Welcome to our May 2018 newsletter

Cooler weather looks like it may have finally arrived in Sydney, so it’s a great time to settle in and look at some of the fantastic entries we’ve published in the last few months, and possibly even get outdoors and explore some of the sites we’ve been looking at.
The **Great Strike of 1917** by historian Laila Ellmoos considers the events in the Eveleigh Railway Workshops and the Randwick Tram Workshops in 1917 that led to one of Australia's largest industrial conflicts.

Kim Hanna looks at the changing history of the site of the former **Shaftesbury Reformatory** at Vaucluse, while Phil Mulhearn has written for us on the **Geology and geography of the Georges River**.

Historian Vanessa Witton has contributed an entry on the life and death of Dorothea Mackellar's older brother, **Keith Kinnaird Mackellar**, a Sydney Grammar School graduate who died in the Boer War, and the memorials to him around Sydney by his family.

We also have a fascinating suite of entries looking at the history of some of the city's public stairways from architect Dr Jennifer Preston, including **Moore Steps**, **Merriman Stairs**, **Agar Steps**, **Playfair Stairs**, **Butler Stairs**, **Caraher Stairs** and **McElhone Stairs**.

Click on the orange links in the text to go straight to the entries in the Dictionary.

There are lots of new book reviews and blog posts on the site for you to explore as well - you'll find links to some of these further on in this newsletter.

With more than 300,000 readers and over 870,000 page views in the last year, the Dictionary has continued to grow since moving on to the new platform at the State Library of NSW last year, and we'd like to thank the Library and the City of Sydney once again for making this possible.

Happy reading!

Linda

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

Series 01 Part 01: Sir William Dixson coin collection: Australian currency from the reign of Queen Victoria, Courtesy Dixson Collection, State Library of New South Wales (SAFE/DN/C 1-14)

What your donation can do

The Dictionary of Sydney publishes freely accessible, reliable and authoritative information about Sydney's history to thousands of people around the world. Every day we provide facts, information, images, multimedia and unique stories to a growing audience of readers, students, teachers, history enthusiasts, academics, researchers, residents and visitors.

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 continue to bring this free, reliable and quality content to a wider audience, we need funding. All donations are greatly appreciated, and are tax deductible as well!

DONATE TODAY
Every Wednesday morning the Dictionary of Sydney presents a segment on 2SER Breakfast with Tess Connery. 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.

Head to the Dictionary blog to listen to the audio and read the summary of the conversation each week. Recent posts from guests include a look at French Nazis in Sydney from Dr Peter Hobbins, the mental health of the participants in the Rum Rebellion from Dr James Dunk and the always fascinating Shark Arm Murder from Minna Muhlen-Schulte.

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!

Visit the Dictionary blog
Featuring a beautiful engraved advertisement by John Carmichael for confectioner William Blyth that appeared in Francis Low's *Directory of the city and district of Sydney* in 1847, these tea towels measure 70x50cm and are printed with non-toxic water-based Permaset inks on 100% white cotton by Arcade Screen Printing in St Peters, Sydney.

Choose between the bright blue or a refined charcoal.
$27.50 (including GST and postage within Australia)

**Buy online via a secure credit card facility here**

[Contact us](#) to organise a quote for shipping outside Australia.

Every purchase helps to support the Dictionary of Sydney!

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**Reviews**

Our reviewers have been busy with some great new Sydney history titles and exhibitions and have some strong recommendations! The Dictionary’s book reviews are always available via the Review tab at the top of the blog homepage.

![Elizabeth Macarthur](image)
Michelle Scott Tucker, Elizabeth Macarthur: A Life at the Edge of the World


Elizabeth Macarthur: A Life at the Edge of the World is the author's first book. And what a fabulous triumph it is. Well researched and richly absorbing, this is the remarkable story of Australia's first free female European to settle in colonial New South Wales. Expansive, engaging and utterly engrossing the fascinating life of one brave pioneer woman is here explored with lovely attention to detail...

Read Dr Catie Gilchrist’s review here

Jill Roe, Miles Franklin: A Short Biography

The first edition of the late Jill Roe’s award-winning work *Stella Miles Franklin: A Biography* was published in 2008. A decade later, a new edition has been produced: *Miles Franklin: A Short Biography*... This shortened biography (perhaps better described as a tightened biography) adds an energy and a sense of urgency to Franklin’s story.

Read Dr Rachel Franks’ review here

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_Leigh Straw, Lillian Armfield: How Australia’s First Female Detective Took on Tilly Devine and the Razor Gangs and Changed the Face of the Force_  

This is a biography that has been rigorously researched and carefully crafted. In addition to being a diligent researcher, Straw is a terrific storyteller. Armfield’s personal history unfolds at pace. There are stake outs, lost girls, hard women, bad men...
and the various crimes that compete for attention in a tough city...

Meredith Lake, *The Bible in Australia: A Cultural History*


Extraordinary... *The Bible in Australia: A Cultural History* will surely dominate the short lists of every major literary award over the coming months and will certainly come to be regarded as one of the most important Australian history books of the year....
Jamelle Wells, The Court Reporter


Equal parts personal reflection on a career in the Australian media and a catalogue of crimes committed in New South Wales over recent decades... Perhaps the most significant aspect of this work is the contribution Wells makes to the debates around the ethics of journalism, in particular, what should be covered and how much detail should be released?

