Welcome to our May 2017 newsletter

Since our last newsletter in January, the Dictionary of Sydney office has moved and is now located in the Mitchell Division at the State Library of New South Wales. Linda is working there two days a week and Jacqueline is working remotely one day per fortnight until the end of June to help complete the transition.

We are still working with a fantastic team at the State Library of New South Wales on migrating the Dictionary of Sydney website onto its new platform and look forward to announcing the completion of this project. Many thanks to our partners at the State Library of NSW and the City of Sydney for supporting this project.

Many thanks to the Dictionary’s technical project team, Linda Brainwood, Stewart Wallace and Kim Jackson, for their fantastic work in getting the technical project to this point - and to
everyone who volunteered to help us with the user acceptance testing recently - not an easy task but a highly valuable one.

Without the City of Sydney’s financial and in-kind support over the last ten years, the Dictionary of Sydney would not exist, and we want to express our gratitude and appreciation of this support on behalf of all the Dictionary’s readers and contributors.

The Dictionary of Sydney is still without any ongoing operational funding and we encourage all our readers to donate and support the Dictionary’s future. All donations over $2 made before June 30 can be claimed as a tax deduction in this year’s tax return.

The image above is from the fantastic exhibition at the Australian Museum Transformation: The Art of the Scott Sisters. The exhibition closes on 25 June, so make sure you don’t miss out!

We look forward to bringing you our next update,

Jacqueline & Linda

Jacqueline Spedding, Executive Officer
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Support the Dictionary!


What your donation can do

The Dictionary of Sydney publishes freely accessible, reliable and authoritative information about Sydney’s history. Every day we provide facts, information, images, multimedia and unique stories to a growing audience of students, teachers, history
enthusiasts, researchers, residents and visitors to this beautiful city.

We couldn’t do this without the passion, dedication and expertise of our staff, board and volunteers and the ongoing support of our project partners and contributors.

Now more than ever we need your help.

In order to keep adding to the Dictionary and to bring this free, reliable and quality content to a wider audience, we need to keep growing the Dictionary. You can help! Find out what your donation can do [here](#).

DONATE TODAY

Winter reading

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Design for Wall Paper.
(Mr. L. HENRY.)
Fig. 54c.

Pic: Lucien Henry design for wall paper, from The Australian flora in applied art (1915) via Internet Archive http://dictionaryofsydney.org/image/71693
While we are working on the migration of the Dictionary website to the State Library of NSW, we haven’t been able to publish any new content. We can’t wait until we can start again as we have some great entries ready and waiting, but this has been a great opportunity to look through some of the fantastic material already on the site, so make yourself a cup of tea (or any other warming beverage that appeals), rug up and avoid some wintery weather by dawdling through the Dictionary.

Over the years, we’ve published several suites of material with the help of some great Dictionary supporters. 

The Sydney Mechanics School of Arts funded 23 entries between 2009-2012, all of which you can see here. The range of the entries is extraordinary, from the history of the School of Arts Movement and Sydney Technical College, through to people like artist and designer Lucien Henry, highwire daredevil Henri L’estrange, Australia’s first female electrical engineer and radio pioneer Violet McKenzie and museum curator and patriotic botanist Joseph Maiden.

A fascinating entry on Funeral Trains was one of two entries about Sydney’s railways and their influence on the city by Bob McKillop which were funded in 2015 by Transport Heritage NSW. We’re looking forward to publishing another set of entries.
about Sydney’s railways soon which are also being funded by a second grant from Transport Heritage NSW.

Our projects on the [Cooks River](#) and the [Georges River](#), both funded by the Federal Government's Your Community Heritage grants, included entries by Heather Goodall and Alison Cadzow, [Aboriginal People on Sydney's Georges River from 1820](#), and Paul Irish's [First People of the Cooks River](#), Ron Ringer's piece on the evolution of the [Alexandra Canal](#) and Catie Gilchrist's entry on everyone's favourite cockatoo [Cocky Bennett](#).

You can see all of our wonderful project supporters [here](#) on the site - click through to see how their generous support has increased the wealth of information available to all the Dictionary's users through the entries, entities, media and relationships that they're funding has allowed us to create.

The free [Dictionary of Sydney App](#) for mobile devices gives you access to four free historical walking tours around Sydney, three of which were also funded by supporters.

If you're interested in finding out how you or your organisation can become a content supporter in the future, [let us know](#)!

There are so many different ways to delve into the Dictionary's amazing content: you can search directly or just browse the different kinds of entities listed on the right hand side of the page, wander through the subject listings and meander through the links you find along the way in the entries and the connections listed with the records.

Click on the links above to be taken straight to the Dictionary and explore!

