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BIOGRAPHY FOOTNOTES

The Newsletter of the National Centre of Biography

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Nellie Melba

broadcasting from the Marconi works, England, 1920

National Library of Australia, 43751790

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A Note from the Editor

For those of you who remember the 'Life Sentences' column in the ANU Reporter, we have now confirmed it has been discontinued. We will consider bringing it into future editions of *Biography Footnotes*.

Please get in touch with any contributions for next year's edition or if you come across anything you would like to share with the NCB network.

We wish you all the best for the holiday season and the coming year.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Melanie Nolan, *Canberra Times*,
3 April 2021 (Dion Georgopoulos)

Welcome to Issue 23 of *Biography Footnotes*

The NCB/ADB's strategic and operational plans (2020–24) are based around four objectives: to be a focus for biography and life-writing in line with the highest and most innovative biographical work internationally; to maintain and build operational capacity and innovative digital practices; to develop a comprehensive program to link our high-quality research with education; and to enable biographical research and networks locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally by maintaining and developing a program of outreach and engagement. This issue of *Biography Footnotes* gives evidence of our activities on all four fronts.

Our most pressing aim is to revise the *ADB*. In 2019, the *ADB* Editorial Board agreed in principle to my proposal to revise the *ADB*, once we completed vol. 20 (subjects who died in the 1990s). Rather than move onto the next period (those who died 2001–2010), we would 'go back' to the articles in vols. 1 and 2 (those who flourished prior to 1850), that were published in 1966 and 1967 respectively and which attract most of our corrigenda. We held a workshop on revisions as part of the annual gathering of the Editorial Board in June this year. Questions around the kind and extent of revisions that could be managed, considering our resources, were considered. Board members agreed to discuss the issues with their respective working parties. To aid these conversations, it was decided that the *ADB*'s managing editor, Dr Malcolm Allbrook, and I would meet with all the working parties before the next Editorial Board meeting in mid-2023.

The consultations have already begun. The Second Oceania Working Party Workshop discussed how the representation of Pasifika peoples in the *ADB* as a whole could be improved. Only 31 of the 32,000 people in the NCB's biographical websites (*ADB*, *Obituaries Australia* and *People Australia*) have a Pacific ethnicity, and only two of the 31 are women.

In June, Malcolm and I attended a masters class on 'Advanced Research Methods with the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*' organised by the Writing Tasmanian Lives Research Group at the University of Tasmania. I had attended the previous Tasmanian Working Party meeting, in March 2022, by Zoom, but was able to use this opportunity of being in Tasmania to meet with the incoming Tasmanian Working Party in person at a meeting chaired by Associate Professor Kristyn Harman on the evening of 23 June. Similarly, in Sydney, Editorial Board chair, Emeritus Professor Tom Griffiths and I were able to attend the NSW Working Party meeting in October to discuss the revisions plans.

At the same time as we envisage revisions, we continue to build operational capacity and innovative digital practices. The exciting news is that the sound of subjects' voices has started to be added to *ADB* entries. Dame Nellie Melba (1861–1931) is the first of many *ADB* subjects' voices which we are going to add. To this end, I met with the new Director for Trove Data and Platforms at the National Library of Australia, Pi Klinjun, and members of his team, to reach an agreement over facilitating our use of NLA sound. We will be approaching other national cultural institutions and the ABC to seek similar collaborative agreements.

Melanie Nolan

Director, National Centre of Biography
General Editor, *Australian Dictionary of Biography*

ADB & BIOGRAPHY NEWS

Sound!

Short audio recordings can now be played on the *ADB* website. You can, for example, now listen to [Dame Nellie Melba \(1861–1931\)](#), prima donna, singing 'Home, Sweet Home' in June 1920. She performed it for Marconi's experimental broadcast of 15 June 1920—the first British radio performance by a professional musician. By adding sound, along with increasing the number and variety of images attached to entries, we are enriching the *ADB*, both as a multimedia resource and as a more fulsome representation of subjects' lives. The *ADB* aims to have images for every entry possible, and now, sound, whenever feasible.

ADB

The *ADB* is now publishing entries online as each article's editing is finalised rather than in annual batches. Keep an eye on the *ADB*'s home page under 'News' for the latest additions. While our focus remains people who died in the late 1990s, we have also begun commissioning some 'out of period' entries. These include [Marion Mahony Griffin](#) who had been subsumed in her husband Walter Burley Griffin's entry; architect, [Nancy Allen](#), who had been overlooked when choosing entries for volume 19, and cricketer [Donald Bradman](#) who died in 2001. Well-known cricketing 'tragic' (and former prime minister) John Howard OM AC wrote the latter's entry.

Special congratulations to Pat Clarke whose entry on [Gordon Gow](#) was recently published online. It is Pat's 13th *ADB* article—at the age of 96—a truly remarkable achievement. Pat has had a long association with the Dictionary, both as an author and as a member of the Commonwealth Working Party. Her most recent book, *Bold Types: How Australia's First Women Journalists Blazed a Trail* was also published this year.

Obituaries Australia

The Australian Academy of the Humanities has given us permission to reproduce all their obituaries in OA. We will begin adding them in 2023.

The obituaries from [Life Celebrations: ANU Obituaries 2000–2021](#) (ed. James Fox) were added to OA this year and make for a fascinating read. We are hopeful that the collection may develop into a special ANU Biographical Resource.

Amy Ripley, an Australian journalist based in London, gave us permission to reproduce obituaries she had written for the *Sydney Morning Herald*. They include her piece on [Dame Carmen Callil \(1938–2022\)](#), who was at school and university with Germaine Greer in Melbourne. Callil established Virago Modern Classics in 1978 to champion neglected books by women.

In a slightly different vein, Ripley wrote the obituary of [Wendy Brennan \(1940–2020\)](#), an Australian Mills & Boon author

whose books sold 71 million copies worldwide, making her the nation's bestselling romance novelist. We also have included her obituary of [Elizabeth Harrower \(1928–2020\)](#). After achieving success as a novelist in the 1950s, '60s and '70s, Harrower abruptly withdrew from public life. One of her forgotten manuscripts, found in the National Library of Australia in 2012 by a curious publisher, became the novel *In Certain Circles* (2014), won the Voss Prize in 2015, was nominated for a Prime Minister's Literary Award, and was a BBC Radio Four Book at Bedtime.

People Australia

We are sometimes told that Early Career Academics and younger scholars will not contribute to the *ADB* because concise biography is not included in the metrics count for career progression. At least some see a value in it however.

Dr Peter Woodley, who completed his PhD in December 2021 at the ANU in Australian rural history on "We are a farming class": community, class, and place in Dubbo's farmlands, 1870–1950', has offered to contribute six *PA* entries. His entry on [James Jervis \(1883–1963\)](#) has already been published.

Further afield, we received three entries from students of Professor Jane Lydon's family history course at the University of Western Australia who were given an assignment to write an *ADB*-like article. Adam O'Neill wrote about [Alfred Brooks Lockyer \(1850–1908\)](#), agriculturalist, pastoralist and thoroughbred horse breeder; Maddison Taylor-Gillett wrote about [Lucy Melena Taylor \(1897–1953\)](#) tailor, home duties, Church and charity volunteer; and Liv Barbour wrote about [James Barbour \(1847–1943\)](#), policeman and cattle farmer.

Endowment

The *Indigenous Australian Dictionary of Biography* project was again among the strategic projects for this year's [ANU Giving Day](#). 18 donors gave \$1400 as a contribution towards the project.

ADB WA Working Party

ADB Managing Editor Dr Malcolm Allbrook met with Professor Deborah Gare, incoming chair of the West Australian Working Party, and retiring chair, Associate Professor Lenore Layman, while on a research trip to Perth in October.

ADB Women's Working Party

The Women's Working Party is continuing its work of including around 100 more women in Volume 20 of the *ADB*, with almost 90 per cent of the additional entries now commissioned. Several have already been submitted.

ADB NSW Working Party

At the celebration for Associate Professor Bev Kingston's *ADB* Medal, Professor Bridget Griffen-Foley took the opportunity to note Alan Ventress's resignation from the NSW Working Party. A long serving member, he joined the party after the

NSW State Librarian Dagmar Schmidmaier delegated the job of representing the State Library on the working party to Alan. The *ADB*'s online project originated with a paper Alan wrote for the NSW Working Party in 2000. Alan is reluctantly resigning for health reasons, but will continue his work as a volunteer archivist at the Sydney Diocesan Archives—a role that former *ADB* working party member and medallist, Professor Ken Cable, also performed for many years.

BDACE

The [Biographical Dictionary of Australian Catholic Educators](#) is a new online resource hosted by the Australian Catholic University. Its subjects have made a significant contribution to Australian Catholic education since the time of colonial settlement. The site includes links to relevant biographies in the *ADB*.

Biography Award

NCB Research Fellow, Dr Sam Furphy, was the Australian Historical Association's representative on the judging panel for the 2022 Magarey Medal for Biography, with Kylie Cardell (chair) and Kate Douglas, both from Flinders University. The Magarey Medal is awarded biennially to the woman who has published the work judged to be the best biographical writing on an Australian subject. The winner was Bernadette Brennan, *Leaping Into Waterfalls: The Enigmatic Gillian Mears* (Allen & Unwin, 2021). The full shortlist can be viewed on the [Association for the Study of Australian Literature](#) website.

Congratulations

to *ADB* volunteers—authors and members of Working Parties—who received Australian honours since the last newsletter:

Queen's Birthday Honours (2022)

Officer (AO)

Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington-
(friend of the *ADB*)
Dr Carmen Lawrence

Member (AM)

Professor Joy Damousi
Professor Kathy Laster
Dr Rachel McFadyen
Dr Susan Marsden
Dr Shirleene Robinson

Medal (OAM)

Dr Alan Landis

ADB Author Deaths

It is with great sadness that we note the deaths that have been reported to us since 25 December 2021:

Don Aitkin
Jim Bain
Suzanne Bellamy
J. M. Bennett
D. F. Branagan
Michael Cannon
R. P. Davis
Neville Hicks
James Jupp
Diana Maloney
Ray Markey
J. R. Nethercote
S. J. Routh
David I. Smith
Barbara Valentine

ADB Tasmanian Working Party meeting, June 2022



Left to right: Malcolm Allbrook, Annita Waghorn, Kristyn Harman, Ian Morrison, Kirstie Ross, Anna Jacobs

Staff Updates and Movements

Staff had a celebration on 3 March to mark the in-person return to the RSSS Building at the ANU.

We warmly congratulated Dr Karen Fox on her promotion and the publication of her monograph, *Honouring A Nation: A History of Australia's Honours System*. This is the first detailed history of imperial and national honours in Australia which transverses the debates, controversies, and questions around the system's transformation from instrument of imperial unity to national institution.

Dr Malcolm Allbrook was welcomed back from a productive study leave and Dr Nicholas Hoare, who held a rare one-year lectureship in the College of Asia and the Pacific for 2022, was farewelled. Nick will be co-editor, with Talei Luscia Mangioni, of a special Pacific biography issue of the *Australian Journal of Biography and History*, no. 8, to be published in 2023.

We also welcomed Matt Cunneen who took over the balance of Nick's research editing task. Matt kindly agreed to be our twitter meister for 2022, and he, with Malcolm Allbrook, is editing a special number of the *AJBH* on convict lives.

■■■■

In June Dr Rani Kerin temporarily left us to become Managing Editor of *The Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies*. Rani is scheduled to return to complete the *Indigenous Australian Dictionary of Biography* project in the second half of 2023.

■■■■

The NCB had a second gathering on 24 August to both farewell Dr Nicole McLennan and celebrate some achievements.

We celebrated Dr Stephen Wilks' rare feat of reclassification from a professional to academic position. Stephen was the project manager and research editor for the House of Representatives pilot dictionary project, the *Biographical Dictionary of the House of Representatives* which was published online last year by the National Centre of Biography and the Department of the House of Representatives. The book version of the project, *'Order in the House!': A Biographical Dictionary of Speakers, Deputy Speakers and Clerks of the House of Representatives* will be published in 2023.

We also congratulated Dr Kiera Donnelly, the NCB/ADB's Indigenous Research Officer, on her PhD graduation. Kiera's thesis, 'Dating the Life of St Chad: Reviewing the Evidence and Approaches' was completed through the Medieval and Early Modern Centre at the University of Sydney.

Finally, we acknowledged Professor Melanie Nolan's achievement of being the longest-serving general editor of the *ADB*, having taken up the position at the beginning of June 2008.

But it was with great sadness that we farewelled Dr Nicole McLennan who resigned in mid-September to take up a position with the Parliamentary Committee Secretariat. Nicole has been a long-time research editor at the *ADB*. Her expertise, as well as her warm and collegial presence, will be sorely missed. Emily Gallagher has been appointed to her position. Emily is well-known to us, having worked on the Colonial Women's Project and, more recently, as a casual research editor. She will begin work in March 2023. Meanwhile, Dr Peter Woodley has joined Matt Cunneen as a contract research editor.

Visitors to the NCB/ADB

Through the School of History, the NCB/ADB hosted a number of visiting scholars in 2022 who have continued the long tradition of collaborative and innovative work on Australian biography.

Ian Hancock is the pre-eminent historian of the Liberal Party in Australia and has written many *ADB* entries on Liberal Party figures. Currently, he is working on biographies of public service mandarin, Sir Frederick Wheeler and former Liberal Senator, Sir John Carrick. He is an *ADB* Editorial Fellow.

