

ANME News

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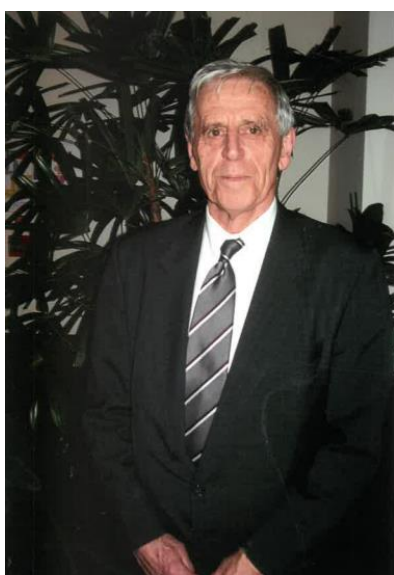
<https://www.canberra.edu.au/anme/>

No: 50

Spring, 2024

Editor: Dr Geoffrey Burkhardt

ANME Hails Former Educational Historian



*The late Dick Selleck
ANME Collection*

The Seventeenth Annual Historical Perspectives on Education Lecture was held on Friday 16 August 2024. The Lecture, which officially acknowledged the Selleck Collection, over 1,000 items, at the ANME, was titled ***“The Past is Never Dead: It’s not even past,” Lessons from R.J.W. (Dick) Selleck’s substantial contribution to the History of Education*** was delivered by Dr Keith Moore, Visiting Fellow, Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and Queensland Representative for the ANME. He was a Lecturer in the History of Education at the University of Ballarat for 13 years prior to moving to Queensland, where he lectured at QUT for 20 years. A graduate of Monash University, Dr Moore was a student of Professor Selleck’s, who also supervised his PhD thesis.

A special feature of this Annual ANME Lecture was the presence of several members of the Selleck family, who had travelled to Canberra especially for this occasion and to view the arrangement and display of the extensive and distinguished Selleck archive, donated to the ANME last year. The ANME is most grateful to Deputy-Director, Coralie Amos OAM and Collections Manager Lee Wilde for the mammoth task of sorting and shelving this collection.



Photo courtesy of Geoffrey Burkhardt

L to R: Robyn Selleck (wife of Sean), Jessica Selleck (younger daughter of Sean and Robyn), Sean Selleck (Dick’s oldest son), Shannyn Selleck (older daughter of Sean and Robyn), Vivienne Kelly (Dick’s widow), Johanna Selleck (Dick’s oldest child and only daughter), Jeremy Selleck (son of Johanna), Leo Selleck (Dick’s brother).

Attendees were welcomed to the event and to the ANME and the University of Canberra by Professor Michelle Lincoln, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) of the University of Canberra. Dr Moore was introduced by Ms Vivienne Kelly, widow of R.J.W. Selleck. Dr Moore's lecture focused on the biographical aspects of Dick Selleck's career, his publications and scholarly achievements including an account of a selection of Dick Selleck's major academic publications and his role in the Australian and New Zealand History of Education Society and other professional associations.



*Director, Dr Beazley AM, Board Chair, Professor Pamphilon AM and Dr Keith Moore.
Photo courtesy of Geoffrey Burkhardt*



*Esther Davies OAM
Photo courtesy of Malcolm Beazley*

The ANME extends its gratitude to Ms Vivienne Kelly, the Selleck family and ANME Representative for Victoria, Dr Rosalie Triolo OAM, for making it possible to have the Selleck Collection at the ANME

During the formal proceedings of the evening a special presentation of Life Membership of the ANME was made to Ms Esther Davies OAM, for her long and valued contribution to the ANME, as a Board of Management member, a benefactor and a most loyal friend. We also take this opportunity to congratulate Ms Davies on her recent Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) award in the 2024 King's Birthday Honours.

Gould League of Bird Lovers

The ANME has a growing collection of Gould League for Bird Lovers memorabilia.

At present we have 29 certificates including two very early ones from Victoria (1910) and NSW (1912) and 21 membership badges. Our ephemera collection includes posters, song books, letters and stamps.



Photo courtesy of ANME Curator of Photographs, Les Gearside

The Gould League of Bird Lovers was established in Victoria in 1909 by Jessie McMichael. In October 1910, teacher Edward Webster and headmaster George Finnigan launched the organization in New South Wales.

The Gould League was devoted to bird protection, prevention of egg theft, the promotion of interest in and knowledge of birds, and it campaigned for the establishment of bird sanctuaries. It was named to honour the work of ornithologist John Gould and his wife Elizabeth, a naturalistic artist.

Large membership certificates, then coloured cards, then badges were issued to all children who became members. The initial cost was a penny. Children were encouraged to participate by learning bird names and their calls, writing poems and essays, drawing and photographing birds and entering competitions. Celebrations of Bird Day and Bird Week were held, featuring bird call competitions, music, dance and puppetry.

