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BIOGRAPHY FOOTNOTES

The Newsletter of the National Centre of Biography

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First Meeting of the Australian Dictionary of Biography's Indigenous Working Party, April 2017

Back row L-R: Natalie Harkin, Barry Judd, Jakelin Troy, Malcolm Allbrook

Front row L-R: Stephen Kinnane, Shino Konishi, Odette Best (chair)

Absent: Len Collard, Linda Ford, Maggie Walter, John Whop

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Welcome to Issue 18 of *Biography Footnotes*

The National Centre of Biography in the ANU's School of History has hosted the Australian Dictionary of Biography since 2008. The ADB is largely funded under the national institutes 'block grant', now known as the National Institutes Funding. This is provided to the ANU and three other higher education providers in recognition of the role they play in facilitating key activities that are of national significance. The ADB is one of only a few historical projects that meet that criteria.

From time to time the ADB needs further resources to support innovation beyond our core activities. Australian Research Council grants, together with some endowment resources, enabled the ADB to go online in 2006.

The ADB was awarded an ARC grant again in 2016, this time to prepare an *Indigenous Australian Dictionary of Biography* (IADB). And, again, the funding needs to be supplemented. The ANU chose the IADB as one of two projects to feature in its Giving Day on 25 October 2017; the other project being the ANU Refugee Support Program to better support students who have sought asylum in Australia. These projects were selected on the basis of their potential to build a culture of philanthropy within the university's community and showcase the ways the ANU contributes to Australia.

As part of the publicity for Giving Day, a [YouTube](#) featuring members of the ADB's Indigenous Working Party, Odette Best, Jakelin Troy and Malcolm Allbrook was made and can

be viewed on our website. The money raised, more than \$70,000, will go towards employing a research editor. I thank everyone who contributed to Giving Day.

As has been widely reported, our colleague, Emeritus Professor Ken Inglis AO, died late last year. Frank Bongiorno's obituary in this number speaks to his wider eminent career. Among Ken's many involvements was the ADB, which he was associated with for over four decades. He was on the ADB's National Committee for some years before succeeding John La Nauze as third chair of the ADB Editorial Board in 1977. He held that position until 1996 when Jill Roe succeeded him. Ken shepherded the ADB through the 1986 review which determined the project would continue after the 'original' 12 volumes, envisaged in 1958, were published. He was the author of five articles. He submitted his entry on [Charles Bean](#) (1879-1968) in 1976, just 8 years after the war historian had died. Ken's last entry, co-authored with Murray Goot, on politics professor [Henry Mayer](#) (1919-1991) will be published in volume 19 in 2019. His entry on the writer [Stephen Murray-Smith](#) (1922-1988) is a classic. In 'retirement', Ken was an ADB Visiting Fellow and an Editorial Fellow.

Vale one of the ADB's best friends.

Melanie Nolan

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

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NCB Website Updated

The National Centre of Biography's [website](#) has recently been overhauled as part of a general revamp of the ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences sites. A particularly welcome feature is that we can now add images and sound to our events pages.

For example, those of you who were unable to attend the NCB's 'Related Histories' conference, held in November last year, can now download the program, listen to the tapes and view photos of the speakers.

Thanks to Caitlin

We thank Caitlin Adams for her report of the 'Related Histories' conference (p7) and for her lively tweets during it. Caitlan is a Masters student at Macquarie University's Centre for Applied History, studying histories of poverty and motherhood in Australia and the United Kingdom.

Follow us on Twitter

The NCB joined the twittersphere in November. Currently we are tweeting twice a day – about a male and female in the ADB who were born or died on that day.

If you'd like to follow us on Twitter our handle is @NCB_ANU

Biography Workshop

The NCB is again running its monthly workshops. All are welcome to attend.

The group meets at the ANU, usually on the last Thursday of the month at noon. Authors are invited to come along and share with us the joys and difficulties in researching and writing their books.

The full year's program will be posted on the NCB's [website](#) as it becomes available. You can also join our mailing list: ncb@anu.edu.au

29 March

Ian Hancock will discuss his forthcoming biography of the late Ainsley Gotto.

26 April

Gabriel Carey will talk about her biography of author Ivan Southall.

31 May

Joanna Gilmour (National Portrait Gallery) and Kate Fullagar (Macquarie University) will introduce us to the biographically-focused rehang of the Robert Oatley Gallery.

Reframing Indigenous Biography

The NCB is holding a 'Reframing Indigenous Biography' conference at the ANU on 15-16 November. Three overseas speakers will join members of the ADB's Indigenous Working Party to hear papers relating to Indigenous biography.

A call for papers and registrations will be made closer to the date. Attendance will be capped at 100 people.

Contact: Malcolm.Allbrook@anu.edu.au

New NCB PhD candidates

The NCB is welcoming two new PhD candidates in 2018. Both students are working on projects relating to convicts.

Nicola Garvey is undertaking a prosopographical study of the women who arrived in Sydney aboard the *Neptune*, as part of the Second Fleet in 1790. She is looking at their experiences during the voyage – including the prevalence of concubinage – as well the women's fates once they landed in the colony.

Jennifer Bird's thesis is a close examination of Robert Knox's experiences in the New South Wales penal system. Knox was a Scottish soldier officer's servant who was transported in 1829 for seven years for stealing seals and a writing desk. He went on to spend 29 of his 40 years in the colony as a convict. Looking at his experiences might shed light on why some convicts became recalcitrant.

Congratulations

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

Queen's Birthday Honours (2017)

Member (AM) in the General Division

Peter Burness
Ann Carr-Boyd
Anne Gray
Dianne Snowden
Frank Van Straten

Medal (OAM) in the General Division

Paul Rosenzweig

Australia Day Honours (2018)

Order of Australia Companion (AC) in the General Division

Janet S. McCalman

Officer (AO) in the General Division

Marilyn L. Lake

Member (AM) in the General Division

Hugh Anderson (dec)
David F. Branagan
Noeline J. Kyle

Medal (OAM) in the General Division

David S. Thomson

Deaths of ADB authors

It is with sadness that we note the deaths, that were reported to us since April, of the following ADB authors:

Hugh Anderson
Joe Baker
Alan Barcan
Weston Bate
Keith Campbell
Ian Cathie
David Curtis
George Franki
Ross Holland
Ken Inglis
Sylvia Lawson
Bruce Mansfield
Ian Marsh
Ailsa McPherson
John Morris
Phillip Playford
Christopher Sexton
Robin Stewardson

KEN INGLIS (1929-2017)

Frank Bongiorno pays tribute to his – and our – friend and colleague Ken Inglis.

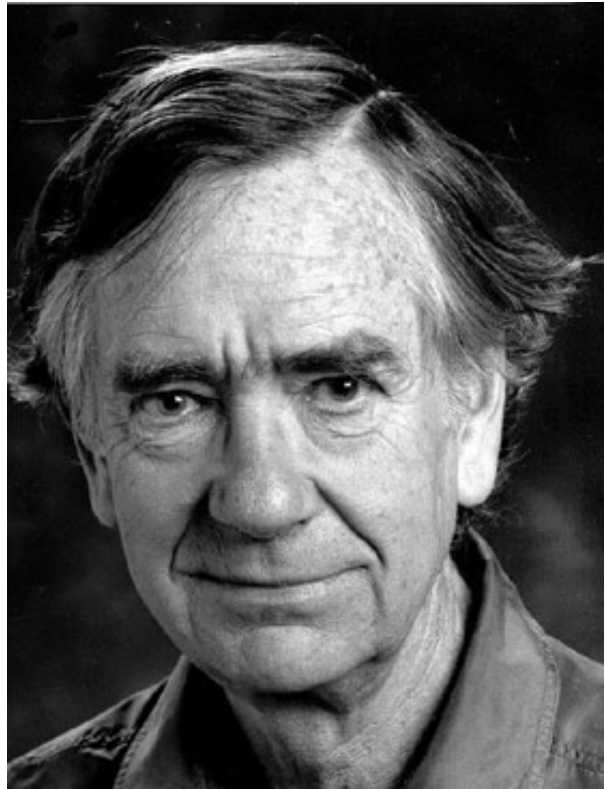
Ken chaired the ADB Editorial Board 1977-1996 and wrote five entries, the latest on political scientist, Henry Mayer.

Emeritus Professor Ken Inglis, who died on 1 December 2017, was a member of that impressive group of Australian historians who emerged from the history department at the University of Melbourne in the years immediately following the Second World War. He was arguably the greatest of them. The Melbourne School, as it became known, is often seen as the creation of the leadership of [Max Crawford](#) (1906-1991), who succeeded [Ernest Scott](#) (1867-1939) as professor in 1937, but it was equally the product of a city and its reform-minded intellectual culture.

