



# Royal Australian Historical Society

## Knowing your history

2 February 2023

[View this RAHS email in your browser](#)



Woman enjoying Lodden Falls, 1926 [RAHS Photograph Collection]



## **RAHS response to Trove's urgent need for funding before July 2023**

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The National Library of Australia's recent [Trove Strategy](#) revealed the 'future of Trove beyond July 2023 will be dependent upon available funds' and without urgent government support, 'the Library will need to cease offering the Trove service entirely.'

Given the dire nature of this report, the RAHS expressed its profound concerns for Trove's ongoing funding to Tony Burke, the Federal Minister for the Arts.

RAHS President Dr Iain Stuart wrote:

*State and local government libraries, cultural organisations of all types, newspaper companies and historical societies have had their collections uploaded to Trove since its inception. These organisations have trusted the NLA to manage the harvested data on behalf of all Australians for the benefit of the Australian nation. ... Together Trove and its partners have created arguably the most significant collection of Australian stories and cultural heritage. What has been achieved already is invaluable, but this work needs adequate and ongoing funding to continue.*

Trove is an invaluable resource for anyone interested in Australia's past. Our 'getting to know Trove' webinar series, organised by RAHS Senior Vice-President Christine Yeats, is among our most popular. Access to Trove's

digitalised collections is essential for historians and researchers who do not live in Canberra. This fact has only been amplified since the beginning of the pandemic and the National Library's [recent major renovation work](#), which has restricted access to its nationally significant collection.

Having a well-funded Trove has never been more important.



## Museums of History NSW and using the NSW State Archives Collection

The historic houses, museums and collections, which were previously administered by Sydney Living Museums, and the archives and records in the NSW State Archives Collection have been brought together in the Museums of History NSW.

All the web-based resources on the former NSW State Archives collection are now available through the new Museums of History NSW website.

- You can search both collections by selecting 'Search' in the top right corner of the Home Page at: <https://mhnsw.au/>. When you click on 'Search' you can enter a search term or choose between going direct to either State Archives' indexes or State Archives' catalogue.

- The simplest and most direct way to the State Archives collection on the new site is to click on 'Search State Archives' on the Home Page. This will take you to the [State Archives Collection page](#).



Here you can start your search using either of these options:

**1. Subjects A-Z.** This new search option is a good starting point – bringing the online indexes, guides, articles (additional information) and webinars together under alphabetical headings. It is also a good option if you want to search a particular index or locate a guide, article or webinar for particular records.

**2. 'Search the collection'.** This is useful for searching across a number of indexes and records. The results page will display entries from the various 'entity types'. These include index, item, series, agency, person (for example a member of the judiciary) and portfolio. You can refine/filter the results using the tools on the right of the screen. For example, by selecting 'index' the results are limited to index entries. You can also use this search option for specific records such as a Probate Packet – enter 'Edmund Barton death' – or Primary Application – enter 'Walter Liberty Vernon primary'.

There is a lot to discover about the NSW State Archives and '[How to use the State Archives Collection](#)' may answer some of your questions. If you are having difficulty you can use the '[Ask an Archivist](#)' service.



Christine Yeats

RAHS Senior Vice President

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Woy Woy from Blackwall Hill, undated [RAHS Foster Press Collection]

## Central Coast Regional Seminar

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### ***LAND RECORDS, CONVICT CRIMES AND CONVICTS TRANSPORTED FROM IRELAND: A TREASURE TROVE OF RESEARCH POSSIBILITIES***

The RAHS is staging one of its popular regional seminars in conjunction with the [Central Coast Family History Society](#). This one-day, in-person seminar will appeal to anyone who wants to learn more about convicts and their crimes, Irish convicts transported to Australia, and how to use land records.

Approximately twelve percent of all convicts transported to Australia were Irish. RAHS Senior Vice-President Christine Yeats will show you the hidden resources you can use to learn more about convicts transported from Ireland to Australia. With so many online resources, Christine says, 'it has never been easier to discover something new about your Irish convict ancestors and their

life experiences.'

'Local history requires specific research into a place, and the best way to do that is to look into the records of who owned the land.' Adjunct Associate Professor Carol Liston AO is a historian who specialises in the history of early New South Wales. In her presentations, Professor Liston will show you how to use land records from the Historical Land Records Viewer, Primary Applications and the Court of Claims to learn about the past.

