

QUADRIVIA

The HPRC Newsletter



December 2011

Head of School's Report

Now that the grades are in and the year is meandering to a close, we have time to reflect upon the deeper mysteries of life, such as whether if the world ends at midnight, does it end at 12.30am in Adelaide, and whether if you can't step in the same river twice, the same is true for porridge, and if not, whether you would ever be able to wear those shoes again? Don't worry, these questions will not be on the exam; they serve simply to remind us that it is our vocational duty to always ask the hard questions.

What a year! We have been reviewed and renewed. There is a new respect for the way we do business and a recognition that we have been understaffed and underfunded. We have struggled to provide the students with a high quality teaching and learning experience under the most difficult financial conditions in recent years. Despite that, the mood in the corridors has been cheerful and where students have complained, it has largely been for us rather than against us. You are a superb group of teachers, researchers, and well, heck, people, and if you didn't exist, we'd have to invent you. Next year is already looking to be better than we anticipated in terms of casual and ResTeach funding, so I thank you all for hanging in during the dark days. As our esteemed colleague, William Grey, aptly put it the other day, the light at the end of the tunnel is not necessarily an on-coming freight train.

Let me also take this opportunity to acknowledge the exceptional efforts and intelligence of our admin team. Lesley and Serena carried the school through long periods of staff instability with humour and grace until the beginning of the year when Beck arrived and started to rebuild the admin team. I marvel at the reforms to our work practices – particularly, those surrounding teaching and learning – that Felicia has introduced. Brenda is simply a whiz at finance and HR, and first Jean and then Judy, have managed the difficult RHD portfolio with aplomb. We are only now, thanks to the intelligent planning and lobbying of Beck, at the point of having sufficient admin numbers to make the school run efficiently and to offer the Directors, HOS and D/HOS the support they need for the School to flourish. So I thank all the admin staff and especially Beck for their superhuman efforts this year.

Finally, thanks for putting up with me as Acting Head of School these last six months. It's been a blast!

Deb Brown, Acting HoS



New Website

Not everyone will be aware that the new HPRC website has now been activated – it's a huge improvement over the old one, and a big appreciation goes to those who have worked hard to get it finished in time. It's a long list: Sara, Beck, Felicia, Serena, Deb, Lesley, Dania from the Faculty, Nathan Millington from Web Services, and Debbie Browne.

Please have a look at the site and send through your comments and suggestions to either Serena or Kimberley in the office. And word on the street is that *Quadrivia* will re-launch under a new format in 2012...watch this space!



Some conferences

Virginia Thorley presented a paper titled 'Banking in Australia, to 1985', based on her recent research, at the conference of the Australian Breastfeeding Association in Canberra, 20-21 October 2011.



Emeritus Professor **Michael Lattke** will present a main paper at the 68th meeting of the Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas (SNTS) in 2013. The meeting will take place in Perth, Australia (23-27 July 2013). It is the first time that the international SNTS congress is being organised down under.

Amelia Brown has delivered three public lectures in recent times: on Religion and Ancient Greek Seafaring for the Solomos Society at the Greek Club in Brisbane; on Ancient Greek War Memorials for the Queensland Friends of the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens; and on Ancient Malta for the Friends of the Abbey Museum. At the latter talk she learned about the time that members of the Abbey spent in Cyprus, and will talk to them about Ethnicity and Identity in Ancient Cyprus next year. Amelia is also doing some research on the early (seaborne) development of the cult of St Nicholas, for the annual meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America meeting in Philadelphia in January.



In September this year **Patrick Jory** presented a paper at the ANU “Thailand Update” Conference 2011 on the theme, “Policy Issues for Thailand’s New Government”, organized by the National Thai Studies Centre at the Australian National University, Canberra. The paper was titled, ‘Thailand’s Crisis of Absolutism: the Monarchy as the Obstacle to an Open Society’. Patrick also participated in a panel discussion organized by the ANU on the subject of the Thai monarchy. The discussion was vodcast on ANU YouTube Channel (with Thai subtitles) and is available at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITM-kQ2GRbQ&feature=player_embedded



How to Get a Wife: Solomons style

When **Clive Moore** was in Honiara in August he was lucky enough to be able to attend a bride wealth exchange ceremony between two Malaitan families:

“The ceremony was for my namesake Clive Masae and his bride to be Salome Stella. Both families are from Lau Lagoon, Malaita Island, and Clive is the second Clive named after me. I took over 300 photos, following the whole ceremony from Honiara’s Lau Fishing Village to Rove and back.



