

ANME assists with Great War Memories project

The ANME recently assisted the Department of Veterans' Affairs with their Great War Memories project regarding a rare document known as the Armistice Speech written by Charles Bean, the author of the history of Australia in the Great War. Dr Geoffrey Burkhardt wrote interpretive text about the artefact and its background. ANME holds this rare document in the archive of the Mowbray House School. The Armistice Speech was read out on the occasion of the distribution of the Peace Medallion to every school child in 1919.



Peace Medallion (reverse), 1919

More challenging was the request to provide a photograph taken at the time on the occasion of the Armistice Speech or similar images. These are very rare. We have a few school photographs of the time. One image from 1908 shows the boys attending Mowbray House School in 1908. The headmaster has written 17 names on the border, 12 of whom served in the Great War, including four who died. Headmaster Lance Bavin was probably remembering these boys and their classmates.

The material we contributed will be published in a later commemorative publication and the Anzac Portal website. The contract with DVA illustrates the high regard of government for the research expertise of the ANME.

Vale John Ridders

John (Jan) Ridders has died at the age of 91. John came from a Dutch background and migrated to Australia after the Second World War. John was employed as a teacher in Western Australian Government Secondary Schools before being appointed to the Planning Branch where he worked on a number of historical projects before his retirement.



Illustration from Rikker's history of WA schools and teachers, his magnum opus.

His major historical work was the compilation of a four volume chronicle entitled *Schools and Teachers in Western Australia 1830-1980*, a work which took some seven years to complete.

When the Education Department became a Ministry of Education in 1985, much historical material was discarded. On becoming aware that documents relating to the development of education in Western Australia would be lost, John retrieved as much as he could, among which were the Education Circulars, 1898-1980.

In 2011, Pam Ridders contacted Noreen Riordan, an educational historian, regarding a suitable repository for the documents. The Circulars were entrusted to Dr Ian Melville, the ANME Representative for Western Australia, who with the assistance of Pam Ridders negotiated their donation as the Ridders Collection to the Museum.

Dr Ian Melville

ANME Representative for Western Australia

Editor:

Dr John McIntyre

ANME celebrates twenty-one years of service to educational heritage

Jessica Goodvinn wins ANME Prize

Jessica Goodvinn, final year student in the Bachelor of Heritage, Museums and Conservation degree course, has won the 2016 ANME Prize.



Jessica Goodvinn receives the prize from Prof Barbara Pamphilon, Chair of the Management Board

Jessica won the prize chiefly as a result of her outstanding record of service as volunteer assisting with the work of the Museum in the last few years. This service included her initiative in assisting ANME to adopt eHive industry standard software for recording its collections. She also served on the Board of Management as a student representative.

Jessica has worked as a volunteer guide at the Australian War Memorial, following completion of their exacting training course. She was presented with her prize by the Chair of the Board Professor Barbara Pamphilon at the December 2016 Board meeting.

ANME awarded a second Community Heritage Grant

ANME has been awarded a second stage community heritage grant of \$4700 to conduct a preservation needs assessment for the collection.

This success follows last year's first stage grant to assess the collections's significance. Ian Batterham is the consultant who is conducting the assessment for ANME.

The Community Heritage Grants are made available under the aegis of the National Library of Australia.

The ANME has followed the recommended process of first conducting a significance assessment, followed by a preservation needs assessment. A third stage, yet to come, will involve and conservation activities and collection management resulting from the recommendations of the preservation needs assessment.

We look forward to learning more of our consultant's assessment of the priorities for conserving our collection of historical textbooks.



Ian Batterham, the consultant conducting our preservation needs assessment. Source: Canberra Times

ANME is proudly supported by



Annual Field Trip 2017

With great excitement, thirteen participants left Daramalan College at 8.45am on Saturday 18th March for ANME's annual field trip, thanks to Daramalan for the bus and retired teacher, Roger Amos as the Bus Captain. The itinerary was an ambitious one and the trip promised to be an outstanding journey into the educational past.

The trip included visits to the Public Schools of Cootamundra, Murringo and Binalong. At Cootamundra, Principal, Bill Godman talked about the school's historic links with the community, especially the Aboriginal community. He was assisted by local historian and former Cootamundra Public School student and teacher, Betti Punnett, who noted the changes in her lifetime.

Before heading to Murringo, participants enjoyed a delicious sandwich lunch at the 'T House' located in the old Bethungra school house (Bethungra is near Junee on the Olympic Highway). A Memorabilia Room displays items from the old school house and other objects of historical interest.

Upon arrival at Murringo Public School participants were met at the gate by two Year 6 students, Charlotte and Lily, impeccably dressed in their impressive uniform and former students Mr Gordon Dowling and Mr Kevin Gruber, together with their respective wives. Principal, Kaelene Neville was waiting inside the historic main building with a display of school archives and a sumptuous repast.

Late in the afternoon, participants arrived at Binalong Public School to be greeted by Principal, Renee Arabin who had the school open so that all the historic rooms could be viewed. Binalong Public School was established in 1861 and celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2011.

The day concluded with a dinner in the private dining room of Win's Creek Meadery in Murrumbateman, where guests were treated to a three course meal of fine cuisine. Much appreciation is extended to all who contributed to make the day so memorable.

Dr Malcolm Beazley AM, Director



Cootamundra Public School



The Bethungra Olde School T House



Murringo Public School



Binalong Public School

A Melbourne Teachers College Reunion

An historic 60th year reunion of the 1957 Trained Infant Teachers course at Melbourne Teachers College took place in February. Some 34 of the original group attended. About forty women students boarded in a hostel at Grattan Street and were subject to quite a strict code of conduct by the Matron in charge.

Our NT representative, Loraine Braham (nee Mitchell) was among them and recalled her experiences. She enjoyed her first real cappuccino at Genevieve's Café in Carlton, though this was something of an 'outré' activity.

The gathering recalled their lecturers, such as Miss Angus who would not go to other colleges in case she could not control the content and Miss Agnew who lectured on teaching method, while Miss Somerville wrote the 'John and Betty' readers for Victorian Infant classes. Students had to learn to play the piano to provide singing and rhythm activities for the class. There was an emphasis on free activities first thing in the morning as children arrived and as schools often did not have much in the way of equipment.

Loraine noted the discrimination that existed in employment conditions for women, where male teachers were paid 20% more than a female, and married women lost permanency, promotion and superannuation conditions, something not changed in Victoria until 1975. She thinks that today's generation may not appreciate how much was achieved in the 60's and 70's, though personally she remains grateful for the opportunity to become an Infants teacher.

New student volunteers working at ANME

A new academic year is in full swing and ANME already is benefitting from new students in the Bachelor of Heritage, Museums and Conservation degree course who are seizing the opportunity to gain work experience by volunteering right here on campus.

Curator Hakim introduced Cindy Nguyen, Emma Anderson, Maren Innes to the collections. They met Communications Manager, Dr John McIntyre, who explained how they could help with recording objects in the collections using industry standard eHive database software. This would help them develop valuable professional skills and build their employment profiles.

They would also have the opportunity to interact with experts volunteering in the Museum.

Conference Diary Date

A reminder that ANME is joining the Australian and New Zealand History of Education Society (ANZHES) in hosting their annual conference to be held at the Inspire Centre at the University of Canberra, Australia from 24-27 September 2017. It is not too late to submit an abstract. Further details can be found on the ANME website.



New students with Curator Hakim and (L to R) Cindy Nguyen, Emma Anderson and Maren Innes.