

ANZHES NEWSLETTER

Issue 1/09

April 2009

ANZHES EXISTS TO FOSTER THE STUDY OF THE HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEWSLETTER WELCOME:

prushbrook@csu.edu.au

From the President

I hope that members had a relaxing Christmas break — and maybe, a break from academic work as well over Easter.

The release of a draft National History Curriculum for schools towards the end of last year offered historians working in schools and universities a degree of hope. For years history has suffered from the claim that it was irrelevant to the important task of establishing entrepreneurial zeal in the rising generation. But with the release of the draft document specifying that the teaching of history would be compulsory from prep to year 10, even the *Australian* applauded the ‘fact that Australian History ... in its broader social context’ would be compulsorily taught. Nevertheless, old habits die hard. In the same article, the *Australian* complained that the draft specified the presence of ‘explicit or implicit moral judgement’ in the curriculum. ‘In the hands, of politically biased teachers, or subject heads, of whom there are too many, such an approach provides extensive opportunities for imposing hair-shirted, one-sided views of Australian and world history’, the newspaper lamented.

As a Queensland ANZHES member, I would like to mention that the citizens of our State are currently celebrating the sesquicentenary of its separation from New South Wales. History conferences on constitutional themes are particularly popular. However, more frivolous activities include riding on the Q150 Steam Train which is visiting more than 30 communities, attending the Q150 Film Festival consisting entirely of films starring, directed or produced by Queenslanders, or featuring Queensland landscapes or themes, and attending one or more of the various multicultural festivals that are taking place throughout the State.

Largely created by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Earl Grey, who intended that the colony would accommodate exiled convicts, Queensland, had a population of a mere 23,520 non-Aboriginal people in 1859. The *Sydney Morning Herald*'s resentment was manifest at the time, congratulating itself that New South Wales had at least secured the postponement of separation for several years, and had ‘prevented the absorption’ of the New England and the Clarence River Districts into the new colony. Furthermore, the newspaper argued, ‘we have an admission that the responsibility for the debt lies upon the separated territory’. The *Sydney Morning Herald* suggested that ‘there has

been some irregularity in the circumstances of its parentage. ... Its maternal ancestry is convictism. It may nevertheless prove robust’. The newspaper continued: ‘We have often seen in this inconsistent world that persons of whom there is no record in the Royal Herald’s Office have made a distinguished name and a glorious position for themselves’. To evaluate the new colony’s potential objectively required overlooking the ‘petty squabbles’ of Brisbane and Ipswich, the *Sydney Morning Herald* suggested.

The circumstances concerning education in the new colony is probably of more interest to ANZHES members. In the absence of Catholic and Anglican bishops in the new colony of Queensland, the Governor, George Bowen, established a National Board of Education but refused to create a Denominational Board. Existing National schools consisted of a ‘tumbledown’ one at Drayton, an ‘empty’ one at Warwick and one partially built in Brisbane. Under Queensland’s September 1860 Primary Education Act, National schools became virtually the only educational enterprises that received government aid. The government provided meagre funding for existing denominational schools as non-vested enterprises but by 1868, the number of Church schools receiving this money had declined to only four. The system of National Education was more all-encompassing than in any other Australian colony.

This December, Professor Kay Whitehead and Dr Lynne Trethewey are convening the Annual ANZHES conference at St Mark’s College in Adelaide, South Australia, a State, unlike Queensland, that was devoid of convict origins. As the conference flier states: the conference theme celebrates ways in which New Zealand and Australian histories of education connect with each other and/or other places through the circulation of ideas, people and institutions in both the recent and distant past’. For some people, the involvement of Britain in Australia’s and/or New Zealand’s educational foundations may offer inspiration for a paper. Perhaps, too, some delegates will see the conference as an opportunity to include ‘hair-shirted, one-sided views’ in the paper that they present. However, I understand that the convenors are requesting that if delegates feel compelled to present ‘hair-shirted, one-sided views’ – thorough research must be evident and a well-argued case presented.

