

ANME News

Newsletter of

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MUSEUM OF EDUCATION

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Editor: Dr Geoffrey Burkhardt

Students Acknowledged at FADX 24

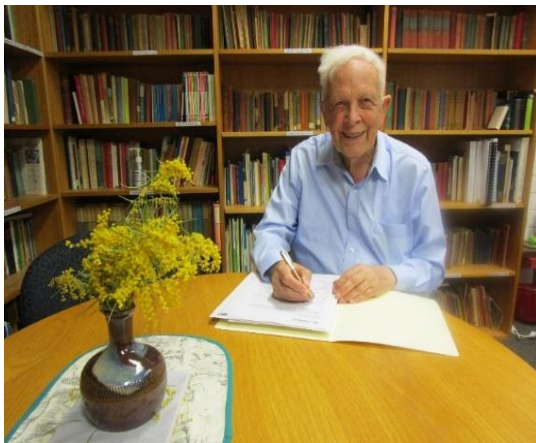


ANME Deputy Director, Coralie Amos OAM, Wei Cheng, ANME Board Chair, Professor Barbara Pamphilon AM, Varsha Anegondy, Jana Munclinger, ANME Director Dr Malcolm Beazley AM, Ernest Foster and Ailin Yang. Photo courtesy of Hakim Abdul Rahim

On Wednesday 13 November the University of Canberra's flagship creative annual event, FADX, was held by the Faculty of Arts and Design. FADX is a Graduating Student Showcase that features the applied work of the graduating students from the disciplines of Design & the Built Environment, Arts, and Communication and Media.

Thanks to the Acting ANME Student Engagement Manager, Dr Alison Wain, this year's annual ANME Service Awards and the ANME Prize presentation were part of the program. Students who worked as volunteers in the ANME each received a Certificate of Service presented by the Board Chair, Professor Barbara Pamphilon AM. They were Alice Lai, Wei Cheng, Ailin Yang, Ernest Foster, Varsha Anegondy, Siqi Lao, Kimsant Koy, Lex Hunter, Mei Yang and Sherri Xue. The ANME Prize for 2024 to the value of \$500.00 was presented to Jana Munclinger, for exceptional service over a period of over two years. Her work has included cataloguing, filing, event preparation, creating bibliographies and guiding museum visitors. This year she has been the Student Representative on the ANME Board and has taken on the role of Student Volunteer Manager. This has seen her play a leading role in the induction of student volunteers. She has created guidelines for students and a welcome pack of ANME information to encourage ongoing student participation. She has made a very significant contribution to the "Must See" handbook currently in preparation. This publication will highlight significant items in the ANME Collection.

ANME Receives Major Bequest



The ANME has recently received a donation of \$50,000.00 from ANU Professor Brian Robson (pictured left) signing the Donation Statement, in memory of his wife, Dr Joan Mena Robson, a teacher and university lecturer, an ANME Distinguished Educator, who was a loyal supporter of the Museum for over 20 years, as a donor of items, regular attendee at events and at one-time an ANME Board Member. The bequest will be

used to establish an ongoing ANME Research Grant for research related to the ANME Collection and to produce a history of the ANME for its 30th Anniversary in 2025. It is with much gratitude that Professor Robson has sought fit to make this donation so that his wife can be acknowledged and remembered for years.

ANME Monograph Series: Latest Monographs

Fitzgerald, Robert (No.15) *Mindstorms 4.0: Children, Technology and Learning*

Moore, Keith (No.16) *"The Past is Never Dead. It's Not even Past": Lessons from Dick Selleck's Substantial Contribution to the History of Education*

Belconnen Rotary Club's Continuing Support

Following the very welcome donation of a high-quality digital scanner last year, by the Rotary Club of Belconnen, in November the ANME was a beneficiary of further largess from the Club in the form of a laptop computer, (HP Laptop with a 16inch full High Definition Led Display with 8GB of memory) to complement the scanner. Both are very valued items as they allow for the ongoing mammoth project of digitizing ANME's education ephemera collection of well over two thousand documents. Many thanks to President, Mr Wayne Jeffs and Committee Member Mr Bob Greeney for their time and effort to ensure successful delivery of the computer.



*ANME Manager of Special Projects, Dennis Flannery(left) receives the computer from Mr Bob Greeney
Photo: ANME Collection.*

Feature Article: Dame Schools

Dame Schools were small schools for early childhood pupils taught by a “school dame” who taught small groups of children, some from the ages of about 3 to about 6 years old. It was an early form of early childhood education which emerged in England as early as the seventh century. The classes were usually held in the home of the teacher, usually a well-educated lady, some of whom were widows, while others were single ladies. The children were usually from poor backgrounds and these small schools were akin to charity organizations.

The first school in the Colony of New South Wales may be characterized as a Dame School, taught by a First Fleet convict Isabelle Rosson and was established in 1789 on the initiative of the First Fleet Chaplain, Rev. Richard Johnson. As no provision was made for a schoolteacher in the staffing of the first fleet, the Rev. Johnson was concerned about the need to provide care and elementary education for the local children, some of whom were orphans of convicts, who arrived on the First Fleet. Presumably, Isabelle's classes were held in a tent, with perhaps a wooden stool for the teacher, while the children sat on the ground. She taught them how to read, using only the catechism and the bible, plus a simple ABC chart, which arrived with the First Fleet. No slates, nor paper for writing were available at that time.

Isabella Rosson was born in 1753 in humble circumstances and was in service as a laundress in London. She was convicted of the crime of theft from her mistress

in London in 1787 to 7 years transportation. Another female convict, Mary Johnson, who was also sentenced to 7 years transportation, arrived on the convict transport *Mary Ann* on the Third Fleet in 1791 and is also believed to have established a similar Dame School type of institution at Parramatta. She was also sentenced for seven years. There were other schools of the Dame School type established in the early years of the Colony but after Governor King, in the 1800s established an Orphan School in Sydney, this met some of the needs of the children of convicts and other poor families.

Although in England the proprietor of a Dame School charged a token fee per pupil, this was not possible in Isabelle Rosson's school as the convict parents were without incomes and depended on Government Stores. Some minimal remuneration for Rosson was provided by one of the charitable mission societies in England. Also, Rosson while serving out the remainder of her sentence, would, as a convict, be fed and clothed by the convict administrative authorities.

As the number of school aged children in the Colony increased with the arrival of the Second and Third Fleets, together with the natural increase in the Colonial population, a second schoolteacher was appointed to assist Rosson. He was William Richardson, formally a soldier, also a First Fleet convict, who had received a 7-year sentence. He married Isabelle Rosson in September 1789. By the time Rosson and her husband completed their respective sentences and were permitted to return to England in 1810 to act as witnesses at the Parliamentary Select Committee on Transportation, their school had become a more formalized structure serving the needs of a greater cross section of the Colonial population, no longer operating as a Dame School. By 1800, two other schools in Sydney had been established, one at Kissing Point (Ryde) and the other at Toongabbie. They were supported by the London Missionary Society and partially by the Colonial Government. In 1802 a school was established at Green Hills, now called Windsor.

**ANME Staff Wish You
a Festive Christmas
and a Prosperous 2025**



Dr Malcolm Beazley AM, Lee Wilde, Dennis Flannery, Peter Fock, Coralie Amos OAM, Les Gearside and Dr Geoffrey Burkhardt.