



ISAA

National Newsletter

Independent Scholars Association of Australia Inc

The Boab tree is self-sustaining; it draws on its own resources.

Upside down it , it flourishes against the grain.

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In this issue

Obituaries: Elspeth Browne and
Geoffrey Quayle
Chapter Reports
ISAA 2018 Conference
Members works, presentations
and awards
From the Editor

MEMBERSHIP

\$100—Full members
\$65—Concessional
\$120—Household
\$80—Concessional Household

President's Report

The news that Margy Burn (Assistant Director-General Australian Collections and Reader Services Division) was retiring took many of us by surprise. Margy has been our liaison point within the National Library, ensuring that we have a space for our National Council meetings and a venue for the Annual Conference for many years. Her address on the opening day of the Annual Conference has been a welcome addition to the program. I wrote to Margy expressing our thanks and appreciation for her longstanding support. Margy has advised that Kevin Bradley will be taking over her job. The 2018 conference organisers will be in contact with Kevin when they are drawing up the program to invite him to present the usual opening remarks.

The 2018 ISAA Conference 2018 will be held on 11-12 October at the National Library. This year's conference will have as its theme The Universal Declaration of Human Rights – 70 Years On. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights celebrated its 70th anniversary this year. Australia played a significant role in drafting this document, especially through the efforts of Dr. Herbert Vere Evatt. The Call for Papers went out to members on 12 May. The deadline for abstracts to be submitted to Christine Jennett is 1 June.

We are planning to add the past issues of the ISAA conference proceedings to the website, subject to the agreement of the authors and the resolution of some website issues. It is hoped that the 2014 conference proceedings from Lucky Country Fifty Years On will be the first to be made available online. The aim of making papers from past conferences available via the website is to attract interest in ISAA and its activities and hopefully bring in new members.

The *ISAA Review* (Volume 16, Number 2, 1917) has been distributed. The theme is *Science: Natural and Social*. The Issue Editors Ian Lowe and Christine Jennett are to be congratulated for this fine edition.

We received an invitation from the Shadow Minister Andrew Leigh for three members of ISAA (Independent Scholars Association of Australia Inc) to attend a barbeque in on 25 May recognition of the important role that volunteers do in not-for profit organisations. Alan Roberts, Stephen Horn and Keith Powell AM will be attending.

In other news the ISAA membership list has been distributed to members.

Christine Yeats President ISAA National Council

Obituary: Elspeth Browne

Elspeth Browne is recorded as a new member of ISAA in March 1999. She joined following her professional retirement as a social worker.

From the outset she was a committed contributor to the Association. As early as the 2000 Annual Conference she gave a paper entitled 'A Contradiction in Terms? Managerialism, Ethics and Freedom of the Professional Press'. It was classic Elspeth — analytical, insightfully critical, solidly grounded and rigorous: she was never fearful of raising her voice when it came to practices or behaviour that she saw as socially or morally unacceptable.

Over time Elspeth worked on a number of subcommittees of the New South Wales Chapter. Her early and active support for ISAA was also evident as she took up the position of Chair of the New South Wales Chapter, most ably serving in this role until 2006.

The *ISAA Review* is the Association's published journal. As it developed, a section on book reviews was established with Elspeth appointed as Book Reviews Editor. Sue Steggall, the journal Editor writes that 'Working with Elspeth was a rewarding experience. I appreciated her rigorous approach to book reviewing and very much enjoyed our sometimes lengthy discussions about the state of reviewing, not only of books, but of other areas of creative endeavour.'

The breadth of Elspeth's intellectual interests may well have drawn her to ISAA in the first place; it certainly enriched her contributions that ranged from compiling questions for trivia nights to refereeing papers for publication. Her love for and knowledge of music and literature were doubtless sharpened in her marriage to Lindsay Browne, a highly regarded critic in these fields.

Elspeth graduated as a Social Worker from the University of Sydney and she worked in this capacity in Brisbane, London and Sydney. Ever sensitive to the pressures on women, her clinical experiences and observations at Crown Street Hospital were significant



in deepening her understanding of the needs of single women as well as informing her academic thinking.