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### Books

Our book reviewers have been busy with some great Sydney history titles! You can also access all of our book reviews via the Book Review tab on the blog homepage.
Paul Irish, *Hidden in Plain View: the Aboriginal People of Coastal Sydney*

NewSouth, Sydney, 2017, paperback $34.99

Paul Irish asks important questions, which are answered, in his accessible and yet scholarly history of the coastal people of Sydney. This book will endure, inform and open our eyes....
David Stephens and Alison Broinowski (eds), *The Honest History Book*

NewSouth, Sydney, 2017, paperback $34.99

*The Honest History Book* is a compelling, at times confronting and yet convincing collection of essays by some of Australia’s leading writers and historians. As our reviewer states it is ‘a challenging, engaging, at times fist pumpingly “you have nailed what is so wrong with Australian politics and history” sort of book’...
Deborah Beck, *Rayner Hoff: the life of a sculptor*

NewSouth, Sydney, 2017, paperback $49.99

Deborah Beck's excellent biography of *Rayner Hoff: The Life of a Sculptor*, reveals important insights and 'the untold story' of Rayner Hoff's life and his work...
Louis Nowra, *Woolloomooloo*

NewSouth, Sydney, 2017, paperback $34.99

Louis Nowra’s latest book, *Woolloomooloo, A Biography* is a deeply rich, riveting riot of the history and daily life of a remarkable part of Sydney...

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**Fellowships at the State Library of NSW**

Over $160,000 in paid research opportunities at the State Library of NSW

Undertake original research in a variety of subject areas.

Applications are now open for a number of prestigious fellowships, including the $75,000 Coral Thomas Fellowship.

Applications close 17 July 2017.

For information and to apply, visit www.sl.nsw.gov.au/fellowships.
The State Library of NSW is calling for applications for a range of prestigious research fellowships totalling $160,000.

The biennial $75,000 Coral Thomas Fellowship is among the State Library’s suite of competitive fellowships that support the research, writing, teaching and experience of Australian history and culture.

According to Richard Neville, Mitchell Librarian and Director of Education and Scholarship at the State Library of NSW:

“The story of Australia simply cannot be told without reference to the State Library’s unrivalled collection, and research plays a critical part in both understanding and also questioning Australia’s documented past and more recent present.”

“The Library is committed to encouraging a spirit of scholarly debate arising from our collection,” Mr Neville said. “Our fellowships program supports original research that provides new perspectives on the entire panorama of Australian experience, across five centuries from 17th century through to today.”

Dictionary of Sydney author and former Library Fellow, Dr Catherine Bishop’s research shed light on Sydney’s first female entrepreneurs – previously hidden in historical record - who paved the way for women in corporate life in Australia today. Her debut book *Minding Her Own Business: Colonial Businesswomen in Sydney* (NewSouth) recently won the 2016 Ashurst Prize for Business Literature.

Current research being undertaken by Library Fellows explores areas as diverse as Australian counterculture; commercial map-making and copyright law in Australia from 1788 to 1917; the life and times of legendary boxer Les Darcy; and the changing social participation of people with disabilities in 19th and 20th century Australia.

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**History Week 2017**

The theme for History Week this year is ‘popular culture’. As History Week enters its 20th year, History Council of NSW members are invited to celebrate popular culture across the decades, to investigate its construction and analyse its impact on communities and individuals.
How has popular culture, whether it be music, theatre, dance, film, television, sport or fashion, changed over time? Who defines it, and why? What does popular culture mean on an individual, community, regional and national level? How has the ‘digital age’ and 21st century technological change influenced popular culture? Have we entered a ‘new age’ of popular culture with audiences as creators, shifts in authority and more democratic modes of creative expression? Is history now part of popular culture?

History Week will explore these questions and many more from 2 to 10 September 2017.


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The Dictionary of Sydney on 2SER

Every Wednesday morning, we present a segment on 2SER breakfast with Nic Healey. Our wonderful regular presenters and Dictionary of Sydney treasures Lisa Murray and Nicole Cama share stories to intrigue, entertain and inform 2SER’s morning listeners.

If you miss it in the morning rush, you can always catch up via the blog, where there will be a link to the podcast too. You can also access all of our book reviews via the Book Review tab on the blog homepage. Why not subscribe to the blog to get regular updates from us, and to get a weekly helping of Sydney history delivered to your inbox!

DONATE NOW

How to donate

To make a tax-deductible donation, you can go to our online donation page at Give Now.

If you’d rather send a cheque, please make it payable to the Dictionary of Sydney Inc and send to the address below. We will mail a receipt to you:

Dictionary of Sydney Inc
Att: The Executive Officer
Dictionary of Sydney
PO Box 23 Glebe NSW 2037

All donations above $2 are tax deductible

Thank you
The Dictionary of Sydney is grateful to the City of Sydney for its support as our major government partner from 2006-2016