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The ADB's Story

Edited by Melanie Nolan and
Christine Fernon

ANU.LIVES

SERIES IN BIOGRAPHY

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Welcome to Issue 12 of *Biography Footnotes*

The National Centre of Biography was established in 2008 in the wake of the 2007 Gregory Report. Editing the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* and developing its online version is our core activity. In addition, the Centre acts as a focus for the study of biography in Australia by offering MA and PhD programs, and conducting public lectures, seminars and other forms of scholarly exchange.

In 2010 we established a masters program. This will be integrated into the Masters of Liberal Arts (Biographical Research and Writing) from 2014, making it more viable to teach. For students it will mean a wider choice of subjects, including an *ADB* internship.

One of the NCB's major developments has been the creation of ANU.Lives, a biography series run under the umbrella of ANU E Press. This year we held a number of popular events around two ANU.Lives publications. On 28 November Barry Jones's *Dictionary of World Biography* was launched by Gareth Evans, the ANU's chancellor, and Barry's former parliamentary colleague. Earlier that day Phillip Adams joined Barry in a conversation about biography in general and dictionaries of biography in particular. The theatre in the Sir Roland Wilson Building was booked out for this engaging discussion between two of Australia's 'Living Treasures'. The conversation was taped by the ABC and broadcast that night

on Phillip's Late Night Live show. It was also filmed by Gary Sturgess who is making a documentary film, 'Barry Jones In Search of Lost Time'.

The ADB's Story, edited by Christine Fernon and myself, was launched by Malcolm Turnbull, Minister for Communications, on 4 December. We invited Malcolm to launch the book because his mother was an *ADB* author and because of the lovely endorsement for the *ADB* that he had provided ([see](#) last page) for our Endowment campaign. We were not expecting him to make a donation to the Fund and so were surprised and delighted by his \$70,000 donation.

We have included the transcripts of the speeches of both launches in this newsletter.

You can also read about our project, Exploring Australia, which aims to add digital resources, maps and thematic essays, relating to the early exploration of Australia, to our biographical websites.

On behalf of myself and the staff of the NCB I wish you a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Melanie Nolan

Director, National Centre of Biography

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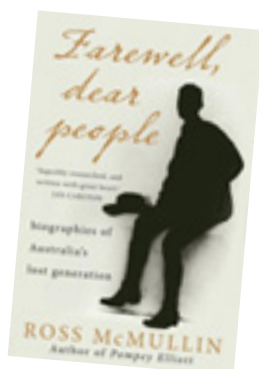
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W: www.anu.edu.au/rsss/rpost

Cover: *The ADB's Story*: It shows the *ADB*'s founder, Sir Keith Hancock, planting an English oak tree in the grounds of University House, ANU, in 1984.

ADB Author wins book award

ADB author and historian, Dr Ross McMullin, has won the 2013 Prime Minister's Prize for Australian history for his book, *Farewell, Dear People*, which contains ten extended biographies of gifted young men who died in World War I.



ADB Endowment Fund

Thank-you to everyone who contributed to the ADB Endowment Fund this year. \$100,000 was raised. Our particular thanks go to Malcolm Turnbull, the Minister for Communications, who very generously donated \$70,000 to the fund when he launched *The ADB's Story* on 4 December. Malcolm's mother wrote four ADB entries. See page 19 for Tom Griffiths's discussion of our push to bolster the Endowment Fund.

Foresters' Obituaries

The NCB is working with the Institute of Foresters and the Australian Forest History Society to increase the number of obituaries on foresters in Obituaries Australia. We are hoping to also include a thematic essay about the profession.

Obituaries Australia

The obituaries of pioneers are often particularly interesting to read as they contain detail, not easily found elsewhere, about the hardships endured by early settlers. The lengthy obituary for John Langlands (1837-1915) is in this category. ([see http://oa.anu.edu.au/](http://oa.anu.edu.au/)

obituary/langlands-john-17089)

Langlands' family migrated to Victoria from Scotland in 1848 and were one of the founding families of Horsham. John, like his father, was a merchant and spent many years travelling around the district selling his wares. He took a keen interest in the landscape, kept detailed meteorological records, and had a knack for predicting the course and height of floods.

His obituary also talks about the false pockets and holes that had been discovered inside the Langlands original house during a recent renovation. Says the obituarist, 'These, it transpired, were some of the precautions which had been made by the original Mr. Langlands [John's father] to guard against the possibility of hostile visits. The pockets were meant for the storing of valuables with a reasonable degree of safety in the not improbable event of an attack by bushrangers, of whom many roamed the sparsely settled country, and the holes were intended to be used for shooting at blacks should the dusky denizens of the bush make a raid upon the store.' One hopes that the latter scenario never eventuated.

Encounters between early settlers and Aborigines is something that is often discussed in the obituaries of early settlers. We have created an index term 'settler/indigenous contact', under the related entries field, so that researchers can easily find these invaluable sources.

Digitised compendiums of biography

The NCB has been digitising out of copyright compendiums of biography for a number of years now, with the aim of adding the biographical information in them to our websites and making the entire books available online as pdfs on the NCB's website at <http://ncb.anu.edu.au/NCB-digitised-biographies>

Following talks with the National Library earlier this year we decided to work with them in digitising books. We are scanning the books and the National Library is processing them. The NLA will also make the books available to

the public through their search engine, Trove, and will ensure that the digitised images are properly preserved.

Over 140 books have been digitised this year. Dietrich Borchardt's *Checklist of Collective Biographies* has been of great assistance in alerting us to the hundreds of biographical compendiums that have been compiled over the years.

We have also digitised the *Historical Records of Australia* series. Many entries in the earliest volumes of the ADB include the HRA as a resource in their bibliographies. When these entries are rewritten/revised in the future we will be able to include links directly to relevant digitised documents in the HRA.

It is anticipated that the books scanned this year will be available online through Trove in a few months.

Enhancements to NCB websites

A number of enhancements have been made to the NCB's websites this year, including the addition of a link in the menu bar to a list of thematic essays which have been added to the websites. Links to the essays are also included in relevant biographical entries.

We have also added three new indexing fields: marital status, year of marriage and place of residence (given at state level for movement within Australia and at country level for those moving overseas). Place of residence will be of particular interest for those studying mobility both within Australia and transnationally. Studies are starting to show that trips 'home' to England were more frequent, and the range of people embarking on them was more diverse, than originally assumed.

Meeting with ODNB

During her time in England as a Visiting Scholar in the Department of History at the University of Cambridge in June-July this year, the ADB's General Editor, Melanie Nolan, took the opportunity to meet with Lawrence Goldman and Philip Carter at Oxford University Press.

NEWS (cont'd)

Lawrence has been the Editor of the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* since 2004 but will relinquish the role next year. He was a visitor in the School of History at the ANU in 2012 and has recently completed his biography of Richard Tawney, *The Life of R. H. Tawney. Socialism and History* (2013). Philip Carter is Publication Editor of the ODNB. During his time as a visitor in the ANU's School of History in 2010 he gave a paper on the ODNB's future directions which formed the basis of his chapter in *The ADB's Story*.

Melanie and Philip discussed the feasibility of holding an international conference of national biographical dictionary projects in Canberra in 2015. It will be interesting to meet with colleagues and exchange ideas about how best we might utilise information technologies. We will have more details about the conference next year.

New thematic essays

The ADB's acting manager, Karen Fox, has written a thematic essay on Canberra's history as part of the NCB's contribution to the national capital's centenary celebrations ([see http://adb.anu.edu.au/essay/7](http://adb.anu.edu.au/essay/7)).

Melbourne historian, Chris McConville, who wrote the ADB entry for Squizzy Taylor, has written an essay on 'Melbourne Crime: From War to Depression, 1919-1929' ([see http://adb.anu.edu.au/essay/6](http://adb.anu.edu.au/essay/6)). Chris's essay clearly shows that criminals in Victoria were less organised and far less glamorous than their portrayal in TV dramas.

Anyone wishing to write a thematic essay should contact the ADB at adb@anu.edu.au

Public Speaking

We are regularly asked to discuss the ADB at historical, genealogical and U3A seminars, and other public events. In November Melanie Nolan gave the keynote address on 'Business and Biography' at the 5th Annual Conference of the Academic

Association of Historians in Australian and New Zealand Business Schools, held at the University of Sydney.



Melanie Nolan at the 2013 National Biography Award ceremony at the State Library of NSW, with Bernadette Brennan, chair of the judging panel, Nathan Hollier, director of Monash University Publishing which published the winning entry, Peter Fitzpatrick, *The Two Frank Thrings*; and Jenny Hocking, one of the finalists, author of *Gough Whitlam: His Time*.

