

## The President's page

In this newsletter, my brief message is one of support and hope that we are all going to get through this difficult time together. It is good to see vaccination rates increasing, even while we are worried about the collective impact of the delta variant of the virus now circulating in various places in our Society's community.

The ANZSHM has been affected by COVID as an organisation, with our plans to hold our conference in person in Newcastle, NSW, changing.

We will host our conference in an online format, the details of which will be announced to members via email and on our website as we can formulate the plans.

Our Keynote Speakers (from the UK and USA) will present online, and we will aim to have sessions spaced

out over three days, with an online Witness seminar on the final day.

Students aiming to seek bursaries will be advised of possible adaptations in the bursary scheme, pending Council approval.

We will hold our Annual General Meeting during the conference week. It is an election year, and elections signal a change in the leadership and executive of the Society.

We very much look forward to engaging with you in that process and in ensuring the sustainability and success of our Society into the future.

Warm regards, Cathy



Catharine Coleborne

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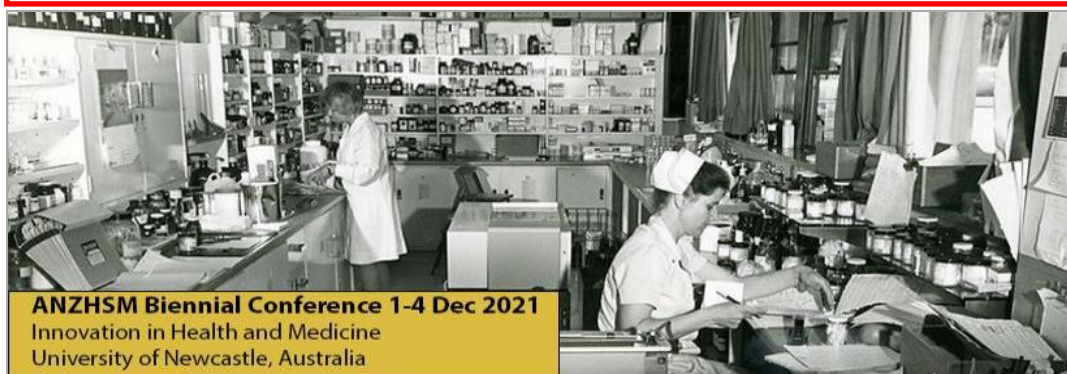
### ANZSHM CONFERENCE UPDATE

The 17<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the Australia and New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine will be held **online**. The conference will feature invited international keynote speakers and panels.

Registration costs and processes will be posted on the ANZSHM website and sent by email to members.

We thank you for your patience as we navigate the planning for this special conference in 2021! For details about the program, registration and grants, please go to:

<https://www.newcastle.edu.au/events/college-of-human-and-social-futures/ANZSHM-2021-conference/further-information>



# All About ourselves

*Members of the ANZSHM describe their life, work and interests*

I am a recently retired academic, having spent ten years or so in the School of Medicine at the University of Wollongong prior to my retirement, teaching public health, and engaging students in the joys of research.

I came to academia relatively late in my career, starting off as a laboratory researcher in cell biology in Sydney, then Boston USA, and back in Sydney. During my PhD I worked on a new type of therapy for chronic leukemia. A young family and long travel commute prompted my change to working in the health sector as an immunisation and infectious diseases officer in the Public Health Unit in western Sydney. I also had a stint at Flinders University engaging primary care practitioners in research.

It is logical to ask how I ever came to be involved in the history of medicine! Three events are pertinent here. I think public health was always my destiny. The old photo on the right is from a newspaper article showing a bundle of baby clothes (me) being vaccinated against polio. It fascinated me that this photo was of such importance that it was the first page of my section of our family photo album.

My interest in infectious diseases of the past, like the plague and 1918-19 influenza, really came to the fore during my time in the Public Health Unit. One day, the NSW State Archives, located nearby in Kingswood, NSW, delivered a small package to the Public Health Unit. It was a sample of smallpox vaccine from 1841, which had been lying dormant in the pages of government letters for over 150 years. This promoted a collaboration with A/Prof James Branley, an infectious diseases specialist at Nepean Hospital, and an MJA article.

The next event of critical importance was a discussion with my colleague, Louella McCarthy, about where I should go for a sabbatical relating to public health. Her advice was to ask myself what I enjoyed most and where my interests really lay. Of course, my answer was the history of infectious diseases. This took me to Washington DC to the National Postal Museum to study the history of postage stamps as global health messengers; and to Barts Hospital Trust in London to locate historic 1930 autopsy specimens from an outbreak of psittacosis (parrot disease) in pandemic proportions at the time. Again, with A/Prof Branley, two papers about these results are in the pipeline. Another project developed from my sabbatical in Washington and London relates to the narratives and imagery about vaccination in women's magazines over the past century.

Sharing an office with Louella led to our collaboration in two other areas: one was the development of a virtual (online) museum of rural medical history in NSW; and the other is an area of ongoing focus – the history of the NSW prison medical service and our project *Caring for the Incarcerated – Lessons from the past, policy for the future*.

I love writing and story-telling, and am currently completing a historical narrative and photographic account of one Australian family of seven whose camping tour through Europe in 1974 included sojourns behind the Iron Curtain. The work is based on personal contemporaneous diaries kept by four children of the family (myself included), as well as recollections, photographs and memorabilia.



I am currently a consultant in Public Health, an honorary academic, a poet, writer, and gardener. I also play timpani in our local concert band in the Blue Mountains.

