

ANME News

Newsletter of

ANME AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL
MUSEUM OF EDUCATION

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

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Visit by UC Vice-Chancellor



*The Hon. Bill Shorten, Coralie Amos OAM and Dr Malcolm Beazley AM
Photo courtesy of Kelly White*

The newly appointed University of Canberra Vice-Chancellor, The Hon. Bill Shorten paid his first visit to the ANME on Thursday, 21 March and was given a tour of the Collection by Director, Dr Malcolm Beazley AM and Assistant Director, Mrs. Coralie Amos OAM. He was suitably impressed by this unique University of Canberra resource as he has a passion for history and a personal connection to the Selleck archive here, as his mother taught with Professor Richard (Dick) Selleck at Monash University in Melbourne. We are so grateful to the Vice-Chancellor for inspiring us to explore further ideas as ANME approaches its 30th Anniversary in 2026.

New ANME Research Project: Where or What are they Now?

Where or What are They Now? Involves an investigation of closed and abandoned schools throughout Australia.

The research direction will include looking into the school's history, type of school and the facts which have contributed to the school's demise including declining enrolments, financial solvency, government or church intervention/policy, unsafe or unhealthy buildings or other more sinister reasons. Looking into the present status of the buildings-abandoned, vandalized, demolished, or repurposed and noting any special features which make them unique, would also be part of the project.

As many of our exhibits tell a story this extra information on these schools will enhance our already popular ANME Network of Australian School Museums and Education Archives. The project will be undertaken by one of ANME's volunteers, Ms. Wei Cheng under the supervision of our long-term volunteer Coralie Amos OAM.



Wei Cheng and Coralie Amos OAM in the ANME Student Research Room.

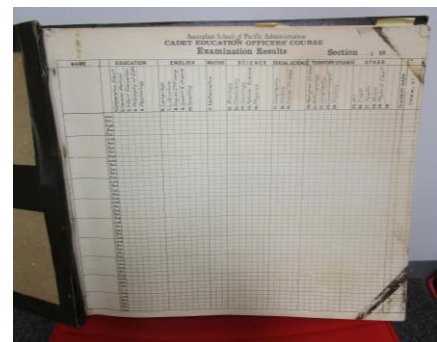
Recent Acquisitions

Early 20th Century Primary School Desk

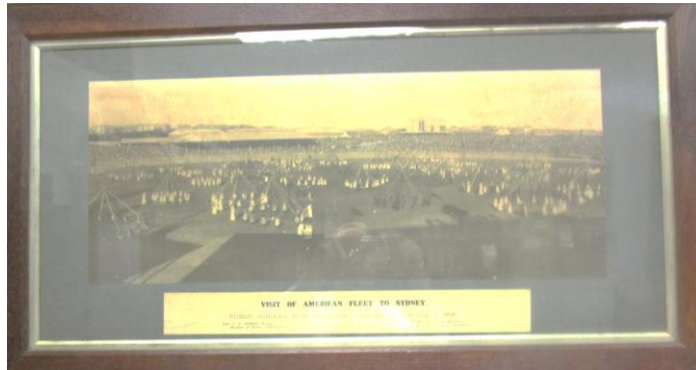


The ANME is delighted to receive the donation of a Standard NSW Primary School Desk from St Brigid's Catholic Primary School, Coogee Bay Road, Coogee which opened on 13th May 1923 and was administered by the Brigidine Sisters from Randwick. We are most grateful to the donor, many thanks to Bernard Flannery. The desk is now on display in the ANME Gallery of Building 5, and complements our other school desks from different historical periods.

The ANME is very pleased to receive a donation of a document relating to the **Australian School of Pacific Administration**, which provided facilities for the training of teachers for schools in the Northern Territory and also for schools in Papua New Guinea. Information about ASOPA is very relevant to the history of the University of Canberra, because before it became the UC, it was the Canberra College of Advanced Education, and in the early 1970s its School of Teacher Education was involved in the training of ASOPA teachers for Aboriginal schools in the Northern Territory. Our thanks go to donor Robyn Dean.



The ANME is also delighted to receive the donation of a **large framed panoramic photograph** of a combined schools pageant held at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 1907 as the NSW Department of Public Instruction's official celebration and welcome to the ships of the **Great White Fleet from the United State of America** which were visiting Sydney as part of their world tour. This photograph has been reunited with the certificate presented to students on the day, which was already in the ANME Collection.



Vale Esther Davies OAM



The ANME is saddened to report the passing of Mrs Esther Davies, a noted Canberra historian, who was a member of the ANME's Board of Management for a number of years and a great supporter of the ANME over the years. Esther was a history teacher at Telopea Park High School for many years until her retirement. She was also archivist of the Telopea Park School archives, which is noted for its excellent collection of historical information and the fine displays of historical school material which Esther organized for numerous special occasions. Esther was also most active in the Canberra and District Historical Society where she was President and an active Committee member for many years

Welcome New ACT Representative - Helen Burfitt

Born in Casino in northern NSW, I attended St Mary's Primary School and then, for secondary school, went to Loreto Convent, Normanhurst in Sydney where my grandmother and her sister were in the first class in 1897. I won a Teachers' College Scholarship and studied the Sciences at the University of New England. One of the conditions of the Scholarship was that I was bonded to the NSW Education Department for five years; the Departmental posting to Canberra, counted as country service in those days. My first years in



Canberra were a time of great change with the Canberra community agitating for a break-away from NSW to form its own education system while, at the same time, NSW was revolutionizing the teaching of the Sciences. I was privileged to play a significant part in both revolutions. At one stage, someone gave me the nickname of ‘Miss Biology’. Working my way through the ACT system in various schools and Departmental appointments, I retired as the Principal of Canberra High School, the first female principal of the school. Since retirement, I have pursued my goals of learning new things and interacting with people – I volunteer at Canberra High School on the Archives Team, at the Australian War Memorial in the Family History Section, at Vinnies and I try desperately hard to play bridge.

I am honoured to be invited to take over the role of the Representative for the ACT succeeding my colleague, the late Esther Davies, OAM. My skills and experience in no way match hers but I will do my best. *(Article supplied by courtesy of Helen Burfitt).*

Visitors from Spain



*Professor Carlos Sanz
Simon and Professor
Miguel Fernandez*

On Friday 17 January, the museum was open by special appointment for a visit by Carlos Sanz Simón, professor of history of education at the Complutense University of Madrid (Spain) and a member of the Board of Directors of the Spanish Society for the Study of Historical and Educational Heritage. He was accompanied by a colleague Miguel Fernandez from the Polytechnic University of Madrid, who specializes in Applied Linguistics and is interested in education museums. Both were on a short visit to Canberra and Sydney. We were fortunate to be able to provide contact details for one of ANME’s National Network museums, the Schoolhouse Museum of Public Education of New South Wales, which they visited before they left Australia. It was revealing to learn that every Teacher Education course in Spain contains a Unit on the History of Education. Unfortunately, this is no longer the case in Australia.

(Unless specifically noted, all images are from the ANME Collection)

Latest Monograph in the ANME Monograph Series

*Celebrating 50 Years of the ACT education System,
1973-2023:*

Promises, Challenges and Progress

Shirley Randell AO

See ANME website for how to order your copies