

Newsletter

Menzies Centre for Australian Studies

Issue 73 • September 2008

Head's message

At the Menzies Centre's recent planning day we made some important structural decisions which you will notice being implemented as the 2008-9 academic session unfolds. Our Wednesday research seminars will be held fortnightly, so creating much-needed space for other sorts of events, such as readings, book launches, and Advance briefings. Seminars, conferences and the Rydon and Menzies Foundation Fellowships will also be much more explicitly tied to the Centre's active research programme and students' needs. These and other changes reflect the fact that the Centre is producing doctorates at a much increased rate – three in the past year, respectively by Roger Beckett, Kathy Haydon (pictured right after her graduation), and Luisa Percopo – and that we now mostly have tenured academic staff with settled longer-term research plans. This is not to say that our public affairs functions will diminish or that our activities will be less interesting. We should hope rather the opposite, as the wealth of events listed inside this Newsletter attests. I trust I will see you at many of them.

Carl Bridge

Joan Rydon

Everyone at the Menzies Centre was saddened to learn of the death of Emeritus Professor Joan Rydon in Melbourne on 29 April 2008. She was one of Australia's most notable political scientists and a frequent visitor to the Centre from our first days. We owe the idea and funding of the

Rydon Fellowship to her and since 1998 nine fellows have benefited from her great foresight and generosity. The next Rydon Fellow will be Dr Andrew Dilley (Aberdeen).



*Professor Carl Bridge, Dr Kathy Haydon, Dr Ian Henderson
at Dr Haydon's graduation, July 2008*

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Staff activities

Frank Bongiorno

May submitted article on Rudd Government commissioned by *Harvard Asia Pacific Review*; published review of *Why is There No Labor Party in the United States?* by Robin Archer in *Australian Review of Public Affairs*; organised joint Menzies Centre-Goodenough College Australian, New Zealand and the Pacific Cultural Week event, a Port Talk by Associate Professor Regina Ganter (Griffith) 'Muslim Australians: The Deep Histories of Contact'; attended Australia and New Zealand Library and Archives Group meeting; attended King's College London 'Palestine, Britain & Empire: 1841-1948: a conference to mark the 60th anniversary of the end of the British Mandate in Palestine'; hosted event 'Advance Australia? The Rudd Government Six Months On', with speakers Hugh Mackay, Dr Joo-Cheong Tham and Ms Cath Bremner; presented paper 'Sexual Revolution and Counter-Revolution in Australia since 1960', University of Copenhagen, Australian Studies Symposium; co-hosted Tim Winton reading, Australia House; attended 'Political Finance' Workshop at Institute of Advanced Legal Studies; attended Monash-Menzies 'South Africans in Britain' Conference, Commonwealth Club. June Acting Director Menzies Centre (9 June-8 July); published review of *Prince of the Church: Patrick Francis Moran, 1830-1911*, by Philip Ayres, in *Australian Historical Studies*, Vol. 39, Issue 2; published review of *The Sea Coast of Bohemia: Literary Life in Sydney's Roaring Twenties*, by Peter Kirkpatrick, *Journal of the Association for the Study of Australian Literature*, Vol. 8; hosted Menzies Centre-Federal Union event in Australia House and delivered lecture on 'Federalism in Australia: How much have we learned from experience?'; met with Ross Coleman, Sydney University Press; met with Professor Sue Willis, Dean, Faculty of Education, Monash; met with Tim Oberg, Advance Global Professionals London Chapter; met with Professor Stephanie Fahey, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International), Monash; submitted commissioned draft chapter 'Whatever Happened to Free Trade Liberalism?' for Nick Dyrenfurth and Paul Strangio (eds), *Confusion: The Making of the Australian Two-Party Political System*, Melbourne University Press, forthcoming June 2009; attended speech by Deputy Prime Minister, Hon Julia Gillard, Painter Stainers' Hall, London. July attended 'Antipodean Animal' conference at Institute of Commonwealth Studies; met with Dr Rosemary Webb (Southern Cross); met with Dr Melanie Oppenheimer (University of Western Sydney), Dr Pat Starkey and Ms Georgina Brewis (Voluntary Action History Society), to discuss forthcoming Beveridge conference; met with Mr David Buckingham, Agent-General for

Victoria; judged John Ferry Prize in Local and Community History for History Council of New South Wales; met with Dr Nigel Starck (South Australia); met with Dr Maxine Darnell (UNE). Aug published article 'Howard's End: The 2007 Australian Election' in *Round Table*, Issue 397; met with Mr Alastair Lawrence (BBC Bristol) and advised on a projected documentary on the history of Australian cricket; attended inaugural Arthur Boyd Lecture, delivered by Barry Humphries at Australia House; met with Dr Simon Potter (National University of Ireland, Galway); met with Dr Emmett Sullivan (Royal Holloway, London); met with Mr Ian Hancock, Canberra. Sept attended biennial British Australian Studies Conference, *Changing Australia*, chaired one session and co-convened panel on 'The Legend and the Cringe' and delivered a paper 'Russel Ward and Race'; co-convened High Commissioners' History workshop, chaired one session and delivered paper on 'John Albert Beasley'; met with Associate Professor Sue Kossew (UNSW); interviewed on BBC 4 Woman's Hour about new Governor-General, Quentin Bryce; met with Professor Jenny Hocking (Monash); met with Dr Ben Wellings (ANU); met with Dr David Roberts (UNE), and worked with him on special issue of *Journal of Australian Colonial History* commemorating 50th Anniversary of Russel Ward, *The Australian Legend* (to be published Oct. 2008); advised UNESCO Memory of World Register Sub-committee concerning application for listing of an Australian document.

In this period co-edited co-edited *Reviews in Australian Studies*, Vol. 3, Nos 1-3.

