

ISSUE
September 2021

ISFAR Newsletter



Credit: Consulat Général Honoraire de France à Melbourne

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Membership

Contact Us

ISFAR: isfarinc@gmail.com

French Australian Review:

ISFAR Research Fund:

To join or renew:

www.isfar.org.au/membership

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Membership includes subscription to the French Australian Review journal.

french.australian.review@gmail.com

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Useful links

Alliance Française de Melbourne
www.afmelbourne.com.au
Association of French Teachers in
Victoria (AFTV) www.aftv.vic.edu.au
Australian-French Association for
Research and Innovation (AFRAN)
www.afran.org.au
Australian French Association for
Science and Technology

https://afas.org.au Australian Historical Association www.theaha.org.au

Bastille Day French Festival Melbourne www.bastilledaymelbourne.com

Bleu Blanc Rouge (Consular newsletter)
www.bbrvic.com/en

French Assist Melbourne www.frenchassistmelbourne.org.au

French Australian Chamber of Commerce www.facci.com.au

ISFAR resources

ISFAR provides resources to researchers in the field of French-Australian studies, with the support of the authors or contributors who give their approval to publish this material. Access all ISFAR resources www.isfar.org.au/resources

Message from the president

Dear ISFAR members and friends,

I write this from yet another lockdown in Melbourne, knowing that many of you will also be in lockdown when you read it. It certainly has been a trying couple of years! Perhaps some of you were watching the Olympic and/or Paralympic Games as a recent distraction? If you didn't happen to catch the Closing Ceremony of the Olympics, I can highly recommend watching this 3-minute promotional video for the Paris 2024 Games. It contains stunning talent and enticing images which will make you want to start planning your next trip ...

Since our last newsletter, ISFAR has been working on a number of initiatives which are reported below. First, our inaugural online trivia quiz as part of the Melbourne Bastille Day French Festival attracted a large number of participants and was a great success. The winners and their prizes are detailed on p. 2, and the questions are reproduced for those who missed it and would like to give it a try (answers to follow in the December newsletter). ISFAR also contributed a submission to the government to provide more funding for the National Archives (see p.4).

The winter issue of the *French Australian Review* (number 70) should have reached you by now (more details on p.3). I am sure you will agree that it is another excellent issue, this time with a focus on the Arts. Having produced 70 issues of the journal over 35 years of ISFAR is reason itself to celebrate. This is a wonderful achievement, made possible only by the countless hours of hard work that our tireless editors, Elaine Lewis and Jane Gilmour, put into each issue.

Special thanks must also go to Lina Vale, our copy editor, and to Lynn Smailes, our desktop publisher. Work also continues behind-the-scenes on our *French Australian Dictionary of Biography*. Thanks to the FADB General Editor, Alexis Bergantz, and the support of the ISFAR Research Committee, more entries have recently been added (see p.3).

Also co-chair of said Research Committee, Alexis somehow found time to publish a book this July, one which I am sure will interest a great many of our readers. For more information on the book itself, links to reviews and media pieces, and details of where you can buy it, see p.7. We round off the newsletter with the usual array of articles and exhibitions of interest - fingers crossed we will soon be able to visit them! And talking of crossed fingers, keep an eye on your inboxes for details of two Melbourne Salons in October and December.

Last but not least, we have a growing social media presence through <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u>. Our followers are increasing, but if they don't include you as yet, please do click on these links and sign up to ensure you don't miss out on any ISFAR news!

Bonne lecture!

Kerry Mullan President

Thanks to Robyn Stern and Graham Neilson for the coordination and layout of this newsletter and to all the contributors. As always, if you have any feedback or suggestions for future topics or items for inclusion, please contact us at isfarinc@gmail.com.

Bastille Day French Festival 2021

As Melburnians will know, the Bastille Day French Festival due to be held in Federation Square in Melbourne was cancelled at the last minute due to a snap lockdown (although see the <u>Bastille Day French Festival website</u> for news of a possible "Encore"!). Many of the scheduled talks and activities were held online and were very well attended.

ISFAR's online participation was in the form of a quiz (see below). We had over thirty correct entries and the following winners were pulled out of a hat:

- Leslie, Ramona, Cathleen and Cyril won a \$50 France at Home voucher each
- Kim, Kay, Charli and Carlos won a \$25 Cacao voucher each
- Grace won a copy of French Connection: Australia's Cosmopolitan Ambitions by Alexis Bergantz

All the winners also received a free 12-month membership of ISFAR, including two issues of *The French Australian Review*. Congratulations to all our winners and huge thanks to our sponsors, **France at Home, Cacao**, and **Alexis Bergantz**.





