

In this issue

The first issue of volume 2 of *Sydney Journal* appears in the midst of intense activity at the Dictionary of Sydney as we draw closer to the online implementation of the project. This issue contains five articles, including a biographical piece, the first published here. As in previous issues, some of Sydney's cultural groups appear in the Sydney's People section, and a selection of suburb histories can be found in the Sydney's Suburbs section.

Geoff Sherington and Craig Campbell have undertaken the task of untangling the history of education in Sydney from the wider history of New South Wales's education system. Their article surveys both the similarities and the differences between Sydney's educational experience and that in other Australian cities and the New South Wales hinterland.

Quite a different mood is evoked by Anne Coote's work on the celebration of Anniversary Day, which reveals a pleasure-loving side to nineteenth-century Sydney life, for the wealthy and well-connected but also for the working classes. The colonial evidence for mass celebration of 26 January seems to foreshadow the furious enjoyment still seen in Sydney on that date.

Rebecca Jenning's work on lesbian life in Sydney creates a story from scattered clues in the pre-invasion and early colonial periods, building to a rich account based on extensive interviews. Garry Wotherspoon's piece on the experience of gay men provides a complementary, but quite different, view of sexuality in the city over a long period. The links between these two articles are strong, and the Dictionary of Sydney versions will contain some exciting multimedia and images.

Norman Selfe's life is the subject of Catherine Freyne's article, the first product of her position as researcher/writer for the Dictionary of Sydney, sponsored by the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts. There are so many connections from Selfe's family, career and enthusiasms to other Sydney topics of importance that we anticipate this article being one of the more highly linked pieces in the Dictionary of Sydney. As the project takes concrete shape, and the myriad links are made, the city and its history seem paradoxically both bigger and smaller.

Three of Sydney's smaller communities feature in the Sydney's People section: Cambodians, East Timorese and Egyptians. Each of these has faced adversity in their home countries and difficulties in Sydney, with differing solutions and legacies.

As usual, Sydney's Suburbs contains suburbs from all over Sydney. They vary enormously in social status, as in other respects, and as demonstrated in the Surry Hills entry, a suburb's standing varies over time. Each suburb history upsets the tendency to assume that the past was roughly like the present, and brings an overlay of new knowledge to daily landmarks. When these are incorporated in the Dictionary of Sydney, images, audio, video and maps will further enrich the experience.

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