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# BIOGRAPHY FOOTNOTES

The Newsletter of the National Centre of Biography

Issue 13, July 2014  
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## ADB Internship

***Reading, writing, researching or publishing a  
biography?***

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# FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



## Welcome to Issue 13 of *Biography Footnotes*

The *ADB* is mourning the deaths of our two most prolific authors, Gerald (Gerry) Walsh and Martha Rutledge (Campbell). Gerry contributed 198 entries to the *ADB*. Martha wrote 172 signed entries and, as an *ADB* research editor (1967-2002), wrote many of the unsigned entries in volumes 1 and 2.

Martha was nominated to write two more articles, on actor Queenie Ashton and businessman Sir Alexis Albert, for the next volume of the *ADB*. In February this year we commissioned Gerry to write his 199th entry on Malcolm Turnbull's mother, Coral Lansbury, and were discussing his 200th on bookmaker, gambler and wool-classer, Arthur Browning.

We were looking forward to having a gathering later in the year to celebrate Gerry's 200th entry. Instead I found myself, on 6 February, attending his Requiem Mass at St Vincent de Paul Church. On 9 May I attended the memorial service for Martha at the historic St John's Church in Reid.

The *ADB* was important to the professional lives of both of these historians. They will be much missed. We have included their obituaries in this issue of *Biography Footnotes*.

One might think bleakly about the task of succession in the wake of the deaths of Gerry and Martha. Occasionally when working on *The ADB's Story* – the history of our first

50 years – I was told that we would never again benefit from the voluntary contribution of such authors, that has been fundamental to the *ADB's* success. Contribution to the research environment, such as *ADB* service, is held to be unrewarding for academics in these days of ERA with its emphasis on personal publication. I am sometimes told that young academics are positively discouraged from writing for the *ADB*.

The view from my desk is not so bleak. The *ADB* community has already started working, in what are difficult times, to ensure we have the human and financial resources for the next fifty years. And we have just commissioned a new PhD graduate, and a doctoral student in Australian history, to write *ADB* entries. Maybe one of them will go on to be a Gerry or a Martha.

Martha was personally responsible for her school friend Caroline Simpson donating \$100,000 to the *ADB* Endowment Fund in the 1990s. Together the *ADB* community donated over \$100,000 in 2013 at the initiative of Tom Griffiths, chair of the *ADB's* Editorial Board. It is with delight that I note that Tom was awarded an AO in the Queen's Birthday Honours' list. His voluntary contribution to the *ADB* is among the range of activities that make him a wonderful historian citizen. That has now been acknowledged nationally. We congratulate Tom and all *ADB* authors who have received honours this year.

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Cover: Poster for one of the courses being offered in the ANU's Master of Liberal Studies (Biographical Research and Writing)

## ADB Endowment Fund

Thank-you to everyone who contributed to the ADB Endowment Fund over the last year. \$115,595 has been raised. We are now working towards securing corporate sponsorship to enable us to start rewriting the earliest volumes of the ADB and to add a range of online resources to the site.

## National Biography Award

The shortlist for the National Biography Award has been announced.

The books vying for the \$25,000 prize money are: Greg Bearup and John Cantwell, *Exit Wounds: One Australian's War on Terror*, about John's experiences as an army officer; Gideon Haigh, *On Warne*, a biography of Shane Warne; Janet Butler, *Kitty's War*, based on the diaries of World War I nurse, Kit McNaughton; Sheila Fitzpatrick, *A Spy in the Archives* recalling her experiences in the post-Stalinist Soviet Union; Alison Alexander, *The Ambitions of Jane Franklin*, about the wife of the Tasmanian governor John Franklin, and Steve Bisley, *Stillways*, a memoir of his childhood.

The director of the NCB, Melanie Nolan, is once again judging the award, along with Dr Jacqueline Kent and Dr James Ley.

The winning author will be announced on 4 August at the State Library of New South Wales as the first event in the library's Biography Week. For further information about events during the week see [http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/events/series/biography\\_week.html](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/events/series/biography_week.html)

You can listen to the podcast of a talk given by last year's Biography Award winner, Peter Fitzpatrick, to the NCB's Biography Workshop at <http://ncb.anu.edu.au/story/ncb-podcast>

## Magarey Medal

Fiona Paisley has won the 2014 Magarey Medal for Biography for her book *The Lone Protestor* which traces the travels of Anthony Martin Fernando who left Sydney in the early 1900s and

travelled through Europe publicising the plight of Aborigines in Australia.

The biennial prize is worth \$10,000, indexed to inflation.

## Pastoral Reviews online

Anyone with an interest in rural Australia will know what a valuable resource the *Pastoral Review of Australia* (under its various names) is.

The magazine was first published in 1891 as a means of uniting pastoralists against militant shearers. Albert Pearse and Richard Twopeny (who both have ADB entries) founded and edited it. Pearse remained as its managing director until shortly before his death in 1951. The last issue was published in 1977.

The magazine contains a wealth of biographical material about pastoralists, their families, their properties and the various associations formed to represent their interests. Those interested in climate change and environmental history will also find it a mine of information.

The NCB has undertaken to digitise the magazines as a means of promoting its wider use. It will be available through the National Library's Trove search facility later in the year.

## What the online stats say

Sir Henry Parkes is currently the ADB's most visited entry, ending the long-running reign of Ned Kelly.

If we take a longer view of the statistics, though, – from 2011 when the ADB's website was upgraded – Ned retains his top spot with Parkes coming in at second place, followed by James Cook, Edmund Barton, and Peter Lalor. Caroline Chisholm, who used to tussle with Ned Kelly for the most viewed page, comes in at number 6 overall. In 7th place is Douglas Mawson, followed by Mary Mackillop, Arthur Phillip and Squizzy Taylor. The Aboriginal warrior, Pemulwuy, comes in at no 11.

The top 10 hits for Obituaries Australia, since the site went live in 2011, are all crooks who featured in Channel 9's popular 'Underbelly' TV series. Nellie Cameron, prostitute and mistress of several underworld figures, tops the list. She is followed by Norman Bruhn, Jim Devine, Phillip Jeffs, Frank Green, Kate Leigh, Tilley Devine, Guido Guilletti, Squizzy Taylor and Barney Dalton.

The number of hits received by *Obituaries Australia* continues to rise every month. We anticipate that the site will become a valuable resource in its own right as well as a fitting companion to the ADB in that it contains the stories of the parents, spouses, siblings, children and associates of people in the ADB.

## Exploring Australia

The NCB's new resource, Exploring Australia, will be launched by the German Ambassador, Dr Christoph Müller, on 30 September.

We are particularly pleased that Dr Müller will be joining us at the launch as his countryman, Ludwig Leichhardt, is the first explorer to be included in the site. The date chosen for the launch also has a significance. 30 September is the eve of the 170th anniversary of Leichhardt's epic journey from Moreton Bay to Port Essington.

We eventually hope to feature the diaries and maps of all of Australia's land explorers on the site as well as the stories and routes of some of our most famous drovers such as Nat Buchanan ( <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/buchanan-nathaniel-nat-3101> ) who, in 1878 drove 1200 cattle from Aramac in Queensland to Glencoe (now Delamere) Station in Katherine.

## Volunteer sought

We are looking for a volunteer in Sydney willing to transcribe the manuscript of the published journal of Ludwig Leichhardt's journey of exploration from Moreton Bay to Port Essington in 1844-45.

When Leichhardt returned to Sydney in 1845, he wrote a journal about the expedition, based on the diary he had kept (which is now lost) and his field maps. The journal was edited by his friend, Philip Parker King, before it was sent to England for publication.

The State Library of New South Wales holds the last few hundred pages of the manuscript copy of the journal. It has both Leichhardt's original text and King's edits. We are after a transcription of the unedited text which contains, we are told, more information concerning his encounters with Aborigines than does the published version.

Our aim is to include the unedited text on our Exploring Australia site so that readers can compare it with the published version.

## Australian Honours

Congratulations to *ADB* authors and members of Working Parties and the Editorial Board who received Australian honours this year:

### Australia Day Honours

Officer (AO) in the General Division  
Professor Anthony Blackshield  
Dr Murray Kemp

Member (AM) in the General Division  
Professor John McLaren  
Professor Ian North  
Dr Moira Scollay  
Mr Murray Yawley (deceased)

Medal (OAM) in the General Division  
Mr Peter Boyer  
Mr Terence Lane  
Father William Southerwood

### Queen's Birthday Honours

Companion (AC) in the General Division  
Hon. Dr Barry Jones

Officer (AO) in the General Division  
Professor Tom Griffiths  
Emeritus Professor Sam Lake

Member (AM) in the General Division  
Mr John McLaughlin  
Dr Harry Phillips

Medal (OAM) in the General Division  
Mr Gilbert Docking

## New *ADB* entries to be published online first

In a departure from previous practice, *ADB* entries will now be published online before being published in hardcopy.

About 130 entries, for people who died in 1991, will be added to the site in December. They include former governor-general Sir John Kerr, historian Manning Clark, writer Coral Lansbury, heart surgeon Victor Chang and literary critic Dorothy Green. Entries for those who died in 1992 will be published the following December and so on.