'A lively, spirited and historically informed account of the history and legacy of French-Australian relations.'

PASTALE EDWARDS, UNIVERSITY OF ABELIANS.



For those of you who would like to try your hand at the quiz, the questions are reproduced below. (Hint: the answer to many of the questions can be found via the search function on the <u>French-Australian Dictionary of Biography</u> or elsewhere on our <u>ISFAR website</u>. A few may require you to cast a wider net...)

- 1. The weekly newpaper founded by Henri Rochefort was called: a. La Lanterne b. Le Communard c. La Paix
- 2. Who opened the Café estaminet français in Melbourne? a. Berthe Mouchette b. Antoine Fauchery c. Charlotte Crivelli
- 3. The Alliance française in Melbourne was founded in: a. 1895 b. 1898 c. 1890
- 4. Who was the first French consul in Sydney? a. Jean Faramond b. Louis Sentis c. Paul Maistre
- 5. Which city is twinned with Villers-Bretonneux? a. Sydney b. Robinvale c. Geelong
- 6. Who established the Hôpital australien in Paris in 1915? a. Hannah Sexton b. Louise Dyer c. Charlotte Crivelli
- 7. The masthead of the first edition of the Courrier Australien bore the title: a. Journal cosmopolitain du samedi b. Journal des Français de Sydney c. Journal commercial et politique
- 8. What was the name of ISFAR's journal before it became The French Australian Review? a. The French-Australian Journal b. French Australian Studies c. Explorations
- 9. Who was entitled to a free cremation? a. Louis Laure b. Marie Lion c. Charles Lancial
- 10. Who wrote the novel whose English title is The Gods Intervene? a. Berthe Mouchette b. Paul Wenz c. Marie Lion
- 11. In which territory did French women receive the vote for the first time? a. New Hebrides b. New Caledonia c. mainland France
- 12. To which territory was Australia's first spy sent? a. New Caledonia b. New Hebrides c. French Polynesia

Answers will be provided in the next issue of the newsletter (and apologies, there will be no prizes!).

Now available: *The French Australian Review*, Number 70, Australian Winter 2021



Copies are available for purchase at www.isfar.org.au/journal or by contacting french.australian.review@gmail.com

- Members: \$11 incl GST (\$10 for overseas) plus postage
- Non-members: \$16.50 incl GST (\$15 for overseas) plus postage
- PDF copies: \$11 incl GST.

This issue contains the following:

LEAD ARTICLE

Robert Aldrich, KEYNOTE SPEECH: ISFAR 2021 35th Anniversary Symposium, 'From the French East Indies Company to the French in the "Indo-Pacific"'

REFEREED ARTICLES

Andrew Montana, 'Virtue and Sentiment: Madame Mouchette's Art and Teaching in Melbourne 1881–1892'

Lynn Everett and Russell Cheek, 'The Influence of the Lecoq School on Australian Theatre'

Natalie Edwards and Christopher Hogarth, 'The Teaching Research Nexus: French-Australian Migrant Literature in the First-Year French Classroom'

DOCUMENTS, NOTES AND REVIEWS

Janet Lilley, French-Australian Encounters Number 6

Australian Theatre in France: 1994 and 2021

Elizabeth Rechniewski and Alexis Bergantz, The ISFAR Research Committee Report

Elizabeth Rechniewski and Alexis Bergantz, Travel Scholarship in Honour of Professor Colin Nettelbeck

Kerry Mullan, Winner of the 2020 Ivan Barko Prize: Irene Rogers Lauren Sadow and Kerry Mullan: A Tribute to Bert Peeters (1960–2021)

Phoebe Weston-Evans, Book Review: *Crossed Lines* by Marie Darrieussecq, translated by Penny Hueston

Kirsty Carpenter, Book Review: *New Zealand Journal of French Studies*Nicole Starbuck, Book Review: *Dumont d'Urville : L'homme et la mer* by Edward Duyker

Elizabeth Rechniewski, Book Review: Paris Savages by Katherine Johnson

Book Notes, *Paris Savages, Cast Among Strangers*, a Paris auction and *L'Exposition coloniale de 1931*, *Paris*

Elaine Lewis, French-Australian Bibliographical Notes

A Note from Le Havre

The French-Australian Dictionary of Biography

Several additions have been made to ISFAR's <u>French-Australian Dictionary of Biography</u> in recent weeks, including entries by Rosemary Lancaster on the 'White Mouse', Nancy Wake, the Resistance heroine, and Stella Bowen.

