

## **History Council AGM 2023 President's Report**

I am very honoured to have been elected President of the History Council for a two-year term in October 2021. The past two years have held challenges for many of us, myself included, and I'm very grateful for the support I have received from the executive committee during my tenure. I will be stepping down from this position tonight but will stay on the committee as the Immediate Past President.

### **Advocacy**

#### **National Archives - relocation of SA material to Canberra**

I have attended the 6-monthly meetings of the National Archives Consultative Forum, and I have appreciated the opportunity to ask detailed questions about the process of transferring the National Archives which had been held in SA to Canberra. We have been kept updated with regular meetings and events as the relocation has continued over the year.

#### **Funding for Trove**

In February I wrote to Minister Tony Burke about the uncertainty surrounding continued funding for Trove. I received a letter from him in March with some information about 'Revive: a place for every story, a story for every place', which includes \$286 million for the 'arts, entertainment and cultural sector'.

#### **Australian Catholic University**

In September the combined History Councils of Australia released a statement condemning the proposed cuts to the History discipline at Australian Catholic University, resulting in the loss of 20 positions. The outcome of the widespread protests has yet to be announced.

### **Events**

#### **Awards Night and History Festival Closing Event**

The event was held on 31 May, the last night of the 2022 History Festival, and co-hosted by the History Trust of SA. The venue was the Green Room, downstairs in the Masonic Lodge building. The night was a success, many thanks to the History Trust. We are extremely appreciative of their major contribution to the organisation of the event, including negotiating with the venue, all the technical infrastructure, the invitations to VIPs, wine service and much more. Many key people attended.

#### **Regional Lectures**

The 2022 Regional Lecture was held at the Kapunda Library on Wednesday 19 October, in partnership with the Light Regional Council and featured Professor Melanie Oppenheimer speaking about Vivian Bullwinkel. I reported on this in my 2022 President's report.

The 2023 regional lecture is scheduled for 16 November in Whyalla and I have to thank Paul Mazourek for organizing the venue and catering. Skye Krichauff and Amanda Nettelbeck are going to give a talk about their work on 'The SA frontier and its legacies' in the late morning, followed by lunch and then a workshop to be co-hosted by the Oral History Association, and I have to thank David Sweet and Christeen Schoepf of the OHA SA/NT for

taking on the arrangements for that. We are considering plans to repeat the talk by Skye and Amanda in Adelaide before the end of the year.

### **Fellows' lecture**

On 27 March for the second year running we hosted a successful Fellows' lecture in partnership with the State Library in the Hetzel Lecture Theatre. The evening included talks by both the 2022 and 2023 HCSA fellows – Heidi Ing and Maggi Boulton – on their research. Attendance was good and the discussion continued after the talks and beyond the formal part of the evening. Thanks to everyone involved, especially Patrick Bugeja at the State Library who ensured the event ran smoothly.

### **Awards and Fellowship**

The HCSA Fellowship was launched on 21 August 2020 in association with the State Library of South Australia and through the generous support of donors, including the Marsden Szwarcbord Foundation. The 2023 HCSA Fellow is Margaret (Maggi) Boulton, and her topic is 'The Apothecary and the Surgeon: Medical Responsibility and Care in Early South Australia'. Applications for the 2024 fellowship close on 30 November.

We had 10 submissions this year for the Wakefield Essay Prize this year and it was won by Susan Arthure. The 2023 judges' commendation was given to Robyn Dunlop.

The winners of the Historian awards were:

Historian of the Year – **Stephen Oppes**.

Life Long Historian – shared by **Philip Jones and Peter Monteath**.

Contribution to Regional or Community History (Individual or Group) – **Alan Jones**

Oral History Excellence – **Ricky Koopman and Danni Reade**.

Digital Technologies Award - **Wayne Groom and Dr Carolyn Bilsborow**.

Emerging Historian – **Lainie Anderson**

### **HCSA 20th anniversary celebrations**

Progress is well under-way for a publication to celebrate the HCSA's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023. The book will be published in 2024. Many thanks to all on the editorial committee for all their work in bringing this publication together.

### **Thanks**

Many thanks to our executive committee for their support over the past two years. It has been a great team to work with, and this year everyone has faced various personal challenges. I'd also like to thank Jess Fairey, Brenton Griffin and everyone who looks after the Council's communications with members and with the public. Thanks also to all members of the general committee for their valuable input and expertise during the time I have been in this role.

**Gillian Dooley**