Ken appreciated the worth of this culture, as well as the accomplishments of the Melbourne School, but he also held himself a few paces apart from it. As [Robert Menzies](#) (1894-1978) said of himself, Ken was ‘not born to the purple’. Ken once told me that as an academic, he had been fortunate enough to live the kind of life that his small businessman father would have liked for himself: that of a scholar. Stan Inglis was a timber merchant whose business had faltered during the Depression, and the family moved from Heidelberg to more humble circumstances in Preston. Unlike several of those who made their mark as historians in his generation, Ken was a product of the state system, matriculating from Melbourne High School after becoming dux of Northcote High in 1944. His involvement in the Student Christian Movement also set him apart from many of the radicals studying at the university in the late 1940s, several of them returned servicemen, and a few – like his future wife, Amira Gust, and her first husband, [Ian Turner](#) (1922-1978) – active communists.

He was also ambivalent about the Melbourne School’s emphasis on the theory and method of history, which Ken came to recognise as potentially disabling for anyone with aspirations to write books who took it too much to heart. Ken’s first ambition was to become a journalist, but he was discouraged by a newspaper editor who warned of the likely difficulties of finding a job in that profession at a time when so many returned servicemen would be looking to re-establish themselves. I was amused when I learned recently from Peter Browne, at ‘A Laconic Colloquium’ held in Ken’s honour, that Ken had been inspired in his desire to become a journalist by reading Isobel Ann Sheard’s *Sandy*, the story of a boy who becomes a reporter. This was also my father’s favourite book as a child – he would have been half a dozen years older than Ken – and I had also enjoyed it, briefly contemplating that I might follow in Sandy’s footsteps. Perhaps the book has been more successful at producing historians than journalists.

But in many ways, Ken was both. Alongside all those history books and scholarly articles, he produced a distinguished body of journalism, most famously in Tom Fitzgerald’s *Nation*. Among his earliest books is his much-admired study of *The Stuart Case*. His interest in the fate of Max Stuart arose



from his journalism while working as a young historian at the University of Adelaide. Ken was heavily involved in the successful campaign to save Stuart, an Aboriginal circus worker accused of raping and murdering a young girl, from the gallows. But Ken’s commitment as a public intellectual – and one who wrote on a wide range of issues – did not seem to detract at all from his work as a scholar and teacher. Indeed, his historical writing, while observing all the academic conventions, had about it a liveliness commonly associated with the high-quality journalism that Ken so enjoyed in magazines such as the *New Yorker*.

Ken’s books cover an extraordinary range, from his earliest on the *Hospital and Community: A History of the Royal Melbourne Hospital* (1958) – which came from his Master of Arts thesis – through the Oxford doctoral dissertation published as *Churches and the Working Classes in Victorian England* (1963) to his later works on the ABC, war memorials and the *Dunera* migrants. His remarkable social history, *The Australian Colonists: An Exploration of Social History* (1974), seemed old-fashioned to some readers amid the new left explosions of the 1970s, and it admittedly still looked a little that way to my 20-year-old self when I first read it in the summer of 1988-89. Yet it has really had a quite remarkable ‘career’ – so many of its concerns with public commemoration and collective memory have moved to centre-stage; I write these words at the end of an Australia Day weekend that has

seen contention over the place of 26 January in the nation's calendar. Ken was writing with curiosity and insight about this topic over fifty years ago, and he turned to national days and monuments more generally in *The Australian Colonists*. Melbourne University Press published a paperback version in 1993. I am the proud owner of a copy signed by Ken and presented to me that May, on my 24th birthday.

As a scholar, Ken will probably be recalled most often in Australia as a ground-breaking historian of the Anzac Legend, and both nationally and internationally as the author of *Sacred Places: War Memorials in the Australian Landscape* (1998). This monumental and much-honoured book crowned decades of research and reflection on what the historical study of war memorials could tell us about the society that had built them. As Ken explained at the beginning of that study, his curiosity about the subject went back to his childhood, but there was also in this engagement a concern with the place of religiosity in modern societies that also found expression in his early scholarly work and journalistic contributions. We can now recognise Ken's famous 1965 *Meanjin* article on 'The Anzac Tradition' as the foundation on which a whole field of Australian research – including his own – would be built. And when considered alongside the work of his great friend and colleague Bill Gammage, we can also discern a much broader cultural influence that would recast how Australians understood their relationship to the Great War and its legacies.

To focus on Ken's scholarly work in this way fails to do his career justice, since so much of his activity was concerned with creating opportunities for others. I can only mention in passing Ken's time as Professor of History, and later Vice-Chancellor, of the University of Papua and New Guinea. It would be stating the obvious to point out that the young and brilliant ANU history professor could have pursued a perfectly comfortable and conventionally rewarding career with less difficulty in Canberra than Port Moresby. But I do recall one thing he told me about his and Amirah's time there that might provide a clue as to why they went in the first place. In the years that followed, he said, whenever they heard someone say that something was 'true', they would ask themselves: 'Would it be true in PNG?'

Ken did not seek to cut a figure on the stage as some kind of media celebrity. He was a humble man, but also generous in giving his time and talents to collective projects did much to raise the profile of the profession, to develop its promising research and scholars, and to show the country that historians had valuable things to contribute to its pool of knowledge and understanding. Many readers of *Biography Footnotes* will already be familiar with Ken's role as a champion of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, a great collective endeavour that was entirely in keeping with his own view of how historians might work together. Ken was chair of the ADB

Editorial Board from 1977 until 1996. Similarly, his leadership of the multi-volume bicentennial project, *Australians: A Historical Library*, with its innovative slice method in the volumes on 1838, 1888, and 1938, was a powerful contribution to the profession. It is a source of pleasure to many, and will be of profit to thousands of scholars, that the entire set has now been digitised and is available on the website of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia of which Ken was a fellow. This will bring a great – yet in many ways under-estimated – scholarly enterprise to the attention of new audiences.

I last saw Ken at his home in Melbourne in late September last year, just a few weeks before his death. A Richmond supporter, he was much looking forward to the grand final about to be held, the first his Tigers had contested for 35 years (and they won). Personally, I am not alone in owing Ken a great debt. With the late Barry Smith, he was a conscientious and supportive PhD supervisor who taught me much about the writing craft. He was also a model for anyone interested in having an impact beyond the academy, in the wider world of ideas, and he encouraged me to think in terms of how I could contribute to public debate. He was an advocate of his students' wares, too – helping me, as he had others, to get my first book published. And he continued to take an interest in the activities of his former students. I was deeply touched when, in his wheelchair, he attended an event at Reading's Bookshop in Melbourne to mark the publication of a book of mine. He was a wise, kind and generous man, who will be remembered not only for his great achievements as a scholar, but for the rare personal qualities that made him an inspiration to so many – and not just within universities.

Ken was amused and delighted when, as a PhD student, I produced a draft that unwittingly quoted his grandfather W. J. Inglis, a Melbourne carpenter. Testifying before a royal commission on factories and shops just after the turn of the century, Inglis had complained about the decline of his trade as regards 'all round men' due to the decline of the apprenticeship system. The trend was 'detrimental to the workers, and gets the man into the way of working on one line', Inglis explained. No one could accuse his grandson of only 'working on one line'. 'An absolute champion', an economist of my (and Ken's) acquaintance told me a few months before Ken's death. I can only agree.

Professor Frank Bongiorno is an Australian labour, political and cultural historian in the School of History, Australian National University. His most recent book *The Eighties: The Decade That Transformed Australia* (2015) won ACT Book of the Year and was shortlisted in the Australian History category of the Australian Prime Minister's Literary Award and the New South Wales Premier's History Award.

RELATED HISTORIES

Caitlin Adams reports on the NCB's recent conference *Related Histories*. The recordings are available on the NCB's [website](#)

The *Related Histories: Studying the Family* Conference was held at the National Library of Australia in Canberra on the 28 and 29 November 2017. The conference brought together a variety of family historians and academic scholars to discuss the ways in which we create and share histories of the family.

Stephen Foster opened the first session of the conference by asking: is family history a genre? Over the next two days, and throughout the presentations, it was clear that there are not distinct boundaries between family history, and other histories or historical practices.

This was seen in the diversity of attendees, who ranged from academic scholars, to independent researchers, family historians, archivists, history students, and early career researchers. Yet while this audience was diverse, I felt that there was a definite sense of shared purpose. Attendees animatedly swapped anecdotes of archival research, or startling discoveries over tea and coffee during the breaks, and chuckled appreciatively when presenters talked about reaching 'dead-ends' in their research. Indeed, when **Cheney Brew** from the National Library of Australia asked who had used Trove, the entire room raised their hands.

This sense of shared purpose was certainly fostered by the conference organisers. In her opening remarks, **Melanie Nolan**, Director of the National Centre of Biography, emphasised the importance of collaboration, and attendees were all invited to join a Family History Research Network being initiated by the NCB at the ANU and the Centre for Applied History at Macquarie University. Presenters also emphasised the need for partnerships between academic and family historians. **Kate Bagnall** and **Barry McGowan** both argued that family historians and volunteers were essential to their research into the experiences of Chinese families in Australia. Kate was also passionate about the need to freely share research, recounting a moving story about how her findings have changed people's lives.

The idea that academic and family history are both part of a shared set of practices was also clear throughout the presentations. **Cathy Day** used family history techniques in her research into cousin marriage in Wiltshire, England, while **Angela Wanhalla** used similar techniques to explore the ways in which American servicemen influenced the lives of Indigenous families living in the South Pacific. Other presenters, including **Tim Bonyhady**, **Shauna Bostock-Smith**, **Helen Morgan**, **Babette Smith**, and **Nick Brodie** shared parts of their own family history, and its role in inspiring and shaping their academic research.

