



## INDEPENDENT SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

### NSW CHAPTER

[www.isaa.org.au](http://www.isaa.org.au)

Bulletin 65, February 2013

Dear Members and Friends

The NSW Chapter of the Independent Scholars Association of Australia begins 2013 with anticipation of another vibrant year of scholarly events and publications, and some changes of personnel on the Committee.

It is with regret that the Committee has accepted the resignation of the Chair, Emeritus Professor John Ramsland. John is a long-time member of the Association and has generously contributed to the work of the committee over some years. His absence will be sorely felt and all committee members wish him well and hope that he will be able to participate in future Chapter events.

At our final 2012 gathering in the Jean Garling Ante Room of the Mitchell Library on 13 December we were delighted to welcome many ISAA NSW Chapter members and new members, Trevor and Marie Parmenter and Margaret Brodie. We were also pleased to be able to express our appreciation for the on-going support we receive from the State Library to Dr Alex Byrne, NSW State Librarian who was able to join us for this event.

Members will now have received the published papers and proceedings of the two 2012 events, the Seminar 'Satire: Wit Larded with Malice' and the Conversation, 'Pulping the Broadsheet'. Gretchen Poiner is once again deserving of our appreciation for her untiring commitment to these events and to the publication of the proceedings.

The NSW Chapter is well advanced with planning for 2013. The Program Committee will host the first event on 20 March at 10.30 am. This Work in Progress will be held at the home of Dr Grahame Budd AM at 5 Allen Street, Glebe (Buses from city 431, 432, 433). The presenter, Marilyn Dodkin will address a topic of particular interest to many members: 'Pitfalls of Writing a Family Memoir'.

As I step into the role of Acting Chair I would like to express my personal appreciation of the support and encouragement I have received from our creative and energetic committee and look forward to welcoming members to our various events in 2013.

With kind regards

Wendy Michaels Acting Chair, NSW Chapter

#### NSW Chapter of ISAA Executive members

Acting Chair:  
Wendy Michaels

Secretary:  
Christine Jennett

Treasurer:  
Hans Goodman

Immediate Past Chair  
Janet George

Ordinary Members:  
Gretchen Poiner  
Sue Steggall  
Jane Burns  
Grahame Budd  
Anne McDonnell  
Des Griffin  
Jo Bastian

Regional  
Representatives:  
John Ramsland  
Robin McLachlan

## **WEDNESDAY 20th MARCH 2013: WORK IN PROGRESS**

*The Program Committee* presents Marilyn Dodkin discussing “The Pitfalls of Writing a Family Memoir”

Venue: The event is hosted by Grahame Budd and Josephine Bastian  
at their home at 5 Allen Street, Glebe.

Time: 10.30am for 11.00am.

All members are invited, and as usual should bring their own lunch.

Transport: Parking in Glebe is limited and cars parked in the street will have to be moved after two hours.

However, three buses go along George Street every 10-15 minutes, and directions are as follows:

431 to Glebe Point Road: Alight at Toxteth Road, walk 50 metres along Toxteth Road to Allen Street, walk 30m down the lefthand side of Allen Street to Number 5.

432 to Birchgrove and 433 to Balmain: Alight at Wigram Road and walk two blocks to Toxteth Road, walk 50 metres along Toxteth Road to Allen Street, walk 30m down the lefthand side of Allen Street to Number 5.

## **TUESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2013: A CONVERSATION**

*The Seminar Committee* presents a Conversation between two speakers on the topic:

“National Anthems – a Route to Identity”

Speakers to be named in the next Bulletin

Venue: State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street, Sydney, Dixson Room

Time: 5.00pm for 5.30pm, finishing at 7.00pm

Cost: \$25.00, ISAA members and Friends of the Library \$20.00, Seniors \$15.00.

Light refreshments included

## **RECENT PUBLICATIONS**

John Ramsland: *Venturing into No Man's Land*

This is the compelling story of Lieutenant Joseph 'Darkie' Maxwell DCM, MC and Bar, VC—the second highest decorated Australian soldier of the First World War. Meticulously researched by historian John Ramsland, Maxwell's colourful life is traced from his childhood on the Hunter coalfields until his death at age 71 in a soldier's settlement home in Matraville Sydney. Maxwell was a vivid storyteller who wrote *Hells Bells and Mademoiselles*, telling of his experiences in the war. In telling Maxwell's story, Ramsland has uncovered many forgotten documents to piece together an extraordinary life of an extraordinary man. RRP \$26.99 ISBN 978-1-92203-663-6, pb, 2013.

