

Newsletter

Menzies Centre for Australian Studies

Issue 68 • December 2006

Head's message

Lately I've been doing some research on the Australian community in Britain over the last hundred years or so and come up with some remarkable findings. One, which is perhaps not surprising, is that there have always been significantly more Australian women coming to Britain than men. Another, which I certainly did not anticipate, is that proportionally there are more Australians here at present than at any time over the last century, including during the first world war. Thus, looking from this side of the world especially, in purely human terms, and the Ashes aside, the British and Australians are closer than ever.

Christmas, and the corresponding winter solstice, mark a time of change and renewal, as the days start to get longer and warmer and hope is rekindled of new life and better times. We at the Menzies Centre have suffered some awful personal losses lately, with the deaths of three of our stalwart supporters. David O'Reilly, a respected and cherished colleague, was taken cruelly before his time. And Maurice de Rohan and Sir Peter Gadsden, each of whom had helped us so often over so many years, also left us in quick succession. We shall greatly miss all three and our thoughts are with their families.

On a positive note, I am delighted to congratulate our history lecturer, Dr Catherine Kevin, who after two splendid years with us has been appointed to a tenured post at Flinders. I am delighted also to announce that Dr Robert Crawford from Monash is joining us for eight months as temporary lecturer and after that Dr Frank Bongiorno from UNE will arrive in September as our first

senior lecturer. In immediate prospect we have our 'Feminism and the Body' conference at Goodenough College at the end of January to which I encourage you all to come. As I write, Monty Panesar has taken five wickets in the Third Test at the WACA. Ah, hope springs eternal in the English breast! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you!

Farewell to Dr Catherine Kevin

After teaching for the last two years at the Menzies Centre, highlights of which have included organising major conferences on 'Branding Cities' and 'Feminism and the Body', Cath Kevin leaves us in January for a tenured lectureship in the history department at Flinders University in Adelaide. All of us at the Menzies Centre will miss her special contribution both as a scholar and a person. We wish Cath and Johnno all the best in their new life in South Australia.

Contents

Head's message	1
Menzies Lecture	2
Staff activities	2
Conferences	3
Visitors	5
Scholarships.....	5
Seminars	7

Dr David O'Reilly

Sadly we have to report that Dr David O'Reilly, Centre Research Associate, died on 2 November, after a brief illness. David was a well known and much loved figure around the Centre. He completed his Monash PhD as a distance student attached to the Menzies Centre under Carl Bridge's co-supervision. He also played a major role in organising the Centre's conference at Lord's on Don Bradman, 2001, and co-edited the subsequent publication. At the time of his death David was working on the page proofs of the book based on his doctorate on the Hawke-Keating Labor administration's influence on Blairism. The book is due to be published by Macmillan in 2007.

Menzies Lecture

The 2006 Menzies Lecture, 'Reflecting identity: the inevitable role of culture', was delivered by Ms Robyn Archer, AO, on 27 September 2006 before a rapt audience in the South Range Theatre, King's College London. Ms Archer gave an exhilaratingly wide-ranging lecture on the subject of personal and national identity, discussing new technologies of DNA testing, issues of language, the role of the media, the significance of sport in Australian culture, and the policies of successive Australian governments in promoting particular notions of national identity. This contextualized her passionate advocacy of the role of the arts in spurring curiosity and fostering consciousness of identity as a complex and continuous process of change. The lecture also surveyed the wide field of contemporary Australian arts and offered insights into Ms Archer's own brilliant career as an Australian artist working on the world stage. This inspiring lecture will be published by the Menzies Centre in early 2007.

Staff activities

Carl Bridge

Sept attended the BASA Biennial Conference at the University of Exeter, Tremough, Cornwall; co-convoked the Centre's Lincoln dialogue on 'Australian film'; met with Professor Stephanie Fahey, Monash Deputy Vice-Chancellor-International; and chaired Robyn Archer's Menzies Lecture. *Oct* chaired the Northcote Scholarship Selection Committee; spoke on 'The Australian Diaspora in Britain' to a 'British Empire and the British World' workshop at the University of Texas, Austin; and co-convoked the Centre's 'Ashes and all that' conference with

