

In this issue

This second issue of *Sydney Journal* has another selection of articles destined for fully linked and illustrated publication in the Dictionary of Sydney when it goes online late in 2008. Articles in *Sydney Journal* 1(1) have been downloaded over 500 times each in the first three months, and new readers continue to register for the journal, although access is free and registration is unnecessary to read the articles.

Judith Godden's survey of Sydney's hospitals throws light on the foundations of Sydney's public health infrastructure, and the changes in attitudes towards medicine over the period. She highlights a crucial assumption of the early colony that still persists, that governments should provide basic health care. Government control (or the lack of it) over the growth and development of Sydney is the theme of Robert Freestone and Paul Ashton's article on town planning, revealing the tensions between private development and various levels of government in the spreading city. Robert Crawford's account of Sydney's growth as Australia's capital of advertising stresses the commercial dynamism of various periods, and Sydney's role as itself an advertisement for Australia. This theme emerges again, in Ruth Balint and Greg Dolgoplov's survey of Sydney in film. Celluloid images of Sydney were part of forging an identity for the city as multicultural, modern and spectacular, both for its residents and for others in Australia and overseas. Whether on film or paper, Sydney publicity was put to use attracting immigrants, first from Britain and the Empire and later from all over the world. James Jupp's overview of immigration to Sydney tells that story, and outlines the effects on the city of successive waves of new residents. The last article, Ailsa McPherson's piece on Sydney theatre, sets out the lasting Georgian influences on Sydney's theatrical scene, and the local innovations that helped it prosper.

The Sydney's People section once again uncovers intriguing connections between groups. In this issue, the Mauritians and French are closely allied over the whole period, an alliance which is a result of their own complex and intertwined colonial history. Three more disparate communities are surveyed in articles on the Brazilians, Lebanese and Scots in Sydney, ranging from the small and new to the large and old. This section also contains an article on a different type of group: the coal lumpers, in their day Sydney's best paid casual workers. Margo Beasley's piece shows convincingly that they earned every cent.

Sydney's Suburbs continues a tour through Sydney's far-flung and diverse localities, and six more of our suburb authors are featured here. The depth of research done by local historians continues to inspire the Dictionary project.

Emma Grahame