Volume 19, which will include entries for those who died between 1991-95, will be available in hardcopy in about five years.

## Biography Workshop

The NCB has revamped its Biography Reading Group. Now called Biography Workshop, the group meets regularly with published biographers to discuss common issues faced by biographers such as sorting truth from fiction and how far authors should intrude on their subjects' personal lives.

So far this year the Workshop has met with David Day, who is writing a biography of Paul Keating, and Peter Fitzpatrick, winner of the National Biography Award for 2012.

Guest speakers lined up for the rest of the year include James Button, Nigel Starck and Paul Pickering.

The sessions are being taped and can be downloaded from the NCB website at <http://ncb.anu.edu.au/biography-reading-group-2013>

## Biographical Dictionary of the Australian Senate

The 316 entries in the first three volumes of the *Biographical Dictionary of the Australian Senate* are now available online at <http://biography.senate.gov.au/>. Concise biographies of all senators, and senate clerks, who served between 1901 and 1983, are included in the site.

The site also offers a number of useful browse searches including by party affiliation, state/territory represented, years of service and senate office held, and has links to other resources available on the Commonwealth Parliament's site.

Work is continuing on volume 4 of the *BDAS*, which will contain 109 entries of senators (and one clerk of the Senate) who completed their service in the years 1984-2001, during the governments of Malcolm Fraser, Bob Hawke, Paul Keating and John Howard. The biographies will canvas issues such as the rise of the Australian Democrats, Australian involvement in the Gulf War, the passage of native title legislation, and the introduction of the GST. It will include biographies of well-known senators such as John Button, Florence Bjelke-Petersen, Don Chipp, Mal Colston, Gareth Evans, Margaret Guilfoyle, Janine Haines, Cheryl Kernot, Graham Richardson, Susan Ryan and Reg Withers. Approximately 80 per cent of the subjects are still living.

## National Biography Conference

The NCB has received \$20,000 from the ANU's College of Arts and Social Sciences to hold a conference, in 2016, on the role of national biographies in the digital world.

Representatives of the *Oxford Dictionary of Biography*, the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, the *Dictionary of Irish Biography*, the *Dictionary of American Biography* and the *New Zealand Dictionary of Biography* will give papers about initiatives they are developing.

One day will also be set aside to discuss Australian dictionary projects such as the *Dictionary of Sydney*, the *Australian Women's Register* and the *Dictionary of the Senate*.

2016 marks the 50th anniversary of the publication of the first volume of the *ADB* so it is particularly appropriate that we should be discussing future directions.

## New Managing Editor for ADB

After a formal selection process, Dr Malcolm Allbrook was appointed Managing Editor of the *ADB*. He commenced his duties in February.



Malcolm takes up the position following a varied career. Born and raised in Uganda, he arrived in Perth as an 11-year-old at the end of 1965, where he finished his secondary schooling and then completed an honours degree in Classics and Ancient History at the University of Western Australia. Returning to undertake a degree in social work, Malcolm then worked with the Western Australian government before moving with his family to Derby in the West Kimberley, where he worked with the Kimberley Land Council, the Aboriginal community based organisation charged with the management of native title claims in the region. Leaving this position in 1998, and moving back to Perth, Malcolm was employed as the general manager of the Yamatji Marlpa Land and Sea Council, which represents Aboriginal native title claimants in the vast Pilbara, Gascoyne and Murchison regions of Western Australia.

In 2005, he embarked on a new direction by enrolling in a PhD in history at Griffith University in Brisbane, which was awarded in 2008 for a thesis on Henry Prinsep (1844–1922),

artist, photographer, civil servant, and member of a large family of colonisers, who were distributed around India, Sri Lanka and the Indian Ocean rim, and who is best known for his legacy as Western Australia's first Chief Protector of Aborigines in the government of Sir John Forrest.

After working as a freelance historian and exhibition curator, and freed from the responsibilities of bringing up his three (now adult) children, Malcolm moved to Canberra with his partner Mary Anne Jebb at the beginning of 2011. He was subsequently employed as Research Associate to Professor Ann McGrath, in the School of History at the ANU, on her ARC Discovery project on the ancient and recent history of Lake Mungo in western New South Wales. This absorbing and fascinating topic also allowed him the space to get around to revising his thesis. It will be published later this year by ANU Press as *Henry Prinsep's Empire: Framing a Distant Colony*. This will be his second book; in January 2013 he published *Never Stand Still: Stories of Life, Land and Politics in the Kimberley*, a collaborative life writing project with Kimberley Aboriginal leader, John Darraga Watson.

Malcolm brings a range of interests to his role as Managing Editor. While his overarching concern is in the field of biography and life writing, his interests include transnational histories, particularly of the Indian Ocean region, Indigenous community histories, and Empire and colonial histories. He is currently working on a number of projects additional to his role as Managing Editor, including a book on Carlotta Brockman and her childhood memoirs of colonial Western Australia (commissioned by the City of Perth), a community history of the Worrorra people of the north Kimberley coast, and a history of first contact in the Pilbara.

Malcolm looks forward to helping cement the already strong links between the *ADB* and Australia's 'western third', and to fully immersing himself in the activities of this important Australian cultural institution.

## Nicole McLennan returns to ADB



Dr Nicole McLennan returned to the *ADB* on 8 July as research editor, responsible for Victorian entries, taking over from Dr Sam Furphy who is working on an ARC project for the next three years.

Nicole first worked for the *ADB* in 1998 as a research assistant under Martha Campbell and then as research editor for the small states desk. Over the last two years she has been working as a curator at the National Museum of Australia where she was part of the team developing the Museum's exhibition *Spirited: Australia's Horse Story* that will open in September. From a horse trough made from a log to a Newcastle bakery cart, she considers much of her writing and research at the Museum to have been object biography.

# MARTHA CAMPBELL, 1936-2014

## Martha Dorothy Campbell

Obituary by Mark McGinness, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 30/5/2004

The *Australian Dictionary of Biography* has been hailed as a national treasure. In half a century of sustained scholarship, the *ADB* has so far recorded 12,500 Australian lives in 19 volumes. Over 46 years, under the first five general editors, Martha Rutledge, as subeditor, checker, research editor and author, became the backbone of the *ADB*.

She is credited as the author of 172 articles (only the late Gerry Walsh surpassed her with 198) but as a member of staff from 1967 to 2002, researching, editing and rewriting thousands of entries, Rutledge could have claimed authorship of at least as many.

The *ADB* was a perfect home for this sixth-generation Australian with a passion for history, a great pride in her family story, and an abiding reverence for the English language.

Martha Dorothy Rutledge was born on September 22, 1936, the elder daughter and the first of three children of Colonel Thomas Rutledge, a grazier, veteran of Gallipoli and former MLA, and his wife Helen, daughter of Sir Colin Stephen. The *ADB* said of the Colonel: 'His opinions were respected and influential despite a reticence that inhibited familiarity.' Helen Rutledge was a formidable figure; a great grand dame – clever, witty, and an author herself; she sat at Sydney's pinnacle, having grown up at Rona, the gabled mansion of Sydney stone built by her grandfather, E.W. Knox, on the top of Bellevue Hill. It was her family that inspired the impudent verse 'Up on top of Bellevue Hill/Among the scrub and rockses/God knows the Stephens/And the Stephens know the Knoxes'.

Part of every holiday was spent at Rona, and occasionally at Palm Beach. But home for Martha was 'Gidleigh', Bungendore, the Rutledge family property since 1874. After a series of governesses and lessons from her mother, a tutor in Bungendore and a stint at Ascham, young Martha boarded at Frensham. Neither musical nor sporty, she was not happy there. However, she excelled academically and won an Iris for History. In 1954 her parents took her to Europe to further her studies in foreign languages. She also took in Royal Ascot but there was nothing frivolous about her. She attended the University of Sydney (BA, 1959) and enjoyed Women's College.

After a year abroad she enrolled at the ANU and, to gain a university post, completed an MA on great-great-grandfather Sir Alfred Stephen's divorce law reform.

In 1966 Rutledge became a tutor at ANU's History Department. Its head, Manning Clark, told her brother, who was visiting, 'Her room is down there next to the fire extinguisher. We keep her there because she is such a fiery person.' But in fact as women's subwarden at the university's Burton Hall, she was widely loved: 'the most un-wardenly warden'.



Martha Campbell, 1985

photo by Sue Edgar

In 1967 Rutledge joined the editorial staff of the *ADB*. This would be her life's work. Her first life was her great-great-uncle, Billy Rutledge, merchant, banker, and settler. ('He was warm-hearted, courageous, generous and outspoken, with a vigorous and energetic personality, which became a legend in the Western District. Despite his explosive temper he was loved and respected, if not always respectable.')

Rutledge specialised in the 19th century: on her kin – pastoralists, judges, knights – and their friends. Despite her affection for her distinguished family, she was scrupulous with her sources and cautious in her judgment. Through her scholarship, she made the apparently lofty Knoxes and Stephens real. Sir Alfred Stephen (1802-1894), a great chief justice: 'Handsome, sprightly and joyous, with wit and charm ... Stephen had faults: among them were 'his great failing in meddling in matters that did not concern him' observed by Therry, and his 'overweening vanity' noted by 'Cassius' ...'

