Dear Members,

You will be delighted to know that Professional Members will have an opportunity to stand for ASA Council later in May when nominations are called. As a result of rule changes at the 2013 AGM which effectively converted all Council positions (including Vice-President and President) to 2 year terms, there will be **four vacant positions** including **3 general Council Members** and the position of **President**. This is an ideal time for Professional Members of the ASA to become more involved with managing the future of the Society. If you are keen to contribute to our profession through the work of the Council, I would be very pleased to talk to you about being on Council and both the opportunities and responsibilities for those involved. Feel free to contact me with any questions or queries on 0420 959 261 or via email.

Meanwhile the **ASA Online** project remains the current focus of Council and others assisting with the project. Project Manager, **Richard Lehane** will provide a detailed update on the ASA Online project for the whole of Council this week when it meets in Sydney on 8-9 May. There are many facets to this project including the Membership Management software, the Web Content Management component, event management and conference registrations, amongst others. As much as we are eagerly anticipating the delivery of new system, there will undoubtedly be some teething problems during the May/June transition period however adequate planning and training should address most of these issues. We look forward to hearing the response of members when the new site goes live later in May.

**Kylie Percival**  
**President**

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**Publications Awards - Call for nominations for the 18th Annual Mander Jones Awards**

**ASA Council Minutes**

**NSW School Archives SIG Term 1 Meeting**

**Closure of the Archives of the Royal Women’s Hospital, Melbourne**

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**Changes to the State Library of NSW**

**Vale Trevor John Hart**

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**2014 Information Awareness Month - Members Special Offer**

**Conference Bursary - Sharman Award Report**

**Special offer for ASA Members - 35% discount for Caring for our Collections book**

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**Publications Awards - Call for nominations for**

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the 18th Annual Mander Jones Awards

For works published in 2013

The Annual Mander Jones Awards focus on excellence in archival writing and/or publishing. These awards honour Phyllis Mander Jones, author of Manuscripts in the British Isles relating to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific, ANU Press, 1972.

Conditions of entry

- Any person or institution may nominate
- A publication is defined as printed or electronic material intended for distribution
- Entries must have been published in the 2013 calendar year
- A copy of the work or instructions on accessing the work must be submitted with the nomination form along with a short statement in support of the nomination.
- Where feasible, it is recommended that nominators secure the consent of the nominee/s and provide their contact details.

How to nominate

1. Make as many copies of the nomination form as required. Complete the relevant details for each entry and forward, together with a copy of the publication, to the Mander Jones Awards Committee Secretary, Rowena Loo or c/o Queensland State Archives, PO Box 1397, Sunnybank Hills, Qld, 4117. Nominations in electronic form are preferred where possible.
2. It is recommended that you make a copy of your completed nomination form in case there are any queries. All nominations will be acknowledged.
3. For further information contact the Mander Jones Awards Committee Secretary, Rowena Loo (07) 3131 7980

Notification and presentation of the Awards

All winning nominations will be notified in writing and the Awards will be presented at a special function in conjunction with the ASA Conference in October 2014. Winners will be presented with a certificate. Details of the winning entries will be published in the Australian Society of Archivists Bulletin.

Nominations close 16 May 2013

ASA Council Minutes

Please note that due to the implementation of the new ASA Membership Management System and website, the more recent ASA Council minutes will not be available online for a short time. Please email the ASA Secretary if you would like a copy of the 14 March 2014 ASA Council Minutes.

NSW School Archives SIG Term 1 Meeting

In Term 1, the NSW School Archives SIG held a professional development day on Digital
NSW Branch Meeting
Wednesday 21 May at Sydney Water Archives

Digital Recordkeeping on a Limited Budget Workshop - Adelaide
Monday 2 June at Pembroke Old Scholars' War Memorial Pavilion, Kensington Park

Archival Digitisation (Medium) - Adelaide
Monday 2 June at Pembroke Old Scholars’ War Memorial Pavilion, Kensington Park

Document Management Systems with representatives from HP Trim and Fuji Xerox attending.

The morning started with a welcome from our host, Megan Krimmer, Principal of Roseville College. This was followed by a brainstorming session about the issues and possibilities of implementing a digital document management system within schools. Representatives from HP Trim and Fuji Xerox then gave presentations of their systems.

In the short time available we were able to get an idea of the range of functionality available with systems such as these and how they might work within a school environment. The Trim and FujiXerox representatives seemed to be very interested in getting a greater insight of the issues within schools and our archives perspective. Hopefully this input will help improve systems designed for schools. Certainly for those who attended it has taken some of the mystique out of systems such as these.

After lunch we had our business meeting and Roseville Archivist, Caroline Lovell, gave a ‘Virtual Tour’ of the school archives and the very impressive range of professional activities she manages there. Thank you Caroline and Roseville College for hosting the day, it was much appreciated by us all.

Prue Heath
NSW School Archives SIG Convenor

Closure of the Archives of the Royal Women’s Hospital, Melbourne

It is with great disappointment that the Australian Society of Archivists has learned of the closure of the Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne archives.

In what appears to be an ill-conceived and rushed process, the internationally recognised and historic archives – which contains records of births at the hospital since 1856, and is one of the most extensive collections of historical medical information in Australia – is due to be closed and the collections dispersed within a matter of a few months.

The Society understands that some of the records are moving to the Public Record Office Victoria (PROV), while other parts of the collection will be split between The University of Melbourne and other collections that have not yet been identified. This includes historic artefacts from the personal effects of one of the founders, Dr Richard Tracy including his medical instruments and other personal property.

While the transfer of appropriate records to the PROV is a small step in ensuring that the records are managed appropriately, the fact that this will artificially separate the collection, making it more difficult to access, and destroying the ability for the public to access this information in one location is a step backwards for those wishing to research social and medical history including...
the history of women’s health in Victoria, as well as significantly destroying the corporate memory of the hospital built up by its specialist archival staff.