the International Centre for Sports History and Culture at DeMontfort University, Leicester. *Nov* examined a PhD thesis for the University of Sydney and another for the University of Melbourne; lectured on 'Australia's Foundation Myths as History' at the University of Copenhagen; lectured on 'Anzac Day' to the Historical Association, Norwich; gave the Remembrance Sunday address, 'Reflections on the Somme', at All Saints Church, Ingham, Lincs; attended David O'Reilly's funeral; interviewed by Dr Jane Kenway, Monash, for her research project on Australians as international academics; interviewed by BSKyB TV World News on 'Anglo-Australian relations and the Ashes'; attended the Menzies Scholars Dinner; and visited Campion Hall and Rhodes House, Oxford. *Dec* interviewed by BBC Radio Scotland News on 'Australia, Uranium and Nuclear Non-Proliferation', and by BBC Radio Asian Network on the Ashes.

Ian Henderson

Sept gave vote of thanks for Ms Robyn Archer's Menzies Lecture. *Oct* attended meeting of Northcote Scholarship committee; attended opening of Fiona Foley exhibition at the October Gallery; interviewed on the set of *Bad Girls* about 'Prison Films' by BBC4's *The Cinema Show*; attended panel discussion of New Zealand film-makers at Senate House, University of London, where the establishment of a New Zealand Studies Centre within Birkbeck College was announced, to be directed by Dr Ian Conrich. *Nov* attended Inaugural Professorial lecture by Professor Helen Gilbert at Royal Holloway College; attended reception hosted by the Hon. Peter Beattie, Premier of Queensland, to mark the donation of works by Indigenous artists of Queensland to the British Museum; introduced special screening of Rolf de Heer's and Peter Djigirr's *Ten Canoes* (2006) at the October Gallery; hosted meeting of the Australia and New Zealand Libraries Group executive committee; attended Australian High Commission screening of George Gittoes' *Rampage* (2006); launched Katherine Gallagher's latest collection, *Circus-Apprentice* (ARC), playing flute to original music by Kwêsi Edman; helped host Menzies Centre Christmas party—our thanks to musicians John Lattin and Kwêsi Edman, and to Kathleen McCormack and others for solos; attended dinner hosted by Rick Trainor, Principal of King's.

Catherine Kevin

Sept presented paper at the Medical Humanities Conference, King's, entitled 'Race, sex and 'pulling on a rope': Grantly Dick-Read's birthing woman';

attended the British Australian Studies Association (BASA) conference in Cornwall, chaired plenary panel at this event, attended BASA AGM; finalised paper presented at the AHA in July for publication in *Australian Feminist Studies*, attended the Lincoln Dialogue on 'Australian film', chairing sessions and participating in discussion; met with visiting postgraduate student working on feminist project; met with Professor Ludmilla Jordanova and then Professor Jane Sandall regarding *Feminism and the Body, an interdisciplinary conference*. Oct attended celebration of Arthur Phillip in Bath hosted by the Britain Australia Society; presented a paper entitled 'Raising the Right Against Reproductive Rights: Politics and Religion in Australia and the US' at Australian Studies Colloque hosted by CIClaS at the Université Paris-Dauphine; attended *Generation: on Feminist Time-Lines at Goldsmiths, the University of London*; presented paper entitled 'Great Expectations: Episodes in a Political History of Pregnancy in Australia' at the *Gender and History Reading Group* at Oxford University. Nov presented paper at the *Women's History Seminar* at the Institute for Historical Research. Dec co-hosted Menzies Centre Christmas party (this involved a rendition of 'Bound for South Australia' on the ukulele). *Au revoir!*

Rydon Fellowship

Dr Kent Fedorowich

Dr Fedorowich, Reader in History at the University of the West of England, Bristol, joins us as Rydon Fellow for 2007. He will be working on the Australian High Commission in London during the Second World War and will convene a conference on the 'Dominion High Commissioners at war, 1939-42' in association with the Institute of Commonwealth Studies.



Dr Kent Fedorowich

Menzies Foundation Fellowship

Dr Stephen Ashton

Dr Ashton formerly editor of the British Documents on the End of Empire Project at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, has joined us as Menzies Foundation Fellow for 2006-7. He is working with Professor Bridge on a documentary volume on Australia and the British withdrawal from East of Suez. He has also been appointed an Honorary Senior Research Fellow.