Earlier in the year she — along with her fellow judges of the National Biography Award, Bernadette Brennan and Jacqui Kent — spoke about biography during a panel discussion, 'Australian Stories: A walk through interesting minds', at the State Library of New South Wales. The panel discussed Australian biography and memoir — the diversity of subjects and stories, the quality of writing, and the importance, relevance and popularity of life writing. This was an opportunity for Melanie to discuss ADB entries in the wider historiographical context.

Melanie has accepted an invitation to be a judge for the 2014 National Biography Award.

The ADB's Story

It has had a long gestation but *The ADB's Story* has finally been published.

The book is based on papers given at a seminar held by the NCB in December 2009 to celebrate the ADB's 50th birthday. We have also added brief profiles of some of the thousands of people who have contributed to the *Dictionary's* success.

Copies of the *The ADB's Story* can be downloaded for free as an e-book or pdf or can be purchased from ANU E Press as a print on demand book for \$45 plus postage. For further

information see <http://epress.anu.edu.au/titles/anu-lives-series-in-biography/the-adbs-story>



Deaths of ADB Authors

It is with sadness that we note the deaths of the following ADB authors during 2013:

Keith Dunstan OAM
John Laverty
Allan W. Lockwood OAM
L. K. Paszkowski
Martin Sharp
Don Spearritt AM

Keith Dunstan will be familiar to many Victorians as a keen cyclist, columnist for *The Sun* newspaper and founder of the Anti-Football League.

John Laverty, emeritus professor of History at the University of Queensland was a foundation member and a former President of the Brisbane History Group.

Allan Lockwood was the founding editor of the *Wimmera Mail-Times*, the biggest tri-weekly in Australia.

Lech Paszkowski, writer, journalist, author and editor of historical works, was the ADB's specialist contributor on Poles in Australia.

Martin Sharp, artist, underground cartoonist, songwriter, and film-maker wrote the ADB entry on John Godson who died in a fire at Luna Park, Sydney, in 1979. Sharp had been engaged, at the time, as a designer and artist to oversee the restoration of Luna Park.

Don Spearritt, emeritus professor (Education) at the University of Sydney wrote the ADB entry on the educational reformer David Verco.

STAFF NEWS

There have been a number of movements and departures of staff at the *ADB* during the year.

In January the *Dictionary's* deputy editor, Dr Paul Arthur, was seconded to the Centre for European Studies at the ANU as deputy director and took up an appointment as professor in Digital Humanities at the University of New South Wales later in the year.

Dr Rani Kerin, the *ADB's* 'smaller states' (Western Australia, South Australia, Queensland and Tasmania) research editor, resigned in October after moving to Victoria. We are fortunate that she will continue to do some editing on a casual basis.

The advertised position was filled by Dr Karen Fox, with effect from 1 February 2014. Karen was a postdoctoral research fellow/editor with the NCB in 2011-12, and helped establish the Masters in Biographical Research and Writing program. She is currently acting managing editor of the *ADB*. Her independent research agenda is the Australian Honours system and the concept of fame. Her thematic essay, 'Knights and Dames' can be found on the *ADB* website at <http://adb.anu.edu.au/essay/2>.

Interviews for the managing editor's position have been held. The Selection Committee has made a recommendation to the Dean of CASS and we are waiting a decision. We will include an interview with her/him in the next issue of *Biography Footnotes*.

The *ADB's* New South Wales research assistant, Rachel Grahame, is retiring at the end of December. Rachel took over the position from her daughter, Emma, in 1992. One of her major tasks has been combing through the biographical index cards in the *Sydney Morning Herald* library and copying references to subjects for forthcoming volumes of the *ADB*. These cards have been an invaluable resource for *ADB* research editors over the years. Rachel also assisted editors with research that could not be undertaken in Canberra's libraries. She is well-known and highly



Rachel Grahame, 2012

regarded by staff at numerous libraries and archives in New South Wales as well as by current and former *ADB* staff.

Niki Francis resigned as the *ADB's* biographical officer to concentrate on her PhD thesis. She is being replaced by Jenny Higgins who, most recently, was the National Library's family history officer. Jenny's wealth of knowledge of sources will be a boon to the *ADB*.

Dr Sam Furphy has been awarded a DECRA (Discovery Early Career Researcher Award) in the latest round of ARC grants. This will enable him to spend the next three years working full-time on a research project. He plans to make a comparative study of the Protectors of Aborigines in early colonial Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and New Zealand. Sam's book, *Edward M. Curr and the Tide of History*, was published by ANU E Press this year. We expect to fill Sam's NCB position with a three-year temporary Research Fellow.

STUDENT NEWS

The NCB's first PhD student graduated this year. Shelley Richardson was awarded a doctorate for her thesis on 'Family Experiments: Professional, Middle-Class Families in Australia and New Zealand c.1880-1920'.

Sophie Scott-Brown, who is writing a thesis on 'The History Maker: Raphael Samuel and the Politics of People's History', has been awarded a prestigious Visiting Doctoral Fellowship, which will enable her to spend a term at the Oxford Centre for Life-Writing, Wolfson College, University of Oxford. Sophie was sponsored by one of our recent Visiting Fellows, Dr Lawrence Goldman, an Oxford academic who is on Sophie's supervisory panel. She will be working at Oxford with Professor Dame Hermione Lee, renowned biographer and President of Wolfson College.

Brett Goodin recently left for the USA and England to undertake research, attend conferences and present papers relating to his PhD thesis on the life stories of three American captives of Barbary pirates and their impact on the development of concepts of race, liberty and nationhood in the early US republic.

Two research grants are facilitating his trip. Brett successfully applied for a Huntington Library Fellowship which will allow him to undertake research in the Huntington Library, Los Angeles. He has also been awarded an ANU-IARU travel grant which he is using to undertake research at the Bodleian Library at Oxford University. While at Oxford he will present a paper at the university's Rothermere American Institute.

After completing an MA with the NCB last year, Elizabeth Hellwig has returned to embark on a PhD thesis on 'Sisters in Service: The role and contribution of Lay Sisters in the Congregation of Dominican women in Eastern Australia 1867-1990'.

THE ADB'S STORY LAUNCHED

The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull, MP, Minister for Communications, launched *The ADB's Story*, edited by Melanie Nolan and Christine Fernon, at University House on 4 December. We include a transcript of his speech for those who were unable to attend the event.



photo by Natalie Azzopardi

Can I say at the outset how incredibly moved I was – I nearly burst into tears at the end of this room when I came here – because you were kind enough to mention my mother was a contributor, not a high-volume contributor, but a contributor to the *ADB* (*Australian Dictionary of Biography*). I was extraordinarily moved talking to you three, and to others here, because I was, for the first time I can remember since my mother's death, in the company of historians. I had forgotten what that felt like. It is actually very different. I can't quite put my finger on it but I was nearly overwhelmed by a wave of emotion. So don't think I'm just a flinty-hearted politician!

Vice Chancellor, Professor Young, Professor Griffiths, Melanie Nolan — the editor of the *ADB* — thank you all for inviting me to launch *The ADB's Story*.

It is a story of 50 years of collaborative achievement — of 4,000 authors and hundreds of academics and other professionals who have served on working parties and the Editorial Board. All working without fee for this great national work.

It has been an early example of what we would call today crowd sourcing — a precursor, in some respects, in the analogue era of Wikipedia (although with considerably more disciplined quality control!).

No other national biographical dictionary can boast of this

great strength of continued goodwill, maintained over five decades. You should all be very, very proud.

Sir Robert Menzies established the ANU in 1946. He was a great supporter of the *ADB* and was invited to launch its first volume in 1966 here at University House. This is still the place where the *ADB* comes to celebrate its achievements; the picture on the cover of this book was taken just outside the front entrance of the building. It shows Sir Keith Hancock, the first Director of the Research School of Social Sciences at the ANU, planting an English oak tree on the southern lawn in 1984. It was Sir Keith, as Ann Moyal explains in her chapter in *The ADB's Story*, who laid the foundations of the *ADB*.

Ann Moyal deserves special mention. Not only was she the first employee of the *ADB* but wrote *Clear Across Australia: A History of Telecommunications* which covers the span of Australia's telecommunications history from the first telegraph line erected between Melbourne and Williamstown in 1854, to the industrial and political upheavals involving Telecom in the 1980s until the election of the Hawke Government in 1983.

As Geoffrey Blainey wrote in the forward to Ann's history, it is an important work "for those who work in telecommunications and the politicians, businessmen and civil servants who have to make decisions as how to harness, effectively and economically, the next wave of innovations."

