

CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC HISTORY

RESEARCH SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

AUGUST 2026, ISSUE 47



Friends of the ANU Centre for Economic History,

Welcome to this issue of the CEH newsletter. It includes calls for papers for the 13th Australian Cliometrics Workshop in November and the APEBH Conference next February; please submit your paper! Also included is a new book, discussion papers and more. Once again, thanks for your interest in the Centre for Economic History.

Tim Hatton, CEH Director

13th Australasian Cliometrics Workshop

Call for Papers

The 13th Australasian Cliometrics Workshop will be held on Friday 13th November 2026, at Australian National University. AusClio follows the established Clio format of short presentations (5 min), discussant comments (10 min) and substantial discussion by the audience (30 min). Accepted papers will be distributed in advance to all participants, who are expected to read them beforehand to ensure engaged contributions and meaningful discussions.

There is no workshop theme, submissions to all topics in economic history are welcomed. The workshop will be hosted by the Centre for Economic History at the ANU's Research School of Economics and supported by the Economic History Society of Australia and New Zealand.

A keynote talk will be given by Bishnupriya Gupta (University of Warwick), co-editor of the *Journal of Economic History* and research director of Warwick's CAGE research centre. Her pathbreaking work on India is encapsulated in her recent book: *An Economic History of India: Growth, Income and Inequalities from the Mughals to the 21st Century* (Cambridge University Press, 2025).

Extended abstracts or full papers will be accepted now through 13th September 2026. Notifications will be made shortly afterwards, and full papers will be due by 30th October (two weeks before the workshop). To submit an abstract or paper as well as to RSVP to attend (including willingness to serve as a discussant), please send an email to Tim Hatton (tim.hatton@anu.edu.au). Early career scholars and graduate students are particularly encouraged to apply.

Registration is free and lunch and coffee will be provided. All other costs will need to be self-funded, such as travel and accommodation. An informal dinner and get-together will be organized for the Thursday evening before the workshop.

Thanks, and we look forward to seeing you in Canberra.

Call for Papers

Asia-Pacific Economic and Business History Conference, Canberra, February 2027

Papers and proposals for sessions are invited for the 2027 APEBH conference. This year's conference will be held at the Australian National University on 10th – 12th February 2027. It is organized by the ANU Centre for Economic History and generously sponsored by ANU's Research School of Economics and the Economic History Society of Australia and New Zealand.

Researchers across a broad range of disciplines are warmly welcomed. Early career researchers are encouraged to participate. Due to generous sponsorship of the event, the conference registration fees are low. We especially encourage submissions from PhD students for whom a limited number of travel grants are available on application.

We welcome proposals on all topics in economic, social, and business history, as well as proposals for sessions on specific themes. We are particularly interested in papers related to the conference theme: 'Innovation - Historical Perspectives from Asia-Pacific and the World'. In its broadest sense, this embraces all aspects of business, economic and social life. It reflects the award of last year's Nobel Prize in economics to Joel Mokyr for his analysis of the conditions for sustained growth through technological progress. The theme could be approached from several perspectives, including those of the cliometrician, the economic historian, the economic theorist, the business historian, the applied economist, as well as the social historian. There is scope for new interpretations, new findings, as well as syntheses of existing work.

Abstracts or full papers may be submitted at any time up to the closing date of 23 October 2026. A decision on proposals will be made within a month of submission. Session proposals of one page outlining the main objectives of the session and potential participants may be submitted up to the same date.

