

## **NEWS FROM THE FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETIES**

**The Executive and Committee of the Federation (FAHS) held its first teleconference for 2005 on 28 February. Members may be interested in the following items of business that were considered.**

### **Revision of 2004/2005 budget estimates.**

The budget estimates for the current financial year were revised. This was rendered necessary because the call for the 2004/2005 GVEHO Program grant applications had not yet been advertised. The FAHS relies upon an annual grant under this program to fund its administration. Due to the funding uncertainty, the Committee has been forced to dip into its financial reserves. The Federation has received verbal assurances that applications will be called for within the next few weeks.

Present funding arrangements are unsatisfactory because the timing of the allocation of GVEHO grants is inconsistent and doesn't facilitate forward planning. The President, at the request of the Committee, has written to the Federal Minister for Environment and Heritage presenting a case for triennial funding under the GVEHO Program. The President and Hon. Secretary will meet with the Minister in April to inform him of the work of the Federation and to discuss funding and heritage issues.

### **Presentation of Fellowship award**

The President will travel to Darwin to present Professor David Carment's Fellowship award. While she is in the Northern Territory she will address the Annual General Meeting of the Historical Society of the Northern Territory (HSNT) on aspects of the Federation's activities and discuss some domestic matters with the HSNT delegates.

### **Certificate of Merit - a new FAHS honour**

The Committee established an annual FAHS Certificate of Merit award. Nominations will be called annually from State and Territory societies, their member societies and from individuals. Merit Awards will be separate from Fellowships and will be awarded to members of historical societies who are judged to have made a contribution to the work of the historical society movement that has implications or benefits across more than one State or Territory. For example, someone who has been instrumental in developing an electronic cataloguing system that is taken up by many organisations across the country; or a person who has established and maintained best practice in conservation or exhibition of a collection of national importance. A Certificate of Merit will also be awarded to members of historical societies who are judged to have made a contribution to the historical society movement at the federal level (or across a number of States/Territories) but who do not qualify for a Fellowship.

### **Regional Cultural Alliance**

The Federation's delegate, Dr Ruth Kerr, reported that a meeting of the Regional Cultural Alliance would be held on 7 March 2005. The issues to be discussed are governance and funding, the preservation of library materials in Ceylon, the Tsunami aftermath and Indigenous proposed auction of artworks.

### **FAHS corporate identity guidelines**

A set of guidelines regulating the use of the FAHS corporate identity was adopted. These guidelines will be incorporated into FAHS Regulations attached to the Constitution.

### **Educating for a sustainable future**

The Committee discussed its response to the Federal Department of Environment and Heritage draft document, "Educating for a Sustainable Future, A National Environmental Education Statement for Australian Schools, 28 October 2004". While the Committee supports the principles of the Statement, it has concerns that there are important omissions with regard to sustainable heritage, teacher training and teaching resource materials.

Helen Henderson

**PRESIDENT**

Yvonne Forrest and Bev Phelts

**NORTERN TERRITORY DELEGATES**