityappa (shot by Governor Hindmarsh's nephew), native constable and interpreter Jim Crack, and esteemed Narungga leader King Tommy. The book is beautifully produced and includes over 40 illustrations such as photographs of traditional Aboriginal weapons, nineteenth century paintings and twentieth century photographs. For those unfamiliar with this part of South Australia there are several helpful maps. [June 2011]

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Roderic Anderson, *Real Life Portrait: the life of Wallace Anderson, Australian war artist*, Big Sky Publishing, Sydney, 2010, 414 pages; ISBN 978 0 98081 401 9.

Wallace Anderson enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force in 1915 and served in France. After the war he was appointed museums officer and sculptor to the AIF based in London. He toured battlefields in France, Egypt and Palestine, making models of the landscape and gathering records. In 1920 he returned to Melbourne and worked at the Australian War Museum producing models, dioramas and sculpture. This study by his son Roderic, a retired teacher, is described as part biography, part social history, part military history and part fiction. From 1930 Wallace Anderson engaged in private practice as a sculptor. Apart from the Australian War Memorial dioramas his best-known works include 'Simpson and his Donkey' at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance, the war memorials at Ararat, Box Hill and Geelong in Victoria, and portrait heads of the first fourteen Australian Prime Ministers for Ballarat Botanical Gardens. The book includes family photographs and many images of his work including bronze reliefs on the graves of 'Pompey' Elliott and Albert Jacka. As the book is based on Wallace Anderson's unpublished memoirs there are no footnotes. [June 2011]

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Peter Turbet, *The First Frontier: the occupation of the Sydney region 1788 to 1816*, Rosenberg Publishing, Sydney, 2011, 302 pages; ISBN 978 1 92171 907 3.

The first of John Cobley's Sydney Cove series appeared in 1962 and eventually provided researchers with a meticulous chronicle of events in Sydney over the twelve-year period from 1788 to 1800. Cobley's technique has now been applied to Sydney's Aboriginal history, with a chronicle of events over the 28 years from the arrival of the First Fleet to the Appin massacre. The author Peter Turbet is a high school teacher with an interest in Sydney's Aboriginal history, whose previous book *The Aborigines of the Sydney District before 1788* was published in 2001. He started out intending that *The First Frontier* would list every violent encounter in the Sydney region but soon realised that describing only the bloodshed would paint too narrow a picture. The shooting of Pemulwuy, the hanging of Moowattin and the death of Bennelong are among the events described along with attacks on settlers. Turbet uses a range of primary and secondary sources including Grace Karskens's award-winning *The Colony* to inform his narrative. Illustrations include contemporary paintings and modern photographs of sites mentioned in the text. [June 2011]

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Carole Wilkinson, *Fromelles: Australia's bloodiest day at war*, Black Dog Books, Melbourne, 2011, 182 pages; ISBN 978 1 74203 176 7.

Fromelles was the first battle involving Australian troops on the Western Front in World War 1. It was a complete disaster and caused more Australian casualties in just 19 hours than the Boer, Korean and Vietnam wars combined. Nearly a century later Fromelles was in the news again when a mass grave containing 203 Australian troops was located. On 19 July 2010, the anniversary of the battle, a new cemetery was dedicated in the presence of the Prince of Wales and Australian Governor-General Quentin Bryce. Children's author Carole Wilkinson has taken time out from her fictional writing to produce this account of the battle of Fromelles aimed at engaging young readers' interest in Australian history. The result is an eclectic combination of maps, fact-boxes, photographs, diagrams, reproductions of letters to next of kin, German and British propaganda posters and more. In keeping with its target audience of high school students there is a glossary of key terms and the bibliography includes websites. The book concludes with instructions on how to look up World War 1 service records on-line. [June 2011]

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James Ferguson, *John Alexander Ferguson: preserving our past, inspiring our future*, National Library of Australia, Canberra, 2011, vii + 236 pages; ISBN 978 0 64227 718 3.

John Alexander Ferguson's fame extends far beyond his career as a barrister and judge of the NSW Industrial Commission. He found time to serve as a Councillor of the RAHS from 1918 to 1945, and is now commemorated by the biennial Ferguson lecture most recently held in August this year. His claim to wider fame is based on the seven-volume *Bibliography of Australia* published between 1941 and 1969. This epic work aims to describe every printed document about Australia published between 1784 and 1901, and is still routinely cited by book dealers to describe their wares. Ferguson not only catalogued but also collected many of the publications he listed, and his assemblage of 34,000 items is now held by the National Library of Australia which has published this biography by his grandson James. The biography draws on family papers and photographs to illuminate Ferguson's

endeavours in history and the law as well as his role as a Presbyterian layman. The book is beautifully produced with 30 illustrations and a family tree. [December 2011]

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James Boyce, *1835: the founding of Melbourne and the conquest of Australia*, Black Inc, Collingwood Vic, 2011, xiii + 257 pages; ISBN 978 1 86395 475 4.

The speculators from Van Diemen's Land who camped on the Victorian coast in 1835 were the first settlers of what was to become Melbourne. The southern capital was thus the only one of Australia's major cities to be established by private enterprise rather than government sanction. James Boyce follows on from his award-winning *Van Diemen's Land* (2008) to investigate how the three years after that first camp was established saw more land and more people conquered than the preceding 50 years of white settlement. Within 15 years settlers had seized most of the grasslands of Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and southern Queensland, an area of nearly 20 million acres. Boyce sets the scene for this land rush with a series of chapters on London, Sydney, Van Diemen's Land, Bass Strait and the Yarra in 1835, then goes on to describe the first year of the settlement and the 'explosive growth' which ensued. A handful of maps are the only illustrations but the book is well-footnoted and has a comprehensive bibliography. [December 2011]

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Elizabeth Rushen and Perry McIntyre, *Fair game: Australia's first immigrant women*, Anchor Books, Spit Junction NSW, 2010, x + 246 pages; ISBN 978 0 9833 543 9.

Immigration history is being well served by the series of books co-authored by former Royal Historical Society of Victoria executive director Liz Rushen and long-time Society of Australian Genealogists councillor Perry McIntyre. The pair have already published *Quarantined!: the 1837 Lady Macnaghten immigrants* (2007) and *The merchant's women* (2008) which dealt with the 1833 voyage of the *Bussorah Merchant*. This latest offering covers the voyages of the first two female immigrant ships which arrived in Sydney in 1833 carrying a total of 400 women, the *Red Rover* from Cork and the *Princess Royal* from London. A wealth of material including poetry was inspired by this new venture in social engineering, and the project is fully described. Appendices include a 12-page table listing the *Princess Royal* women and a much fuller 75-page biographical dictionary for the *Red Rover*. The cover illustration is the delightful Ducôte lithograph of the women as colourful butterflies flying above potential husbands waiting below with butterfly nets. The book is further enhanced by 20 other illustrations, mostly in colour. [December 2011]

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Eileen Chanin, *Book life: the life and times of David Scott Mitchell*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, North Melbourne, 2011, xvi + 477 pages; ISBN 978 1 92150 987 2.