THE ADB'S STORY (cont'd)

Right now I am grappling with how best to transform the NBN project into a more cost effective shape. The Strategic Review which we will release shortly will be an exercise in what historians should appreciate — clear-eyed truth telling, free of spin and politics. There hasn't been a lot of that in the broadband debate over the last six years. Perhaps in the next edition of *Clear Across Australia* — that would take many volumes for the NBN — perhaps that can be taken up there.

Now, right here at the ANU, University House was also where the ADB and its supporters met in 2006 when the Governor-General launched the online version of the *Dictionary*. The site now has a phenomenal 70 million hits a year making it, surely, the first port of call for researchers of Australian history. It is certainly the most authoritative port of call. It is copied everywhere. This is not much consolation — but plagiarism is the sincerest form of flattery. It was a revelation to me to read of the care that ADB editors take to verify all the facts in entries. It was a revelation but, perhaps, not the most surprising one.

Back in 1966 Menzies was delighted to see the ANU take a leadership role in producing the ADB in line with its foundational charter to provide leadership in areas of national importance. While we naturally acclaim our scientists, especially medical scientists, our national achievements in the humanities and social sciences also deserve acclaim. The ADB is one the country's most significant collective research projects. You are proud of it. All Australians should be proud of it.

I congratulate all of you who have worked on the ADB as authors or on its Editorial Board and committees. On behalf of the parliament I congratulate you for your generosity in giving your time and expertise to this great national endeavour. I congratulate the ANU for making the ADB freely available online, rather than making it a subscription service as some other national dictionaries have done.

It means that anyone, anywhere in the world, can now read about the endeavours of those who have made Australia what it is. I understand that the online ADB has a wide reach and is being consulted not only by scholars and university students but by school children and the general public who search the web for more information after watching documentaries and TV dramas. Squizzy Taylor was this year's most frequently searched term in the ADB.

I also congratulate all those who have assisted the ADB project by opening their libraries and archives, and helping



Malcolm Turnbull talks to Ann Moyal, the ADB's first employee
photo by Natalie Azzopardi

researchers find those hidden histories. The ADB would not have been as successful or as authoritative as it is without the support of the national, state and territory libraries and archives; the national war memorial; the countless school, regional and business archives; and the Registrars-General who have given the project access to birth, death and marriage records.

I understand Margy Burn, assistant director-general of the NLA, is here tonight. She is an example of a person from the cultural institutions who has given valuable service to the ADB, first as a member of the NSW Working Party and now in her role at the National Library. She was instrumental in winning NLA support for the ARC grant

to place the ADB online. The NLA has been a particular and longstanding ally of the ADB.

I particularly enjoyed reading in *The ADB's Story* about the tireless assistance given to the project by Brigadier Maurice (Bunny) Austin, Captain Alec Hill and Lieutenant Colonel Frank Brown. After serving Australia in the defence forces these men gave long service, as civilians, to the ADB by transcribing, by hand, hundreds of pages of central office army records for military subjects in the *Dictionary*. All this in the days before photocopying. These men, and others, such as Barry Jones, Gough Whitlam and Richard Tolhurst, who used to send the ADB lists of errors after the publication of each volume, have achieved legendary status in the ADB.

I am proud to count my family as one of those who have 'served' the *Dictionary*. My mother, Coral Lansbury, wrote four ADB entries. They reflected both professional and personal interests.

Coral was the daughter of two actors and while she didn't persevere with acting herself, she was a very successful writer of radio serials. One of the entries she wrote was for George Edwards, a prodigious producer of theatrical productions and radio dramas. George was a great mimic — he was known as the man of a thousand voices — and no doubt to save money would play many roles — as many as six in a single radio drama scene — ranging from young children to old ladies.

Of course radio drama in those days was produced live. Coral's father, Oscar Lansbury, was in charge of the sound effects — banging drums, firing pistols, rattling chains, clashing swords and clip clopping coconut shells along a gravel bed as the story unfolded.

But her interest in George Edwards was more than professional — Coral was his last wife, marrying him in

THE ADB'S STORY (cont'd)



L-R: ANU Vice-Chancellor, Ian Young, Melanie Nolan, Christine Fernon, Malcolm Turnbull

photo by Natalie Azzopardi

February 1953 — at about 22 is the most sure bet — a short marriage terminated six months later when George died, his widow/biographer tells us, of liver disease.

A footnote to the entry would be that the young widow was left living in George's apartment in Longworth Avenue, in Point Piper, on Lady Martins Beach. It wasn't long before his creditors and heirs booted her out despite the help of her very good friend and smart young solicitor, Neville Wran. While grieving she met my father Bruce who was living, she told me, in a cold-water basement flat in the same street. They met on the beach and I was conceived thereabouts in, I suppose, January 1954. I think it says a lot about my father's compassionate nature that he went to such great lengths to console a grieving widow.

As it happens Lucy and I live on Lady Martins beach about fifty metres from where my parents met.

I asked my mother what drew her to my father (their subsequent marriage was neither long nor happy and I wondered why they had hooked up in the first place). She said that my father had swum up and down outside her apartment, diving up and down, pretending to be a porpoise. Such are the accidents that tilt the hinge of fate.

Coral also co-wrote, with Bede Nairn, the *ADB* entry on William Guthrie Spence, the founder of the Amalgamated Shearers Union in 1886 and the Australian Workers Union in 1894. Spence was one of the founders, too, of the Australian Labor Party and, I am delighted to say, was one of my Cabinet predecessors, having been the Commonwealth Postmaster-General in 1914-15. If I may just digress here for a moment — one of the very sound things that the new Government has done is change the titles of all the Ministers — so instead of me being the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy — we rationalised all this pompous nomenclature. But I was half hoping

that Tony Abbott, who is a lover of tradition, might rename my portfolio that of the Postmaster-General! But it didn't come to pass. That was a bridge too far.

Coral's initial interest as a historian was in labour history in general and the AWU in particular, hence her close association and friendship with Bede Nairn who was one of our most distinguished Labour historians.

Coral moved on from labour history to Victorian literature and wrote extensively, including in her book, *Arcady in Australia*, about how Australia was extolled, but misrepresented, by Victorian writers often under the influence of Samuel Sidney, Caroline Chisholm and others who saw Australia as a suitable and improving destination for the English working class.

Dickens never came to Australia, although many of his characters did, perhaps most memorably, Magwitch, in *Great Expectations*. And two of his children took their father's emigration boosterism to heart and settled in Australia, one of whom, Edward Bullwer Lytton Dickens was successively a pastoralist in western NSW, a civil servant, and a member of the Legislative Assembly.

Coral's collaborator on Spence, Bede Nairn was a most prodigious contributor to the *ADB*, writing 80 entries. His role as author and General Editor has been charmingly evoked in *The ADB's Story* by former Deputy General Editor, Chris Cunneen. These connections between authors and *ADB* staff are a common thread of *The ADB's Story*.

I congratulate all past and present staff and contributors to the

POSTSCRIPT:

Coral Lansbury's obituary can be found in Obituaries Australia at <http://oa.anu.edu.au/obituary/lansbury-coral-magnolia-17182> Her *ADB* entry is being written by Gerry Walsh.

A HAWKESBURY FAMILY



A view of Malcom Turnbull's family tree, created from biographical records in the NCB's websites. His is our most complicated tree to date. Not only is he descended from two sons of John and Ann Turnbull, he is both a fifth and seventh generation descendant.

It is said that Owen Cavanough was the first white settler to set foot on Australian soil. An Able Seaman on the HMS *Sirius*, he reputedly stood at the bow of the rowboat that took Captain Phillip and his crew ashore on 26 January 1788, and was the first person to set foot on land. Cavanough later married Margaret Darnell, a convict who arrived in the First Fleet on the HMS *Prince of Wales* after being convicted of stealing twelve dessert knives and forks. The couple settled in the Hawkesbury area in New South Wales and established a farm. The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull, Minister for Communications, is one of their many descendants.

Malcolm's family tree can be found on the NCB's People Australia website at <http://peopleaustralia.anu.edu.au/treeview/17324>. The tree is by no means complete — his ancestors tended to have very large families — but even the bit that we have traced so far tells a fascinating story.

Malcolm's family roots go back to the early settlement of New South Wales on both his mother's (Coral Lansbury) and father's (Bruce Turnbull) sides. It is not surprising, then, to find that he has many convict ancestors. Most of them settled as farmers in the Hawkesbury area. Many, particularly in the Turnbull clan, continued to farm in the area for generations and are buried at the church in Ebenezer which his great, great, great, great grandfather, John Turnbull, helped establish.