Dr Keith Moore
ANZHES President

Welcome to new members

ANZHES welcomes the following new members: Dr Mike Brown, Ms Tilly Hinton, Dr Julia Horne, Dr Kelvin McQueen, Mr Kevin Mulvogue, and Dr Tom Watson.

From the Editor's desk

I echo President Keith's welcome to 2009 and wish all ANZHES members well for 2009. This first edition of the newsletter is packed with interesting information. For those who did not attend the 2008 Annual General Meeting at the University of Sydney the decision of the membership to support the American Historical Association's position on racism and xenophobia is well worth reading. Thought, too, should be given to attending this year's ANZHES conference in Adelaide. Full details are included in the newsletter and on the society's new website (<http://www.anzhes.com>). We hope to see you all there. Without pre-empting the report from our journal editor, thanks should go to Tanya and her team for ensuring *HER*'s retention of its 'A' listed position. If the latest edition of *HER* is any indication, this reputation is well deserved.

Remember, please, to send me any news you have of interest to the membership and also forward details of your latest publications for inclusion. Have a great year!

Peter Rushbrook

New Treasurer and membership renewal

Following the resignation of your hardworking Treasurer Dr Helen Proctor, the 2008 ANZHES Annual General Meeting was pleased to appoint Mr Ashley Freeman of Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga Campus, as incoming Treasurer. The Executive and membership thanked Helen for her wonderful contribution as Treasurer and Executive Member and wished her well with her work at the University of Sydney.

The new ANZHES Treasurer's address is:

Mr Ashley Freeman
Hon. Treasurer ANZHES
School of Information Studies
Charles Sturt University
Locked Bag 588
Wagga Wagga NSW 2678
Australia
Email: afreeman@csu.edu.au

If you haven't renewed your 2009 membership please attend to this promptly as your new Treasurer is looking forward to maintaining the financial health of your association. A membership form is attached at the back of the newsletter.

You will notice that the membership form requests that you categorise your membership as either 'Waged' or 'Not fully waged' and pay accordingly. Payment options remain as

cheque or credit card (Visa and Mastercard). In the near future we also hope to introduce a PayPal option.

Vale

Maria Varvaressos

Maria Varvaressos died on 7 January 2009 after a decade long battle with cancer. Born in Greece Maria came to Sydney as a young child with her parents in the 1960s. After attending Kambala at Rose Bay she enrolled in a Bachelor of Education degree at the University of Sydney. Here she met Dr Bob Petersen who introduced her to the study of the History of Education. After completing a Master's preliminary study on Montessori she later transferred to a Ph D winning a Commonwealth Postgraduate Award to research 'Greek Ethnic Schools in Australia'. This remained her passion for the next two decades. During the 1990s she travelled to Egypt and Greece collecting valuable research material which formed the basis for her presentations at ANZHES conferences. She remained committed to the Society and in 2005, despite her illness, was involved in the organisation and planning of the ISCHE meeting held at the University of New South as part of the World Congress of Historical Societies.

Before she became a university research scholar, Maria had taught in secondary schools in Sydney. From the early 1990s until 2008 she had been an Associate Lecturer and then Lecturer in Education at the University of Sydney and then the University of New South Wales where she also organised the Dip Ed programme. Lively and engaging in personality she always challenged her students to reflect on ideas and action in the best academic traditions and thereby attracted genuine and strong admiration and affection for herself as a teacher. There is no doubt that her commitment to teaching, while battling her illness, delayed the development of her research career. It is hoped that some of her work may ultimately be published.

Geoffrey Sherington
University of Sydney

Member publications

This space is reserved to list new publications produced by ANZHES members. Details should be forwarded to the Newsletter Editor (prushbrook@csu.edu.au).

Campbell, Craig, Proctor, Helen and Sherington, Geoffrey, *School Choice: How Parents Negotiate the New Schools Market in Australia* (Sydney: Allen & Unwin, 2009).