Astonishing as it may seem this is the first full biography of David Scott Mitchell, the great Australian bibliophile and collector whose benefaction created the Mitchell Library. Now just over a century since his library opened its doors, Mitchell's story is told by art historian Eileen Chanin who was the joint winner of the NSW Premier's Australian history prize in 2005. Two years later she was awarded the C.H. Currey Memorial Fellowship to examine Mitchell's collection, and went on to interrogate his choice of books and the clues it gave to his interests. The resulting narrative is a life of Mitchell's mind, reflected by his reading. In turn it opens a window on the world of ideas, literature, libraries and philanthropy

in nineteenth-century Sydney. It reveals Mitchell but also places him in the context of other collectors and libraries, and the general intellectual climate of his era. *Book life* is enhanced by a 10-page *dramatis personae* as well as thorough footnotes and bibliography, along with nearly 50 illustrations and four family trees. [December 2011]

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Richard E. Reid, *Farewell my children: Irish assisted emigration to Australia 1848-1870*, Anchor Books, Spit Junction NSW, 2011,

The recent National Museum exhibition on the Irish in Australia was curated by Ulsterman Richard Reid. His length of service to the history of the antipodean Gael is emphasised by the fact that this book is adapted from his 1992 PhD thesis at ANU. It looks at over 44,000 Irish who emigrated to Sydney between 1848 and 1870, examining aspects such as how they obtained an assisted passage, the journey out and what happened when they arrived. A review of the general characteristics of the emigrants shows that women outnumbered men until the mid-1850s, that around 80 per cent were Catholic and the majority were literate. This analysis is followed by a case study on emigration from the village of Clonoulty in County Tipperary, which saw 10 per cent of its population sail to Sydney in less than 20 years. Other chapters examine the Donegal Relief Committee of 1859-1864 and the NSW remittance regulations which enabled those already here to sponsor relatives to join them. The book is fully referenced, and a number of well-chosen illustrations have been added to enhance the volume. [December 2011]

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Professional Historians Association, *Islands of history: proceedings of the 25th anniversary conference of the Professional Historians Association (NSW)*, Anchor Books, Spit Junction NSW, 2011, v + 290 pages; ISBN 978 0 98033 545 3.

Professional historians from around Australia and New Zealand converged on Norfolk Island last year to celebrate their organisation's silver anniversary. That conference has now produced this lasting record of the papers presented by 34 speakers covering a wide range of topics extending well beyond their island venue. Some topics specific to Norfolk Island include the Melanesian mission, the family of Governor King, the second settlement and the Pitcairn dialect. Other topics from the convict era include 'female convicts and their children 1820-1840' from *JRAHS* editor Carol Liston, and offerings on writing convict history and French convicts in New Caledonia. Heritage case studies include Queensland's government house and a stone hut ruin in the ACT. The theoretical aspects of the historian's role were not neglected with several papers on issues such as heritage tourism, lobbying for history, the politics of heritage and the convict sites world heritage listing. These papers provide a sample of the breadth of work attracting the attention of professional historians, and most have endnotes. [December 2011]

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Philip Goad and Julie Willis (eds), *The encyclopaedia of Australian architecture*, Cambridge University Press, Port Melbourne Vic, 2012, xxxvi + 796 pages; ISBN 978 0 52188 857 8.

What a cornucopia of information and illustration this fine study offers the heritage professional or local historian! With over 1000 entries from 225 contributors this work is truly encyclopaedic. The volume opens with an outline history of Australian architecture and

then fittingly commences the alphabetical section with an article on Aboriginal architecture. The editors are distinguished architectural historians based at the University of Melbourne. The entries they have gathered cover architects and firms, building styles, materials, and a wealth of articles on topics as diverse as prison architecture, weatherboard, libraries, interior design, verandahs and on it goes. Major articles review the architectural history of each state and territory, and there is a comparative study of the nation's various parliament houses. Consideration is given to the influence of pattern books in the 19th century and after; colonial or government architects are surveyed; and other articles cover hospital design, court houses, department stores, banks and clubs. The encyclopaedia contains 500 illustrations and the volume is indexed, while each article lists major sources on its topic. [June 2012]

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Alan Mayne and Stephen Atkinson (eds), *Outside country: histories of inland Australia*, Wakefield Press, Kent Town SA, 2011, 360 pages; ISBN 978 1 86254 960 9.

While two-thirds of Australians now live in major cities, the rest of the population still inhabits what the politicians like to call 'regional and remote' places. This hardly represents an empty interior, and many local historians are beavering away in their communities untroubled by this supposed isolation. This new volume of essays showcases work by 15 historians from all states. The editors are Alan Mayne, professor of social history and social policy at the University of South Australia, and freelance writer Stephen Atkinson, also based in South Australia, who specialises in literature and cultural studies. The collection is divided into three parts, each headed by an introductory essay. Topics include historical novels, prickly pear, agriculture, Aboriginal reserves, railways, mining, family farms, social mobility, cameleers and sex workers. Each essay has footnotes and the book is indexed. The broad historical topics are brought closer to home with quotes from diaries, letters, oral history and literature to combine into a readable as well as informative compendium for readers from either side of the black stump.

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Jonathan King, *Great battles in Australian history*, Allen and Unwin, Crows Nest NSW, 2011, xxiv + 420 pages; ISBN 978 1 74237 457 4.

Australia does not perceive itself as a belligerent nation so it comes as something of a surprise to find this survey covers 40 battles. Beginning with a quick glance at Castle Hill (1804) and Eureka (1854) the book soon moves on to the dawn of the 20th century where the real military action begins. Half of its chapters describe actions in World War I including both Gallipoli and the western front. World War II has 12 chapters and the rest are one on Korea, two on Vietnam and one each on Iraq and Afghanistan. Jonathan King is a prolific author whose titles range from cartoons to early colonial history to military history. Although this book focuses on battles he summarises the context of the events and brings the stories to life with quotes from participants. Each chapter concludes with 'battle stats' and there is a select bibliography although no footnotes. The book is generously illustrated in black and white and would serve as a useful introduction to Australia's military history. It is available in paperback or eBook format. [June 2012]

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E.B. Joyce and D. A. McCann, *Burke and Wills: the scientific legacy of the Victorian exploring expedition*, CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood Vic, 2011, xxiv + 343 pages; ISBN 978 0 64310 332 0.

The great Victorian exploring expedition of 1860 was sponsored by the Royal Society of Victoria, which also sponsored this volume as part of the expedition's sesquicentenary. The triumphant send-off from Melbourne followed by the loss of the expedition and the solemn funeral, dramatic as they were, have somewhat overshadowed what happened in between. Indeed many have assumed that little or nothing was achieved by Burke and Wills, an error which this book sets out to disprove. It contains the original instructions as well as scientific observations found in notebooks and diaries. Topics covered include zoology, hydrology, meteorology, geology and botany. The scientific careers of Wills and his colleagues Ferdinand Muller and Hermann Beckler are re-assessed, and consideration is given to relations with Indigenous peoples of the expedition and relief parties. The 15 contributors have been well served by the publishers who have used quality finishes and included numerous colour illustrations including maps and reproductions of paintings of native flora and fauna. It is available in hardback and eBook formats. [June 2012]

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E.J. Prest, *Sir John Langdon Bonython: newspaper proprietor, politician and philanthropist*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, North Melbourne, 2011, xvii + 301 pages; ISBN 978 1 92187 546 5.