Great-grandfather Edward William Knox (1847-1933), chairman of CSR, was 'a shy man, who would never speak on the telephone, he was happiest among his relations'. But her range was not confined to family. She encompassed actors, actresses, comedians, singers, authors, cameramen – even a convict and bushranger; and Percival John Galea (1910-1977), 'gambler and illegal casino operator'.

In 1970 Rutledge married Charles Campbell. Sir Robert Menzies toasted the bride and groom. They were kindred spirits, dedicated to books, antiques and their garden. They were third cousins once-removed, in fact – both descended from Robert Campbell, who arrived in Sydney in 1798 to develop a trade in livestock. Their union was described by their two sons as 'the result not so much of courtship as osmosis', while Charles' obituarist summed them up as 'together – amply framed, clever,

# MARTHA CAMPBELL (cont'd)

generous, witty and gently wise – they became a much-loved couple, hospitable in their sharing of food, wine, friendship and wide-ranging conversation’.

Campbell had inherited Woden, the remains of the family holdings, most of which became Canberra, and he and Martha moved there in 1972 on the death of his father. It flourished under their care. An old *ADB* friend recalled Rutledge’s ‘devotion to Woden, the house, its interior, and its garden, despite the early problems of chronically malfunctioning pumps, kangaroos in the swimming pool, orphan lambs to keep warm in the kitchen stove (there were the legendary lambs Bella and Sandy, who thought they were dogs and, as free-range adults, terrorised visitors)’.

At the *ADB* Rutledge noted that her job had grown ‘like Topsy’: first writing entries under the first editor, Douglas Pike and later subediting and checking under successive general editors.

While ‘more by dint of their skills than design’ five of the seven *ADB* staff in 1971 were women, by 1986 they were wondering if it was ‘significant that we are all women’. They were well-qualified researchers doing specialist work and responsible for an array of publications while supervising graduate students and sitting on selection panels, yet their work was not given its due in public sector terms. They were eventually promoted from research assistants to research officers; they got a pay increase, but they remained classified as general staff in an ‘odd academic cul-de-sac’.

Rutledge became the most senior of the research editors, mentoring newer staff members. Her long tenure fostered among the staff a sense of community and pride in the *ADB*. In 1998 when the fourth general editor, John Ritchie, mounted an endowment campaign, Rutledge contacted her old school and family friend, the splendid Caroline Fairfax Simpson, ‘who cared about the past’ and contributed \$100,000 when the dictionary most needed it.

Many lives do not lend themselves to it, but some of Rutledge’s entries sparked. Lyndall Barbour (1916-1986), radio actor, was ‘dedicated to her career, Barbour did not marry. In her later years she became a recluse and spent much of her time in her North Sydney flat enthusiastically watching cricket on television, revelling especially in the batting of Greg Chappell’. And Gwendolen and Nesta Griffiths: ‘The sisters invariably changed for dinner and swept into the kitchen to cook in long dresses ... Taller, and more astringent, exacting and down-to-earth than her sister, Gwendolen was the kinder; Nesta, who asked impertinent questions and indulged in malicious gossip about those of whom she disapproved, could look almost vixenish.’

Rutledge’s last entry, in 2008, six years after her retirement, as her health declined, was her uncle, Sir Alastair Stephen, solicitor and company director. Of his father, her grandfather, Sir Colin Stephen (1872-1937), solicitor and horseman, she had written: ‘Stephen had a “shrewd and analytical mind”, a high conception of duty and a capacity to master detail. His versatility, experience and ‘formidable strength of character’ led many to seek his advice.’

This description might have applied to his granddaughter, who, for nearly half a century, quietly, carefully burnished a national treasure.

Martha Rutledge is survived by her sons Patrick and Daniel, two grandsons, her sister and her brother. Charles died in 2011.

\* Martha’s obituary can be found in Obituaries Australia at <http://oa.anu.edu.au/obituary/campbell-martha-17861>

## Martha's Family Connections

As Mark McGinness has mentioned, Martha Campbell was a sixth generation Australian and had many illustrious ancestors. Her family tree, accessible from her obituary in the Obituaries Australia website, shows some of them. As well as those mentioned by Mark, Martha was also a direct descendant of Gregory Blaxland who, with William Lawson and William Wentworth, crossed the Blue Mountains in 1813. William Forster, a former premier of New South Wales, after whom the town of Forster is named, was a great grand uncle.

Like many families, the Forsters suffered the loss of several family members during World War I. William Forster’s three sons by his second wife, Maud Edwards, were brought up in England following their father’s death and served as officers in the British Expeditionary Force. All three died during World War I.

Forster’s daughter from his first marriage, Laura, served as an army doctor during World War I and died from a heart attack following a bout of influenza. She was working in a hospital in Ukraine at the time.

Laura Forster (whose obituary we have at <http://oa.anu.edu.au/obituary/forster-laura-17879>) was a remarkable woman. Born in Sydney in 1858, she gained her medical qualification in Switzerland and then set up a practice in England. She served as a nurse in Epirus during the Balkan Wars and, at the commencement of World War I, joined the medical staff of the British Field Hospital in Antwerp where she worked as a surgeon and was always willing to serve in field hospitals near the source of fighting.

After assisting in the evacuation of the Antwerp hospital following its bombardment by German soldiers Laura went to Northern France to assist with wounded Belgians and then went to Russia where she quickly mastered the Russian language and worked in the men’s surgical department of the biggest hospital in Petrograd. She was the first English woman doctor to work in the city. She was in charge of a hospital at Zaleshchiki in Ukraine when she died in 1917.

According to an item in the *British Record*, 20/10/1917, Laura was buried in Zaleshchiki with full Russian rites and, in keeping with local custom, in an open coffin accompanied by icons. Nurses from her hospital made a Union Jack flag which they placed over her body.

# GERRY WALSH, 1934-2014

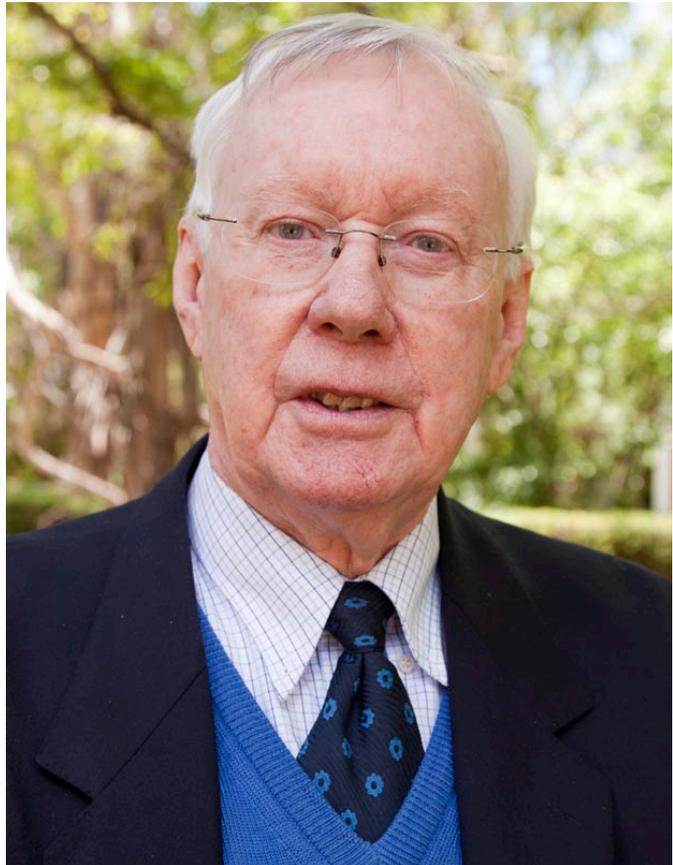
## Gerald Patrick Walsh

Eulogy by John Molony at the funeral of Gerry Walsh, St Vincent's, Aranda, 6 February 2014

We are all deeply grateful to Gerry's brother Mick for his warm welcome to us all, as well as to Greg Pemberton for the commemorative card he has produced, and to the wider group of Gerry's close friends who have worked on an obituary for him which will be published in due course. It is especially pleasing that Father Brian Maher is our celebrant today and we thank him for accepting this fundamental role. He shares two particular things with Gerry. They both graduated from the University of Sydney; differing only in that Brian did so in Agricultural Science, which Gerry, with his vast knowledge of Australia's pastoral and agricultural industry, could well have done also. Indeed Brian could have done likewise in the Humanities. As an historian, Brian has written especially and extensively on the history of this archdiocese as well as writing entries for the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. Nonetheless, like me, Brian would probably not be selected for the First Eleven of the *Dictionary*. Gerry, however, was rightly called the Bradman of the *Dictionary*. He was working in his last days on his 199th entry, so that in his final game, as it were, he should go down on the score sheet as Gerald Patrick Walsh, 198 retired. We all regard that as a tremendous score often played on difficult pitches.