Family trees can throw up lots of surprises. Perhaps the greatest surprise in this tree is that some of his mother's



The church at Ebenezer, NSW, is the oldest extant church in Australia. Malcolm Turnbull's ancestors (on both sides of his family tree) helped establish it.

and father's ancestors first met in 1802. William and Sarah Stubbs, on his mother's side of the tree, and John and Ann Turnbull, on his father's side, came out to Australia as free settlers on the *Coromandel* in 1802. The two families became friends and had adjoining farms in the Hawkesbury. The two sides of the family had also been united in marriage before. In 1868 William Stubbs's grandson, Josiah Everingham, married John Turnbull's granddaughter, Martha Elizabeth Turnbull.

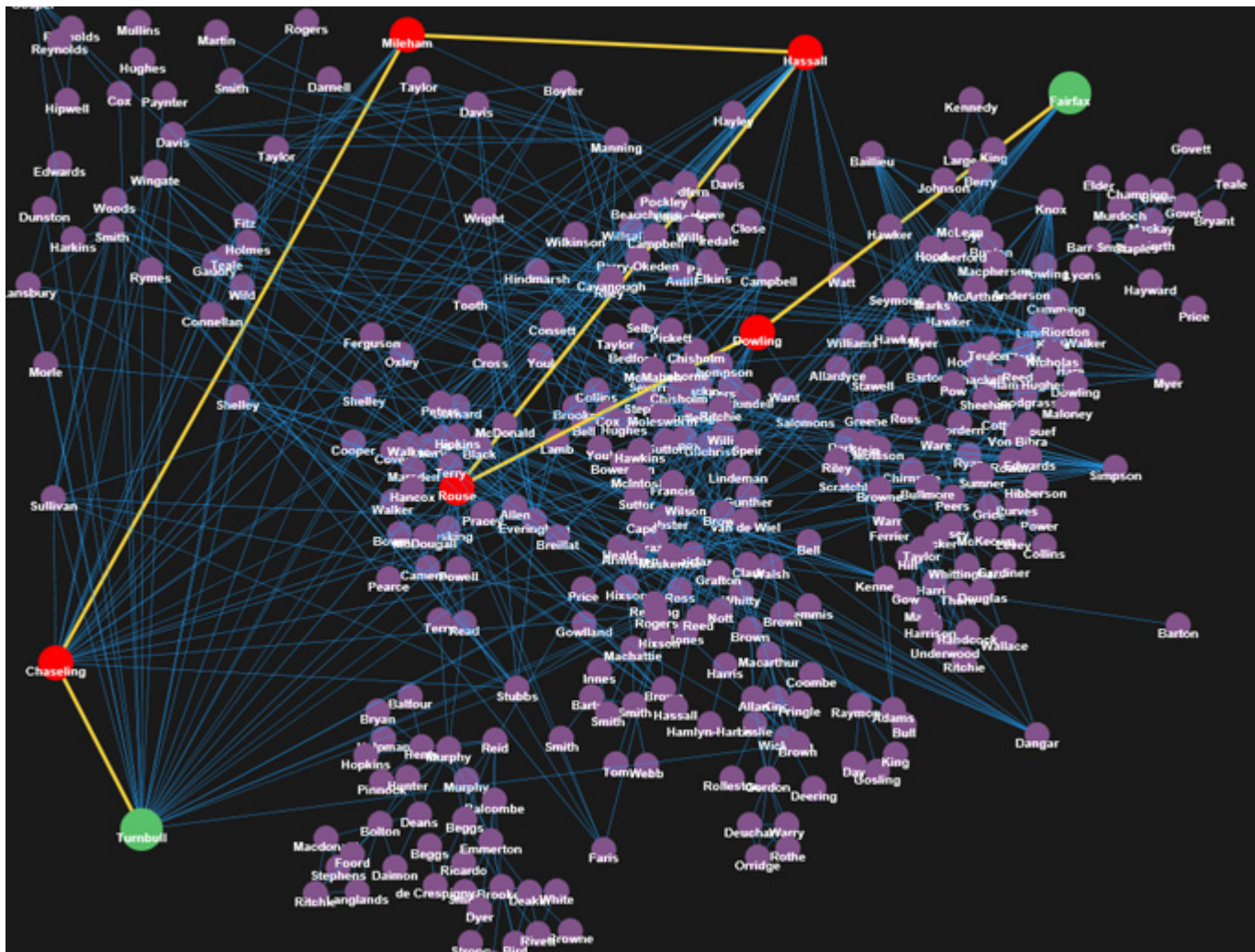
By 1955, when the Stubbs and Turnbull descendants joined in union again, they had no idea of their common heritage. By then their backgrounds were very different. Coral Lansbury's father, the son of a British migrant, was an opera singer based in England. He became stranded in Australia during

the depression and later worked for the ABC in Sydney as a sound effects man. His precocious daughter, Coral, excelled at school and at university, wrote and starred in radio plays and won an award for poetry — all before the age of 21. Her future husband, Bruce Turnbull, was, at the time they met, a salesman. Bruce's father was a school teacher.

Every family has a unique story to tell. Collectively they tell the story of Australia. Our aim is to tell those stories on our websites and, through our indexing, create a powerful biographical research tool that will enable far-reaching prosopographical studies.

An example of the kinds of studies we are engaging in can be found overleaf.

TURNBULL FAMILY CONNECTIONS



This graph has almost doubled in size in a year. It shows a mass of families who are connected through marriage. The data used to generate the graph is taken from our biographical websites. 349 families are represented in the graph — most are from New South Wales but a few prominent Victorian families, such as the Chirnsides, Baillieus, Symes and Snodgrasses are included. In this instance we took the Turnbull family (shown in the bottom, left corner), headed by John and Ann Turnbull, who arrived in New South Wales with their family in 1802, as our starting point.

Many of the early settler families of New South Wales are represented in the graph. They range in status from convict-headed families through to prominent business and pastoral families, and include the Tooths, Fairfaxes, Stephens, Dangars, Kings, Knoxes, Campbells and Brownes (of Rolf Boldrewood fame).

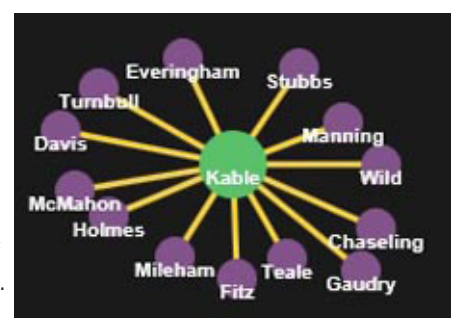
While it is not surprising to find a degree of intermarriage among early settler families — given the smallish number of families in the colony and their tendency to have many offspring — what is extraordinary is the high level of interconnectedness, given that only about 5,000 of the NCB's 17,276 biographical records have so far been indexed to show family connections. One

wonders what the graph will look like when we attain our goal of listing all families who settled in Australia prior to 1901.

As a start to making sense of the data we will be adding a thematic essay about the Kable family, headed by Henry and Susannah Kable, to our website next year.

The Kables arrived in Australia as convicts in the First Fleet. The graph below shows the families — those we have documented so far — that their descendants married into. It includes the Turnbull family. Both the Kables and Turnbolls married into the Mileham, Stubbs and Chaseling families. The Milehams, Stubbs and Chaselings also married into each other's families.

It will be fascinating to discover what impacts this high level of interconnectedness had on people's choices of occupation, place of residence and so on.



EXPLORING AUSTRALIA

The NCB is retracing the paths of explorers in an innovative online project.

Leichhardt Expedition from Moreton Bay to Port Essington, 1844-1845



Jan. 12.— I removed my camp down Comet Creek, and followed the Mackenzie for a few miles, as far as it was easy travelling along its bank. Comet Creek joins the Mackenzie in a very acute angle; the direction of the latter being east, and the course of the former, in its lower part, north-west. Our anglers caught several fine fishes and an eel, in the water-holes of the Mackenzie. The former belonged to the Siluridae, and had four fleshy appendages on the lower lip, and two on the upper; dorsal fin 1 spine 6 rays, and an adipose fin, pectoral 1 spine 8 rays; ventral 6 rays; anal 17 rays; caudal 17–18 rays; velvety teeth in the upper and lower jaws, and in the palatal bones. Head flat, belly broad; back of a greenish silver-colour; belly silvery white; length of the body 15–20 inches. It made a singular noise when taken out of the water.

We found here Unios of a fine pink and purple colour inside the valves, and a new species of Cyclas with longitudinal ribs. Small black ants, and little flies with wings crossing each other, annoy us very much, the one creeping all over our bodies and biting us severely, and the other falling into our soup and tea, and covering our meat; but the strong night-breeze protects us from the mosquitoes. A pretty lizard (Tiliqua) of small size, with yellowish spots on a brown ground, was caught, and seemed to be plentiful here about. The Acacia, with very long linear

A page from the Exploring Australia resource. Overlaying the explorers' maps on Google Earth means that readers can zoom in and out of the map to take a closer look at the terrain. Entries from the explorers' journals are included alongside the digital map.