It is often called a Bride Price ceremony, as if it was buying the bride, but in fact it is a traditional dowry exchange to link two extended families. These days the exchanges are

often quite small, as Churches have put a limit on the number of tafuli`ae shell wealth items to be given. This is particularly so with the South Sea Evangelical Church and the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Masae’s are SDA, so the Church rulings (they limit tafuli`ae exchanges to five) had clearly been ignored. There were fifty tafuli`ae or red money, \$24,000 in cash and forty rolls of calico. In return the bride’s family has to give enough food for the wedding feast, which is in the form of taro and rice and other items.



The main form of valuables, bata, was (and still is) laboriously manufactured by clans in Langalanga Lagoon on the west coast of Malaita and traded as far south as the Banks Group in Vanuatu and Bougainville, New Britain and Manus in Papua New Guinea. Bata consists of polished sections of red, white and black bivalve mollusc shells interspersed with small beads made from seeds (fulu and kekete), strung onto strings of pandanus fibre of various lengths. Ridi is the name for the individual strings, usually in the form of tafuli`ae: ten strings wide and a fathom (six feet or 1.82 m) long, separated by wooden or tortoise-shell bars and decorated with colourful tassels of kekete seeds and now pieces of old red cloth. Smaller pieces were used for lesser transactions and all bata could carry magical properties. The fulu and kekete seeds came from riverine plants, and were usually obtained from the nearby mainland.

The most essential shell, the red romu, were found on the reef face about ten fathoms down; they came mainly from Langalanga, around Tarapaina in Maramasike Passage, Suafa Bay and Maana`oba in To`aba`ita, Lau Lagoon, and Mboli Passage, Nggela. Another shell, the white kakadu, also from reefs but not from the same depth, and was usually purchased from Tarapaina or Mboli Passage. The third essential shell, kurila, was black, much larger 8 mm in diameter) and collected in Langalanga Lagoon or from north Malaita.

The money is displayed on strings and draped over the tafuli`ae, and the cloth comes in long rolls and is bright island patterns. A cavalcade of trucks left the groom’s home and went to



the bride's home, then the wealth is all displayed, speeches are made and the items are exchanged and distributed. Then the cavalcade returns with the bride, all decking out in finery, including a money crown. No one gets to keep it all the gifts as gathering the wealth is a communal activity, and people are owed items from earlier ceremonies. It took Clive's parents two years to collect enough for the bride payment. I just hope that are happy!"



Text Queensland; Queensland Speaks

HPRC's Centre for the Government of Queensland recently launched the latest of its digital research resources in the field of Queensland history and politics. Professor Paul Greenfield launched the new website, *Text Queensland*, a unique and dynamic collection of full-text searchable, digitised sources on Queensland's colonial and state history. This was shortly followed by *Queensland Speaks*, a repository of oral interviews dealing with Queensland politics and policy from the late 1960s to the election of the Beattie government.

Both websites have been developed with support from the Queensland Government, in collaboration with a wide range of partners. They complete the suite of websites developed by the Centre for the Government of Queensland since 2008, including the *Queensland Historical Atlas* and *Queensland Places*.



Some recent publications

Emeritus Professor **Michael Lattke** has been invited to contribute a chapter on the Syriac author Aphrahat to the interdisciplinary and international project "Sacred Meal, Communal Meal, Table Fellowship, and the Eucharist – Late Antiquity, Early Judaism and Early Christianity". There will be two symposia, the first one in Kiel (Germany, 6-10 August 2012) and the second one in Metochi (Lesbos, 14-21 September 2013). The publisher of the multi-volume work will be Mohr Siebeck in Tübingen.

