

and Tuberculosis Australia (still CHATA) to facilitate its overseas activities. Although there have been some rivals to CHATA over the ninety-year history of the association, it has survived as an excellent example of government / non-government cooperation. This is due in no small part to the dedication of its volunteers and staff, and their ability to recognise and plan for a changing environment and to make responsible decisions.

Tyler has divided the book into chapters, each dealing with specific aspects of the association's work. It is not an easy choice. One disadvantage is that this inevitably results in some disruption of the narrative, repetition of some sections and minor errors. But this is more than compensated for by the breadth of his research. In addition to the actual history of the association, Tyler has included brief biographies of some of the main activists, lists of presidents and key staff, properties bought and sold, statistics of services, and research grants and scholarships awarded since 1992. In that period more than \$1.6 million has been dispersed for research and training. He also gives a chronology of the actions taken in the fight against tuberculosis from 1901. Such data will be of great assistance to future historians and we owe him a debt of gratitude.

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Good Riddance. A History of Waste Management in Manly, Mosman, Pittwater and Warringah. By Pauline Curby & Virginia Macleod (Joint Services Committee of Warringah, Manly, Mosman & Pittwater Councils, 2003, pb, \$30, ISBN 0-646-42791-1, available from Kimbriki Recycling & Waste Disposal Centre, Kimbriki Road, Terrey Hills, NSW 2084) vii + 224 pp.

HERE IS PUBLIC HEALTH HISTORY WITH A DIFFERENCE! MOST PEOPLE REGARD household rubbish with the NIMBY syndrome, yet the techniques we use to dispose of our wastes are an intrinsic part of our well-being. Indeed, it may well be a more important contributor to public health than the ministrations of the medical professions.

Good Riddance is a historical account of the development of waste disposal methods in the four adjacent local government areas comprising the northern beaches of Sydney. The first white settlers followed the practice of their Aboriginal predecessors by leaving their detritus where it was created, although the original inhabitants at least had the good sense to move home afterwards. As population increased and

councils were formed, some attempt was made to collect and dispose of waste—usually by dumping it in a pristine bushland gully or on a sensitive coastal wetland. The technique was justified because the land that was ‘reclaimed’ as a result of this landfill was often converted into playing fields, to promote the health of the younger generation. When there were no suitable sites left for a rubbish dump, incineration was tried until local residents, tired of smoke and smells, forced their council to close the incinerator. One problem unique to Sydney was that our garbage had a different composition from that encountered in Europe and the USA, and did not burn at a temperature high enough to eliminate pollutants.

Meanwhile, as Australia plunged headlong into becoming a consumerist nation, the volume of waste expanded exponentially. Only a middle-class preoccupation with recycling seemed to offer a long-term solution. Kimbriki opened in 1974 as just another uncontrolled rubbish dump at Terrey Hills, but has since developed into a model recycling facility with more than 74 per cent of resources recovered from the waste-stream. Curby and Macleod describe how this came about in the face of apathetic State and local authorities, which judged every project by its monetary cost.

For such an unpromising subject, this book is an exemplary publication. Well-written, meticulously edited, comprehensively illustrated and attractively produced. It is not just another municipal hagiography, but an important work of social and environmental history that can be read with interest by anyone concerned about the past (and future) of public health.

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