At St Patrick's College, Strathfield, Gerry had a great mate, Pat Downie, to whom he stuck loyally throughout Pat's life. Pat was blind from birth but he became the first blind person to pass the Leaving Certificate. He did so in part because two of his classmates, Gerry and Tom Keneally, known always to his boyhood mates as Mick, read to him constantly. At school Gerry assuredly learnt the ancient motto *Facere et Docere* – to do and to teach. He took both seriously and one of the things he did so well was to make mates and bind himself to them by constant acts of warm friendship marked by unstinted generosity and unswerving loyalty. That great gift came through his beloved parents and from within the bosom of his home. From there he went forth and shared it with others so many of whom are among us today.

It would be perverse of me not to recognize that being enriched by Gerry's friendship entailed sharing in his conviviality. He made no pretence of being a chef, apart from his early exploits barbecuing vast steaks for his mates in his backyard. Rather, from the old pub in the centre of the town we graduated with him to the Rex Hotel, and thence to the Tuesday Club at ANU. He and I founded that institution because Tuesday, being neither start, middle nor end, was such a colourless day that it needed to be rescued by conviviality. From ANU the breathalyser forced a move to the Canberra Club and, latterly, to the Ainslie Football Club – an Aussie Rules institution. This final venue surprised me. Gerry regarded Aussie Rules as an almost effete development of football. Furthermore, it was engaged in principally by ignorant, but innocent, Victorians who avoided the manly expression of sporting prowess known as



Gerry Walsh, 2009

Rugby by its players, in Gerry's eyes, jumping interminably into the air.

Cricket was in essence another matter, although Gerry was never a zealot of any stripe. To him cricket was the finest sporting expression of art. He loved it and gave much to it as his biography spells out. Both as coach and umpire he upheld the highest traditions of the game and countless former players remember him with gratitude. Last week I had a grievous foreboding when I visited Gerry. I realized how seriously ill he was because he made it plain that he had lost all interest in cricket. It came to me then that the transcendental had begun to envelop his spirit. Surely he at least hoped that cricket would be played in Heaven and, if so, that he would be given the chance to hold up his finger and declare God the Father out LBW – bowled Fred Spofforth, the greatest of our early Australian fast bowlers. One thing is certain. Had this fantasy come to pass he would not have hesitated in his decision.

Rather than talk to you about what Gerry did, I want to concentrate briefly on what he knew because all he did, his teaching, his writing and his conversation flowed from his knowledge. I will leave aside his profound intellectual relationship to classical music, of high literature, of maps and, in the widest sense, of geography and of science in many of its avenues, of the defence forces, and finally of wine and brewing and their industries. Gerry knew all that and his conversation was laced with it.

But in the annals of Australian scholarship who has known more, and brought it all together to make it known, not simply in the academic sphere but more importantly to the general public, of early industry in New South Wales and its pioneers, of the merino and the wool industry, of sheep dogs and especially the kelpie, of the shearers and the sheds, of the squatters and the large pastoralists and their runs, of the bush and the outback and the stations along the river fronts, of the machinery and the methods used in the pastoral and agricultural industry? I could go on and on.

I am not claiming that in many of the areas I have mentioned there are not some specialists who knew more about specific matters than Gerry; and I take the merino, which has created its own literature as an example. But Gerry's mind and his memory were vast reservoirs from which all he had learnt flowed in one cohesive and powerful stream. In it all the elements of his knowledge were distilled and blended. Those who wanted a single malt could find it in the specialist books and articles. Those who wanted a gracious and pleasing blend expressed in prose that stands up in genuine clarity and intelligibility could turn to Gerry. They went away enriched.

But we need to ask how all this was possible. There is one answer. It is diligence, or expressed more bluntly and colloquially, sheer hard yakka. From his boyhood Gerry loved and grew to know the land, and especially his grandparents homestead and its broad acres at Wallabadah. Gerry walked the cemeteries of the cities and the bush and took notes from the grave stones as he went, he drove out to Bourke and along

the Darling, north into Queensland and south to Victoria and its Western District and into large parts of this continent. But above all he haunted the bookshops and the libraries seeking the story of the past. He read and jotted down reams of information from journals, newspapers, rural weeklies, diaries and letters. Nothing daunted him in his search and he never skimmed the work or played with the truth. The old monks of the Middle Ages who spent endless hours in pursuit of the meaning of a single word or in search of a lost manuscript would have understood and cherished Gerry.

I end by insisting on something that all who came to know Gerry well quickly understood. Gerry was not just a stereotype of one who was his own man. He was himself – Gerald Patrick Walsh. That entailed many things some of which I have spoken of. But what made Gerry stand up against the tide and travel the lonely road of protest in the episode called hazing at Duntroon? Gerry knew that any society or segment of society in which the sacred voice of protest is stifled stands on the verge on an abyss. What he did at Duntroon and at ADFA\* was simple – he said 'Enough.' He was seeking after justice. In this, as in so much else, Gerry was a dinkum Aussie who demanded a fair go for the underdog.

And I have said enough. Let us now join with Father Brian as he prays that Gerry's dear soul will be borne by the angels into Paradise.

\* Gerry exposed 'bastardisation' at the Royal Military College, Duntroon in 1969, and at the Australian Defence Force Academy in 1983.

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## A Top 10 for the 2000s? by Malcolm Allbrook

As Managing Editor of the *ADB* one of my tasks is to respond to public inquiries, most of them appreciative, some of them critical, and a few mystified by the processes of the fine Australian cultural and historical institution that is the *ADB*.

The most common complaint relates to missing persons, particularly to Australians who died after 2000 and who therefore fall into what we call 'Period 7' and 'Period 8'. Why is it that the *ADB* carries no entry for Sir Donald Bradman for example? 'The Don', who died on 25 February 2001, misses out on a Period 6 entry (1991–2000) by a matter of days, and in the normal course of events, it will be some years before the *ADB* gets around to preparing and publishing an entry for this most notable Australian.

I field similar inquiries about others –

Dame Joan Sutherland (1926–2010), Lionel Rose (1948–2011) and Kerry Packer (1937–2005) for example.

My explanations, I sense, only partly satisfy the correspondents. In an age of lightning fast information, electronic publishing and the increasing digitisation of biographical records, the public is becoming accustomed to information accessibility at the click of a mouse, while the processes of institutions such as the *ADB* seem increasingly slow.

This set me thinking. What if the *ADB* was to depart from time-honoured procedure and publish, ahead of time, the biographies of twelve significant Australians who will definitely become the subjects of an entry in due course?

Who would be on that list?

In an idle moment, I came up with:

Sir Donald Bradman (1908–2001)

Dame Joan Sutherland (1926–2010)  
Lionel Rose (1948–2011)  
Kerry Packer (1937–2005)  
Slim Dusty (1927–2003)  
Shirley de la Hunty (Strickland) (1925–2004)  
Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen (1911–2005)  
Dorothy Hewett (1923–2002)  
Robert Hughes (1938–2012)  
Chrissy Amphlett (1950–2013)  
John Gorton (1911–2002)  
Margaret Whitlam (1919–2012)

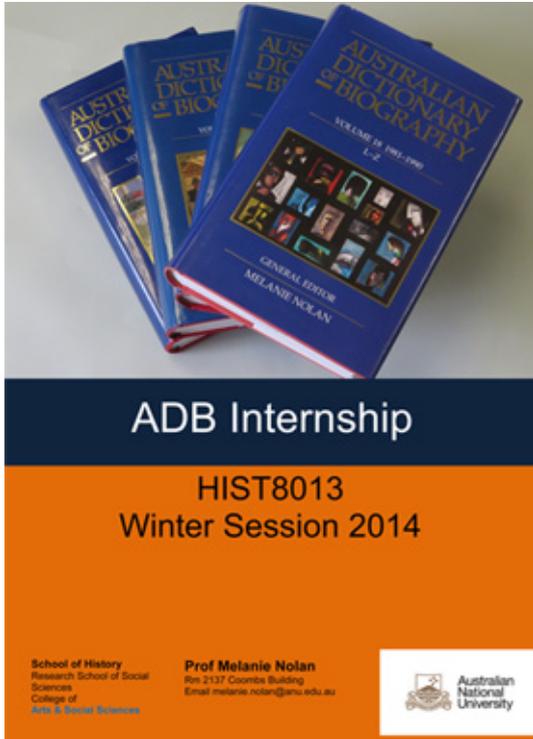
There are many others who could, some may say should, be in a top twelve – Mandurway Yunupingu, Hazel Hawke, Keith Miller, Jim Cairns and so on – and it is bound to be a topic of much debate and disagreement.

I feel a debate coming on – so who would be on your list? Drop me a line and let me know your views:

Malcolm.Allbrook@anu.edu.au

# NEW INITIATIVES

## Masters in Biographical Research and Writing



In 2007 the Gregory Report on the future of the *ADB* recommended that the new National Centre of Biography at the ANU train biographers through graduate programs.

