

## In this issue

Three issues of *Sydney Journal* have now been published, giving online readers a wide sampling of the breadth and depth of the work being assembled for the Dictionary of Sydney project, which is expected to go live online next year.

This issue has two clusters of peer-reviewed articles, each with a general theme, showing how urban history topics intertwine and overlap with each other, and providing a foretaste of the weblike connections that will be drawn between every entry in the Dictionary of Sydney.

Hilary Carey's sweeping survey of Sydney's religious history highlights the ways in which spiritual practice has always influenced and been influenced by place and history. Anne O'Brien lays out the connections between private and public charity and philanthropy, in Sydney's very specific context of government provision and oversight, which continues to shape the city's welfare provision. Judith Godden's history of nursing in Sydney indicates some connections between religion, charity and health, as well as laying out a particular history of a women's profession.

The other group of articles offers three different takes on the phenomenon of Sydney suburbia. Paul Ashton examines its development and spread, and the ideologies that made suburban life into an ideal. Gabrielle Gwyther looks at the particular history that has formed western Sydney's suburbs, as part of, and also in some senses the opposite of, greater Sydney. George Morgan's article on Aboriginal migration into Sydney draws some conclusions about the difficulties and attractions of suburban life for Aboriginal people in the twentieth century.

This issue's Sydney's People section concentrates on three very disparate groups. Jewish life in Sydney is as old as European settlement, and encompasses a range of traditions and backgrounds. Suzanne Rutland is persuasive about the great contribution of Jewish Sydneysiders to the culture and the fabric of the city. Croatian Sydneysiders have also been a diverse group, but with a distinct break in their continuity made by the exodus of 1948 and the new group that came to Australia after World War II. Luka Budak and Walter Lalich take us through the development of the cohesive Croatian community in Sydney today. Finally, Ashley Carruthers outlines the history of one of Sydney's more recent but most distinctive immigrant groups, the Vietnamese, who have overcome the difficulties facing a refugee community to create vibrant and successful businesses and localities.

Six more of our suburb entries are featured in this issue, in the Sydney's Suburbs section. These, along with hundreds of others, will be the bedrock of the Dictionary of Sydney, and we are pleased to showcase them in *Sydney Journal*.

*Emma Grahame*