Explorers are among the most frequently searched entries in the ADB. Maps of their routes are among the most frequently requested maps in national and state libraries. Why not, we thought, add copies of the maps — and the text of explorers' journals — to our websites as a resource? With the maps overlaid on Google Earth, readers could follow the journey, zoom in and out to get a better look at the terrain, and understand a bit more about what was being described in the explorers' journals.

We chose Ludwig Leichhardt's overland expedition from Moreton Bay, Queensland, to Port Essington, Northern Territory, in 1844-45, a journey of over 3,000 miles and 443 days, for our pilot project to test the feasibility of our idea. This trip, by the unlucky Leichhardt, is well-documented, with four of the seven expeditioners writing accounts of their experiences. We are making all of the journals available on the web and are linking journal entries to expedition campsite locations on the map. This allows users to read the entries and, at the same time, examine the current terrain to provide context for the journal entries. An entry for any particular day can also be shown on the screen alongside the same day's entry of another expeditioner. It is interesting to compare the men's different reactions to events and their different concerns. Not unexpectedly the journal kept by 15-year-old John Murphy is the least introspective. His main interest seems to have been keeping a count of the birds and animals slain each day for food and as specimens. The journals also reveal the many internal tensions among the expeditioners. Being able to quickly move between them means that the viewpoints of all participants can be better understood.

The expeditioners documented many aspects of their journey. The terrain, flora and fauna is obviously a prominent part of the narrative, with new species often being discovered and documented by Leichhardt and the naturalist, John Gilbert.

Wrote Leichhardt on 11 October 1844:

"we passed several nests of the brush-turkey (Talegalla Lathamii, Gould). Charley [their Aboriginal guide] got a probably new species of bandicoot, with longer ears than the common one, and with white paws. We distinguished, during the rain, three different frogs, which made a very inharmonious concert. The succinea-like shells were very abundant in the moist grass; and a limnaea in the lagoon seemed to me to be a species different from those I had observed in the Moreton Bay district".

Periodic issues with their bullocks ("restless brutes") are another major topic of comment in the journals. The expedition nearly faltered right at the start after the bullocks that carried their luggage rebelled against their inexperienced handlers, causing the loss of 143 pounds of flour, John Gilbert's tent, and damage to his gun (Leichhardt, 11 Oct 1844). An 'understanding' between the bullocks and expeditioners was eventually reached. Some bullocks, particularly Redmond, became much loved members of the party. At one stage near the journey's end the weary expeditioners were prepared to starve for a few days rather than make the decision to kill Redmond ("our good companion") for food. (11 Dec 1845).

The journals kept by the expeditioners contain a wealth of information and are being increasingly studied by botanists,

EXPLORING AUSTRALIA (cont'd)



GIS analyst, Lauren Carter, is drawing a digital version of Leichhardt's map. She is shown with her tools of trade, including Glen McLaren's three volumes of field notes (bottom right hand corner). She estimates it will take her 170 hours to draw the map.

zoologists, anthropologists and others interested in documenting environmental changes since white settlement and learning more about first contact with Aborigines. We hope that, by making the journals available online, in a way that better engages users than a simple ebook format can, more people will take an interest in the great exploration trips of Australia.

The first step in the project was to digitise Leichhardt's map of exploration. Digitising a map is not the same as scanning it. Scans are merely images and have limited flexibility in how they can be used. They cannot, for example, be easily overlaid on visualisation tools such as Google maps. We were hoping to get away with 'pinning' a copy of the Leichhardt map, drawn by the great English mapmaker, John Arrowsmith, in 1847, over a Google Earth map so that we could simply redraw the route by referencing common points. Though it was of superb quality at the time of production, Arrowsmith's map has many inaccuracies. It does not show the correct outline of Australia, or the course of rivers (they had not been accurately plotted at the time) and, as Leichhardt was the first European to traverse this route, there are no towns or other sites on it to use as reference points. There has also been a change in the ways maps compensate for the spherical shape of the world.

In the end there was no way around it. If we wanted to create an accurate map of Leichhardt's route from Moreton Bay to Port Essington we would have to start from scratch and redraw the whole map. Lauren Carter, a GIS analyst at the ANU, has taken on this task. Though topographical maps and GIS (Geographical Information System) software make the job easier than it was in 1847, Lauren, just as Arrowsmith did, has had to pore over Leichhardt's journal and field notes, in an attempt to pinpoint not only where he set up camp each night but the routes he took between campsites. The latter is, perhaps, the hardest part of the exercise as Leichhardt often said that they crossed a river at the bend (which bend?) — or that they crossed some fine flats but gave no co-ordinates. Lauren uses the GIS to pinpoint the most likely place for him to have crossed the river or the fine flats. She also has to take into account that

some rivers have changed their course since the 1840s, while others (such as the Burdekin) have been dammed (some of Leichhardt's campsites are now under water). Careful attention, and a good dose of common sense, are necessary for drawing the map. It will never be possible to accurately re-create Leichhardt's route but Lauren's map will be the most accurate produced so far.

Her task has been made much easier by Glen McLaren's work, in the 1990s, on Leichhardt's expedition. As part of his PhD thesis, Glen traversed — on foot, horse, and in a helicopter — Leichhardt's route, checking the accuracy of the co-ordinates of campsites that were given by Leichhardt (Leichhardt's navigation equipment was basic and did not give the kind of accurate readings that can be achieved today) and trying to



Glen McLaren in a bush campsite with his tools of trade. We would not have been able to undertake the project without his assistance.

work out the routes taken between campsites. His findings were published in *Beyond Leichhardt: Bushcraft and the Exploration of Australia* (1996). Glen also compiled three volumes of his own field notes which he has generously lent to the project. These have proved to be an invaluable aid and will ensure that the map being drawn by Lauren is as accurate as possible. Glen has also generously given us permission to add his field notes to Exploring Australia as a resource. He often discusses what the landscape is like now compared to what Leichhardt described so his field notes are invaluable in that regard as well.

While Lauren has been drawing the map, the NCB's computer programmer, Scott Yeadon, has been developing the code to enable the interaction between the journals and the map, as well as the integration of the map and journals with the NCB's websites so that, for example, those looking at Leichhardt's ADB entry can click on a link to read his journal and view the map.

Those wishing to see the progress of the project so far can do so at <http://oa.anu.edu.au/entity/8843> **N.B.** The site is still a work in progress. We don't yet have all the campsites or

EXPLORING AUSTRALIA (cont'd)



This illustration shows a section of our new, digital map of Leichhardt's exploration overlaid on Arrowsmith's 1847 map. The digital route is drawn in red and is above the route in Arrowsmith's map. The explorers were following the Burdekin River in this section. While the shape of the route in Arrowsmith's map is similar to the shape in the digital map, Arrowsmith's route is about 20 miles further west than it should be. Leichhardt's route, as shown in Arrowsmith's map, and the digital map are not always this far out. They are sometimes very close and occasionally spot on.

routes marked and the explorers' journals need to be corrected for OCRing errors. We plan to add further value by including annotations in the journals so that, for example, people can click on the name of a person mentioned in a journal entry and go to their *ADB* entry. This value-adding should be of particular benefit to school students. We also aim to include thematic essays about the exploration of Australia in general, the contact (on most occasions for the first time) between explorers and Aborigines, and essays discussing environmental changes since white settlement.

It is anticipated that the 'new' map of Leichhardt's exploration to Port Essington will be finished in February. As well as making the map available on the web we will be producing a hard copy version which will include highlights from the journals as well as illustrations of some of the flora and fauna discovered. Somewhere in the map there will also be an image of a pack bullock, in honour of Redmond, the only one of the 16 bulls

who began the 3,000 mile trek from Moreton Bay to make it to Port Essington.

This project was undertaken as a pilot to see, firstly, if it could be done (we have shown it can), and what resources it would entail. The next stage will involve us in discussions with national and state libraries, as well as the Australian and New Zealand Map Society, about how we might go about securing funding so that we can work together to create a resource which covers all the great journeys of exploration across Australia.

Our special thanks go to Dr Martin Woods, curator of maps at the National Library of Australia, for his encouragement and assistance in getting us started on the project and for suggesting Leichhardt for our pilot study.

The production of the map is being made possible by a small grant from the School of History's Strategic Research Fund for which we thank Dr Douglas Craig.