The Society anticipates that there will be a period of time in which those wishing to use the collections will not have access while they are transferred to their new locations. While in the case of parts of the collection that currently don’t have a new home, it’s possible that they will be lost forever, even those parts of the collection being moved to PROV will most probably be unavailable for several months or even years. This will also have a significant effect on researchers.

The Society is particularly disappointed as it understands that this failure to maintain its history is seen as a cost saving measure by the hospital’s Board of Directors, whose recent move to an up to date facility did not include provision for the archives.

This lack of provision for archival collections and institutional records is typical of similar closures by both public and private organisations where the maintenance of the history of the organisation is seen as a luxury, rather than an essential part of the organisation’s role in the wider community. This includes the closures of archives at BHP Billiton, as well as the Royal Adelaide Hospital in South Australia.

‘Such institutions are giving away their heritage’ said Kylie Percival, President of the Society. ‘They fail to acknowledge the significant value that these collections have for the community and the evidence that they provide for how we have changed as a society. The work of archivists in making these records available for access, research and other uses is often not acknowledged by the organisations in which they work – which leads to organisations also failing to acknowledge their own history.’

ASA Council

Appointments & Departures

- The City of Sydney Archivist, Mark Stevens will be retiring in July 2014. Mark worked at the New Zealand National Archives from 1980 – 1988 and then commenced a period of study. In 1991 Mark arrived in Australia, initially working at the NSW Government Records Repository before becoming the City of Sydney Archivist. In this new role, he managed and made accessible to the public a substantial and important collection of records that date from 1842 (when the City was incorporated) to the present day. Mark has been the President of the ASA and Convenor of the NSW Branch. The ASA would like to take this opportunity to thank Mark for all his work, both for the Society and the profession.

If you would like to make an announcement, please email the ASA their name and their new position/employer. You may also wish to include a short 80 - 100 words note about the person’s previous experience and a quote regarding their appointment or departure.

We look forward to future contributions!

BACK TO TOP
Dawn Routledge, Director of Information at the NSW Department of Finance and Services spoke to the NSW Branch about the State Government’s Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Strategy.

Changes in ICT are driving changes in the way agencies create, manage, use and share their information and the way they engage with the broader community. The NSW Government is establishing a common approach to information management to support and drive this change.

On behalf of the ASA, Guy Tranter and Louise Trott attended the Mitchell Library Consultative Group meeting at the State Library NSW on 16 April 2014.

While there was some competition in the just-announced news of the resignation of the premier of NSW, the State Librarian Alex Byrne and Mitchell Librarian Richard Neville presented to the meeting the latest plans for refurbishment and use of the Mitchell Library spaces. These new plans are a change from their previous intentions, in that the large Mitchell Library Reading Room (opened in 1942, and used as the Mitchell reading room since 1988) will remain the principal reading room for both original materials and books from the Mitchell collection. There is currently a roped-off section at the rear of the Reading Room, this area will be greatly expanded and in due course will be separated from the rest of the room by a glass partition.

The new plans can be seen on the State Library of NSW website. The State Library has requested comment and feedback via that page by 9 May 2014.

It is with great sadness that I report the sudden passing of Trevor Hart on 30 April 2014 in Cabrini Hospital. Trevor was the archivist at Camberwell Grammar School and Ruyton Girls' School and formerly the archivist at Eltham College.

Trevor leaves behind his wife Louise and children Nyree and Nicholas. A memorial service will be held at Camberwell Grammar School on Wednesday 14 May.

Steve Stefanopoulos
Membership Matters

**Online access to Archives and Manuscripts**

Please let the Membership Officer, Angela McGing know if you have not received an email from Taylor & Francis about online access to *Archives & Manuscripts*, or if you are having trouble accessing the journal online.

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2014 Information Awareness Month - Members Special Offer

Purchase a copy of

*The Arrangement and Description of Archives amid Administrative and Technological Change: Essays by and about Peter Scott* for $99.00 (+P&H)

and receive a **complementary copy** of

*Describing Archives in Context: A Guide to Australasian Practice*

**AND**

*Made, Kept & Used*

Quote your membership number on your membership card to obtain the special.

Copies are available for purchase from the ASA on-line shop or by requesting an invoice from the ASA. Offer only available to current ASA Members. Valid until 31 May 2014 or until stock runs out.

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Conference Bursary - Sharman Award Report

The Australian Society of Archivists will be calling on members to apply for the Sharmen Award in the next little while. The Sharman Award is named in honour of Robert Charles (Bob) Sharman, colleague, foundation member and long serving supporter of the Society, in recognition of his significant contribution to the Australian Society of Archivists and the archival cause generally in Australia.

The Award will be in the form of financial assistance towards the cost of attending the 2014 ASA/ARANZ Conference in
Christchurch, New Zealand and will consist of the conference registration fee and, where appropriate, a contribution towards airfares or other travel costs to and from the conference. The cost of accommodation is not included.

Please keep an eye out for further information in the coming weeks.

**Special offer for ASA Members - 35% discount for Caring for our Collections book**

Museum Victoria Publishing is offering a special discount off the normal rrp of $39.95 for *Caring for our Collections* by Charlotte Smith, Senior Curator at Museum Victoria.

This special price of $25.95 includes postage and packaging. A collection of papers from the 2011 symposium Developing Sustainable, Strategic Collection Management Approaches for Archaeological Assemblages.

For further information telephone 03 8341 7536 or email Patty Brown

Please note: this offer is not valid at Museum Victoria bookshops, please contact Patty Brown above to make use of this discount and quote your ASA Membership Number on your membership card.