

ANME News

Newsletter of the



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ANME Director's Tour of Interstate School Museums

During the last few months ANME Director, Dr Malcolm Beazley AM, has visited a number of school museums in Queensland, NSW and South Australia, which are members of the ANME National Network of School Museums. Among his visits in NSW were Nerriga School Museum, Merimbula Old School Museum on the South Coast, maintained by the local Historical Society, and the Moonbi “Beehive” School Museum at Tamworth, managed by the Tamworth Historical Society. From there he travelled to Queensland where he visited a replica of the Samford Provisional School in the Samford Museum and Dundowran School in the Hervey Bay Village Museum. Later in the month he journeyed to South Australia visiting more school museums, including the old Kybybolite School in the Sheep’s Back School Museum in Naracoorte, the Woods MacKillop Schoolhouse in Penola, the Lillimur South School in Old Tailum Town, the James Bassett School at Willunga, Moonta Mines Model School, the Friedensberg Early German School Museum at Springton, Uleybury School Museum at One Tree Hill and the Bandon School in the Loxton Historic Village. On his trip to South Australia, Dr Beazley stopped off at Hay to visit the Hay War Memorial High School Museum. From each of the above museums Dr Beazley obtained brochures, school histories and details of these museums to add to the ANME’s information files on school museums around Australia. Over the last decade Dr Beazley has visited many school museums in all states and territories in Australia, including those in many rural locations, to strengthen the ANME’s national network. He has found that each school museum, whether a small village school museum, maintained by a local historical society, or a large school museum belonging to a metropolitan school or church school, has something distinctive to offer in respect of its collection, its records or aspects of its history and foundation.



Dundowran State School Museum



Moonbi “Beehive” School



Friedensberg German School Museum

Music in Schools, 1880-1980: ANME's current display

Our current display, Music in Schools 1880-1980, was opened on the University of Canberra Open Day, 24th August. Music has been a subject in the school curriculum in Australia throughout the colonial period up to the present time. In the colonial era primary schools, it took the form mainly of singing and choral work, and the use of Sol-Fa charts in the classroom. In the later decades of the twentieth century,



primary and secondary school students were taught to play a selection of musical instruments enabling their schools to form bands. However, in the 1920s and 1930s there were a few schools that established a school band, an example being the Mount Gambier School which supported a school band in 1928.

School Choirs and school concerts have been a common feature of most schools extra curricular activities. With the introduction in the early twentieth century of record players and recorded music, the variety within musical education was greatly enhanced. By the mid 1950s the impact of the Australian Broadcasting Commission's music for schools radio broadcasts significantly increased the potential for school students, at all levels to actively participate in the performance of musical events in their schools. ANME's current display features children's songs, choir music, texts on the teaching of music, recorded music, vinyl recordings and a selection of musical instruments used in schools during the period 1950-1980.

The ANME is most grateful to the staff of Arawang Public School for lending to ANME for display a selection of musical instruments including a tambourine, a glockenspiel and a number of small percussion instruments.

Items we wish to add to our collection ---Pupil Exercise Books 1870-1920

The ANME is developing a unique collection of pupil exercise books representative of the period 1870-1970, in all subjects of the primary and secondary school curriculum, and, where possible, across as many school grades as possible. We already have a few examples from the 1870s, hoping to increase that number across more grades in the primary and secondary levels. We lack examples from the 1880s and we would welcome additional examples from the 1890s. The ANME would greatly appreciate donations of pupil exercise books especially from the latter decades of the nineteenth century and the early decades of the twentieth century. Such examples will greatly enhance understandings about changes in the school

curriculum and changes in writing styles across the decades which contribute to research in teaching and learning methodology.

Teachers as Authors of School Text Books: Dr George Mackaness



George Mackaness started his professional life as a pupil-teacher in 1897 at Drummoyne Public School. During his teaching career he taught at Balmain Superior Public School and Fort Street Public School. He studied at Sydney University where, in 1907 he graduated an M.A. with first class honours in English. He became Deputy Headmaster of Fort Street Boys' High School, teaching English and History.

Among his many publications were a number of school text books including *A Handbook of Intermediate English* (1947); *The Secondary Student's Spelling Book* (1931); his book on the teaching of English titled *Inspirational Teaching: a Record of Experimental work in the Teaching of English* (1928) became the standard textbook for trainee teachers over many decades. He also compiled and edited *Australian Short Stories* (1945). From 1924 until 1946 George Mackaness was head of the English Department of Sydney Teachers' College and also a lecturer at Sydney University.

George Mackaness is now best remembered as an outstanding historical researcher and author, his most significant contributions being *The Life of Vice-Admiral William Bligh* published in 1931, for which Mackaness was awarded the degree of Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.) from the University of Melbourne. He later wrote *Admiral Arthur Phillip, Founder of NSW 1738-1814*, (1937). A number of historical monographs were published later in his career. During his life Mackaness collected one of the largest and finest Australiana libraries. He was an ardent book collector and wrote two landmark references on collecting Australiana, *The Art of Book-Collecting in Australia* (1956), and *Bibliomania: An Australian Book Collector's Essays* (1965). The ANME has in its research collection a copy of *Inspirational Teaching* and other Mackaness publications including some documentary items.

Profile of a School Museum: Merimbula Old School Museum



Situated in Main Street Merimbula, this School Museum comprises the teacher's residence and a school room in the one stone building which was built in 1875. The NSW Council for Education approved the establishment of a Provisional School in Merimbula in December 1869 and the first teacher arrived by boat in 1870. The primary school continued to operate in the old stone

constructed building until the end of 1945. This building is one of the few remaining examples of this type of architectural complex which is in public ownership in NSW and which houses the Old School Museum. The building was opened as a Museum in 1974. The displays trace the history of education in Merimbula and also the industries and occupations of the people living in the surrounding areas of Pambula, Lochiel, and Nethercote in the present Bega Valley Shire. The Merimbula settlement was established as a private village centred around the wharf and the local mill, which manufactured cornflour. There was also a very productive farming district focusing on dairying. Other industries in the district served by the old school included fishing, oyster farming, timber and mining. During the nineteenth century and into the early twentieth century Pambula was the main commercial centre of the district. There are many examples of significant heritage buildings in the district, notable among which is the old Pambula Courthouse. The Merimbula Old School Museum offers a very good example of the living conditions of teachers, in a teacher's residence and adjoining school room, during the late nineteenth century. On display are many examples of documents and school records from the early days of settlement in the district.

Ngunnawal Director Visits the ANME



Craig Dukes, Dr Geoffrey Burkhardt and Jessica Goodvinn

Prior to his retirement, UC's Ngunnawal Centre Director, Craig Dukes was given a tour of the ANME Collection by Senior Curator Dr Geoffrey Burkhardt and Student Representative on the ANME Board, Jessica Goodvinn. He was impressed by the many special items, particularly those relating to Indigenous Education in Australia. The ANME wishes Mr Dukes best wishes for the future. The Ngunnawal Indigenous Higher Education Centre supports Aboriginal

and Torres Strait Islander students at the University of Canberra, through a range of academic and pastoral support programs and services. The ANME holds a small number of School Readers written for Indigenous children and for aboriginal schools. An example is the *Aboriginal Australia Reading Series*, published in 1978. The ANME is also developing its archive of photos of Aboriginal Schools which existed during the early and mid twentieth century, especially those relating to some of the church mission schools during that era. We would welcome donations of photos of Aboriginal Schools from that period. Likewise, we are hoping to increase our holdings of School Readers designed for aboriginal students.

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