

# ANME News

Newsletter of the

**ANME** | AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL  
MUSEUM OF EDUCATION

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## Joint Conference – The Highlight of ANME’s 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Year



*Dr Malcolm Beazley AM, Prof. Geoffrey Riordan, Associate Prof. Craig Campbell and Prof. Barbara Pamphilon. (Photo: Aylwen Gardiner-Garden)*

Under the leadership of Dr Malcolm Beazley AM (ANME) and Dr Craig Campbell (ANZHEs, Australian and New Zealand History of Education Society) this highly engaging, joint conference was held from September 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> in the INSPIRE Centre at the University of Canberra. The conference attracted people from around Australia and from as far away as Italy and New Zealand. Thanks to the hard work of our ANME Conference Committee, ably led by Board Member, Victoria Redfern, the conference went smoothly from start to finish. The theme of the conference, *Powerful narratives and compelling explanations: Educational historians and museums at work*, harnessed the best of both partners.

The conference was launched with the ANME Annual Lecture, this year presented by the Dean of Education, Science, Technology and Mathematics, Professor Geoffrey Riordan. In his presentation, *A Brief History of Attached Schools: Forms, Purposes and Critical Factors for Success in University-School Partnerships*, Professor Riordan demonstrated the pathways, coherencies and disruptions as teacher preparation moved from the apprenticeship model of the ‘pupil teacher’ through to a range of models of ‘demonstration’ schools affiliated with higher education. We look forward to the forthcoming monograph from this lecture.

The ANME offered a further highlight of the conference with a bus trip to the Hall School Museum hosted by Curator, Alastair Crombie, the ANU, hosted by Amy Jarvis and St John’s Schoolhouse Museum, hosted by the President, Diana Body,

following a visit to the National Centre for Australian Children's Literature at the University of Canberra, hosted by Emeritus Professor Belle Alderman AM. Many commented on the value of 'being in' such historic spaces as a great addition to conferences where we often only 'talk about' historic space. Needless to say, there were many enriching papers presented under the sub themes of 'education and its role in nation building', 'narrative, explanation and interpretation', 'museums and popular history' and 'biography and history'.

This conference was indeed a high point of the year and a wonderful way to celebrate the 21<sup>st</sup> birthday of the ANME.

Selected conference papers will be published in a special edition of the ANZHES, *History of Education Review (2018)* (Reported by Professor Barbara Pamphilon)

### Visit to ANME by the Ambassador of Nepal



ANME Curatorial Adviser Dr Geoffrey Burkhardt addressing H.E. Lucky Sherpa and Nepalese Students

On the afternoon of 10th November the ANME was honoured by a visit from the Ambassador of Nepal, Her Excellency Lucky Sherpa, who was accompanied by International Officer, Mr Frank Guo. The Ambassador was most interested in the various ANME historical displays in the Building 5 Heritage Gallery. Also she took great interest in the ANME's collection of nineteenth century school textbooks. The Ambassador was welcomed by ANME Chair, Professor Barbara Pamphilon and ANME Director, Dr Malcolm Beazley AM. The Ambassador was then introduced

to a group of five Nepalese students, who are studying at the University of Canberra. Following a tour of ANME's various displays and repositories, the Ambassador was entertained at an afternoon tea where she held further discussions with members of the Nepalese student group.

### Vale Alan Barcan, AM., M.A., M.Ed., Ph.D.



Australian education historians and school teachers were saddened to learn of the death of Dr Alan Barcan earlier this year. Alan was well known and highly respected, not only as a scholar and author of Australian education history but as a teacher and lecturer to many hundreds of students over his long career in schools and higher education institutions. He is perhaps most widely known for his highly regarded textbook, *A Short History of Education in New South*

*Wales*, which became a standard reference for all scholars and researchers in the field of Australian history of education. It was first published in 1965 by Martindale Press, Sydney and at that time, was the first detailed and readable general textbook in this field since S.H. Smith and G.T. Spaul published their *History of Education in New South Wales*, in 1925. In 1988 Dr. Barcan brought his 1965 book up to date for the Bicentenary in a significantly expanded textbook titled *Two Centuries of Education in New South Wales*, which was published by NSW Press.