Research practice was another key concern of the conference, with several presentations featuring practical tips for using databases, finding archival material and publishing family histories. **Cheney Brew** from the Trove team at the National Library gave a practical demonstration on how to search Government Gazettes, while **Gina Grey**, from the National Archives of Australia, presented an engaging example of how to transform original records into a rich narrative history. Similarly, **Christine Fernon** and **Scott Yeadon** from the National Centre of Biography demonstrated how to use the links and networks within the *Australian*

Dictionary of Biography, and showcased their initial findings of their 'First Fleets' project. **Gail White** and **Martin Playne** from the Australian Institute of Genealogy and Genealogical Society of Victoria respectively, provided advice for how to publish your family history, and win awards while doing so. For those seeking lengthier training, **Kristyn Harman** gave us a tantalising taster of the University of Tasmania's Diploma of Family History.

Other presentations examined the complexities of family history research. **Simon Easteal**'s talk on genetics demonstrated that a tree is not the best way to represent relatedness, and challenged us to re-think how we understand what the family is. **Anna Green** also prompted us to think about family history in greater complexity, as she explored the ways in which people understand the past through family stories. Similarly, **Susannah Radstone** demonstrated ways in which memory studies can complement the approaches of family historians.

Another key concern throughout the presentations was how family histories, or histories of the family, are intertwined with broader historical contexts. **Penny Russell** gave an engaging talk about the ways in which her family history could not be divorced from its context within settler colonialism, and how this might influence the practice of the family historian. **Alan Atkinson** used the history of the Macarthur family to explore the ways how families create a shared sense of subjectivity and conscience. Likewise, **Janet McCalman** discussed the ways in which wars, booms and busts could influence individual families, and their ability to survive. On the other hand, **Anna Clark** and **Jane McCabe** explored the ruptures between family history and national histories. Anna's research found that while ordinary people felt connected to their family's past, they did not always feel part of national narratives. Similarly, Jane found that some family histories simply do not 'fit' into stories that nations tell about themselves.

Graeme Davison, who gave the keynote lecture, also considered how family histories connect to broader contexts and social trends. Taking a family heirloom – his Grandfather's clock – he traced his own family history, exploring how the Davisons had been influenced by the Industrial Revolution, Chartism and migration to Australia. A particular highlight from Graeme's lecture was when he led an enthusiastic audience in singing "My Grandfather's Clock." A moving moment for all involved.

Finally, presenters argued that family history can transform society. **Emma Shaw** explained that family history was a form of public pedagogy, as family historians educate themselves by acquiring new knowledge and skills. **Jenny Hocking** noted that political biographies can challenge and reshape historical knowledge and understanding. **Tanya Evans**, the Director of the Centre for Applied History at Macquarie University, concluded the conference by arguing that family history makes people better citizens – it can literally change the world.

Caitlin's piece was first published by Macquarie University's Centre for Applied History which co-organised the event.

Entries for those who died in 1994 will be added to the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* website this year. As usual they include a diverse range of people:

Frank Hardy (1917-1994), born in the same year as the Russian revolution, grew up to be a committed communist with a wonderful capacity for story-telling. His most famous novel, *Power Without Glory* (1950), based on the prominent and controversial Melbourne businessman John Wren (disguised as John West in the book), involved him in years of litigation. Hardy was also a passionate supporter of the Aboriginal fight for equal wages and land-rights in the Northern Territory.

Eva Bacon (1909-1994) fled, with family members who were suffering persecution for being Jewish, from Vienna to Brisbane in 1939. She worked as a dressmaker and joined the Communist Party. After World War II she joined the Union of Australian Women and agitated for women's right to work, and for equal pay and conditions. In the 1960s she became involved with the women's movement, arguing that the 'consciousness raising activities' of Women's Liberation groups had the 'potential of helping to create new human beings'.

Catherine Berndt (1918-1994), anthropologist, was born in New Zealand. She met her husband, [Ronald Berndt](#) (1916-1990), a fellow anthropologist, after moving to Sydney to study. While her husband undertook formal appointments within universities Catherine focused on research and writing, and working with Australian Indigenous groups. Together they wrote *The World of the First Australians* (1964). Catherine was a founding member of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies (1963).

Noel Buntine (1927-1994), began his career as a cattle transport entrepreneur in 1962 using a Mack B61 prime mover, named High and Mighty, to cart cattle from Top End stations in the Northern Territory to the Wyndham Meatworks in Western Australia. Twenty years later he was employing 120 people, and his fleet had grown to 50 road trains. The Buntine Highway – between Willeroo, Northern Territory, and Nicholson, Western Australia – was named in his honour.

Nene Gare (1914-1994), writer and artist, is most famous for her novel, *The Fringe Dwellers* (1961), which she wrote while living in outback Western Australia. The book deals with the clash of cultures and generations in an Aboriginal family pressured to leave their way of life on an urban reserve for a house in town. Her writing drew closely on personal experience and observation. She said of *The Fringe Dwellers*: 'My novel is factual. I keep a diary. I keep notes. In my memory I hear Aboriginal people talking. I hear it and I type what I hear'.

Lew Hoad (1934-1994) began playing tennis when he was five. In 1951 he won the Australian junior singles title and in 1953, he and his longtime rival, Ken Rosewall, won the Australian, French, and Wimbledon doubles titles. At his peak

in 1956, Hoad won the Australian, French, and Wimbledon men's singles finals, but defeat to Rosewall in the United States final denied him the grand slam. Between 1953 and 1957, when he turned professional, he won thirteen grand slam events and was runner-up ten times. His contemporaries Pancho Gonzales, Rosewall, and Rod Laver ranked him, at his best, as the number one all-time player.

Noreen Hennessy (1912-1994), played the pipe organ at Prince Edward Theatre in Castlereagh Street, Sydney, for nineteen years from 1944 – before, between, and after film screenings – entertaining an estimated 2.5 million people. She gave three performances a day, six days a week at the theatre. For eleven years on Sundays she was also musical director at the Western Suburbs Leagues Club.

William 'Tracker' Robinson (1896-1994), of Bundjalung descent, joined the New South Wales police force in 1916. He was also a champion boxer and, later in life, a recognised artist. When he retired from the police force in 1961 he was refused a pension on the grounds that he was only a 'special constable'. It was not until Robinson was aged ninety-six that he received recognition for his service.

Sir Ian Potter (1902-1994) stockbroker, opened up new sources of overseas investment money for Australian businesses following World War II. In 1964 he established the Ian Potter Foundation for his personal philanthropy. After his retirement, in 1967, he turned his business acumen towards managing the Foundation and assisting cultural institutions. At his death, the Foundation was left \$58 million.

Leonard Teale (1922-1994), actor, first came to notice playing Superman in the radio drama of the same name for radio 2GB from 1949 to 1954. In 1961 he joined the Crawford Productions TV series 'Consider Your Verdict' and then appeared as a villain on 'Homicide' in 1964 before becoming a permanent member of the cast – eventually the longest-serving team member – as Senior Detective (later Detective Senior Sergeant) David McKay.

Finally, there is the amazing life story of **Charles Zakharrow** (1905-1994). Born in Russia, Zakharrow's parents were shot dead by Bolsheviks during the Russian Revolution. The boy was then befriended by a British soldier who took him to England where he lived at a Barnardo's orphanage and met the Prince of Wales. That chance meeting led to him being sent to Australia as a 'Barnardo boy'. He then trained as a motor mechanic, was twice married, took a taxi licence and had both Premier Askin and the notorious standover man Guido Calletti as fares. Despite encountering violence from passengers on numerous occasions (for eg, Calletti shot him after Zakharrow insisted he pay for his fare) Zakharrow continued to drive taxis until he was 81. It must have been a profitable occupation for he owned both race and dressage horses.

PAT CLARKE

This edition of *Biography Footnotes* honours Pat Clarke – a long-term member of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography's* Commonwealth Working party, and *ADB* author – who has spent a lifetime researching and writing about Australian women. **Malcolm Allbrook** and Christine Fernon visited her at her house in Deakin one morning last November.



Pat Clarke at home, 2017
photo by Christine Fernon

At 91 Pat Clarke retains her love of historical research and writing, on most days sitting down at her computer or heading to the National Library. Her latest project continues her fascination with the lives and careers of women journalists. In some ways a continuation of her 1988 book *Pen Portraits: Women Writers and Journalists in Nineteenth Century Australia*, she has expanded her time frame to 1950 and her coverage to include women journalists who visited Australia and reported their impressions, and Australian women journalists who reported from overseas, in the context of the difficulty for women in entering the profession.

Her subjects are those whose devotion to writing inspires her; women such as [Alice Henry](#) (1857-1943) who, barred from enrolling at the University of Melbourne, became a journalist in Melbourne, working for newspapers such as the *Argus* and the *Australasian*. Known for her fearless coverage of social issues and labour reform, she also joined women's suffrage campaigns. At forty-eight she decided to leave Australia first for England and then Chicago, where she became involved in the trade union movement. In 1911 she was appointed

inaugural editor of *Life and Labor*, the monthly journal of the American National Women's Trade Union League, with fellow Australian [Miles Franklin](#) (1879-1954) as assistant editor, where she continued to write on progressive labour and feminist issues.