**Kath Weston** [kathw@uow.edu.au](mailto:kathw@uow.edu.au)

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# Members' news

## New Members

Cheryl Power (Vic)	Shravasti Pathak (West Bengal)
Marianne Turner (NSW)	Jayne Krisjanous (NZ)
Caroline Adams (SA)	Marie Cook (Vic)
William Maish (QLD)	Amanda Watson (Vic)

A warm welcome everyone!

*and apologies for the incorrect title of Professor of Physiology for Harold Attwood in the previous newsletter. Harold was Professor of Pathology.*

## Congratulations

### 2021 Queen's Birthday Honours List

**Ms Shayne Ann BROWN** NSW Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia

For significant service to medicine through orthoptic associations.

**Dr John David PAULL** Tas Medal in the General Division of the Order of Australia (OAM)

For service to medicine, and to history.

**Dr John T Andrews** Vic Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia

For significant service to nuclear medicine and to professional societies.

### Awards finalists and shortlists

**Michael Bennett** shortlisted for NSW Premier's Award category of *General History* for his book: *War Against Smallpox: Edward Jenner and the Global Spread of Vaccination*.

**Madonna Grehan** was judged a finalist in the Van Diemen's History Prize, run by Forty South Publishing in Hobart. Finalists have their papers published in the *Van Diemen Anthology 2021* to be launched at the Hobart Writers Festival on 10 Oct 2021. The paper was *Embodied Charity in the Maternal and Dorcas Society, Hobart Town, Tasmania, 1835-1850*. It explains the circumstances of destitute married women in Hobart, and how the Maternal and Dorcas Society provided female attendants as a form of charity.

## New Scholarship

University of Wollongong MD student research supervised by Louella McCarthy and Kath Weston

### **Jennifer Evans**

*Research title: Media representation of Indigenous alleged suicide in custody over the past 136 years in Australia.*

As part of our MD program at the University of Wollongong, students complete a research project during our third year. I was lucky enough to join a medical humanities project *Caring for the Incarcerated* – researching the history of the NSW prison medical

system, supervised by A/Prof Louella McCarthy and A/Prof Kath Weston, and fellow student Gaya.

I decided to look at an issue of mental health within the system. At the time of writing, deaths in custody of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were making headlines. To assess changing societal ideologies around this issue, I explored Indigenous suicide in custody through the lens of media newspaper articles, assessing the language used and how this changed over time. I learnt a lot about the positive and negative impacts of major turning points in the last century, most notably the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. Overall, the language used and society's views have changed for the better, however numbers of deaths remain steady. My research also found evidence of Indigenous suicide in custody earlier than expected.

I have always had a passion for Indigenous Health and hope to continue exploring the issues in contemporary settings. I'm currently undertaking an elective placement in ICU in Alice Springs, before heading up the Nhulunbuy community in East Arnhem Land to work in the Emergency Department. I'll be interning next year at the Royal Darwin Hospital. I'm grateful to this project for allowing me to pursue research in an area of great interest for me and am excited to keep working with and learning from the Indigenous people of Australia.

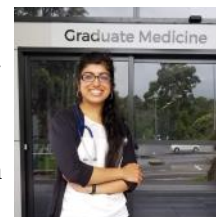
### **Gayathri Gurunathan**

*Research title: Representation of criminality through a gendered lens: a historical case study analysis.*

Exploring historical aspects of medicine has long been a fascination and passion for me. My initial interests in gender studies began during my undergraduate studies in medical ethics and humanities. Since entering medical school, my passion for medicine has taken me down new alleys and thus, it has been a great experience being able to combine the two domains into an exciting research project.

My interest was drawn to exploring case studies marking experiences of women in the criminal justice system and changes over time. Viewing criminality through a gendered lens has allowed me to broaden my vision and appreciate the milestone advancements made to date, but more importantly, highlights the integral changes that are yet to be made in terms of gender equality.

Although it was quite a thought-provoking task to decide the perspective of the project, I couldn't be happier with the outcome. The project has identified areas of research yet to be explored and that I wish to actively engage in such throughout my medical career. I am currently pursuing my elective term at The Wollongong Hospital and these unprecedented times have allowed me to further appreciate my passion for medicine. As I venture out into the world as a junior doctor in the upcoming months, I hope to immerse myself in a setting that will allow me to combine my interests for further exploring historical components of medicine via research and travel, while simultaneously improving myself as a clinician providing care with a focus on underserved communities.





## New Scholarship *continued*

### 2019 ANZSHM Conference grant holders

#### **Scott Travis Pilkington**

*How do we communicate science in New Zealand museums?*

Master of Arts, University of Auckland in Museums and Cultural Heritage, 2021

#### **Dr Branka Bogdan**

*Regulating Reproduction in Socialist Yugoslavia: A Social and Cultural History*

PhD, 2020, School of Philosophical, Historical & International Studies, Monash University. Supervisor: Dr Paula Michaels

Abstract: This is a social and cultural history of how Yugoslav communists wielded reproductive regulation in Yugoslavia during its socialist period, 1945-1989, in an effort to build the third way to socialism – self-management – and to position the country as a conduit between the global North and South. Throughout this time period, the state energetically invested in the construction of a medico-legal infrastructure to regulate reproductive matters. It tackled catastrophic population health across the newly-formed socialist country, initiated a science-fuelled modernisation and industrialisation project designed to unify the citizenry under a new national identity, and expressed its commitment to socialist gender equality.

### 2017 ANZSHM Grant holders

#### **Dr Ella Stewart-Peters**

*From “Ignorant Mothers” to “Conscientious Fathers”: Cornwall and the Vaccination Act, 1840-1907*

PhD, 2018, College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, Flinders University.