<http://www.nla.gov.au/openpublish/index.php/ras/index>

Carl Bridge

May delivered an invited paper on 'The Changing Public Faces of Bradman' to the Representations of Sport conference, Huston School of Film & Digital Media, University College Galway; attended the 'Political Finance' workshop at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies; attended Monash-Menzies conference on 'South Africans in London' at the Commonwealth Club. June attended the Western Australia Foundation Day service at the Chapel Royal, Savoy; lectured on 'William Dampier' to the Britain-Australia Society West of England Branch, East Coker, Somerset; spoke at the launch of my book, *A Delicate Mission: The Washington Diaries of R. G. Casey* (NLA, 2008) at the National Library of Australia, Canberra; visited Dr David Lee (DFAT), Dr John Connor (ADFA), and Mr Scott Bennett (Parliamentary Library) while in Canberra; in Melbourne had meetings at Monash with Professors Rae Frances (Dean of Arts), Bruce Scates (Director, National Centre for Australian Studies), John Arnold (NCAS), Dr David Dunstan (NCAS), Professor Graeme Davison

(History), Dr Jane Kenway (Education), and Dr John Nieuwenhuysen (Director, Monash Institute for the Study of Global Movements), at the University of Melbourne with Professors Stuart Macintyre and Joy Damousi (History), and at the Menzies Foundation with Professor John Coghlan (Director) and Ms Sandra Mackenzie (Secretary). *July* attended Dr Kathy Haydon's graduation. *Aug* advised Alastair Lawrence (BBC TV, Bristol) on a projected documentary on the history of Australian cricket; attended Australian Business breakfast with Dr Brendon Nelson, Leader of the Opposition in the Federal Parliament; interviewed by BBC World Service Radio 'Learning English' Programme on 'Australia and China'. *Sept* chaired a plenary session at the British Australian Studies Association Biennial Conference at Royal Holloway, University of London; co-convened at a workshop with Dr Bongiorno and Dr David Lee (DFAT) on 'The High Commissioners' and delivered a paper on 'S.M. Bruce as High Commissioner during the Second World War', and spoke at the London launch of *A Delicate Mission*, Australia House.

In this period co-edited co-edited *Reviews in Australian Studies*, Vol. 3, Nos 1-3.

Robert Crawford

May attended Eastern European Diaspora Conference at Queen Mary, University of London; attended Menzies/Advance event; delivered paper at Australian Studies Symposium at University of Copenhagen; convened and delivered paper at the 'South Africans in Britain' Symposium at The Commonwealth Club. *June* met with Professor Tommy Du Plessis (Northwest University, Potchestroom, South Africa); visited Monash South Africa and met with Professor Dina Burger, Professor Iain Edwards, Professor Michael Neocosmos, Hester Stols, Priscilla Appama and presented seminar; interviewed by *News24*, *Rapport*, *Sunday Times*, *City News*, *TNT Magazine*; published article 'Advertising in Sydney', *Sydney Journal*, vol.1 no.2, June 2008, pp.24-33. *July* delivered paper at Diasporas: Exploring Critical Issues conference, Mansfield College, Oxford; travelled to National Museum of Australia to take up NMA Visiting Fellowship; published article "n Lewe in Klein Johannesburg", *Rapport*, 6 July 2008, p.21; published article 'Celebration of Another Nation?: Australia's Bicentenary in Britain', *History Compass*, vol.6 no.4, July 2008, pp.1066-90. *Aug* presented seminar to staff at National Museum of Australia; met with Dr Peter Stanley, Dr Maria Nugent, Mat Trinca (NMA), Professor Graeme Davison, Professor Jenny Hocking, Dr David Dunstan (Monash), Associate Professor Bridget Griffen-Foley (Macquarie), Professor John Sinclair (Melbourne); met with Professor John Nieuwenhuysen to discuss the

possibility of organising two further Monash-Menzies symposia for 2009; interviewed by *AdNews*; interviewed by Media Report, ABC Radio National. *Sept* delivered paper at BASA conference, Royal Holloway, University of London; attended High Commissioners workshop, Australia House.

In this period co-edited co-edited *Reviews in Australian Studies*, Vol. 3, Nos 1-3.

Ian Henderson

April-June gave a paper titled 'Behind Enemy Lines: Aboriginality and War in Indigenous literature and film', at the 'The Digger and the Larrikin Live On' conference; took part in the second annual workshop of the Australia and New Zealand Libraries Group (ANZLAG), organized by Dr David Clover of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies; attended the opening of the Brook Andrew exhibition at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge; attended lectures by Regina Ganter (Griffith) on interactions between Yolgnu and Macassan peoples in the north of Australia at Goodenough College, by Dr Stephen Gilchrist (National Gallery of Victoria) on the Gallery's recent acquisitions in Indigenous art (at the Australia House), and by Hon Julia Gillard hosted by the City of London Corporation. Also attended the second meeting of researchers from MCAS and the Copenhagen Australian Studies Centre; prepared for the Antipodean Animal conference. *Jul* began five months of study leave.

Rydon Fellow

Joo-Cheong Tham

From March to June 2008, I had the wonderful privilege of taking up the Rydon Fellowship at the Menzies Centre, while on sabbatical from the University of Melbourne Law School. I worked on two projects: one on political funding in Australia and, the other, a comparative study of control orders in Australia and the United Kingdom. As part of the first project, I co-organised an international workshop (see report below) and spoke at the public seminar, 'Advance Australia? The Rudd Government, six months on' organised by Advance London and the Menzies Centre. In that talk, I provided an overview of the changes proposed by the Rudd Labor government to the funding of Australian politics. The second project gave rise to a series of presentations. I spoke on 'Australian Control Orders and the Logic of Pre-Emption' as part of the Menzies Centre's seminar series. Together with Professor Keith Ewing, Law School, King's College London, I presented a paper to the Cambridge Public Law Discussion Group critiquing the recent House of Lords' decisions on UK control orders. A presentation entitled 'Parliamentary Deliberation and the

Tyranny of the National Security Executive: The Case of Control Orders in Australia and the United Kingdom' was also given at the law schools of London School of Economics and Oxford University.

