DR BRUCE DENNETT
Historian, author, former history teacher and Supervisor of Marking for History Extension

Archaeology, historiography and the Ned Kelly myth

What historical and archaeological processes have contributed to the historical construction of the Ned Kelly story? Family and cultural historians have regularly appropriated the story of this Australian cultural icon and his gang, and the events that led up to their dramatic last stand have featured in many films, TV series and artworks. In 2008 archaeologist Adam Ford conducted a dig to search for physical remains of Ann Jones’s Glenrowan Inn, where the police siege that led to Ned’s capture took place in June 1880. By tracing the story of the dig and the evidence it revealed, Dr Dennett will place the story of the Kelly Gang firmly in the context of Australian History, historiography and the demands of the HSC History Extension Course.

Bruce Dennett holds a PhD in History and a Master’s degree in Education. He was a high school history teacher for over 30 years and is the author or co-author of ten history textbooks. Dr Dennett is also one of the authors of the current Modern History Syllabus. He has marked Modern History, Ancient History and History Extension for the HSC, and for six years was Supervisor of Marking for History Extension. He was awarded the NSW Premier’s History Prize in both 2000 and 2005. Dr Dennett regularly conducts History Extension workshops for secondary teachers and students, and has also taught courses in Modern History, Indigenous Studies and Education at Macquarie University. He has written a series of textbooks for Oxford University Press related to the Australian Curriculum: History, and has been engaged to conduct professional workshops to improve the quality of history teaching.

MEGAN PERRY
Manager, Learning Services, State Library of New South Wales

Rich resources at the State Library

In this session students will discover the extensive research resources available on the State Library website. They will also gain a valuable insight into the hidden web, which will assist them to find primary sources, academic articles and abstracts to use in their History project.

Megan Perry is the manager of Learning Services at the State Library of New South Wales. Learning Services was formed in 2009 and has seen more than 40,000 people participate in programs designed for students and teachers, lifelong learners, children and families, and students of the Library and Information profession. In the five years since the branch was established, 40% of schools in NSW have participated in learning programs offered online, on site and on tour.

Megan is a history teacher and teacher librarian with extensive experience in the integration of Information Communication and Learning Technologies within the curriculum in New South Wales and Queensland schools. She has written widely on this topic and spoken at conferences in Australia and overseas.
ANNE GRIPTON
Winner of the 2012 Premier’s HTA History Scholarship and marker for the History Extension Essay Competition

Noice, different, unusual

With all of history, indeed all of the planet (and beyond), to choose from, how do you narrow down the topic for your project? And how do you go from making it a ‘good’ essay to making it a ‘great’ one? In this presentation, Anne will give you ideas on how to find a topic you can commit to for six months, and some pointers for making your essay more scintillating, cerebral and scholarly.

Anne Gripton has been teaching history for over 20 years, and has been a marker of Ancient and Modern History and History Extension for the HSC. She is a member of the History Teachers’ Association Executive, and is also a marker of the annual History Extension Essay Competition. She is passionate about all eras of history and enjoys making her students cranky when discussing postmodernism.

DR MATTHEW STEPHENS
Research Librarian, Caroline Simpson Library & Research Collection, Sydney Living Museums

Research skills in practice

Researching and writing history can be among the most challenging, interesting and creative activities you will ever do. An understanding of the types of sources available, how to find them and how to interpret them, and the context in which others have used them, is at the core of good historical research. In this session students will explore the different types of sources available and discuss how they can be used in the context of a real research project.

Unashamedly addicted to the historical research process, Matthew has written extensively about the cross-dressing British soldier Hannah Snell, rediscovered the missing library of explorer Ludwig Leichhardt, and completed a PhD on the early history of the Australian Museum Library. More recently, Matthew has been examining the personal book and sheet-music collections of the properties of Sydney Living Museums.

WORKSHOPS

Each participant will be allocated to ONE of these historiography workshops. All three are skills based and focus on the processes of historical inquiry, identifying and using sources, and thinking critically and reflectively.

Please note that workshop numbers are strictly limited, and that we need to allocate places according to preferences expressed at the time of registration, in order of receipt. We will advise you of your workshop allocation when we confirm your booking.