Abstract: Vaccination has always been a contentious issue; from Edward Jenner’s first successful experiment with the cowpox vaccine in 1796 to the modern day, the procedure has had its opponents. Whilst there have been some inroads made into the history of vaccination, the subject remains under-researched. This thesis builds upon the existing historiography of the procedure and its opponents to undertake a region-specific study of the Vaccination Act, argued to be one of the earliest examples of state intervention into medicine and public health in Britain. The first Vaccination Act for England and Wales was introduced in 1840 and, whilst it did not make vaccination compulsory, it outlawed the earlier practice of inoculation (also called variolation), attracting many critics amongst the lower classes and amongst those employed to perform the inoculation procedure itself. Throughout the nineteenth century, the Vaccination Act would be amended several times, first to make the procedure compulsory, then to strengthen the

penalties for those who did not comply, and then to allow for conscientious objectors to exempt their children from the law. The existing body of literature on the topic of vaccination in the nineteenth century takes a broad look at the Act and its opponents. In taking a region-specific approach, this thesis contends that there was no uniform enforcement of the Vaccination Act across England. It is also argued that opposition to the procedure varied from region to region throughout the country.

For many historians of vaccination, opposition to the procedure did not begin to emerge until the late 1860s and early 1870s, as a response to the harsher penalties that were enacted through the 1867 amendment. However, by examining the role of folklore and traditional healthcare practices, this thesis shows that the roots of anti-vaccinationism were already observable amongst the peoples of the South-West, particularly those in Cornwall who clung to traditional ‘Celtic’ beliefs in the face of ever-encroaching modernity. In the earliest years following the introduction of compulsory vaccination, passive forms of opposing the Act continued to spread amongst the population and Boards of Guardians, the local government bodies responsible for enforcing the Act, began the process of prosecuting those in their Poor Law Unions who refused to vaccinate their children. For the most part, early opposition to vaccination was largely dismissed by authorities as being the result of ‘ignorance’ amongst the poor, uneducated women living outside the major urban centres. Following the 1867 amendment, harsher penalties were enforced, and a new type of anti-vaccinationist began to emerge; the ‘conscientious father’, a man who was willing to take any punishment meted out by the government to protect his children from a procedure he considered unnecessary and dangerous.

The ‘Conscientious Fathers’ phase of vaccine objection is the focus of much of the existing historiography. However, this thesis contends that a region-specific approach is essential to understanding exactly how the enforcement of the Vaccination Act, and the opposition that subsequently arose, varied across England. Using the example of Cornwall during this period, it is argued that historians cannot simply present a uniform history of vaccination and anti-vaccinationism in England. Individual anti-vaccinationists and their involvement in the movement are examined, through the examples of two brothers from Truro, to examine how anti-vaccinationism as a concept functioned in a county without any formally-established branches of anti-vaccination leagues or societies. With regards to the enforcement of the Act itself, the established concept of two separate ‘Cornwalls’ existing is put into practice, revealing that the Act itself was enforced very differently in the rural North than it was in the more populous West. Finally, the impact of the sustained propaganda campaigns that the urban anti-vaccination societies of the nineteenth century are renowned for are examined in the

Cornish context, through an analysis of the role that conspiracy theories played in the development of a uniquely Cornish anti-vaccination movement. This thesis fills a gap that exists between a broad history of vaccination and a more nuanced understanding of the regional and cultural differences that existed across the country.

### **Dr Fallon Mody**

*Doctors down under: European medical migrants in Victoria (Australia), 1930-1960*

PhD, Historical and Philosophical Studies, University of Melbourne, 2019. Supervisor: James Bradley

Abstract: The middle of the twentieth century saw an unprecedented mass relocation of medical practitioners – through forced migration, military service, and as economic migrants. Between 1930-60, over three thousand medical migrants – that is, overseas-trained medical graduates – are known to have arrived in Australia. Their arrival was transformative as they challenged longstanding Australian legislative structures, and came to occupy critical gaps in local medical manpower. However, medical migrants in Australia are understudied. My research begins to redress what historians have called the ‘conspicuous silence’ or ‘collective amnesia’ that characterises nation-centric medical histories, where medical migrants are largely invisible. Through a series of case studies, underpinned by a prosopographic database documenting over two hundred ‘European medical migrants’, I examine the resettlement and professional lives of two broad groups registered in the state of Victoria between 1930-60: British and Irish medical migrants (the privileged invisible) and continental European medical migrants (the marginalised ‘aliens’). Each case study can stand alone, and addresses an identified gap in the historiography. However, taken together, these case studies enable a more nuanced reflection of the differences and intersections between groups of medical migrants that historians have tacitly held as being too disparate to study collectively. Key outcomes of this research include the recovery and contextualisation of the ‘special types of labour’ medical migrants undertook; the impact of gender in the process; and the agency displayed by more marginalised groups of medical migrants.

### **Dr Georgina Rychner**

*“The pendulum of the public mind” Insanity and activism in capital trials, 1880-1939*

PhD, School of Philosophical, Historical & International Studies, Monash University, 2020. Supervisor: Christine Twomey

Abstract: Through a focus on the criminal trial in the colony, and later, state of Victoria, this dissertation explores the operation of capital punishment as a system that allowed for popular readings of madness in relation to serious interpersonal crimes between 1880 and 1939.

Insanity was increasingly used by ordinary people as a discursive tool by which to contest the death penalty, and in some cases, a means by which to protest the material circumstances that governed their lives.