Dr Mary-Anne Jebb has recently researched and curated permanent exhibitions with the Mowanjum Aboriginal community in the Kimberley, the Indigenous Language exhibit at Boola Bardip Perth Museum, and the 'First Fighters' educational resource for AIATSIS. She has created several biographical oral history recordings, and the digital exhibit 'Wudoo-Wurdu' with the ANU Research Centre for Deep History. She is co-author with Dr Malcolm Allbrook of *Hidden Histories of the Pilbara* (nearing publication) and is working on the biography of 'Jack Wherra: Carved Histories of Australia' and the history of Eslanda school in WA and its principal, communist artist Renee Heisler.

Emeritus Professor Mark McKenna is an Honorary Professor in the NCB/ADB from 2021–26. He has general expertise in biography having written about biography as a literary form and genre, as well as being a prize-winning biographer. He wrote the *ADB* entry on [Manning Clark](#). His book *Return to Uluru* was shortlisted for the 2022 PM's Literary Prize. He is currently writing a history of Australia. Mark is a member of the *ADB* Editorial Board.

Dr Patrick Mullins has several forthcoming books. Currently he is working on a biography of Sydney solicitor and politician [Richard Denis Meagher \(1866–1931\)](#), an influential figure in the Labor Party and one of Cyril Pearl's 'wild men of Sydney.' Patrick is a member of the ANU Lives Editorial Board.

Emeritus Professor Tim Rowse works on Indigenous history. He is editor, together with Emerita Professor Fiona Paisley, of *Australian Historical Studies*. He is an *ADB* Editorial Fellow.

Biography Workshop report

In 2022 our Biography Workshop series returned to something approaching normality, with in-person events in most months.

We have, however, retained a Zoom option for those who cannot attend in person, and occasionally hold Zoom-only events, enabling us to attract speakers from further afield. The series has been a great success, with fascinating presentations from all our guests and some very stimulating discussion.

A strong theme was biographies of prominent women: in April we heard from **Cathy Perkins** about her biography of Zora Cross, which was highly commended for the 2021 National Biography Award; in September **Eleanor Hogan** spoke about her dual biography of Daisy Bates and Ernestine Hill, which was shortlisted for both the National Biography Award and the Magarey Biography Award this year. The brothel owners and sex workers of Melbourne's Little Lon featured in a fascinating presentation by **Barbara Minchinton** in March, and in July **Katie Pickles** discussed her work on a new biography of Kate Sheppard, the pre-eminent New Zealand suffragist.

Two seasoned biographers shared the wisdom of their long experience: in May, **Gary Werskey** spoke about his various projects in biography and autobiography over several decades, and in October **Jim Davidson** discussed his new dual

biography, *Emperors in Lilliput: Clem Christesen of Meanjin & Stephen Murray-Smith of Overland*.

The high-quality program was rounded out with seminars by **Rhys Williams** on E.P. Thompson's biographical writings; **Glenn Mitchell** on the alleged enemy trader Francis Hugh Snow; and **Dean Kotlowski** (a visiting Fulbright scholar) on the Republican presidential candidate Wendell Willkie.

Our final seminar for the year on 24 November featured our new School of History colleague **Filip Slaveski**, who discussed his forthcoming biography of Oleksandr Shumskyi, a Ukrainian dissident and victim of the Stalinist purges.

The Biography Workshop is held on the last Thursday of each month (February to November) at 11am.

In 2023 Stephen Wilks takes over as convenor, so please email him if you have any suggestions for speakers.

Samuel Furphy

Dr Samuel Furphy is a research editor for the Australian Dictionary of Biography and a research fellow at the National Research Centre of Biography.

ADB NSW Working Party members, October 2022



Left to right: Jack Carmody, Bev Kingston, Stephen Garton, Alan Ventress, Nancy Cushing, John McLaughlin, Andy Carr, Andrew Moore, Bridget Griffen-Foley (chair), Chris Cunneen, Barrie Dyster, Mark Dunn

JOHN NETHERCOTE, 1948–2022

David Lee reflects on the life and career of John Nethercote

The many friends and colleagues of John Nethercote were saddened to learn of his passing on 3 May 2022. One of the leading historians and commentators on Australian politics and public administration, John was also a stalwart supporter of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*.



John Nethercote, 2017

Born in Sydney on 1 March 1948, John was educated at Blakehurst High School, a school situated in the local government area of the Georges River Council. A younger contemporary recalled the Nethercote house stood out from others in the area because of the number of its books and the scholarly milieu from which John undoubtedly benefited. At Sydney University in the height of the anti-conscription campaign, he studied history and public administration, and graduated with honours in 1969.

After briefly teaching in Papua New Guinea, he joined the Commonwealth Public Service Board as an administrative trainee in 1970. From 1971 to 1974 he researched many aspects of the public service, including the role and responsibilities of department heads, matters of ethics and conduct, employment of people with disabilities and machinery of government. During this period, he also acted as minute secretary at weekly meetings of the Public Service Board. He next supported the Royal Commission on Australian Government Administration from 1974 to 1976, chaired by H.C. 'Nugget' Coombs. He served as assistant to Special Advisers, Dr Peter Wilenski, 1974, and Tom Fitzgerald, 1975–76, his duties involved organising public

hearings of the commission and preparing briefs for the commissioners.

John regularly encountered the Humphrey Applebeys of that era, including Sir Frederick Wheeler (Chairman, Public Service Board, 1961–71, and Secretary of the Treasury, 1971–79) and Sir Arthur Tange, Secretary, Department of Defence, 1970). These mandarins would inspire genuine terror in young public servants like him. They would keep you 'on your toes', he recalled, with sharp questions or admonitions to 'define your terms'. Coombs was the exception. There was about Coombs, John recalled, a warmth that marked him off from other members of the mandarin. John kept up a friendship with one of the mandarins in particular, 'Fred' Wheeler, after the latter's retirement.

John attended the London School of Economics for two years (1977–79) for wide-ranging research on public service management in Britain, Canada, and Australia. In 1979 he was based at the Public Service Commission in Ottawa where he produced reports on issues such as economic management and accountability, and the merit principle. John retained a lifelong interest in Canada, a country which shares with Australia British heritage and a federal system of government. He remained firmly of the view that Australia, like Canada, benefits from the federal system. Moving to a unitary system, as some propose, would entail bureaucrats in Canberra making decisions rather than their being negotiated by elected politicians. For John Nethercote, Australia's federal system equates to more democracy and greater efficiency.

In the 1980s, John worked variously for the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Defence Review Committee (J.W. Utz), the National Inquiry into Local Government Finance (Professor Peter Self), and again as director of the Public Service Board's research program. Interspersed with this public service work were stints as a Visiting Lecturer at the Australian National University, and a variety of other academic assignments including in the ANU's Federalism Research Centre. In the 1990s, he worked in the Senate. In addition to working for its committees and the Parliamentary Library, he arranged publication of the last edition of J.R. Odgers, *Australian Senate Practice*.

After retirement from the public service in 2000, John edited *Liberalism and the Australian Federation*, Federation Press, 2001, for the Federal Secretariat of the Liberal Party of Australia. He held visiting appointments at several universities and was appointed adjunct professor at the Australian Catholic University in 2009. He was thereafter a regular commentator in the media on public service matters.

While a public servant and an academic, John's output as author and editor was prolific. He edited *inter alia* sixty issues of the *Canberra Bulletin of Public Administration* (1980–2000) and, since 2010, the conference papers of the Samuel Griffith Society. He also edited several books falling into the categories: parliament, public administration, administrative history, and liberalism.

He was a valued member of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography's* Commonwealth Working Party, an Editorial Fellow since 2008, and author of six entries. He was, moreover, one of the moving forces behind the 2010 conference on Australia's Public Service in the 1940s and 1950s, a conference that resulted in the publication, S. Furphy (ed.), *The Seven Dwarfs and the Age of the Mandarins*, ANU Press, 2015. Accompanying the publication is his illuminating essay 'Unearthing the Seven Dwarfs and the Age of the Mandarins.' <https://ADB.anu.edu.au/essay/5>

Innumerable academics and authors are in debt to John for his assistance in the form of editing, discussion, copy-editing, and proofing of publications. A. W. Martin's two-volume biography of Sir Robert Menzies benefited from his assistance, as did John Edwards's two-volume biography of John Curtin. Although a supporter of the Liberal Party, John was always balanced in his assessments, as is evident in his appreciation of Labor Prime Ministers, John Curtin and Ben Chifley, and his friendship with Labor-aligned academics such as L. F. Crisp. In my estimation, he was the best editor in Australia for works on the history of politics and public

administration. He would always preface such assistance by saying, 'These are suggestions, and I won't be offended if you don't take them.' Often the only recompense he would accept would be a lunch at a restaurant in Kingston or Yarralumla accompanied by a decent bottle of wine.

John will be sadly missed by his family and by his many friends interested in the history of Australian government and public administration.

A festschrift in John's honour has been posthumously published—Henry Ergas & Jonathan Pincus (eds), *Power, Politics & Parliament: Essays in Honour of John R. Nethercote*, Connor Court, 2022.

David Lee is Associate Professor, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of New South Wales, Canberra. He is chair of the Commonwealth Working Party of the Australian Dictionary of Biography and author, most recently, of John Curtin, Connor Court, 2022.

Biographical Database of Australian Elites

The *Historical Database of Australian Elites (HDAE)* has been created for the purpose of providing an online 'who's who' type resource that documents well-defined elite groups in Australian professions, business, and government. It differs from most biographical references in that selection for inclusion is made at the group level (every individual in the selected groups is included in the database) and, as the name suggests, it provides data, not narrative accounts.

The temporal limits for coverage are 1788 (or such later year as a particular elite group first appeared in Australia) and the end of 1945. However, as many individuals who entered an elite group in the 1930s and 1940s had careers that continued until late in the twentieth century, there is much of interest for periods well after 1945.

Each individual included has a webpage with details of group membership (such as degree listings), plus (in many cases) basic biographical data such as details of birth and death, a career summary, and links to a *People Australia* webpage (where available), and other online references. All sources used are listed.

HDAE has two distinct functions. Firstly, it is a reference source for looking up details of the individuals it covers. Secondly, the underlying data enable analysis of entire groups and their segments—distinguished by gender, age cohort, or birthplace, for instance—with the finest possible granularity. For now, the second function is limited by the incompleteness of biographical data, which will continue to be added in coming years with the eventual aim of complete coverage (about 9,000 entries have such data at present, but gender is already included in all entries).

The first elite group to be included in the database is

graduates of Australian universities from 1856 to 1945. Each of the 37,000 graduates has a webpage with information on each degree held.

Early in 2023 a second group will be added: lawyers (both barristers and solicitors) admitted to practise in Australian courts of law between 1815 and 1945. Each of the 12,000 lawyers will have a webpage with details of each admission. About 3,000 lawyers are already in the database as members of the graduates' group, so the net increase in entries will be some 9,000.

Along with the addition of lawyers, the 2023 update will include additional biographical details. Full names of parents, spouses, and (where of special interest) other immediate relatives will be added, and relatives with their own entries in the database will be cross-referenced. Thus, connections across generations (within an elite group, and also between elite groups) will be immediately apparent.

Beyond 2023, further groups will be added, as will biographical details for more existing and new individual entries. The first groups being researched for inclusion are newspaper owners, publishers, and editors who were active between 1803 and 1945 (this work is being done in co-ordination with Dr Rod Kirkpatrick of the Australian Newspaper History Group) and parliamentarians. Other elite groups under consideration include shipowners, justices of the peace, medical practitioners, and clergy.

HDAE is online and access is free. Researchers who are interested in using the underlying data for non-commercial purposes should contact Richard Harrison at rh@rhharrison.com.

SPENCER ROUTH, 1935–2022

A Tribute to Spencer Routh by Pat Buckridge

When Spencer Routh died in the last week of September this year, the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* lost one of its most loyal supporters, enthusiastic advocates, and productive contributors. But Spencer was first and foremost a reference librarian—and a very good one. I first encountered him in the 1960s, a familiar figure scurrying purposefully between his desk and the reference shelves in the Main Library at the University of Queensland where he spent his whole working life: a genial epitome of that pre-digital knowledge economy of card catalogues, encyclopaedias, dictionaries, and print indexes. During his early years there he was crucially involved, with the University Librarian Derek Fielding, in increasing the library's holdings from 400,000 to 1.5 million volumes.



Spencer Routh, with his mother

Even by then he had begun to be something of a university legend, owing to the apparently superhuman breadth and depth of his knowledge on almost every essay topic a humanities student could imagine, and his unerring ability to direct researchers to precisely the book or article they needed

to answer a specific question or to initiate an investigation. These are, I suppose, the defining attributes of an excellent reference librarian, and he was certainly that; but he added to those abilities a dependably cheery and humorous manner, infinite patience and generosity towards sometimes obtuse inquirers, and an overwhelming and infectious enthusiasm for simply 'knowing stuff.'

That appetite for acquiring and retaining knowledge was evident from childhood. Spencer's father Jim worked for a bank and was transferred several times around the state, so Spencer attended some half a dozen different schools in North Queensland, the Darling Downs, and Brisbane; but he still managed to top the state in all three of the big public examinations—Scholarship, Junior, and Senior—that menaced every Queenslanders who went to school in the 1960s or earlier. A trifecta, as his sister Barbara noted, only ever achieved by three other students in the history of the examinations.