Stella Bowen was one of the many independently minded and enterprising young Australian women who traveled to Paris in the early twentieth century to study art. During her colourful and eventful years in France she met the young Ernest Hemingway and James Joyce, American poet Raymond Guthrie, the Pounds and writer and salonnière Gertrude Stein. Today Bowen is perhaps best remembered for her role as official war artist during World War Two, but she also excelled in individual and group portraiture. The accompanying illustration, *Provençal Conversation*, was painted in Cagnes-sur-mer in 1936.



Credit: Stella Bowen

More information can be found on the <u>Australian War Memorial</u> website.

Second-hand (French and English) book initiative (donating and buying)

ISFAR members may be interested in this new BabelBooks initiative.

<u>BabelBooks</u> promotes a circular economy as the books sold have been generously donated by individuals and organisations in Australia. When you choose Babelbooks, you also:

- reduce your carbon footprint as BabelBooks use Sendle, Australia's first 100% carbon neutral shipping service as their preferred shipping partner, as well as using compostable and recyclable packaging
- support a significant literacy organisation in Australia: BabelBooks donate 10% of sales to Magabala Books, Australia's leading Indigenous publisher. This is their contribution to help preserve our unique and invaluable heritage, via the publication of bilingual books or books in First Nations' languages.

BabelBooks endeavours to provide collections in several languages as they know how expensive and complicated it can be to source books from overseas. In addition to the current ranges of books in French and English, they plan to add a Spanish collection next.

BabelBooks collects books you would like to donate. They currently operate in Melbourne and Sydney, where they pick them up for free when you have at least 30 books to donate. If you are interested in donating books, please refer to BabelBooks for more details.





BLEU BLANC ROUGE est un blog d'information de la Consule Générale Honoraire de France à Melbourne, destiné aux Français et francophiles de l'Etat du Victoria. N'hésitez pas à le diffuser à vos amis francophones qui ne le recevraient pas déjà. Votre opinion nous sera précieuse également.

BLEU BLANC ROUGE is a blog from the Honorary Consul General of France in Melbourne for the French and Francophiles of the State of Victoria. Your feed-back will be most valuable. Also, you might like to send it to Francophone friends who don't receive it already.

Sign up here to receive the Bleu Blanc Rouge newsletter from the Honorary Consul in Melbourne.

National Archives Campaign

Readers will remember the campaign that was launched in June this year when the Federal budget failed to increase funding to the National Archives to finance the vital work of digitising the nation's records, increasingly vulnerable to age and deterioration.

The Research Committee chairs submitted, on behalf of ISFAR, a letter to the Prime Minister, to the Assistant Minister to the Attorney-General Amanda Stoker and to the Attorney-General, Michaelia Cash, calling for funding of the National Archives to be increased to \$70 million, in line with the recommendations of the Tune review, completed in January 2020, that called for a \$67.7m increase in funding over seven years.

The campaign, with which many of the major research organisations were associated, was successful, with the government agreeing to increase funding to the NAA by \$67.7million and over four years instead of seven.

Australia and New Caledonia

Although New Caledonia has just gone into lockdown as a result of a surge in COVID-19 cases, the referendum on self-determination is still scheduled to be held on 12 December. This will be the third and final poll to be held under the terms of the Nouméa Accord, following votes in 2018 and 2020 in which independence was rejected by 56.7% and 53.3% respectively. There has been comparatively little coverage in the Australian media of what is at stake in the referendum and what the result might mean for Australia, particularly if the majority were this time in favour of independence.

The rich and complex relationship between New Caledonia and Australia was, however, addressed at the recent ISFAR Symposium, with its focus on Australia and France in the South West Pacific. A volume of articles on contemporary and historical aspects of this relationship, contributed by participants in the Symposium, is in preparation.



New Caledonia has two official flags: the tricolor and the flag of 'Kanaky'. The symbolism of the kanak flag as originally defined by the FLNKS: Blue: the clans of the sea. Green: the clans of the mountain. Red: the alliances uniting us, the ancestors' blood, the struggle. The sun: equality, life. The rooftop spear: *la grande case* (the Great Hut/chief's hut), symbol of the ancestors and the Kanak sovereignty over their land.

