

Around Town

History Week

Murder! Conspiracy! Corruption! Sydney returns to the scene of the crime this month. By *Millie Churcher*

"What city or town in NSW has not had a bushranger pass through it, a murder in its back alleys, a corrupt official run out of town, or a skeleton tucked away somewhere waiting to be found?" says president of the NSW History Council, Mark Dunn.

This observation prompted the theme for the State's annual History Week this month: 'Scandals, Crime and Corruption'. A collaboration between community groups, local councils, historians and cultural and academic institutions, History Week 2009 will feature many events from 5 to 13 September. Don't miss these highlights:

1 The Macquarie Bicentennial A Reappraisal of the Bigge Reports

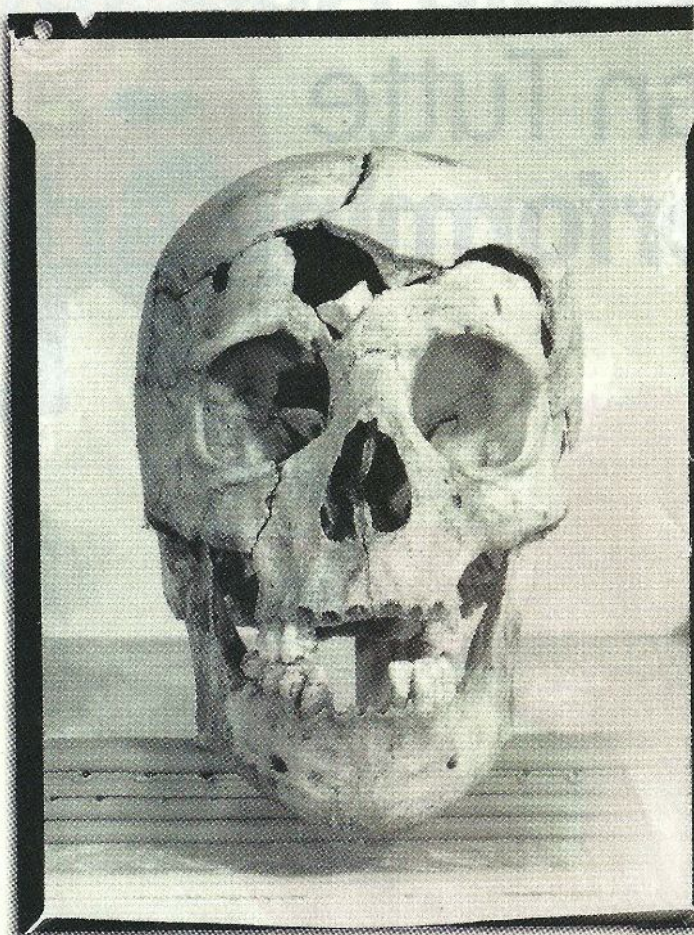
Royal Commissioner John Thomas Bigge's controversial reports (1822–1823) on the state of the Colony of NSW alleged that Governor Macquarie grossly mismanaged convicts and public works. Although considered biased and unjustified, these reports were of large detriment to Macquarie. Given that 2010 marks the bicentennial of Macquarie's appointment, the Honourable James Jacob Spigelman (AC) will open this year's History Week with a reappraisal of the Bigge Reports. Will Lachlan be exonerated?

► *Fri 4 Sep, 6.30pm. Government House, Macquarie St, Sydney 2000. (02 9252 8715 www.historycouncilnsw.org.au). \$50; \$45 concs. Bookings essential.*

2 Murder and Mayhem: Sydney's Crime History

Get inside the mind of a murderer and listen to prominent forensic historians speak about some of Sydney's most compelling cold cases (such as the infamous Shark Arm Murder – see *The Bridge*), or hear about the notorious crime queens Kate Leigh and **Tilly Devine** → see *Kings Cross* feature. This day-long event also showcases films, crime scene photographs and documents from prison inmates.

► *Sat 5 Sep, 11am–4pm. Customs House Library, 31 Alfred St, Circular Quay 2000. (02 9265 9102 www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/history). Free.*



ties; and myths surrounding Antonio Foscari, the Hanged Man. ► *Wed 9 Sep, 9.30am–5pm. Metcalfe Room, State Library of NSW, Macquarie St, Sydney 2000. (02 9273 1414 www.sl.nsw.gov.au). Free. Bookings essential.*

5 Fighting the War at Home Internment and Persecution of Enemy Aliens

Author Gerhard Fischer exposes the Australian Government's covert campaign during WWI against enemy aliens (German Australians) with policies of selective internment of prominent leaders and businessmen so as to undermine their community.

► *Thu 10 Sep, 4–6pm. Conference Room, Level 3, Mary Ann House, 645 Harris St, Sydney 2000. (02 9514 9694 www.ccs.uts.edu.au). Free.*

6 Curious Stories from the Collection

The Powerhouse Discovery Centre will host an interactive open day featuring stories of some of Sydney's notoriously crooked characters who frequented Sydney's famous pie stand, Harry's Café de Wheels. There'll also be bushranger tales from the days of the Cobb and Co. coach. ► *Sat 12 Sep, 10am–4pm. Powerhouse Discovery Centre, 172 Shougang Rd, Castle Hill 2154. (02 9762 1300 www.castlehill.powerhousemuseum.com). Adult \$8; concs \$5; family \$25.*

3 Redressing Scandals Past

Speakers Heather Goodall (UTS) and Heidi Norman (UTS) join Varvaa Muwali (Public Interest Advocacy Centre) to deliver talks on issues affecting indigenous people, including the controversial stolen wages repayment scheme. ► *Tue 8 Sep, 6.30–8.30pm. Tranby Aboriginal College, 13 Mansfield St, Glebe 2037. (02 9660 3444 www.tranby.edu.au). Free. Bookings essential.*

4 Symposium: Scandals, Crime and Corruption

Six of Australia's leading historians come together for a symposium on Scandals, Crime and Corruption in our national history. Topics cover the Soverton Man Mystery; violence in 19th century communi-

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