As well as offering a PhD program, NCB staff are running four courses of the Master of Liberal Studies (Biographical Research and Writing) offered at the ANU from 2014.

The courses are:

HIST 8010 Biographical Practices  
HIST 8011 Writing Biography  
offered in the first half of the year.

HIST 8004 Biographical Research Project  
HIST 8013 ADB Internship  
offered in the second half of the year.

The *ADB* Internship offers students a chance to work with *ADB* staff, and research and write an *ADB* entry and a thematic essay.

The courses are available online, run for ten weeks and costs \$3000 per course. See <http://programsandcourses.anu.edu.au/program/7107XMLABW> for further information

**NB.** From 2015, NCB staff are also contributing to a digital history course co-ordinated by Dr Kynan Gentry from the ANU's School of History.

## Using Lives journal

In 2007 the Gregory Report on the future of the *ADB* recommended that the NCB act as a focus for the study of biography in Australia. In addition Rod Rhodes, the Director of RSSS, suggested that the Centre establish a biography series with ANU Press (which we did in 2008) and establish a journal focusing on Australian biography and life writing. We have now acted on this latter suggestion by creating a new e-journal: *Using Lives: Essays in Australian Biography and History* (<http://ncb.anu.edu.au/using-lives>). As well as essays on biography and life writing, the journal will include book reviews, and thematic essays currently published on the *ADB* website.

The first thematic essay, Vashti Farrer's 'First past the post: the Melbourne Cup of 1861', was published on the *ADB* website in February 2012. This and essays that have followed, are designed to provide an opportunity for authors to contribute articles drawn on topics from the *ADB*, to explore connections between *ADB* subjects, and consider the networks and themes from the vast spectrum of Australian life represented in its entries. The essays are subject to the standards expected of an academic publication, including peer review and editorial procedure. The nine essays published since 2012 are as diverse as one might expect from such a broad brief and include Dr Barbara Dawson's study of colonial women in the *ADB*, Dr Karen Fox's essay 'Knights and Dames in Australia', John Nethercote's 'Unearthing the Seven Dwarfs and the Age of the Mandarins.' and Dr Sue Taffe's essay on the Council for Aboriginal Rights.

The steadily growing number of thematic essays and the obvious interest from authors in writing and publishing articles on Australian biography and life writing led to the decision in mid-2014 to create an online journal. A suitable title was selected – *Using Lives*, inspired by Dr Nicholas Brown's series of postgraduate student workshops and reflective of the journal's intentionally broad scope. The first issue, comprising the nine published thematic essays, was uploaded as Volume 1, Number 1, in June.

*Using Lives* will be published regularly and will be made up of three broad categories: long essays on biography and life writing which are subject to peer review; shorter 'thematic essays' drawing on subjects in the volumes of the *ADB*, discussing their connections and networks, and short review essays and book reviews. Under the editorship of Dr Malcolm Allbrook, Managing Editor of the *ADB*, contributions will be subject to the same editorial processes that guide the production of the *ADB*. The General Editor and Director of the NCB, Professor Melanie Nolan, the research fellows and research editorial staff of the *ADB*, and Christine Fernon, the *ADB*'s Online Manager, will comprise the editorial board, while reviewers will be drawn from the extensive network of fellows and academics that make up the broad *ADB* community.

Contributions can be forwarded to Dr Allbrook at any time, or potential authors are invited to discuss their proposals with him by email: [Malcolm.Allbrook@anu.edu.au](mailto:Malcolm.Allbrook@anu.edu.au)

# ADB C'WLTH WORKING PARTY



Back Row (L-R): Graeme Powell, Nick Brown (chair), Bill Gammage, David Lee, David Carment  
Front Row (L-R): Pat Clarke, John Farquharson, Jill Waterhouse  
Absent: Peter Stanley, Libby Robin, John Nethercote

The ADB's Commonwealth Working Party was formed in 1989. It meets in Canberra and has responsibility for Commonwealth (Parliament, Public Service and Judiciary) entries as well as those from the ACT and Northern Territory. Its members bring a wide variety of knowledge to their task.

Graeme Powell is a former Manuscript Librarian at the National Library of Australia and has a vast knowledge of resources relating to Commonwealth and ACT entries. Graeme joined the Working Party in 1989.

Nick Brown, senior research fellow in the School of History, ANU, is a sixth generation Canberran. His research interests include biographical history and public policy development and processes. He has recently published *A History of Canberra*. Nick joined the Working Party in 1993 and became its chair in 2004.

Bill Gammage, adjunct professor and senior research fellow at the Humanities Research Centre, ANU, is widely known for his books on Australian military history. His most recent book, *The Biggest Estate on Earth: How Aborigines Made Australia*, won the Prime Minister's Prize for Australian History in 2012. Bill joined the Working Party in 1999.

David Lee is the Director of the Historical Publications and Information Section at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. His latest book was a biography of Stanley Melbourne Bruce. David joined the Working Party in 2007.

David Carment, emeritus professor of History at Charles Darwin University, is the Working Party's Northern Territory specialist. Co-editor of the multi-volume *Dictionary of the Northern Territory*, he is also interested in Australian federal political history. David joined the Working Party in 1999.

Pat Clarke, historian, editor and former journalist, is a longstanding member of the Canberra and District Historical Society. She served as its president in 1997-99 and edited its journal in 1987-2000. Her latest book *Eileen Giblin: A Feminist between the Wars* was shortlisted for the Magarey Award 2014. Pat has been a member of the Working Party since 1989.

John Farquharson was a member of the Federal Press Gallery and a journalist with the *Canberra Times*. More recently he has become known as an obituary writer. John is a longstanding member and past president of the Canberra and District Historical Society and joined the Working Party in 2002.

Jill Waterhouse has extensive ties to Canberra. She is a member of the Canberra and District Historical Society and has written many books about the district. Jill joined the Working Party in 2005.

Peter Stanley is a professor at the Australian Centre for the Study of Armed Conflict and Society, Australian Defence Force Academy. His book *Bad Characters: Sex, Crime, Mutiny, Murder and the Australian Imperial Force* was jointly awarded the Prime Minister's Prize for Australian History in 2011. Peter joined the Working Party in 2007.

Libby Robin is a professor at the Fenner School of Environment and Society at the ANU and co-edits the journal *Historical Records of Australian Science*. Her book *How a Continent Created a Nation* won the New South Wales' Premier's History Award in 2007. Libby joined the Working Party in 1999.

John Nethercote is an adjunct professor at the Public Policy Institute, Australian Catholic University. He has written widely on federal public administration and is a former editor of the *Canberra Bulletin of Public Administration*, and consulting editor of the *Australian Journal of Public Administration*. John joined the Working Party in 2005.



# SEARCHING NCB WEBSITES

Using the simple search and faceted browse options offered on NCB websites can save time and help narrow search results

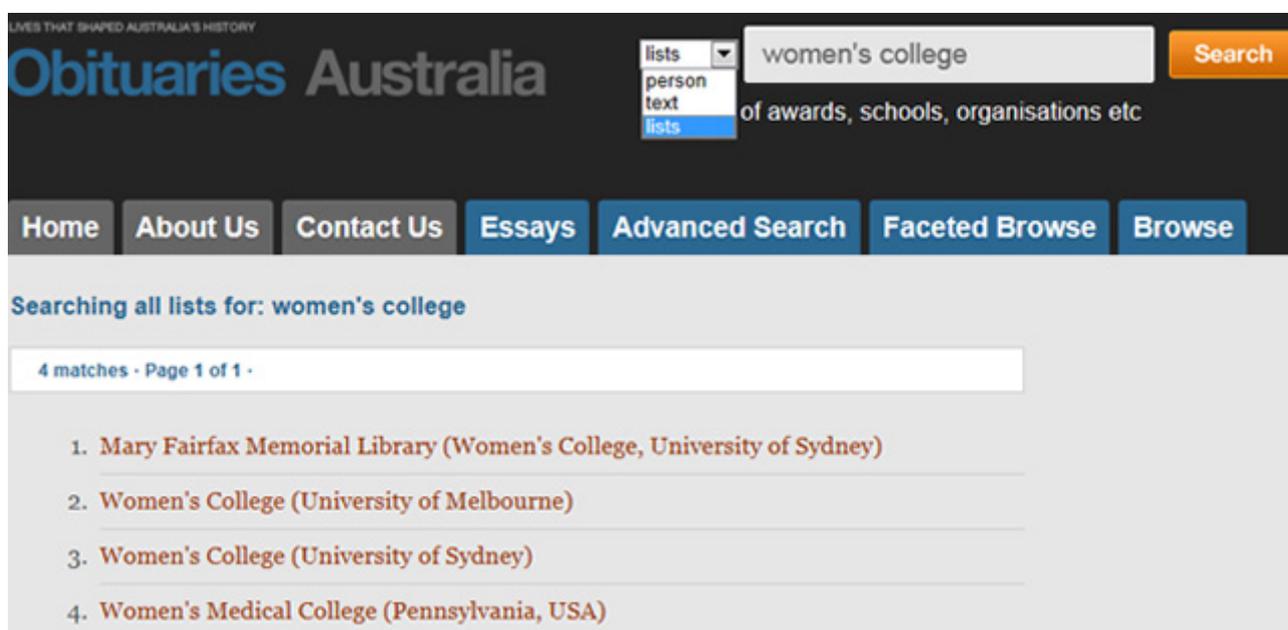


Fig 1

Advanced search is the most precise search offered by websites. It is also the search facility most underused by researchers who feel intimidated by its complexity.