AUSTRALIANS AT WAR

by Christine Fernon

By chance when searching Trove recently I came across the obituary of Captain Brian Pockley (you can read it in Obituaries Australia at <http://oa.anu.edu.au/obituary/pockley-brian-colden-16339>), the first Australian officer killed in World War I. His death was widely reported in Australian newspapers, partly because it was the first but also because he was the son of the well-known Sydney ophthalmologist, Dr Francis Pockley, and because the manner of his death epitomised the ideal of the selfless soldier — giving his life to save another's.



Brian Pockley, 1914

courtesy of the Australian War Memorial

A recent graduate of the University of Sydney, 24-year-old Pockley was in his first months of a medical residency at Sydney Hospital when he joined the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force as a medical officer in 1914. He was sent to New Guinea where, on 11 September, the Australians engaged German soldiers in the Battle of Bitia Pika. Unconcerned for his own safety, Pockley gave his Red Cross armband to an orderly to ensure the orderly's safe passage while taking a wounded soldier from the battlefield. Pockley was shot soon after while

attending to another wounded soldier. He died later that day at Rabaul aboard HMAS *Berrima*.

The nobility of Pockley's sacrifice was widely praised. Said the rector of his family's church in Wahroonga, Sydney:

He had gone forth at the call of duty and in the cause of humanity, and had laid down his young life for his King and country. His death was a great and sad loss to his parents, and all who knew him shared in their sorrow; but with the loss there was also a great honour. Captain Pockley had been privileged to show that Australians were ready to die for the honour of the grand old motherland. We have given of our best in a noble and righteous cause. (*SMH*, 14 September 1914, p 8)

King George V sent a telegram to Pockley's family saying that he had 'read with the greatest interest and pride the account of the noble manner in which your son gave his life for Empire' and a memorial tablet in Pockley's honour was erected at Sydney Hospital. The Senate of the University of Sydney, the headmaster of the Sydney Church of England Grammar School, Pockley's former school, and the Archbishop of Sydney all publicly expressed their condolences and spoke of Pockley's valour. Somewhat bizarrely, the *Sydney Morning Herald* even interviewed a German prisoner of war whom Pockley had assisted after the German's hand was blown off during the Battle of Bitia Pika. The German reported that Pockley was 'Very brave and very cool' with the paper noting that he 'seems to regret the death of Dr. Pockley very keenly'.

Many newspapers reported that Pockley was the first Australian to die in battle. That fate, however, fell to Able Seaman William George Williams, the injured seaman who had been assisted from the battlefield by Pockley's orderly. Williams also died aboard HMAS *Berrima*, a few hours before Pockley. We have his obituary at <http://oa.anu.edu.au/obituary/williams-william-george-billy-17327>



William Williams, c.1914

courtesy of the Australian War Memorial

Much less media attention was given to Williams's death. It was no less tragic though. The 28-year-old had worked in the engine-room of the Melbourne Electric Supply Company, and had only weeks to serve as a naval reservist when he was called up to serve in the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force. His call-up and departure for New Guinea happened so quickly that he hadn't had time to bid his mother and sister farewell.

Williams's local newspaper, *The Preston Leader*, reported that his mother was 'completely prostrated' after reading the telegram announcing his death. *The Weekly Times* reported that when his workmates arrived at work on the morning of September 13 they found a notice about Williams's death. 'The whistle was blown, and the men, assembling, stood with bowed heads for a time.'

Pockley and Williams were the first of over 61,000 servicemen to die in World War 1; 30,689 died in World War II. We hope to eventually have all their obituaries in our website as well as the obituaries of the loved ones they left behind.

DICTIONARY OF WORLD BIOGRAPHY

Barry Jones's *Dictionary of World Biography* was launched by the ANU's Chancellor, Gareth Evans AC QC, on 28 November, at University House. First published in 1994, this edition of the DWB was published by the National Centre of Biography and ANU E Press. We include an edited transcript of Gareth's speech for those who were unable to attend the event.



Barry Jones and Gareth Evans embrace at the launch of the *Dictionary of World Biography* on 28 November
photo by Natalie Azzopardi

Barry Jones is an irrepressible, irreplaceable living national treasure. The polymath's polymath, and gadfly's gadfly, he has had over the last fifty years an extraordinary amount to say of interest, relevance and influence, over an extraordinarily wide spectrum of issues ranging from capital punishment, to science and technology, to history and higher education, to the arts to the quality of Australian politics.

This new edition of his *Dictionary of World Biography* is only a fraction of the legacy he will leave us, but what a fraction it is! The product of a lifetime of learning, and a passion on which he has been working since the 1950s, here we have it: 900 pages, 7,300 entries, with coverage extending from the earliest times to the present and embracing not just Western but all major civilisations: a marvellous smorgasbord of information, comment and entertainment, not just a reference volume but a book to be skimmed and surfed and constantly dipped into for the sheer pleasure of discovery on every page.

And all this written by just one man. Not the 17 authors, advisers and consultants, plus large publisher's editorial team, credited in the Chambers world *Biographical Dictionary* also published this year. Nor the literally thousands of contributors

to the biographical entries in Wikipedia, with which we have to acknowledge Barry's book is now effectively competing.

Those who make Barry's *Dictionary*, rather than Wikipedia, their first port of call in chasing up biographical references in the future won't be disappointed. This *Dictionary* is probably considerably more reliable, and certainly more readable, than the effusions of Wikipedia's anonymous thousands. One other difference is that Wikipedia's editors pride themselves — to the extent that they can stay ahead of their loopier contributors — on keeping their postings reasonably neutral, whereas Barry has no such inhibitions. On Madonna, for example (the current one, not the original, who receives a more respectful mention), he says in his line entry "her fame depended on shock appeal rather than talent".

But you don't get just snap judgments. Read in particular the longer essays — and they are mini-essays, packed with both hard information and succinct analysis and evaluation — on major historical figures like Homer, Caesar, Jesus, Columbus, Michelangelo, Shakespeare, Bach, Mozart, Napoleon, Lincoln, Darwin, Wagner, Marx, Freud, Picasso, Roosevelt and Hitler.

DICTIONARY OF WORLD BIOGRAPHY

Of course Barry being Barry, the content does inevitably reflect his enthusiasms: strong on music, theology, science and political and intellectual history, variable in its literary references, and rather threadbare in its attention to sport and popular culture. But who would read a book by Barry Jones to find out more about Pele or Arnold Palmer?

Certainly there are more Australian references than might be expected in a *Dictionary of World Biography* published anywhere else, but that is to be expected, and enjoyed. We have for example, Elizabeth Blackburn, Cate Blanchett, Don Bradman, Peter Carey, Peter Dawson, Russell Drysdale, Weary Dunlop, Percy Grainger, Sir Robert Helpman, Fred Hollows, Emily Kngwarreye, Henry Lawson, Mary MacKillop, Douglas Mawson, Nellie Melba, Sydney Nolan, Kerry Packer, Geoffrey Rush, Peter Singer, Fiona Stanley, Patrick White, Judith Wright — and that doesn't begin to exhaust the list.

What I found particularly pleasing, wearing my present hat, is the number of ANU people with entries of their own. It has our staff members who were Nobel laureates: Florey, Eccles, Harsanyi, Zinkernage and Doherty, and now Brian Schmidt who shared the 2011 Nobel Prize for Physics “for the discovery of the accelerating expansion of the Universe through observations of distant supernovae”. It has our historians Keith Hancock and Manning Clark, scientists Frank Fenner and Mark Oliphant, and public servant extraordinaire Nugget Coombs.

And I see even myself ... though I am a little disconcerted to find myself mentioned in the past tense: “was a prolific author and Chancellor of the ANU”. While I'm glad that Barry has adopted a different rule to the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, and that you don't have to be long-dead before winning a place in his dictionary, it seems that as a trade-off he has felt obliged to treat his living subjects as though they were dead.

Of course what delights me most about the ANU connection with this book is our name on its spine, with the ANU E Press publishing the book, as Melanie Nolan has told you, as part of her National Centre for Biography's ANU.Lives E Press series.

Publishing with an institutionally-subsidised open access E Press like ANU's, which was established in 2003 and of which this University is very proud, is rather different from publishing with a traditional publishing house, as Barry has been finding out. It does involve some interesting trade-offs.

The advantages are first, that it opens the book to a potentially much wider audience than traditional purchasers of printed books from bookshops or retailers like Amazon: you can download it from the web without paying anything at all.