Another of Clarke's subjects, [Janet Mitchell](#) (1896–1957) also led an extraordinary life despite her fragile health. Having trained in music and graduating BA in England, she became interested in international affairs. She joined the League of Nations Union and attended international conferences on Pacific affairs, before spending eight months at Harbin, Manchuria, where, in 1932, she witnessed the historic moment when Japanese troops marched into the province. As soon as she returned to Australia she broadcast a series of first-hand accounts of the Japanese occupation on ABC radio. Her novel *Tempest in Paradise* (1935) was based on her experiences there. Of those who visited Australia, Flora Shaw, later Lady Lugard, also displayed the fearlessness Clarke admires, for her extraordinary travel through northern and western Queensland mainly by horse-drawn buggy and small coastal steamers. The first woman appointed to the permanent staff of the *Times*, in 1892/93 Shaw visited South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, filling the role of colonial editor on her return, a position she retained until 1900.

Apart from initially studying maths and economics at university, Clarke always wanted to write. Raised in a family that was 'Melbourne through and through', each Saturday her father, born and brought up in Lygon Street, took his children to watch their beloved Australian Rules team Carlton. Her parents were 'practically fanatical' about education and insisted that she, as well as her brothers, complete school and go on to study for a profession. She became a journalist and it was in this capacity that she came to Canberra in 1957 to relieve for three weeks at the Commonwealth News and Information Bureau, which became a permanent move. In 1961 she married [Hugh Vincent Clarke](#) (1919-1996), a public servant and former prisoner of war, who later became well-known as an author. They settled in Deakin, the home she still occupies. She became a casual but full-time journalist with the ABC in the parliamentary press gallery. In 1968 the journalist and newspaper proprietor [Max Newton](#) (1929-1990), a controversial figure, recruited her to edit his *Parliamentary and Legislative Review*, and *Tariff Week*, a role that allowed her to work from home and to be around for her growing family. She was then employed by the National Capital Development Commission as editor of publications, where she spent the remainder of her professional career.

Having retired from the public service, Clarke focused her considerable energy on researching and writing about women in Australian history, and the history of Canberra

and its region, particularly the biographies of colonial women writers. She and Hugh had long been active in the unexpectedly rich cultural and intellectual life of Canberra and had become members of the Canberra & District Historical Society (CDHS). Since its foundation in 1953, the society had attracted members from a cross-section of Canberra society, and was a forum for collaboration between historians from the nascent Australian National University including [Manning Clark](#) (1915-1991), Ken Inglis (1929-2017), [Laurie Fitzhardinge](#) (1908-1993), and [Oskar Spate](#) (1911-2000), and capable and committed 'lay' practitioners such as the



Pat Clarke, sketch by Jerzy Kopras, 1962

[Shakespeares](#) and Pat Wardle. Involvement in societies and associations was a feature of Canberra life at the time. 'Most people had jobs in the public service or at the ANU', recalls Clarke, 'but in their spare time were involved in a whole lot of areas – literature, amateur theatre, and an array of intellectual and cultural societies. There were clubs everywhere, and they flourished. People arriving in Canberra were surprised at how active it was, and how many interesting people were involved.' As well as serving as president of the society for some years, she began editing the *Canberra Historical Journal* in 1987 and continued in that role for fourteen years.

Clarke found the history of the region fascinating, and was attracted particularly to the stories of the early settlers who took years to travel up the Araluen valley to the Limestone Plains, the women having to cope with great hardship and deprivation, dealing with pregnancy and childbirth far from medical support, and then with the challenges of raising children and family life.

In her 'retirement' she decided to pursue her interest in history. In 1985 she published *The Governesses: Letters*

from the Colonies 1862-1882, an edited volume of letters by women sent to Australia by the British Female Middle Class Emigration Society to be employed as governesses, a rich collection of perspectives on Australian rural society. A year later she completed *A Colonial Woman: The Life and Times of Mary Braidwood Mowle*, which has been republished six times. Mowle had arrived in Sydney at the age of nine on a convict ship, daughter of a colonial surgeon, Dr Thomas Braidwood Wilson, after whom the town of Braidwood was named. Orphaned at sixteen, she married a year later and went to live in the Australian Alps, before moving to Limestone Plains (on land now submerged by Lake Burley Griffin). The couple then relocated to Eden where her husband was collector of customs. Her diaries, enhanced by Clarke's research, give a vivid portrayal of the life of a colonial woman and those she encountered—landholders, convicts, free settlers, and government officials, and at Eden, whalers and sealers.

In 1987 John Ritchie, then general editor of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, invited her to serve on the Commonwealth Working Party on the suggestion of [Don MacDonald](#) (1923-1990), a public servant, but more famous as the doyen of the CDHS, and a prolific historian. She remains a member, having served under the chairmanship of Cameron Hazlehurst, Tom Griffiths, Nicholas Brown and, currently, David Lee. She has found the experience extremely engaging and enlightening, listening to and taking part in discussions by experts in so many areas. She has written eight ADB articles. Her first, on [Pattie Tillyard](#) (1880-1971), the Canberra community leader, was published in volume 12 (1990). It was followed by biographies of other Canberra figures: [Anne Dalgarno](#) (1909–1980), politician, community leader and nurse; [William Woodger](#) (1887-1979), real estate agent and auctioneer; [Lu Rees](#) (1901-1983), bookseller, book collector and authority on children's literature; and [Jack Commins](#) (1913-1987), whom she had worked under as head of the ABC in the press gallery. She contributed two biographies to the Supplementary Volume (2005), both of which she had nominated: [Mary Mowle](#) (1827-1857), and [Charlotte Barton](#) (1796-1867). Her most recent ADB article was on the 'lively and vibrant' [Pat Wardle](#) (1910-1992), the Canberra local historian and diarist, whom Clarke had also known.

Charlotte Barton née Waring, who was [Louisa Atkinson's](#) (1834-1872) mother, had a particularly captivating biography and had featured in Clarke's *Pioneer Writer: The Life of Louisa Atkinson, Novelist, Journalist, Naturalist* (1990). Well-educated and highly accomplished, she had arrived from England in 1826 as governess for the [Macarthurs](#). On the same ship was [James Atkinson](#) (1795-1834) who had a farm 'Oldbury' at Sutton Forest. Within a few months of her arrival, she left her job and married Atkinson, moving to her husband's property where, by the time he died in 1835, she had borne four children. Left in charge of the farm and land on the south coast, she married George Bruce Barton, superintendent of the property, thereby losing custody of her assets. Her new husband proved to be a violent drunkard,

PAT CLARKE (cont'd)



A selection of Pat Clarke's books

and after three years she fled with her children to the coastal outstation of Budgong on the Shoalhaven before moving to Sydney in 1840. In 1841 she completed *A Mother's Offering to Her Children*, the first children's book to be published in Australia, under the moniker 'A Lady Long Resident in New South Wales'. After a long legal battle, she regained control of her properties and was formerly awarded custody of her children and returned to Oldbury in 1846.

Several of her books including *Life Lines: Australian Women's Letters and Diaries 1788 to 1840*, edited with Dale Spender (1992), discuss the private worlds of 'ordinary' women reacting to new social and cultural environments. Her biographies of writers aim to weave private lives and public achievements. She particularly addresses the way women (often journalists) have negotiated gender barriers. *Tasma: The Life of Jessie Couvreur*, appeared in 1994, *Rosa! Rosa! A life of Rosa Praed*, novelist and spiritualist in 1999, and *Eilean Giblin: A Feminist Between the Wars* in 2013. She edited the autobiography of the poet and environmentalist *Judith Wright: Half a Lifetime* (1999), and (with Meredith McKinney) edited two volumes of her letters: *The Equal Heart and Mind: Letters between Judith Wright and Jack McKinney* (2004), and *With Love and Fury: Selected Letters of Judith Wright* (2006). Among contributions to several edited books she had a chapter in Chris Coulthard-Clark's *Gables, Ghosts and Governors-General: The Historic house at Yarralumla, Canberra* (1988). She is a member of the ACT committee of the Australian Women's Archives Project, an initiative of the National Foundation for Australian Women, and was involved in the [Canberra Women in World War I: Community at Home, Nurses Abroad](#) online exhibition and has written entries for the [Australian Women's Register](#). She was appointed OAM in 2001. In 2002 she was honoured to be elected a fellow of the

Federation of Australian Historical Societies and, in 2005, a fellow of the Australian Academy of Humanities.

At her age Clarke wonders whether continuing a punishing writing schedule is wise, and admits to being a 'bit slower' than she used to be. Her familiarity with the use of computers – a technology she has used since she bought her first Australian-made MicroBee in the 1980s – and the internet certainly makes her task easier, particularly the availability of Trove. In fact the last book she prepared on a type-writer was *The Governesses*. Although she is not a touch-typist and does not use short-hand, she has developed a reliable (and, like many journalists, illegible to anyone else) system for taking notes from primary documents and newspapers. And just to be sure that her work towards her latest book appears in print she is publishing excerpts as articles and conference presentations, such as her recent paper at the Independent Scholars Association of Australia conference on the period Alice Henry and Miles Franklin spent in Chicago. Short articles and papers are 'sort of like insurance,' she says, 'so that if I never get the book finished at least there is some record of what I have done!'