Over the years his range of passionate expertise came to include history and literature, classical music (especially opera), football (especially rugby league), horse racing, cattle breeding, and much more. A man of unusual modesty, he did shyly confess in a letter to former colleague Mark Cryle that, 'One of the great prides in my library career was not so much the mention in published lists of acknowledgements—any strategically placed librarian should get a fair number of those, but the subject span between two books dedicated to me.' (The two books in question were a treatise in German on ancient hymns and a history of sport in Queensland.)

In 1975 Spencer joined the *ADB's* Queensland Working Party, then chaired by the late Dennis Murphy. Thirty years later Spencer was still regaling the Working Party with tales of monthly meetings lasting until midnight, driven by the relentless determination of the redoubtable Dennis to get the job done. When I joined in the 1990s, with Ross Johnston as chair, meetings were a little more relaxed and infrequent, and Spencer's irrepressible anecdotes could and did flow freely, though never to the detriment of the biographical information he invariably brought to meetings, in both oral and written form.

'Written' should be taken literally: Spencer did not type, and although he sometimes appeared at meetings with a typed page or two, these exceptions were the result of private transactions with people who did—and who also sent emails on his behalf. But, for the most part, he came armed with a briefcase filled with pages of fluent and legible cursive script, and this was also the form in which he extended his assistance to other *ADB* researchers around the state. Brian Stevenson, our North Queensland rep, and himself a reference librarian at James Cook University, vividly recalls receiving a handwritten letter in fountain pen with a stack of what Spencer would certainly have called 'beaut references' for the frustratingly un-documented life of a prominent cattle breeder.

By sheer numbers, Spencer's contribution to the *ADB* was impressive: 21 articles spread across eight volumes, each one a tightly-crafted but lively piece of biographical artistry, often with a wry twist, reflecting not just his wide and varied knowledge and extraordinary research skills, but also his unfailing interest in individuals, in whom he could nearly always find some endearing quirk or eccentricity to admire.

But it was not just as an author that Spencer's influence was felt. At the point of subject-selection he always made it a priority to ensure that the representation of Queenslanders was balanced but comprehensive. If he argued vigorously for the inclusion of sportsmen, business leaders, dairy breeders, and other primary producers, he did so knowing that poets, politicians and painters would not be ignored by other members. His many years in the library and his long memory for past students and their research interests also meant that he could often identify the most appropriate authors; and his enthusiasm and helpfulness nearly always prompted a positive response from his nominees. Many Queensland authors, having accepted a brief, found themselves in receipt of copious bibliographies, elusive references, and treasured snippets in the mail.

After his retirement, Spencer was able to spend even more time on his biographical research and could often be encountered walking in the sun to or from the State Library along the South Bank, in his wide-brimmed grazier's hat, tweed sports jacket, and the pebble glasses that condemned him to a lifetime of public transport. During these years, too, he began to receive some marks of public recognition for his life's work. The *ADB* were first off the mark, awarding him in 2003 the eighth Gold Medal 'for long and distinguished service'. Two years later, the University of Queensland recognised his service to the Library with an Honorary Doctorate of the University; and finally, in 2011, he was awarded the Order of Australia. This modest, gentle, and unassuming man seemed pleased, but also genuinely bemused, even a little over-awed, by all the plaudits coming his way; but they were richly deserved. Sadly, we shall not see his like again.

Pat Buckridge grew up in Brisbane. He has chaired the Queensland Working Party since 2000, and has written twelve articles for the ADB. He has also published extensively on aspects of Australian literature and cultural history. Ten years ago he retired as Professor of Literary Studies at Griffith University.

Persons of Interest Book Launch

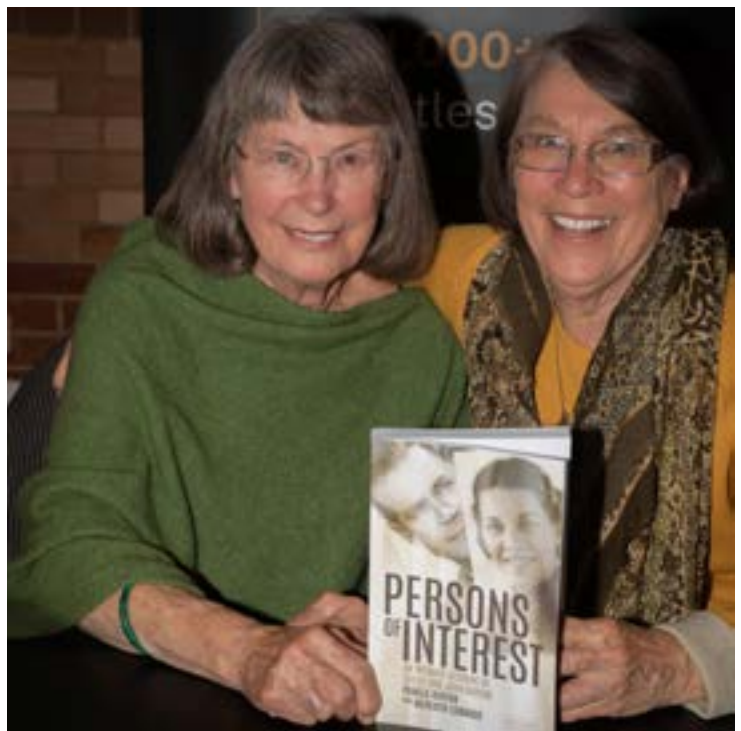
On 26 May, Pam Burton and Meredith Edwards celebrated the launch of their biography of their parents, *Persons of Interest: An Intimate Account of Cecily and John Burton*, at the Drill Hall Gallery, ANU.

Melanie Nolan mc'ed the launch, as the Chair of the Editorial Board of the National Centre of Biography's publishing arm, ANU.Lives. Professor Chris Wallace launched the book.

Persons of Interest tells two vastly different tales of Cecily and John's lives in Australia and overseas, as nations clashed, and governments and international organisations tried to remake the world. Combined stories of courage and achievement unfold in the book amid political intrigue and psychological trauma. ASIO surveillance, love triangles, loyalty, infidelity and tragedy all played their part in the Burtons' lives.

Persons of Interest is the 16th publication in the ANU Lives Series in Biography. We warmly congratulate Pam and Meredith on their achievement.

Their book can be downloaded for free from the [ANU Press website](#).



Meredith Edwards and Pam Burton with a copy of their book at the launch

ADB MEDAL 2022

ADB Medal awarded to Beverley Kingston

Associate Professor Beverley Kingston was awarded the ADB Medal for long and distinguished service on 28 October 2022 at the State Library of New South Wales, amid a gathering of her friends and colleagues.

The event opened with Professor Bridget Griffen-Foley, Chair of the NSW Working Party, welcoming guests and acknowledging Country.

ADB General Editor Professor Melanie Nolan read the Medal citation:

Associate Professor Beverley Kingston has served on the ADB's New South Wales Working Party since 1970 and has chaired it superbly since July 1994. Her wide-ranging knowledge of Australian history and her retentive memory have been crucial factors in the achievements of the NSW Working Party. From August 1996 to December 2021 she was a member of the ADB's Editorial Board. For a quarter of a century she has been section editor for New South Wales, reviewing hundreds of entries with skill, wisdom and diligence.

Bev's association with the ADB predated her formal role by some years. As Jill Roe noted in *The ADB's Story* (2013), Bev began researching for the ADB "when she was a student at Monash University in the 1960s, writing entries on Queensland pastoralists". She researched Queensland parliamentarians and other key figures for Duncan Waterson who was working on the *Biographical Register of the Queensland Parliament: 1860–1929* (1972) for the ADB. As a consequence, in 1966 Bev was commissioned to write the ADB entry for [Christopher Pemberton Hodgson \(1821-1865\)](#), who, among other occupations, was a grazier. It appeared, with her article on [Charles Boydell Dutton](#), pastoralist and politician, in ADB Volume 4 (1972). Her most recent entry, a fine article on historian [Russel Ward](#), appeared in Volume 19 (2021). We look forward to more to come.

Bev finished her PhD having worked part-time in publishing before taking up a lectureship at the University of New South Wales where she taught history for 30 years. Her publications include one of the classic works of 1970s feminism, *My Wife, My Daughter, and Poor Mary Ann: Women and Work in Australia* (1975). She also published a deserved classic in the Oxford History of Australia series, *Glad Confident Morning* (1988); a pathbreaking history of shopping in Australia, *Basket, Bag and Trolley* (1994); and an important history of her adopted State, *A History of New South Wales*, in 2006. Not surprisingly, nearly 30 per cent of the "missing people" in the supplementary volume of the ADB which she edited with Christopher Cunneen, Jill Roe and Stephen Garton (2005) were women. Nearly half of her own ADB entries have been on women subjects. Bev supervised many postgraduate students over the years, a number of whom have gone on to write biographical entries for the ADB.

Bev's commentary on the "Blues", as the section editor's review is known, were used as models for other working party chairs. She related to many of the entries she was commenting on. In her most recent commentary on Ella

McFadyen, a journalist, editor, and writer of books for children, Bev revealed:

I had a copy of Pegmen tales as a child and made my own set of pegmen from dolly pegs. I vaguely remember trying to sail them in a toy boat in the drain outside the laundry when we lived in Maitland so I would have been going on for five.

Her contribution to the Australian Dictionary of Biography and to the study and teaching of history in New South Wales has been outstanding. Bev's longevity and the key roles she has filled with distinction for the ADB make her a very worthy recipient of the award of the ADB medal.



When presenting the Medal, Chair of the ADB Editorial Board, Emeritus Professor Tom Griffiths commented:

Bev Kingston has been widely celebrated as a scholar, a writer of many admired books, an editor, a mentor—and we warmly acknowledge all those achievements today. But with the award of this Medal, we especially celebrate Bev as a dedicated worker for the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. For more than half a century she has served the ADB on the



Tom Griffiths, chair of the ADB Editorial Board, presents the ADB Medal to Beverley Kingston, October 2022

NSW Working Party, and for a quarter of a century she has been chair of the working party and a member of the *ADB* Editorial Board. That's a lot of wisdom, a lot of research, a lot of articles, a lot of chairing and consulting, and a lot of editing; much of it invisible to the wider world. It is quiet work, strong work, faithful work for a great public cause, done for the common good with little expectation of reward or recognition, and certainly not in search of a Medal!

But a Medal there is, and it is the least we can offer in tribute to what is an extraordinary record of public service. The *ADB*—now in its mid-sixties—was just a youngster when Bev joined it and has barely existed without her being a central part of its life.

I guess the *ADB* has been a source of strength for her too, as I think it is for all of us: a solid, enduring core at the heart of our academic work. At the 75th Editorial Board meeting in June this year we were joined by eight new members of the Board and after the meeting several of them spoke to me about how heartening, even exhilarating, it is to join a truly national board of historians, a genuinely federal

project, a wonderfully collaborative intellectual endeavour, one that has persisted through the Dawkins revolution, the bureaucratisation of universities, the rise of academic corporate competitiveness, the silly strictures of performance measurement. Against all these malign influences, the *ADB* endures, holding on to warm collegiality, high scholarly standards, and true national purpose. We are so grateful to our working party members across the country, and to all our authors, for making this possible.

And we are indebted to Bev for her example, her leadership and her steadfast work. The *ADB* Medal is awarded by unanimous decision of the Editorial Board of the *ADB*, so it is an honour bestowed on Bev by admiring colleagues who know very well what she has done. Therefore, on behalf of Board members, let me warmly congratulate you Bev and sincerely thank you—and present you with the *ADB* Medal for long and distinguished service.

ADB ENTRIES FROM 1997 TO 2000

Christine Fernon highlights new ADB entries added this year

Entries are being added to the ADB website for those who died between 1997 and 2000. As usual they include a diverse range of people. Many of the selection below will be familiar:

Dorothy Hill (1907–1997) studied chemistry at the University of Queensland in 1925 because her preferred subject, medicine, was not offered. After specialising in geology, she went on to become the world's pre-eminent authority on Australian Palaeozoic corals.

Don Dunstan (1926–1999) is remembered as South Australia's most progressive Labor premier—introducing the country's first Sex Discrimination Act, ending capital punishment, and abolishing male homosexuality as a crime. A great supporter of the arts he became a commentator and writer and was involved in human rights campaigns after resigning from parliament following the death of his second wife Adele Koh in 1976. He later opened a restaurant with his partner Steven Cheng.

Although **Nancy Cato (1917–2000)** left full-time journalism in the 1940s to raise her three children, she continued to write prolifically, publishing general articles and art reviews in the local press, as well as poetry and stories in literary magazines. She achieved fame when her trilogy *All the Rivers Run* (1958–62) became an international bestseller after it was republished as a single book in 1974 and was made into a popular television series in 1984, starring Sigrid Thornton and John Waters.

Robert Riley (1954–1996) was stolen from his family while an infant and institutionalised at Sister Kate's Children's Cottage Home in Perth where he was told his mother was dead (he was returned to her aged 12). A seasoned Aboriginal rights advocate by his mid-20s, he later became the head of the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia. He was chair of the National Aboriginal Conference (1984–87), an adviser to Gerry Hand, minister for Aboriginal affairs in the Hawke government, and worked with the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

Noel Ferrier (1930–1997) first made his name as a radio actor in Melbourne, then appeared in Ray Lawler's *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* at the Union Theatre Repertory Company in 1953. Moving to TV in 1957 he compered Channel 7's *The Late Show*, before appearing as the Friday night host of Graham Kennedy's *In Melbourne Tonight* on Channel Nine in 1963. Over the next two decades he appeared in numerous TV dramas and movies including *Alvin Purple*. Quick witted and often outrageous he was the original beast in the TV show *Beauty and the Beast* and was a popular guest on the high rating *Blankety Blanks* in the 1970s.

