

ANME News

Newsletter of

ANME AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL
MUSEUM OF EDUCATION

www.anme.org.au

No. 35

Spring 2020

Editor – Dr Geoffrey Burkhardt

Rural Education Highlight at the ANME Annual Lecture



*ANME Chair, Professor Pamphilon AM, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous), Professor Radoll, ANME Foundation Chair, Dr Trimmingham Jack, ANME Director, Dr Beazley AM, Guest Lecturer Dr Lynne Trethewey, Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Crisp and Dean of Education, Professor Dalgarno.
Photo: Peter Fock*

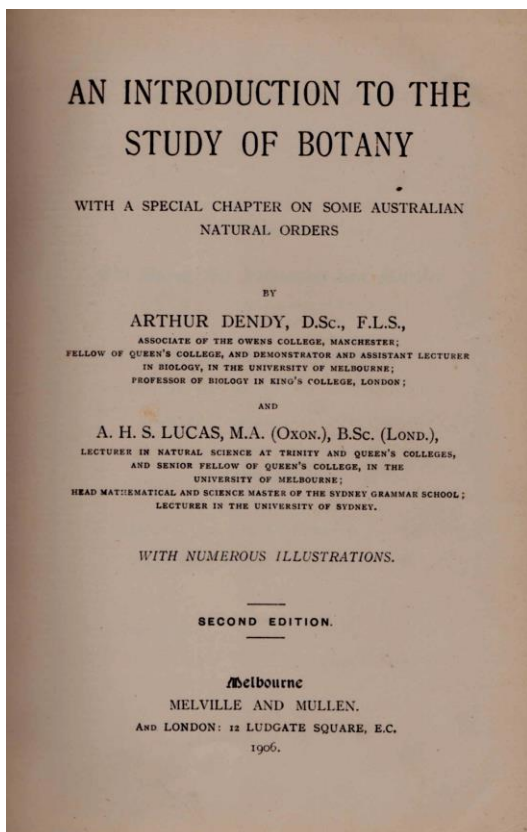
On the evening of 10th September, South Australian Academic, Dr Lynne Trethewey delivered the ANME Fourteenth Historical Perspectives on Education Annual Lecture titled *A Microcosm of Rural Education beyond the Periphery: Kangaroo Island South Australia 1870-1920*. Dr Trethewey, formerly of the University of South Australia, described the social and geographical context of rural schooling on Kangaroo Island and the development across the Island of small rural primary schools. She outlined the types of schools established which included half-time schools and provisional schools

some with itinerant teachers in more remote areas of the Island. Dr Trethewey referred to some of the problems experienced by teachers in rural schools, such as the problem of social isolation. Staffing of rural schools was a difficult task at times. Despite the special limitations placed upon the event by the necessity for those attending, to conform to Covid 19 pandemic regulations in the ACT, the group of attendees at the event greatly appreciated Dr Trethewey's lecture, the text of which will be published in the ANME's Monograph Series.

Recent Acquisitions

Dr Stuart Braga, a great friend of ANME and NSW Representative, has added more items to the Braga Collection. These include dictionaries, school textbooks and a Parliamentary Report relating to Parramatta Public School. Megan Lovell, has donated a number of pupil exercise books from the 1950s and 1980s to our ever growing collection of pupil exercise books now numbering over 300 items dating from the 1870s to 1980s. ANU's Dr David Nash donated a Rapid Reader Kit, *Better Reading Program* c.1960s together with a collection of school textbooks, many relating to the teaching of Latin and French in the classroom, a number of which date from the 1930s and 1940s. Bronwen Davis has added to her large collection of donations with yet another batch of items including award certificates, teaching programs and documents relating to her Teaching Career.

Teachers as Authors of School Textbooks: A.H.S. Lucas: Teacher, Headmaster and Botanist



Widely renowned as a teacher and botanist, A.H.S. Lucas is remembered not only for his talents as an outstanding science teacher and later, headmaster, but also for his first school textbook titled, *An Introduction to the Study of Botany*, first published in 1892 by Melville, Mullens and Slade, Melbourne, with co-author Arthur Dendy. This book was so successful in introducing students to the school subject of Botany that it went through many editions and reprints, the last being in 1946 when it was still being used in schools.