Liz Rechniewski

Recent articles and documentaries, exhibitions and upcoming events

Below you will find links to external articles of interest.

Romain Fathi and Claire Rioult published What is Bastille Day and why is it celebrated? in The Conversation.

ABC News published the following article on The man snatching Africa's 'looted' treasures from European museums.

The Age published the following article on Australians in France stuck without pensions call for help.

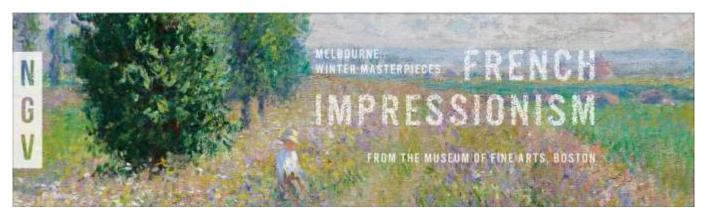
ABC arts editor Dee Jefferson profiles Coco Chanel for the upcoming NGV exhibition, scheduled to open on 5 December 2021.

The Guardian published this article on the Australia nuclear submarine deal with France.

Danielle Clode and Christèle Maisozonniaux have produced a new documentary <u>French Voyages of Discovery to Australia</u>, which brings to life the late 18th and early 19th century French voyages of exploration and scientific research to the Pacific and Australia. These voyages were the first to name, describe and illustrate many Australian species. 'England may have colonized Australia, but for many years it was France that understood it best.' The documentary premiered on SBS TV on 14 July 2021 and can be viewed on <u>SBS On Demand</u>.

Exhibitions

We may not currently be able to visit, but the Melbourne Winter Masterpieces <u>French Impressionism from the Museum of Fine Arts Boston</u> continues at the NGV until 3 October.



MIRKA – an intimate, previously unseen view into the rich and fascinating life of the late Mirka Mora (1928–2018) – opened in February at the <u>Jewish Museum of Australia</u> in Melbourne, in partnership with <u>William Mora Galleries</u> and supported by <u>Heide Museum of Modern Art</u>. Mirka Mora was born in Paris in 1928 to Romanian and Lithuanian Jewish parents. Following her traumatic and life-changing experience during World War II in Paris and the French countryside, she migrated to Australia with her husband Georges and young son Philippe in 1951, settling in Melbourne. Finding themselves within a completely new cultural landscape, Mirka as a dressmaker and Georges at Snider's Matzo Factory, both developed very rapidly into artist and entrepreneur respectively, and together as successful entrepreneurs and members of an influential artists hub.

Featuring more than 200 never-exhibited works from the private collection of the Mora family and Mirka's studio and archives, alongside pieces from the Mirka collection acquired by the Heide Museum of Modern Art, MIRKA offers the most comprehensive picture of the artist's life and 70-year-long career, offering fresh insight into her creativity, and allowing audiences old and new to discover her life and artistry like never before.

The exhibition runs until 19 December 2021 and tickets can be purchased from the website of the Jewish Museum of Australia.





HOLD THE DATE! Tuesday 12 October 2021, 18-20h

What did it mean to be French in Australia during the First World War?

Dr Pauline Georgelin University of Melbourne

This talk will focus on how French Australians responded to the Great War and consider the role of French identity and culture in the wider pro-war discourse. In Australia, support for France - 'our noble ally' - stood alongside loyalty to the British Empire as a reason to continue fighting, and to encourage recruitment. French cultural symbols inspired support for French war charities.





French identity was defined not only by the French residents of Australia, but also by francophiles and francophones, and Australians more generally, often linked to patriotism. Based on research in Australian and French archives, this talk will trace how this cultural mobilisation occurred in a variety of contexts, both civilian and military, through connections between French people and Australians.

Pauline Georgelin recently completed a jointly-awarded co-tutelle PhD at the University of Melbourne and Université Paris Nanterre. Her thesis, entitled "For Noble and Valiant France": French-Australian Relations, French-Australian Identities during the First World War, examined how French identity and culture were perceived, projected and mobilised in Australia during the First World War. Pauline also teaches French at the University of Melbourne and is Hon. Secretary of ISFAR.



(Venue and registration details to follow by email closer to the time.)



FILLING THE GAPS!