New general history of Australian schooling

Craig Campbell and Helen Proctor from the University of Sydney have just been offered a contract by Allen and Unwin to produce a new history of Australian schooling, 1788 to the present. It should be published in 2012.

This will be the first such history since Alan Barcan's history published in 1980.

Craig and Helen are very concerned to "showcase" new research in the field, as well as build on the remarkable efforts of scholars, especially from the 1960s through to the 1980s. They are committed to focussing on all Australian colonies, territories and states. They and the publisher wish to produce a reliable work of reference with the usual facts and figures of significance to a general readership, but also to publish more material illustrating the connection between schools as institutions and the social histories of the populations who engaged with them.

In the next year or so the authors expect to institute a program of consultation with ANZHES colleagues. They are very keen to be alerted to thesis and other work in localities with which they are less familiar.

University of Sydney news

The organising group has had plenty of excellent feed-back that members enjoyed the conference last December. We were delighted with the response. The papers and key-notes all seemed worthwhile, and occasionally inspiring. The participation of UK colleagues added something special, especially many of the younger scholars who were pushing at the boundaries of the field. We were also delighted with the numbers of established North American colleagues who came—they added another significant contribution. There was lots of communication between old and young, beginning and established scholars right across the conference.

We are thankful for the work that Tim Allender is doing in leading the team working on the special edition of the *HER* that will be published as a result of the conference. There will also be a special edition of the *History of Education*. These editions have a single submission process via Tim, the due date for which has now passed.

The registrations exceeded our estimates by far, and somewhat embarrassed, I have to announce a "profit" of \$19,115.84. ANZHES Executive kindly granted us \$7,000 to pay air-fares and accommodation for key-note speakers. We have returned this sum forthwith. The remainder we propose to split between the *History of Education Review* and ANZHES central. The journal is going to publish an expanded size number containing conference papers, so we think it just that the conference makes a substantial grant towards that outcome.

Another embarrassment is my statement towards the end of the conference that there was a misalignment between numbers who paid for the dinner, and those who came. Sorry times three! A group of dinner registrations had been misplaced—found too late, and after I had said my piece! Typical!

On other matters associated with the history of education group at the University of Sydney. The book, *School Choice: How Parents Negotiate the New Schools Market in Australia*

(Sydney: Allen & Unwin, 2009) by Craig Campbell, Helen Proctor and Geoffrey Sherington, is now published. It has received substantial publicity in *The Age*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, and on *ABC Radio*, local and national, and commercial radio in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney. The three web-sites below refer to the publisher's site, Helen's interview on Life Matters (ABC), and an opinion piece Craig wrote for ABC News Radio.

<http://www.allenandunwin.com/default.aspx?page=94&book=9781741756562>

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/lifematters/stories/2009/2475471.htm>

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/02/03/2481039.htm>

The first section of the book is the most historical. It explores the history of middle class engagements with schooling. There is also an innovative essay (primary author Geoffrey) on the history of school markets in Australia. We would appreciate it if you could get your libraries to order a copy. We think the second part, which reports the results of our interviews with parents on negotiating school markets is especially interesting.

Despite impending retirements, including me, the History of Education will remain strong at the University of Sydney. Helen Proctor has recently been appointed to a continuing position in the Faculty of Education and Social Work, and Tim Allender continues in his position. Julia Horne is the University historian. Geoff Sherington and I expect to remain active in an honorary capacity for some time. I have been accepted as a Visiting Scholar to the University of Adelaide from April to June, where I shall be working on a centenary history for Unley High School, the school that currently claims the Deputy Prime Minister (Gillard), and the Minister for the Environment (Wong) as old scholars.

Craig Campbell
University of Sydney
24 February 2009

Notes from the Australian Historical Society (AHA)

ANZHES is now an affiliate member of the AHA. Benefits of membership include access to the AHA website to promote ANZHES activities, notification of AHA and other affiliate activities and the right for affiliate members to present at AHA conferences. To access *History Australia: Journal of the Australian Historical Association* [<http://www.theaha.org.au>], use the following: logon: ANZHES; password ANZHES.