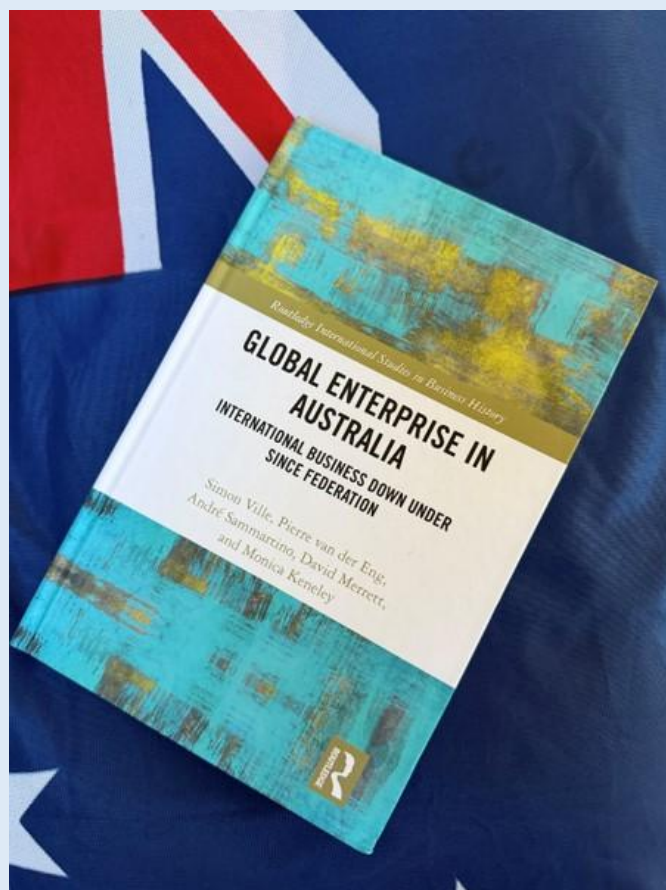
Abstracts, papers and proposals for sessions, should be sent by email to:
CEH.RSE@anu.edu.au

Registration for the conference and further details can be found here: <https://rse.anu.edu.au/asia-pacific-economic-and-business-history-conference> or accessed via the website of the Economic History Society of Australia and New Zealand at: <https://sites.google.com/hawaii.edu/economichistorysocietyofaustra/home> .

Some universities require staff attending conferences to have their papers refereed. If this is the case in your institution, please submit the full paper to CEH.RSE@anu.edu.au by the 23rd October 2026 for the double-blind refereeing process.

New Book: Global Enterprise in Australia

***By Simon Ville, Pierre van der Eng, André Sammartino,
David Merrett and Monica Keneley***



For two centuries, multinational enterprises (MNEs) have arrived in waves on Australia's shores. Highly visible and influential household names among them – Ford, IBM, Kodak, Electrolux, ANZ – but also many smaller, lesser-known enterprises. Foreign MNEs in Australia today account for almost half of our top 2,000 firms and control over A\$1.4 trillion of assets. There is much we do not understand about these important institutions, why they chose to invest here, how they entered, and why some firms survived for long periods, while others exited.

The history of MNEs, more than most topics, is inextricably connected to international experience. Across half a century of research, their history has emerged as a vibrant field of investigation in North America, Europe, and, increasingly, Asia. MNE activity in Australia, has formed an important part of the global presence of many firms.

This is the first history of foreign MNEs in twentieth-century Australia, filling a major gap in the economic and business history literature of Australia and of the history of international business globally. It integrates the important and distinctive Australian experience with an extensive international and comparative scholarship on big business and MNEs. The five coauthors bring vast experience and expertise in business and corporate history to shed new light on this major feature of the modern economy.

 **Routledge**
Taylor & Francis Group
NEW YORK AND LONDON

Publisher's web page for the book:
<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003586272>

News from the ANU Archives

ANU Noel Butlin Archive Centre – Burn Philp exhibition

On 1 July 2026, the NBAC opened exhibition “Merchants of the Pacific: The Rise and Fall of Burns Philp”. <https://archives.anu.edu.au/news/merchants-pacific-rise-and-fall-burns-philp> It showcases a diverse range of artifacts from the archival collection of Burns Philp, once one of Australia’s largest and most successful companies.

The company is best known as a merchant and shipping company. It was established in 1883 by Scottish migrants to Australia James Burns and Robert Philp. It grew to maintain coastal shipping connections along Australia’s East and North coast, reaching into the South Pacific.