Australian-French Workshop on Hydrogen

22 & 23 September 2021



This workshop will provide Australian and French stakeholders in the Hydrogen sector a forum to share, discuss and anticipate research and development pertinent to Hydrogen deployment across our two nations. It will present national hydrogen deployment strategies, as well as their adaptation and implementation at the stakeholder level. French and Australian ecosystems, as well as practices for innovation and technology transfer will be discussed. Finally, this workshop should make it possible to explore emerging technologies that can address the major challenges identified in this sector, and to promote collaborations between France and Australia or between academia and industry, identifying areas where joint activities would provide opportunities.

Download the program

Session 1: CONTEXT AND FRAMEWORK

22 September 3.45pm-6.00pm AEST / 7.45am-10am CEST

- Welcome: H.E. Mr Jean-Pierre Thebault and H.E. Ms Gillian Bird
- Keynote speech: Dr Alan Finkel
- Presentation of French and Australian National Hydrogen strategies: Mr Christophe Kassiotis and Mr James Hetherington
- Panel discussion: Connecting the dots from needs assessment to project implementation

Register to the session 1

Session 2: ACTORS AND PRACTICES

22 September 6.00pm-7.30pm AEST / 10am-11.30am CEST

- General presentation of French and Australian actors in the Hydrogen technologies
- Discussion on research-industry links and the levers fostering hydrogen technology realisation and deployment

Register to the $\underline{\text{session 2}}$

Contact: Nathalie Simenel-Amar <u>nathalie.simenel-amar@diplomatie.gouv.fr</u>

Session 3: HOW TO ACHIEVE HYDROGEN EXPORTATION AT \$2/Kg?

Parallel sessions 23 September 3.55pm-5.30pm AEST / 7.55am-9.30am CEST

- Welcome opening: Prof Alan Lau
- Hydrogen production
- Large-scale Hydrogen storage and distribution
- Creating Hydrogen demand
- Hydrogen enablers

Register to the welcome opening and Hydrogen production session <u>Join</u> the Large-scale Hydrogen storage and distribution session <u>Join</u> the Creating Hydrogen demand session

Register to the <u>Hydrogen enablers session</u>

Session 4: OPPORTUNITIES AND THE WAY FORWARD

23 September 5.30pm-7.00pm AEST / 9.30am-11.00am CEST

- Keynote speech: Prof Kenneth Baldwin
- Wrap up of the parallel sessions
- Panel discussion: what is the way forward?
 o The whole Hydrogen value chain
 o International collaborations
- Conclusion

Register to the session 4

New publications of interest

ISFAR is delighted to announce the publication of ISFAR committee member and co-chair of the ISFAR Research Committee Alexis Bergantz, *French Connection: Australia's Cosmopolitan Ambitions* in July. (Sydney, NewSouth Publishing, 2021, 208pp, rrp AU\$ 34.99, ISBN 978-1-74223-709-1.)



'The French have been integral to the Australian story since European colonisation. Escaped convicts from New Caledonia, wool buyers from Lille, Roubaix and Tourcoing, gold-diggers, artisans, teachers and café owners, they were not always the crème de la crème.

French Connection provides a fascinating insight into how the culture of Frenchness influenced a new nation anxious to prove itself to the world. What did Australian colonists see when they looked to France? How much did the French presence in the Pacific loom over such ideas? And what did the French in Australia themselves make of it all?

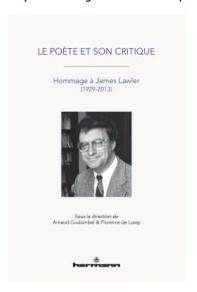
Alexis Bergantz uncovers the little known and often surprising history of the French in nineteenth-century Australia and their role in creating a more connected and cosmopolitan nation.'

Alexis has written about the book for <u>Inside Story</u>, and it has been reviewed in the Nine mastheads <u>The Age and Sydney Morning Herald</u>, and <u>The Canberra Times</u>. Alexis has also appeared on multiple radio shows to discuss the book, including ABC <u>Late Night Live with Philip Adams</u>, ABC FOCUS with Cassie McCullagh, ABC <u>Nightlife</u> with Philip Clark, and SBS French. He spoke to the <u>Australian History and Policy blog</u> about the process of writing the book.

Alexis was also in conversation with Yves Rees talking about French Connection for the History Council of Victoria Book Club.

A review of *French Connection: Australia's Cosmopolitan Ambitions* will be published in the upcoming *The French Australian Review*, no 71, Australian Summer, 2021–2022.