Conference news

**ANZHES Conference
Adelaide: 7-10 December 2009**

Co-conveners Professor Kay Whitehead and Dr Lynne Trethewey look forward to welcoming you at the 38th annual

ANZHES conference, whether you intend giving a paper or not. For more details and latest news, visit the 2009 conference website: www.anzhes.com

Conference program

We plan to incorporate a postgraduate research publications advice session in the program, and delegates are reminded that the Society provides financial support for post-graduate student travel to ANZHES conferences, so please encourage them to attend (see By-law I, reproduced in *ANZHES Newsletter* 1/2008, p. 6).

Conference highlights include an in-house film evening conducted by Dr Josephine May (University of Newcastle); keynote speakers Professor Geoffrey Sherington paired with Dr Julia Horne (University of Sydney), and Professor Tanya Fitzgerald (LaTrobe University, Victoria – formerly of UNITEC, Auckland, NZ); plus dinner upstairs in the Sir Donald Bradman Stand overlooking famed Adelaide Oval.

Publication

Selected ANZHES 2009 conference papers will be published next year in a special issue of the Society's journal, *History of Education Review*. If you wish to have your written paper considered for publication, please submit it electronically to Kay Whitehead no later than 31 January 2010.

Registration

The conference registration form with payment instructions will be available on the conference website from 1 June 2009. You are encouraged to take advantage of the early bird rate and register by 30 September.
Lynne Trethewey (H) rogerretrethewey@bigpond.com, ph. +61-8-8278 7491
Kay Whitehead (W) Kay.Whitehead@flinders.edu.au, ph. +61-8-8201 3339

Accommodation

Delegates are responsible for their own accommodation bookings and payment either at nearby hotels or at the conference venue, i.e. St Mark's College, 46 Pennington Terrace, North Adelaide, South Australia.

Options include:

1) single study bedroom with shared bathroom facilities at St. Mark's College.
Aus \$41.80 per night bed & continental breakfast (cooked \$6.60 extra)
Contact Julie Brown: manager@stmarkscollege.com.au, ph. +61-8-8334 5604
Web: www.stmarkscollege.com.au

2) hotel/apartment/motel in the CBD or North Adelaide (varying rates)
Live Search: Adelaide accommodation guide
Those along North Terrace and adjacent streets in the city or in Melbourne St, North Adelaide, are within reasonable walking distance (10-15 minutes) from the conference venue.

International conferences

2009

ISCHE31 Utrecht, Netherlands, 26 to 29 August, 2009
Popular education will be the theme. Keep an eye on the ISCHE website for details of this conference: <http://edugate.fss.uu.nl/ISCHE2009/>.

2010

CISH Conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands, 22-28 August 2010

ISCHE32, Amsterdam, 26-28 August 2010

The Netherlands two years running! In the end this was unavoidable because of ISCHE's commitment to the World Congress of History. The ISCHE meeting inside the Congress will concentrate on the themes surrounding Discoveries of Childhood in History, which encompasses the psychological, medical and juridical. Sub themes still to be worked on include Learning Environments, and Educational Innovations.

2011

ISCHE33, San Luis, Potosí, Mexico.

The dates and theme are still to be finalised. It would be great to have a solid Australian and New Zealand contingent going to this. The theme is likely to be something to do with educating 'the people'. It will likely be a July conference. Just before it gets too hot (August).

2012

ISCHE34, Geneva, Switzerland.

Dates still to be finalised. ISCHE 34 is being planned as a joint conference with the International Society of the History of Children and Youth (ISHCY) and the Disability History Association, so a theme of interest to each of the three societies is still being worked out.

ISCHE and the fight against racism and xenophobia

The 2008 ANZHES AGM endorsed the American Historical Association's position (below) regarding the public expression of historical ideas and their subjection to scrutiny through scholarly comment rather than political legislation. The statement was offered as a critique of the European Union's attempts to criminalise public expression of such controversial ideas as 'holocaust denial'. The International Standing Conference of the History of Education (ISCHE), our international coordinating body of national history of education societies, has sought unity on the issue.

