Welcome to our December 2017 newsletter
It's nearly the end of 2017, and it's been a big year for the Dictionary of Sydney as we further reduced staff numbers, and moved the Dictionary and its content to a new platform and home at the State Library of New South Wales.

We're delighted that we've been able to start publishing again on the new platform at the Library, and there are lots of new entities, media items and entries on the Dictionary for you to explore, including new content made possible by a Transport Heritage Grant.

We're also thrilled to be able to offer our congratulations to Professor Grace Karskens, Dictionary of Sydney board member and author, who is the 2018 State Library of New South Wales Coral Thomas Fellow, and to Dr Catie Gilchrist, Dictionary author and tireless book reviewer, who is the Library's 2018's Nancy Keesing Highly Commended Fellow.

Our warm congratulations go too to generous Dictionary of Sydney author Keith Vincent Smith. Keith was recently made Emeritus Curator in the 2017 Honours of the Library Council of New South Wales for his exceptional contributions in advancing and enhancing the story of Indigenous encounter in this nation and use of the State Library of NSW collections.

The fantastic exhibition held in the Sydney Town Hall last month to commemorate the City of Sydney's 175th anniversary was a remarkable opportunity for Sydney's history lovers to see some of the treasures and the wealth of material held in the City's collections within an informed and insightful historical context. The beautifully produced catalogue Our City: 175 Years in 175 Objects, is still available for sale at Abbey's and we highly recommend it as a worthy addition to your bookshelves (or as gift of course!).

There have been some great exhibitions this year, with many more coming up, and we will continue sharing news about events like these on our social media streams so keep an eye on our blog, facebook and twitter feeds.

The Dictionary of Sydney has always been about collaboration, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of our amazing partners, volunteers, contributors and supporters this year. We really couldn't have done it without you!

We wish everybody a safe and happy summer, and look forward to bringing you our next update,

Linda

Linda Brainwood, Managing Editor
Dictionary of Sydney
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The Dictionary of Sydney is without any ongoing operational funding and we encourage all our readers to support the Dictionary's future. All donations over $2 can be claimed as a tax deduction too.

Support the Dictionary!

![Image of a one pound note from 1893](https://dictionaryofsydney.org/media/58569)

**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 funding. You can help! Find out what your donation can do [here](#) or let us know if you or your organisation is interested in sponsoring content, whether that might be a single entry or a whole suite.
Transport Heritage Grants Program

In late 2016 the Dictionary of Sydney, in partnership with the Australian Railway Historical Society NSW division, received a Transport Heritage Grant to publish five new essays exploring aspects of Sydney's railway history in 2017. The Transport Heritage Grants Program is a NSW Government funded program, administered by the Royal Australian Historical Society, with the support of Transport Heritage NSW.

These fascinating essays were written by Bob McKillop and by Mark Dunn, and edited by Dr Naomi Parry, and have now been published on the Dictionary, along with many new associated entities and pictorial material.

We are very grateful to all involved in making this such a successful collaboration.

The new entries are:
The creation of a city railway was a central concern for town planners in Sydney from almost the moment that the first railway was opened in 1855. The underground City Circle, and the city as we know it, took one hundred years to be completed.

By the turn of the twentieth century, Sydney's train network needed to be revitalised to meet the needs of the growing city. The railway needed to be extended through the city; the central terminal had to be relocated; and the entire network electrified. This work was the single most significant
event in the history of the Sydney rail system, transforming the commuter experience and changing the face of the city.

**The North Shore Line** by Bob McKillop  The North Shore Line, which runs from Hornsby to St Leonards, opened on 1 January 1890. It was Sydney’s first purely suburban railway.

**Sydney’s Metropolitan Goods Lines** by Bob McKillop  The Metropolitan Goods Lines, which spread throughout the Sydney suburbs from 1916 onwards, have played a key role in the industrialization of the city and the development of many suburbs.