She gained her Masters degree and taught at the University of NSW, and it was from this position that she went to work at St George Hospital. Her experiences as a Social Worker provided the material for Elspeth to write two books: *The Empty Cradle: Fertility Control in Australia* (1979 UNSW Press) and *Tradition and Change: Social Work in NSW* (1996, AASW) as well as many articles.

With boundless energy she pursued her professional interests and commitments at the same time as enjoying a rich family life that enfolded seven children (four step children and three of her own).

A strong and sensitive sense of social responsibility, compassion grounded in common sense, and a broad spectrum of intellectual interests gave direction in much of Elspeth's life. These were attributes that informed her significant contributions to ISAA. She was a valued member and is a strong presence in ISAA's history.

Gretchen Poiner

Obituary: Geoffrey Quayle

Geoff Quayle, a member of the ACT Chapter, was an expert on social policy in relation to urban land use, planning, transportation and road safety. He was born in Melbourne on 24 July 1930. After graduating from Melbourne University with a degree in commerce and economics and a diploma of education, he worked as a school teacher and then as a statistician for the Australian Broadcasting Control Board. The opportunity of a job as a research officer with the Office of Road Safety in what became the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development lured him to Canberra, with his wife Jennie and five children, around 1980. He was especially interested in equity issues in transport and in road safety. In retirement he was encouraged by former colleagues to write *Driving Past: a memoir of what made Australia's roads safer* (Bloomington, 2015) – an entertaining and insightful read. He paid

tribute to his wife for helping him complete the book by refusing to read a word of it until he had finished it! A message here?

Geoff was a quiet, gentle member with a wide range of interests. He gave a talk to ISAA ACT in 2014 on 'Personal Mobility and Urban Form in a Post-Pollution Era', which aimed to provide a framework against which the costs and the benefits to the individual and to the community in meeting mobility needs, both public and private, could be planned for, especially having regard to equity. We were looking forward to another talk in 2017, on the light rail network planned for Canberra, when we learned of his death a month before the scheduled date.

Alan Roberts

ACT Chapter Report

The ACT Chapter has had the following talks since the last newsletter:

22 February: Dierk von Behrens on Experiencing and encouraging change - some personal observations since his family's arrival in Australia in 1951.

14 March: Dr Auriol Weigold on the Politics and practicalities of the partition of India in 1947

22 March: Professor Rodney Nilsen on Contested ideas of knowledge in the seventeenth century.

11 April: Dr Ron Wells on Resolving some problems concerning the Great Pyramid of Khufu.

19 April: Professor Roger Wettenhall on the Governance of small nation states.

9 May: Dr John Moses on Archbishop Donaldson of Brisbane and the Christian justification for war against Prusso-German militarism in 1914.

17 May,: Guided tour of the National Gallery of Australia's Cartier jewellery exhibition.

Forthcoming events:

13 June: Paul Knobel on the Depiction in art of the Last Supper

21 June: to be advised

11 July ; Dr Campbell Macknight on Australian prehistorian FD McCarthy's work in Malaya, 1937-38

19 July: Dr Keith Powell on an Overland trip with his wife from India to England and back in 1959

8 August: Darren Le Roux on urban parks and how they might be more attractive to wildlife.

16 August: Professor Anthea Roberts on whether International Law is really international.

12 September: Dr Richard Reid on Writing the history of the Irish National Association, Sydney's 20th century Irish Republicans, 1915-2015.

Other events

The Hon Dr Andrew Leigh, MP for Fenner, invited ISAA Council to nominate three ACT members to attend a function on 25 May acknowledging the contribution of volunteers to the community. Those members are Keith Powell, Stephen Horn and myself.