Enid Mather (1910–1998) obtained her private pilot's licence in 1936 but was unable to work as a commercial pilot because of gender-based discriminatory practices of the time. She nonetheless won air races and practised aerobatics, and in 1938 was recognised as 'Australia's lady champion aerobat.'

Ineligible to take up any role in the RAAF during WWII she resumed flying in 1951, becoming federal president of the Australian Women Pilots' Association.

The dramatic photograph *Morning Mist, Rock Island Bend, Franklin River, Southwest Tasmania*, 1979 taken by **Peter Dombrovskis (1945–1996)** became the signature image for the 1980s campaign to save Tasmania's Franklin River from being dammed for hydroelectric power. Self-taught, Dombrovskis spent weeks at a time alone in remote parts of Tasmania lugging his large format, flatbed camera, three lenses and sturdy tripod, taking his beautiful photos. In 2003 he was posthumously inducted into the International Photography Hall of Fame, the first Australian to receive the honour.

Michael Hutchence (1960–1997) began singing in bands as a schoolboy, joining with members of the band later to be known as INXS in about 1976. Writing many of their lyrics, Hutchence formed a strong partnership with Andrew Farriss, who composed much of the music. In 1985, the band's profile rose internationally. Made-for-television video clips fitted Hutchence's good looks and exuberant stage performances. During the last few years of his life, however, he was increasingly dogged by depression, substance abuse, and a bitter custody dispute involving his partner Paula Yates's three daughters. He took his own life in a Sydney hotel room in November 1997.

Edith Grove (1909–1996), and Catherine Hardess' weaving company Eclarté Pty Ltd employed 35 weavers in the 1940s–50s. Clothing from their fabrics were sold in fashionable department stores, including Georges Ltd and Henry Buck. Four seasonal ranges were produced each year, their colour palette often inspired by the Australian landscape. Leading architects and designers, including Roy Grounds, Robin Boyd, and Fred Ward also commissioned their fabrics.

Keen gardeners know the name **Cornelius Tesselaar (1912–1996)**. The son of a flower grower from the Netherlands, he emigrated to Melbourne in 1939 with his wife, Johanna, the daughter of a flower-bulb grower. Settling in the Dandenong Ranges, Tesselaar began growing gladioli, hyacinths, and tulips. He developed a profitable mail-order service, and sold bulbs, flowers, and plants to retail and wholesale markets, locally and interstate. By 1953, he had planted 150,000 tulips, 250,000 daffodils, and thousands of gladioli and hyacinths. The enterprise was so successful that the Commonwealth government featured photographs of the family in its migration publicity campaigns. The company still operates as a mail order garden business.

Christine Fernon is the NCB's online manager and is assisting Dr Chris Cunneen add the Biographical Register of the Australian Labour Movement to the NCB's People Australia website.

OCEANIA WORKING PARTY WORKSHOP

ASSI and Melanesian Life-stories

In April 2022, the Oceania Working Party held their second workshop focused on 'Australian South Sea Islander and Melanesian Life-Stories' with Dr Melinda Mann, Kim Kruger, and Imelda Miller. The workshop brought together Australian South Sea Islander/South Sea Islander (ASSI/SSI) women from across what is now known as Queensland, Victoria, and New South Wales. The focus of this workshop was to discuss the importance of familial and community life-stories, the ethics and community protocols on work with ASSI communities and strategies for doing Pacific Biography in Australia.

Chair of the Oceania Working Party, Professor Katerina Teaiwa opened the session with an acknowledgement of Country followed by a more general position statement outlining the Oceania Working Party's commitment to Pacific Studies in solidarity with Aboriginal, Torres Strait, and South Sea Islander sovereignties and life-stories.

Professor Melanie Nolan, Director of the NCB, then introduced the audience to some of the work that the OWP in collaboration with the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, has been doing:

To properly begin the workshop, Dr Melinda Mann, Kim Kruger, and Imelda Miller introduced themselves to the room and those on Zoom through their family genealogies with connections to their South Sea Islander forebearers from the Pacific Islands, specifically Vanuatu and Kanaky/New Caledonia. This was followed by a moving speech by Dr Mann to help workshop participants understand the critical need for accountability from Pacific peoples living and settling on unceded and stolen Aboriginal lands, relating the story of her own Darumbal and South Sea Islander ancestors.

This was followed by a presentation by Imelda Miller who spoke about her experiences working at the Queensland Museum and doing ASSI community outreach and engaging with archives. Kim Kruger then gave an overview of South Sea Islander life writing over time from individual autobiographies of Faith Bandler to Noel Fatnowna, as well as community histories from Mackay and Rockhampton. She highlighted that these were important in challenging the narrative that 'slavery didn't exist' in Australia.

This was then followed by two entries that both Melinda Mann and Kim Kruger had been working on about their relatives: Mabel Edmund and Lisa Bellea. Melinda Mann considered writing biography as 'cultural, relational and liberation.' She talked about her Aunt Mabel as an Indigenous leader, writer and artist, appreciating the impact that she had on herself, as well as acknowledging that, 'her legacy belongs to her children and her children's children.' Similarly, Kim Kruger's entry on her cousin, Lisa Bellea, will be an important 'narrative authority' of community members by community and she emphasised the need for community control in these spaces.

Kruger's entry was commissioned by the Indigenous Working Party of the ADB (IADB). The OWP is following the lead of IADB in terms of codifying protocols and ethics on doing Pacific biography. These two biographies were important in paving the way for a wonderful conversation on what

the Oceania Working Party and our members can do in these spaces. We were fortunate to have the chair of the Australian South Sea Islanders (Port Jackson) and City of Sydney Councillor (Waskam) Emelda Davis as well as the



Attendees at the OWP workshop

Vanuatu High Commissioner to Australia Samson Fare in the audience for the day. Their insights about working with local governments on the question of recognition and connecting back to Pacific communities in the islands were appreciated by all. Overall, the workshop was a valuable milestone for the OWP and their work in considering how to engage both ASSI and Pacific communities around these issues. We look forward to continuing this work!

This event was supported by the Oceania Working Party of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, the ANU Gender Institute, and the Decolonial Possibilities/Decolonising the Academy: Trans-Indigenous Possibilities, School of Culture, History and Language Flagship for College of Asia, and the Pacific at the Australian National University. It was organised by Katerina Teaiwa, Talei Luscia Mangioni, and Nicholas Hoare.

The Oceania Working Party is chaired by Katerina Teaiwa and supported by CHL since 2020. The working party consists of 22 experts in the fields of Pacific History and Pacific Studies and uses Pacific Biography in Australia as its platform for disseminating news, research, and other findings.

Oceania Working Party Workshop Namba Tu on 'South Sea Islander/ASSI and Melanesian Life-Stories' with co-presentations with Dr Melinda Mann, Kim Kruger and Imelda Miller is now up on [Youtube!](#)

For more information go to www.facebook.com/PacificBiographyInAustralia or email OceaniaWorkingParty@gmail.com

Talei Mangioni and Nicholas Hoare

Talei Luscia Mangioni and Nicholas Hoare are the research officers for the Oceania Working Party.

Originally published on the '[Decolonising the Academy](#)' blog

BIOG REGISTER OF LABOUR MOVEMENT

Chris Cunneen reveals who is recorded in BRALM

It was a memorable death. The passing of 'the last Anzac', [Alec Campbell \(1899–2002\)](#). Prime Minister John Howard and others came to praise him. The newspapers were full of his story. Wistful pictures of the boy soldier adorned our TV sets.

I remember it well. Maybe you do too?

Nowhere was it mentioned, however, that Campbell was a fire-brand trade unionist. Nor did anyone comment on the fact that he was an *ADB* author [as the Prime Minister was to become 20 years later].

How did I come across these astounding details? Well, the truth is revealed in the remarkable collection of biographies recorded by John Shields, Andrew Moore and many voluntary contributors—titled [unsexily] '*The Biographical Register of the Australian Labour Movement*'.

As John and Andrew have written, the idea originated in 1961 with the establishment of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History, when the society's co-founder Robin Gollan wrote of plans for an 'Australian Dictionary of Labour Movement Biography'. However, it was not until the late 1980s that the idea was followed up at the University of Western Sydney, Macarthur (now Western Sydney University).

The Register consists of brief biographical entries on activists who made a notable contribution to the labour movement's history at the national, state, regional and/or local scale at some point to the mid-1970s.

From early in the project it was decided to exclude those Labour luminaries who were included in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. Draft entries were contributed by many academics and activists. The project also benefitted immensely from the research and drafting assistance of Yasmin Rittau and Hilary Weatherburn. As John and Andrew have written, "at every turn, this project has been an exercise in collective scholarship and one informed by the desire for historical redress."

In 2011 some 2010 register entries were handed over to the *ADB* and National Centre of Biography at the ANU, and the General Editor, Melanie Nolan, agreed to publish the material online in *People Australia* as a [separate project](#).

The incorporation of *BRALM* in the *ADB*'s online records presented some difficulties. The entries included numerous unexplained abbreviations. In addition, they often lacked the detailed biographical data that allowed for prosopographical analysis. By 2019 only a handful had been put online. At the *ADB*'s Editorial Board meeting that year Melanie explained the difficulties involved in the project.

Then COVID19 hit Australia. We all went into lockdown. Like many of you, perhaps, I needed an uplifting activity. So, I contacted the *ADB*'s redoubtable online manager, Christine Fernon, and with excellent help from the Centre's family historian Jennifer Higgins, and the enthusiastic support of General Editor Melanie Nolan, we began the process of adding value and posting online *BRALM* entries. We have



Alec Campbell, 1915

taken the opportunity to add obituaries where we find them, and link inclusions to items in Trove as well as to other relevant entries in the *ADB* databases. To date we have managed to upload some 440 items.

Have a look through them and discover the shearers and supporters who were gaoled in the great strikes of the 1890s, the miners who were gaoled for striking, loyal women who devoted their energies to Labor party and community activism, the Wobblies persecuted during World War I, idealists, radicals, moderates, turncoats, social and political activists, the Communists and the Groupers, and so on and so forth.

In the previous *Biography Footnotes*, I mentioned Dave Bowes, one of the 1890s

gaoled shearers who deserve to be remembered. Other entries that come to mind are those on the Irish nationalist [Peter Larkin](#) who was only briefly but memorably in Australia, the trade union stalwart [Robert Chinchin](#), whose entry reminds us of the dangers of the stonemasons' trade, and [Ruby Centennial Keating](#) [one of those named for being born in the colony's centennial year] political worker and social activist. Work on including more active labour women in the Register is proceeding.

I've also taken the liberty of adding entries that I thought deserved inclusion, such as the Aboriginal paddle-steamer hand and Labour activist [Andy Stepney](#). I look forward to being able to add more Indigenous activists to the *BRALM* in the future. Any suggestions would be welcomed.

Where we can, we have included images, which of course the original *BRALM* was unable to do. For example, see the one-armed engineer unionist [Arthur Evernden](#) pictured with his self-satisfied colleagues in 1927, and Robert Chinchin with a group of men who helped build our cities.

And check out the Labour luminary [Alec Campbell](#). I suppose that numerous *ADB* subjects have had postage stamps devoted to them. But how many contributors have been so commemorated?

Dr Chris Cunneen is an honorary senior research fellow in the Department of History and Archaeology, Faculty of Arts, Macquarie University, in Sydney. He is also a member of the ADB's New South Wales Working Party.

Launch of 'Writing Slavery into Biography', *Australian Journal of Biography and History* No 6

The special issue of *Australian Journal of Biography and History*, 'Writing Slavery into Biography: Australian Legacies of British Slavery,' was launched by Professor Emerita Ann Curthoys at the ANU on 26 July 2022.

Edited by Professor Jane Lydon (University of WA), Professor Zoë Laidlaw (University of Melbourne), and Dr Georgina Arnott (University of Melbourne), the well-attended event was addressed by Professor Emerita Catherine Hall (University College London), Jane Lydon, Zoë Laidlaw, and Professor Paul Arthur, as well as Curthoys.

The volume deploys biographical approaches to explore how British slavery shaped the Australian colonies. It is the first stand-alone journal issue to feature an emerging body of historical work tracing the movement of people, investment, and ideas from the Caribbean to Australia.

Seven refereed articles and a roundtable discussion show how investment, imperial aspiration, and migration turned towards Britain's 'Second Empire' in the aftermath of the Slavery Abolition Act 1833.

Beginning the volume is a substantive introduction that reviews this emerging field of research and outlines preliminary findings.

In her article, Lydon examines the movement of two interconnected families (the Riddleys and Walcotts) from Demerara to Britain to the Swan River, where they acquired large land grants, participated in exploration and resource exploitation, and led the search for labour sources.

Arnett investigates Western Australia's first governor [James Stirling's](#) biographical links to American and Caribbean slavery considering ideas about race and labour that he promoted in Western Australia.

And together Laidlaw and Arnott show how dictionaries of biography can be used alongside the Legacies of British Slavery database (hosted by University College London) to identify Australasian settlers with connections to slavery. They note the ways in which collective approaches to biography can reveal otherwise invisible patterns in global transfers of wealth, people, and ideas.

With an eye to regionally specific processes of subjugation and enslavement in the northern Western Australian pearling and pastoralist industries, Malcolm Allbrook considers biography's potential to illustrate the shadowy world of 'blackbirding' in relation to the perpetrators, the officials, and the Aboriginal peoples enslaved.