Langdon Bonython rose from being a cadet on the *Adelaide Advertiser* to become a newspaper magnate, politician and noted philanthropist. This book is based on Jean Prest's PhD thesis at the University of Melbourne in 2004, and has been ably converted into a most readable biography of one of the leading men in 19th century South Australia. Successful speculation in mining shares enabled Bonython to buy into the company and he became editor of the *Advertiser* at the age of 36, holding the post for 45 years. From 1893 he was sole proprietor and the business remained under his direct control until 1929. Having amassed such a large personal fortune Bonython was able to engage in philanthropy, endowing educational institutions and funding relief during the Depression. He was also a member of the inaugural Federal parliament; as a small reward he has a Canberra suburb named after him. In politics he was a liberal-progressive, a legacy of his Methodist background. The book includes 40 illustrations and includes full footnotes, bibliography and a comprehensive index. [June 2012]

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P. D. Griggs, *Global industry, local innovation: the history of cane sugar production in Australia 1820-1995*, Peter Lang, Bern (Switzerland), 2011, xxxvi + 982 pages; ISBN 978 3 03430 431 3.

Between 1860 and 1915 the river valleys of most coastal regions between Grafton in New South Wales and Mossman in north Queensland were transformed as the forests were cleared and replaced by fields of sugar cane. As the book's opening sentence this statement deftly encapsulates the importance of sugar farming in reshaping Australia's landscape as much as its economy. Peter Griggs is a senior lecturer in human geography at James Cook University in Cairns, the heart of sugar cane country. His father was a cane farmer and his father-in-law worked for Pioneer Sugar Mills, so the sweet stuff could be said to run in his veins. The author states that the book would not have been possible without the records of CSR (formerly Colonial Sugar Refining) which are housed at the Noel Butlin Archives in

Canberra. Griggs researched for 15 years to produce this mammoth study, which includes 69 illustrations, 60 figures and 56 tables. The book is available in hardback or eBook formats from the Swiss publishers or suppliers such as the Book Depository. [June 2012]

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Ross McMullin, *Farewell, dear people: biographies of Australia's lost generation*, Scribe Publications, Brunswick Vic, 2012, 600 pages; ISBN 978 1 92184 466 9.

As you can soon discover reading any local newspaper of the time, the deaths of 60,000 young Australian men in World War I touched every community around the nation. Author Ross McMullin is a historian and biographer who is a member of the Military and Cultural History Group that is advising the federal government about Australia's commemoration of the centenary of World War I. In this work of extended biographies he brings back to life ten of the young men who never came home from the Front. They include an internationally acclaimed medical researcher; a military officer described by his brigadier as potentially an Australian Kitchener; a rugby international who became a rising Labor star; an engineer who excelled on Mawson's Antarctic mission; a visionary vigneron and community leader; a WA Rhodes scholar assured of a shining future in the law or politics; a Tasmanian footballer who dazzled at the highest level; and a budding architect from Melbourne's best-known creative dynasty. The book has 65 illustrations as well as a solid bibliography and good endnotes. [December 2012]

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Chrystopher J. Spicer, *Great Australian world firsts: the things we made, the things we did*, Allen and Unwin, Crows Nest NSW, 2012, xi + 324 pages; ISBN 978 1 74237 673 8.

We always knew Australians were clever, but this book reminds us just how very clever we are (and were). Author Chrystopher Spicer teaches writing at James Cook University, and has a distinguished career as a film historian. His book is divided into five parts: arts, international exploration, lifestyle, sport and transport. Together they provide 30 stories about people rather than objects. This is not a rehash of the usual list, although some of his topics are very familiar such as Felix the Cat, Jack Brabham, Kay Cottee and Dr Fiona Wood. There are many undiscovered gems in the collection, including the man who first took Australian opals to the world, the first woman to climb New Zealand's Mount Cook, the inventor of the driver's-eye-view race camera, the inventor of the laminated wood tennis racquet, and even the first stalker at an international sporting event (a 1974 England-France rugby test at Twickenham). The book has 38 illustrations and an extensive bibliography (including a *JRAHS* article) but no footnotes. [December 2012]

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Rosalie Triolo, *'Our schools and the war'*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, North Melbourne Vic, 2012, xvii + 364 pages; ISBN 978 1 92187 556 4.

There have been an increasing number of studies of every aspect of World War I, both at the Front and at home. Rosalie Triolo takes a different angle on the familiar story by considering how the war touched the lives of teachers and school children. Her title is drawn from a regular column in the *School Paper* between 1917 and 1919 on activities relating to the war effort. Triolo is a history method lecturer at Monash University and was formerly a school teacher in country and metropolitan Victoria for 13 years. She considers the high rate of enlistment among teachers (followed by their older pupils), the way in which schools

responded to and commemorated the War, and the memorialisation through honour boards and ceremonies. As she notes, every teacher had the task of explaining the war to their students. The book draws on contemporary sources including manuscripts, letters and the *Education Gazette* and *School Paper*, as well as a wide range of secondary sources. It is fully footnoted and well indexed and contains an extensive set of illustrations. [December 2012]

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Julia Horne and Geoffrey Sherington, *Sydney: the making of a public university*, Miegunyah Press, Carlton Vic, 2012, ix + 356 pages; ISBN 978 0 52286 121 1.

The sesquicentenary of Australia's first university has given rise to a number of studies on various aspects of its history. This latest offering is by RAHS Fellow Geoffrey Sherington and RAHS councillor Julia Horne, who is also the university's official historian. Their book explores the principle of public engagement and how it was shaped by succeeding generations. The term 'public university' in the book's title, refers both to the lack of religious domination and to the government (rather than private) funding model. Topics include student and academic life, sporting activities and religious influences, curriculum and research. As might be expected the authors draw a somewhat lofty comparison with the near-contemporary University of Melbourne which they consider concentrated more on vocational training than 'a liberal education influenced by classical studies'. Occasionally the wealth of detail can lead to confusion; the animal captioned as a horse on p 95 is clearly a cow. Hopefully Sydney's current vet graduates would not make a similar mistake! The volume is generously illustrated and has comprehensive footnotes, bibliography and index. [December 2012]

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Ashley Ekins (ed), *Gallipoli: a ridge too far*, Exisle Publishing, Wollombi NSW, 2013, 336 pages; ISBN 978 1 92196 600 2.

The centenary of the Gallipoli landing in April 2015 is bound to give rise to a small library of publications, but this offering sponsored by the Australian War Memorial has a march on the rest of the field. It includes contributions from 16 historians from Turkey, Germany, France, and India as well as the UK, Australia and New Zealand, providing multiple perspectives. It concentrates on the 'August offensive' which caused the heaviest losses of the incursion, when British troops (including the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) launched an attempt to break the military deadlock which had resulted from the landing in April. Editor Ashley Ekins is head of the Military History section at the Australian War Memorial, and several of the other authors are also based there. There are 13 maps and numerous illustrations, many in colour, including paintings by George Lambert. There is also a chronology of the campaign described by a British war correspondent as 'the most ghastly and costly fiasco in our history'. The book is fully referenced and there is a comprehensive index. [June 2013]

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Meredith Lake, *Faith in action: HammondCare*, New South Publishing, Sydney, 2013, viii + 404 pages; ISBN 978 1 74223 364 2.