Menzies Foundation Fellow

Rebe Taylor

Since arriving in early May, I have enjoyed a very productive and exciting time researching the Tasmanian Aboriginal collections in various museums. From mid-May mid-June I researched in the British Museum, navigating their very complicated archival records to discover some excellent correspondence relating to their important Tasmanian collections. From June to August I made a series of trips to the British Museum's Ethnographic Store to study their large Tasmanian collection and photograph all their Tasmanian artefacts. In June I also visited the Horniman Museum, in South London, to study their small Tasmanian collection and the Royal Anthropological Institute in London to examine their relevant archives. In July I went to Oxford and Cambridge to look at their unique collections. In early August I spent a week at the Manchester Museum, making an important discovery of the manuscript papers of Henry Ling Roth's *The Aboriginal Tasmanians* as well as examining the museum's small Tasmanian collection. Since May I have spent many profitable days in the British Library and have also compiled, via correspondence, detailed information about the Tasmanian Aboriginal collections in over 20 museums and other institutions in Europe, the United States and Australia.

Event reports

The Digger and the Larrikin live on

Anzac Weekend at the Imperial War Museum London, 26-27 April 2008

This collaborative event with the Imperial War Museum (IWM), following on from previous joint conferences between the Menzies Centre and the IWM held to coincide with Anzac weekend, was once again a great success. Professor Bridge formally opened the conference with some deeply moving recollections of his boyhood encounters with the Anzac Memorial in Sydney and his first visit to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. He was followed with a highly entertaining, if rather knockabout presentation by distinguished military historian, Peter Hart (IWM), on what was wrong with the strategic thinking behind, and execution of, the Gallipoli campaign. He had plenty of material to work with.

Visitors from Australia included Anne-Marie Condé (Australian War Memorial), who triggered a flood of memories from some members of the audience with her presentation on the Australian War Memorial's famous battle dioramas; Stephen Gapps (ANU) who looked with an eye both sympathetic and critical on the historical re-enactment movement in Australia; and Anne M. Brennan, interpreting the commemorative impulse behind the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander War memorial in Canberra.

Menzies Centre participants included Dr Henderson, who surveyed the relationship of Aboriginality to the experience of war in books by Jack Davis and Sally Morgan, and Dr Bongiorno, who looked at the complex and evolving relations of Australian military tradition to Aboriginality, multiculturalism and national identity.

Sarah Paterson examined a neglected aspect of the Gallipoli campaign, the provision of nursing, and explored the experiences of some of the women involved in it. Sarah Davy later turned attention to New Zealand, examining the place of military iconography in decorative and graphic arts. Dr Garth Pratten (Royal Military Academy Sandhurst) opened the conference's second day with a survey of the Australian War Memorial salient in Australia's History Wars. Garth shared a perspective derived from his experience as a military historian, as well as from his many years as a member of the AWM staff.

Other highlights included Dr Toby Haggith's presentation of some film footage from the IWM's own collection of early battlefield tours. The screening was accompanied by a delightful live piano performance recalling the golden age of silent cinema. There was also a well-received screening of Caroline Cannon's recent documentary, *In the footsteps of the Anzacs, the pilgrimage of a new generation*; a film that followed the tour of a group of Australian children to Western Front battlefields, and their French counterparts' return visit to Australia. The impression conveyed was that rural Australia provided a sharper cross-cultural shock for the young French sojourners than did provincial France for their antipodean counterparts.

There was very lively discussion throughout the two days, especially concerning the complex threads connecting war, memory and national identity. The conference was recorded for the IWM's archives, but it is expected that some of the papers will also become available in published form. FB

Advance Australia? The Rudd Government Six Months On

14 May 2008

This event, organised by the Menzies Centre in partnership with the London Chapter of Advance Global

Professionals, was held in the Edmond J. Safra Lecture Theatre in King's College London's Strand Building, and follows on from the successful post-election seminar held in November 2007. Hugh Mackay, a leading Australian social researcher, Cath Bremner, Head of Corporate Development at the Carbon Trust, and Dr Joo-Cheong Tham, Senior Lecturer in Law at Melbourne University and our 2007-8 Rydon Fellow, spoke to an audience of around 100 about Australia six months on from the election of the Rudd Government. Hugh Mackay discussed the way in which the Kevin Rudd had managed to capture a dramatic shift in public mood during 2007 as Australians left behind a 'dreamy period' of preoccupation with home renovations and their own backyards and once again re-engaged with public issues such as industrial relations and climate change. Cath Bremner, an Australian environmental scientist working in London, talked about her recent visit home and the move towards a system of carbon trading. Dr Tham examined the Rudd Government's early efforts to grapple with the issue of the influence of money on politics, using it as a barometer with which to assess the health of the country's political culture as it enters the Rudd era. The presentations were followed by a lively discussion, in which Hugh McKay warned the audience that the very high expectations that so many had invested in the new government meant that it couldn't help but disappoint. Indeed, all of the speakers emphasised the daunting challenges faced by the new government. FB

Tim Winton Interview/Reading

27 May 2008

The acclaimed Australian novelist, Tim Winton, was interviewed by well-known British author, Salley Vickers, and read from his new book *Breath*. The Menzies Centre event, held at Australia House, had been fully booked out for weeks before it was held and attracted an audience of about 90. Tim Winton spoke about the manifold ways in which his Western Australian upbringing had shaped his writing, especially recalling a life-changing car accident in vivid and moving terms. The audience, including one of its younger members familiar with Tim Winton's writing for children, appreciated the opportunity to ask him questions about his work. It's obvious that he has a devoted following in London. FB