While the NCB offers an advanced search option on its biographical websites, our greatest effort is directed at enhancing the effectiveness of simple searches and browsing.

The Obituaries Australia website, for example, offers three simple search options [fig 1], with a 'text' search as the default. This search is the broadest search in that it searches the text of articles as well as person names. As the majority of searches on the site are for people we have boosted the weighting given to the names of subjects with entries to ensure they come at the top of result lists.

The 'person' option searches only person names (including alternate names). Using this option will limit your search in that you will miss out on mentions of the person that occur within the text of articles.

The 'list' option is very useful for searching the names of organisations, events, awards, rural properties and stately homes. As with all searches it is better to start with as few search terms as possible. For example, if you want to find people who have an association with the Women's College at the University of Sydney, it is best to start with a simple search such as 'women's college' and then select 'Women's College (University of Sydney)' from the results list. [fig 1]

In 2011 we began comprehensively indexing entries, and now record the relationship that people have to an organisation, award, event etc. This relationship is shown in search results and is an easy, and effective, way to sort results. Using

Women's College as an example, the results list not only brings up a list of names of people associated with the College but, in the right menu bar, you'll find a list of relationship terms used to explain their association, such as student, principal or council member. [fig 2]

You may just want to find all the principals. By clicking on that option in the 'Relation type' list you'll end up with a list of principals and the years during which they held that job. [fig 3]



Fig 2

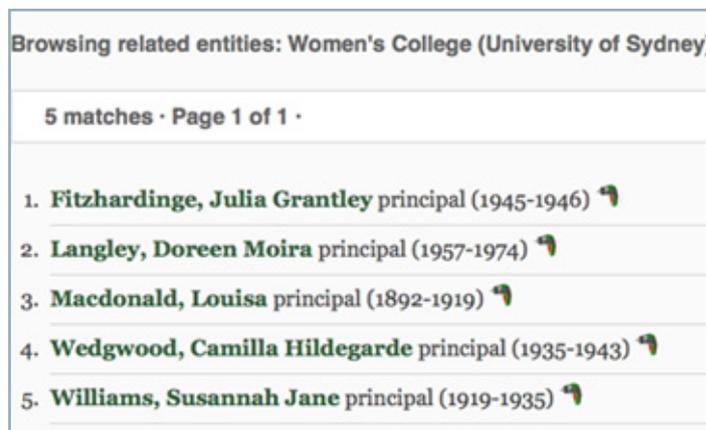


Fig 3

# SEARCHING NCB WEBSITES (cont'd)

As well as having a 'traditional' browse facility that enables users to scroll through lists of authors, subjects and subjects' year of birth/death, Obituaries Australia has, what we call, a 'faceted browse' option that enables sophisticated browsing and 'drilling' down through various related entities.

For example, you might be researching students from Sydney Grammar School – what universities did students go to? What occupations did they pursue? All of these searches can be easily undertaken using faceted browse.

The faceted browse option is located in the main menu bar. You first need to select the broad category under which the organisation, event etc. you are investigating is listed. [fig 4] Sydney Grammar School, for example, is listed under 'Educational Institution (School)'. Choosing that option and clicking on the 'Browse' button will bring up a list of schools that have, so far, been indexed. [fig 5]



Fig 4

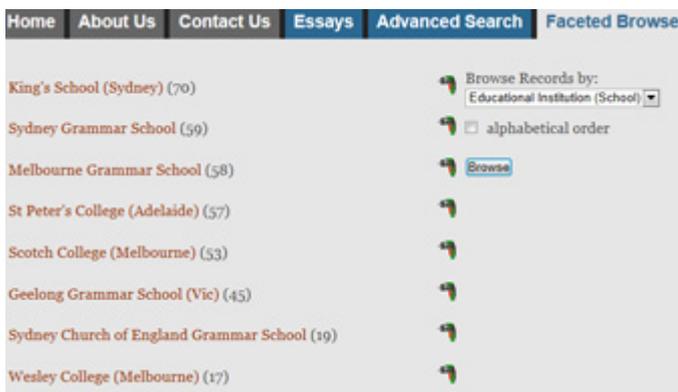


Fig 5

You have two options now. You can click on 'Sydney Grammar School', in the results list, to bring up a list of people associated with Sydney Grammar School, or you can select another category in the 'Browse Records by' box to 'drill down' further into the records. For example, to find out which university Sydney Grammar Schools boys went to you first need to confine your search just to students (i.e. exclude teachers, trustees

etc. from the results). Under the 'Browse records by' box [fig 4] click on 'Roles' and then click on the drill icon next to 'Sydney Grammar School'. This brings up a list of all the roles we have assigned to people associated with Sydney Grammar. [fig 6]



Fig 6

To find out what universities the Grammar boys went to select 'Educational Institution (Higher)' in the 'Browse records by' box [fig 4] and then click on the drill icon next to 'Sydney Grammar School' in the results list. Not surprisingly the bulk of students went to the University of Sydney. [fig 7]



Fig 7

To find out what occupations those students pursued all you need to do is click on 'occupations' in the 'Browse records by' box and click on the drill icon next to 'University of Sydney' in the results list. Eight became barristers, six became doctors and two went on to become Presbyterian ministers. [fig 8]



Fig 8

Perhaps you're interested in finding out who had an association with the school at the time a certain person was there. This can also be done easily through faceted browse. Under the 'Browse Records by' box select the broad category 'Educational Institution (School)', click the 'Browse' button and then click on 'Sydney Grammar School' to bring up the list of all those who have an association with the school. Once you've found the name you're after, simply click on the drill icon next to their name. This will narrow the search to people who had an association with the school at the same time as your subject.

At the moment 'list' searches and faceted browse are only accessible via People Australia and Obituaries Australia as the searches are reliant on the extensive indexing that we have been undertaking since 2011 when the Obituaries Australia service was launched. The indexing of the vast majority of *Australian Dictionary of Biography* entries was done before this time. We hope, in time, to fully index these entries as well.

# A TALE OF TEMPLERS

**While in Israel last year NCB staffer, [Brian Wimborne](#), was surprised to find that an area in Haifa was called the German Colony. On further inquiry he discovered the colony's surprising link with Australia.**

Oskar Krockenberger, who died in Melbourne on 16 November 2012, aged 86, was born in the German Templer settlement at Haifa, Palestine (Israel). He was the son of Karl and Hilde Krockenberger who farmed in the Bethlehem/Galilee region. There he enjoyed an idyllic childhood. However, in 1941 the British deported over five hundred Templers (including the Krockenbergers) from Palestine to Australia. Who were the Templers? (not to be confused with the Knights Templars).



**Oscar Krockenberger**

The Temple Society (Tempelgesellschaft) was a Lutheran Pietist group that had clashed with the Lutheran Church of Württemberg, Germany. Having been expelled from the Lutheran Church in 1858 for their millennial views, the group founded the Temple Society in Kirschenhardt, Württemberg, in June 1861.

Afterwards small groups of followers established communities overseas, especially in Palestine where farming colonies were founded in Haifa, Tel Aviv, Saron, Wilhelma (Bnei Ataraot), Lod, Bethlehem, Waldheim (Alonei Abba), and Jerusalem. Their success in cultivating the difficult terrain inspired early Zionists who were in the process of setting up kibbutzim.

With the rise of National Socialism under Hitler, the reaction of the Templers in Palestine was generally favourable and there was overall satisfaction with

political and social events in Germany. This resulted in the 1300 Templers resident in Palestine being interned early in World War II, of whom 536 were transported to Australia. They arrived in Sydney aboard the *Queen Elizabeth* on 25 August 1941 and were taken to Rushworth before being interned at camps near Tatura, Victoria.

The internees were treated humanely and built a communal life modelled on their settlements in Palestine. They were permitted a high degree of self-government and their children could be educated to university entrance standard. In a strange twist, children who were eligible to sit for their German Abitur (comparable to the International Baccalaureate) had their examination papers sent to Berlin by the Red Cross Society, where they were duly marked and returned. Young people who held German matriculation certificates could even gain entry to Australian universities.

Musical ensembles, an orchestra, a band, a choir and a theatre group were established at Tatura. With the approval of the authorities the Templers built a hall for religious and cultural activities. However, their hopes that at war's end they would be repatriated to Palestine were dashed when the High Commissioner for Palestine declared that they would not be allowed to return.

When the war was over the minister for immigration, Arthur Calwell, appointed Justice Wilfred Hutchins of the Tasmanian Supreme Court to head an Overseas Internees Investigation Board to assess the Templers as a security risk. He reported that most were not a risk and could be released.