The book can be purchased from The National Library's Online Shop, web address <http://bookshop.nla.gov.au>

Diana Wyndham: *Norman Haire and the Study of Sex* [Foreword by The Hon Michael Kirby AC, CMG]

In an era when talking about sex was taboo, Australian-born sexologist Dr Norman Haire broke all the rules. In the 1920s and 30s he had a network of influential friends and achieved fame as a Harley Street gynaecologist for

the rich which funded his free birth control clinics for the poor. His zeal for sex education, women's rights and birth control contributed to the widespread social changes which were to follow but also earned him powerful enemies. Now the work of this tenacious, humane, witty, brave and innovative man is largely forgotten. Phillip Adams, in his *Late Night Live*, ABC Radio National discussion with Diana Wyndham, said her fascinating book would do much to put 'Saint Norman' back on the pedestal where he belongs.

This book can be purchased from the Sydney University Press online shop, web address

<http://purl.library.usyd.edu.au/sup/9781743320068>

Susan Steggall: *A Most Generous Scholar: Joan Kerr, Art and Architectural Historian*

Joan Kerr (1938-2004) was the author of ground-breaking art histories that included the work of women, Aboriginal artists and minor genres, consistent with her democratic approach to Australia's visual culture. A rigorous academic, she was also a larrikin intellectual who relished a good argument. There were many of them and the telling of her life makes grand reading. Original, entertaining and often controversial, Joan Kerr was a one of a kind scholar. Susan Steggall's biography of Kerr is essential reading for all those interested in the women's lives, cultural studies and the intimate histories of art and architecture.

Published by LHR Press. [info@lhrpress.com.au](mailto:info@lhrpress.com.au); [www.lhrpress.com.au](http://www.lhrpress.com.au). ISBN 978-0-646-59305-0, RRP \$35 pbk + \$8.50 pp (NSW)

The author is offering a 10% discount to NSW ISAA members, which brings the cost of the book plus postage to \$40.00. Contact Sue Steggall at: [swal1@bigpond.net.au](mailto:swal1@bigpond.net.au)

## CONGRATULATIONS:

### Judith Godden and Carol Helmstadter

Carol Helmstadter and [ISAA (NSW) member] Judith Godden, *Nursing Before Nightingale 1815-1890*, Farnham (U.K.): Ashgate, 2011 has been selected a 2012 Outstanding Academic Title by *Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*. This journal is the premier source for reviews of academic books, electronic media, and internet resources of interest to those in higher education. The citation reads: 'Comprising just over 9 percent of the more than 25,000 titles submitted to Choice in 2012, Outstanding Academic Titles are "the best of the best".' The book was also awarded the 2012 American Association for the History of Nursing's Lavinia L. Dock Award for Exemplary Historical **Research and Writing**.

and

**ELIZABETH FLETCHER**, editor of: *A Study of the Life and Works of Athanasius Kircher, "Germanus incredibilis": With a Selection of His Unpublished Correspondence and an Annotated Translation of His Autobiography*, Ed. Elizabeth Fletcher. *Aries Book Series: Texts and Studies in Western Esotericism 12*. Leiden: Brill, 2011.

Readers will recall that in Bulletin 60 February 2012, there was news that Elizabeth Fletcher had edited the doctoral thesis that her late husband had written, but whose death prevented its presentation. The book has been published (details above) and now reviewed with high praise by Paula Findlen, Ubaldo Pierotti Professor of Italian History at Stanford University in Chicago; she is also Co-Director of the Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies.

The thesis was 900 pages long and written forty-five years ago, and the editor had the added task of coping with the author's acknowledged almost indecipherable handwriting. But in spite of all difficulties the reviewer has declared that the text has stood the test of time, and has provided "an intellectual treasure trove" for students of the enigmatic and fascinating scholar who is the subject of the work.

### **NEW MEMBERS of the NSW Chapter of ISAA**

Ms Sheila Newman, OAM., retired social worker  
13/1 Spains Wharf Road, Neutral Bay, 2089, [maxshe@bigpond.com](mailto:maxshe@bigpond.com)  
Interests: Current Affairs, politics, travel.

Professor Emeritus Trevor Parmenter AM, [trevor.parmenter@sydney.edu.au](mailto:trevor.parmenter@sydney.edu.au)  
Interests: Research and teaching in Disability Studies, History, Social Justice

Ms Marie Parmenter, retired psychologist, 53 Church Street, Castle Hill, 2154  
[mparmenter44@gmail.com](mailto:mparmenter44@gmail.com)  
Interests: History, Social Justice, Community attitudes.

### **ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**

FORTHCOMING SEMINARS:

**Mon 5 Mar, 9.30am–12.30pm. ORAL HISTORY FOR FAMILY HISTORIANS**

**Sat 23 Mar, 9.45am-1 pm. FORGOTTEN AUSTRALIANS AND FORMER CHILD MIGRANTS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

**2013 ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION BIENNIAL CONFERENCE** Adelaide 21-24 September 2013.

**" CALL FOR PAPERS FOR 2013 OHAA JOURNAL:**

Deadlines: General Articles-1 April, 2013

**STOP PRESS: Oral History Association NSW grants (three, at \$400 each) to encourage and support research students who are using oral history as part of their studies.**

**FULL DETAILS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE [www.ohaansw.org.au](http://www.ohaansw.org.au)**