Dr Stephen Ashton

Conference reports

England v Australia: The Ashes and All That

28 October 2006

This one-day conference was jointly convened by the International Centre for Sport History and Culture, De Montfort University, Leicester, and the Menzies Centre, in association with the *BBC History Magazine*. It was held at DMU on Saturday 28 October, the sixth in their annual Historians on Sport series, and about 40 people attended. Professor Mike Cronin, Boston College Dublin, began with a re-assessment of Douglas Jardine, the England 'Bodyline' skipper, which portrayed him as a thoroughly modern technocrat, streamlining the boundaries of his sport, rather than as an imperialist fossil. Simon Briggs, cricket correspondent for the *Daily Telegraph*, spoke entertainingly and revealingly on the history of 'sledging' and other issues of cricket morality. David Frith, the cricket historian, analysed the evolution of the Ashes myth, pointing out that the term was barely used before the 1970s and quoted Sir Robert Menzies on sledging: 'We know each other so well



that thank heaven we don't have to be tactful to each other'. Professor Tony Collins, Leeds Metropolitan University, addressed the issue of the other Ashes, in Rugby Union and Rugby League. He quoted two gems: a Scottish journalist wrote of the 1908 Wallabies that they were 'sublimely unconscious of their delinquency'; and Jersey Flegg, the great Australian League administrator, who said between the wars that 'we [working-class Australians] are just as British as you are'. Collins pointed out that Britishness, both Australian and Home-grown, as articulated in Rugby League before the 1960s, had a distinctively northern and demotic flavour. Professor Graeme Davison, Monash, spoke about the 'imaginary grandstand' in Australia where bettering the English was and still is the ultimate measure of success, whereas the English were more likely to measure themselves against the Europeans or Americans, cricket apart. The official British Council Ashes poet, David Fine, read some impromptu cricketing verse. Dr Dominic Malcolm, Loughborough, charted the curious rise of the Barmy Army. And finally, Professors Carl Bridge and Mike Cronin, Dr Dominic Malcolm, and Simon Briggs and David Frith, participated in a panel discussion on 'The Ashes and the Media' in which it was suggested, *inter alia*, that both the English and Australians, usually fully self-consciously, cherished and embellished their completely anachronistic

and grotesque stereotypes of each other as part of an ancient bonding ritual.

Forthcoming Centre conferences

Feminism & the Body

25-27 January 2007

Keynote address

Judith A. Allen, History (Indiana)

Cultural Genealogies of Anovulation: Revisiting Abortion, The Pill and Feminist Sexual politics

Plenary Sessions

Feminism, Ethics and Reproductive Technologies

Sarah Franklin, Sociology (LSE)

Isabel Karpin, Law (Sydney)

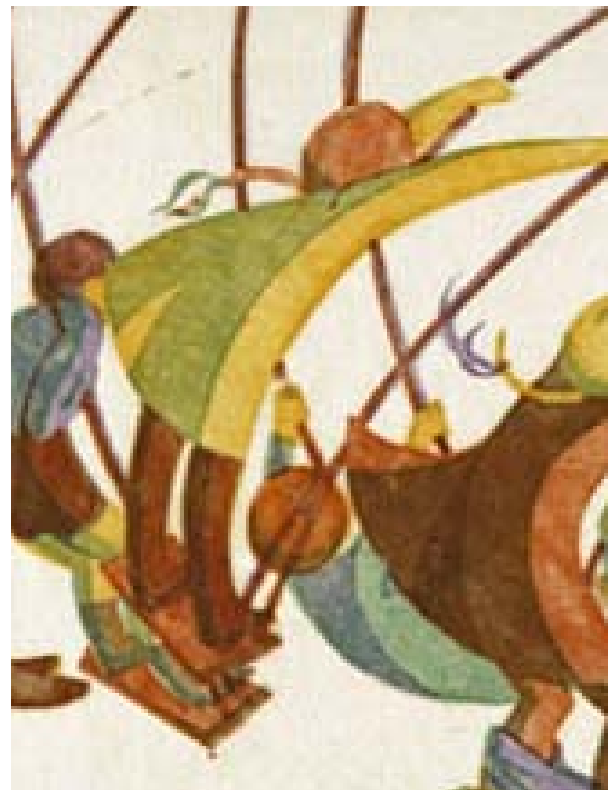
Clare Williams, Midwifery & Women's Health (King's)