Richard Hutch had another book published recently, *Sport as a Spiritual Practice: Mastery, Failure, and Transcendence in the Life of Athletes* (Mellen, 2010), which arrived in Australia during the first half of this year. He lectured on that topic, along with the psychology of religion, at Central European University, Budapest, Hungary and Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland in June and July 2011, taking a break during some long service leave overseas. Richard has also become a permanent fixture in HMST1910 Sociocultural Foundations of Human Movement in the School of

Human Movement Studies at UQ, where he lectures twice annually on "Sport and Human Spirituality."

Neil Pembroke, "Equal Regard, Just Love, and Family Fairness: The Theories in Practice," *Practical Theology* 4, no. 2 (2011), pp. 151-164.

Neil Pembroke, "Space in the Trinity and in Pastoral Care," *The Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling* 65, no. 2 (2011), 3.1-10.

Neil Pembroke, "Beyond Blue: The Role of Ironic Imagination in Overcoming Depression," *Journal of Pastoral Theology* 21, no. 1 (2011), 4.1-4.9.



School News

Heartfelt congratulations have been going out to **Caillan Davenport**, who was the successful applicant from a very competitive field for the new Lecturer B position in Classics and Ancient History. It is a great reward for Caillan's outstanding achievements to date, and for his very polished performance at the seminar.

Well done also to **Amelia Brown** (Classics) and **Dolly MacKinnon** (History) for their recent success in winning UQ Research Excellence awards. Both were awarded these highly competitive awards for the quality of their research, its impact on multiple fields of research and external organisations, and its international engagement. In a similar vein, congratulations to **Paul Turnbull** and other members of the History Curriculum Party on receiving a Faculty Teaching and Learning Award, and also to **Martin Crotty** on his commendation for innovative practice and contributions to RHD supervision, both as a supervisor and Director of RHD within the School. Martin has also been offered a 50% position as Deputy Dean, Graduate School, and will take up that role for three years.



Canberra-bound

History PhD candidate **Jon Piccini** (one of the shiny smiling post-grads on the new webpage, we should note) has just been informed that his application for a Summer Scholarship to the National Library in Canberra has been successful. The Scholarships involve a \$300 weekly stipend for a period of six weeks, during which time he will stay at University House (with breakfast included!) and work with librarians in accessing sources and manuscripts for his doctoral project on transnational aspects of Australian

radicalism in the 1960s and 70s. The scholarships are limited in number and hotly contested, so well done to Jon.



Roxanne Marcotte, who has recently left UQ to take up a position in Montreal, has been an exceptional colleague, contributing tirelessly to the teaching program in Islamic Studies and Religion more broadly. She contributed to HPRC enormously in a variety of service roles and through the research profile of Studies in Religion. She will be much missed.



Congratulations all round

Clive Moore has been elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, which is a great honour indeed! Other promotions – somewhat more earthbound yet also richly deserved – just announced were **Deb Brown**, **Martin Crotty** and **Andrew Bonnell** to Associate Professor. Whew! such illustrious company.

In the recent round of grants results, Dr **Vincent Lam** received a 2012 ARC DECRA grant for a project on “The physical and metaphysical foundations of structural realism”. This was an excellent result in an otherwise disappointing year for ARC grant applications. Congratulations also to **Chi-Kong Lai** for collecting \$35,000 in funding to host a large international conference here in May, 2012, on ‘The History of Everyday Life in Imperial and Modern China’, and to **Marguerite La Caze** for securing a UWA-UQ collaborative grant. **Dolly MacKinnon**, meanwhile, has been appointed an Associate Investigator of the History of Emotions project.



Newborns

It’s been a wonderful few months for HPRC parents. **Kriston and Megan** have just welcomed little Tess to the expanding ranks of the **Rennie** family, so Felix and Jude won’t have it all their way this Christmas. And then Sophie Englezakis Barrett was born on Saturday 5 November, a firstborn for **Craig and Mel Barrett**. Craig has just sent his other baby to the examiners...



Welcome Kimberley

Many in the School have taken the time to personally welcome **Kimberly Dobson**, who started recently as the School’s new (at the moment temporary) administrative position of Admin Officer (Research). Her main duty will be to take on the task of bibliographic collection for both the annual HERDC exercise and the upcoming ERA exercise. She will also provide secretarial support to Research Committee, and assist Paul Turnbull with compiling various documents to prepare for ERA and to better support the various research activities of the School than currently.