### **Dr Rebecca Le Get**

*An environmental history of tuberculosis sanatorium treatment within the River Red Gum woodlands of Melbourne*

PhD, Department of Archaeology and History, La Trobe University, 2019. Supervisors: Charles Fahey and Jennifer Jones

Abstract: This thesis examines the nexus between the environmental and medical histories of five former tuberculosis treatment institutions in 19th and 20th century Victoria, Australia. Sanatoria and training farms were often placed within or near river red gum woodlands because treatment included therapies in appropriately wooded environments. A re-assessment of these instructional locations is much needed, as the rationale for preserving these areas has been, to date, motivated by their ecological values alone. This environmental focus has influenced how these lands are interpreted for the public and understood by land managers, inadvertently obscuring their significant medical heritage values. The connections between the medical and environmental histories of the sites have not yet been examined by scholars or practitioners. Sanatorium locations globally have been analysed for their architecture, the development of treatment regimens, or the social impact of being admitted to such an institution. Although the environment of tuberculosis sanatoria was significant for institutional therapies, the wider landscape surrounding these specialised hospitals has been excluded from analyses to date. Many of the Victorian tuberculosis-treating institutions were clustered to the north of Melbourne and are now within the boundaries of the expanding city. Portions have been retained as Crown land into the present, and although valued by the public as green spaces, local residents remain substantially ignorant of the historical significance of these sites. Knowledge of historic context can lead to greater appreciation of these areas which can, in turn, change how heritage values are being managed into the future. Informing diverse fields including ecology, landscape architecture and medical history, this interdisciplinary study addresses this neglect by interrogating the archival sources of these former institutions. The thesis demonstrates that these parks and reserves play a dual role in conserving ecologically significant land and as living memorials to tuberculosis treatment.

### **Dr Mark Neuendorf**

*A “Plea of Humanity”? Emotions and the Makings of Lunacy Reform in Britain, c.1770-1820*

PhD, University of Adelaide, 2017. Supervisor: Claire Walker

## South Australia Medical Heritage Society news

During the winter, SAMHS managed to hold two public talks. The first was from Professor Caroline McMillen (AO), Chief Scientist of South Australia. Drawing on Adam Nicolson's book *The Mighty Dead: Why Homer Matters* she reflected on the past, present and future of foetal and maternal health. Epic battles included gaining acceptance for ideas, such as low-birthweight in infancy leads to metabolic health issues in adults.

The second talk was from Dr James Muecke, 2020 Australian of the Year. He talked about his work as a paediatric ophthalmologist and about establishing the 'Sight for All' charity which helps blind people in Africa and Asia. When working in Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia during the 1990s he discovered that the leading cause of blindness in children was measles, the effects of which were made worse by poor nutrition. Working with Governments and UNICEF the charity has

managed to increase vaccination rates and help save thousands of children each year from death and eye loss.

Future talks planned for 2021, public gatherings permitted, include:

Maggi Boulton, *Epilepsy in the South Australian Lunatic Asylums*, 23 Sept 2021

Professor Philip Payton, *Repatriation during and after WWI*, 28 Oct 2021

Professor Michael Horowitz, *Endocrinology / Diabetes and centenary of insulin* (or similar), 25 Nov 2021.

SAMHS meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month at 5:30 pm in the Royal Society Rooms, off North Terrace, Adelaide. Further information is available on the website: <https://www.samhs.org.au>. Enquiries can be directed to Joy Copland ([jgcopl@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jgcopl@bigpond.net.au)) and most recordings of earlier talks are available on request.

**Maggi Boulton, Committee member, SAMHS**

## Artefactual news

### Women at the heart of general practice

An exhibition curated by the Royal College of General Practitioners (UK), focuses on the role of women in the development and expansion of the specialist practice of GP in the UK. Using an array of evidence from documents through to oral history interviews, the exhibition takes us from the emergence of women into the profession of medicine in the UK through to the present day.

The exhibition is introduced by the current President of the RCGP, Dr Amanda Howe. Dr Howe highlights

some of the implications gender has had for medical practice and particularly for women in general or family practice. Not least in its impact of women's access to leadership position within the profession. It is telling that despite beginning in 1952, Dr Howe is herself only the fifth woman president of the College, and the first woman of the international body, the World Association of Family Doctors. Nonetheless, these figures stand in stark contrast to women's access to leadership positions in other specialist colleges, or in the profession more widely.

The interviews provide a broad introduction to the history of women in British medicine, and bring out both the barriers and impediments women have faced along with their stories of triumph over them.

### Women at the heart of general practice

Women have been experienced and knowledgeable medical practitioners for centuries. This online exhibition provides insights into a range of themes that explore their past and current roles, drawing on the College's rich collections and the experiences of those working in general practice and its wide team.

Image credit: Wellcome Collection.





### Two Colonial Doctors in Japan

“They started at once for Nagasaki and Yokohama”.  
Jules Verne, *Around the World in Eighty Days*, 1872

In the Foreign General Cemetery at Yokohama are the graves of two notable colonial doctors. Their careers provide interesting examples of links between the medical profession in Australasia and the emerging practice of Western medicine in the Far East during the nineteenth century.

Under pressure from European trading companies, Japan began to Westernise its economy and infrastructure from the 1860s. The Treaty Port of Yokohama was modernised for the profitable silk trade, and by the 1870s boasted Japan's first railway, gas lighting, and a British hospital. Its booming economy attracted merchants and entrepreneurs from every corner of the globe.