Emma Christopher brings to life the colonial legacies of slavery in her account of Albert Messiah, Ishmael Williamson, and John Henderson, sailors of African origin who worked on Pacific labour ships during the late nineteenth century, and whose lives illuminate the complex racial hierarchies of the Queensland frontier.



Malcolm Allbrook and Georgina Arnott at the 'Writing Slavery into Biography' launch, 2022

Beth Robertson tells the layered story of her own great-great-grandfather, Edward Stirling, the illegitimate son of a British slave-owner and a woman of Ghanaian descent, whose material benefit from slavery helped him become a successful pastoralist and miner in South Australia, despite remaining the subject of racial prejudice.

Paul Arthur and Isabel Smith note the 'biographical turn' in museum exhibitions featuring stories of enslavement over the last two decades. They argue that this has enabled exhibitors to show stories of resistance, contingency and agency, albeit while navigating the ethical complexities of telling other people's traumatic life stories.

The feature section of this issue concludes with a roundtable discussion between Catherine Hall, Keith McClelland, Zoë Laidlaw, Jeremy Martens, and Georgina Arnott on the topic of linking the legacies of British slave ownership to Australian colonisation. Here, Hall observes that biography, when used in combination with prosopography, reveals how the lives and family trajectories of slave owners were distinguished amongst imperial capitalists at large. This issue builds understanding of the precise ways that slavery shaped the Australian colonies.

The volume can be downloaded for free from the [ANU Press website](#).

Dr Malcolm Allbrook is the Managing Editor of the Australian Dictionary of Biography.

Making and Unmaking Historical Reputations

Having recently completed her longstanding research project on the history of official honours in Australia, **Dr Karen Fox** is turning her mind to a new study that will explore, from another angle, the themes of honour, recognition, fame, and the significance that we accord historical lives.

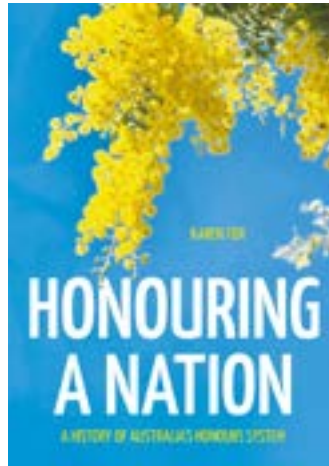
The history of honours in Australia is, at least in part, a story of continuing tensions. One such tension has been that between merit and hierarchy. Another—related—tension has been between accomplishment, as in the triumphs of sports stars on the global stage, and service, as in the long and dedicated work of local volunteers. Both tensions speak to a larger question at the heart of honours systems all over the world: what is merit? Our ideas of merit are not static, and it is not always easy to agree on what is meritorious, or—perhaps even more so—what is *most* meritorious?

Controversies over the honours system, both as a whole and in relation to specific individual awards, reveal how persistent, and how difficult, questions like this can be. Recent controversies over the place of various statues, and over the naming of buildings and landmarks, encapsulate related concerns about our values, and about how our civic spaces can reflect a more inclusive and diverse understanding of the past, while also clearly rejecting parts of that past—and particular individuals—as not appropriate for celebration or commemoration.

Debates like those that have occurred over statues and honours in recent years highlight the extent to which historical reputations are subject to revision over time, and my new research is an attempt to tackle these issues around significance, merit, and reputation from a different angle, by investigating the nature of historical reputations, and how such reputations are made, remade, contested, and reinforced over time.

Some years ago, I began creating a database of individuals included in texts about famous, great, or significant Australians—from biographical dictionaries to children's books, popular works to websites—in an attempt to find out which figures have been most often identified as famous or great Australians, and what patterns in those identifications there might be over time. It was a fascinating exercise, resulting in an enormous spreadsheet with hundreds of names on it, and it revealed several things. First, and not unexpectedly, many of the same names recurred, across time and throughout different genres of text. But there were also significant changes, including an increasing diversity in the figures selected, and the emergence of texts focused on particular demographic groups, such as great women or famous Indigenous Australians. Moreover, there were also shifts in the texts themselves, including in relation to the central concept they were organised around, such as worthiness, notability, or—more recently—celebrity, or in terms of how they conceptualised 'Australianness.'

In the research I am currently undertaking, I aim to use this database to help me identify a range of different categories



Karen's recent book narrates the history of imperial and national honours in Australia.

of reputation, both positive and negative, and to explore the making and unmaking of these reputations through detailed historical case studies, paying close attention to issues of gender, place, class, and ethnicity, as well as the social and political issues of the moment, and the individuals and groups who work to create, maintain, or alter a particular reputation.

Some well-known Australians have long had contested reputations. Think of the bushranger [Ned Kelly](#), about whom there are widely divergent views:

some have considered him an anti-authoritarian underdog who fought injustice, while others view him as merely a violent criminal. Other people have been seen differently at different times: examples of changing reputations over time include those of the explorers [Robert O'Hara Burke](#) and [William Wills](#), who—along with several other members of their party—died in 1861 during their expedition to cross the continent from south to north. Once widely embraced as brave, tragic heroes, Burke and Wills are more likely today to symbolise disastrous failure.

Then there are those who appear to be much less well known today than they once were, such as the nineteenth-century poet [Adam Lindsay Gordon](#), once acclaimed as Australia's national poet but whose name is likely unfamiliar to many today. Conversely, individuals like [Iza Coghlan](#)—a pioneering woman in the medical profession profiled along with twenty-seven others in the National Centre of Biography's collaboration with *Inside Story* and the *Canberra Times* in 2019—are being recovered and celebrated anew.

Reputational shifts like these are the focus of my new research, through which I hope to shine a light on the changing ways Australians have weighed achievement and failure, morality and merit, across time.

Dr Karen Fox is a Senior Research Fellow in the National Centre of Biography and a research editor for the Australian Dictionary of Biography. A historian of Australia and New Zealand, she is currently researching the history of celebrity and the making and unmaking of historical reputations in Australia.

Malcolm Allbrook and Sophie Scott-Brown reflect on the findings from the 'Family History: The Next Generation' symposium held in November in the RSSS Building, ANU.

Family history is in rude health. With people turning to DNA and the internet to unearth their roots, the proliferation of courses, sources and television programs on offer, it seems that 'doing the family tree' has never been so popular.

But the concept of 'family' is changing and so is the way we need to think about its history. The ANU has played a central role in bringing family history to the fore in universities, along with the leading Australian historians such as Emeritus Professor Graeme Davison (Monash), Professor Tanya Evans (Macquarie) and Emeritus Professor Alan Atkinson (University of Sydney). In 2014 the Director of the National Centre of Biography Professor Melanie Nolan facilitated the ANU's involvement in a path-setting workshop at Macquarie University which brought together family history adherents from then community sector, universities, and the commercial world.

In 2017, Dr Malcolm Allbrook from the NCB, and Dr Sophie Scott-Brown, ANU Alumni, co-organised the international 'Related Histories' conference with the National Library of Australia, resulting in *Family History and Historians in Australia and New Zealand* (Routledge, 2021). Malcolm and Sophie, now Programme Director for the Europaem Institute (University of Oxford), resumed their collaboration with a symposium at the ANU on 'Family History: The Next Generation' (9 November 2022, ANU) which sought to connect generations of researchers, early to late career, in determining future directions for research in the field.

The 2021 Australian census counted 5.5 million couple families, 53 per cent with children and 47 per cent without. In 1996 only 41 per cent of couples did not have children. Today, 8,747,135 co-habiting couples are married; 7,863,327 are not (the Australian Institute of Family Studies notes that even when couples do go ahead and marry, 81 per cent have lived together beforehand). For the first time, the census recorded more than one million single parent families, an increase of 14.5 per cent in 1996 to 15.9 per cent. In 2021 there were 25,000 same-sex marriages.

Digging beneath the statistics, never has the idea of family been subject to such intense interrogation. Since the Second World War, our entire experience of family life has transformed at every level. For better or worse, external agencies—social services, health providers, schools—have assumed many roles once performed 'in-house.' Similarly, many traditional practices of household economy—quite literally the provision of food, fuel, clothes—have also become outsourced, brought back home rather than produced within it.

Emotional support is more often found outside the family and immediate community than in previous generations. Physically, the greater mobility enabled by technology and a globalised market economy routinely scatters family members across the world. Finally, rapid cultural change has helped create stark fault lines between generations, which

now confront each other with radically different views and aspirations, making common ground feel almost impossible.

We need histories that reflect and illuminate the complexity of the modern family. Among the ideas we should examine are 'alternative' families. These include constructed kin groups—known colloquially as the 'Friends' syndrome after the American sitcom chronicling the lives of six young, co-habiting professional New Yorkers. These groups are non-biologically based social units that assume some of the functions traditionally associated with the family, including economic or emotional support. They are distinct, however, in their pluralism. Individuals can simultaneously belong to multiple groups and experience similar intensities of connection.

Their emergence stems from several factors. The combination of expanded higher education and the prohibitive cost of housing has normalised housemate arrangements far into early adulthood. There are also the close-knit communities formed by people from minority or socially-marginalised groups, such as those identifying as LGBTIQ+. In some cases, these groups actively compensate for strained or estranged biological family relations, but even where that is not so, they provide a valuable source of validation at both personal and collective levels. The passing of marriage equality acts in 33 countries (as of 2022) further indicates a wider recognition and acceptance of the social status and value of diverse relationships.

In a different vein, life in a highly technologised world facing an unprecedented scale of environmental disaster, including pandemics, challenges the very concept of 'being related'. Calls for more ecological thinking draw our attention to the direct biochemical entanglement between the human and more-than-human world. Cybernetics, the techno-equivalent of ecology, also registers our technological dependencies and invites us to consider ourselves as agents in all-encompassing information networks.

At the same time, there has been a marked resurgence of family history in its more, if not most, traditional forms. The recent death of Queen Elizabeth II, for example, and the accession of King Charles III to the throne, cast the whole question—and ritual—of primogeniture firmly back into the public eye. Similarly, appeals to 'traditional' family values have increasingly emerged as part of a counter-discourse against social movements, from access to safe abortion to support for transgender rights, which advocates worry are subversive.

Who we are, where we come from, and how we got here are questions that we will, and must, always ask ourselves. As such, we are, all of us, family historians, all of the time. What is less clear, and less determined, is how we recognise and represent our experiences of (inter)connection. As the family continues to reinvent itself so too must the stories it tells of itself.

ELIZABETH & JOHN

Book Launch on 9 November

Director of the National Centre of Biography, Professor Melanie Nolan welcomed guests to the launch of Emeritus Professor Alan Atkinson's new book, *Elizabeth and John: The Macarthurs of Elizabeth Farm* (Sydney: NewSouth, 2022). It was held in the RSSS building, ANU, in conjunction with the Family History Symposium on 9 November.

Melanie remarked that Alan has published widely over his distinguished career, including three volumes of *The Europeans in Australia*. He has been researching the Macarthur family and their relationships—their family's history—in some form throughout his career. Alan's 1972 MA thesis was on 'The Position of John Macarthur and His Family in New South Wales before 1842,' and his 1976 ANU PhD was on James Macarthur (1798–1867), one of Elizabeth and John's seven children.

The Macarthurs were also central to Alan's 1988 award-winning study, *Camden*, as they were the pre-eminent family in early colonial New South Wales and owned Camden Park. *Camden* also reveals a lot about the Macarthurs' neighbours—the tenant farmers, labourers, and tradespeople who came to live in Camden village.

Alan wrote a chapter for Malcolm Allbrook and Sophie Scott-Brown's 2021 collection *Family History and Historians in Australia and New Zealand* on 'Family Life and the Creation of Conscience: The Macarthurs, 1780–1860,' which was a taster for this larger work. Nobody is better prepared to write sensitively about John and Elizabeth as separate people, a married couple, and their 'attitudes of mind.'

Melanie then introduced Emeritus Professor Graeme Davison to launch *Elizabeth and John* saying that Graeme had spent most of his distinguished career—and I quote his own words



Melanie Nolan at the launch of *Elizabeth and John*, 2022

in 2015—"avoiding family history." He viewed "the crowds of chattering genealogists in public libraries and archives" as "one of the daily hazards of the academic researcher." But he too has succumbed and is making up for lost time, publishing *Lost Relations: Fortunes of my family in Australia's Golden Age* in 2015 and developing "My Grandfather's Clock," which was the subject of his presentation to the 2017 Related Histories conference.'

Melanie noted that, in terms of family history, Graeme Davison and Alan Atkinson are somewhat a contrast in careers: one a recidivist family historian and one a born-again family historian. But she argued that there was no better person to launch Alan's book and welcomed Graeme to do so.

Graeme Davison launches Alan Atkinson's *Elizabeth and John: The Macarthurs of Elizabeth Farm*

Surely no Australian historian has dedicated himself to understanding the first Australian colonists from the inside with the dedication and brilliance of Alan Atkinson. He wants to know what those people felt and thought and, to the extent that we still can, to see the world through their eyes. At each stage of his career, he seems to have pushed this ambition a little further, so it is appropriate that he should return close to where he began, with the Macarthurs and in the intimate world of marriage and family. As Blake sees a world in a grain of sand, so Atkinson sees a world of ideas and emotions, interests, and ambitions in the microcosm of Elizabeth Farm.

In his first book *Camden* Alan took us inside the distinctive patriarchal society the descendants of John and Elizabeth Macarthur created at Camden. He was extending the ethnographic approach that he, Marian Quartly, and the 'Push from the Bush', as they called themselves, demonstrated with such flair in 'Australians in 1838', a volume in the *Bicentennial History*. He showed us how they farmed the land, lived together as families, interacted as communities, worshipped their God, and were gradually absorbed into the wider world.

