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Why horses should be trained like lab rats



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New Australian drawing at the Tin Sheds Gallery



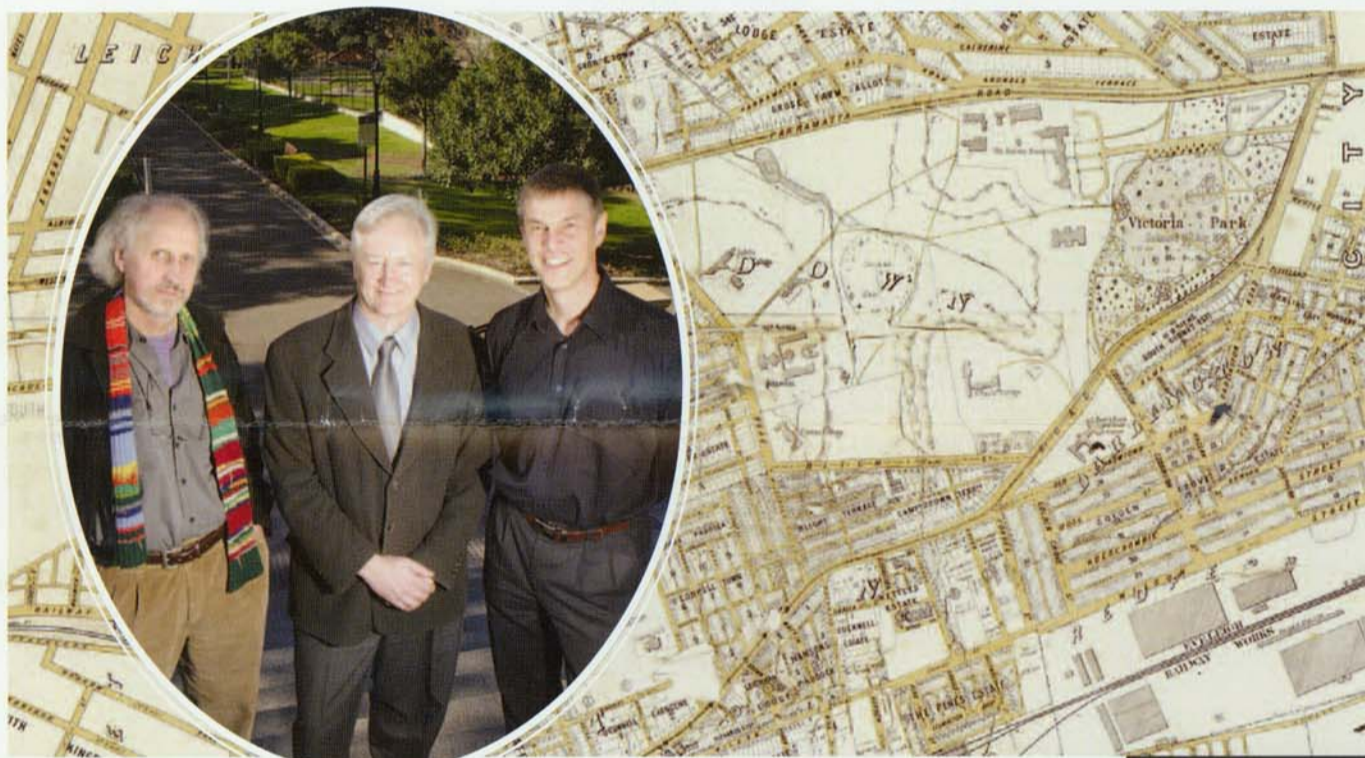
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Trapped in a snow storm: this week's private collector



ARC LINKAGE GRANTS

History at the touch of a button



MAP COURTESY OF HIGINBOTHAM AND ROBINSON, SYDNEY

By Kate Rossmanith

Whenever past generations of Sydney residents paid their council rates, they left behind an archaeological paper trail relating to their block of land, their suburb and the region. These records, supported by archival information about architecture, sanitation, and urban planning, will form the basis of a dynamic online encyclopaedic dictionary of Sydney to be developed by University researchers.

"Users will be able to click on a suburb to search for dictionary entries which refer to that suburb, or view the changing settlement pattern of Sydney through time," explained Dr Ian Johnson, director of the University's Archaeological Computing Laboratory, who is one of three Sydney researchers awarded a \$916,000 ARC Linkage Grant over five years to build the digital multimedia site.

Linkage projects are designed to encourage long-term strategic alliances between universities and industry partners, and the Sydney dictionary will bring together a wide range of cultural groups and institutions. Dr Johnson will work alongside Professor Stephen Garton, Challis Professor of History and Dean of the Faculty of Arts, and Mr Ross Coleman, innovation and development manager of the University library. They will also collaborate with the City of Sydney Council, COS historian Dr Shirley Fitzgerald, State Records of NSW, the State Library, external scholars including Associate Professor Paul Ashton from

the University of Technology, Sydney, as well as hundreds of local councils, librarians and historical societies.

The free online service will be a valuable resource for students, researchers and communities. "It will offer a rich sense of Sydney's identity for locals as well as a gateway to tourism and trade," said Professor Garton. It will feature large overview material such as health history and transport infrastructure through to specific details about particular buildings and places. "We live in a historical landscape. The dictionary will provide people with an embedded sense of culture," he explained.

Professor Garton said that while encyclopaedic city dictionaries are becoming more common, the Sydney dictionary will be unique in that it will be online from the beginning. Dr Johnson said: "This is an opportunity to develop innovative ways of presenting historical material on the internet."

One innovation is the use of dynamically generated historical time maps, developed by the University's TimeMap™ project (www.timemap.net), covering urban, heritage and planning information. The system will build links between different dictionary entries – such as people, places and events – and will generate relevant time maps on-the-fly from the underlying databases.

Users will be able to engage on a superficial level as well as more comprehensively tracing through

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Above: Ross Coleman, Stephen Garton and Ian Johnson will draw on archives, such as this late 19th century map of the University and surrounding suburbs, to build an online Sydney dictionary.

'The Sydney dictionary will provide people with an embedded sense of culture.'

PROFESSOR STEPHEN GARTON



PHILOSOPHY

Thinking the unthinkable: did Einstein get it wrong?

By Richard North

The intriguing possibility that the most celebrated thinker of the 20th century got it all wrong in his Theory of Relativity is one of the propositions put forward in a newly published collection of lectures by Sydney philosopher John Anderson.

Anderson, in a series of lectures in 1944, rejected Einstein's assumption upon which the Theory of Relativity rests that the universe is a totality created in Time and extended in Space.

Dr Mark Weblin, the University's John Anderson Research Fellow, explained: "The common assumption that the universe is created



in Space-Time is rejected by Anderson as a physicalist or substantialist assumption. In fact, Anderson rejected the very notion of a 'universe' understood as a totality of everything that exists."

"Space and Time for Anderson are not things which themselves exist but are the very conditions of existence itself. It could be said that for Anderson the only difference between the Big Bang and the Restaurant at the End of the Universe is that one is 'science' and the other is science fiction."

Need more time to think that over? Then helpfully, Anderson's lectures are about to be published by Sydney University Press (SUP)

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