Political Finance Workshop

29 May 2008

The Menzies Centre, together with the Law School, King's College London, sponsored this highly successful workshop on political finance. Organised by Professor Keith Ewing (Law School, King's College London), Jacob Rowbottom

(Law Faculty, Cambridge) and Dr Joo-Cheong Tham (Law Faculty, Melbourne and Rydon Fellow, Menzies Centre), the workshop brought together a distinguished gathering of experts drawn from three continents with specialists from Australia, Canada, Germany, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States discussing four themes: the role of parties and party funding; institutional contributions; regulating election campaigns and the media; public law and the governance and funding of political parties. The result was a rich blend of perspectives from different jurisdictions and disciplines. It is anticipated that the workshop presentations will be published as an edited collection. FB

South Africans in Britain

30 May 2008

This symposium was staged at The Commonwealth Club. Organised by the Menzies Centre, the Monash Institute for the Study of Global Movements, and Monash South Africa, the symposium brought together various academics and community figures to discuss the South African experiences of living and working in the UK. The Symposium was opened by Mr Cyril Ndaba, the Deputy High Commissioner for South Africa and the keynote address was delivered by Emeritus Professor Shula Marks. Papers covered various issues, including the decision to leave South Africa, the South African impact in the UK, the value of cultural links and exchanges, and the issue of returning back to South Africa. Over the course of the day, the event attracted 60 participants. This work provides a valuable comparative yardstick for the Menzies Centre's research project on Australians in the United Kingdom. RC

Federalism in Australia

11 June 2008

This event was organised jointly between Federal Union and the Menzies Centre and held at Australia House. A formal welcome was delivered to the audience of about 30 by the Acting Deputy High Commissioner, Jon Philp, and the duties of chair were performed by Mr Brendan Donnelly, Chair of the Federal Union and Director of the Federal Trust. Dr Bongiorno spoke on 'Federalism in Australia: How much have we learned from experience?'. He explored the historical background to the making of the Australian constitution, and outlined its major features in terms of the relationship between the House of Representatives and the Senate, and the division of powers and responsibilities between the Federal and State governments. He then examined the reasons for the growing centralisation of power in the Commonwealth since the early-twentieth century and surveyed some

recent debates and developments in light of the new Australian Government's plans for a cooperative federalism. The full text of the lecture can be viewed at: <http://www.federalunion.org.uk/federalism/Federalism%20in%20Australia.pdf> FB

Antipodean Animal

7-8 July 2008

This two-day conference was convened by Dr Henderson and held in the Institute of Commonwealth Studies. Emus, kangaroos, wrens, dogs, cats, snakes, pigs, squid and the extinct thylacine (or so-called Tasmanian Tiger) shared the stage with leading international scholars from a variety of disciplines to explore aspects of animality in antipodean literature, culture, history and society. Keynote speakers included the distinguished art historian Professor Steve Baker (University of Central Lancashire) who as the author of two path-breaking human-animal studies, explored representations of animality in contemporary Australian art; Associate Professor Deb Verhoeven (RMIT) the author of the recent study *Sheep and Australian Cinema*, who this time turned her attention to Lewis Milestone's Twentieth Century Fox production, *Kangaroo*; and Dr Libby Robin (ANU), the author of several important environmental histories, who shared her research on the place of the emu in the Australian imagination. Dr Henderson provided an introduction to the conference in the opening session while Rowena Altheer, an MPhil graduate of the Menzies Centre, examined the nuances of Australian attitudes to the two animals featured on the coat of arms, the emu and the kangaroo.

The range of papers attested to the growing importance of animal studies in the social sciences and humanities, and included contributions from literature, film studies, fine arts, history, cultural studies, anthropology, museum studies, media studies and performance art. The conference initiated the kinds of conversations between scholars that can only happen when disciplinary boundaries are crossed, and scholars in Australia brought together with colleagues working elsewhere in the world on antipodean subjects. FB

Changing Australia

British Australian Studies Association Biennial conference, 2-5 September 2008

The conference took place at Royal Holloway, University of London. There were over 60 papers presented, from a wide range of disciplines. Keynote speakers included Michael Williams, Head, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit, University of Queensland, Gay McAuley, Honorary Professor, Performance Studies,

Sydney, Peta Tait, Professor of Theatre and Drama, La Trobe and Jacqueline Lo, Head, School of Humanities, ANU. Menzies Centre staff and students presented papers and chaired sessions, while PhD student Tim Causer and Dr Henderson, were members of the organising committee. Drs Henderson and Bongiorno co-convened a stream of six papers on 'The Legend and the Cringe: Transforming Australian Identities' to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Russel Ward's *The Australian Legend*, and A.A. Phillips, *The Australian Tradition* (which included his famous essay, 'The Cultural Cringe'). Presenters in this highly successful panel included Stuart Ward (University College Dublin); Dr Bongiorno; Dr Henderson; Dr Crawford; Debra Low (Jacaranda Theatre, London) and David Roberts (UNE). Professor Richard Nile (Curtin) was chair and discussant.

On the final day, Dr Henderson spoke about his joint Australian Research Council-funded project with Dr Anne Pender (UNE), Professor Bruce Bennett (ADFA) and Kerry Kilner (Queensland) on Australian expatriate writers in the United Kingdom. This stimulating session was followed by a panel of three expatriates – not that they necessarily see themselves as such – Peter Porter, Phillip Knightley and Susan Johnson, who shared their thoughts and experiences on life as an Australian in the London corner of the global village.