**The Royal National Park Line** by Bob McKillop  Originally built in 1886 for use by the military, the Royal National Park railway line initially linked Loftus Station on the Illawarra Line to an army training camp in Royal National Park.

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**More summer reading**

As well as the content added as part of the Transport Heritage grant mentioned above, we’ve also been able to add the following new entries to the Dictionary. Click on the links in the text to be taken straight to the Dictionary.

Pic: Detail showing Aboriginal people, British soldier and others in picture ‘Governor’s House, Port Jackson’ 1791 by William Bradley Courtesy National Library of Australia (nla.pic-an3329075-1 (detail)) https://dictionaryofsydney.org/media/58153
Corrangie / Harry by Keith Vincent Smith Corrangie, called ‘Harry’ by the English settlers, was the husband of Bennelong’s sister Carangarang and known, after Bennelong’s death, as the ‘chief’ of the Burramattagal or Parramatta clan.

Governor Phillip and the Eora by Grace Karskens What was Governor Arthur Phillip’s relationship with the Eora, and other Aboriginal people of the Sydney region? To fully imagine those early years, we must see them through the twin lenses of British and Eora perspective and experience to glimpse what was happening, and why.

Robbing the Bank: Australia’s First Bank Robbery by Neil Radford Sydney’s, and Australia’s, first bank robbery took place on 14 September 1828 when the Bank of Australia strongroom was breached by thieves entering through a sewer drain and stealing £14,000 mostly in notes but also some gold and silver coins. Most of this was never recovered.

Australia’s First Lottery by Neil Radford Australia’s first lottery, held in Sydney in 1849, was surrounded by controversy and was probably illegal. It was immensely popular however and the government turned a blind eye as it seemed the only way of averting the consequences of a financial disaster.

Bray, James Samuel by Peter Hobbins A local character for nearly 50 years, James Samuel Bray was an amateur naturalist,
prolific author and erratic entrepreneur in late-colonial Sydney. Despite representing the colony at exhibitions as far afield as Melbourne and Calcutta, Bray perennially skirted the edges of scientific and social respectability. Often ostracised in life, and soon forgotten after his death, he nevertheless embodied the 'antiquarian imagination' that took root in the Australian colonies from the 1870s until World War I.

One of the Dictionary's new features is the ability to sort entries by publication date so you can always find new entries. Just go to the Entries Browse menu and sort the results by date.

This year we've also published a special issue of the Sydney Journal that includes a selection of papers by some of Australia's most significant scholars of colonial history looking at the contributions Arthur Phillip made to the founding of modern Australia.

These papers were first presented at 'The First Governor - A Bicentenary Symposium on Arthur Phillip' on 5 September 2014 at Sydney Living Museums to commemorate the bicentenary of
Arthur Phillip's death. From his role preparing for the voyage of the First Fleet, to his five years as the colony's first governor, these essays provide a fascinating and intimate exploration of the founding of the colony, and the life, career and continuing importance of the man who governed it.

This issue of the Sydney Journal was edited by Jaqueline Spedding and is available free online at UTS EPress here.

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**Reviews**

Our reviewers have been busy with some great new Sydney history titles and exhibitions. You can always access all of our reviews via the Review tab at the top of the blog homepage.

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**Underworld: Mugshots from the Roaring Twenties - exhibition**

This exhibition which has just opened at the Museum of Sydney, is an exploration of crime in a decade that heralded the brave new world that emerged from the devastation of World War I. Curated by the indefatigable Nerida Campbell this exhibition profiles some of the many men and women from Sydney's seedy underworld who were at large across the city in the early twentieth century...
Vanessa Berry, *Mirror Sydney*


The very title of *Mirror Sydney* says a great deal about Vanessa Berry’s take on her hometown. It’s inspired by an aged photograph album found in an op shop, featuring an image of Sydney on the front cover which is reversed – indeed mirrored – on the back. And, just like this optical inversion, Vanessa’s take on Australia’s largest city is so much more than mere reflection...

