

2016 NSW History Fellowship Assessment Meeting Report



Arts
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Assessment Meeting Report

NSW HISTORY FELLOWSHIP

Closing Date: Monday, 26 September 2016

Panel Meeting Date: Thursday, 20 October 2016

The NSW History Fellowship is offered by the State Government to enable a historian or practitioner working with history to undertake a self-directed program of professional development.

The purpose of the Fellowship is to enable the acquisition of new skills, knowledge and networks, whether through facilitated formal or informal learning opportunities. The fellowship is not intended to be used solely for the development or delivery of work/s, but is a chance for historians to consider what activities and opportunities would support both personal development and career advancement.

The value of the Fellowship is **\$30,000**.

ACTIVITIES

Types of activities funded

Activities could include a combination of:

- international or national travel
- mentorships or internships with recognised professional practitioners or organisations
- residencies at institutions or organisations
- an outstanding opportunity of significance to the applicant's practice
- short-term courses, workshops or other training at recognised institutions or organisations (note: the Fellowship is not available to support study which will result in a university degree or other formal qualification)
- research and development
- creation of new work (note: the Fellowship is not available solely for the creation of new work).

Assessment Criteria

Applications were assessed by a peer panel against the following equally-weighted criteria:

- the demonstrated high artistic merit of the applicant's work (as evidenced by support material)
- the potential for the proposed program to significantly benefit the applicant's professional practice as a historian
- the program is well planned, achievable and has a budget that is realistic, accurate, and represents value for money.

ASSESSMENT FEEDBACK

The assessment panel was impressed with the diverse range of applications received for the 2016 History Fellowship. There was a range of historians in varying stages of their career proposing skills development in exhibition design, exploration of new media to interpret historical stories, internships, international travel to access archives and mentorships to foster historical writing.

The panel was pleased to see that there was a good response from across the State, with 11 eligible applications received from historians working in, and across, a variety of fields of research including migration stories, Aboriginal history of NSW, oral history and working with regional historical societies. 45 per cent of applications received were from regional NSW or Western Sydney.

Many of the proposals featured a strong mix of activities with strong outcomes for professional development – mentorships with experienced practitioners, internships for learning and writing and travel for research and significant opportunities. Many applications also included an allowance for time to create new work.

The panel commented that stronger applications included relevant support material, included activities appropriate for stage of career, demonstrated good planning and clearly articulated the professional development benefits of their program.

Future applicants are reminded to:

- clearly explain the impact the fellowship would have on their career
- consider developing meaningful public outcomes that work in collaboration with the community they are researching or writing about
- explain the value and specific contribution of activities, such as research, to professional development
- take time to budget properly, with more detail and explanations/notes on costs
- provide evidence of Aboriginal consultation on projects and adhere to the [Arts NSW Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Protocols](#) if working with Aboriginal communities.

Applicants are encouraged to:

- include letters of support (or expressions of interest) from potential mentors
- seek assistance in preparing their application from Arts NSW, local Regional Arts Development Officers, or other key sector organisations
- contact Arts NSW staff to discuss their application prior to submitting.

FUNDING STATISTICS

GRANT CATEGORY	Fellowships
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	11 eligible applications
SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS	1
HIGHLY COMMENDED	1
AMOUNT FUNDED	\$30,000

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT

2016 NSW HISTORY FELLOWSHIP

Biography

Dr Kate Gahan is a professional historian based in the Northern Rivers. Her research and project interests emphasise the importance of realising the value of history in the present, and at a community level. Kate has worked on numerous community based projects that have embraced the social and cultural histories of various peoples, places and spaces in the Northern Rivers and beyond. Most recently she worked on the catalogue for the Grafton Regional Gallery documenting the historic context of J W Lindt's 1870s photographs of Gumbaynggir, Yaegal and Bundjalung people.

Fellowship Proposal:

Dr Kate Gahan's program includes self-directed research and the opportunity to broaden her skill base as a historian by developing curatorial experience through her proposed exhibition *Entangled Encounters*. In her program of professional development she will also extend her regional historical networks; collaborate with historical societies, Aboriginal organisations and museums; and create a significant body of research about development of the Clarence, Richmond and Tweed River districts from 1800 to 1900.

Panel Comments

The panel's comments on Dr Kate Gahan's application include the following:

Entangled Encounters is an exciting and well-conceived project that captures the shared histories of diverse communities within regional NSW. As an exercise in professional development, it is both achievable and harnesses the applicants existing skills while providing a means of expanding in new directions. This proposed program has the potential to create an opportunity for engagement and ongoing collaboration with diverse local communities in the Northern Rivers region.

HIGHLY COMMENDED LIST

The Panel also recommended Sue Singleton to be highly commended.

Sue Singleton has practiced in the field of historical archaeology, heritage management and resource management for more than fifteen years. Sue is currently a consultant at Eureka – History, Heritage and Archaeology firm and President, Grants Officer and coordinator of Collection Management for the Uralla Historical Society. The panel commended Sue on a carefully developed plan for professional development with clear links to mentors and achievable goals. Her program would also contribute to a wider engagement and understanding of people with disability within NSW communities today.