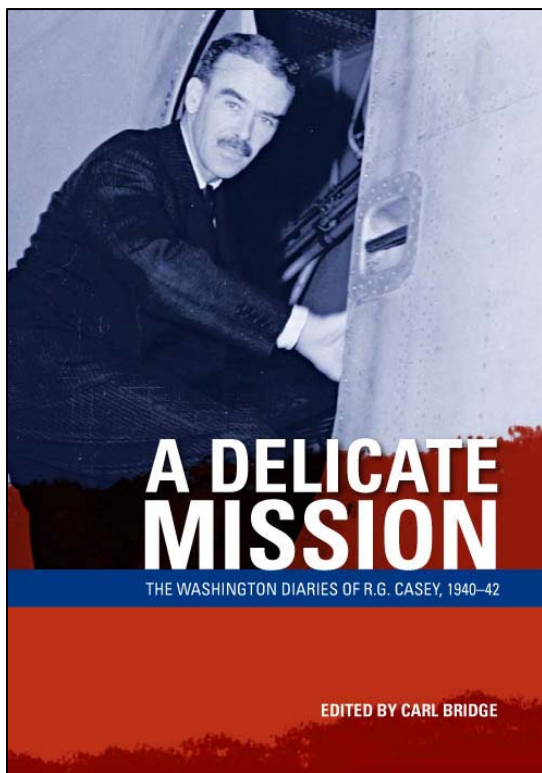
Other Menzies Centre participants included Tim Causer, recently returned from field work in Australia, who presented a paper based on his doctoral work on convictism in Norfolk Island; and Kathleen Birrell, a PhD student at Melbourne and Birkbeck and a long term visitor in the Menzies Centre, who spoke on her thesis subject of 'Australian Indigeneity in Law & Literature'. FB

The High Commissioners

8-9 September 2008

This was the first of two workshops convened by Professor Bridge and Dr Bongiorno and Dr David Lee from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Canberra, whose purpose is to produce a book on The High Commissioners to mark the centenary in January 2010 of the office of Australian High Commissioner to the UK. Twenty invitees attended. The meeting was opened by HE Mr John Dauth, High Commissioner for Australia to the UK, and papers on various high commissioners, on the office, and the building were presented by Professor Bridge, Dr Bongiorno, Dr Bernard Attard (Leicester), Sir Roger Carrick (former UK High Commissioner to Australia), Dr James Curran (Sydney), Dr Kent Fedorowich (University of the West of England), Professor David Lowe (Deakin), Associate Professor Neville Meaney (Sydney), Dr Olwen Pryke (State Library of NSW), Dr Simon Sleight (Monash), and Professor Stuart Ward (UCD). On the first evening Mr

Michael Cook, chairman of the Menzies Centre's Board and former Australian Ambassador to the United States, launched Professor Bridge's new book, *A Delicate Mission: The Washington Diaries of R.G. Casey, 1940-1942* (National Library of Australia). CB



Forthcoming Centre events

Opera Indigene

27 September 2008 King's College London, Waterloo

28 September 2008 Menzies Centre

This conference is a collaboration between the Centre for Research in Opera and Music Theatre, University of Sussex, the Department of Drama, University of the West of England, and the Menzies Centre. It will examine how representations of indigeneity are negotiated in opera, and how these representations of First Nations' cultures relate to historical and contemporary constructions of cultural and national identity. Conference Fee: £60 waged; £15 unwaged/student. One-day attendance: £30 waged and £7.50 unwaged/student

Programme <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/cromt/1-3-8.html>

Registration ian.r.henderson@kcl.ac.uk

In the space of elsewhere: Artist Talks by Vernon Ah Kee and Sandra Selig

6.00pm for 6.30pm, Thursday 2 October 2008

Venue: Downer Room, Australian High Commission, Australia House, The Strand, London, WC2B 4LA

RSVP (for security purposes by 1 October 2008):

menzies.centre@kcl.ac.uk

Organised by the Menzies Centre in conjunction with the Stanleypickergallery, Kingston University London. For more information www.stanleypickergallery.org

William Beveridge's *Voluntary Action* 60 years on

27-28 November 2008, London

In the 60th anniversary year of the publication of William Beveridge's *Voluntary Action* a symposium, with the Voluntary Action History Society, will be held to re-evaluate the ideas contained in the report and reassess its impact on the UK and other countries in the British World, especially Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

Speakers include: Frank Prochaska (Yale), Jose Harris (Oxford), Nick Deakin, Pat Thane (London), Jill Roe (Macquarie), Margaret Tennant (Massey), Dan Weinbren (Open), Peter Elson (Toronto), Paul Smyth (Melbourne), Melanie Oppenheimer (UWS), and Karl Wilding and Ann Blackmore (NCVO).

Conveners: Associate Professor Melanie Oppenheimer, UWS, m.oppenheimer@uws.edu.au; Georgina Brewis, Voluntary History Society; and Dr Bongiorno, Menzies Centre, frank.bongiorno@kcl.ac.uk

Venue: Australia House, London, WC2

Registration fee: £50 waged; £35 unwaged.

Minding Animals

King's College London, 5 December 2008
University of Newcastle, Australia, 13-18 July 2009

Antipodean Animal was formally linked to the international Minding Animals conference to be held at the University of Newcastle, Australia, 13-18 July 2009. On 5 December 2008, King's College London will host a lecture day in the lead-up to this conference. Details are to be announced, but do pencil this event into your diaries for 12noon-7pm, Minding Animals Lecture Day, Franklin-Wilkins Building, King's College London, Waterloo Campus. The cost of this event will be around £20 including a late lunch. For further information or contact ian.r.henderson@kcl.ac.uk Information on the University of Newcastle's Minding Animals conference are at <http://www.mindinganimals.com/>

Patrick White

January 2010

Call for expressions of interest

The Menzies Centre will be hosting an international conference on Patrick White in January 2010 to mark the twentieth anniversary of White's death. Expressions of interest in this conference are invited by Dr Henderson. Contact: ian.r.henderson@kcl.ac.uk

Other forthcoming events

Australian & New Zealand Studies
Association of North America

26-28 February 2009, Calgary

Call for Papers

ANZSANA is a multidisciplinary organization and welcomes papers on any aspect of Australian or New Zealand studies and comparative studies involving Australia, New Zealand, and North America.