Apart from her new writing venture, Clarke is soon to publish her ninth ADB article on the media personality and Aboriginal rights advocate William Stewart Harris (1922-1994) and has completed the biography of Hugh Murphy (1917-1995). Further down the track she has agreed to write the ADB entry on the journalist Gordon Gow (1919-2000), the voice behind the long-running telephone time-check, 'on the stroke.'

Dr Malcolm Allbrook is the Managing Editor of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* and a Research Fellow at the National Centre of Biography. He is also a Chief Investigator on the *Indigenous Australian Dictionary of Biography* project.

LEGENDS OF AUSTRALIAN ICE

Ross Carpenter discusses the fascinating history of ice sports in Australia and the website *Legends of Australian Ice*

Recreational ice sports began in Australia in an experimental, engineered ice rink developed by H. Newman Reid in Adelaide at the turn of last century. World-class ice arenas, dimensioned for international competition, then opened in Melbourne in 1906 and Sydney in 1907. Organised figure skating, ice racing, curling and ice hockey soon followed and, in the 1980s, the sliding sports. The Academy of Skating at Melbourne Glaciarium ice rink, opened in 1906 where today's South Gate now stands, set up another school in Sydney soon after it opened, and went on to produce many generations of ice champions.

The Reid family who developed the indoor rink technology here, was the same Melbourne family who established the Buckley & Nunn department store and co-founded Bates Smart Architects. The wealthy patronized ice sports back then, and many of the first competition athletes were the sons and daughters of premiers, senators, commercial magnates, and founders of Melbourne's (Australia's) church, art and literary worlds, who were linked to ice sports through the private (church) schools they attended. After the skating season, the venue was leased to international impresarios for vaudeville, circuses, and the first motion picture exhibitors.

In the early years, participation in ice sports spread rapidly to students at Melbourne High School and the University of Melbourne, propelled by the sports network of the Associated Public Schools of Victoria established in 1908, including Melbourne Grammar, Scotch, Wesley, and Xavier. Many hundreds of athletes participated before the war, and up to 2000 people attended interstate matches and local and interstate ice sports carnivals.

Ice hockey in Victoria spread from a game against a team from a US warship in 1906, to teams in every state, then games against the world in about fifty years. The Victorians began playing in 1906 and were ready for the Winter Olympics in Italy in 1956, the year Melbourne hosted the Summer Olympics in their own capital city. Australian ice hockey players still compete for the Goodall Cup, the third oldest national ice hockey trophy in the world, established in 1908.

A few years later, Australians began competing in national skating titles and the men's and women's figure skating world championships, but representing Sweden, because Australia was still to affiliate with the International Skating Union. A golden age followed after the First World War. The official attendance at the second test of the 1926 Goodall Cup in Melbourne was 4000 people, and similar numbers attended local and interstate ice sports carnivals.

Fifteen-minute "descriptions" of interstate ice hockey matches were broadcast in the evening on Melbourne radio 3AR



Melbourne Glaciarium, 1939

The venue hosted the basketball and gymnastic events of the 1956 Summer Games before it was sold and closed permanently the following year. photo courtesy: Beryl Black Archive.

by 1926; and by 1930, local matches were broadcast live from the Melbourne Glaciarium. Crowds peaked at 5000, outgrowing venue capacities. In the 1930s, ice hockey player and speed skater Ken Kennedy became Australia's first Winter Olympian at Garmisch-Partenkirchen in Germany.

The first figure skaters representing Australia emerged in 1952. Ice hockey began to experiment with broadcasts on television soon after it was introduced in 1956, and the first Australian ice hockey team, composed mostly of tradies, competed at Squaw Valley in the 1960 Winter Olympics. Their jobs helped keep them in peak condition and the hours they worked allowed more access to the ice for training and competition.

Australia has taken part in every Winter Olympics since 1952. The changing socio-demographics of the sport also included "New Australians" who had to start over, but who found deep respect in a "club" of like-minded people. Their prowess on the ice was something tangible for locals to aspire to, in a land seemingly too distant from the leading ice sports nations to achieve and sustain world competitiveness.

Australian athletes have competed for national titles in all ice sports except curling for over a century. The ice hockey tradition in Australia is richly steeped in eminence, the booming years of Marvellous Melbourne, and the earliest emergence of the sport internationally, yet it – and ice sports in general – barely rates a mention in works on Australian sports history.

This lack of recognition is why we are creating the online website, *Legends of Australian Ice*.

The Legends project aims to illuminate the pioneering achievements of the first significant coaches, general managers, commentators, team owners, and others who have helped build Australian ice sports, and those who have

LEGENDS OF ICE (cont'd)

followed in their footsteps right up until the present day. The work is being progressively published online in the form of biographies, along with historical studies detailing landmark moments and processes. So far we have over 300 sporting biographies of significant athletes, builders or on-ice officials.

Scholarly essays explore particular social or sporting contexts, and sometimes a technological process, on a timeline from inception until the present time. For example, we look at the commercial development of refrigeration in Australia, including the pioneering work of James Harrison – inventor of the mechanical refrigeration process creating ice and founder of the Victorian Ice Works – and the relationships between these pioneers, the export of the meat products of certain pastoralists in Victoria and New South Wales, and their links to early ice sports.

The first competition rinks were built over major cold stores used in the export of Australian meat and other perishables. Some of the first ice athletes came from families who either paid a high price to import natural ice from North America or who held some other vested interest in the commercialisation of ice and the first engineered cold stores.

Other papers explore the social context and contributions to ice sports of some of the thousands of talented immigrants from Europe and North America, including refugees fleeing communist states or wars. Each paper is a new instalment in an historical narrative that has been slowly excavated from digitised newspapers and many privately owned archives.

The research is richly illustrated with historical timelines, and thousands of previously unpublished photos and old newsprint. It weaves together such disparate themes as the push to professionalise amateur sport, the unique challenges facing young Australian ice athletes, the successes and failures of local controlling authorities, the lack of government funding, corporate sponsorship, the costs of participation, Australia's special partnership with Canada in ice hockey (assisting us with scarce resources such as coaching expertise and corporate sponsorship), the nation's contribution to overseas ice sports, charitable philanthropy by rink owners, and the century-old campaign for international competitiveness.

Despite unique disadvantages, Australia has produced its own internationals, such as Tommy Dunderdale, the first Australian inducted into the Ice Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto; professional pairs skaters Albert Enders and Sadie Cambridge who were recently inducted, posthumously, into the Skate Canada Hall of Fame for their role in coaching Canadian skaters to international and Olympic success; Olympic gold medal speed skater Steven Bradbury; and Nathan Walker, the first Australian to play in the National Hockey League, the premier professional hockey league in the world.

The website includes all the honoured members of the Halls of Fame for Australian Ice Racing and Figure Skating, and it is now also home to the first Australian Ice Hockey Hall of Fame, celebrating the induction of one new member each year.



Australia's Sadie Cambridge and Albert Enders, 1936
The couple, who were husband and wife, were World Professional British Pair Skating Champions in 1932-38. They were inducted posthumously into the Skate Canada Hall of Fame in 2017. photo courtesy: Beryl Black Archive.

Remote from their centres of excellence in Europe and North America, ice sports on the driest continent have always been at a disadvantage, not least from the antipathy levelled at them in their own backyard. In a sunburnt country, where sport has shaped the national identity since the early colonial period, the search for world competitiveness on the ice may well be the last frontier.

Contact Ross Carpenter on the website contact page (rcarpenter@internode.on.net) if you would like to know more, or to contribute information or photos.

The original Legends website is progressively being converted to a new mobile friendly website at these links:

New Legends website under development:
http://icelegendsaustralia.com/legends-2/index_bio.html

Old Legends website, progressively being replaced:
<http://icelegendsaustralia.com/>

Ross Carpenter began the Legends project in 2007, inspired by his son's interest in ice hockey. He is a practicing architect, urban designer and major projects director, with a bachelor degree in Architecture and a masters in Urban Design.

JOSEPH FOWLES REVISTED

Jennifer Higgins takes another look at the *ADB* entry for colonial artist Joseph Fowles (?-1878)

The *Australian Dictionary of Biography* routinely verifies the births, deaths, and marriages of its subjects. This wasn't always the case. In the mid-1960s, when the earliest volumes of the Dictionary were published, there were no publicly available birth, death and marriage indexes to search, let alone the multitude of online family history resources that are now available at researchers' fingertips. As a result, many of the earliest *ADB* entries have incomplete life details. One of my tasks as the *ADB*'s Biographical Register Officer/Family Historian is to locate the verifications for those events. The information that I find can often lead to amendments/corrections of an entry.

The entry for colonial artist [Joseph Fowles](#) is one such case.