Read Dr Rachel Franks' review here
In November 1923, a small suitcase was found washed up and abandoned on the beautiful, picturesque, bushland shores of Athol Beach on the edge of Mosman. Inside was the body of a healthy baby girl of about three weeks of age...Tanya Bretherton has written a fascinating and compelling book around the ghoulish discovery on Athol Beach. From this one single incident, the reader is drawn into a fascinating story of crime, desperation, abandonment and poverty.

Read Dr Catie Gilchrist’s review here
Ken Gelder and Rachael Weaver colonial Australian fiction: character types, social formations and the colonial economy


Ken Gelder and Rachael Weaver - well regarded for a variety of scholarly achievements as well as for their excellent anthologies of colonial fictions - have produced an elegant and very informative review of character types in colonial Australian fiction... an essential volume for anyone curious about Australian literary heritage.
Zeny Edwards, *A Life of Purpose: a biography of John Sulman*


‘The Sulman name has become a part of the vocabulary of Australian architecture, town planning and the arts’. Impeccable scholarship, highly readable. and a significant contribution to Australian biographical and historical literature.

Professor David Carment launched Zeny Edward’s biography of John Sulman at the Library in December.

[Read Professor Carment’s speech here](#)

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State Library of NSW Fellowships
Applications for the State Library of New South Wales’s prestigious annual fellowships are now open. The Library is offering over $100,000 to researchers working with its rich collections. Applications close at 5 pm on Monday 16 July 2018.


Talking Deadly: My Grandmother's Lingo

Join animator and designer Jake Duczynski for Talking Deadly: My Grandmother's Lingo, a free talk presented by the State Library of New South Wales’ Indigenous Services Team on Wednesday 30 May at 6pm, as he discusses the development and impact of the animation and the important role tech can play in telling Indigenous stories.

In 2016, Jake was approached by SBS to work with Angelina Joshua from the remote South East Arnhem Land community of Ngukurr on a project to revive her Grandmother’s first - and now critically endangered - language, Marra. The result was
Walkley Award-winning animation My Grandmother's Lingo, a beautiful voice-activated interactive story requiring the audience to speak words in Marra to progress through each chapter.

Book your tickets via the State Library website.

Book your tickets for Talking Deadly

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Rare Bites: A Ticket in Australia’s First Lottery

Bank of Australia lottery ticket number 2890, issued to John Sterling, dated 19 October 1848, drawn on 1 January 1849. Endorsed to David John Thomas for £4 on back, courtesy National Library of Australia (MS 16020) [https://dictionaryofsydney.org/media/58541](https://dictionaryofsydney.org/media/58541)

Rare Bites is a series of lunchtime lectures at the University of Sydney showcasing treasures and some lesser-known gems from Rare Books & Special Collections at the University Library.

On Wednesday 30 May, Dr Neil Radford, invaluable Dictionary volunteer and University of Sydney Librarian from 1980-1986, will be giving the Rare Bites lecture on Australia’s first lottery in Sydney in 1849 and looking at one of the lottery tickets in held in the University's collections. Surrounded by controversy and probably illegal, the lottery was immensely popular however, and the government turned a blind eye because it seemed the only way of averting the consequences of a financial disaster. You can read Neil's entry on the Dictionary about the lottery [here](https://dictionaryofsydney.org/media/58541).

Bookings for the talk should be made via the University website.

Book your tickets for Rare Bites
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.

The speaker at this year’s Annual History Lecture on 4 September will be Dr Lisa Murray, the City of Sydney Historian and former Dictionary of Sydney Chair. In her talk ‘Warnings from the grave: Death, glory and memory in Australian cemeteries’, Lisa will survey the history of Australian cemeteries, highlighting the central role memory has played in their fates. She will reflect upon the beauty, value and threats to our national heritage.

Bookings for this event are now available via the History Council of NSW’s website.

Click to go to the History Council of NSW website

Jonathan Jones: call-out for Gawurra (feathers)

Kaldor Art Projects are working on with Jonathan Jones on a new project developing Wiradjuri dhawura gulbanha—Wiradjuri wind philosophy—with Dr Uncle Stan Grant AM.

This exciting project will take the form of an installation of objects and an accompanying soundscape, which will be exhibited as part of the 9th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art at the Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art in late 2018.
In order to represent the winds, Jones is collecting thousands of native Australian bird feathers. The feathers will be bound with string onto traditional tools, making objects that will be installed in flocks across the gallery wall. The massing of these feathered objects speaks to the knowledge that wind brings.

Kaldor would like donations of complete (undamaged) and clean feathers by the end of June. Everything from seagulls to magpies, wood ducks to cockatoos. Even your pet budgie!

Head to the Kaldor Public Art Projects website for more information.

Click here to go to the Kaldor Public Art Project Website

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  
State Library of NSW  
Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000

All donations above $2 are tax deductible

Thank you

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The City of Sydney (a birdseye view), 1888 by MS Hill Courtesy: City of Sydney Archives / Historical Atlas of Sydney [http://dictionaryofsydney.org/image/97526](http://dictionaryofsydney.org/image/97526)

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.

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