The deadline for submission of proposals is 5 DECEMBER 2008. Please send paper proposals to: Dr Greg Brown, Center for Australian and New Zealand Studies, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Box 571021, Georgetown University, Washington, DC 20057-1021, USA; gsb23@georgetown.edu; www.anzsana.net

Convict #11

I would like to think, in an attempt to assuage my vanity, this is what De Niro would do if he were researching convicts for his PhD: go Method and become Convict #11. At least, this is my excuse for spending a day as an extra during the filming of *The Last Confession of Alexander Pearce*, a docu-drama produced for the ABC by Essential Viewing. From what I've heard about this production, *The Last Confession* will be a bit more nuanced and humanise Pearce a little, and will hopefully avoid the usual facile conclusion of painting him as an out-and-out psychopath.

The story of Alexander Pearce, perhaps made most famous by Marcus Clarke in *His Natural Life*, is one of those enduring tales of horror which emerged from the convict system. For those unfamiliar with the story, Pearce and a group of fellow prisoners absconded from the Macquarie Harbour penal settlement into the forbidding bush of the west coast of Tasmania. Being woefully unprepared for the journey the group's food soon ran out, and they began to kill and eat each other, one man at a time. Pearce was the

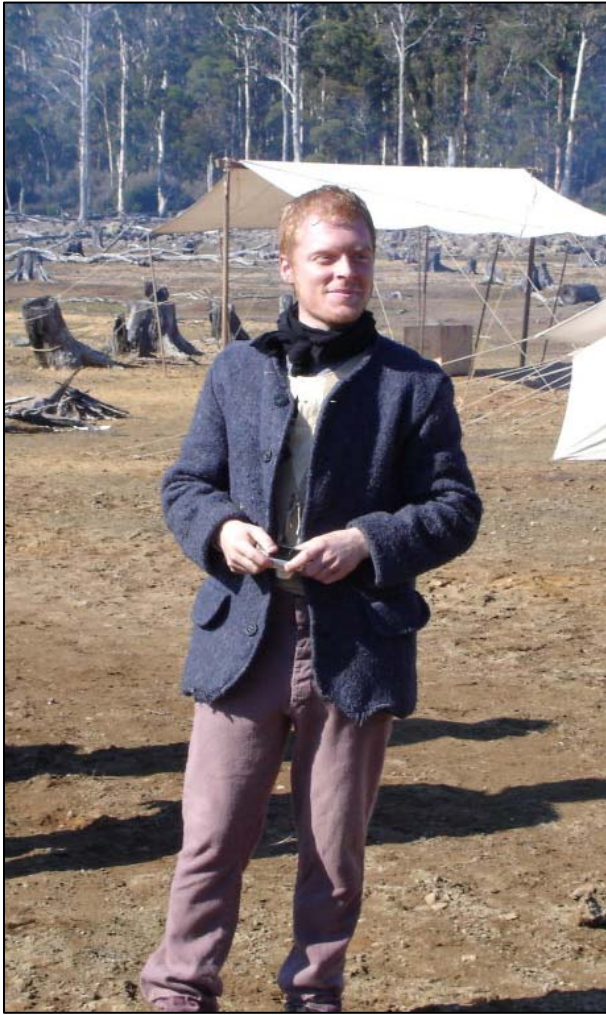
only survivor and, when apprehended, he confessed all to the authorities. However, since the authorities believed civilised white men would never do such a thing (ignoring the fact that cannibalism had occurred in the British navy), it was assumed Pearce was covering for his mates who were supposed to be still at large. He was returned to Macquarie Harbour as punishment, from where he absconded again, taking with him another prisoner named Cox. Pearce, apparently enraged when they reached a river and Cox confessed he could not swim, murdered him and ate parts of his flesh. When Pearce was arrested this time, pieces of Cox were found on him and the mangled corpse was later discovered. For this, Pearce was executed.

After being bussed up to Derwent Bridge in Western Tasmania, around 20 men of various shapes, sizes, ages and with differing degrees of facial hair were turned loose and left to the mercies of the make-up and wardrobe departments. We then moved along the conveyor belt, entering as men of the twentieth century and emerging from the wardrobe shed as dirty, unkempt and unshaven denizens of Sarah Island, ready to be set to work.

And put to work we were. We were filmed while looking industrious as Pearce (played by Ciaran McMenamin) was flogged on the other side of the river, in several panoramic shots of what was supposed to be an analogue for Macquarie Harbour. Some of my felonious colleagues were rather eager: one man dug a 4 foot trench, while two others sawed through an enormous tree-trunk several times over. I thought I would stick to that perhaps more common convict work-pattern: looking busy for a few moments, followed by skiving until the guard wandered back into view.

Eventually the film crew made their way over the river onto 'Sarah Island', to film us a little more closely, Pearce was flogged another couple of times. I am proud to report that I am directly in one scene, looking fearfully at Pearce, who had just been returned to Macquarie Harbour for the second time. I worry that I look more constipated than terrified.