Alan Barcan was educated at Sydney Boys' High School in the 1930s. His university studies were interrupted with the beginning of World War II, in which Alan served. Following the War, Alan resumed his enrolment at Sydney University as an ex-serviceman where he was for a time joint editor of the University's student journal, *Honi Soit*. Also at that time he was general secretary of the National Union of Australian University Students. He taught in High Schools in NSW and in England. From 1959 to 1961 Alan was a research scholar at the Australian National University where he specialized in the history of education in NSW. For a number of years, he was a lecturer in history at Newcastle Teachers' College, and part time member of staff of the University of Newcastle, where he was later appointed as Associate Professor in Education.

Dr Alan Barcan was a Patron of the ANME and was a great friend of those of us at ANME who knew him and corresponded with him over a number of years. Those who knew Alan Barcan, and those who were at some time one of his students, will recall his kindness and helpfulness in addition to his great expertise as an historian and wise scholar of Australian education history.

### **Spotlight on a School Museum: The “Beehive” School Museum, Tamworth**



*Photo by Myles Roberts*

The Moonbi Public School, which became the Tamworth Historical Society's School Museum, was commonly known as the “Beehive” school because of its distinctive barrel type roof design. This small one-teacher schoolroom is now located in the grounds of the Tamworth Historical Society's Calala Cottage Museum complex in West

Tamworth. The school building was originally erected as the public school at the locality of Moonbi, among the Moonbi Ranges north of Tamworth. It was moved to Tamworth Calala Cottage Museum in 1999 and has been a major feature among the numerous historical buildings maintained by the Tamworth Historical Society.

As a typical 1880s government rural one-teacher school, it contains school furniture and a valuable collection of school and educational records. The unique roof

architecture was of corrugated iron. It was constructed with wooden walls and wooden floorboards and was designed to service the needs of small remote rural communities. The classrooms of these schools were equipped with a fuel stove for winter heating. Most schools of this type could accommodate only 20-30 pupils. For example, the 1890 *Report of the Minister for Public Instruction* states that the Moonbi Public School enrolment for that year was 8 boys and 12 girls, making a total of twenty children. These schools were located in unsewered remote areas, without permanent water mains, thus these buildings were equipped with a rainwater tank, usually located beside the classroom. Some students living a couple of miles from the school rode their horses to school each day, as did the teacher of the school if he was boarding with a local family some distance from the school. This explains the hitching rails erected in some schoolyards during the 1880s to 1900, also a hay trough, as the teacher in a remote school received a “fodder” allowance. The Moonbi Public School, remained open from 1882 until 1914.

### **Visit from the Director of Canberra Museum and Gallery**



The Director of Canberra Museum and Gallery (CMAG), Shane Breynard and his Curator of Social History, Rowan Henderson visited ANME on the morning of Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>. November. ANME Director, Dr Malcolm Beazley AM and Curatorial Adviser, Dr Geoffrey Burkhardt discussed with the visitors, common interests and aspects of museum displays and collecting policies, prior to providing our visitors with a guided tour of the Repository, Display Room and Gallery.

*CMAG Director, Shane Breynard, Curator Rowan Henderson and ANME Partnerships Manager Hakim Abdul Rahim.*

### **ANME Awarded a Further Federal Community Heritage Grant**

The Australian National Museum of Education has been awarded a federal Community Heritage Grant to fund the purchase of archival storage materials and environmental monitoring equipment for the museum collection. The grant was announced at the National Library of Australia in Canberra on 24 October, 2017. The grant amount totaling \$2570 will be used to further the preservation efforts of the museum to preserve Australia’s educational heritage through undertaking conservation treatment and rehousing material that are deemed at risk and installing of environmental monitoring system to better understand the preservation risks and issues of the Museum. *(Reported by Hakim Abdul Rahim).*

The ANME is supported by