Arthur Henry Shakespeare Lucas was born in England in 1853. He studied at Oxford where he completed a BA and MA before taking up a position as a science teacher in a Cambridge school. He emigrated to Australia in 1883 where he was appointed as science master at Wesley

College in Melbourne. In 1892 he was appointed Headmaster at Newington College in Sydney until 1898 when he joined the staff of Sydney Grammar School as a science master and later acting Headmaster of Sydney Grammar 1916-1919 during the absence of the Headmaster, Mr Sloman, on active service with the A.I.F. during the First World War. He was well liked by his students and his great strength was his ability to make his lessons interesting for his classes, maximizing enthusiasm for his subject among his students.

In addition to *An Introduction to The Study of Botany*, Lucas was the co-author of *The Animals of Australia*, with W.H. Dudley Le Souef in 1909, published by Whitcombe & Tombs, Melbourne. He again cooperated with co-author Le Souef to write *The Birds of Australia*, in 1911, also published by Whitcombe & Tombs, Melbourne. This was followed in 1919 with Lucas writing *Zoology and Botany*, Vol. 7 Part 2, which was published in Tasmania.

A tribute to the high quality of Lucas's teaching and administration as a Headmaster was written by the retiring Headmaster of Sydney Grammar School, the celebrated Albert Weigall, when recommending him as a most suitable Headmaster for Sydney Grammar. As quoted in Turney's, *Grammar: A History of Sydney Grammar School, 1819-1988*, Weigall states,

"I have assessed myself, that he [Lucas] has, to a marked degree, won both the affection and the respect of his pupils, that he is extremely hard working and energetic, and that he is likely to prove a loyal colleague."

Turney goes on to describe in some detail aspects of the early life and career of Lucas on page 120 of his history of Sydney Grammar. Lucas died in 1936.

Profile of a School Museum: NSW Schoolhouse Museum of Public Education, North Ryde



This Museum was originally the North Ryde Public School, which was constructed in 1877 and opened in 1878. The original schoolroom has now been restored to its original 1880s furnishings, and it enrolled about 45 pupils. Additional classrooms were added in 1893 and 1910. The focus of the Museum's collection is the history of public schooling in N.S.W. The building is still owned by the NSW Department of Education. The school was closed in the 1980s, and was used as administrative offices until 1992 when a group of volunteers restored the classrooms to their original configurations as a school museum which was officially opened in November 1992 by the then Minister of Education in NSW.

The Museum's collections include examples of pupils' work, including girls' needlework samples, teaching equipment, desks and teacher's desk of the period, class photos from the early years of the school's existence and various readers and books from the school's early decades. Displayed in the Museum is the original World War I school Honour Board on which is listed the names of former students who enlisted for war service. There is also a War Memorial Garden in the school grounds which was used as a focus for the School's annual ANZAC Day ceremony.

The first teacher appointed to the school was a Mr Crew, previously from a school in Goulburn. He lived in the schoolmaster's residence in the school precincts, a four roomed brick cottage which unfortunately was demolished in the 1960s.

Special Visitors to ANME



During August we were delighted to receive a visit from the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Education, Professor Barney Dalgarno and in September we welcomed Professor Jason Bainbridge, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Design. The ANME Director, Dr Malcolm Beazley AM and Senior Curator, Dr Geoffrey Burkhardt showed the Deans examples from ANME's collections designated as being of National Significance, which included items from our nineteenth century school textbook collection, items from the Mowbray House School Archive and our extensive school pupil exercise book collection.

*Professor Bainbridge (right)
with Dr Burkhardt*

Acknowledging Our Volunteers



*Ms Wilde, Professor Dalgarno,
Dr Beazley and Ms Amos*

Despite the limitations of the Covid-19 pandemic, the work of the ANME has continued. Thanks to two of our devoted volunteers, Coralie Amos and Lee Wilde, considerable progress has been made in accessioning donations of items received since January. This pair of industrious volunteers has also been busy sorting and cataloging items and artefacts located in the ANME Repository, a very important task, because, like all museums today, the ANME only has space to place on display at any point in time, less than 10 per cent

of the items, artefacts, documents and books in its extensive stock. Many thanks Coralie and Lee, your efforts are most appreciated.