And if you are like me and can't do without a printed copy, you can get (with an E Press, in a way that is not the case with an ordinary online text of the kind that the NCB was originally proposing) a very elegant finished bound product on a print-on-demand basis. And — at least in this case —



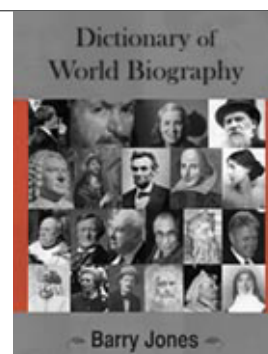
Phillip Adams in conversation with Barry Jones at a special event to celebrate the launch of Barry's *Dictionary of World Biography*. The session was broadcast later that night on Phillip's Late Night Live show. The podcast can be accessed at <http://www.abc.net.au/radional/programs/latenightlive/world-dictionary-of-biography--barry-jones/5122958> photo by Christine Fernon

you can get it at a considerably lower price than you would likely be charged for a traditionally published book, where the publisher has to carry the cost of a significant print run and associated promotion and has to provide for bookseller's margins. (Whereas the *DWB* is available P-o-D for \$50, given its size, it would probably normally retail at \$80-90.)

Concluding where I began, Barry Jones's contributions to public policy debate, and the intellectual life and cultural life of this country have been legion, and legendary. His enthusiasms and passions, and distaste for what he describes as managerialism in any shape or form, may sometimes have been a teensy bit friendship-stretching, but Barry is one of a kind, and we are all better off for it.

The *Dictionary of World Biography* is one of his finest, and will be one of his most enduring, contributions not only to Australia but to the world. My warmest congratulations to him, and everyone who worked with him, for bringing off the magnificent achievement of this book, which I am now delighted to declare — both in online and hard-copy form — duly launched.

The *Dictionary of World Biography* can be downloaded free as an E-Book and pdf or purchased as a hardback from ANU E Press at <http://epress.anu.edu.au/titles/anu-lives-series-in-biography/dictionary-of-world-biography>



NCB PhD student, Sophie Scott-Brown, discusses creative non-fiction and fiction writing in biography

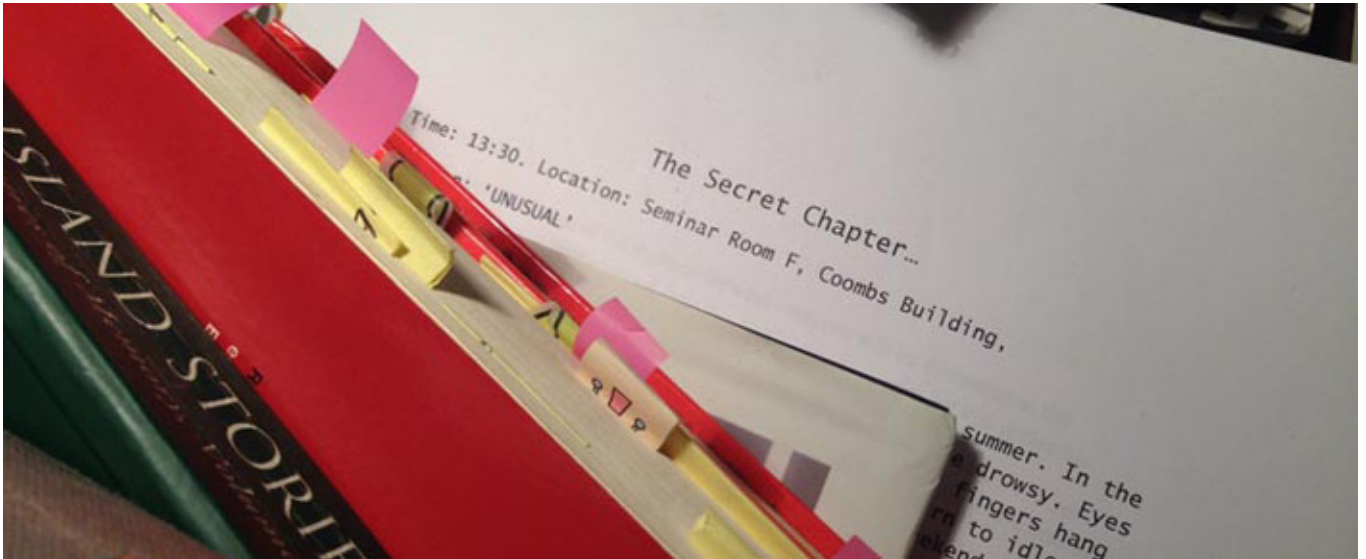


photo by Matt Higgins

The 'Secret Chapter', held on 1 November 2013, was a NCB seminar on the topic of creative non-fiction and fiction writing in biography. A number of historians and biographers have made use of creative fiction in their writing; Humphrey Carpenter in *The Inklings* (1978), Simon Schama in *Dead Certainties* (1991), and John Rickard in *Family Romance: The Deakins at Home* (1996). But this has not been without its controversies and tensions. All historical and biographical writing demands an element of imaginative writing, but how far should this be taken? This seminar set out to explore both the uses of creative writing in biography but also to consider the conceptual, methodological and ethical problems that it presented.

The seminar was attended by Pam Lane, Les Hetherington, Christine Wallace and Sophie Scott-Brown (NCB post graduate students), Dr Karen Fox, Dr Samuel Furphy and Professor Melanie Nolan. Each participant contributed a 1000-word imagined scene or 'secret chapter' exploring the potential uses of creative writing in their own work. These pieces spanned continents and centuries.

Sam opened proceedings speculating about a feud that challenged the family

relationships of his subject Edward. M. Curr. Pam followed, transporting us back to the youthful travels and experiences of the Australian artist Eirene Mort. Sophie used her imagination to recreate the excitement and political passion of an early 'History Workshop' meeting held in Oxford in 1969. Chris had us all re-enacting the last moments of Christopher Marlowe, the Elizabethan playwright who was gruesomely dispatched in a tavern brawl. Les, meanwhile, thought he might have found a skeleton in the closest of his subject, a French émigré, Henri Joseph Niau. Had Niau been a secret political revolutionary? Had he fled from Paris in 1871 to escape the repercussions? Finally Karen, following on from her research into the arts and politics of media representation, mused over the sort of conversation that might take place amongst journalists about the ways in which celebrities try to construct their public persona.

The session showed that creative writing had several positive uses for biographical research and writing. In one guise, it was a means of exploring a scenario that a body of evidence implied or suggested but did not actually confirm. For one participant it was a way of confronting a complete absence of information in the available

documentary evidence. For another the situation was reversed and creative writing became a means to integrate an 'excess' of evidence into a coherent overall picture. In all these forms creative writing had a 'pedagogical' function, enabling writers to experiment, empathise with or to better visualise their subject. A final use was to impart a sense of atmosphere or emotion to a piece of writing that a more 'dispassionate' mode could not convey.

The key question that arose from the discussions concerned the 'line' between the responsibilities of the non-fiction writer and the creative freedoms of the fiction writer: how to benefit from the creative freedoms offered by imaginative writing without losing the integrity of history's factual basis? Whilst this issue was a theme that resonated amongst all the participants, it became particularly concentrated on the issue of including an imagined 'first person narrative' in a biographical work.

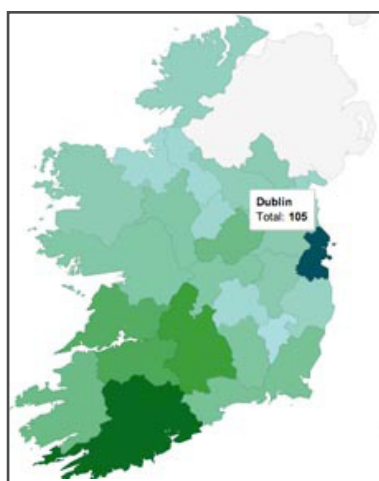
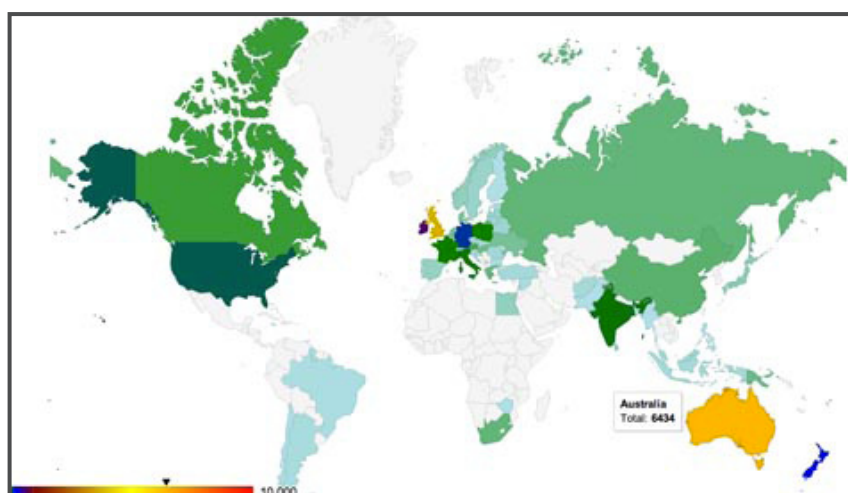
The 'Secret Chapter' seminar was a great opportunity to hear about the work of others and to share the pleasures — and pitfalls — of the research process in a novel way. Many thanks to all involved. There are plans to hold another seminar in the New Year.