In early May Emeritus Professor Ingrid Moses was presented with her Order of Australia by the Governor General Peter Cosgrove



Image courtesy Irene Dowdy, www.idphoto.com

NSW Chapter Report

The NSW Chapter last met on 17 May. The Annual General Meeting of the NSW chapter was held at 1.00 pm in the State Library on the same day. Our guest speaker was Dr Margie Borschke. Her topic was *Process as product: Using social media in academic research strategies*. Margie Borschke is a Senior Lecturer in Journalism and Media and Postgraduate Coursework Director for the department of Media, Music Communication and Cultural Studies at Macquarie University. She is the author of *This is Not a Remix: Piracy, Authenticity and Popular Music* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2017). The talk drew on Margie's research on the 'aesthetics of online circulation and expression'.

At the ISAA NSW Chapter AGM the Brian Nichols was elected Vice President. Grahame Budd was elected an ordinary committee member. Thanks to Lesley Potter for acting as Returning Officer.

The Committee of the NSW Chapter is as follows:

Chair: Christine Yeats

Immediate past Chair: Christine Jennett

Vice President: Brian Nicholls

Committee: Wendy Michaels, Shirley Randell, Marie Parmenter, Rodney Nilsen and Graham Budd. Gretchen Poiner represents the NSW Chapter on the Mitchell Library's Consultative Committee.

On behalf of the NSW Chapter I want to thank Sue Steggall for her contribution to its activities for many years. Sue has had to stand down from the Chapter committee in accordance with the Constitution.

On 5 April Dr Shirley Randell AO spoke on *Revolution, Activism and Social Change in Rwanda* at the ISAA (NSW Chapter) Open Forum, which was

held at History House. The presentation was based on a Commonwealth Secretariat Research project, which addressed the impact of women's leadership reforms between 1994 and 2014 through peace reconciliation, poverty alleviation, social and economic recovery and sustainable development and education for young girls. The report was commissioned to be an example of good practice and lessons learned that would be useful for the other 52 Commonwealth countries. The lively discussion following the presentation was led by Dr Lesley Potter.

The Public Affairs Reading Group met on 3 May at the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts. The group discussed China and China's *One Belt One Road* initiative and Clive Hamilton's *Silent Invasion: China's Influence in Australia*.

The program for the annual NSW Chapter's Seminar, titled 'In the Aftermath of the First World War – *Women's Legal Status Act 1918*', which will be held on Saturday 21 July 2018 in the Metcalfe Auditorium at the State Library of NSW, will be available shortly.

The next Open Forum will be held on Tuesday September 25, from 2.00pm to 4.00pm at History House, 133 Macquarie Street. ISAA member Isabel Deeble will speak on *Charles Dickens and his performed readings: a new art form*.

Christine Yeats Chair ISAA NSW Chapter

ISAA 2018 Conference – Call for Papers

The theme for the 2018 ISAA National Conference is 'The Universal Declaration of Human Rights – 70 Years On' and it is to be held in the National Library 11-12 October

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights celebrated its 70th anniversary this year. Australia played a significant role in drafting this document, especially through the efforts of Dr. Herbert Vere Evatt. Robertson (2008) argues that 'Australia's greatest achievement was to ensure in the declaration the inclusion of social and economic rights'. Since 1948 the international human rights system has matured substantially, producing a raft of conventions and protocols to protect specific types of rights and giving rise to regional human rights regimes in Africa and Europe for example. These systems entrench respect for 'the sovereignty of each person' (Fleiner 1999) and are a major product of Enlightenment thinking. However, this has led to the criticism that the Declaration and instruments flowing from it are based in individualistic Western culture.

Despite all the achievements that have flowed on from the Declaration, there have been many pressures against implementing some of these rights even where

a country has signed the relevant conventions. These pressures include the break-up of the bi-polar international power blocs; the rise of civil wars which have led to disrespect of human rights, frequently based on individuals' group identities; and a large increase in involuntary population movements. For example, Australia has implemented policies aimed at stemming the flow of 'illegal immigrants'/asylum seekers which are arguably in breach of both the Refugee Convention and the Torture Convention. Australia is also criticised for its Intervention policy for Indigenous peoples in the Northern Territory (Northern Territory National Emergency Response).