I would recommend being an extra as an experience, though having to do it as a main source of income would be crushingly dull. Watching the director painstakingly line-up each particular scene, and how he moved people, props and the camera until he had everything right was particularly instructive, and makes me appreciate just how long it takes to film even the shortest bit of action. I was, however, delighted to wash off the synthi-dirt and have a shave again. For the benefit of the Immigration Department, I add that I did this for free. No need to deport me just yet. *The Last Confession of Alexander Pearce* will be shown on the ABC in October. TC



Tim Causer is an AHRC funded PhD student at the Menzies Centre

Australian Bicentennial Scholarships & Fellowships

2008 awards were made to:

Jade Boyd, Visual Artist, Kyogle, NSW
 Melissa Bubnic, Playwright, Parkville, VIC
 Nicola Crowe, Flautist, Leichhardt, NSW
 Benjamin Daly, Zoologist, Bondi, NSW
 Erin Guiliani, History, University of Queensland
 Christopher Macallister, Politics, University of Leicester
 Kerry Neale, History, ADFA, UNSW
 Daniel Pascoe, Lawyer, Griffith, ACT
 Matthew Potter, Art History, University of Plymouth
 Julie Sommerfeldt, Book Conservation, National Library of
 Australia, Canberra, ACT

Danielle Williams, Chemistry, University of Adelaide

Publications

Centre publications

London Papers in Australian Studies,
 No. 16, **Kent Fedorowich**

*'At War With Canberra': Sir Ronald Cross and the British High
 Commission, 1941-42* (£3.50)

No. 15 **Peter Shergold**

*From 'frank and fearless' to 'fumbling and forgetful'? The perceived
 decline of the Australian Public Service* (£3.50)

Other publications

Robert Crawford, *But Wait, There's More... A History of
 Australian Advertising, 1900-2000*, Melbourne University
 Press, is the first detailed history of the Australian
 advertising industry, exploring its development over the
 course of the twentieth century from a disorganised group
 of individuals selling newspaper space to a multi-billion
 dollar enterprise run by giant transnationals. It follows the
 admen and adwomen who worked to convert their
 audiences into consumers and examines their ongoing
 quest for legitimacy in the face of new technologies and an
 increasingly sophisticated and media-savvy audience.



Studies in Australasian Cinema

The first issue of the second volume of *Studies in
 Australasian Cinema* edited by Dr Henderson (Menzies
 Centre) will be out by the time you receive this
 newsletter. The first issue features papers derived from
 the Menzies Centre's symposium held as part of the

Barbican London Australian Film Festival, including Anna Cole's paper on her forthcoming documentary, *Dancing with the Prime Minister*, Silvana Tuccio on *The Home Song Stories* (Ayres, 2007), and the Dr Crawford on 'the unsung relationship between Australia's film and advertising industries'. Andrew Hurley also contributes a major study of Michael Edols' films, and other contributions include Luisa Pèrcopo on *Looking for Alibrandi* (Woods, 2000), Ben Miller on *Radiance* (Perkins, 1998) and Catherine Simpson on country towns in Australian cinema. Issues 2 and 3 of this year's *Studies in Australasian Cinema* are guest edited by Belinda Smaill (Monash), Audrey Yue (Melbourne) and Olivia Khoo (UNSW) and each is focused on Asian Australian Cinema. Do also encourage your institution to subscribe! The journal has ISSN 17503175. Individual annual subscription to this journal is £33 (three issues) + postage.

<http://www.intellectbooks.co.uk/journals.php?issn=17503175>

Journal of Australian Colonial History

The *Journal of Australian Colonial History* is published by the University of New England, New South Wales, and the forthcoming issue (co-edited by David Andrew Roberts, UNE and Frank Bongiorno, King's College London) is a special issue *Russel Ward: Reflectionson a Legend*, which will mark the fiftieth anniversary of Ward's landmark publication, *The Australian Legend*. Contributors include Angela Woollacott, Alan Atkinson, Joy Damousi, Humphrey McQueen, Carl Bridge, Lisa Featherstone, the late Robin Gollan, John Merritt, Lyndon Megarrity, David Kent, Jeremy Beckett, Charlie Ward, Anne Coote, Ben Maddison, Drew Cottle, Frank Bongiorno and David Roberts. There is a special offer to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the *Journal of Australian Colonial History*. For \$AUD33, you will receive a copy of this forthcoming issue as well as the earlier special issue, *Eureka: Releasing the Spirit of Democracy*. For further information, please contact Dr David Andrew Roberts: jach@une.edu.au

Reviews in Australian Studies

Reviews in Australian Studies is devoted to reviewing the latest publications on Australian subjects and is co-edited by Professor Carl Bridge, Dr Robert Crawford and Dr Frank Bongiorno. It is published ten times a year by the Menzies Centre for Australian Studies and the National Library of Australia. Volume 3, Numbers 1, 2 and 3 have all appeared during 2008, and the latest Number can be seen at <http://www.nla.gov.au/openpublish/index.php/ras>

If you would like to receive regular email notification of recently published issues, go to this web-site and follow the prompts.

Visitors

Since January the following have visited the Centre:

John Arnold, Monash
 Emily Ballou, writer
 Bruce Bennett, ADFA at UNSW
 Kathleen Birrell, Melbourne/Birkbeck
 Leigh Boucher, Roehampton/Monash
 Ian Campbell, Australian Electoral Commission
 Katherine Campbell, of Dept of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations, Australia
 Vanessa Castejon, Université Paris 13
 John Chesterman, Melbourne
 Sebastian Clark, Melbourne
 Ross Coleman, Sydney
 James Curran, Sydney
 Paul Dacey, Australian Electoral Commission
 Maxine Darnell, UNE
 Peter Edwards, South Gippsland
 Stephanie Fahey, Monash
 Regina Ganter, Griffith
 David Goldsworthy, Melbourne
 Jeff Grey, ADFA
 Ian Hancock, ANU
 Steve Hemming, Flinders
 Jenny Hocking, Monash
 Michael Hogan, Sydney
 Sophie Jensen, National Museum of Australia/ANU
 Kerry Kilner, UQ
 John Kinsella, Edith Cowan and Kenyon College
 Sue Kossew, UNSW
 David Lowe, Deakin
 Colleen McGloin, Wollongong
 Perry McIntyre, UWS
 Hugh Mackay, H+SS/ADFA
 Neville Meaney, Sydney
 John Murray, Canberra
 Melanie Oppenheimer, UWS
 Anne Pender, UNE
 Sylvia Petter, UNSW
 Simon Potter, National University of Ireland, Galway
 Olwen Pryke, State Library of NSW
 David Ritter, UWA
 David Roberts, UNE
 Libby Robin, ANU
 Liz Rushen, Monash
 Michael Simmonds, Monash
 Simon Sleight, Monash