Le poète et son critique: Hommage à James Lawler (1929–2013)



James R. Lawler, was born and raised (and educated) in Melbourne. After graduating from Melbourne University, where he studied under the legendary Professor A. R. Chisholm, he went to the Sorbonne in Paris and completed a doctorate in French literature. That was the start of a celebrated career as a Professor of French Studies, that saw him take up appointments in many parts of the world (Australia, Canada, United States, Japan, France). Over that period he published a series of books and numerous papers. Upon his retirement he returned to Paris with his French wife, Christiane, where he continued writing. He died in 2013.

This collection of papers presented at a two-day colloquium in honour of James Lawler in March 2015, together with some of his own writing, make this *un très riche hommage à James*.

See Editions Hermanns for more details.

(A message from Peter Evans on James R. Lawler, known to him as as Uncle Jimmy, can be found on our <u>ISFAR website</u>.)

A tribute entitled "The Career of a Distinguished Australian Scholar of French Poetry over Three Continents James Ronald Lawler 1929–2013" by Wallace Kirsop appeared in *The French Australian Review* No 55 Australian Summer 2013–2014.

Australian History Association prizes 2021-2022

The AHA offers four biennial and three annual prizes, which range from awards for postgraduates and support for early career research projects through to a thesis prize, biography award and first book award. Expressions of Interest for the Book, Thesis and ECR Research Prizes and Awards close soon.



BIENNIAL PRIZES

MAGAREY MEDAL FOR BIOGRAPHY

This biennial prize is kindly donated by Professor Emerita Susan Magarey, and is administered and judged by a panel established by the Australian Historical Association and the Association for the Study of Australian Literature. It is awarded to the female person who has published the work judged to be the best biographical writing on an Australian subject in 2020 or 2021.

KAY DANIELS AWARD

This award is sponsored by members and associates of the Australian Historical Association, the University of Tasmania, and the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority. Consisting of a \$1,500 prize and citation, it recognises outstanding original research with a bearing on Australian convict history and heritage including in its international context, published in 2020 or 2021.

W.K. HANCOCK PRIZE

The W.K. Hancock Prize was instituted in 1987 by the Australian Historical Association to honour the contribution to the study and writing of history in Australia by Sir Keith Hancock. Offering a \$2,000 prize and citation, it is intended to give recognition and encouragement to an Australian scholar who has published a first scholarly book in any field of history in 2020 or 2021.

THE SERLE AWARD

The Serle Award is a biennial prize established through the generosity of Mrs Jessie Serle to honour the contribution to Australian history of her former husband, Dr Geoffrey Serle, for the best postgraduate thesis in Australian History awarded during the previous two years. The \$2,500 biennial award may be used as a publication subsidy or to subsidise other costs associated with transforming the thesis into a book.

• Intentions to submit for the next round of biennial prizes are due 30 September 2021. Completed applications are due 31 January 2022.

ANNUAL PRIZES

ALLAN MARTIN AWARD

The Allan Martin Award is a research fellowship to assist early career historians further their research in Australian history. The biennial award of up to \$4,500 will assist with a research trip undertaken in Australia or overseas in support of a project in Australian history. Applicants are required to show how the research is essential to the completion of their project and how the findings will be published. It must be spent within two years.

Intentions to submit for the next Allan Martin Award to be awarded are due 1 October 2021. Full applications due 1 December 2021.

THE ANN CURTHOYS PRIZE

The Ann Curthoys Prize is an annual prize awarded for the best unpublished article-length work by an Early Career Researcher (within 5 years of PhD graduation) in any one or combination of the following fields in which Ann has published: Australian history; feminist history; Indigenous history; transnational/comparative/ colonial history; history and theory. The Prize honours the varied work and dedicated service to the historical profession of Professor Ann Curthoys; it is generously funded by Ann and Macquarie University, where Ann completed her PhD.

• Applications for the next Ann Curthoys Prize to be awarded are due mid 2022.

THE JILL ROE PRIZE

The Jill Roe Prize is an annual prize established by the AHA to honour the career of Professor Emerita Jill Roe. The Jill Roe Prize will be awarded annually for the best unpublished article-length work (5,000-8,000 words) of historical research in any area of historical enquiry, produced by a postgraduate student enrolled for a History degree at an Australian university.

Applications for the next Jill Roe Prize to be awarded are due 31 March 2022.

Full details of the prizes can be found on the AHA website.