In his famous novel of 1872, Jules Verne included a scene that evokes the cosmopolitan atmosphere of the city. The eccentric traveller Phileas Fogg reached Shanghai from London in 43 days, then set out from Japan to catch the steamer to San Francisco. Among those boarding at Yokohama for the voyage across the Pacific were “English, many Americans, a large number of coolies on their way to California, and several East Indian officers who were spending their vacation in making the tour of the world”.

The regular departure from Yokohama of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company's service must have been a familiar sight to Dr. James Joseph Robert Dalliston, late of Auckland. By birth and training a Londoner, he had settled in Yokohama in about 1865 after more than a decade in New Zealand. He had qualified in London in 1845, married there in 1848 and sailed for Auckland via New South Wales late in 1849. His wife Eliza followed him out, arriving direct from London in August 1851.

Dr. Dalliston became a prominent citizen in Auckland. He gave popular lectures on anatomy and chemistry, participated in shooting competitions, and boasted



View of the British legation at Bluffland in Yokohama by  
Utagawa Hiroshige II, 1865

a substantial library and an impressive yacht. He was appointed PMO Colonial Forces New Zealand in 1863. However, in May 1864, he abandoned his wife, departing secretly on a ship to Sydney with another woman.

Eliza died at St. John's College, Auckland, in 1865. It was another year before the news of Dr. Dalliston's whereabouts reached New Zealand: he was in Japan. He had settled in Yokohama, where he established the Japan Dispensary, as well as a Medical Hall and the Yamate General Hospital. He died in Yokohama on 20 January, 1875, aged 52. The identity of the woman with whom he left Auckland a decade earlier remains a mystery, and whether she accompanied him to Japan is not known.

A distinguished contemporary of Dr. Dalliston in Japan was Edwin Wheeler, a naval surgeon. Originally from Belfast, Ireland, Dr. Wheeler had impressive Scottish and Irish qualifications (LRCP, LRCS and MD QUI 1864). As a new graduate he had gone out to the Australian goldfields, registering with the Victorian Medical Board in June 1865. He practised in the Ballarat district for about a year before returning home.

Dr. Wheeler joined the navy as an Assistant Surgeon in 1868 at about the age of 27. He was posted to the flagship “Iron Duke” on the China Station and seconded in 1870 to the British Legation in Japan, at Yokohama. He was later in private practice at the nearby Bluff Clinic, and worked at different times for the Japanese Navy, Railways, and Ministry of Public Works. He was a director of the Yokohama General Hospital and served on the Central Board of Health. He married in 1884 and had five children. After more than fifty years at Yokohama, Dr. Wheeler perished in the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1 September, 1923. Today he is honoured as a pioneer of Western medicine in Japan.

**Stephen Due**

### Medical iconography



1974 Health promotion road sign in France - the French version of the *Don't Drink and Drive* message.

©1974 K Weston

## Members in the media

**Dr Madonna Grehan**, 'Who Do You Think You Are', Season 12, Episode 3 (Denise Drysdale)

**Dr Peter Yule**, podcast interview for Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance <https://www.shrine.org.au/long-shadow-interview-dr-peter-yule>

**Dr Georgia McWhinney**, podcast interview, *Body Politics: where history, medicine and society collide*. "Man-eaters": how soldiers coped with zoonotic disease during the First World War' 11/3/2021

**Prof Michael Bennett**, (July 23, 2021), "Eradicating smallpox: the global vaccination push that brought the world 'arm-to-arm'", *The Conversation*. Bennett also featured on Counterpoint, [ABC Radio Broadcast]. Mon 16 Aug 2021 <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/counterpoint/16-08-21/13495990>

**Dr Julie Collins**, (Wed 25 Aug 2021). "Town planners on a 'crusade' against TB could help us to redesign our cities post-COVID", [Radio Broadcast]. ABC Radio National / for Sunday Extra <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-08-25/what-planning-lessons-during-tb-outbreak-teach-us-about->

## Journal watch and members' publications

*We are pleased to announce that members of the ANZSHM have recently published the following works, and warmly welcome additional information from members about recent publications. Details can be submitted directly to Maggi Boulton, ANZSHM Secretary at [secretary@anzshm.com.au](mailto:secretary@anzshm.com.au)*

**Collins, Julie A & Lekkas, Peter** (2021) Consumption crusade: the influence of tuberculosis on the emergence of town planning in South Australia, 1890–1918, *Planning Perspectives*, 37: 1

**Hobbins, Peter** (2021) 'Immunity from History: What can we learn from collective responses to crises?' *Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Society of New South Wales* vol. 154, part 1, 51–59

**Pacitti E.** (2021) Dissecting the Student Experience at Australian Medical Schools, 1884–1912 *Soc Hist Med*, 34(2), May 2021, Pages 467–488

**Anderson, Warwick** (2021), 'The model crisis, or how to have critical promiscuity in the time of Covid-19', *Social Studies of Science*, vol.51, no.2

**Anderson, Warwick** (2021). 'The Whiteness of Bioethics'. *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry*, 18, 93–97

**Short, Bruce** (2020) James Cook's First Pacific Voyage: Alleged Scurvy-freedom Unmasked. *Int Med J.* 50 (3): 378–380.

**Short, Bruce** (2020) Cook's Endeavour, Ship of Discovery or Ship of Distemper: An Assessment After 250 Years. *Int Med J.*; 50 (4): 495–498.

**Short, Bruce** (2020) Teacher, Healer, Natural Philosopher and Calvinist Theologian: Dr Herman Boerhaave (1668–1738) the Patient. *Journal of the International Society for the History of Medicine*, 'Vesalius' 26 (2).