Amelia Brown has contributed an ongoing series of articles in the Saturday *Courier Mail* about the roots of Christmas traditions, and to an ongoing series of articles about Greek archaeology and ancient history in Neos Kosmos (the Australian Greek newspaper). Amelia is also gearing up for Study Tour 2 to Greece in January/February 2012, this time with some research time before and afterwards on Megara, Corinth and Kythera.



Some RHD completions

Congratulations to **Wendi Sargeant**, who has recently been awarded a PhD for her thesis ‘Christian Education and the Emerging Church’, and **Jennifer Bowes** who has earned her doctorate for her thesis ‘Victorian Vapours: Reflections of Ideal Femininity in Colonial Victoria 1860-1901’.



Travellers Tales

In September **Kate Walton** attended the International Society for First World War Studies’ 6th biennial conference in Innsbruck, Austria:

“The conference spanned three days and was held in the shadows of the magnificent Austrian Alps at the 400-year-old University of Innsbruck. The theme of the conference was ‘Other Fronts, Other Wars’ and the aim was to showcase research that did not focus specifically on the dominant area of World War I studies – the Western Front. Papers encompassed a wide range of topics including the various social implications of the conflict, military medicine, propaganda studies, the consequences of occupation and my area, prisoners of war.

The format of the conference was very different from anything I had participated in before, as presenters did not actually deliver their paper *a la* a traditional humanities conference. Instead, we were required to send our written paper to an established scholar with experience or interest in the field who, at the conference, provided a 'commentary'. Presenters then had ten minutes to respond to these comments/critique, followed by another ten minutes of general questions with the audience. Quite a stressful way to go about it, but I did receive some helpful feedback and advice.



Conference venue in Innsbruck

After the conference we were taken on a two day guided

tour of the Dolomite front, where Austro-Hungarian and Italian troops slogged it out during the war. I visited German, Austrian and Italian ossuaries and cemeteries, various battlefields, a railway built by Russian POWs still in use today, and a museum housing an incredible collection of material in perhaps the most picturesque location possible for a museum to be.

The tour finished off with a cable car ride (not for the faint-hearted!) to the top of the Piccolo Lagazuoi mountain – the scene of some of the most drawn-out fighting between the two armies. Here we were able to walk through the restored trenches, sit in old foxholes and peer out of machine gun posts. The weather was beautiful and the view amazing, but it didn't take much imagination to picture what it would have been like for the soldiers in the middle of winter nearly 100 years ago. All in all, it was a fantastic experience and my thanks go to HPRC for providing the funding."



PhD studentships in History

The Department of History, Classics and Archaeology at **Birkbeck College, University of London** invites applications from suitable candidates for two fully-funded PhD Studentships in any area of history, commencing 1 October 2012. The awards will cover fees at UK/EU levels, and a maintenance grant in line with AHRC rates for the duration of three years. Applications from non-UK/EU nationals will be considered, but any such applicant would have to cover the differential between home and non-UK/EU student fees.

Applicants will normally have completed or be about to complete a Masters in history or a related discipline, with an achieved or predicted grade of Distinction; and have gained a strong First-class BA honours degree in a relevant subject.

Research expertise within the department stretch from antiquity to contemporary history, and we invite applications for any suitable topic. Applicants are strongly advised to first make informal contact with a potential supervisor: details about the department can be found on our website: <http://www.bbk.ac.uk/history/>. The department has particular strengths in classical antiquity; medieval history; early-modern and modern British and European history; and non-European history (Africa, south-east Asia, the Balkans, China, India and Japan).

Deadline for applications: Monday 6 February 2012.

Applicants must complete a Birkbeck postgraduate application form, and a PhD studentship application form, both available on-line:

http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/finance/studentfinance/res_finance/sshp-studentships.

Any technical enquiries can be directed to Sharon Durno (s.durno@bbk.ac.uk) who is the Graduate Administrator for the department. In addition to these two fully-funded studentships (which come from a generous alumnus donation) we expect to be able to make at least one further AHRC doctoral award, and to be able to offer some partial fee-waiver studentships to additional candidates. Applications for these follow the same procedure.

Informal enquiries can be made to Professor John Arnold: j.arnold@bbk.ac.uk