Memories of Canon Robert Hammond have faded since his heyday in the inter-war years, but his name is commemorated in the Sydney suburb of Hammondville and the Hammond's pioneer homes movement which aimed to provide housing for unemployed men

and their families. He was Minister of St Barnabas' Church from 1918 to 1943, an era when the church notice-board fronting Broadway in Sydney first became famous for the weekly 'sermon-in-a-sentence'. Hammond's 'practical Christianity' guided his care for the homeless and destitute. The Hammondville Homes for Senior Citizens were founded after Hammond's death and along with the pioneer homes movement they are now known as HammondCare which has notched up 80 years of housing, health and aged care service provision. Author Meredith Lake has a PhD from the University of Sydney, where she has also taught history, and her previous book was a history of the University of Sydney Evangelical Union. This commissioned history was five years in the making, and has resulted in a well-researched and profusely-illustrated volume. The footnotes and bibliography are meticulous, and there is a good index. [June 2013]

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Daniel Oakman, Martha Sear and Kirsten Wehner (eds), *Landmarks: a history of Australia in 33 places*, National Museum of Australia, Canberra, 2013, 271 pages; ISBN 978 1 92195 315 6.

The Landmarks gallery at the National Museum of Australia opened in 2011 and includes 1500 items which explore Australian history since European settlement, including Indigenous stories, settlement sagas, tales of triumph and failure, and of cities and the bush. This book has condensed the exhibit down to 200 objects across 10 themes: colonial foundations, exploring the country, grazing the grasslands, gold and government, land of opportunity, extending the farmlands, spirit of inquiry, connecting the nation, expanding the economy and urban life. New South Wales is well represented with sections on Sydney, the Blue Mountains, Springfield, the Lachlan valley, Wagga Wagga, Port Macquarie, the Liverpool Plains, Snowy Mountains, Castlecrag and Bennelong Point. The book has lavish colour illustrations throughout, concentrating on items exhibited in the gallery. The book aims to 'encourage all Australians to look anew at the places in which we live', and the result is a thoughtful recasting of our national narrative on thematic as well as geographical lines. The 'find out more' section includes websites as well as further reading. [June 2013]

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Helen Trinca, *Madeleine: a life of Madeleine St John*, Text Publishing, Melbourne, 2013, 280 pages; ISBN 978 1 92192 284 8.

The first Australian woman to be short-listed for the Booker Prize, author Madeleine St John was the subject of Clive James' comment that 'the only lasting fame for any of the rest of us will reside in the fact that we once knew her'. 'The rest of us' referred to Australian expatriates in London in the 1960s, many of them like James and St John products of Sydney University. Madeleine was the daughter of Federal Liberal politician and anti-nuclear activist Edward St John. Her youth and middle age served as an apprenticeship for her novels, the first written when she was in her 50s. Listed in her death notice they were *The women in black* (1993), *A pure clear light* (1996), *The essence of the thing* (1997) and *A stairway to paradise* (1999). The author of this biography, Helen Trinca, is a journalist on the *Australian*. Madeleine St John died in London in 2006 and as might be expected with such a recent subject much of the book is based on interviews, letters and newspaper articles. [June 2013]

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Richard White and Caroline Ford (eds), *Playing in the bush: recreation and national parks in NSW*, Sydney University Press, 2012, 247 pages; ISBN 978 1 74332 002 0.

As we await the sound of the first gunshot in a NSW national park, it is salutary to read about the ideals which led to the creation of these places and the management regimes which nurtured them during their first 144 years. A description of national parks by Eccleston du Faur around 1896 is quoted without editorial comment: 'a domain where [native birds and animals] may enjoy safety from the guns and dogs of so-called sportsmen'. The editors and seven other authors begin with an overview of the recreational rationale of the parks, then move on to topics such as regulations, fire, facilities, adventuring, citizenship and heritage tourism. The studies range from the 19th century romantic getaways of picking flowers and picnicking to 21st century extreme sports such as canyoning and abseiling. Indigenous perspectives are included. There are some illustrations and each chapter has a bibliography as well as footnotes. Helpfully many of the references are to unpublished reports such as plans of management which are often difficult to access without the details provided. [June 2013]

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Graham Joyner, *Monster, Myth or lost Marsupial? The search for the Australian gorilla in the jungles of history, science and language*, Hayes UK and Thomas, Canberra, 2012, vi + 133 pages; ISBN 978 0 64651 637 0.

Long before the internet company the Yahoo began life as a half-man, half ape in Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*. In the Australian context, the term became current in the 19th century for a mysterious creature otherwise known as the 'Australian gorilla'. But did it actually exist, or was it the figment of the tired bushman's eyesight or imagination? Graham Joyner's exhaustive study of this supposed animal covers issues such as Indigenous perspectives, scientific dismissal of its existence, literary references, newspaper reports and much more. The book is about the assumptions underpinning science in general and zoological discovery in particular, with the spotlight on scientific attitudes towards 'a poorly defined animal that was never actually discovered at all'. Chapters cover H.J. McCooey's indigenous ape (1880s), Marrin's animal (1890s), the Creewah hairy man (1910s), and the Brindabella gorilla (1903). The book is updated with a postscript which describes (inconclusive) archaeological investigations in Braidwood in 2012. There are footnotes but, needless to say, no illustrations! [June 2013]

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Anna Clark and Paul Ashton (eds), *Australian history now*, UNSW Press, Kensington, 317 pages; ISBN 978 1 74223 371 0.

In recent years Australian history has been dressed up in 'black armbands' and 'white blindfolds', so this review of the current state of the discipline is timely. Edited by UTS academics Anna Clark and Paul Ashton, it contains essays by them and 15 other distinguished historians. New technologies have now joined the new methodologies and new perspectives which have already changed Australian history research and writing over the past 50 years. Topics covered in these studies include history in schools and the academy, history in museums and on heritage trails, and history in communities and on television. Genres such as oral history, labour history and feminist history are also considered along with Aboriginal history and environmental history. The impact of post-modernism (and its demise) on attitudes to Australia's cultural past concludes this thoughtful volume. The shoddy quality which is the UNSW Press house style has long irritated, but this is made up for by a delicious

typo (p 236) which changes the name of our fourth Governor to 'Blight'. The book is available in paperback or ebook formats. [December 2013]

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Kay Dreyfus, *Silences and secrets: the Australian experience of the Weintraubs Syncopators*, Monash University Publishing, 2013, x + 305 pages; ISBN 978 1 92186 780 4.

This little-known story about an internationally-renowned jazz band interned in wartime Australia has been rescued from the archives by musicologist Kay Dreyfus. The Syncopators trekked across Europe, Russia and the Far East on the run from the Third Reich before arriving in Sydney in 1937. This band of mainly Jewish musicians gained a gig at the Continental-style dance restaurant and cabaret venue Prince's in Martin Place, but then fell foul of the Musicians' Union and the immigration authorities. Kay Dreyfus had heard of this group that emerged out of Weimar cabaret but had no idea of an Australian connection until she happened across a German language documentary film on the band in 2000. From that encounter grew her doctoral thesis which has now been converted into this fascinating book. Here is another example of the inability of Australian authorities to cope with anti-Nazi and Jewish refugees fleeing Germany, which can be added to the mistreatment of the *Dunera* boys. Thankfully the publishers have allowed the retention of full references and there are 30 illustrations from both Australia and Germany. [December 2013]

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Diana Wyndham, *Norman Haire and the study of sex*, Sydney University Press, 2012, 485 pages; ISBN 978 1 74332 006 8.