**Short, Bruce** (2021) Lues Venerea at Warrane, Sydney Cove, 1788–1828. *Int Med J.* 51 (6).

**Short, Bruce** (2021) Antibacterial Warfare: The Production of Natural Penicillin and the Search for Synthetic Penicillin During the Second World War. *Journal of Military and Veterans' Health*, 29 (3).

We congratulate members on their scholarly (and other) achievements! A reminder to please send us details of your recent research publications so we can share your work in the newsletter. Send details to [secretary@anzshm.com.au](mailto:secretary@anzshm.com.au)

## ISHM news

The 47th ISHM congress was held in Riga, Latvia on 23–27 August 2021. Visit the website [ishm2020.rsu.lv](http://ishm2020.rsu.lv) for updates on availability of presentations.

Courtesy the generosity of the family of the well known Russian historian, Professor Mark Mirsky, (1930–2010), a new € 3000 annual prize has been created, to be awarded each year from 2021 for the best historical paper at the conference.

Photos of the conference and other news can be found on the ISHM website.

## AHA conference update

### 'Unfinished Business'

### 2021 AHA CONFERENCE

After much discussion with UNSW and the Roundhouse, it seems clear that, 80% vaccination or not, we will not be able to host the AHA face to face or in hybrid form at UNSW in November. So, we have decided to move the AHA Online!

Online registrations **are now open!** All speakers must register by **30 September** to be included in the program.

<https://www.ahaconference2021.com/>



## Conference

### Iodine Deficiency Symposium

The Status of Iodine in Tasmania - A Medical History & Research Symposium

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2021  
Peppers Silo Hotel, Launceston



[www.eventbrite.com.au/e/iodine-symposium-tickets-157426901099?aff=ebdsoporgprofile](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/iodine-symposium-tickets-157426901099?aff=ebdsoporgprofile)

Australia's leading researchers in the field have been assembled to bring a landmark seminar to Launceston on iodine deficiency. Speakers include Dr Mark Veitch and Prof Creswell Eastman. The seminar activities will include dinner on Saturday night, and a medical walk through Launceston and a tour of the Launceston Whisky Distillery on Sunday.

**UPDATE: The organisers are pleased to announce that due to COVID restrictions the Symposium will be zoomed live internationally.**

## International Conferences

The **European Association for the History of Medicine and Health** Biennial Conference was held online 7-10 September 2021. It was organized in cooperation with the Research Group *Cultural History since 1750 at KU Leuven* with the theme:

**‘Faith, Medicine and Religion’ in a historical perspective**

For more information, visit: <https://kuleuvencongres.be/eahmh2021/home>



## On-line event

### History @ Home

Does Quarantine Really Work?

*History @ Home* is a new 6-part online talk series presented by the Australian National Maritime Museum.

#### Date and time

Tue, 14 Sep 2021, 4:00 PM –  
Sun, 10 Oct 2021, 4:45 PM AEDT

In conversation with prominent epidemiologist, Associate Professor David Muscatello, Dr Peter Hobbins asks the question on everyone's lips – can quarantine really save us from pandemics? From smallpox to ‘Spanish’ flu, and SARS to Covid-19, Australia has relied on maritime and shore-based quarantine to spare us from infection. But how often has it worked, and what can we do when it goes wrong?

Join the maritime museum's expert curators and their guests as they dive into topics they are most passionate about. From maritime quarantine, vintage fashion, ocean health, shipwreck hunting and smugglers – we've got you covered for the most lively historical tales this lockdown.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/does-quarantine-really-work-tickets-169032939071>

**BSHM**  
British Society for the  
History of Medicine



### BIENNIAL CONGRESS

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2021  
Sheffield, The University of Sheffield

Key themes are

*The History of Medicine in the Workplace, Pandemics,  
Nursing and  
Innovation in Medical Engineering*

For Congress information and booklet, registration, abstract submission and accommodation please go to

<https://bshm.org.uk/congress-2021/>

## Book launch

### Report of Melbourne Book Launch of **Rear Vision: celebrating Australia's early orthoptists**

The Melbourne Book Launch of *Rear Vision: celebrating Australia's early orthoptists*, written by Shayne Brown and Jill Gordon, took place at the Alexandra Club, Collins Street, Melbourne on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021. We were honoured to have Age Discrimination Commissioner, The Hon Kay Patterson AO launch the book which profiles the first 76 Australian orthoptists from 1931 to 1954.



Dr Patterson spoke of the importance of recording the history of an all-female profession. And through the profiles we learn of the changes in education, the development of orthoptic practice and research, and of the establishment of the professional body, the Orthoptic Association of Australia (now Orthoptics Australia) in 1944, making it the third oldest in the world. As Dr Patterson emphasised the profiles also provide a social history of women of the period, when, in the main, married women did not work. For most women they practised in the period between leaving school and marrying. Those with long careers generally did not marry, and some, but very few worked after marriage and even fewer when they had children.

Dr Patterson's address was followed by a video of Jill Gordon, who was unable to be present. She spoke of her special expertise as a specialist in genealogy and her contribution to much of the individual's social history details. Shayne Brown, from whose Master's thesis the profiles emanated, then told how she had conducted the research and the variety of sources she had used including personal interviews with orthoptists and from family members, extracts from newspapers and from various orthoptic records and documents.

