

# ANME News

Newsletter of the

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Editor: Dr Geoffrey Burkhardt FACE

## Community Heritage Grant

The ANME has been awarded a Community Heritage Grant to the value of \$4,950.00, which will enable a significance assessment report on the ANME Collection to be prepared. The Community Heritage Grant Fund is managed by the National Library of Australia and is funded by the Australian Government through the Ministry for the Arts. Our thanks are extended to Curator Hakim Rahim and Communications Manager, Dr John McIntyre for this successful application. Hakim Rahim attended the three day Preservation and Collection Management Workshop on behalf of the ANME, which is a mandatory part of the Heritage Grant process. He will coordinate the acquittal of the Grant and prepare appropriate documentation of the progress of the project.



Ms Sally Basser, Executive Director,  
Ministry for the Arts presents the award to  
Curator, Hakim Abdul Rahim

## Visitors to ANME



Mr Service and Dr Burkhardt

Recent visitors to the ANME include Canberra Artist, Ms Fiona Sivyler, Ms Carol Perry, Curator of the Northcliffe Pioneer Museum in Western Australia, Ms Elizabeth Burness, Curator of the Tuggeranong Schoolhouse Museum and Mr Jim Service AO who has had a long and distinguished connection with Museums and Heritage activities in Australia. Mr Service is a former Chairman of the Council of the National Museum Australia from 1996 until 1999,

and chairman of the National Gallery of Australia Foundation. Following a tour of the ANME collections Mr Service was our guest at lunch also attended by three members of the ANME Management Committee, Dr Malcolm Beazley, Director, Associate Professor Tracy Ireland and Senior Curator, Dr Geoffrey Burkhardt.

## Teachers as Authors of School Textbooks: Alexander and George Sutherland

Together these two brothers were the authors of one of the most successful and widely used school textbooks during the nineteenth century. First published by George Robertson of Melbourne in 1877 as *The History of Australia from 1606 to 1871*, this textbook went through dozens of editions and reprints selling over 100,000 copies by the end of the century. Later editions were published under the expanded title *The History of Australia and New Zealand*.



Alexander Sutherland was born in Glasgow in 1852 and his brother George, was born in 1855. Both brothers became school teachers in the Colony of Victoria, Alexander rising to the position of Headmaster of Carlton College in 1877 having been a teacher at Hawthorn Grammar School previously. George was also employed as a teacher at Carlton College. Both brothers were graduates of Melbourne University and both held BA and MA degrees. After he retired from the Headmastership of Carlton College, Alexander became Registrar and lecturer in English Language and Literature at the University of Melbourne. As a respected author he also wrote the first volume of *Victoria and its Metropolis* in 1888 and the *Origin and Growth of the Moral Instinct* published in 1898.

George Sutherland, after leaving teaching followed journalistic pursuits, but also wrote *Tales of the Goldfields* in 1888 and *Australia, or England in the South* in 1886. Later he joined the editorial staff of *The Age* newspaper.

The appeal of the Sutherland's *History of Australia* stems from the clarity of its text and particularly the systematic chronological treatment of the foundation of each of the Australian colonies. The book covers the early exploration and discovery of the east and west coasts of Australia, and the interior, as they were known and understood at the time of the publication of the first edition in 1877. At the time this book was written, other than James Bonwick's books, there were few Australian school history textbooks which approached the topic from the perspective of Australian based teachers, conscious of the needs of Australian colonial school students. The later editions of the textbook, in addition to adding four chapters on the history of New Zealand, were well illustrated with 52 black and white illustrations of Australian towns and cities and images of explorers. The 1894 edition includes



accounts of some of the latest developments in the Northern Territory, the Overland Telegraph and the latest expeditions of Giles and Forrest into the northern interior of the Continent.

## The First Teacher in Alice Springs



*The following information on early teaching in Alice Spring is supplied to the ANME by The Hartley Street School Museum, National Trust of Australia (N.T.) McDouall Stuart Branch, at Alice Springs.*

One hundred years ago, the first teacher arrived in the town of Stuart, later to be renamed Alice Springs.

Ida Standley from South Australia was appointed arriving in May 1914. She travelled by train to Oonadatta, where a policeman, Sonny Kunoth drove her in a horse and buggy to Stuart. She was 45 years old and keen to start a new life. She was to be the town's

first teacher but there was no school or house for her when she arrived. She taught in a small converted structure at the back of the Stuart Town Gaol

She lived with Sergeant Stott and his family in the police house for two years before she got a place of her own. It was a two roomed cottage on Wills Tce which she named Myrtle Villa. (The palm tree still stands today on the corner block.)



Ida Standley's first school room at Alice Springs: the old converted building at the Town Gaol



Ida Standley's cottage on Wills Terrace Alice Springs.

Topsy Smith, of the town's shabby home for "half-caste" children. It was just a shed, known as the bungalow, behind the pub. Living conditions were far from ideal. Toilet

She was originally appointed to teach the European children as concern had been raised as to the lack of schooling, but with the influx of part Aboriginal children, she soon catered for both groups. As well as teaching, Mrs Standley was asked to be matron with house parent



and washing facilities were primitive. Children camped on the floor in winter and outside in summer as there were few beds.

After much criticism, the Bungalow was relocated to Jay Creek in 1928. Mrs Standley moved out with the children to get them settled but eventually retired in 1929. It was not until 1930 that a proper school was built on the current Hartley Street site. In 1929 Mrs Standley was awarded a MBE for her services to child welfare in Central Australia. She is remembered by the naming of Standley Chasm, Ida Street, Standley Crescent and the Ida Standley Pre School in her name. An incredible woman who survived a long journey and who taught and lived in very primitive conditions to ensure children of Central Australia received an education.

*Reference: Stuart Traynor 2011*

*Edited: Loraine Braham 2014 (ANME Representative for the Northern Territory)*

### **School Museums: A Note on the Peppin Heritage Centre**

The Peppin Heritage Centre is in George Street Deniliquin, NSW and located in the old Public School building. It contains a preserved classroom in the 1879 building which contains historic items of interest from the earliest years of the district. The first school in the district was a small wooden building which operated in the 1850s. The 1879 building was added onto twice over the years. It was closed as a school in 1972 and opened as the Peppin Heritage Centre in 1988. It tells the story of the Peppin Family and the families that followed in the breeding of the world renowned Peppin Merino. An authentic school room is one of the most popular displays with many school groups as well other groups enjoying a rather unconventional school lesson.



*Photos by courtesy of Deniliquin Council.*