In *The Europeans in Australia*, Alan widened and deepened his vision to the archipelago of colonial settlements and then to the entire continent. New themes appeared: the mysterious arts of speech, reading and writing, the relations of Black and white, convict and free, faith and reason. He was exploring a theme of Manning Clark's *History*, the coming of European civilization to Australia, but he approached it in a fresh way, tapping into the conversations that lay just below the surface of colonial life.

Now, in *Elizabeth and John* Alan returns to the first Australian generation of Macarthurs, the best-known, most richly documented, most historicised, and still most controversial of them all. We all know—or think we know—the Macarthurs, Australia's first power couple.

The other day, when I mentioned to a friend, a former history teacher, that I had been reading Alan's book she produced a delicious howler. 'John Macarthur,' one of her students wrote, 'returned to England to address the Wool Board and Mrs Macarthur stayed home and carried on with the sheep.' Such



Graeme Davison launching *Elizabeth and John*, 2022

a tangle of misconceptions! How on earth did the Australian Wool Board get into the story? Yet a nucleus of truth nonetheless—John away and Elizabeth at home, John on the public stage and Elizabeth keeping it all going.

I first met John Macarthur, sixty years ago, as a student of the late Allan Martin—one of Alan Atkinson's mentors too—when we studied the Rum Rebellion and the rival interpretations of H.V. Evatt in the red corner and Macarthur's biographer Malcolm Ellis, in the blue. Those were the days when historians approached questions of interpretation rather like gladiators. Their battles were good rousing fun but afterwards it often felt as though it was the past that lay dead on the field.

There were things about the Rum Rebellion, and about John Macarthur, that we entirely missed by approaching them in that way. John, of course, was the main subject of Ellis' biography, although, returning to it, I notice that it contains some astute and affecting passages about Elizabeth. It was only later, however, through the writing of women, notably Hazel King, that Elizabeth began to be given her due, a process of redress that, in the case of Kate Grenville's fictionalised version, Alan clearly thinks has gone badly awry.

What was clearly missing, and what we now have in this wonderful book, is a deeply researched history of the relationship between Elizabeth and John; a double portrait that captures their marriage in all its emotional, intellectual, and

utilitarian complexity. Now we can follow the shifting balance of dependence and independence, closeness and detachment over their long lifetime together—and, for long periods, apart. Marriage, Alan writes, adopting Jane Austen's lovely phrase, is a 'manoeuvring business,' a process of mutual adjustments only some of which are visible to the onlooker.

Here, to give you a little of the flavour of the book, and of Alan's beautiful writing, is how he sums up the state of the Macarthurs' marriage when they first came to Elizabeth Farm in the 1790s:

Because he was a man, but also because of the sort of man he was, his feelings made a much greater impact than hers. At home and abroad, John offered continuous theatre—selfishness and unselfishness, pettiness and sacrifice, intensity and unpredictability—and yet their lives together were punctuated with moments of vulnerability on both sides. Elizabeth might not have read political economy, but she had a strong sense of the way different forms of work fed into each other at the ground level—a networked understanding. A slave to duty, she was useful in her handiwork, useful in her management, useful in her feelings, useful in her intelligence and curiosity; altogether deliberately, precisely useful. She knew that in John's mind she could not fail. She also knew that occasionally he could.

In their thirties, Alan notes, the balance of the relationship changed. John had now broken with his regiment, and there had been 'years of rethinking.' The couple's ambitions had grown, and, with them, tensions and difficulties had accrued. John had less to prove yet he remained as reliant as ever on Elizabeth's 'good sense.'

Another twenty years on, as John's disturbance of mind took hold, the marriage entered its bleakest stage:

Altogether, Elizabeth and John were no longer a managing partnership. In some sense, as they discovered new kinds of friendship and comfort with their various children, a distance opened up between them. Elizabeth spent long periods away from home. At the house they still shared a bed, but it stood in what Elizabeth now called 'my bedroom' and there was a couch in John's dressing room. It was another type of affection they had now.

Finally, there was only silence between them. When John died, Elizabeth was not there. She longed to believe that he had one last moment of mental clarity when he was reconciled to his family and to her, but Alan tells us there was none.

Fifty years ago, we were all pursuing history from below, but now, as Alan declares in his Introduction, he is pursuing 'history from within.' It's the inwardness of the past, including the new subjectivities created by the Enlightenment, Calvinist religion, and Romanticism, that especially draw his interest. In their encounter with the new land, he suggests, Elizabeth and John were coming to a new sense of themselves.

One of the recurrent themes in Alan's work is a sense of how shifts in our ways of moving through space—a 'locomotive disposition'—brought about new forms of consciousness. 'Some of the most profound shifts in humanity come from new technology,' he writes. In volume two of *The Europeans*

ELIZABETH & JOHN (CONT'D)



Graeme Davison launching *Elizabeth and John*, at the ANU, 2022

in *Australia*, he appropriated Charles Dickens's nice phrase 'Railway Dreaming' to explore one of the most dramatic of these shifts and in *Elizabeth and John* he ponders the effects of new techniques of writing, bookkeeping, and horticulture.

It was another big shift in technology, Alan explains, that transformed his own historical practice. The enforced immobility of the pandemic and his reliance on the online world of digital resources combined to strengthen his focus on the inwardness of history.

The internet has transformed the writing of history. It makes vastly more information easily available and the implications of that are profound. In the first place, important new sources of evidence can be turned up much more easily and quickly than they could in the past...The sheer quantity of such detail translates into a difference of quality...Family history sources available on the internet create for individual men, women and children alive during the last few hundred years, in seemingly limitless numbers, a network of kin...Thanks to the internet it is, or ought to be, far easier now to imagine past lives from within—what it was like to live in a faraway time, as a thinking, feeling being, and as one of a kind. History ceases to be history in the conventional sense. It becomes a kind of memory—a more vivid and personal thing than history as we usually understand it.

I share Alan's belief in the transformative possibilities of the internet for historical research, not just about family history of course, but for just about everything else. It's not just the beauties of remote access, but the sheer power, and possible distortions, of searchable databases, which now require us to invent critical techniques as novel as those which the founders of our discipline—Mommsen, Ranke, Maitland, Acton, later the *Annales* historians—created a century or more ago. The historians of the next generation will need a

new kind of education, which I hope our colleagues are now inculcating among their students. The internet breaks down the traditional barriers between professional and lay research. In doing so, it opens the way to a more democratic history making but also, I sometimes fear, to rampant error, for there is as much fake news abroad in the world of online family history as there is in the Twitter-sphere.

On Alan's contention that the internet makes it easier to imagine past lives

from within I want to pause. Yes, it gives us access to sources that we could not otherwise find, and powerful new ways of interrogating and manipulating them. But it still requires us to learn the languages of the past, to think ourselves into the mindset of contemporaries, to be alert to the signs—the hidden clues to their ways of thought. And that, as Alan demonstrates again and again in his writing, is the work of patient scholarship, close reading, deep curiosity and a richly informed, cultivated historical imagination.

Even then, as he often reminds us, the historian is often, like an archaeologist, 'making guesses from a few thin and scattered threads of certain knowledge.' Speaking of *Elizabeth Farm*, the one tangible relic of *Elizabeth and John's* life, he writes:

It is hard for us to know another family from within its delicate fabric of feeling and its many layered silences, just as it is to know another individual. Families have a self-regarding life of their own. Each has its own inner trust, a web of mysteries spoken and unspoken, its own humour and habits of mind—its own mix of smells, such as only its members might fully understand, pungent in the memory of children...Then and now most people might understand their houses as specimens of geometry, jigsaws of squared spaces, but for littler children they can be more like a seashell, bulked out by larger lives. So the building of *Elizabeth Farm*, still standing, only hints at the world of feeling, sound, scent and self-awareness it once contained.

Alan's achievement in this wonderful book is to bridge the gap between the material legacy of the Macarthurs' lives, *Elizabeth Farm*, and the thoughts and feelings of those who created and lived in it.

He introduces us to the other members of the household: to the Macarthur children, their absent but never forgotten sons, Edward and John, their nearer ones, Hannibal and James, their long-time governess and companion, Penelope Lucas, and their beloved daughter, Elizabeth, whose keen intelligence, observation, loves, and disappointments are worthy of a book in themselves.

There are the business associates, fellow officers, and officials, the servants, both Indigenous and white, who cross the threshold. And, most memorably, there are the dramatic moments, like the scene in the parlour on the evening of 15 December 1807 when Francis Oakes, the chief constable of Parramatta, acting on orders from Governor Bligh, attempted to serve a warrant on John for his failure to pay a £900 fine.

Alan approaches this famous episode like a dramaturg, interested less in the truth of what was said—for we cannot really know that—than in what it reveals about John's propensity for self-dramatisation. As he remarks elsewhere, what mattered to John, Elizabeth, and indeed for the whole colony, was not the truth of what was said or done in the parlour that evening, so much as the appearance.

When I was a graduate student here at the ANU, my supervisor John La Nauze, who had just completed his biography of Alfred Deakin, used to say that you couldn't really write a person's life until you had lived enough life yourself to know what it was like to grow up, marry, have children, grow old and so on. Accordingly, he advised PhD students against biographical subjects.

At the time I resisted his view. After all, if you had to pass through all life's phases before you took up your pen you might never write a biography at all. Nevertheless, I think he had a point, and whether or not a biography written in one's mature years is bound to be better than one written by a younger person, it is certainly likely to be different.

Elizabeth and John is a book that not only draws on a lifetime



Alan Atkinson at the launch of his book, *Elizabeth and John*, 2022

of distinguished scholarship, and a deep knowledge of the archive, but on the maturity of outlook, insight into human character, and recognition of human frailty that are more likely to come with age.

So this book does represent the fruit of life experience, as well as the culmination of a lifelong project. A culmination but not a termination, for, after all, Alan is still a young pup with much more yet to write. Even so, it is a significant milestone and therefore a good moment to salute Alan and his achievement, to urge you all to buy a copy, and to declare *Elizabeth and John: The Macarthurs of Elizabeth Farm* well and truly launched.

Response from the author, Alan Atkinson

Thank you, Graeme. No-one could ask for a more generous and perceptive send-off for their book than that. Thank you to everyone for coming. Thanks also to Tanya, Malcolm, and Sophie for what is turning out to be a wonderful day of discussion about family history, and thanks to Harry Hartog bookshop for supplying copies of the book. My other debts are listed in the book itself, but I do want to mention again Cathie Pound, an inspiration and a constant presence throughout the work.

Of course, family is at the centre of this book, most immediately a couple, *Elizabeth and John*, who were married for over 40 years, but who were also parents and children. The question of family relations, husband and wife, parents and children, brothers and sisters affects every chapter. Beyond that, it is a story of family solidarity and purpose, set within the context of time and place.

I have been especially interested in the subjectivity of family, as I called it during our previous workshop in 2017. Families, typically, have a kind of collective subjectivity—a largely unarticulated internal culture; an inwardly referenced humour; a shared attitude to the world (not necessarily shared opinions, but usually a shared method of judgement); and underpinning all of that a shared language. Lately I have read a particularly interesting account of language used within families—‘the private lexicon of our home life’—by the American scholar, Kathryn Hymes. She calls it ‘familect,’ and it is speech consisting of certain pet words and protocols of conversation that have evolved, maybe over generations, among close kin (Hymes 2021).

And then, this is not the whole story. There is another layer of particularity. We have three children, and I suppose that all our conversations among ourselves are examples of a single-

ELIZABETH & JOHN (CONT'D)



Post launch dinner; Alan Atkinson in a celebratory mood, 2022

family subjectivity and a single 'familect.' All the same, I find that I speak a little differently to each of the three when we are alone. I would suggest that in working through historical evidence every item ought to be read with these two points in mind. Historical evidence ought to be read for what it says about both the writer and the intended recipient, including the language they share. But it also needs to be read for what it says about that in-between substance, that distinctive 'chemistry,' that lives within every human exchange.

It is all very complicated, but here I am getting close, I think, to Sophie Scott-Brown's argument about the need for 'radically relational modes of thinking' in writing family history (Scott-Brown 2021). In other words, it is time to move beyond the individualistic and narrowly biographical approach to history writing which blossomed in the nineteenth century. To be 'radically relational,' I think, is to work out the early promise of women's history, so called, black history, history from below and so on—all the brilliant innovation that I remember from the 1960s and '70s. It ought to be possible to trace the chain of connection step by step.

In this book I have tried to keep in mind one question above all others—a big question for understanding any pattern of human relations. I mean the question of silence. In writing history, silence can mean nothing more the absence of evidence. I remember Keith Windschuttle during the so-called History Wars, 20 years ago, arguing, almost in so many words, that because many Aboriginal frontier deaths are not clearly and irrefutably documented, that they therefore did not happen. That was obviously wrong, and yet we all tend in the same direction.

The most noteworthy people and weighty events always seem to be the well documented ones.

There are several good reasons for guarding against that prejudice. In the first place, of course, a great deal of written evidence has not come down to us. Also, vastly more human communication, past and present, has been spoken rather than written—heard but not seen, ephemeral and not recorded. And then again, an infinite quantity of human communication has never been spoken or written at all—has been felt, implied, conveyed by movements of the hand, expressions on the face, a mere glance, a drawing-in of breath, a touch (maybe momentary, maybe a blow), a turn of the head, a decision to be in one place rather than another, and so on and so on.