Some school groups may need to be split to attend different workshops. Staff from the Sydney Living Museums Learning Team will be present on site and will supervise the movement of students between the Museum of Sydney and the Justice & Police Museum (100 metres away).

The ancient world through modern eyes
Craig Barker | Sydney University Museums

Since the 19th century, investigators have used material culture to attempt to understand the ancient world. European powers filled their museums with artefacts acquired from their expanding empires; the British even modelled their empire on that of the Romans. For colonial Australians, an understanding of the classical past was part of how they defined themselves as transplanted Britons and Europeans. Students will handle and investigate genuine Mediterranean artefacts, and learn about the development of archaeological investigation from antiquarianism through to the modern scientific inquiry practised today.

Dr Craig Barker is a classical archaeologist at the University of Sydney and is Manager, Education and Public Programs, for Sydney University Museums, including the Nicholson Museum and the Macleay Museum. He co-directs the university’s excavations of the ancient theatre of Nea Paphos in Cyprus, and has worked on many archaeological projects in Australia, Greece, Turkey and Cyprus.
'Everything old is new again': another look at the ancient writers Herodotus, Thucydides and Tacitus in the context of ‘relativism’ and ‘post-modernism’
Dr Bruce Dennett | Historian, author and former history teacher
This workshop will take students through aspects of the works of those who originated the Classical Western historical tradition and establish the continued relevance of their work in the 21st century. What were the aims, purposes and approaches of these ancient thinkers? How do they influence the way we construct and reconstruct the past, and what debates does this generate? Working in small groups, students will read and analyse a range of historical sources to make links between ancient and modern historical texts. They will then share what they discover with their peers.

Nothing is neutral: how museums tell history
Nerida Campbell | Curator, Sydney Living Museums
Edward Washington | Sydney Living Museums Learning Team
Museums are important places for student historians. They have valuable research collections that are convenient to access, and they allow students to engage with curators, historians and other experts who collaborate to research, interpret, construct and display historical narratives. But how do museums tell history? What techniques and methods do they use to engage and inform visitors? And how do they decide what history to tell – what stories are important, relevant and interesting? Students will use an inquiry process to investigate two compelling exhibitions at the Justice & Police Museum. They will think critically about the range of sources on display in the exhibition City of Shadows, working in groups to analyse their discoveries. And by exploring the exhibition Breakers: the Dying Art of Safebreaking, they will learn about the processes and challenges of researching and curating an exhibition.

Walk away with a suite of new tools, loads of advice and the confidence to embark on your major project. Attendees will participate in BOTH workshops.

Just Google It, and Apps to manage your research
It may seem simple, but there is more to searching Google than you think! This interactive workshop will help you to develop the best possible skills to find the information you seek online. Learn the art of choosing keywords, find out how to use advanced operators and explore the world of Google Scholar. Discover the latest apps to help you think through your project and manage your research. Save time, save energy and save paper by using the latest apps for learning.

Speed date the experts
This is your opportunity to ask all the burning questions you have about the Project. Talk to teachers, markers, librarians and those for whom the experience is very fresh – 2013 History Extension students. Bring along all your ideas and test them out on a receptive audience.

Where are they now?
Triumphant History Extension survivors will share the highs and lows of their Project experience. What did they get right, what do they wish they’d done differently and what are their key tips? Does life beyond The Project truly exist?

Each participant will spend a half-day at each venue. Please refer to your booking confirmation for the location of your morning session.
REGISTRATION

COST
Teachers and students: $25
This includes admission and morning tea. Lunch is not provided.

HOW TO REGISTER
Please note that all registrations need to be made online. Please register here, or go to slm.is/theproject. If you encounter any technical difficulties, please call the Learning Team at Sydney Living Museums on 02 8239 2288.
Registrations will close on Thursday 30 October 2014, or as soon as we are booked out. To avoid disappointment, we recommend that you register early for this popular event.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
STATE LIBRARY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
T 02 9273 1778
E learning.library@sl.nsw.gov.au

SYDNEY LIVING MUSEUMS
T 02 8239 2288
E education@sydneylivingmuseums.com.au

THE PROJECT
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