Mike Smith, National Museum of Australia
Nigel Starck, University of South Australia
Deb Verhoeven, RMIT
Stuart Ward, University College Dublin
Rosemary Webb, Southern Cross
Ben Wellings, ANU
Brad West, Flinders
Sue Willis, Monash
Tim Winton, writer
Alexis Wright, writer

Exhibition: Under the Southern Cross

*9 September - 13 December 2008
Weston Room, Maughan Library, King's College
London, Chancery Lane, WC2A 1LR
Foyle Special Collections Library*

This exhibition explores the experiences of the early European settlers in Australia and New Zealand, as they began new lives under unfamiliar skies filled with strange constellations, such as the Southern Cross. It looks too at the effect they had upon the landscape, wildlife and indigenous populations of their new homelands. Many items included in the exhibition are from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Historical Collection, which was transferred to King's in 2007.

The exhibition is open Monday-Saturday.
For tickets and more information ring 020-7848 1848 or visit <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/iss/library/spec/exhib/>

National Museum of Australia Visiting Fellowship

The National Museum of Australia is inviting applications for its 2009 Visiting Fellowship program from established scholars and writers with a record of achievement in the Museum's fields of interest. The fellowships are awarded for periods of up to two months and offer financial assistance of up to \$15,000. Enquiries: Ms Anne Faris, a.faris@nma.gov.au). Applications close 31 October 2008. Guidelines and application forms can be found on www.nma.gov.au/research/fellowships

Menzies Centre Staff

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New Newsletter distribution arrangements

From December 2008 the Menzies Centre Newsletter will appear twice annually in May and December.

Hard copy will be distributed to individual UK and European subscribers. Other individual overseas subscribers will receive an email version. All institutions, however, will continue to receive hard copy.

Would overseas subscribers please contact us on menzies.centre@kcl.ac.uk with their preferred email addresses.

Seminars

Time (unless otherwise indicated): 5.15pm, Wednesdays

Venue (unless otherwise indicated): Menzies Centre for Australian Studies, Australia Centre, Corner Strand and Melbourne Place, WC2B 4LG. All seminars are free, and members of the public are welcome to attend.

For security reasons please

RSVP to menzies.centre@kcl.ac.uk or ring 020-7240 0220

First Term 2008-9

1 October

Geoffrey Hawker (Macquarie)

The Liberal Party of Australia: How Will It Rise Again?

(Monash-Menzies Public Policy Seminar)

Venue: Edmond J Safra Lecture Theatre, King's College London, Strand, WC2R 2LS

Thursday 2 October 2008, 6.00pm for 6.30pm

In the space of elsewhere: Artist Talks by Vernon Ah Kee and Sandra Selig

Venue: Downer Room, Australian High Commission, Australia House, The Strand, London, WC2B 4LA

RSVP (for security purposes by 1 October 2008)

menzies.centre@kcl.ac.uk

15 October

5.15pm Carol Johnson (Adelaide)

The Rudd Government and Labor Tradition

(Monash-Menzies Public Policy Seminar)

followed by:

6.30pm Jaya Savige

Reading poems from Latecomers and other works

5.00pm Tuesday 28 October

Bernard Attard (Leicester), David Cannadine (IHR), Andrew Dilley (Aberdeen) and Andrew Smith (Laurentian)

British Investment and the Creation of Australia and Canada Workshop

Co-organised with the Institute for the Study of the Americas. Venue: Institute of Commonwealth Studies, 28 Russell Square, WC1B 5DS

29 October

Alison Clark, Emily Herdman and Devorah Romanek (British Museum)

Australia in London: a snapshot of the British Museum's Australian photographic collection

5 November

Julie Evans (Melbourne)

Beyond the pale: sovereignty, legitimacy, and Indigenous peoples

12 November

Mads Clausen (Copenhagen)

The Vortex Is Here: Asia and Australian Post-Imperial Nationhood

26 November

Alan Cadwallader (Flinders)

Empire, Faith and Socialism: the Bishop of Durham and the Church's colonial responsibility

3 December

Brian Costar (Swinburne)

Political Money in Australia

Venue: Edmond J Safra Lecture Theatre, King's College London, Strand, WC2R 2LS

10 December

David Bird (Carey College, Melbourne)

Aspects of Australian Appeasement, 1932-40

Contact: Dr Frank Bongiorno, frank.bongiorno@kcl.ac.uk

Tel 020-7557 7162. Please also check our website for the latest updates www.kcl.ac.uk/menzies/events

Events in planning for 2008-9

Advance-Menzies Centre Briefing on 'Australians in Britain' (November 2008)

Annual Menzies Lecture to be delivered by Professor Glyn Davis, Vice-Chancellor, Melbourne (late Jan 2009)

Staff-student Research Presentation Day (early 2009)

Monash-Menzies Comparative Australia/New Zealand/South African communities in the UK

Research Workshop (early 2009)

Monash-Menzies Anglo-Australian Trade and Investment Workshop (mid 2009)

Symposium on the history of Australian music (mid 2009)

Trevor Reese Memorial Lecture (June 2009)

Advance-Menzies Centre Briefing on Cricket (June 2009)

Monash-Menzies Centre Conference convened by Barbara Caine (Monash) and Mark Phillips (Carleton) on mediating distance - and proximity - in the writing of history (June 2009)