And finally, there is communication with yourself, the fleeting inwardness of human thought. All of these, of course, shape and colour the in-between silence I mentioned before. As an historian, I suggest that to forget about these things—to put them aside as unimportant because the evidence is so hard to pin down—makes for fairly doubtful scholarship.

Some might say that such things are alien and irrelevant to historical method—that [to quote from a recent *New York Review of Books*] 'only fiction can imagine the interior drama of characters' lives' (Uglow 2022, 12). That cannot be right. The questions surrounding silence—the vast silence enveloping earlier days—have to be part and parcel of biography and family history, and of larger stories too. That is the challenge I have tried to meet in this book.

God knows how well or how badly, but it has been fun.

Alan Atkinson

Kathryn Hymes, 'Why We Speak More Weirdly at Home.' *Atlantic*. 13 May 2021 (republished 6 November 2022).

Sophie Scott-Brown, 'Family History: The Next Generation?' *Historians' Watch*. 20 September 2021.

Jenny Uglow, 'Hilary Mantel (1952–2022).' *New York Review of Books*. 24 November 2022.

Jennifer Bird introduces Robert Edward Knox

In June, I attended the Australian Historical Association Conference in Geelong, Victoria, and presented the paper 'Legacies of Robert Edward Knox: A biography of a recidivist convict.' I spoke alongside Kate Rivington of Monash University, whose topic was 'Maria Weston Chapman and the Antislavery Salon in Paris, 1848–1855.' It was fascinating to have two such intriguing subjects presented who were born around the same time yet led distinctly different lives.

My paper asked what can a biography of a recidivist convict whose name and story have disappeared from cultural memory tell? What can a convict who never married, had no known children, and spent the best part of his life incarcerated leave as a legacy? I focused on three themes developed from my PhD thesis, 'Robert Edward Knox—The 'Flash Fighting Man': One infamous convict's journey through the New South Wales colonial penal system, 1829–1869.' These were concerned with convict mobility, relationships, and the exercise of agency within the confines of the colonial penal system.

Knox was 23 years old, a Scottish soldier, and former silk weaver when he was transported for seven years from Cork, Ireland, per the *Larkins* in 1829 for stealing a portable writing desk and wax seals from an officer. Unlike many other convicts, transportation did not prove reformatory, and he spent around thirty of the following forty years in the New South Wales colonial penal system.

Recidivist convicts leave a rich archive of sources to trace their lives. Systematic colonial bureaucracy ensured convicts were individually recorded in documents and ledgers, several with personal identifying characteristics. Gaol records, together with other colonial documents, form the official record of recidivists. Yet criminal activities often produced newspaper articles to accompany the official account. These provide context and nuance to significant events in individual lives. Knox is one such recidivist convict.

Knox's life demonstrates the mobility of convicts; the sources reveal that he was well travelled. Accounts of his criminal activities and the inevitable pursuit show long distances traversed in relatively short periods. In one instance, he travelled 150 miles (around 240 kilometres) in 11 days while being pursued by police on horseback. His skill at navigating the hills, plains, and waterways (including the Murray River in this case) demonstrates his extensive knowledge of the region and proficiency in his bush skills. These were well-practised in between the periods of his incarceration.



Samuel Thomas Gill, *Bushranger's Flight*, 1856, NLA, 7150085

Knox's biography also uncovers the complexity of relationships convicts formed between others and those in positions of power. While incarcerated on Norfolk Island, Knox developed a friendly relationship with penal reformer Captain Alexander Maconochie. They created an immutable bond that played out in the public arena through newspaper articles. Alternatively, Knox's legal interactions with Chief Justice Sir Alfred Stephen had the opposite effect, where Stephen decried Knox as a ruffian both publicly and in the political sphere.

This leads to the question of to what extent Knox exercised his individual agency within the confines of the colonial penal structure. He was, not surprisingly, a ringleader for several political actions perpetrated while incarcerated. These included inciting other convicts to refuse to go to work and being involved in the 1834 uprising on Norfolk Island. Yet, he also performed admirable actions, including an act of meritorious conduct when a boat sank, and on another occasion, apprehending an escaped convict. These speak to a complex life responding to repeated and evolving situations in a developing foreign land. His life itself is a legacy for researchers.

Knox's biography is explored further in my article 'Robert Edward Knox: Revealing relationships of a recidivist convict' in the upcoming special convict issue of the *Australian Journal of Biography and History*.

Jennifer Bird is a PhD Candidate in the National Centre of Biography and works with the ANU's Research Centre for Deep History.

CONVICT HISTORY



Left to right: Professor Hamish Maxwell-Stewart (UNE), his former PhD supervisor Dr Adrian Graves, Hamish's wife Clare, Emeritus Professor Michael Quinlan (UNSW), and Matt Cunneen celebrating the launch of *Unfree Workers* in Hobart, 20 May 2022 (photo courtesy of Michael Quinlan).

Building on its 'First Three Fleets' project, online thematic essays, and supervision of PhD candidates, this year the National Centre of Biography continued its trajectory as a growing hub of convict history research in Australia. In May I had the wonderful opportunity to attend a meeting of the Digital History Tasmania group in Hobart. Formerly a not-for-profit organisation registered this year as a business, it has been the driving force behind the digitisation, coding, and linkage of over 1.6 million Tasmanian historical records. A significant portion of these concern the lives of the 73,000 convicts transported to Van Diemen's Land. The data generated from this enterprise is accessible through the search engines of the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office.

Held on 20 May in Hobart Library, the meeting was packed with attendees excited to hear numerous presentations from noted speakers on their innovative research. Presenters included Martin Gibbs and Richard Tuffin discussing their new project on Maria Island, Mark McLean and Martin Gibbs explaining their new endeavour to map places of conviction, and PhD students like Margaret Strike, whose investigation into the lives of Tasmanian magistrates has drawn on their respective entries in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*.

Through attending this event I had the great pleasure of meeting many prominent academics in the field of Australian convict history. One of whom was Emerita Professor Lucy Frost, who has been an influential figure in the Female Convict Research Centre and the study of female convict lives in Australia. I also met Richard Tuffin, a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at UNE, who is conducting innovative work in digital archaeology. I was pleased to meet Professor Hamish Maxwell-Stewart, who was recently appointed a professor

of heritage studies and digital humanities at UNE. I also had the pleasure of meeting his recent co-author, Emeritus Professor Michael Quinlan (UNSW Sydney). The workshop concluded with the launch of their new book, *Unfree Workers: Insubordination and Resistance in Convict Australia, 1788-1860* (Palgrave 2022). Launching the book was Hamish's former PhD supervisor, Dr Adrian Graves, who ranked it as one of the most important works in the historiography of Australian convict labour.

As part of my broader short trip to Hobart, I visited the University of Tasmania. There I was thankful to receive a warm welcome from Associate Professor Kristyn Harman, whose research I was inspired by, and drew on for my Honours thesis written last year. Many of these historians have strengthened their ties with the NCB as contributors to Number 7 of the *Australian Journal of Biography and History*. At the generous suggestion of Melanie Nolan, I was invited to serve as a guest co-editor of this issue, being a special number on the theme of 'Convict Lives.'

The authors, who are in various stages of their careers and engaged in several disciplines, are presenting unique perspectives on how convict lives can be studied and understood. ANU convict PhD students Jennifer Bird and Patricia Downes will be publishing research from their theses. Featuring nine articles and two research notes, it is set to be published in early 2023.

Having found a home for researching Australian convict history, I will be undertaking a PhD in the NCB beginning next year. My proposed thesis will trace the mobile lives of convicts that left Australia as emigrants, absconders and other types of travellers.

Finding Jean Pierre: the elusive Frenchman nailed by DNA

Brian Wills-Johnson shares his experiences of searching for the missing link in his family tree

For centuries, the genealogist's best friend has been a contemporary eye-witness record from an official source that has survived unchanged to the present day. Family trees spanning centuries were based on these records, with derived matrilineages and patrilineages satisfying a range of needs from ego-building to estate inheritance. Now, within a lifetime, a much more secure record has been discovered, validating and invalidating long-accepted scions and, in many cases, rewriting history.

Perhaps the most famous example has been the British king, Richard III. When a likely skeleton was disinterred from a Leicester carpark in 2012, mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) from two well-documented female descendants was critical in establishing Richard's identity. Conversely, as the authors delicately phrased it, the skeleton's Y-chromosomes (yDNA) didn't match presumed male descendants, "which could be attributed to a false-paternity event occurring in any of the intervening generations".

The biographical entry for [Jean Pierre Meunier](#) (Indefatigable, 1815) was posted on the National Centre of Biography's *People Australia* website earlier this year as a result of DNA matching. He was the last piece in my family's Australian jigsaw, and was found after 50 years of fruitlessly searching every written record I could find. My children have 24 ancestors who came to Australia, free and bond, between April 1815 and November 1910. Thanks to both historical records and DNA analysis, I now know every one of them.

My missing great-great-grandfather had the advantage of being directly patrilinear; that is, if I could find someone whose yDNA matched my own, his candidacy would be beyond doubt. Unknown to me, however, was the fact that he was French. France is the last country in western Europe where DNA testing for anything other than medical, scientific or judicial purposes is illegal. Given the substantial penalty for 'recreational' DNA testing, and a seeming reluctance by the French to have their DNA on databases outside French jurisdiction, there is only a small cohort of French men where I might find a match. As it turned out, the route to Jean Pierre was truly circuitous.

Dr Johannes Mousnier de la Montagne (c.1595–1670) and his family reached New Amsterdam (now New York) in March 1637, and among other achievements he was growing tobacco in what is now Central Park a decade before Peter Stuyvesant arrived as Director-General of the colony. Many Americans aspire to demonstrate descent from early colonists and, in the case of Johannes, a "Society of the Descendants of Johannes de la Montagne" has been established to verify all claims. Only those who can prove descent "from the illustrious Huguenot doctor, scholar, explorer, and statesman" can become members of the society.

Having decided that yDNA analysis might provide some clues about the origins of my great-great-grandfather, I sent my sample off to FamilyTreeDNA, a company that had been recommended in a University of WA genealogy seminar as competent, trustworthy and with a large database. Intriguingly,



The first known record of Jean Pierre was when he signed on, aged 19, to the de Meuron regiment in the British Army.

among the cohort with which I shared marker genes on the Y-chromosome, was a cluster of American men variously named Montanya, Mantony, Mantanye, Montagne, Montana, and Montayne. They were all recognised by the Montagne Society, I had 12-marker overlaps with five of them and a 25-marker overlap with the sixth. Quite clearly, at some distance in the past, I had a French male ancestor whom I shared with this group. But who?

For a time, this is where the trail went cold. Then, during one of my forays into Australia's colonial musters, when I'd been looking for a name that might match one of the Montaigne variants by skimming down the M-list, I chanced on a Jean Pierre Meunier. He seemed sufficiently French to be interesting, and Meunier is the French equivalent of Miller, while Mousnier is an older form of the same name. Some quick research turned up a convict assignment record that read:

1 April 1823, text of document No. 550:

Jean Pierre Mounier [sic]

We hereby Certify that John Pierre Munier [sic] who came in the ship Indefatigable which arrived in the Year 1815, has not been convicted of any Crime or Misdemeanour in this Colony, but is to our certain Belief an honest, sober and industrious character, having served faithfully Mr Wm. Mitchell in the District of Argyle

DNA ANCESTRY (CONT'D)

from April 1815 to August 1821, William Howe Esquire in the District of Minto from August 1821, to the present Date. Sentence Life.

From here, the search turned from science to the more familiar documentation trail. Working backwards it became evident that this was the Jean Pierre Meunier who, at the age of 19, was recruited at Gibraltar into a Swiss mercenary unit of the British army, the de Meuron regiment. At a diminutive 5' 2" (168cm) it was not surprising to find he was a drummer rather than a combat soldier, and his French origins were evident from his stated birthplace of Épinal in Lorraine (Lorraine).

Four years later the de Meuron regiment was posted to Quebec, and three weeks after arrival Jean Pierre deserted, being AWOL for a week. Being subject to British law, he was court martialled, and "transported as a felon for life, to any part of His Majesty's Dominions beyond the seas, as His Royal Highness the Prince Regent in the name and on behalf of His Majesty may be graciously pleased to direct".

Further research in the colonial records showed that Jean Pierre and my convict great-great grandmother were both in Hobart at the critical time when my patrilineal great-grandfather, William Johnson, was conceived. There was a mere handful of French men in the colony at the time, and even fewer would have been in Hobart in early 1818. All the pieces fitted together, and after further research Jean Pierre's story emerged with sufficient detail to warrant his inclusion among *People Australia's* biographies.

Jean Pierre earned his ticket of leave as soon as was possible for a convict serving a life sentence, 10 years after he was convicted. This meant he was free to offer his services to employers within the colony, and it's no surprise that he found his way to a Francophone family, that of Paul Huon de Kerilleau of Campbelltown. Huon's father, [Gabriel Louis Marie de Huon de Kerilleau](#), had fled France during the Revolution

and come to Sydney with the New South Wales Corps in 1794. Jean Pierre also took the opportunity in January 1833 to marry. His wife was an Irish woman, Catherine Boyle, but as she was about 50 years old it is unlikely that there were any children.

Nothing further has been discovered of Jean Pierre, or his wife, and he disappears from the record before his death. But, thanks to genetic genealogy, we now know much of his narrative and where he fits into Australia's social history.

As Stallard and de Groot note: "Family history enables the creation of personal narratives, and genetic genealogy is changing how this works ... The appeal of the process is to open up new avenues for research and to understand family in more depth."

