

ANME NEWS

Newsletter of the

ANME | AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL
MUSEUM OF EDUCATION

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(Photo by Michelle McAulay – UC Monitor Online)

Visit by Chinese Educationists to ANME

On 14th June a Chinese delegation of eighteen lecturers, education administrators and university professors visited ANME. They were from Beifang University in the far North West of China and were visiting Australian educational institutions pursuing their interest in Innovative Quality Education and Teaching. They expressed a desire to visit ANME as an example of the important role education museums have in the social education of students. Their visit had been arranged through the Australian Technical Experts Network (ATEN).

The ANME Director, Dr Malcolm Beazley welcomed the group and outlined the scope of the ANME, its functions and activities. The delegation was accompanied by an interpreter. Refreshments were provided to the group prior to a tour of ANME's Repository, Museum Display Room and our Gallery Museum Display. The delegation

was then taken across to the Inspire Centre where Professor Robert Fitzgerald addressed them on the purposes and innovative activities of his Centre prior to giving them a conducted tour of the facilities of the Inspire Centre.

ANME Hosts the Canberra Branch of Museums Australia

On 18th June the Director and Senior Curator entertained members of the Museums Australia ACT Branch. Museums Australia is the national organization for the Australian museums sector, committed to the conservation, continuation and communication of Australia's heritage. During their visit to ANME our visitors listened to a Power Point presentation "A Profile of the ANME Collection" by Senior Curator Dr Geoffrey Burkhardt prior to a tour of ANME's Repository and Displays conducted by Director Dr Malcolm Beazley.

Museums Australia (ACT) is in the process of planning for Museum Australia's National Conference to be held in Canberra in 2013. It is expected that over 200 representatives of all types of museums from around Australia will attend this National Conference. Its membership includes folk museums, historical museums, science museums, art museums, steam museums, maritime museums, pioneer museums and state and territory museums. Museums Australia aims to promote an understanding of heritage as including natural and cultural dimensions. It regards the Australian museums sector as resources for social development and support for intellectual, cultural and social diversity.

Profile of a School Museum: Old Deniliquin Public School at the Peppin Heritage Centre, Deniliquin

The Peppin Heritage Centre is situated in the old Deniliquin Public School building, which dates from 1879. The school was also an Intermediate High School until 1954 when the Deniliquin High School was built. The Centre was established in 1988 with a bi-centennial grant and as well as keeping the school heritage it recognizes the contribution the Peppin Family made to the Australian wool industry.

The original schoolroom is furnished with desks, blackboard and teacher's desk and chair. Many school records have been kept and stored in cabinets. The school museum contains a collection of books, artefacts, photos, school bags, uniforms and school mascots. The old headmaster's residence, which is beside the complex is now part of the café in the Centre. The building is still quite recognizable from the outside and is maintained in the style of the 1880s when it was constructed.

During the year many school groups visit the different exhibitions at the Centre and conduct lessons from the schoolroom. This year it is 150 years of continuous schooling on this site and displays have been arranged to commemorate the occasion.

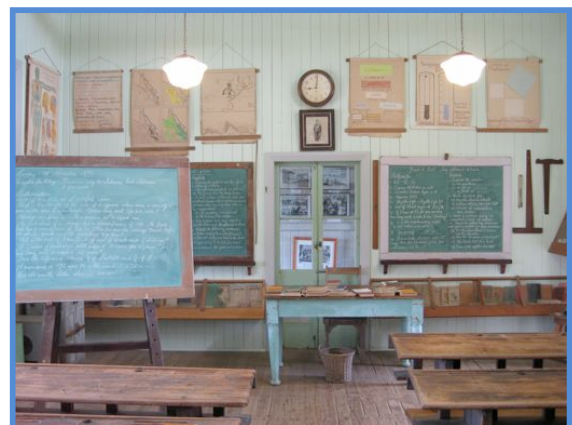
(Compiled from notes supplied by Peppin Heritage Centre. www.denitourism.com.au)

Nineteenth Century English Grammar Textbooks

Whereas some twenty-first century Australian schools seldom teach children the grammatical basis of our language, in the nineteenth century the teaching of English Grammar was a basic component of the primary and secondary school curriculum. From the eighteenth century until the second half of the twentieth century teachers and students relied upon a number of school textbooks, which encompassed the fundamentals of English grammar. The ANME research collection of nineteenth century school textbooks contains a number of popular English grammar textbooks. The oldest, and perhaps one of the most popular and enduring school grammar textbook is titled, *English Grammar adapted to the Different Classes of Learners with an Appendix containing Rules and Observations*. Written by Lindley Murray, the first edition was published in 1795 at York. The ANME's copy is a revised edition published in 1825 by Thomas Tegg in London. It is one of the oldest school textbooks in the ANME collection. This textbook went through dozens of editions and reprints by a variety of nineteenth century publishers in both Britain and the United States of America. The British Library records over ninety different reprints and editions in its collection. Other well known school grammars in the ANME collection include J. D. Morell's, *A Grammar of the English Language together with an Exposition of the Analysis of Sentences*, published by Longman, London, 1864, and William Lennie's *The Principles of English Grammar with Copious Exercises in Parsing and Syntax*, published by Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh, 1886.

ANME Director Visits the School Museum at Herberton Historical Village

During a visit in July to far north Queensland, the ANME Director, Dr Malcolm Beazley, took time to visit the Herberton State School Museum on the Atherton Tablelands. Herberton State School was established in the Herberton School of Arts in 1881 and was relocated to its present site in the Herberton Historic Village in 1973. The first Headmaster was John Cairns. Thirty-six children attended on the first day, increasing to forty-one the next. Blackboards, sticks of chalk, wall charts, a large collection of early school readers and the well used cane remain in the classroom with many other reminders of the ways in which children were educated in earlier days, make this a very interesting school museum to visit. Hanging on the walls are large maps, which constantly reminded children of Australia's place in the world.



Recent Acquisitions

The ANME was pleased to receive a donation of a 1930s oak Ink Stand, which contained three inkwells labelled, Black, Red and Copying Ink (“India” Ink). This ink stand is typical of government school issue ink stands used on a classroom teacher’s desk. The example donated to ANME is claimed to have come from a small NSW South Coast bush school long since closed. Other donations included a four-foot blackboard ruler, a blackboard “T” square and a metre rule, all dating from the 1920s-1930s period. These artefacts are not only interesting historically, but they offer potential as display items illustrating aspects of classroom teaching common during the early decades of the twentieth century.

2012 The National Year of Reading

To celebrate the “National Year of Reading” in Australia, the ANME mounted a display titled, *A Century of School Readers*, at the University of Canberra’s Faculty of Education during August. Consisting of primary School Readers dating from the 1890s, this display included examples of School Readers produced by departments of education in all Australian states. Samples of Readers from every decade 1890-1990 were included in the display. Also included in the display were examples of Department of Education school magazines, issued monthly to all primary school children enrolled in state government department schools. One of the earliest examples of these government publications designed to foster reading skills was the *Commonwealth School Paper*, which commenced in July 1904.



(Unless acknowledged otherwise, photographs are from the ANME Collection)