Abortion and Feminism in World War I and early Weimar Germany

Cornelie Usborne, History (Roehampton)

Sex, syphilis and suicide in the ballet 'Giselle'

Steve Wainwright, Midwifery & Women's Health (King's)



Ethel Spowers, Swings, (detail) 1932. Colour linocut, 24.1x26.0cm sheet. Purchased 1976. Collection: Art Gallery of New South Wales

Other topics include

- Feminist thinking on ageing and perceptions of fertility
- Raced bodies and desire in the Australian context
- The legacies of sexual difference feminism in Italy
- Women's migration and the reproductive body
- Representations of the body in film, literature and theatre
- Rape and lynching in interwar America
- Feminist movements in South Asia

Venue: Goodenough College, Bloomsbury, London, WC1

Contact: Dr Catherine Kevin

Registration and information:

www.kcl.ac.uk/menzies/events

Other conferences

WSSA's 49th Annual Conference

11-14 April 2007, Calgary, Canada

New Zealand and Australia Studies Section. Conference covering all disciplines and comparative studies including Australia, New Zealand, UK, Canada, the US. Contact: Dr William (Bill) Schaniel, Dept of Economics, Richards School of Business, University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA 30118, USA Email bschaniel@westga.edu <http://www.plainsfolk.com/nz-oz/>

Trevor Reese Memorial Lecture

The 2007 Reese Lecture will be given by Andrew Thompson, Professor of Commonwealth and Imperial History, University of Leeds, on 'Living the Past: Public memories of empire in twenty-first century Britain', on Thursday 26 April 2007 in the Great Hall, King's, Strand. For an invitation please contact Kirsten McIntyre.

Publications

London Papers in Australian Studies No. 13, David Ellison, *Anne Zahalka's Leisureland* *The Poetry of Peter Porter (Critical Survey, vol.18, no.1, 2006)*. Essays by Bruce Bennett, Clive James, Peter Steele, John Lucas and Adrian Caesar from our 2004 conference with the Institute of English Studies.

Overseas visitors

Since September the following have visited the Centre:

Stephen Alomes, Deakin University
Andrew Arthy, University of New England
Alan Benoussan, University of Western Sydney
Anisa Buckley, University of Melbourne
Therese Davis, University of Newcastle
Louise Douglas, National Museum of Australia
David Dunstan, NCAS, Monash University
Stephanie Fahey, Monash University
Alan Frost, La Trobe University
Sue Green, University of New South Wales
Jaroslav Kusnir, University of Presov, Slovakia
Claire McLisky, University of Melbourne
John Nethercote, ANU
Imran Lum, University of Melbourne
Liz Manning, University of Queensland
Mark O'Connor, Canberra
Eric Richards, Flinders University
Owen Stanley, James Cook University
Rosemary Webb, Southern Cross University
Matthew Zagor, ANU

Scholarships & Fellowships

Australian Bicentennial Scholarships & Fellowships

UK and Australia

Applications are invited from British or Australian postgraduate students or academic staff for Australian Bicentennial Scholarships and Fellowships tenable in 2006-7. Grants are available for research in Australia or Britain respectively for 3 months. Closing date **16 February 2007**. Further information and applications forms available from the Menzies Centre office or website.

Northcote Graduate Scholarships

This scheme is to enable students to undertake a postgraduate degree at an Australian university for a period of up to three years. Awards for 2006 were made to:
Carla Atkinson for a PhD in Biomedical Sciences at the University of Queensland
John Bourke for a PhD in Mathematics at the University of Sydney
David O'Connor for a PhD in Neuroscience at the University of Melbourne.

