

History Australia
Report for AHA Executive Meeting, July 2013

History Australia was formally transferred to the editorial team in January 2013 but there has effectively been a joint editorial effort between the 'old' and 'new' teams between mid-2012 and the appearance of the special issue in April 2013 (overseen by Penny Russell and Richard White) in order to effect a smooth transfer. The current editors are deeply grateful to Penny, Richard and Justine Greenwood for their very helpful and generous guidance during this transitional process. They are also grateful to Kate Hatch and the team at Monash University Publishing. The move proceeded very smoothly and this was due in no small part to the excellent planning of those editing and producing the journal during recent years.

The first issue to be produced by the new team appears in August 2013. The corrections to the second proofs have been returned to Monash University Publishing and we are on track for publication in August. The issue includes a 'forum' comprising three articles introduced by Tessa Morris-Suzuki on various aspects of the activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the Asia-Pacific region. There are seven other articles in the general section, as well as a piece by Tony Taylor on recent efforts by conservative politicians and think-tanks to resume 'the history wars' by criticising the new national curriculum in history. This appears in a section called 'History in Politics'. The issue also contains five exhibition reviews; one television review and four book reviews. We thank the Exhibition review and Book Review editors – Sarah Pinto and Zora Simic – for their work on this issue.

We have agreed with Sarah Pinto that the section covering exhibitions, television programs, music and other commentary on history outside its traditional published forms will in future (from December) come under the banner 'History off the Books'. The content of the December issue is shaping up well. A symposium on national and transnational history will feature as – we expect – will the first of our historians' autobiographies (Marian Quartly). There are two articles on the recent history of Australian mining – one on the origins of the 1960s mining boom, the other on the reconsideration of mining's economic value that occurred in the Whitlam years. We are excited about the timeliness of these two strongly archival contributions that we feel fortunate in being able to publish together. There is also a major reconsideration of the origins of the Anzac revival by Christina Twomey. A 2000-word reply by Graham Joyner replying to the review of his book will be published, as – we expect – will a rejoinder by the original reviewer, Claire Brennan.

The April 2014 issue of the journal is a special issue on the theme of 'Home' and is being edited by Ruth Balint and Julie Kalman. We understand that the text for this issue will be delivered shortly to the editors.

We have accepted some articles and commissioned others for the two issues in the second half of 2014. We would also expect a number of articles from the AHA-CAL scheme for 2013 to appear in those two issues.

We will shortly be considering two and possibly three proposals for special issues in 2015 and early 2016, from which we will select a maximum of two.

The editors are in touch with Oxford University Press (UK) about the possibility of a revised publishing arrangement for the journal that would increase exposure and citation of *History Australia* in future.

We have also been negotiating with EBSCO about the inclusion of *History Australia* in its indexing.

The editorial board for *History Australia* will be meeting during the Wollongong AHA Conference: Tuesday 9 July (12.45-1.45).

The editors have been closely monitoring changes in the publishing environment with respect to Open Access (OA). We have already had one author questioning whether the journal's policy is compliant with that of the Australian Research Council, and another making an attempt to override our standard publishing agreement with an addendum of his own that would have essentially allowed him to do whatever he liked with his article and removed the AHA's rights to it entirely. We also receive occasional queries from those running university research repositories requesting that we allow articles to be displayed there before our two-year embargo expires. We have so far refused to agree to ad hoc changes of this kind, and would recommend against any more general modification of the standard agreement for the time being. The group of 36 leading history journal editors who released a statement on UK OA policy last year remain attached to a three-year embargo on published articles. *History Australia* currently only enforces a two-year embargo. Interestingly, this would probably make us compliant with Research Councils United Kingdom (RCUK) policy for humanities journals although technically non-compliant with the policy of our own ARC. The Royal Historical Society has recently gone so far as to recommend that its members shun Gold OA arrangements that involve the payment of an Article Processing Charge. Especially while we are contemplating a change in the journal's publishing arrangements, we believe that the AHA should refrain from changing the current agreement while continuing to monitor developments in OA and the exceedingly complex and related issue of CC-BY licensing.

Tomoko Akami, Frank Bongiorno and Alex Cook, Editors, *History Australia*, July 2013