In a recent RAHS *History* magazine, Dr Kathrine Reynolds said, '[m]any Australians are descended from convicts transported from Britain and in recent years it has been possible and enjoyable to discover one's convict ancestors. However, as the crimes were committed in Britain and tried in British courts, much data exists in British record offices that provide a more fulsome story'. This seminar will also feature a talk that will show you how to research the crimes of convict women using English court records.

For more information and bookings, go to the RAHS website:

<https://www.rahs.org.au/event/central-coast-regional-seminar-2023/>



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## RAHS Events

*Introduction to the new Museums of History NSW website*

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**Presenter:** Martyn Killion

**When:** Friday, 10 February 2023 at 10 am - 11 am

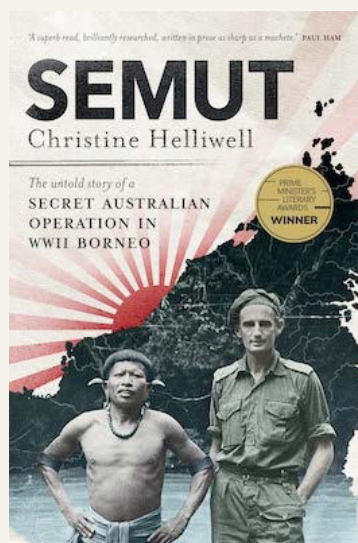
**Where:** Online via Zoom

**Cost:** Free

Martyn Killion will introduce the new Museums of History NSW website, now online at: <https://mhnsww.au/>, which brings the previous State Archives and Sydney Living Museums websites together. Martyn will guide participants through the site's many features, including the new 'Subjects A-Z' area, which combines links to all the indexes, guides, webinars and events relating to that subject, and the facility to search across all the collections.

Martyn Killion is the Director, Collections at the Museums of History NSW. Martyn oversees the care, management and accessibility of our collections, most notably the State Archives Collection, the Caroline Simpson Library and Research Collection and house museum collections. Martyn has over 35 years experience in the NSW Public Sector. This includes a long association with the NSW State Archives and extensive government experience, particularly in the area of culture and the arts.

RESERVE TICKETS



### ***RAHS Special Lecture - Semut: An Australian Secret Operation in WWII Borneo***

**Presenter:** Christine Helliwell

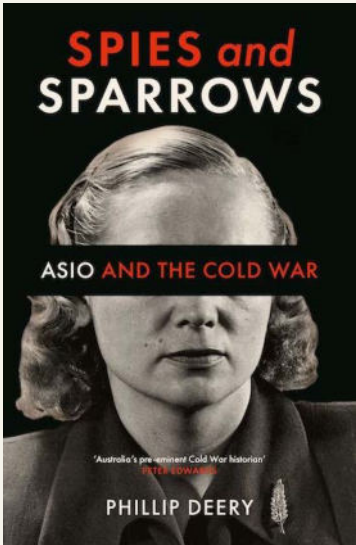
**When:** Tuesday, 14 February 2023 at 1 pm

**Where:** Online via Zoom

**Cost:** Free

This lecture explores a secret Australian operation that took place on the Japanese-occupied island of Borneo during WWII. Christine Helliwell will argue that while local contribution has been largely invisible in previous accounts of Operation Semut, Borneo's indigenous Dayak people were in fact the backbone of the operation. Christine will also suggest that this ostensibly Australian operation was orchestrated by the British for their own political purposes and outline its hidden reliance on Dayak headhunting.

RESERVE TICKETS



***RAHS Day Lecture - Spies and Sparrows:  
ASIO and the Cold War***

**Presenter:** Phillip Deery  
**When:** Wednesday, 1 March 2023 at 1 pm  
**Where:** Online via Zoom  
**Cost:** Free

In the wake of the Second World War and the realisation that the Soviet Union had set up extensive espionage networks around the world, Australia responded by establishing its own spy-hunting agency: ASIO. By the 1950s, its counterespionage activities were increasingly supplemented by attempts at counter-subversion – identifying individuals and organisations suspected of activities that threatened national security. In doing so, it crossed the boundary from being a professional agency that collected, evaluated and transmitted intelligence, to a sometimes politicised but always shadowy presence, monitoring not just communists but also peace activists, scientists, academics, journalists and writers.