Papers dealing with factors leading up to the Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent human rights developments that have followed from it are welcome.

Submission of abstracts

Abstracts of 100 words should be submitted by 1 June to cjennett@ozemail.com.au

N.B. Submissions are not accepted from the same person two years in a row unless they are extremely pertinent to the conference theme.

Opportunities for Members

The Horne Prize 2018: in honour of fine narrative non-fiction

Aesop and *The Saturday Paper* are pleased to announce that entries for The Horne Prize are now open. Valued at \$15,000, the prize will be presented in early December for an original essay of up to 3,000 words that addresses a significant aspect of contemporary Australian life. The winning piece will be published in *The Saturday Paper* on 22 December.

Submissions are welcome from 18 May to 17 September. The judges seek work that draws on in-depth reportage to explore who we are and how we live; be it a profile, reported feature or series of vignettes. A shortlist will be announced on 16 November, followed by the winner in early December.

The judging panel comprises Erik Jensen, editor-in-chief of *The Saturday Paper*; Suzanne Santos, Aesop's Chief Customer Officer; writer and journalist David Marr; Professor Marcia Langton AM; and author Anna Funder.

Information: www.thehorneprize.com.au/about

Indigenous Biography Conference

The National Centre of Biography, in collaboration with the ARC project 'An Indigenous Australian Dictionary of Biography,' will be hosting an international conference, 'Re-Framing Indigenous Biography,' at the ANU on 15-16 November 2018. The organisers, Shino Konishi, Tom Griffiths, and Malcolm Allbrook, have designed a program which is innovative, stimulating, and entertaining. A volume of papers will be produced for intended release in 2019.

Part of the proceedings will be a 'Biography Slam' For more details see the website:

<http://history.cass.anu.edu.au/centres/ncb/research/indigenous-dictionary-australian-biography>

If you are interested in participating, please send an abstract and short speaker biography by 15 June 2018 to Shino Konishi – shino.konishi@uwa.edu.au

Dr Malcolm Allbrook, Managing Editor, Australian Dictionary of Biography

Phone: (02)61254455 Mobile: 0418-926-985

Email: Malcolm.Allbrook@anu.edu.au

Members' Publications, Presentations and Activities

Michelle Cavanagh

A biography of Margaret Shen (1942–1994), restaurateur and businesswoman, has been published on the Online version of the ADB:

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/shen-margaret-20708>

Shirley Randell

Presentations

Egypt

- Rotary Club of Giza Metropolitan, Cairo 17 April 2018
- Federation of University Women Triennial Regional Meeting, Alexandria, Egypt, 18 April 2018

New York: United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

- 'Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls', 15 March 2018

- 'Disaster Preparedness by using Technology : Challenges and Best Practices'
- 'Challenges for Rural Women and Girls: Education empowerment and the impact of traditional practices'

Roger Wettenhall,

"Norfolk Island as Region: A Pacific Puzzle", *Australian Journal of Public Administration*, vol.77 no.1, March 2018, pp.120-127.

Christine Yeats

Christine Yeats was elected President of the Royal Australian Historical Society at the Annual General Meeting held on 17 April 2018.

Editor's comments

Please continue to keep me informed of your presentations, books and articles. Rather than sending them first to Christine Jennett to it would be more efficient to sent them to me direct.

However please note three things:

1. After thirty years my email address has been changed. It is now keeseian@gmail.com
2. Please put 'ISAA Newsletter Item' in the message line, as this will help me in filing these.
3. Please present your material in the style used in this and previous newsletters and follow the Style Guide available on the website on the ISSA Review page.

While it is great to see the range of activities in the ACT and NSW Chapters it is disappointing that members in the other States and Territories do not have the opportunity to meet, and any suggestions on how this could be rectified would be welcome.

In the interim however, there are many ways in which all members can be involved. Some of these are:

1. Using the Blog on the website
2. Contributing articles to the ISAA Review or commenting on articles already published.
3. Presenting to and attending the National Conference

Ian Keese Editor ISAA Newsletter