Dublin diary

Hilary Carey

Jan returned to Dublin after a blistering hot Australian Christmas; began teaching two courses: Australian colonial history for evening students and a survey courses on the twentieth century to a second-year group; interviewed by RTE's Donal Herlihy on the theme of Indigenous people and land rights; attended Australia Day celebration in the UCD Staff common room. *Feb* finished second in the History Quiz organised by the UCD History Club; attended lunch for the departing Australian Ambassador to Ireland, Dr John Herron; visited by Dr Graham Willett, AAD Visiting Lecturer at the Freie Universitat, Berlin; Dr Deana Heath, Trinity College Dublin, launched the semester's Australian Studies seminar with a talk on 'Making Australia white in every sense of the word'. *Mar* spoke on missionary, explorer and later political controversies about Aboriginal burials and the repatriation of Aboriginal remains at UCD conference on 'The Politics of Dead Bodies'; attended Australian Studies seminar paper on the colonial economy given by Professor Chris Lloyd. *April* Dr Wayne Atkinson spoke to my second year class about Indigenous land rights; interviewed with the Australian Ambassador, Dr Ann Plunkett, on Anzac Day for Donal O'Herlihy's RTE program 'Round Midnight'; Dawn Service at Grangegorman Cemetery Dublin; Professor Graeme Davison spoke to the Australian Studies Seminar on 'The One Day of the Year: How Anzac Became Australia's National Day'. *May* chaired a session at the 'Bare Bones of A Fanlight' conference on Georgian Dublin; attended opening of Ned Kelly Exhibition at the James Joyce House of the Dead called 'Ned at the Dead'; Australian Prime Minister John Howard addressed an open question and answer session for UCD postgraduate students and announced that the Australian Government is re-endowing the Keith Cameron Chair of Australian History. *June* co-convoked the 'Empires of Religion' conference with Hugh McCleod, University of Birmingham; attended conferences in Leeds and Cambridge. *Sept* my final semester at UCD; spoke about Religion and Empire at the University of Wuhan, China; planned for the future of the Keith Cameron Chair. *Oct* UCD Principal Hugh Brady hosted lunch for Dr Carol Nicoll, Minister-Counsellor (Education, Science and Training) in Brussels; hosted joint Australian Studies/Linguistics seminar by Dr Bill McGregor, an Australian linguist, University of Aarhus. *Nov* welcomed another Australian visitor, Professor Philip Esler, head of the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council; began to wonder about my successor, advertising for the chair should be underway in the next few months.

Hilary Carey
Keith Cameron Professor of Australian History
University College Dublin
<http://www.ucd.ie/austud/diary/diary.htm>



Professor Carey and The Prime Minister, John Howard

Menzies Centre Staff

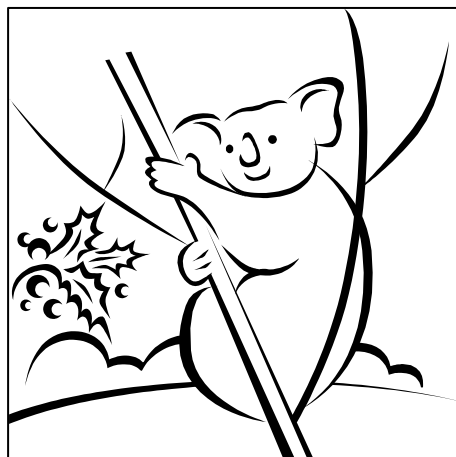
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Seminars

The Menzies Centre seminars are held usually on Wednesdays, 5.15-6.30pm. Exceptions are noted below.

Enquiries tel 020-7240 0220, menzies.centre@kcl.ac.uk

Venues

MCAS - Menzies Centre for Australian Studies, The Australia Centre, Corner Strand & Melbourne Place, London WC2

ICS - Institute for Commonwealth Studies, 28 Russell Square, London WC1

King's Strand Campus - 151-171 Strand, London WC2

Second Term 2006-7

10 January 2007 (MCAS)

Sally Gray (UNSW)

Lost in Music: art and the underground dance club

FOLLOWED BY

Farewell drinks for Catherine Kevin and John Lattin

6pm Thursday 11 January 2007 (King's Strand Campus)

Peter Murphy (Planning & Urban Development, UNSW)

The Private City

Venue: Room 2BA, Strand Campus

(Menzies-Monash Occasional Seminar in Public Policy)

24 January 2007 (MCAS)

Susan Bradley-Smith (Southern Cross)

Beyond the medical record: creative writing and well-being for Australian doctors

FOLLOWED BY

Book launch of Susan Bradley-Smith's, *Marmalade Exile* (Southern Cross University Press, 2006)

31 January 2007 (ICS)

Dylan Nichols (author)