A DIFFERENT VIEW OF THE ADB

A set of charts, developed by the NCB, shows the birth and death locations of people in the *ADB*

As part of our aim to develop useful visualisations, the NCB's computer programmer, Scott Yeadon, has created a set of charts to display the birth and death locations of people in the *ADB* and our other biographical websites. The charts can be accessed at <http://adb.anu.edu.au/stats/bloc> (for birth locations) and <http://adb.anu.edu.au/stats/dloc> (for death locations).

The chart to the right shows the country of birth of *ADB* subjects. Eventually you will be able to click within a country's boundaries to go to a list of *ADB* entries born in that country.



(left) You can delve further into the graph to see place of birth at the county or state level. This graph shows the county of birth of *ADB* subjects born in Ireland. It is interesting to note that the largest group of migrants came from the south of Ireland, in particular Cork.

(right) This chart shows the death locations in Australia of German migrants in the *ADB*. Ideally we would like to display their main place of residence (at town/city level) to see if they tend to congregate in particular areas of the country. It's virtually impossible to gather this information, however, without tracing subjects through electoral rolls — a very time-consuming activity.



ADB ENDOWMENT FUND

Our heartfelt thanks — from the Editorial Board, the Working Parties and *ADB* staff — for the wonderfully generous response this year to our *ADB* Endowment campaign.

In just a few months, dear friends and supporters of the *ADB* have donated \$30,000 to the *ADB* Endowment Fund at the ANU. In my letter to our friends, I said that ‘every donation, large or small, will help us’, and this has indeed proven to be true. We greatly appreciate all the contributions so kindly given to help make the *ADB* even stronger.

In my letter, I explained the background to the Endowment campaign:

The *ADB* is a national treasure and it now needs our help. Founded over fifty years ago, it is the largest and longest running project of its kind in the humanities and social sciences in Australia. With over 4000 authors, nine Working Parties in the states and territories and a national Editorial Board, it is truly a monumental, collaborative effort. The *ADB* unites good people who give freely of their time to an inspiring national endeavour. It is also an essential task for our country. As Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC, the Governor of Queensland, put it last December, the theme of the *ADB* is ‘nothing less than the making and re-making of Australia’.

The Australian National University has provided the editorial staff for the *ADB* and funded the project since it was established by Professor Keith Hancock in 1959. So far, nineteen volumes of the *ADB* have been published, consisting of over 12,000 concise scholarly biographies. Since 2006 the entries have been published online and are available without charge to all researchers and to the public.

The *ADB* is relied on by scholars and readers, business people and politicians, lawyers, teachers, journalists, nurses, farmers, cooks, doctors and shearers. We now know just how extraordinary is the extent of that readership because *ADB* Online attracts 70 million hits a year.

The *ADB* Endowment Fund, established by Professor John Ritchie, has become more important with the years and has been vital to maintaining the *ADB* in straitened times. Although the ANU remains firmly committed to the *ADB* for the long-term, its ability to fund this prestigious collaboration is being steadily eroded. The Endowment Fund is increasingly the source of the *ADB*'s independence and strength.

Donations to the Fund will enable us to make the *ADB* even better. The earliest volumes were published in the 1960s, when the study of Australian history was in its infancy. New work, new interpretations and new sources have become available since the articles were originally written. The United Kingdom's *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* was completely rewritten during the late 1990s and early 2000s. We now plan to do the same in Australia.

We desire to go further still, and to take advantage of the many opportunities offered by the internet, augmenting the *ADB* project with a wide range of digital resources and thematic essays pitched at scholars, family historians and school children. In a world first for national biographical dictionaries,

we are developing companion biographical websites — Obituaries Australia, Labour Australia, Women Australia and Indigenous Australia — that can be searched via our People Australia website. These companion sites will not only enable us to provide information about a wider range of individuals, they also mean that all kinds of exciting e-research projects can be undertaken by scholars across Australia and around the world. No other national dictionary project has developed in this way. These initiatives will maintain the quality and democracy of the Australian model of national biography.

The next stage of our Endowment campaign will be to approach government and selected private and corporate donors. The ANU Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ian Young AO, will be leading this next phase.

If you would like to make a donation to the *ADB* Endowment Fund, you can do so online by clicking on the ‘Please donate to the *ADB* Endowment Fund’ button on any page of the *ADB* Online at <http://adb.anu.edu.au/> Or you can write a cheque addressed to ‘*ADB* Endowment Fund/ANU’ and send it to *ADB* Endowment Fund, Building 71, 28 Balmain Crescent, The Australian National University, Acton, ACT 0200, Australia. All donations to the Fund are tax deductible.

If you would like to talk to an *ADB* staff member about making a donation please contact Christine Fernon on (02) 6125 4146 or email christine.fernon@anu.edu.au

Tom Griffiths
Chair, Editorial Board, Australian Dictionary of Biography
W K Hancock Professor of History, ANU

P.S. As reported separately in this newsletter, we were thrilled and delighted to receive a generous personal gift of \$70,000 to the *ADB* Endowment Fund from the Hon. Malcolm Turnbull MP, who launched *The ADB's Story* on 4 December. Mr Turnbull's words at the launch, together with his wonderful donation, are a powerful expression of his belief in the creative role of biography and scholarship in Australian public life.

ENDORSEMENTS OF THE ADB

The *Australian Dictionary of Biography* captures the life and times and culture of this country in an absolutely distinctive and irreplaceable way. It is the indispensable record of who we are, and of the characters who have made us what we are. I could not be prouder of the ANU's continuing role as custodian of this crucial part of our national legacy."

Professor the Hon Gareth Evans AC QC
Chancellor, Australian National University

"A mature nation needs a literary pantheon of inspiring and instructive life histories, a gallery of all the possibilities of being Australian. The *Australian Dictionary of Biography* responds to that vital need in our culture. It is a stunning collaborative achievement and I feel so proud that we have such an activity here in Australia — to a great extent it describes and defines Australia."

Professor Fiona Stanley AC
Australian of the Year, 2003

"The *Australian Dictionary of Biography* is one of the Australian National University's enduring achievements and an internationally admired feat of co-operative scholarship. During half a century it has provided a fine example of collaboration between academic historians and thousands of contributors throughout Australia who have given their services voluntarily."

Professor Geoffrey Bolton AO

"The *Australian Dictionary of Biography* and its sponsor the Australian National University are to be warmly congratulated for the ongoing production of the *Dictionary*, the nation's premier work in the field of historical biography. The *Australian Dictionary of Biography* is without doubt a national treasure: a rich resource, a great read, a triumph of research and scholarship."

Professor Emerita Jill Roe AO

"The *Australian Dictionary of Biography* is our greatest collective research project in the humanities and a national triumph. We have much to learn from it. The project is continuing to change as we mature nationally, with deeper understanding about the impacts of gender, race, environment, religion, education, language, culture, politics, region and war on what we are and what we may become."

The Hon Dr Barry Jones AO

"Australia is very fortunate to have a national biographical dictionary that is democratic as well as distinguished, one that represents the rich variety of Australian culture. The *Australian Dictionary of Biography* gathers together the stories of people from all walks of life, from the outback to the city and from the bush to the parliament. It is a monument of scholarship — and it is for everyone."

Dr Dawn Casey PSM

"Few things are more illuminating than taking a random stroll through a volume of *The Australian Dictionary of Biography* — new insights into our greatest men and women, chance encounters with people whose exploits are all too often unpardonably overlooked. I first read the *ADB* with my mother Coral Lansbury who wrote four entries. One of her mentors, Bede Nairn, was a prodigious contributor. The Australian story is a story of Australians, no better told than in the *ADB*."

The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP

"I find it difficult to bring to mind more than a handful of comparable enterprises in the fields of biography, history, philology or the social sciences more broadly — anywhere in the world. The status and appeal of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* do not lie only in its scale and size. They reside also in the meticulous research, the erudition and scholarship, and the sweat and possibly tears involved in the editorial and publishing process. Its constituent dramatis personae are an eclectic mix of the noble and the notorious, the famous and the largely unsung. The underlying theme of the mosaic is quite clear: nothing less than the making and re-making of Australia."

Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC
Governor of Queensland