The only confirmed vital statistic we had about Joseph when his entry was published in 1966 was his place and date of death (Sydney, 25 June 1878). His entry contains no information about his birthdate or place and refers to a wife without naming her. Finding this information has taken me down some interesting paths where I've unearthed some surprising facts.

Joseph's birth details were easily discovered. Joseph's parents, William Fowles and Elizabeth Adey, were Non-Conformists. I found – in online parish records – the record of his birth at Kings Stanley on 24 December 1809 and his baptism in 1813 at the Old Meeting (Presbyterian) chapel at Stroud, both in Gloucestershire, England.

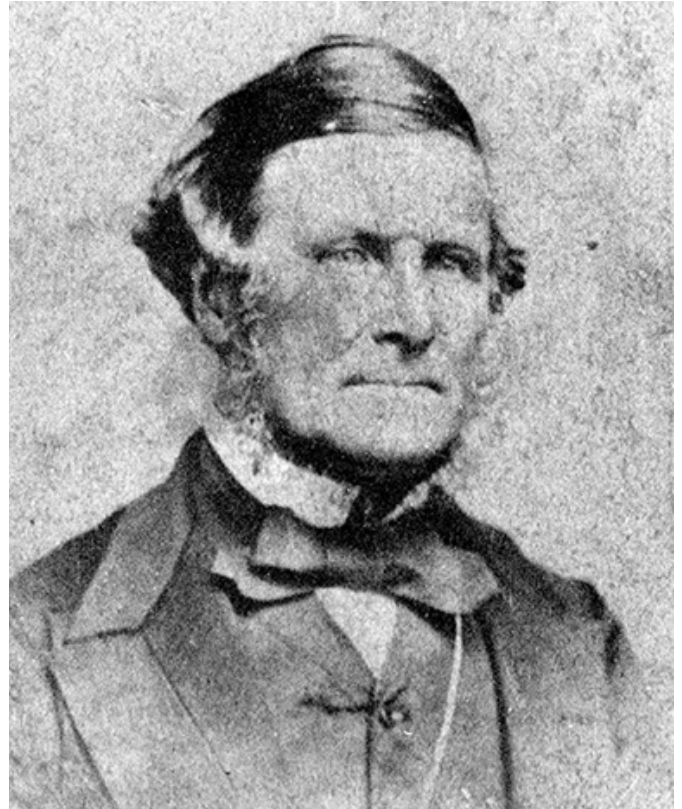
Following the family history research principal of using clues in verified documents as pointers to the unknown, can be problematic when events are recorded incorrectly or a subject sets out to mislead. The latter was the case with Joseph Fowles. Joseph fathered eleven children in total, the mother of the first seven named in official records as Emily Lambrigg Collyer, supposedly his wife. Their first child was born in Tasmania on 1 August 1841 and the remainder in Sydney.

Most articles about Joseph record that Emily was his wife, adding that she travelled on the barque *Fortune* with him when he arrived in 1838. Searches for Joseph's marriage to Emily, however, have proved fruitless.

A background search for Emily Lambrigg Collyer found that she was born at Painswick, Gloucestershire in 1814, the only child of labourer William Lambrigg Collyer, and Amelia Pegler. Her father was sentenced to death for larceny in the Summer Assizes of 1816 but his sentence was later reduced to two years' hard labour. He died of natural causes seven months after his sentence.

Joseph's family was also from Painswick, although Joseph was born some eleven kilometres away. It is clear the two families knew each other. Joseph leased Washbrook grist mill at Painswick for a number of years from 1831 and, in 1835, witnessed Emily's uncle's marriage at Painswick.

The *Hobart Courier* records that the barque *Fortune* arrived in Hobart on 21 August 1838, and that "...Mr. and Mrs. Fowles, Miss Collyer" were in the list of passengers aboard who were bound for New South Wales. The close proximity of their



Joseph Fowles, State Library of New South Wales

names in the passenger list strongly suggests that the three were travelling together. Emily Collyer was likely to have been a companion to the mystery woman named as Mrs Fowles.

Joseph Fowles kept a diary whilst on board the *Fortune*, in which he referred to his wife as Mrs. Fowles or Mrs. F. He often referred to Mrs. F. and Miss Collyer or Mrs F. and Emily. On two occasions in the diary, Joseph also referred to "Sarah". Given the conventions of the time, it would be unlikely that he would refer to any woman other than his wife by her first name. He also referred to two people called Goldstone who, by the way he described them, could be relatives. Could those two clues help me find a marriage record for Joseph Fowles to someone called Sarah?

A marriage record was quickly found for Joseph Fowles and Sarah Bird Goldstone at Bath Abbey in 1831. Joseph was recorded as being of the parish of Painswick. The witnesses included Joseph Fowles' brother, Daniel Adey Fowles, who had acted as ship's surgeon on the vessel *Prince Regent* during its 1836 voyage to Australia.

Joseph and Sarah Fowles and Emily Collyer landed at Sydney on 28 August 1838. One can only guess at the trio's early private life in Australia. Certainly by late 1840, Joseph and Emily's first child had been conceived. A "Mrs. Fowls" who left on the barque *Union* from Sydney in July 1840 may well have been Mrs Sarah Fowles. Her departure may have facilitated this liaison – or have been in response to the couple's developing relationship.

JOSEPH FOWLES (cont'd)

Margaret Beswick	Female	Thomas Beswick	Mary McIntyre nee Beswick
Joseph	Male	Joseph Fowles	Emily Lambbrick nee Fowles
Samuel Robert Kirkby	Male	Joseph Kirkby	Charlotte Henderson nee Kirkby

The baptism entry for Joseph, the first child of Joseph Fowles and Emily Lambrigg Collyer shows Emily using the married name Fowles. There is no evidence, however, that they ever married. [Tasmanian Archives](#)

Joseph and Emily had seven children altogether. When Emily died in September 1861 in Paddington, Sydney, she was described in newspaper death notices as “the beloved wife of Joseph Fowles”, although there is no evidence that any marriage between the couple took place. Her Letters of Administration in England list her as “Emily Lambrick Collyer ... Randwick ... New South Wales, spinster ...”. After her death, Joseph married Elizabeth Harris in 1874, the pair producing four offspring, two of whom were born before the marriage.

What then became of poor Sarah? Did she divorce Joseph or he her? There is no evidence of a divorce and Joseph’s marriage to Elizabeth Harris after the births of the two children suggests some impediment to marriage until that date – perhaps a living wife. This theory provided a possible end-date for searching for Sarah’s death.

Working on the idea that she returned to England, I searched the online censuses for England and found a Mrs Sarah B. Fowles in 1861 in Gloucestershire (her home county) working as a teacher, as were some of her sisters. No trace was found of her in earlier or later English censuses or in English marriage or death records.

I then set out to systematically create a picture of Sarah’s siblings in the hope that I might find Sarah associated with them – either living with them or acting as a witness at life events. I discovered that the Anna Goldstone whose birthday was celebrated by the Fowles on board the ship going to Sydney in 1838, was Sarah’s sister, Anna. This fact confirmed that the Joseph and Sarah Goldstone who came to New South Wales were the couple who married in Bath in 1831.

Sarah’s father was a well-respected Bath surgeon and two of her brothers followed their father’s occupation. It may well have been through this common occupation with his brother, Daniel Adey Fowles, that Sarah met Joseph. One of her surgeon brothers settled in Melbourne and the other served in the Channel Islands with the British Army. Guernsey, in the Channel Islands, seemed to have been a favoured retirement location for Sarah’s family. Perhaps Sarah lived the last years of her life there, too?

This led me to searches of the Channel Islands’ censuses. And there she was, in 1871, employed as a governess, boarding with another woman at St Peter Port, Guernsey,

where her brother was living. The Guernsey death index did not list her name but a search of the St Peter Port burial registers on microfilm from Family Search, yielded the information – reported in the French way with her maiden surname – “Sarah Bird Goldstone, wife of Joseph Fowles” died, 6 January 1872. Her death was finally discovered.



Fig Tree Farm, the house that Fowles leased after arriving in NSW in 1838. It was owned by Mary Reibey.

Sketch is from his shipboard diary, held at the State Library of New South Wales.

Further research into her siblings has revealed that her sister, Elizabeth Goldstone married surgeon Duncan Erhard Lewis, the brother of [Mortimer William Lewis](#) (1796-1879), colonial architect, and the subject of an ADB entry. Did Lewis encourage Joseph Fowles to emigrate to New South Wales? Is there more to be discovered about the possible influence of Lewis in the life and Australian career of Joseph Fowles?

There are certainly corrigenda that need to be made to Fowles’s entry to add details about his birth, two wives, de facto wife and eleven children.

I thank Dr Chris Cunneen, who is leading the ADB’s Revisions Project of volumes 1 and 2, for his collaboration and research on Joseph Fowles.

GEORGE SYMES & CHARLES TODD

Denis Cryle discusses George William Symes's uncompleted research on [Sir Charles Todd](#) (1826-1910), astronomer, meteorologist, and electrical engineer.