De Groot, Jerome and Matthew Stallard. "Things Are Coming Out That Are Questionable, We Never Knew About": DNA and the New Family History.' *Journal of Family History* 45, no. 3 (2020): 274–94.

King, T., G. Fortes, P. Balaesque, *et al.* 'Identification of the remains of King Richard III.' *Nature Communications* 5, article 5631 (2 December 2014): <https://doi.org/10.1038/ncomms5631>.

Series: NRS 898; Reel or Fiche Numbers: Reels 6020-6040, 6070; Fiche 3260-3312.

Brian Wills-Johnson is a former journalist and corporate affairs specialist who came late to history when, at the age of 69, he undertook a Master of Philosophy degree at The University of Western Australia. His sole intention was to write an historical biography of a Port Phillip Boon Wurrung man, Yonki Yonka (c.1823-1846), who had played an important part in his family's colonial history. After completing his degree, he wrote a synopsis of Yonki Yonka's life which has been published in the Indigenous Australian Dictionary of Biography.

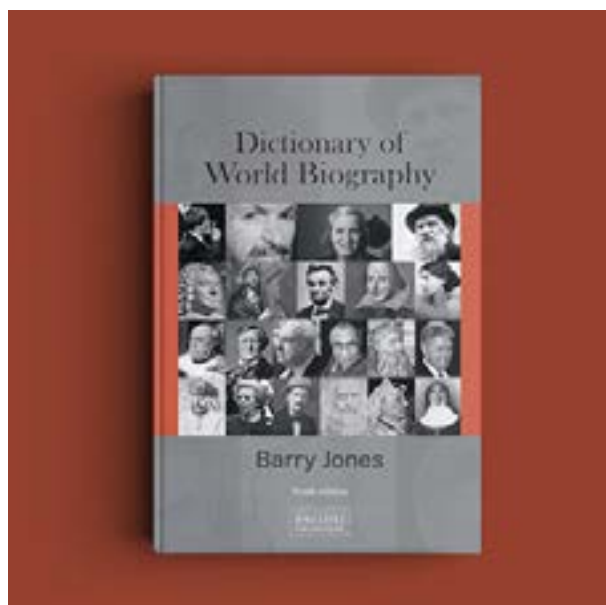
Dictionary of World Biography

The latest edition of Barry Jones' *Dictionary of World Biography*, published by the National Centre of Biography's ANU.Lives Series in Biography and ANU Press, has recently been published.

Consisting of almost 1,000 pages, about 9,000 entries and 930,000 words it is breathtaking in its coverage.

Emeritus Professor Tom Griffiths says of the *DWB*: 'Barry Jones is a learned connoisseur of the best (and worst) expressions of humanity. In collectively assessing whole lives he celebrates what is unique as well as universal in an individual's signature on the world. His own quest for meaning and transcendence shines through. Barry's constantly evolving *Dictionary of World Biography* represents his lifelong curation of extraordinary people, most of whom have achieved life after death through their influence. His portraits sparkle with flashes of opinion and wry judgement. This is a passionate, intensified world history with the literary power of lean prose poetry'.

The *DWB* can be downloaded for free from the [ANU Press website](#).



Jenny Higgins investigates our colonial past at the 16th Australasian Congress in Genealogy and Heraldry



Pre-1800s headstones in the cemetery at Norfolk Island, 2022

In August this year I attended the 16th Australasian Congress in Genealogy and Heraldry “History in Paradise” on Norfolk Island. The conference organisers offered a package which included the three days of conference sessions and extra days for immersing oneself in the island’s history, with tours and entrance to places of historic interest on the island.

With around 160 attendees from over Australia, the congress itself was not as large as the usual Congress triennial gatherings, but just as convivial. The session topics were varied with a leaning toward convict history on Norfolk Island. As the Congress was running concurrent sessions, I tried to choose subjects that would help me improve my family history research skills.

A presentation by Scott Fairie of the UK, detailed the historical background and structure of the WO12 Muster Books and Pay Lists in the UK National Archives. With digitised copies of the parts of WO12 in the Australian Joint Copying project now available in Trove, these records remain a very valuable source of detailed information of individual soldier’s service during their posting in colonial Australia, including Norfolk Island.

Noam Levin of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem presented an interesting session on overlaying historical maps of Norfolk Island. Imogen Wegman, of the University of Tasmania, also presented a session relating maps to features in the built and natural environment, over time.

Two presenters with a very long association with Norfolk Island records, James Donohue and Cathy Dunn gave individual presentations on their work and publications based on the records of the Island’s two colonial settlements. With more colonial government records, such as the Colonial Secretary’s correspondence, increasingly being made available online with indexing, some publications are/need to undergo revision. Cathy Dunn has written a short guide

to convict records of Norfolk Island, published by Unlock the Past.

We heard, in several interesting sessions, of immigration to Australia before 1850 and particularly of female immigration in the 1830s, from Liz Rushen, historian and independent scholar. She has a website and online database on immigration during that time.

Lee Butterworth, Research Fellow at Harry Gentle Resource Centre, Griffith University, detailed the establishment of the Harry Gentle Resource Centre. The centre’s core work is the collating of life stories of residents of early colonial Queensland and has many other early Queensland related projects on its website at harrygentle.griffith.edu.au.

Perhaps the most engaging Keynote speaker was Professor Larissa Behrendt of the University of Technology, Sydney and the Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research. She spoke firstly from a personal perspective, of her father’s search for records of his mother who became a member of the Stolen Generations. After many years he was able to be reunited with members of his birth family and developed skills in the use of archives to help others in the same quest. She later spoke on the story of Eliza Fraser from an Indigenous history perspective.

The experience of visiting Norfolk Island and observing the evidence of its colonial past was the highlight of the conference for me. Our free time was spent visiting museums and the remaining buildings and cemeteries of those times. To be able to view the evidence of both colonial settlements of the island in conjunction with the sessions on Norfolk Island history was both educative and moving. You can look over the cliff to see where Captain James Cook landed in 1774 and the steep valley his crew must have climbed to access the island. Historical buildings and ruins are well kept and accessible. Headstones in the cemetery gave testament to many facets of Island life in colonial times—convicts executed for various crimes, soldiers buried by loving families or close friends, deaths of small children from untreatable ailments—and the later Pitcairn settlement. Some headstones date from the 1700s.

There is a research centre on the Island where some of the conference attendees were able to further their research and subsequently visit the exact locality of the island settler’s residence.

In the current time, irregular deliveries of food and supplies means residents of Norfolk Island live with continuing shortages of some food and household items. Their supermarket shelves were almost bare. This reinforced to me just how remote Norfolk Island is from mainland Australia and the isolation and hardship experienced by those original colonial and Pitcairn settlements.

Jennifer Higgins is the National Centre of Biography’s Biographical Register Officer.

LIST OF ADB ENTRIES

ADB entries published online in 2022 until the time of publication

Out of Period

Allen, Nancy Lorne (1908-1993)
architect

Bradman, Donald (1908-2001) cricketer,
stockbroker, and cricket administrator

Volume 20

Atkinson, Nancy (1910-1999)
bacteriologist, writer, and winemaker

Barnard, Lance Herbert (1919-1997)
teacher, politician, and diplomat

Becher, Robert Gordon (1913-1997)
industrial chemist

Béchervaise, John Mayston (1910-1998) writer, schoolteacher, explorer, and traveller

Bolton, Alexander Thorley (1926-1996) editor, publisher, and library administrator

Booker, Malcolm Richard (1915-1998)
diplomat and author

Brash, Elton Thomas (1938-1998)
vice-chancellor and international aid consultant

Brown, Michael Gordon (1938-1997)
artist

Burnum Burnum (1936-1997) Aboriginal activist, actor, writer, and sportsman

Cato, Nancy Fotheringham (1917-2000) journalist, poet, novelist and conservationist

Church, Ivor Frederick (1913-1998)
Anglican priest and theological college principal

Colebatch, Gordon Thomas (1910-1998) civil engineer

Daniel, John Henry (1915-1996) soldier and grazier

Dean, Roger Levinge (1913-1998)
politician, administrator, and diplomat

Deste, Stephanie (1901-1996) actor, dancer and beautician

Dombrovskis, Peter Herbert (1945-1996) photographer

Dow, Gwyneth Maude (1920-1996)
educationist, historian, and academic

Eather, Colin Arthur (1953-1997)
electrician, coalminer, and farmer

Eccles, John Carew (1903-1997)
neuroscientist and philosopher

Ellis, Catherine Joan (1935-1996)
ethnomusicologist

Emery, Frederick Edmund (1925-1997)
social scientist and independent scholar

Endean, Robert (1925-1997) zoologist

Ewers, Raymond Boulton (1917-1998) sculptor

Faichney, Norman (1910-1998)
Presbyterian and Uniting Church minister

Ferrier, Noel (1930-1997) entertainer

Filby, Jennifer Vivienne (1938-1997)
choral director and piano teacher

Flynn, Francis Stanislaus (1906-2000)
Catholic priest and ophthalmologist

Fraenkel, Gustav Julius (1919-1998)
surgeon and academic

Gilham, Peter Roden (1925-1996)
primary industry entrepreneur

Gleeson, James William (1920-2000)
Catholic archbishop

Gow, Gordon (1919-2000) radio broadcaster, journalist, and actor

Griffith, Allan Thomas (1922-1998)
foreign policy adviser

Grove, Edith Mary (1909-1996) weaver and businesswoman

Hammond, Harry Montague (1916-1998) comedian, radio announcer, and children's television presenter

Hargreaves, John William (1945-1996)
actor

Harvey Sutton, David (1918-1999)
medical practitioner and community leader

Hazlewood, John (1924-1998) Anglican bishop

Heenan, Eric Michael (1900-1998)

lawyer and parliamentarian

Hempel, Jan Andrzej (1909-1997)
diplomat and shipping economist

Hodgkin, Ernest Pease (1908-1998)
zoologist, marine scientist

Holgate, Harold Norman (1933-1997)
journalist and politician

Hutchence, Michael Kelland (1960-1997) musician, songwriter, and actor

Jenkins, Clee Francis (1908-1997)
entomologist

Jenkins, Graham (1916-1997) journalist and publisher

Johnston, Eric Eugene (1933-1997)
naval officer and administrator of the Northern Territory

Kerle, Ronald Clive (1915-1997)
Anglican bishop

King, Catherine Helen (1904-2000)
broadcaster and community activist

Kraegen, Francis Frederick (1906-1997) chartered accountant and timber industry representative

Leggett, Clarence Arthur (1911-1998)
surgeon

Mant, Gilbert Palmer (1902-1997)
journalist

Mather, Enid Esther (1910-1998) aviator

May, Brian (1934-1997) composer and band leader

McCarthy, Frederick David (1905-1997)
anthropologist and museum curator

McComb, David Richard (1962-1999)
musician and songwriter

McLennan, Ian Munro (1909-1998)
engineer and company executive

Moore, John Cochrane (1915-1998)
barrister and arbitrator

Morrison, John Gordon (1904-1998)
novelist, essayist and short-story writer

Mottram, Elina Emily (1903-1996)
architect

Myrtle, John Hepburn (1911-1998)
businessman, art collector, and

LIST OF ADB ENTRIES (CONT'D)

philanthropist	Ronalds, Albert Francis (1913-1999) civil engineer	1996) horticulturalist and community leader
Ogilvie, Patrick Joseph (1925-1997) milliner and couturier	Ryan, Edna Minna (1904-1997) communist, trade unionist, feminist, and writer	Thomas, Kenneth William (1913-1997) transport entrepreneur, and social and political activist
O'Neill, John Patrick (1910-1998) public servant and statistician	Scott, George Anderson (1933-1998) bryologist, ecologist, and conservationist	Travers, Basil Holmes (1919-1998) headmaster
Origlass, Nicholas (1908-1996) Trotskyist, trade unionist, environmentalist, and mayor	Segal, Sidney Leopold (1913-1999) company director and mining executive	Turner, George Reginald (1916-1997) author and critic
O'Sullivan, Hugh Daniel (1939-1997) Catholic priest	Skerman, Percival James (1911-1998) agricultural scientist	Walsh, Alan (1916-1998) physicist and inventor
Penberthy, Albert James (1915-1999) composer and conductor	Smith, Harold Neil (1907-1996) public servant, poet, and historian	Waters, Darcy Ian (1928-1997) bohemian, wharf labourer, and punter
Priest, Joanna (1910-1997) dance teacher and choreographer	Southey, Robert John (1922-1998) businessman and Liberal party president	Webster, Arthur Farquhar (1906-1997) pharmaceutical veterinarian, company director, and philanthropist
Proud, John Seymour (1907-1997) businessman	Spate, Oskar Hermann (1911-2000) geographer, historian, and policy adviser	Whitfield, Beverley Joy (1954-1996) Olympic swimmer and youth worker
Pryor, Lindsay Dixon (1915-1998) botanist and forester	Statham, Francis West (1916-1999) engineer and army officer	Witt, Howell Arthur (1920-1998) Anglican bishop
Purves, Frederick William (1912-1997) naval officer and marine engineer	Stephenson, Gordon (1908-1997) architect, planner, and civic designer	Young, Michael Jerome (1936-1996) shearer, trade unionist and politician
Rapotec, Stanislaus Ivan (1911-1997) artist	Tesselaar, Cornelius Ignatius (1912-1996)	Zeidler, David Ronald (1918-1998) chemist, chemical engineer, and industrialist
Riley, Robert Samuel (1954-1996) Aboriginal leader and activist		