RESERVE TICKETS





Nos 133-139 Macquarie Street [State Library of NSW]

### **RAHS/WEA Workshop - *How to Research Your House's History***

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**Presenters:** Carol Liston and Christine Yeats

**When:** Wednesday, 15 March 2023 at 11 am - 1 pm

**Where:** Online via Zoom

**Cost:** Members \$32 | Non-members \$35

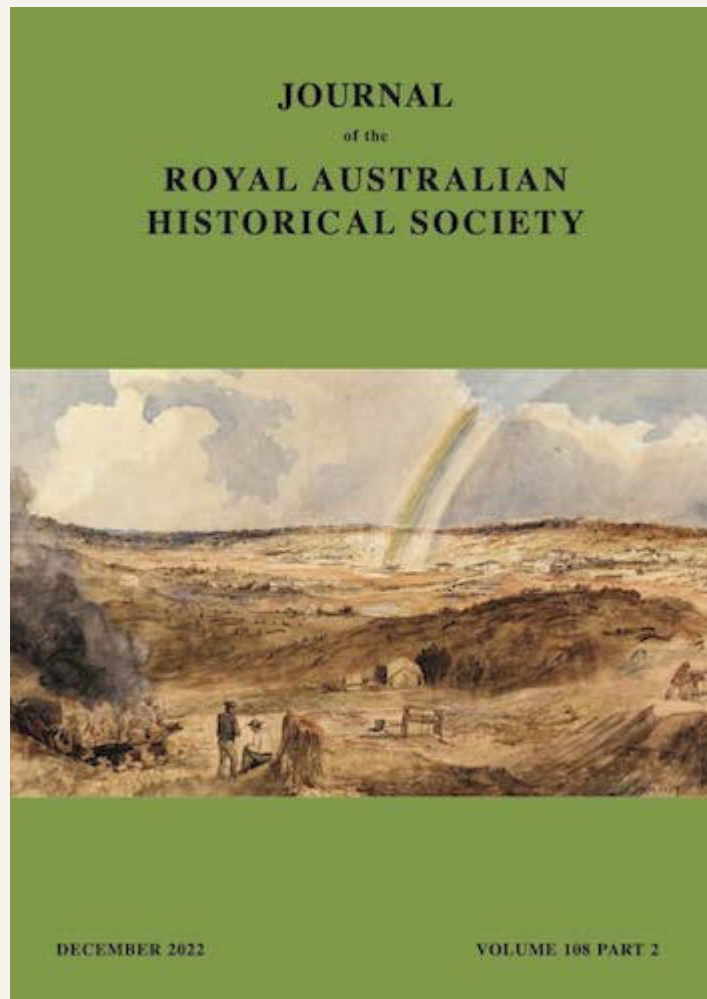
Have you ever wanted to go back in time and learn more about your house's history and the area where you live? This seminar will use two case studies – one in the city and one in regional NSW – to look at the records you can consult to find out more about the history of your house.

We will show you how to search for previous owners using the Historical Land Records Viewer and associated records. Then we will discuss the records that tell us how the house was previously furnished. These can provide a glimpse into the social life of the former occupants. Finally, there will be a discussion about strategies for discovering more about the history of your locality.

**BUY TICKETS**

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**RAHS News**



## **Call for expressions of interest for new editor/s of the Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society**

The Council of the RAHS is seeking expressions of interest for the position of editor of the *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society (JRAHS)*. The current editor Adjunct Associate Professor Carol Liston AO and our proof reader Mrs Joy Hughes are stepping down after many years of distinguished services in their respective roles. The RAHS Council thanks Adjunct Associate Professor Carol Liston AO for her service as editor and Mrs Joy Hughes for her service as journal proof reader.

The *JRAHS* is the official journal of the RAHS. It is a peer-reviewed biannual journal, the aim of which is to publish original, non-fiction scholarly articles and reviews on all aspects of Australian history. The Editor (or Editorial Team) is supported by the *JRAHS* Editorial Board and the RAHS Publications Committee. The appointment is for an initial period of three years, renewable by mutual agreement.

The RAHS Council welcomes expressions of interest from historians engaged in any aspect of Australian history, to be received by **3 February 2023 at 5 pm**.

