Historians at work

The Humanities Research Centre, in association with the National Library of Australia, presented a series of discussions on the theme ‘Historians at Work’, featuring prominent Australian historians from ANU and other universities. Three public events were held during the year, either in the National Library or the Humanities Research Centre, attracting between 40 and 90 people.

In the first event, ‘Historians and the media’, Michelle Arrow, Frank Bongiorno and Clare Wright discussed the various ways historians reach audiences, including film, television, radio, newspapers and the web. In the second, ‘Restoring History to family history – and vice versa’, Tim Bonyhady, Stephen Foster and David Walker talked about the relationship between academic and family history, exchanging ideas about what family history meant to them. Finally, three well-travelled historians, Mark McKenna, Maria Nugent and Peter Stanley, tested the dictum that historians need ‘a stout pair of boots’.

The discussions were recorded and have been podcast on the National Library web site (‘Historians and the media’ and ‘Family history’) and the HRC site (‘The historian’s boots’).

Convener: Professor Stephen Foster, HRC, ANU