Advised that they were free to remain in Australia, about 500 of them chose to stay. They were also allowed to apply for naturalisation. In addition, they could bring their next of kin to Australia at their own expense, provided they met the government's immigration criteria. After

1948 the newly re-established state of Israel compensated the Templers for the property they were forced to leave behind.

The Templers' initial plan was to found a closed colony in Australia, on the lines of those they ran in Palestine. This was not acceptable to the government, which favoured integration. Unwilling to accept this condition, about 70 Templers opted to go to Germany.

From about mid-1946, the remaining Templers began to move from their camp into the wider community. However, as German speakers, they faced various degrees of negative sentiment. Furthermore, when it was learned that the Templers came from Palestine, some Australians thought they were Jewish and they became the object of anti-Semitic prejudice.

Templer communities were established in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia. The Temple Society of Australia was formally founded at Bentleigh East, a suburb of Melbourne, on 20 August 1950. Other communities at Boronia (1957), Bayswater (1961) and Bentleigh-Moorabbin (1965) in Melbourne, and at Meadowbank in Sydney (1961), followed. A home for the aged was established at Bayswater in 1972 and a nursing home at Tabulam, New South Wales, in 1981.

Although the German language was initially used in the Templers' formal activities, English has now largely replaced it. Strong links with German culture are maintained and schools teaching the German language flourish in the Bayswater-Boronia and Bentleigh-Moorabbin communities.

The story of the Templers in Australia bears some similarities to that of the early convicts. Both groups were transported as 'undesirables' and imprisoned. In addition, most convicts and Templers became successful settlers. Their descendants today are proud of their origins.

# AN AUSTRALIAN FAMILY

**In the last issue of *Biography Footnotes* I wrote about the first soldiers in the AIF to be killed in World War I. They were not, however, the first Australian servicemen to die in the war. That fate fell to Australians serving in the British army.**

**by Christine Fernon**

Malcolm Chisholm, who served with the East Lancashire Regiment of the British Expeditionary Force, and died of war wounds on 27 August 1914, is generally thought to be the first Australian soldier to die in World War I.\* His obituary can be viewed in *Obituaries Australia* at <http://oa.anu.edu.au/obituary/chisholm-william-malcolm-18078>

Chisholm, who was born in Sydney in 1892, was the son of an eminent Sydney doctor. But rather than follow in his father's footsteps, Chisholm dreamed of becoming a soldier. After serving in the school cadets at Sydney Grammar School, and as a lieutenant with the NSW Scottish Rifles, Chisholm enrolled in the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, England, in 1911. A year later he was gazetted to the East Lancashire Regiment and in December 1913 was commissioned a lieutenant. On 21 August 1914, not long after the start of World War I, his regiment was ordered to the front. Five days later they engaged in battle against the Germans at Le Cateau in France. Chisholm was shot in his right leg and carried from the battlefield on a makeshift stretcher, made from two rifles and a greatcoat, and taken to an aid post at Ligny. He died the following day and was buried with full military honours by the German soldiers who, by then, had occupied the town. His cap badge, wrist watch and sword were returned to his family via the Red Cross.

Because he served in the British Forces, Chisholm's name does not appear on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial (though he is listed in their Commemorative Roll). He is, however, remembered at Ligny, where a street has been named in his honour. His bereaved mother, Emma Chisholm, also requested, before her death in 1928, that her ashes be interred at the Ligny-en-Cambresis Communal Cemetery so that she could be near her son.

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The Chisholms were one of the founding families of New South Wales. James Chisholm arrived in the colony in 1790 with the NSW Corps and later became a successful merchant. His son, James (Malcolm's great uncle), was a Member of the Legislative Council. Malcolm's cousin, Margaret Sheila Chisholm, has an entry in the *ADB*. Described as a high society beauty, she settled in London where she was part of the inner circle of the young Prince of Wales and his brother Bertie. She married, in turn, a Lord, a baronet and a Russian prince. A book has recently been published about her life.

Sheila was not the only member of the family to mix with royalty. The Prince of Wales, during his tour of Australia in 1920, met, and became very friendly with, Mollee Little, Sheila's childhood friend. Two years later Mollee married Sheila's brother Roy (see <http://oa.anu.edu.au/obituary/chisholm-roy-mackellar-18082> for his obituary) and had a son, David Chisholm. The Prince agreed to be David's godfather. As the young boy grew, and began to resemble the Prince, rumours circulated that he was the Prince's son.



**Malcolm Chisholm c.1911**

In the late 1930s the family settled on a cattle property near Alice Springs. David eventually took over the property and had a child with an Aboriginal maid named May. That daughter, Barbara Chisholm, became one of the Stolen Generation and, sometime around 1947, she was taken to a mission on Garden Island where, she says, everyone believed that she was a member of the Royal Family. Barbara later had a son, Scott Chisholm, who made a name for himself as an AFL player in Perth. He was known to his fans as the Prince of Pockets – a reference to his supposed descent from the Royal family and to his playing position as a running defender on the football ground.

In 2008 Paul Toohey wrote a long article for the *Bulletin* about the Chisholms possible Royal connection – and said that he had checked newspapers but couldn't find any birth notices for when his parents said he was born (giving credence to the rumour that he was born nine months after the Royal visit rather than in 1923 the year his parents said).

Thanks to the digitised newspapers available now through Trove it is possible to check, and to easily find, the announcement of David's birth in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 5 October 1923.

As the Prince of Wales left Australia on 18 August 1920 it would appear, then, that David was not a Royal – but he was a member of a remarkable Australian family.

\* My thanks to Maxwell Coleman for bringing this to my attention.

# IMPRO-LIVES WORKSHOP

## NCB PhD student, Sophie Scott-Brown, discusses a recent Biography Workshop she organised which looked at the subject of 'character' in biography and history

The questions driving the workshop went straight to the heart of life writing: how do we go about forming a sense of another person and how do we then go about representing it? Emma Strand, a Canberra-based actress with extensive credits in television, film and theatre performance spoke first and provided us with an unusual perspective on the issue by sharing the processes that an actor undertakes when getting 'into character.'

Emma started by sharing her own story of becoming an actress. Driven from a young age by an interest in people and their strange ways of being and behaving, her journey began not on a stage but in the streets and bars of Melbourne's night life in an attempt to gain a variety of life experiences. Later, a few years 'older and wiser', she took up a place at the Victorian College of the Arts in order to transform these experiences into a more disciplined sense of the actor's craft.

Emma then discussed the first steps that she took when confronted with a new role. These typically involved careful research into her character, slowly layering up a mental image of their social, environmental and cultural situations from which she inferred the shape and nature of their life's journey. She spoke about experimenting with voices, appearance, mannerisms and movements. At the heart of the development process, however, was an almost forensic analysis of the scenes, the contexts, in which the character appeared and acted: what were they doing there? What did they want from the situation? How did they intend to get it? Over the course of this process she acknowledged the importance of the writer in providing the actor with critical information and the pivotal role of the director in balancing between the actor's individual sense of their character and the wider demands of the narrative.

As well as acting, Emma works part-time as a funeral celebrant to keep her



L-R: Emma Strand, Malcolm Allbrook, Sophie Scott-Brown, Karen Fox

going during the notorious 'rest' periods that punctuate an actor's life. She concluded by briefly contrasting this role with the sort of 'character work' done by an actor, noting how both relied on the strong use of empathy to draw together the clues and fragments of a life left behind into some sort of overall picture.

The workshop then headed out bush (figuratively) with Dr Malcolm Allbrook who spoke on the challenges that his work with an Aboriginal community in Western Australia had posed to ideas of individuality. The complex social networks that underpinned community life meant that one individual member would assume several social roles, bearing several corresponding names, all of which had strong implications for how they behaved and related to the rest of the group.

In different ways, Emma and Malcolm both emphasised the extent to which they perceived individuality as largely determined by social relationships and context. Dr Karen Fox added another perspective to this by talking about the construction, control and management of the 'public persona' by celebrity figures. She raised the important question of how the researcher deals with an image so consciously created

and carefully disseminated. There was, she acknowledged, a temptation to probe at the silences, omissions and contractions in the narrative, revealing 'the true' individual behind the façade, but her personal response had been to dispense with any notion of a 'true' self and to engage with this 'public persona' as a cultural production. Figures in the public eye, have a particularly acute awareness of how they are perceived. How, then, did their choices of self-representation reveal something about a society's social, cultural and political values? Once again, Karen's approach positioned the individual as inextricable from the wider social worlds in which they acted.

This workshop was a lively occasion with each speaker prompting energetic discussion, opening up many possible avenues for future debate. If there was one message to 'take home' from the occasion it was that character is almost never a solo act but continually negotiated against the demands of a wider social and cultural context. Understanding that character also means understanding the worlds in which they acted.

\* The podcast of the Biography Workshop will soon be available on the NCB's website.

# REVIEW OF ADB VOL 18

The *Australian Book Review* and Brian Matthews have kindly given us permission to reproduce Brian's review of vol 18 of the *ADB*, published in the *ABR* in February.