With the publication of a long-awaited biography on Charles Todd last year, it is timely to acknowledge the South Australian historian who began that challenging task almost half a century ago. This tribute to [George William Symes](#) (1896-1980) focuses in particular on his correspondence with Todd family members during the 1970s, in preparation for both his *ADB* entry and his larger biographical project.

Major-General Symes was already a high achiever before he took on the daunting Todd project. A decorated officer who served with distinction in both World Wars, he moved to Adelaide in 1949 after retiring from the British army. There he became prominent over the next thirty years in a series of Adelaide institutions, helping to establish the National Trust of South Australia, of which he was a vice president, and contributing to the Royal Geographical Society of South Australia (president, 1954-1957), before serving as private secretary to several South Australian governors.

Passionate about the history of Australian inland exploration, Symes presented a series of papers to the Royal Geographical Society (SA) during the 1950s. These, in turn, provoked his sustained interest in Charles Todd and the Overland Telegraph Line. Symes' knowledge of John McDouall Stuart, whose surveys helped guide Todd's parties across the continent, and of John Ross, the second explorer to cross the continent after Stuart, underpinned his seminal contribution of 1959-1960 on the 'Exploration of the MacDonnell Ranges (1870-1872)', in which Todd and his surveyors featured prominently.

Although he was not an academically trained historian, Symes developed sound skills as a researcher by the 1960s. In writing his first *ADB* entry (1966) on [Osmond Gilles](#) (1788-1866), an early South Australian official, he demonstrated a capacity to locate and interpret a range of primary and secondary sources. Above all, Symes retained an innate scepticism of received knowledge and set himself the task of clearing away some of the myths surrounding the Overland Telegraph Line and its legendary builder.

In order to do this, he increasingly relied on primary sources and private journals, unearthing several important items in the course of his investigations. In his seminal paper on the exploration of the MacDonnell Ranges, for example, he was able to clarify longstanding confusion about the discovery and naming of its geographical features, attributed to various Todd party members acting under instructions to find a shorter route for the telegraph line. Such close research informed a series of *ADB* entries on inland explorers, notably on [John Ross](#) (1817-1903) and [Benjamin Babbage](#) (1815-1878).

Symes' correspondence of the early 1970s, preserved in his voluminous papers, confirms that he had begun to devote most of his research time to Todd by the early 1970s. His letters to Mrs Caroe, Todd's English granddaughter, make it clear that he had decided to work towards a full-length biography before, rather than after, he embarked on Todd's entry for volume 6 of the *ADB*. The bulky preparatory file for the Todd entry confirms that he was already hard



Charles Todd with his wife, Alice

at work, consulting a range of primary sources: family letters, parliamentary papers and the diaries of Todd's contemporaries with which he had become familiar in the course of his exploration research.

An important incentive for his biographical ambitions was the location of family material held in South Australia by the Fisher family, descendants of Todd's eldest daughter. As Symes explained in October 1975 to the *ADB*'s general editor Bede Nairn, "the only family papers now in the country are those of Todd's youngest daughter, Lorna, who was unmarried. She died about 15 years ago." Lorna bequeathed the Fishers not only a substantial number of newspaper articles devoted to her father and mother, but also typescripts which provide more detail, albeit anecdotal, on her own upbringing and Adelaide experiences.

The progress of Symes' work throughout the 1970s was also influenced by contemporary events, most notably the Centenary of the Overland Telegraph held in 1972. It proved both a spur and setback to his longer term ambitions, in so far as he had "to suspend work" on the biography and prepare a paper for the Post Office symposium scheduled in Sydney in late August of that year.

He thought it a chance to check the "technical details" associated with Todd's great telegraph project, at the

SYMES & TODD (cont'd)

risk of bogging down in its "many political and technical aspects." Although he did not live to see the ABC's television programme on the subject, *A Wire Through the Heart*, broadcast in 2007, Symes was initially enthusiastic about the prospect of an hour-long documentary scheduled for 1973. At the same time, he confided to Cambridge science historian, David Dewhurst, that his involvement in the 1972 event, and a period of ill health, had delayed the biography.

With Geoffrey Serle's twenty-line summary entry on Todd for the *British Dictionary of National Biography* to guide him, Symes was also at work on a long entry for the *ADB* during 1973. Symes's entry remains the most authoritative entry written on Todd to date. For the same volume he contributed a further entry on the explorer, John Ross. Ross had distinguished himself in Todd's telegraph party by becoming only the second person to cross the continent after [John McDouall Stuart](#) (1815–1866), upon whose surveys Todd's advance would largely depend.

While Symes' interest in Todd lay primarily in the fields of exploration and telegraphy, he produced a well-balanced 265-line concise biography for the *ADB*, giving equal space to Todd's achievements in other fields, notably astronomy, surveying, civil administration and meteorology. In the process, he exhibited the capacity to deliver a full-scale biography of the kind he hoped to complete. The only blemish subsequently detected by *ADB* editor, Bede Nairn, one which had unfortunately gone to press, was that Charles Todd was not the oldest son of the family as Symes had stated at the outset, but the second oldest.

With the Todd entry behind him, and that on John Ross duly submitted, Symes returned to his larger biographical project, explaining to Mrs Caroe (Todd's granddaughter), that he was making "rapid progress," but still had "a jumble of telegraph matters to be sifted... in order to get a coherent grasp of all the matters leading up to the building of the line."

The sources listed for the Todd entry confirm that, in addition to consulting and organising Lorna Todd's writings on the family, Symes relied increasingly on several female relatives in the United Kingdom for further particulars about the family's ancestry. Keen to atone for his genealogical error, he began compiling a family tree and hired a research assistant based in England to locate records of births, deaths and marriages in Todd's immediate family milieu, albeit with limited results.

Todd's birth certificate, in particular, was proving elusive. Without it, he could not resolve ongoing speculation as to whether Todd had been christened 'Charles Heavitree Todd,' as he is still sometimes known. This uncertainty drew him into a protracted debate as to whether or not Heavitree Gap in the MacDonnell Ranges had been named in Todd's honour. Belatedly he wrote to Mrs Caroe, in 1979, that he was "unable to substantiate the use of the name" Heavitree, and apologised for the error and confusion.

Two years earlier, when he delivered the first four chapters of his biography to the family, Symes still expressed reservations about whether he would be able to complete a full-length biography on Todd. He restated his reservations in a final published article of 1980–1981, in which he still described Todd as, at best, a "shadowy figure." An increasing reliance



George Symes (1896–1980) has an entry in vol 16 of the *ADB*.

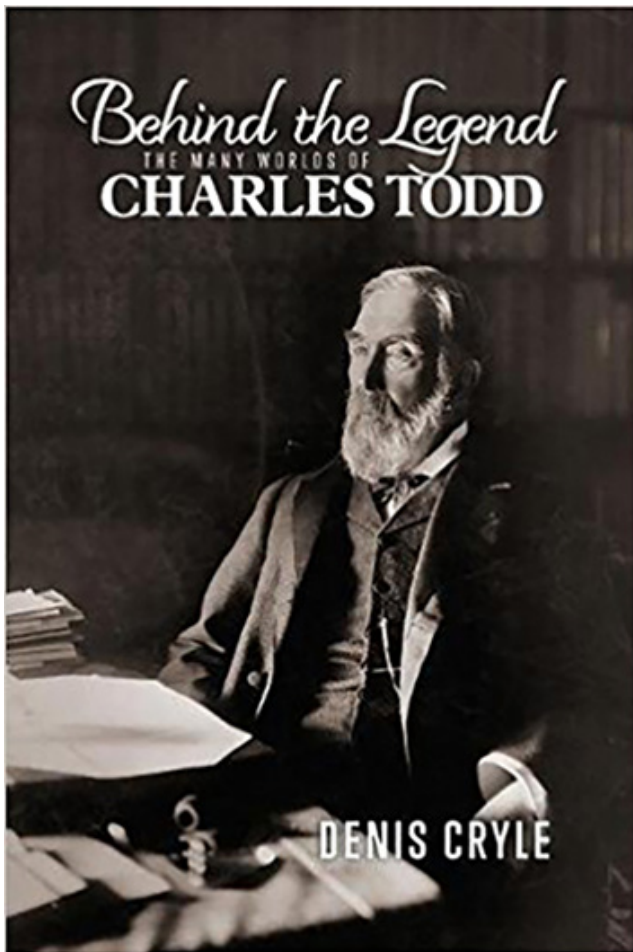
on official reports, however laudable, led him to conclude that, although "I have read many reports, practically all of them are factual only."

During the late 1970s, when his health declined, Symes' research strategy appeared to be twofold: firstly to unravel the complex Overland Telegraph story with its many players and copious documents; secondly to backtrack on Todd's family history in order to explore his ancestry and British roots. In both of these tasks, he achieved his aims, producing a nine chapter draft biography of 560 pages before his (Symes') untimely death in August 1980. Unpublished and largely unknown, the manuscript recounted Todd's life until his mid-40s, but left more than three decades of his life and career undocumented.

In retrospect, Symes' major achievement was his energetic information gathering and ordering of unpublished material relating to Todd and his family. The detail and breadth of the Symes' papers undoubtedly paved the way for my own biographical investigations some thirty years later. Before I had begun work on the project a decade ago, a second aspiring biographer, Professor Kevin Livingston, to whom we owe an entry on Todd in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, noted Symes' unpublished drafts, but only in passing. Yet without these and Symes' impressive persistence, my own biography might never have been completed.