[Read more...]
Grantlee Kieza Mrs Kelly: The Astonishing Life of Ned Kelly’s Mother


Bestselling author Grantlee Kieza’s latest work is a biography of Ellen Kelly (c1832-1923). Although ostensibly documenting the life of Mrs Ellen Kelly, this book is the latest addition to the corpus of materials on one of Australia’s most controversial criminals: Edward ‘Ned’ Kelly...
Edited by Rebecca Hawcroft, *The Other Moderns: Sydney's Forgotten European Design Legacy*,


Rebecca Hawcroft, a cultural heritage consultant, has brought together some of Australia's most important commentators on culture and design for *The Other Moderns: Sydney's Forgotten European Design Legacy*...
Ross Gibson, *The Criminal Re-Register*


In a pre-database age, the Criminal Register was a volume that was produced every year by Sydney Police containing details on a vast array of criminals. Ross Gibson's new work is a fabulous re-imagining of his 1957 issue of the Register, re-written as a suite of poems that, as Gibson writes, has “messed” with the original which he “ransacked” for details to re-work to merge and play with. Brutality and creativity blend to produce a text that is compelling reading...
Catherine Jinks, *Charlatan The Dishonest Life and Dishonoured Loves of Thomas Guthrie Carr, Stage Mesmerist*


Between 1865 and 1886 Thomas Guthrie Carr was rarely out of the celebrity spotlight. Known throughout the Australian and New Zealand colonies, Carr was a one-man travelling circus of many different, and eclectic ‘talents’; medical quack, mesmerist, phrenologist, electro-biologist, amputater, pamphleteer, public speaker and entertainer. Yet celebrities then, as they do today, strongly divided public opinion into devoted supporters and ruthless detractors...

**History Week 2018**
In September 2018, the History Council of NSW’s popular History Week festival will take as its theme **Life and Death** and explore life’s defining moments and the impact of death on communities across time.

If you or your organisation would like to register an event for inclusion in the festival, head to the History Council’s website for more information.

Submissions for the **History Council of NSW’s 2018 awards and prizes** are also now open, and will be announced at the Annual History Lecture during History Week.

All submissions for the below prizes and awards must be made by **31 March 2018**. Nomination forms and further information can be found on the History Council of NSW’s website [here](#).

- **Aboriginal History Prize** - Encourages students and other beginning historians (up to post-doctoral career) in the writing of Australian Aboriginal history, including Torres Strait Islander history, from original sources. The winner will receive a $1,000 prize.

- **Deen De Bortoli Award for Applied History** - Generously funded by the De Bortoli family, the purpose of the award is to encourage historians writing Australian political, social, cultural and environmental history to approach their subjects in ways that use the past to inform contemporary concerns and issues. The winner will receive a citation and a prize of $5,000.

- **Max Kelly Medal** - The Max Kelly Medal plus a prize of $500, generously donated by Geoffrey Jones, is awarded annually to a ‘beginning’ historian for a work of excellence in any aspect of Australian history.
The Dictionary of Sydney on the radio

Pic: Photo by Sam Hood c1935, courtesy Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW (PXE 789 (v.38), 113 (detail))

Every Wednesday morning, we present a segment on 2SER breakfast with Nic Healey. Each week our wonderful regular presenters and Dictionary of Sydney treasures Lisa Murray and Nicole Cama, and other special guests, 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 Dictionary blog, where there will be a link to the podcast too. You can also access all of our book and exhibition reviews via the Review tab on the blog homepage. Why not subscribe to the blog to get regular updates from us and get a weekly helping of Sydney history delivered to your inbox!

How to donate

Making a tax-deductible donation to help the Dictionary survive via our online donation page at Give Now is now even easier.

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
c/- Mitchell Division, LG1
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Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000

All donations above $2 are tax deductible

Thank you
The Dictionary of Sydney is grateful to the State Library of New South Wales for its support of the Dictionary of Sydney, and to the City of Sydney, the Dictionary’s major government partner between 2006-2016.