Pioneer sexologist Norman Haire was a poor Jewish boy from Sydney's Paddington who rose to be a successful Harley St gynaecologist. He was a popular lecturer in America, Germany, France and Spain who wrote and edited many books on sex education. His troubles began when he returned to his native Australia in 1940 and found himself under attack from the ABC Board, the Catholic church and the security service. By the end of the War he had decided to return to England, and also visited America where he suffered a heart attack from which he never completely recovered. The author Diana Wyndham was awarded the Norman Haire Fellowship in 1998, which was endowed by a bequest from Haire to the Sydney University Faculty of Medicine where he gained his first degrees. He also left his papers to the university library. As Michael Kirby states in the book's foreword, 'it brings to life a colourful, witty, larger than life character who was well in advance of his time'. There are 48 illustrations and, as befits a book based on a doctoral thesis, full references. [December 2013]

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Jennifer M. T. Carter and Roger Cross, *Ginger for pluck: the life and times of Miss Georgina King*, Wakefield Press 2013, xiii + 271 pages; ISBN 978 1 74305 171 9.

Georgina King was the sister of RAHS benefactor Sir Kelso King and aunt of our first female President Hazel King. Daughter of an immigrant Anglican clergyman, she had a keen intellect and a deep interest in the natural sciences, particularly geology. She was excluded from the Royal Society and from academia because of her gender, and then condemned for amateurism by those who appropriated her work. Nevertheless as a female intellectual of her era she counted Daisy Bates and Rose Scott among her friends. The husband and wife authors Jennifer Carter (*Painting the islands vermilion*, 1999) and Roger Cross (*Fallout*, 2001)

accidentally discovered Georgina's memoir in the Mitchell Library and decided to pursue the fascinating tale of 'Ginger for pluck' as her brothers nicknamed her. Their detective work enlivens the book including the mysterious empty folder in the Daisy Bates papers in the National Library. And topically there is also a controversy about a politician and a coal mine! *Ginger for pluck* has 20 illustrations and full references. [December 2013]

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John Ramsland, *Venturing into No Man's Land: Joseph Maxwell VC World War I hero*, Brolga Publishing, Melbourne, 2012, ix + 343 pages; ISBN 978 1 92203 663 6.

In the period after World War I the RAHS published a booklet giving brief biographies and photographs of Australia's 63 winners of the Victoria Cross for valour. This is the story of one of them. Joseph Maxwell was the second highest decorated Australian soldier in the Great War, adding an MC and Bar and a DCM to his VC. He grew up in the Hunter coalfields and survived service on Gallipoli to see action on the Western front at Pozieres and Passchendaele. The author, emeritus professor John Ramsland from the University of Newcastle, remembers Maxwell as a local celebrity in his own childhood haunt of Manly. Aided by Maxwell's published memoirs (*Hell's bells and mademoiselles*, 1932) Ramsland has also located a great deal of primary material which assists in bringing his story back to life. Maxwell managed to enlist in World War II but did not serve overseas, although he did attend the VC centenary celebrations in London in 1956. The book contains numerous illustrations including maps of the battlefields. [December 2013]

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Patricia Clarke, *Eilean Giblin: a feminist between the wars*, Monash University Publishing, Melbourne, 2013, xvi + 214 pages; ISBN 978 1 92186 784 2.

Major Lyndhurst Giblin was another Australian hero from the Great War, receiving a DSO and MC. He returned to his native Tasmania with an English war bride, formerly Eilean Burton, who is the subject of this biography. Niece of prominent suffragette Helen MacRae, Eilean brought with her a commitment to women's rights and social justice which guided her activities over the next three decades in three Australian cities. As well as her humanitarian activities Eilean was also a dedicated potter whose work is held in the National Gallery of Australia. Author Patricia Clarke is perhaps best known for her studies of Australian feminist authors, and has also been a member of the Commonwealth Working Party for the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* for over 25 years. Aided by Eilean's WWII diary in the National Library, she has recreated the private as well as public life of this unconventional feminist. After her economist husband's death in 1951 Eilean returned to England, where she herself died in 1955 at the age of 71. The book is well referenced and has over 20 illustrations. [December 2013]

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Joan Beaumont, *Broken nation: Australians in the Great War*, Allen and Unwin, Crows Nest NSW, 2013, xxviii + 628 pages; ISBN 978 1 74175 138 3.

Joe Russell from Adelaide enlisted in 1916, lost his leg after only a few hours in battle near Polygon Wood, and was repatriated to die in 1938 at the age of 53. This vignette of one man among the 330,000 Australians who served in the Great War begins this scholarly study of the conflict whose centenary is about to engulf us all. Joan Beaumont is professor of history at the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre at ANU specialising in World Wars 1 and

2, and incidentally Joe Russell's granddaughter. This substantial work covers the battles and also the home front, extending into 1919 repatriation, the Spanish flu outbreak and the peace conferences. In its final chapter the book examines the development, decline and revival of the Anzac legend. As the centenary approaches *Broken nation* starkly reminds us how devastating the War was for the Australian community. It is heartening to see Allen and Unwin produce a book with full referencing and bibliography, along with 36 maps and a generous number of monochrome illustrations. [June 2014]

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Craig Campbell and Helen Proctor, *A history of Australian schooling*, Allen and Unwin, Crows Nest NSW, 2014, xvi + 288 pages; ISBN 978 1 74237 182 5.

In his 2008 ABC Boyer lectures media mogul Rupert Murdoch suggested that Australian schooling remained mired in the 19th century. Convinced that this judgement was wrong Craig Campbell and Helen Proctor from the University of Sydney's Faculty of Education and Social Work set themselves the daunting task of writing this history of Australian schooling. Despite the fact that education has long been a state responsibility they successfully created a national narrative that describes the ways in which schooling has shaped Australian society. Distinctive features which they identify include the strength of the non-government sector, which is increasing in the early 21st century thanks to government aid. There are Harvard references rather than conventional endnotes, as the authors' stated intention is to bring 'new perspectives to old controversies' based on the existing published record. Each chapter includes recommended reading to explore further the topics covered. The book begins with consideration of education for Aboriginal children before European settlement and continues the story up to NAPLAN testing and the 2011 Gonski report. [June 2014]

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Jane Lydon (ed), *Calling the shots: Aboriginal photographs*, Aboriginal Studies Press, Canberra, 2014, xii + 280 pages; ISBN 978 1 92205 959 8.

While it is usual in Aboriginal culture to avoid images of recently-deceased people, this prescription does not extend to those who have been dead for several years. This fascinating collection of essays on photographs of Indigenous Australians has been edited by Jane Lydon, professor of history at the University of Western Australia. The book begins with an 1897 anecdote of an ethnographer photographing an Arrernte ceremony and presenting a set of the prints to the people depicted, to store with their sacred possessions. Images discussed come from all states and the Northern Territory, and the authors include both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal scholars. They use the archival collections to explore Indigenous-settler history, providing a fresh perspective on Australia's past. In some cases the identification of subjects enables families and communities to reclaim a previously lost part of their culture. One of the photographers included here is John William Lindt, whose photographs from the Clarence River districts were exhibited at the RAHS in 2013. *Calling the shots* includes over 130 images and is available in paperback or ebook formats. [June 2014]

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Janette Holcomb, *Early merchant families of Sydney: speculation and risk management on the fringes of empire*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, North Melbourne Vic, 2012, xv + 335 pages; ISBN 978 1 92500 315 4.

