



Committee Annual Report 2009

ASHET membership

At the end of 2009, ASHET had 91 members, a net decrease of three over the year. In addition there were 23 registered members of families. Of the members at the end of 2009, 70 lived in the Sydney area, 10 elsewhere in NSW, 7 in Victoria and 4 in Queensland.

Meetings and other activities

ASHET held a series of meetings during 2009 at History House in Sydney jointly with RAHS, and conducted visits to places of interest. The events were as follows:

Tuesday 24 February, 2009 <i>and skateboards in the United States</i>	Talk by Carroll Pursell	<i>Technologies of Play: Surf boards</i>
Wednesday 25 March 2008 <i>Surveyor and Isopsephist.</i>	Talk by Paul-Alan Johnson	<i>Augustus Alt: Soldier, Engineer,</i>
Thursday 23 April, 2009 <i>Manufacture in Australia during the 20th Century</i>	Talk by Alan Perry	<i>Changes in Furniture</i> ASHET Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 19 May, 2009 <i>Workshops</i>	Talk by Jean Rice	<i>Eveleigh Railway Carriage</i>
Wednesday 24 June, 2009	Talk by Frank Nicholas	<i>Charles Darwin's visit to Australia</i>
Thursday 16 July, 2009 <i>burdens of love and duty</i>	Talk by Jenny Horsfield	<i>The Edgeworth David family;</i>
Saturday 25 July 2009 members only	Tour of Sydney Heritage Fleet Shipyard, Rozelle Bay	ASHET
Thursday 13 August, 2009 <i>going strong</i>	Talk by David Woodbridge	<i>Braille: two hundred years and</i>
Monday 17 August, 2009–Saturday 29 August, 2009 with RAHS		Tour of outback NSW: Jointly
Tuesday 8 September, 2009	Talk by Anne Arthur	<i>The canned jam scandal</i>
Thursday 17 September, 2009 only	Visit to Kavenagh Balloons, Mt Kuringai	ASHET members
Wednesday 14 October 2009	Talk by Ken Bennett	<i>The Burrinjuck Dam Centenary</i>
Tuesday 24 November 2009 <i>unpowered flight in Australia</i>	Talk by David Craddock	<i>The centenary of powered and</i>

ASHET committee

At the annual general meeting held on 23 April, 2009, the committee elected in April 2008 retired and the following office-bearers and committee members were elected, to serve until the close of the following annual general meeting to be held in 2010.

President	Ian Jack
Senior vice-president	Mari Metzke
Vice-president	David Craddock
Secretary	Ian Arthur
Treasurer	John Roberts
Ordinary committee member	Felicity Barry
	Ian Bowie
	Rob Renew

The committee met four times during 2009.

Special general meeting

ASHET held a special general meeting of members on 23 April 2009. The meeting resolved to amend ASHET's constitution to provide that a person would cease to be a member of ASHET if they failed to pay annual membership fees for two consecutive years. The amendment was registered by the registry of Cooperatives and Associations on 1 May 2009.

Journal contents project

Progress during the year with the project to digitise and display on a web site the complete contents of two series of historic Australian engineering journals was further delayed. By the end of 2009 all of the scanning was complete for the full sets of the *Journal of the Sydney University Engineering Society* and the *Minutes of Proceedings of the Engineering Association of New South Wales*. In addition, the full texts of two volumes of each of the two journals had been posted on the Sydney University Library website, where they are available for free access and downloading. The full texts of the complete sets of both journals are expected to be on the website early in 2010.

Website upgrading project

ASHET applied for and received a grant under the 2009 RAHS Local History Research and Publication Grant Program of \$850 towards the cost of project to upgrade the ASHET website and provide a number of new features. ASHET's committee agreed to supplement this with \$650 from ASHET's funds to meet the expected cost of the project.

ASHET engaged Alison Stevens of Redwine Publications, which specialises in electronic communications and website design, to provide professional services in connection with this project. She commenced work on the late in 2009 and we expect the project to be complete early in 2010.

The upgraded website will include a set of ten self guided tour brochures that relate to the history of engineering and technology in the Sydney area. In their original form these brochure were prepared by Ian Arthur in 2001 and 2002 for the Sydney Engineering Heritage Committee of Engineers Australia, with the intent tht they should be published in hard copy form. This did not eventuate, and for some time, but not currently, they were presented as pdf documents on the Engineers Australia website. Ian has updated and reformatted the guides for inclusion in the upgraded ASHET website.

Electronic history project

In October 2009, ASHET's committee decided to undertake this project. The aim of the project is to develop and start to implement a strategy for ASHET to make the best use of electronic means of

communication both in its existing activities, and also in possible new directions that are compatible with its objectives as a society.

We have engaged Alison Stevens to provide professional services to assist us with this project, and plan to start work on it early in 2010, with completion before the end of the year.