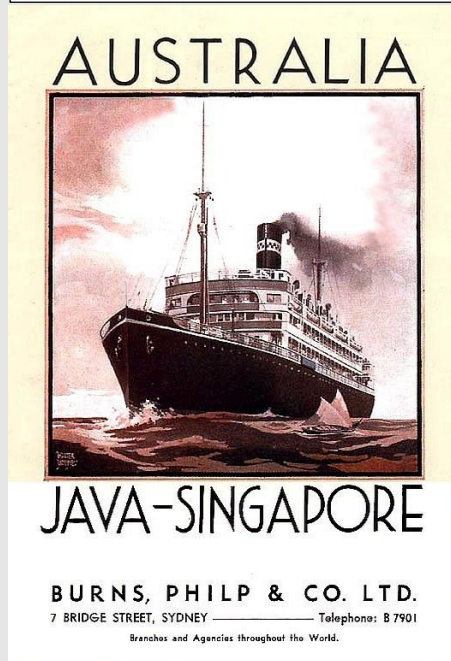
Much of the exhibition is dedicated to the company’s operation of ships and shipping connections. But it also includes Burns Philp diversifications, for example with plantations in the Solomon Islands in the 1910s and the acquisition of retail hardware store chains like BBC Hardware in Australia during the 1970s-1980s.

Apart from artifacts showing the outward facing aspects of Burns Philp operations during the last 150 years, the exhibition also offers glimpses of the increasingly complex internal organisation of the growing company. For example, the management of the more than 7,500 people it employed in the 1930s, as well as the company’s record keeping and accounting functions.

The exhibition is located in the Menzies Library on the ANU campus, where it can be viewed until December 2026. It can also be viewed online: <https://archives.anu.edu.au/exhibitions/merchants-pacific-rise-and-fall-burns-philp>



Burns Philp Passenger Bureau, corner Bridge & Pitt Streets, Sydney, c. early 1990s



The TSS “Marella” serviced the Burns Philp shipping line from Sydney via Java to Singapore in the 1920s and 1930s.

CEH news and working papers at: <https://rse.anu.edu.au/research/centre-economic-history>

The CEH welcomes courtesy announcements from affiliates and interested parties for inclusion in our newsletter (subject to editing). Please send news items to: tim.hatton@anu.edu.au

News from the Archives—contd.

New ANU Archivist and the Noel Butlin Archives Centre

In May this year Kylie Moloney started her appointment as ANU Archivist, succeeding Kathryn Dan. Apart from the University Archives, Kylie will also take charge of the other archival research collections at the ANU. These include the Noel Butlin Archives Centre (NBAC) and its collection of business and labour records from Australian companies, trade unions, industry bodies and professional organisations going back to the 1820s.

<https://archives.anu.edu.au/collections>



Kylie Moloney

Kylie is no stranger to the ANU Archives and the NBAC, having previously worked on building and curating the Pacific Research Archives, which are also housed at the ANU Archives. She re-joined the ANU after positions at the National Library, the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and the National Archives of Australia. Her experience includes the acquisition, curation, management and accessibility of archival collections, as well as education and outreach.

In terms of the NBAC's company records, the Centre remains committed to digitising parts of its historical company records, particularly photographs, maps, posters and annual reports:

<https://hdl.handle.net/1885/22>

Centre for Economic History Discussion Paper Series

The CEH website hosts a discussion paper series on a variety of topics in economic history. Recent additions to the series are as follows:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 2026-02 | <u>Religion and the Wealth of Nations after 250 Years</u>
by Sascha O. Becker |
| 2026-03 | <u>The economic, political and social aftermath of the 1933 Long Beach Earthquake</u>
by Cameron E. Gordon |
| 2026-04 | <u>Explaining Divergence in Ocean Freight Rates and Passenger Fares, 1863-1913</u>
by Timothy J. Hatton |
| 2026-05 | <u>Discrimination After Hiring: Within-Firm Sorting, Slow Employer Learning, and the Cost to the Sorted Worker</u>
by Johan Fourie, Kris Inwood and Martine Mariotti |