Merchant enterprise in early New South Wales has been the subject of a number of histories and biographies, and familiar figures appear in the pages of this latest study. During doctoral research at the University of New England, Jan Holcomb found herself wondering why British and other merchant families would risk their capital in a remote, undeveloped penal colony. The investigation begins with an overview of Robert Campbell, who arrived from Calcutta in 1798 to found Sydney's first merchant house. Next is the firm of Riley and Jones, described by Governor Macquarie as 'that sordid, rapacious house'. As time wore on more firms were established and each is considered in this study which continues until 1835. Much of New South Wales's early commerce was linked to China, which is one thing which has not changed in 200 years. Indeed Richard Jones of Riley and Jones was commonly known as 'China' Jones. The book contains a small selection of portraits and is well supported by footnotes and bibliography. [June 2014]

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Elizabeth Ellis, *The Sydney punchbowl*, Hordern House, Potts Point NSW, 2013, 135 pages; ISBN 978 1 87556 772 0.

Sydney's trade with China is also the subject of this volume which celebrates two punchbowls made around 1820 and depicting scenes of Sydney. These exquisite objects were the products of the foreign factories in Canton (Guangzhou) known as *hongs*, established by the Chinese to segregate foreign traders and merchants. This study by RAHS Vice-President and former Mitchell Librarian Elizabeth Ellis includes some rare images of Chinese porcelain makers at work among over 100 colour plates. The text investigates early porcelain in New South Wales, punch and punchbowls, the pictures on which the panoramas are possibly based, the history of the bowls' discovery in the 1920s and 1930s and the mystery of their faded monograms. The book concludes with a short account of the project to create a limited edition replica of one of the punchbowls made by craftsmen in the 'porcelain city' of Jingdezhen. The book has footnotes and an appendix describing Sydney in 1814 (the probable year of the scene depicted on the replica). This is a book to which readers will return to feast their eyes on rainy days! [June 2014]

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Robert Irving, Ron Powell and Noel Irving, *Sydney's hard rock story: the cultural heritage of trachyte*, Heritage Publishing, Leura NSW, 2014, 196 pages; ISBN 978 1 87589 116 0.

Trachyte is the hard stone featured in many Sydney buildings, but which at times has seemed the poor relation to sandstone. It originates from the Southern Highlands and its first use was for kerbing and guttering in the 1880s. However architects and builders soon realised its potential for monuments and memorials, and later as a shiny contrast to sandstone in imposing city buildings such as hotels and banking chambers. Robert Irving is a distinguished architectural historian who is a Fellow and past President of the RAHS. He has co-written this book with his son Noel, and Ron Powell who until recently managed the NSW Centenary Stonework Programme. They have included a 'trachyte walk' around Sydney's CBD which covers 35 buildings from Wynyard to Town Hall railway stations. As Florence Taylor wrote in *Building* in 1908, 'in days to be, the history of Sydney will be read from its monumental

buildings, and ... the buildings of trachyte will stand defying the grim old iconoclast'. There are over 250 illustrations, a glossary and full endnotes. [June 2014]

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Christine Cheater and Jennifer Debenham, *The Australia Day regatta*, New South Publishing, Sydney, 2014, 304 pages; ISBN 978 1 74223 402 1.

The oldest continuously-held annual regatta in the world has a relatively low profile in its home port of Sydney. Founded in 1837, the Australia Day regatta began when a 'small band of gentlemen' decided to celebrate 26 January with an Anniversary Day regatta. For over 175 years the regatta has faced off challenges from within the boating fraternity, world wars, extreme weather conditions and an anti-Australia-Day feeling in the 1970s and 1980s. The Centenary Regatta in 1937 was quickly followed by the Sesquicentenary [of Australia] Regatta in 1938, but after holding centre stage the regatta then entered the challenges of the war years. Sydney loves its harbour and yacht racing is the ideal way to enjoy the sun and waves, whether as a participant or a water-borne spectator. Christine Cheater and Jennifer Debenham are professional historians who have produced a very readable book on a little known aspect of Australian sport. The book contains 54 colour plates, an appendix giving details of the flagships for each year's regatta, endnotes, bibliography and index. [December 2014]

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Philip Goldswain, Nicole Sully and William M. Taylor (eds), *Out of place: Gwalia: occasional essays on Australian regional communities and built environments in transition*, UWA Publishing, Crawley WA, 2014, x + 311 pages; ISBN 978 1 74258 554 3.

From Gwalia and Kalgoorlie in Western Australia to Queenstown in Tasmania and Charters Towers in Queensland, the strand that unites the ten essays in this volume are the communities attracted and formed by mining. They explore historical, geographical and cultural factors in these often transient communities covering time periods from the 1850s to the present day. Co-editor William M. Taylor from the University of Western Australia sets the scene with an introductory essay on Australian places, place-making and 'the politics of displacement in a transient society'. Other topics include women, migrants, architecture, globalisation (1870s-style) and volume concludes with consideration of the modern FIFO (fly-in fly-out) workforce. There are 56 monochrome illustrations and a chapter on painting the Australian mining landscape introduces S.T. Gill, G.F. Angas, Eugene von Guérard and Frederick McCubbin to the discussion. As befits a volume published by UWA there are endnotes to each chapter, but sadly no index to assist the reader to make comparisons between the essays. [December 2014]

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Douglas Newton, *Hell-bent: Australia's leap into the Great War*, Scribe Publications, Melbourne, 2014, 344 pages; ISBN 978 1 92510 606 0.

World War I centenaries are unfolding over coming months but this new study considers the diplomacy and political manoeuvring leading up to the declaration of war. Now it all seems inevitable but at the time the outbreak of war was not a foregone conclusion. In Australia, the author notes, politicians deep in an election campaign 'competed with each other in a love-of-empire auction'. The catastrophe that killed over 17 million people could have been avoided, or at least delayed, if events had taken a different course. Two days

before Britain declared war, Australia offered an expeditionary force of 20,000 men to serve anywhere and for any purpose under British command with the entire cost to be borne by Australia. The 'hell-bent' of the title refers to this offer which constituted a 'premature leap into war'. Douglas Newton is an academic whose career has focused on peace and war in the period 1890-1919, and his depth of knowledge is fully applied in this volume. There are no illustrations but footnotes, bibliography and index are more than adequate to satisfy even the most serious student. [December 2014]

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Robert Lehane, *The pearl king*, Boolarong Press, Brisbane, 2014, xix + 410 pages; ISBN 978 1 92504 637 3.

Biographies of adventurers always hit the mark for those interested not only in history but in the strange events which make up its rich tapestry. The 'pearl king' of this volume was James Clark who was born on Dempsey Island in the Hunter River in 1857, orphaned at the age of 2 and a penniless arrival in Brisbane 10 years later. From there he continued to the Torres Strait where he became a leading figure in the pearling industry. Moving back to Queensland he set up an oyster supply business in Moreton Bay which supplied restaurants and retailers across the continent. He diversified into pastoralism, yachting and horseracing but he was always known as the 'Pearl King'. James Clark was the great-grandfather of Robert Lehane's wife, and when Lehane started his research he assumed that little would be found. However he has produced a fascinating study based on the James Clark papers in the Oxley Library as well as Queensland, WA and National archives and the regional newspapers now accessible through Trove. There are some well-chosen monochrome illustrations, along with endnotes, bibliography and index. [December 2014]

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Brian M. Petrie, *French Canadian rebels as Australian convicts: the experiences of the 58 Lower Canadians transported to Australia in 1839*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, North Melbourne, 2013, xvii + 520 pages; ISBN 978 1 92187 565 6.