L: Jill Gordon, DOBA

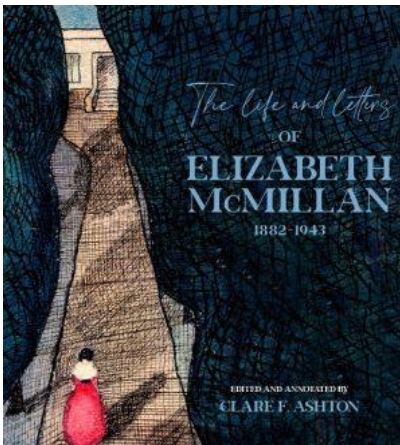
R: Shayne Brown, MA, MSc, BA, DOBA, FOA

## Book launch

### The life and letters of Elizabeth McMillan 1882-19

Edited and annotated by Clare Ashton

Published by Anchor Books Australia



This book examines the life of one of the first Australian-trained nurses to go to war in 1914. It was launched by Professor Donna Waters, Deputy Executive Dean, Faculty of Medicine & Health, The University of Sydney, at the University of Sydney, on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

Nurse training for Florence Elizabeth (Betha) McMillan was a far cry from her previous training at Parisian art schools. The daughter of Sir William McMillan, a prominent political figure in New South Wales, her life changed dramatically when she became one of the first Australian-trained nurses to go to War in 1914.

This book provides a glimpse into the life of an independent woman whose war experience, while terrible, provided an uncomfortable paradox for Betha's

sensitivity, creativity and intelligence. Her letters reveal a unique story of an Australian nurse who, despite the distressing circumstances in hospitals overseas, successfully exercised her creative care and professional skills to help the endless stream of injured survive their trauma for another day.

After the War, Betha trained as a mothercraft nurse in London, where she met Dr Frederic Truby King, founder of New Zealand's Plunket Society. In 1921 she was the matron of the Plunket Society's Hospital in New Zealand, before becoming the first matron of Sydney's Tresillian Mothercraft Home and then founding director of the Australian Mothercraft Society. Today's mothers and babies are still supported by that organisation, now known as Karitane.

Loss is a personal theme throughout Betha's life, but through nursing she gained independence and agency. Her letters are a wonderful insight into the thoughts of women in war and have been carefully interpreted by Clare Ashton.

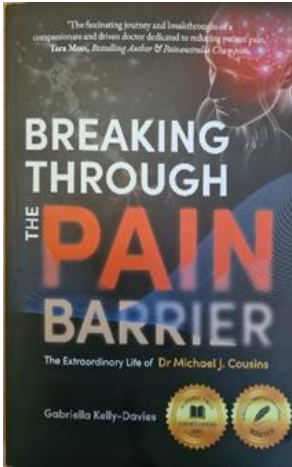
Clare Ashton at the book launch.  
Image courtesy Megan Hicks.





## Book review

Gabriella Kelly-Davies, *Breaking through the Pain Barrier. The Extraordinary Life of Dr Michael J. Cousins.*



Hawkeye Publishing, 2021, 208 pp.

This book is dedicated to the one in five people who suffer chronic pain. Gabriella Kelly-Davies is one of them and she wrote it as a tribute to Dr Michael Cousins. Now retired, Cousins played a significant role in establishing the speciality of pain medicine in Australia. One of his many achievements is setting up the Faculty of Pain Medicine at the

University of Sydney's Royal North Shore Hospital campus. In 2014, it was renamed *The Michael J. Cousins Pain Management and Research Centre*.

An anaesthetist, Cousins' attempts to alleviate pain initially focused on methods such as epidural anaesthesia. He soon linked up with the new International Association for the Study of Pain which insisted that pain relief needed a multi-disciplinary

focus. Kelly-Davies describes Cousins' struggles to obtain funding and support for treating pain as a discrete medical issue. Numerous factors helped in his success: his huge workload and dedication; superb communication skills; and his wife Michelle who dedicated herself to furthering his career while caring for the family. Cousins' leadership skills were particularly evident in 2010 when he chaired the National Pain Summit, which resulted in the groundbreaking National Pain Strategy.

Kelly-Davies wrote *Breaking through the Pain Barrier* as part of her postgraduate study at the University of Sydney (disclosure: I was an associate supervisor). The book was funded by a grant from the Pain Management Research Institute at Royal North Shore Hospital where Cousins played a leading role. Kelly-Davies' extensive use of oral history, notably from Cousins himself, close colleagues and grateful former patients, shapes the biography.

It is a book written for the general reader and will interest anyone wanting to know about the development of pain medicine in Australia and/or medical biography. It mainly covers the period from the mid-1960s to Cousins' retirement in 2016. Sadly, the funding did not provide for an index, but it is logically structured and well-written so it is relatively easy to find topics.

**Judith Godden**

## Book review

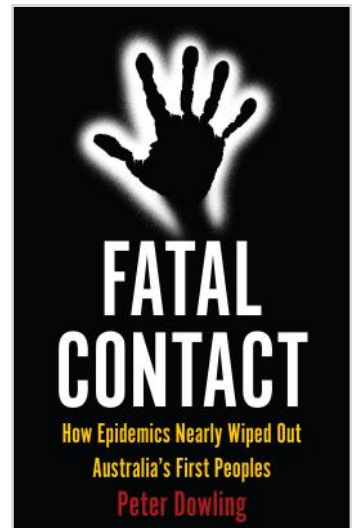
Peter Dowling, *Fatal Contact: How Epidemics Nearly Wiped Out Australia's First Peoples*

Monash University Publishing, 2021

ISBN 9781922464460, 306 pp.

