

ANME News

Newsletter of

ANME | AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL
MUSEUM OF EDUCATION

<https://www.canberra.edu.au/anme/>

Editor: Dr Geoffrey Burkhardt

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Delegation from China



Xing Ding, Yuan Xue, Kai Wang, Lijuan Yao, Xuelian Bai, Malcolm Beazley,
Ting Wang, Dingxin Rao, Cheng Yu

We were honoured to provide a tour of the ANME Collection for a delegation from Hangzhou Normal University, China, a partnership university with UC's Faculty of Education. The delegation comprised Xing Ding, Director, Department of Art Education, Jingyi College of Education, HZNU; Kai Wang, Director, The Future School Research Centre, HZNU; Lijuan Yao, Deputy Dean, Continuing Education Centre, HZNU; Xuelian Bai, Full-time teacher, School of Life and Environmental Science, HZNU; Dingxin Rao, Research Fellow, The Future School Research Institute

affiliated with the Basic Education Development Centre, HZNU and Cheng Yu, Office Manager, Director of Continuing Education Centre, HZNU. They were accompanied by Professor Ting Wang, Deputy Executive Dean and Yuan Xue, Program Support Officer, UC's School-based Education Program

ANME Annual Excursion

On Saturday 29 March the ANME held its Annual Excursion, "Connecting with Regional Schools: Past and Present", where participants travelled by bus from Daramalan College to Crookwell Public School (1865) with lunch at the historic Argyle Inn, followed by a visit to Taralga Public School (1858) and the Taralga History Museum, then onto Goulburn to the Garroorigang School Room (1867) and homestead. The day concluded with dinner at the George Harcourt Inn, Gold Creek. Despite the inclement weather, this was voted one of the best excursions we have conducted.



Crookwell Public School



*Posing on the staircase at
Crookwell P.S.*



*Fernbank School relocated to Taralga
History Museum from Wombeyan Caves
Photo courtesy of Yvonne Robson*



Interior of Fernbank School

Unless noted, all images in this newsletter are from the ANME Photographic Collection.



1927 Building of Taralga P. S.



Outside Garroorigang

The Growth in ANME's Nineteenth and Twentieth Century School Textbooks Collection

As the ANME approaches its thirtieth anniversary, among the most significant aspects of its development over those three decades is the expansion of its collection of nineteenth century and early twentieth century school textbooks. The great majority of the books in this collection have been acquired by donation. The great value of such a collection is its function as a major source of information about the content matter of primary and secondary school syllabuses and lessons, decade by decade. Researchers and scholars of Australian history of education using such a collection are able to investigate how school curricula have changed over time, and also investigate what social, scientific and historical influences have borne upon school, curricula over time.

With over 6000 school textbooks in ANME's collection, almost 1000 of them having been published during the nineteenth century, the ANME probably has one of the largest collections of school textbooks in Australia. The majority of the nineteenth century books were published in England, Scotland and Ireland and imported into Australia. Toward the end of that century more Australian publishers of school textbooks began to emerge, such as Angus & Robertson in Sydney, Robertson and Mullens in Melbourne, Brooks in Sydney, along with English publishers such as Collins, setting up publishing offices in Sydney and Melbourne. Colonial Departments of Education entered the market of publishing school textbooks such as the *Victorian Readers* series in Melbourne.

Recently the ANME has acquired a notable large batch of school textbooks. This is an important acquisition, not only for the quantity of books in the batch but for the number of now rare and educationally significant nineteenth century books received. A few examples are worthy of mention. The rarest is most probably *Geography and History of Oceania, comprising a detailed Account of the Australian Colonies and a brief sketch of Australiana, Malaysia, Polynesia and Antarctica, for the use of Teachers and Advanced Pupils*. By A. Ireland, Printed by W. Fletcher, Hobart Tasmania 1865(2nd edition, sold by J. Walsh & Sons 157 pages, cloth covers, 3/-). This is a very early date

for an Australian written and published school textbook. The author, A. Ireland, is cited as being “Principal of Hobart Town Collegiate School, and late Headmaster of Chalmer’s School Hobart Town.” Trove reveals an entry in the December 20, 1861 edition of the *Mercury* newspaper of Hobart citing the exam results for Chalmer’s School and cites “Mr. Ireland “ as Headmaster.

Recent Acquisitions

The ANME recently acquired a batch of almost 300 books and printed items, of which approximately 100 were published histories of Australian Primary and Secondary schools. Amongst this batch were some very large histories, hard covers with attractive dust jackets, while others, from small primary schools, were small booklets. Other items in the batch received included a number of school annual year books and annual school journals which will greatly enhance the ANME’s collection of journals.

Wellington Museum – Home of the Historic Windorah School House



The Wellington Museum, proudly managed by dedicated volunteers from the Wellington Historical Society, offers visitors a rich insight into the region’s European settlement and social history. Now located in the Old Police Station and Gaol at 5–15 Maughan Street, Wellington, the museum is a cultural landmark in Central West NSW.

A highlight of the museum’s collection is the **one-room Windorah School House**

(pictured above) carefully removed from its original rural site and faithfully reconstructed at the old Oxley Museum location. This charming historic schoolhouse stands as a rare and tangible reminder of early 20th-century education in remote Australia. Adjacent to it is a traditional **slab cottage**, originally home to the Stinson family on a property outside Wellington. Like the schoolhouse, it was relocated and preserved to reflect the pioneering lifestyle of the district’s early settlers.

While the original Oxley Museum site has since closed, its significant collections have been preserved and are now an integral part of the Wellington Museum. The Windorah School House and Stinsons’ Cottage will currently remain on the old site until further notice. The new Wellington Museum features themed rooms including a **Pioneer Life Room, Chinese Heritage & Gold Mining Room, a Military History Display**, and preserved areas of the original police station such as the **Charge Room, Fingerprint Room, and Gaol Cells**. The Wellington Museum is open to the public **Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00AM to 2:00PM**.

For more information, please visit: www.wellingtonmuseumnsw.com.au or contact: wellingtonmuseumnsw@gmail.com

(Article contributed by Beth Hattenfels – Wellington Historical Society.)