Sydney's suburb of Canada Bay is not named simply as a tribute to the close relationship of two Commonwealth countries. The name has its origins in the arrival of Canadian rebels under sentence of transportation for life for their part in the rebellion of 1838. Convicted of treason and sentenced to death, the 58 French Canadians studied in this book largely evaded hard labour and remained in New South Wales for less than a decade, the last departing in 1848. Only one chose to remain: Joseph Marceau who is buried in the Catholic Cemetery in West Dapto. The other 133 English-speaking Canadian rebels were sent to Van Diemen's Land and have been the subject of other studies. Brian Petrie has an academic background in social class and inequality, and has taught in both Australian and Canadian universities including Concordia in Montréal. He has therefore had access to Québécois as well as Australian sources which he has used extensively to produce this scholarly study. [December 2014]

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Robert Purdie, *Narrative of the wreck of HMS Porpoise*, Hordern House, Potts Point NSW, 2014, iii + 134 pages; ISBN 978 1 87556 773 7.

This lively and hitherto neglected account of sailing with Matthew Flinders coincides with the bicentenary of his death. First published anonymously in the *Naval Chronicle* in

1806-1807 research has now identified the author as surgeon's mate Robert Purdie, a junior officer on board Flinders' ship *Investigator*. The only other published eyewitness account of the wreck was by Flinders himself in his *Voyage to Terra Australis* (1814). The *Porpoise* was wrecked in 1803 on what is now known as Wreck Reef on the southern fringe of the Great Barrier Reef, and Purdie's narrative includes a description of the life of the castaways. Flinders set off for Sydney in an open boat to organise a rescue. There is also an interesting account of the settlement at Port Jackson in the era of Governor King, and mention of the new settlement of Van Diemen's Land. Matthew Fishburn has contributed an introduction and notes as well as identifying the author. This is a high-quality publication and includes a map of the area from Flinders' own account. [December 2014]

Harvey Broadbent, *Gallipoli: the Turkish defence*, Miegunyah Press, Carlton Vic, 2015, xviii + 536 pages; ISBN 978 0 52286 664 3.

One of a veritable library of studies to mark the centenary of the Gallipoli landing, this offering views the conflict from the Turkish perspective. The book describes the Gallipoli campaign from the landing at Ariburnu in April 1915 to the 'enemy evacuation' in December. During less than nine months British and French forces suffered 162,000 killed and wounded, while the Turks recorded 214,000 casualties. Harvey Broadbent is a former ABC television producer who has written three previous books on aspects of Gallipoli. He has spent five years researching in Turkish archives and bases this account on many previously-unpublished documents. He notes that after the Turks halted the ANZAC advance in May, and repelled their renewed offensive in August, they did little to dislodge the enemy. Broadbent concurs with the view that the Allied decision to attack the Dardanelles was doomed from the beginning, and reminds us of the Turkish slogan 'Çanakkale geçilmez!' (Çanakkale shall not be passed!). There are numerous appendices, maps and tables along with a few well-chosen illustrations.

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Ian Hoskins, *Coast: a history of the NSW edge*, New South Publishing, Sydney, 2013, 447 pages; ISBN 978 1 74223 270 6.

Scottish archaeologist Neil Oliver pioneered this new way of looking at history and geography in his television series. Now this novel perspective has been applied to New South Wales, a state whose coastal districts have always dominated its inland regions. From the original Aboriginal custodians to the early explorers, the holiday campers of the mid-20th century to the sea-changers of more recent times, the coast has provided food, recreation and economic activities of every kind. Ian Hoskins is the North Sydney Council historian and has previously written a history of Sydney Harbour. His challenge here was to weave a narrative out of a series of disparate local histories and some thematic histories of shipwrecks and lighthouses. Topics covered in this present study include natural history, the first peoples, fishing and boating, lighthouses and shipwrecks, recreation and holiday-making, defence and heritage. The book, which won the 2014 NSW Premier's Award for Regional and Local History, concludes with two chapters on the recent conflicts between coastal development and heritage. There are copious illustrations, and detailed notes and index. [June 2015]

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Gwen Chessell, *Separate lives: the story of Sir George and Lady Grey*, Hopping Mouse Press, UK, 2014, xii + 376 pages; ISBN 978 1 32611 342 1.

Sir George Grey was governor of South Australia, Cape Colony and New Zealand before entering the political fray and serving as Prime Minister of New Zealand from 1877 to 1879. Naturally such a prominent colonial figure has been the subject of five previous biographies, but this new study includes his wife Eliza and thus sheds new light on George's long and distinguished career. Married in 1839 in Albany, Western Australia, the couple's relationship suffered a spectacular breakdown in 1860 that led to their separation for 36 years. Gwen Chessell has previously written a biography of Western Australian pioneer Richard Spencer, who was Eliza Grey's father. Sir George Grey is still regarded as a major figure in colonial New Zealand history and has been described by historian Keith Sinclair as 'one of the most remarkable people who ever lived in New Zealand'. The book includes some interesting illustrations including cameos of George and Eliza, and is well endowed with reference, bibliography and index. It is available through online suppliers such as Book Depository. [June 2015]

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Murray Johnson and Ian McFarlane, *Van Diemen's Land: an Aboriginal history*, New South Publishing, Sydney, 2015, x + 453 pages; ISBN 978 1 74223 421 2.

Australia's southernmost state is not only rich in European history and heritage, but also has a prior 35,000-year history of Aboriginal custodianship. The book commences with a survey of lifeways and material culture of pre-contact Van Diemen's Land revealed by archaeological evidence, but naturally much of this study is devoted to the post-contact period. Murray Johnson has taught Australian history and Indigenous studies at the University of Tasmania, and co-author Ian McFarlane teaches Aboriginal studies at the University of Tasmania specialising in Tasmania's north-west region. Chapters are devoted to the first European settlement at Risdon Cove, the 'black war' and 'black line', and other clashes on the frontier leading to 'captivity and exile'. Two chapters are devoted to the Bass Strait Island communities, and the book concludes with consideration of the 'resurgence' of Tasmanian Aboriginality. As befits an academic study of a sometimes-controversial topic, the book has comprehensive references and bibliography. There are some well-chosen illustrations, mostly in colour. [June 2015]

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Jane Connors, *Royal visits to Australia*, NLA Publishing, Canberra, 2015, 221 pages; ISBN 978 0 64227 870 8.

From 1867 to the present, Australia has seen an increasing number of visits from the British Royal family, and from those of other countries. This handsome publication from the National Library of Australia leads us through the history and pageantry of these events, beginning with the unfortunate visit of Prince Alfred in 1867-1868 and continuing up to 2014 when the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge brought their baby son Prince George on his first visit. After six visits from an array of princes and dukes, the first reigning monarch to arrive in Australia was the young and glamorous Queen Elizabeth in 1954. Naturally a whole section of chapters is devoted to this event and covers topics such as country town hospitality, children, 'new' Australians and religious sectarianism. Author Jane Connors completed her doctoral thesis at UTS on the 1954 tour, and has now expanded her interest to prior and subsequent royal appearances on our shores. She includes Royal visitors from other lands ranging from Queen Salote of Tonga to our current favourites Frederik and Mary from Denmark. The book is lavishly illustrated in colour. [June 2015]

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Benjamin T. Jones, *Republicanism and responsible government: the shaping of democracy in Australia and Canada*, McGill-Queen's University Press, Montréal, 2014, x + 299 pages; ISBN 978 0 77354 361 4.