The impact of exotic epidemic diseases upon Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples has long been acknowledged as a sorry corollary of colonisation. Many scholars have addressed its histories, notably Gordon Briscoe and Judy Campbell, but national surveys are rare. In *Fatal Contact*, archaeologist and anthropologist Peter Dowling provides a comprehensive Australia-wide summary of the consequences of six major diseases on Indigenous communities from 1788 to 1920. Focused on smallpox, measles, syphilis, gonorrhoea, tuberculosis and influenza, Dowling reconstructs working statistics and clinical sequelae from colonial medical and administrative accounts. The resulting picture is bleak and profound, including not only extensive morbidity

and mortality, but also drastic population decline and the breakdown of dynamic cultures. The book's origins in a 1990s doctoral thesis emerge in the way in which 'access' to the skeletal remains of ancestors is addressed, reflecting an older period in which these colonial collections were still considered to be suitable osteopathological material. This is an important work of reference and will assist future explorations and reconciliation, particularly those which foreground Aboriginal narratives and perspectives.



**Dr Peter Hobbins**

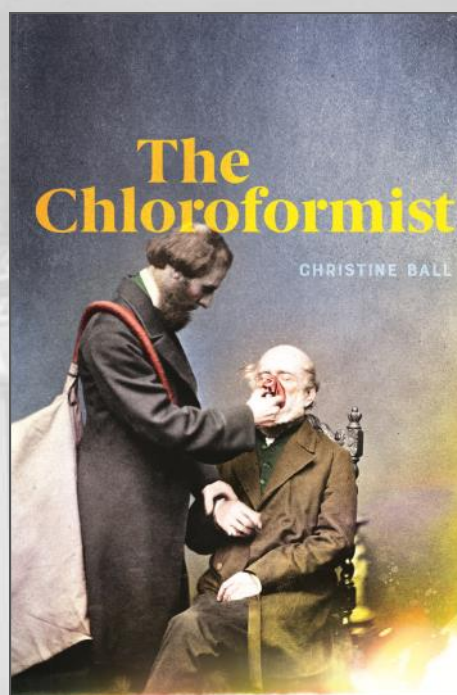
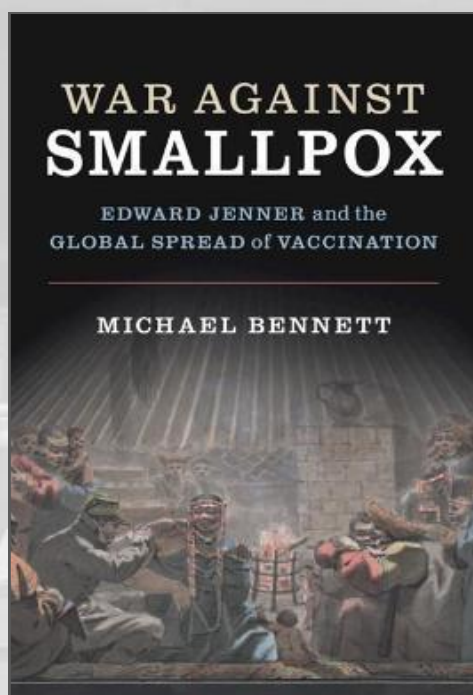
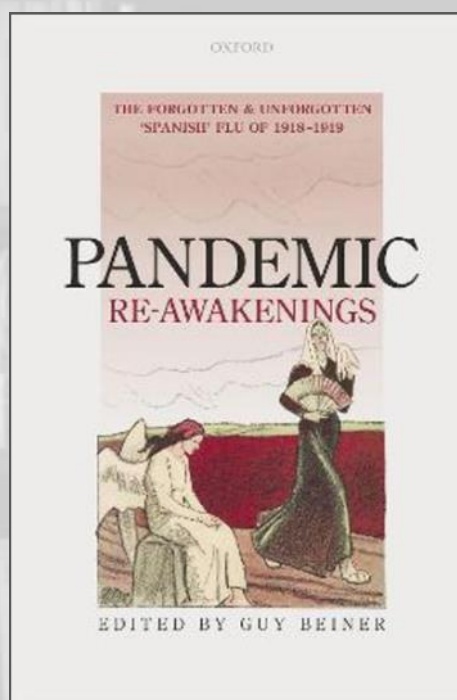
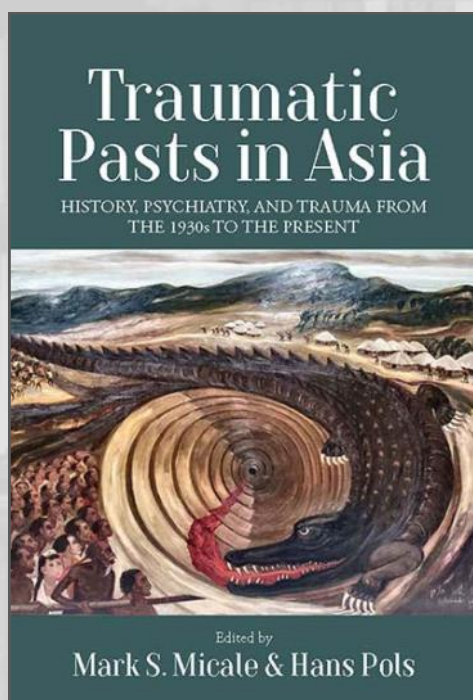
Australian National Maritime Museum

**Would you like to be part of the ANZSHM Newsletter team?**

The newsletter is currently edited by a team comprising Maggi Boulton, Charmaine Robson, Louella McCarthy & Kath Weston. Expressions of Interest are invited from potential new editorial committee members.



## Ex libris



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