In the early years the Gould League was a huge success with over one hundred thousand members across Victoria, NSW, SA, Tasmania and WA. Enthusiastic teachers within the schools promoted and encouraged the Gould League ideals. The Gould League still exists in Victoria and WA but in other states it has merged with like-minded environmental groups.

Recently, an incredibly comprehensive book called the *Gould League of bird lovers: badges, certificates, ephemera* has been published by researcher and collector Mr Nick Pezikian. State certificates, badges and ephemera have all been meticulously researched and recorded. Nick has also generously donated certificates and badges to the ANME, significantly enhancing our collection.

(Contributed by Coralie Amos OAM)

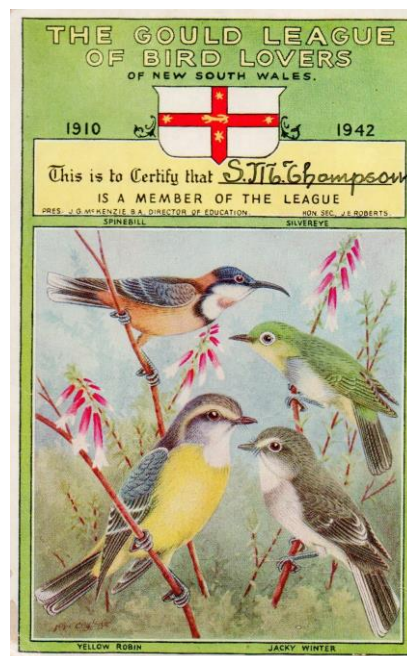


Photo courtesy of Les Gearside

“Bush Schools of Canberra Region”: A Hall Heritage Centre Project

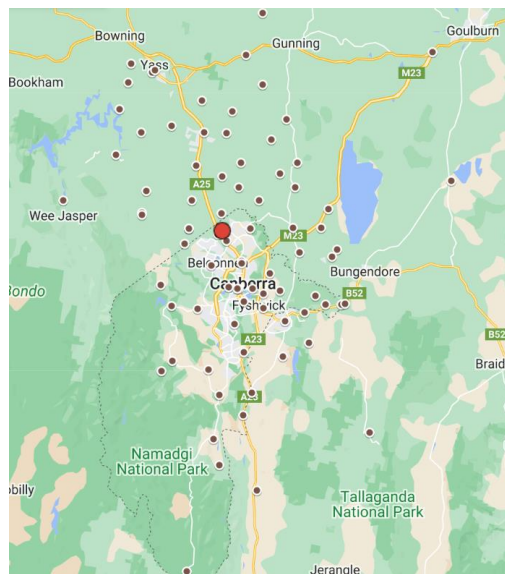
A historically valuable research project has been undertaken over the last few years by volunteers of the Hall Heritage Centre. Located in the precincts of the Hall Public School (closed since 2007), the site and buildings containing the Hall School Museum are now the province of the Heritage Centre, whose volunteers have developed a local history museum.

The “[Bush Schools of the Canberra Region](#)” research Project, undertaken by the Centre, focuses on the stories of one-teacher district bush schools in the Canberra region, their teachers and the families and communities they served.

The Project has compiled a database with entries for over eighty schools and has identified more than 600 teachers (up to about 1940). It is illustrated by 400 photographs, maps and plans.

As the majority of schools were initially established during the nineteenth century, many of the school buildings identified in the project no longer exist, but their locations have been identified. The first schools opened in 1850 and by the time the city of Canberra was officially named in 1913 many of them had already closed. Among the Project's many documents are maps indicating school sites or former sites.

Large display panels associated with each school include photographs of school buildings and in some cases, class groups and teachers. For each school an extensive history has been researched and compiled, with each school's dossier available on open access for researchers, viewers and enquirers.



*Photo by courtesy of Peter Browning,
Hall Heritage Centre*

More information is available on the Hall Heritage Centre website at <https://heritage.hall.act.au/schools.html>

Welcome to New Representative for WA



With the retirement of Emeritus Professor Thomas O'Donoghue, ANME welcomes Dr John Mortimer as his successor. Much appreciation is extended to Professor O'Donoghue for his contribution to the ANME. Dr Mortimer was born in WA. He graduated as a primary school teacher from Claremont Teachers' College in Perth in 1966. For several years he taught in various primary schools in the State, thus giving him wide experience of working in various locations and with students from different socio-economic groups. Later he qualified as a secondary school teacher, specialising in the teaching of geography. He taught in a variety of rural and urban secondary schools in WA, extending his knowledge of the State school system further. Amongst later positions he held as a Headmaster was as Principal of Eastern Goldfields Senior High School in Kalgoorlie. John also has a wide knowledge of the history of the teaching of the social sciences, particularly the history of the teaching of geography. Amongst his most influential books is *The Making of Geography as a Secondary School Subject: A Perspective from Australia* (Newcastle, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2021). Through the writing of this book, he acquired an intimate knowledge of state, private and school archives throughout much of WA. *(Contributed by Emeritus Professor Thomas O'Donoghue).*