It should not surprise that there would be similarities in the political development of two British colonies that campaigned for democratic self-rule and developed into federations. Focusing on the 19th century this book concentrates on pivotal moments in the history of Canada and Australia, namely the Canadian rebellions of 1837-1838 and the resulting Durham Report, and Australia's anti-transportation movement of the 1840s and the Eureka Stockade of 1854. Benjamin T. Jones is an historian at the University of Western Sydney who specialises in Australian and Canadian colonial histories. He considers the influences on Canadian and Australian radicals and reformers such as William Lyon Mackenzie and John Dunmore Lang, and finds they derived more from the classical philosophy of civic republicanism than from 19th-century liberalism. Jones considers that this influence explains the failure of Canada and Australia to break their bonds with Britain and become modern republics. The referencing is exemplary and it is interesting to observe that the book's first footnote is to a *JRAHS* article from 1981! [June 2015]

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Jennifer Jones, *Country Women and the Colour Bar: Grassroots activism and the Country Women's Association*, Aboriginal Studies Press, Canberra, 2015, xvii + 229 pages; ISBN 978 1 92530 296 7.

In the 1950s and 1960s the Country Women's Association of New South Wales supported branches specifically for Aboriginal women. This fascinating study of rural race relations shows how women broke the colour bar as they participated in baby contests, handicraft lessons and other activities. Jennifer Jones is a senior lecturer in interdisciplinary studies at La Trobe University's Albury-Wodonga campus. Her book covers the period 1956 to 1972 with chapters on Boggabilla, Kempsey, Taree, Nowra, Grafton and Griffith. In many ways this book is a tribute to what Jones describes as 'the quiet activism of Aboriginal matriarchs' (p. xi). There are a few well-chosen photographs, along with footnotes, bibliography and index. As well as CWA files the book is also based on a number of interviews conducted by the author with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal participants in the events she describes. Some prominent Australians feature in the book, including Charles Perkins, Jessie Street, and Rachel Mundine, but mostly it is about average women making a difference to their world. [June 2016]

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Elizabeth Lane, Fiona Kells, Louise Paton and Stuart Kells (eds), *Outback Penguin: Richard Lane's Barwell diaries*, Black Inc, Carlton Vic, 2016, xx + 428 pages; ISBN 978 1 86395 817 2.

By the time Richard Lane and his brothers founded Penguin Books in 1935 he had already lived through various adventures. Thirteen years earlier he sailed to South Australia as a boy migrant under the 'Barwell Boys' scheme to work as a farm apprentice. This book includes his diaries of his experiences from arriving in London in September 1922 on his way to the ship, until his return to Bristol in April 1926. In between lies a fascinating account of South Australia, and the first-hand experiences of an articulate child migrant. The book is edited by Lane's daughter Elizabeth and grand-daughter Louise Paton, along with Stuart

Kells who wrote *Penguin and the Lane Brothers* and his wife Fiona. Richard Lane lived in Melbourne where he ran Penguin in Australia for a number of years. The book is illustrated with photographs of Lane's time in South Australia, and one of him and his wife Betty on their honeymoon in Renmark in 1948. [June 2016]

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Brenda McAvoy, *Interrupted Silence: the Life and Work of 'Silverleaf' – Jessie Georgina Lloyd*, Tantallon Publishing, Queanbeyan NSW, 2015, xii + 367 pages; ISBN 978 0 64693 866 0.

Biographies dominate the booknotes in this issue of JRAHS. The subject of this study was born in Van Diemen's Land in 1843 and after her marriage in 1866 moved to north-western New South Wales where she lived for 17 years before her death at the early age of 42. Recurring droughts made pastoralism precarious and Jessie turned to writing under the pseudonym 'Silverleaf' to earn extra income. Her autobiographical novel, *The Wheel of Life*, was commercially published and her short stories, poems and non-fiction articles appeared in the *Illustrated Sydney News* and the *Sydney Mail*. Brenda McAvoy worked at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Library for nearly 30 years, with roles including manager of Parliament's oral history project. This work opens with a biographical study of Jessie Lloyd, and then turns to a consideration of her work. Chapters are devoted to her depiction of Aboriginal women, her use of historical references and her place in Australian literature. Illustrations include family photographs, and appendices list all identified published works by Jessie Lloyd. [June 2016]

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Kenneth Morgan, *Matthew Flinders, Maritime Explorer of Australia*, Bloomsbury Academic, London, 2016, xv + 313 pages; ISBN 978 1 44117 962 3.

Matthew Flinders is a popular figure in Australian history, with a major exhibition at the State Library in 2001 and studies appearing at intervals including several based on his letters to his wife Ann. This new biography by maritime historian Kenneth Morgan of Brunel University in London is based on research in Australia, Mauritius, France and numerous repositories in England. It weaves together the career of the naval officer along with navigator, hydrographer and explorer. Flinders is best known for circumnavigating Australia in a leaky boat in 1802-1803, and for popularising the name for the island continent which was previously known as 'New Holland'. Morgan draws on accounts of Flinders' voyages by contemporaries, including teenaged midshipman John Franklin who went on to achieve fame in his own right. The book also recounts the poignant tale of Flinders' imprisonment on Mauritius from 1803 to 1810. Luckily for posterity he lived to oversee the publication of his book *A Voyage to Terra Australis*, dying the day after the first copy arrived from the publisher. [June 2016]

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Paul F. Cooper, *More Valuable than Gold: The Philanthropy of John and Ann Goodlet*, Eider Books, The Ponds NSW, 2015, xvii + 334 pages; ISBN 978 0 99435 800 4.

Philanthropy is a well-established practice in the United States, where many notable institutions rely on private donations and bequests, but it has been less common in Australia. The Goodlets came from relatively humble origins to build a major industry in 19th century Sydney, with a brickworks at Granville producing 200,000 bricks a week and a pottery in

Surry Hills making drain and sewage pipes, tiles, terra cotta and chimney pots and stoneware. Scottish-born John was a major figure in the Presbyterian church, serving on the council of St Andrew's College, University of Sydney from 1870 to 1914, and helping to found the Presbyterian Ladies' College in Croydon. John and Ann's philanthropy was extended to the Thirlmere Home for chronic consumptives at Picton, the Sydney Hospital, Benevolent Society, Royal Hospital for Women at Paddington, the New South Wales Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind and the Sydney City Mission among many others. As befits a book which began as a PhD thesis there is exemplary referencing and bibliography. [June 2016]

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Rob Wills, *Alias Blind Larry: the Mostly True Memoir of James Laurence, the Singing Convict*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, North Melbourne Vic, 2014, xv + 366 pages; ISBN 978 1 92533 311 4.

During the regime of Commandant Maconochie on Norfolk Island in the early 1840s a spate of memoir-writing by convicts was encouraged. This is one of those narratives which was produced by the London-born son of a Jewish diamond cutter. Young James travelled to the USA, Canada and Jamaica as an itinerant entertainer before being transported to New South Wales at the age of 21 for jewel theft. He served time in every penal settlement in New South Wales, supplementing his singing career with theft which led to repeated reconvictions. While based on Laurence's memoir this is not simply a transcript, but a biography which has hunted out fascinating snippets on his life and times. Rob Wills has also identified Laurence as an otherwise anonymous witness to the 1847 House of Lords Select Committee on the Execution of the Criminal Laws. Wills has degrees in literature and languages from the Universities of Sydney and London. He has produced a great work of Australian theatre history and a very readable book. [June 2016]