In his brief preface to Volume 1 of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* 1788–1850 A–H (1966), Douglas Pike describes the 'all-Australian, Commonwealth-wide ... consultation and co-operation' underpinning the volume and notes that the breadth and complexity of its intellectual network meant the Dictionary could 'truly be called a national project'. Five decades later, in an informative, elegant introduction to Volume 18, the present general editor, Melanie Nolan, endorses Pike's pioneering claim for the *ADB*, describing it as 'a national collaborative project, the largest and longest running of its kind in the social sciences and humanities in Australia'. As such – 'a reference work for many purposes' – it is familiar territory to historians, researchers, biographers, film-makers, novelists, and any number of browsing general readers.

As Professor Nolan rightly points out, the '*ADB* ... is not itself a narrative'. How could it be, traversing, as it does, a decade's worth of diverse Australian lives, thoughts, achievements, fortunes, and aspirations? But discrete narratives emerge if you are in the happy position of being able to read the *Dictionary* not exclusively for specific reference – which would be the usual and characteristic approach for most readers – but simply for its rich cornucopia of sheer existence: the intersecting trajectories, shared directions, quirks, good and bad luck, triumphs, mistakes, and fascinating penumbras of lives.

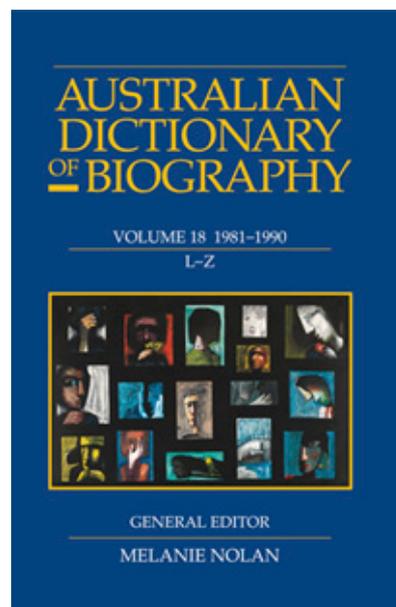
Some of this discontinuous narrative will be structured from the reader's own interests and experience, sparked by the points at which he or she touches down while navigating from Lachberg, Maurice Derek on page one to Zischke, Mervyn Desmond on page 654. No matter what your actual task or intention is when you pick up this handsome volume, with its striking Charles Blackman jacket painting, and its weighty, welcoming substantialness, it's impossible not to begin with a bit of random prospecting – open here, open there, this one and that one – to get a glimpse of the riches in store.

This sampling 'method' first of all took me to Sir George Whitecross Paton, 'legal scholar and Vice Chancellor'. He was in fact the vice-chancellor during my undergraduate years at Melbourne University. (I remember meeting him when he personally ruled on some transgression I had committed and have now conveniently forgotten.) This excellent biographical essay by J.R. Poynter evokes the atmosphere and temper of those times in the university's growth distinguished by 'new buildings [replacing] wartime huts, new disciplines ... [burgeoning] research strengths ... and [growing] student enrolments'. Poynter captures with knowing irony the jostling that accompanies such activity, picturing Paton as 'surrounded by powerful professors extending their own fiefdoms' and, during his absence, 'the medical faculty adroitly [arranging] to double its size'.

Another turn of the pages led me to Francis Joseph Sheed, of whom Edmund Campion writes, 'Frank was sent to the Balmain Methodist Church ... but remained a surreptitious practising Catholic ... a natural orator ... wherever he was, he would aim to speak in the street [each Sunday] about Catholicism until, in his seventies, his doctor told him to stop. It has been estimated that he gave about seven thousand speeches from a soapbox.' Reading Campion's expertly crafted piece, however, I realised that, somehow, my choice may not have been entirely random. I remembered having to read excerpts from Frank Sheed's *Theology and Sanity* – in Campion's view, 'his masterpiece' – at school, and I recalled the reverence with which Sheed & Ward, publishers, were regarded in Catholic circles. So I gave up the pretence of randomness and went straight and unerringly to Harold Edward Porter, better known as Hal.

I met him when he was the librarian at the Shepparton City Library and I was about four months into my first appointment as a teacher. He was helpful, considerate, and full of advice. His novel *A Handful of Pennies* (1958), the result of Porter's stint as a member of the Army Education Unit in Japan, was heavily represented on the shelves but, despite his urging, I didn't borrow it. Peter Pierce tracks Porter's restless and varied career through 'the improbable task of running the George Hotel at St Kilda', marriage to Olivia Clarissa Parnham after 'a week's hectic acquaintance', and teaching appointments at Queen's College and Prince Alfred College in Adelaide and the Hutchins School in Hobart, from which he was dismissed within a year. His historical novel, *The Tilted Cross* (1961), in which he describes Van Diemen's Land as 'an ugly trinket suspended at the world's discredited rump', may have reflected, as Pierce dryly speculates, his disenchantment with all things Tasmanian.

Not all that far from the 'discredited rump', and a very long way from Paris and California where she had done much of her growing up, Hephzibah Menuhin settled 'with enthusiasm' into life with her new husband, Lindsay Nicholas, on his sheep station in Victoria's Western District in the late 1930s. Jacqueline



# REVIEW OF THE ADB (cont'd)

Kent, Menuhin's biographer, describes her vigorous participation in the expatriate life and her antipodean concert career, though she does not mention Menuhin's intriguing connection with Wangaratta, where she had a close friendship with musician and radical, Martha Arms.

A visit to Theresienstadt concentration camp intensified Menuhin's growing dissatisfaction with her life in Australia and her 'increasingly troubled' marriage finally ended when she met Richard Hauser, left Nicholas and her sons, and settled in London.

Margaret Harris's essay on writer Christina Stead portrays another kind of disjunction from Australia. Like Martin Boyd's characters in *The Cardboard Crown* (1952), Stead and her lover, later husband, William James Blake, travelled restlessly in Europe before living in the United States where, among other ventures, they became screenwriters in Hollywood. Harris demonstrates the continuing, if sometimes tenuous, connection of Stead's literary imagination with Australia and the profundity and persistence in her work of certain 'recurrent preoccupations: passion of different kinds, family dynamics, writers and literary culture, and political commitment'.

For the browser – and the researcher willing to be distracted – there are innumerable resonant moments: Gertrude Langer's posthumously published poems for her husband, 'my beloved Karl'; Phillip Lynch's deathbed summation of his best achievement – 'Keeping my friends'; Alan Marshall's prescient concern for the sexual needs of the disabled; Cecelia Shelley's unionism – 'the Tigress of Trades Hall'; Ventura Tenario's rambunctious Australian wrestling career as 'Chief Little Wolf'; Kylie Tennant's friendship with Patrick White; and much else.

As you read through these biographical essays, you get a sense of what the ground rules are. Although there is no overtly constraining formula, each writer covers when the subject was born and to what parents; when married, where and to whom, and according to what rites; when died; whether cremated or buried, and according to what rites. Beyond this framework, writers make their own pace and proceed according to their own take on biography. Professor Nolan's concern is that the *ADB* be 'a source of record', factual and accurate – 'interpretation is a matter of authors' judgments; their reading of a life'. This is why the *ADB* is not a history, despite its embodying a network of discontinuous narratives discernible to, and discoverable by, individual readers. Brief biographies, even very detailed and substantial ones like the outstanding essays on Thomas Playford or Patrick White in this volume, are more concerned with the notable, not the quotidian, and not the undercurrents, the broad background panoply of individual lives, the unfolding patterns and complexities of the times.

Of the 1.16 million Australians who died between 1981 and 1990, 1300 have found their way into volumes 17 and 18 of the *ADB*. They have two things in common, these 1300. One is distinction of one kind or another, 'place and achievement', as Nolan puts it, or perhaps, quixoticism; even, in a few cases, notoriety. The other is death. True to *ADB* protocol, every essay ends with a burial or a cremation. The lengthening shadow of

death becomes a presence, its dramatic finality and dismissive certainty unmitigated by no matter what preceding record of triumph, achievement, sensation, humanity, or generosity. This is the essential narrative of the *ADB*, as surely as it is, for example, in Edgar Lee Masters's revolutionary *Spoon River Anthology* (1915), where each poem is the inscription on a villager's grave, or in Sir Walter Raleigh's *History of the World* (1614), which ends with a salute to Death as the conqueror at last:

O eloquent, just, and mighty Death! whom none could advise, thou hast persuaded; what none hath dared, thou hast done; and whom all the world hath flattered, thou only hast cast out of the world and despised: thou hast drawn together all the far-fetched greatness, all the pride, cruelty, and ambition of men, and covered it all over with these two narrow words, *Hic lacet!*

More than a dictionary, the *ADB*, with scholarship, literary craft, and the dedication of many people, stands splendidly against erosions by time and failing memories, resisting the surrender of 'Farewell' and 'Vale' and the terrors of 'Hic lacet', to confront, in the editor's words, 'the difficulty of capturing a life and a person's character ... [even if] heads are turned, hands obscure the biographer's vision and what is shadowed is greater than what is lit ... That ... is the nature of biography.'

\* Brian Matthews, 'All the Far-Fetched Greatness'. *Australian Book Review*, February 2014