Launch of 'What are you doing here?' *The Question of Australians in London*

7 February 2007 (MCAS)

David Jones (Queensland)

The Australian perception of security in an era of globally interconnected disintegration

14 February 2007 (MCAS)

Frank Cain (UNSW @ ADFA)

Surveillance and Non-Surveillance of Nazis in Australia 1933-9

21 February 2007 (MCAS)

Cath Ellis (Huddersfield)

Colonial Conquest and Olympic Opening Ceremonies: Canada, USA and Australia

5.30pm, 28 February 2007 (ICS)

Kathryn Heyman (Author)

Reading from and discussing her work

7 March 2007 (MCAS)

Kent Federowich (Menzies Centre and UWE)

Sir Ronald Cross, UK High Commissioner in Canberra during World War II

14 March 2007 (MCAS)

Daniel Boetker-Smith (Chester)

Bill Henson: in flagrante delicto

21 March 2007 (MCAS)

Clem Gorman (Sydney)

'Gentle Invasion, Fleeting Diaspora': African American Cultural Influences in Australia

28 March 2007 (MCAS)

Geoff Page (poet)

Reading from his work and discussing Australian poetry

FOLLOWED BY

Launch of the first issue of *Studies in Australasian Cinema* (foundation editor, Ian Henderson)

4 April 2007 (MCAS)

Robert Crawford (Monash and Menzies Centre)

Ockers in Adland Australia

Seminar Organisers: Professor Carl Bridge & Dr Ian Henderson

Contact: Dr Ian Henderson

ian.r.henderson@kcl.ac.uk Tel 020-7557 7161

Please also check our website for the latest updates

www.kcl.ac.uk/menzies/events

Publications

London Papers in Australian Studies

No. 13, **David Ellison**

Anne Zahalka's Leisureland, £3.50

No. 12, **Bill Gammage**

'far more happier than we Europeans': Aborigines and farmers, £3.50

No. 11, **David Callahan**

Is Rolf Boldrewood readable?, £3.50

No. 10, **Damen Ward**

'Savage customs and civilised laws': British attitudes to legal pluralism in Australasia, c. 1830-48, £3.50

No. 9, **Judith Robertson**

Plagiarism in Australian Lexicography, £3.50

No. 8, **Greg McCarthy**

Australian Cinema and the Spectres of Post-Coloniality: *Rabbit-Proof Fence, Australian Rules, The Tracker* and *Beneath Clouds*, £3.50

No. 7, **Anne Pender**

Nick Garland, Barry Humphries and 'The Adventures of Barry McKenzie', £3.50

No. 6, **Mark McKenna**

Building a 'closet of prayer' in the New World: the story of the Australian Ballot, £3.50

No. 5, **Hank Nelson**

From Wagga to Waddington: Australians in Bomber Command, £3.50

No. 4, **John Docker**

'Sheer Perversity' Anti-Zionism in the 1940s, £3.00

No. 3, **Cassandra Pybus**

'A Touch of the Tar': African settlers in colonial Australia and the implications for issues of Aboriginality, £3.00

No. 1, **Craig Wilcox**

The New South Wales Lancers in England and South Africa, 1899: an episode in imperial federation, £3.00

Conference papers



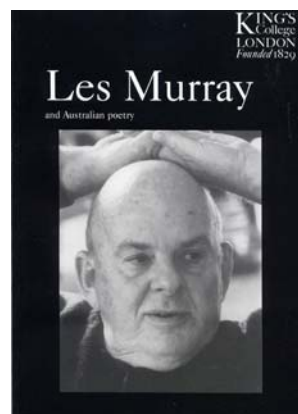
Imperial Communication: Australia, Britain, and the British Empire c. 1830-50

Simon J. Potter (ed)
£10.00



Bradman: Insights at Lord's

Carl Bridge, John Connor & David O'Reilly (eds)
£6.00



Les Murray and Australian poetry

Angela Smith (ed)
£6.00

To order publications

Please make cheques or postal orders payable to **King's College London** and send to the Secretary at the Menzies Centre, The Australia Centre, Strand, WC2B 4LG. Unfortunately we cannot accept credit cards. The cost of the publication includes postage. Overseas subscribers should ask their banks to remit by Sterling draft on a UK bank.