Professor Denis Cryle is the author of *Behind the Legend: The Many Worlds of Charles Todd* (Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2017).

Elizabeth Morrison reviews Denis Cryle's book *Behind the Legend: The Many Worlds of Charles Todd* (Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2017).



London-born [Sir Charles Todd](#) (1826-1910) has generally been identified in the popular mind as an historical personage of importance for having successfully promoted and overseen construction of the transcontinental telegraph line from Port Augusta northwards to Port Darwin, which, in 1872, linked the Australian colonial telegraph network to the rest of the world (via connecting with an undersea cable to Java and onwards by relays to London). A radical and irrevocable transforming of communications that affected almost every sphere of colonial life, and which may be seen as having laid the foundations for today's technology-driven communications world. But, as the title of Denis Cryle's biography indicates, there were many more sides to, and achievements of, this South Australian colonial public servant, extending to interrelated fields of science and technology, including astronomy, meteorology, horology, surveying, and more – a complex and compelling story.

An interest in the life of 'Telegraph Todd', as the subject was often named, is certainly congruent with Emeritus Professor Cryle's senior academic experience in the School of Communications and Media at Central Queensland University. While obviously so from a telecommunications perspective, it also accords with his being an accomplished press historian, fully aware of the vital importance of the coming of cable transmission to Australian newspapers, acknowledging them on the first page of *Behind the Legend* as 'major beneficiaries of incoming telegraph news'.

While there are several books about the Overland Telegraph and Todd's role in it, including [Frank Clune's](#) (1893-1971) of 1955 and Peter Taylor's *An End to Silence* (1980), this is the first published book-length Todd biography. Telecommunications historian Kevin Livingston was researching and writing about Todd before his untimely death in 1998 and before him [George William Symes](#) (1896-1980), a retired army officer with an interest in South Australian history, was working towards a biography, incomplete when he died in 1980. Symes contributed the 1976 entry for the *ADB*, in which Todd is designated as 'astronomer, meteorologist and electrical engineer'. This is at variance with the labels for his Victorian counterpart, [Samuel McGowan](#) (1829-1887), in his 1974 entry – 'scientist and administrator'. Without doubt Todd also deserves the latter term. Both men were in charge of colonial government telegraphy departments, and collaborated. Moreover, Todd's many other achievements were attained as a colonial public servant. In terms of indexing and accessing the *ADB* by occupation it is moot, however, whether his itemised several fields of activity would be better summarised as scientist. The term 'electrical engineer' could mislead, notwithstanding Todd's knowledge of and working with the electric telegraph and later his advocacy of electric lighting and power.

While most of Symes' entry deals with telegraphic matters, it usefully, if sketchily, outlines some of Todd's other concerns. Cryle's endnotes and bibliography reveal that more detailed information about these is to be found in scholarly articles in professional journals, each confined to a single field. An academic meeting in Adelaide in 2012 brought Todd's 'worlds' together. The proceedings, published as the *Sir Charles Todd Symposium*, and which state that the event grew out of a family gathering to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Overland Telegraph's completion, contain summaries of addresses by specialists in their respective fields. Speaking at the Symposium about his biography-in-progress, Cryle stressed that, in addition to covering his subject's technical and planning abilities (the substance of the Symposium), he would introduce personal and social perspectives, including dramatis personae and key scenes.

To the book itself – which incidentally is of stylish appearance and layout and a credit to Australian Scholarly's designer. Cryle's overall structure is suitable and sound, with the 'Contents' table clearly and sensibly dividing his subject's life trajectory into three Parts. While generally the narrative as a whole moves forward, in Parts 2 and 3, Cryle deals with the organisational question arising when writing the life of a person of many parts – chronological or thematic arrangement? – by having some topically focused chapters more or less in parallel.

Part 1, subtitled 'apprenticeship and promotion', sees fifteen-year-old London-born Todd taken on as a 'human computer' at Greenwich Observatory (having demonstrated a talent for mathematics during his limited formal schooling), followed a few years later by employment at Cambridge Observatory. At both institutions he learned to make astronomical and meteorological observations and calculations, moving from very basic operations to being given more responsibility. In 1853 he also had some exposure to the introduction

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of telegraphic communication, which was a factor in his recruitment the year following as Superintendent of Electric Telegraphs for the South Australian government in Adelaide, where he got into his stride developing a colonial telegraph network and intercolonial links, and making moves towards an international hook-up.

Part 2, 'enterprise and acclaim', covers implementation of the Overland Telegraph 'Great Work', followed by Todd also becoming Postmaster-General and introducing needed reforms in his added area of responsibility. Other activities included: astronomical pursuits (a pleasure rather than duty for him), observing Transits of Venus in 1874 and 1882; providing weather reports; establishing precise longitudinal measurements relevant to mapping South Australia's boundaries; and, in 1885, travelling to Britain and the Continent and gaining international recognition, witnessed in his being awarded Fellowships of several learned, professional societies.

Part 3, 'illustrious civil servant', sees further honours – Fellow of the Royal Society in 1888, a knighthood in 1893. Besides continuing to run his large department, Todd was involved with planning duplications of existing cables and proposals for new ones, including across the Pacific to link with Canada and thus complete a British 'red' line circling the globe (a measure he opposed and which in operation did not live up to expectations), and a link with the South African Cape, which was implemented and used in the end stages of the Boer War. On a national scale he was a major player in the standardisation of time and establishment of time zones. With Federation and the national centralisation of postal and telegraph services he was retained in a Deputy capacity, and with the establishment of a Federal Bureau of Meteorology, sidelined in spite of having paved the way for national weather reporting and forecasting. But he was 75 in 1901 and, remarkably, still actively employed, as he would be for most of the remaining nine years of his life; also pursuing astronomical interests and alert to the advent of sunrise technologies, such as the wireless (radio).

As promised by the author in his Symposium address, the biography is more than a straightforward account of a distinguished career. Cryle brings to life significant people in the story, such as the obnoxious [Robert Patterson](#) (1844-1907), railway engineer responsible for the northern section of the transcontinental telegraph line, and the disputatious [Clement Wragge](#) (1852-1922), rival private weather forecaster. Todd, who did not have a commanding physical stature, was not charismatic, nor of a domineering personality, was frequently bedevilled by opposition to his plans and procedures. He is shown quietly holding sway with persistence, resilience and, generally, an absence of rancour.

Another side of Todd, also foreshadowed, is the family man, this aspect interwoven throughout the narrative, from his travelling to the Antipodes with his not-yet-18 new wife Alice, her enthusiasm and prolific correspondence during his long absences, his desolation when she predeceased him.

Besides archived family papers, Cryle was able to draw on mid-twentieth-century newspaper articles by their youngest daughter Lorna for her admiration and favourable memories of her mother, rather than accepting the imaginatively reconstructed account by great-great granddaughter Alice Thomson in her travelogue, *The Singing Line*, where she dwells on young Alice's depression and difficulties of adjustment. Lorna, however, would not have had direct experience of this, noting she only knew 'old' parents (she was 22 years younger than Lizzie, the eldest child). In addition to the marital relationship, the reader becomes familiar with Todd's close-knit family of six children and their careers and marriages, and much involvement with extended families in Australia and England.

To make minor quibbles, I noticed a few typos. And just once I encountered what seemed a textual contradiction, relating to whether British engineer Lionel Gisborne was proposing a cable link to Moreton Bay or to the north coast (p. 63). However, in sum we are presented with an impressive assimilation and synthesis of a vast amount of detailed information, presented with logic and clarity.

A digression: I am left with a puzzle that Cryle does not address (nor need he have). Alice Springs, we are told, is named after Todd's wife, initially referring to the spring and waterhole adjacent to the telegraph station built there, but shifted to mean the town, as it grew up. The naming of the Todd River (usually dry) is obvious. But what of Heavitree Gap, the break in the McDonnell Range through which runs the highway from the south and where from the mid-1880s the telegraph line passed through (relocated from Temple Gap)? Some published sources (but not Cryle or the *ADB*) give Heavitree as Todd's middle name, while a *Wikipedia* entry states the Gap is named after a school in Devon! My further internet searching of gazetteers, etc, failed to clarify!

I have shelved my copy of *Beyond the Legend* with Geoffrey Blainey's *The Tyranny of Distance*, Ann Moyal's *Clear Across Australia*, Kevin Livingston's *The Wired Nation* and Graeme Davison's *The Unforgiving Minute*, a grouping that for me comprises a fundamental segment of the story of Australia's journey to modernity. Cryle's book tells us how Todd, in public life 'a modern manager' (p. 5), observed, measured, calculated, then applied the data to and implemented visionary large-scale enterprises. In the biographer's words, 'Todd was responsible for much of the physical infrastructure of intercolonial communications, so essential for nationhood' (p. 10). The book has amply demonstrated this, and more. Besides bringing to life, as it were, this astonishingly productive man, it is the kind of biography that makes an inestimably valuable contribution to the history of nineteenth-century Australian science.

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