*AHA Statement on the Framework
Decision of the Council of the European Union on the
Fight against Racism and Xenophobia*

Editor's Note: The following is the text of the statement issued by the Council of the American Historical Association in response to the concern expressed by several historians in Europe about the adverse consequences for academic freedom stemming from a decision of the European Union's Council.

The Council of the American Historical Association believes that it can never be in the public interest to forbid study of or publication about any historical topic, or to forbid the publication of particular historical theses. Any limitation on freedom of research or expression, however well intentioned, violates a fundamental principle of scholarship: that the researcher must be able to investigate any aspect of the past and to report without fear what the evidence reveals. All historical publications are subject to the judgment and criticism of the scholarly community to which the researcher belongs. If any other body, especially a body with the right to initiate legal proceedings and impose penalties, seeks to influence the course of historical research, the result will inevitably be intimidation of scholars and distortion of their findings. Some historians, inevitably, will wield historical evidence in ways that anger certain groups in their societies. In some cases, regrettably, they will use their skills to expunge terrible events from the historical record, or to make them appear less terrible than they were. But the appropriate way for such errors to be penalized is for other scholars to expose them. The consequences for a historian who is widely judged as distorting historical evidence should take the form of denial of positions in universities, based on the critical opinions of scholars in the field, or, in extreme cases, the denial of access to publication venues, again based on evaluations from informed colleagues: not criminal penalties. Freedom of inquiry enables some writers to put forward untenable or otherwise questionable arguments, but it also enables others to rebut them, and it is in that realm of free public debate that historians can and must work. As the authors of the French petition *Liberté pour l'Histoire* [Freedom for History] rightly argued in 2005, "In a free State, it is not within the power of either Parliament or the judiciary to define historical truth."

—September 2007

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A message from our *History of Education Review* editor

I thought this an opportune time to make a note of the changes that have recently occurred to the journal. Many of you who were at the AGM in Sydney may recall these items.

Importantly, I would like to thank again Dr Chris Trimmingham-Jack for her sterling work as co-editor over the past few years. Her professionalism, advice and support has been greatly appreciated. Chris, every best wish for your 'retirement'.

Thank you also goes to A/Prof Craig Campbell who has quietly and persistently 'pushed' for a change to the footnote style of the journal. These changes have now been implemented and are in line with other journals such as *History of Education Review* and *Paedagogica Historica*. Members can review these guidelines and download a PDF from the journal website www.her-anzhes.co.nz

Again, as a result of discussions at the Exec meeting as well as more broadly at the AGM in Sydney, the ANZHES website has been updated and re-designed. Most of the previous information remains but there are a few additions to the website. The new website can be viewed at www.anzhes.com. As a Society deeply interested in history, we thought it might be a good idea to record some historical moments and have these on the website – so if you have photographs from previous conferences please send them to me (t.fitzgerald@latrobe.edu.au). I would also like to build up a list of previous conferences, so if you would like to contact me with details of venue and year, I can include that too.

Importantly, I would like to announce that Dr Jenny Collins (Unitec institute of Technology) has agreed to take up the role as Associate Editor of the journal. Jenny has been the Business Manager and has been dealing with institutional subscriptions and providing advice. A very warm welcome to Jenny who will continue the trend of trans-Tasman editorship!!

Lastly, please note that the contact details of the Editor have changed; my new email address is:

t.fitzgerald@latrobe.edu.au.

Tanya Fitzgerald
La Trobe University

Stop Press: HER has been reconfirmed as a 'Level A' journal under the ERA classification scheme. Congratulations to Tanya and her team for their fantastic work – Ed.

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND HISTORY OF EDUCATION SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP FORM 2009

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★NEW MEMBERS PLEASE LIST CURRENT RESEARCH INTERESTS

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