## **Responsibilities of the Editor role include:**

- Engaging members of the history community to submit articles and undertaking timely reviews of drafts.
- Alongside support staff, the Publications Committee and the Editorial Board, collating the proofs for review and applying editorial policies and style guidance.
- Maintaining the high level of quality of the publication that should be focussed on supporting the education goals of the Society.
- Ensuring appropriate and timely communication with contributors and encouraging a variety of submissions.
- Working with support staff to coordinate media releases and social media promotion.
- Writing an editorial that outlines the content and common themes of each issue.

## **Expressions of interest should include:**

- A brief cv (one-page max) that outlines your experience.
- A brief outline (one-page max) of your thoughts on the future direction of the journal.

Members of the Publications Committee are happy to discuss with potential applicants what the position involves. The role of editor is an honorary position, but the RAHS Council is happy to discuss an honorarium to cover expenses incurred. Subject to the number of applications, the RAHS Council will appoint the successful applicant to the position at the 17 February Council Meeting.

Expressions of interest should be emailed to: [history@rahs.org.au](mailto:history@rahs.org.au)

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## **RAHS Heritage Committee**

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The RAHS Heritage Committee supported the following proposed listings on the NSW State Heritage Register:

- Gooriwal Cultural Landscape
- Plumwood

The Committee considered both sites 'to have high heritage significance' and their listing 'will be an important addition to our cultural heritage.'

## Affiliated Societies News



### Tooheys Brewery and their hotel interests

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Dr Lisa Murray, the 2021 Hertzberg Fellow, has been exploring the business archive of Tooheys Limited held in the State Library of NSW.

Lisa will share some of her insights and discoveries from tapping these historical records, including the brewery's involvement in the Tied-House System to expand their market share.

She will also demonstrate the digital mapping she has undertaken of Tooheys tied-hotels based on data extracted from the collection.

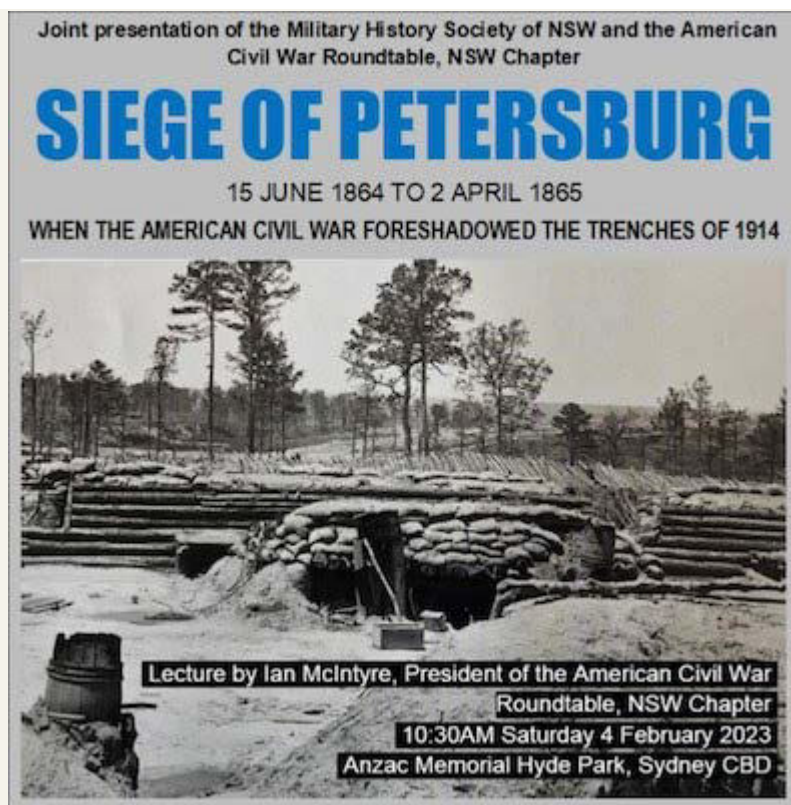
This significant collection promises a deeper understanding of the way the breweries controlled the industry and influenced pub culture in NSW.

**Where:** Henry Carmichael Theatre, SMSA 280 Pitt St.

**When:** Saturday 11 February at 2 pm.

**Cost:** COSHA Members \$5 / Visitors \$10. No bookings are required.

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## **Siege of Petersburg: When the American Civil War Foreshadowed the Trenches of 1914**

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The American Civil War raged from April 1861 to June 1865. It killed an astonishing proportion of the American population.

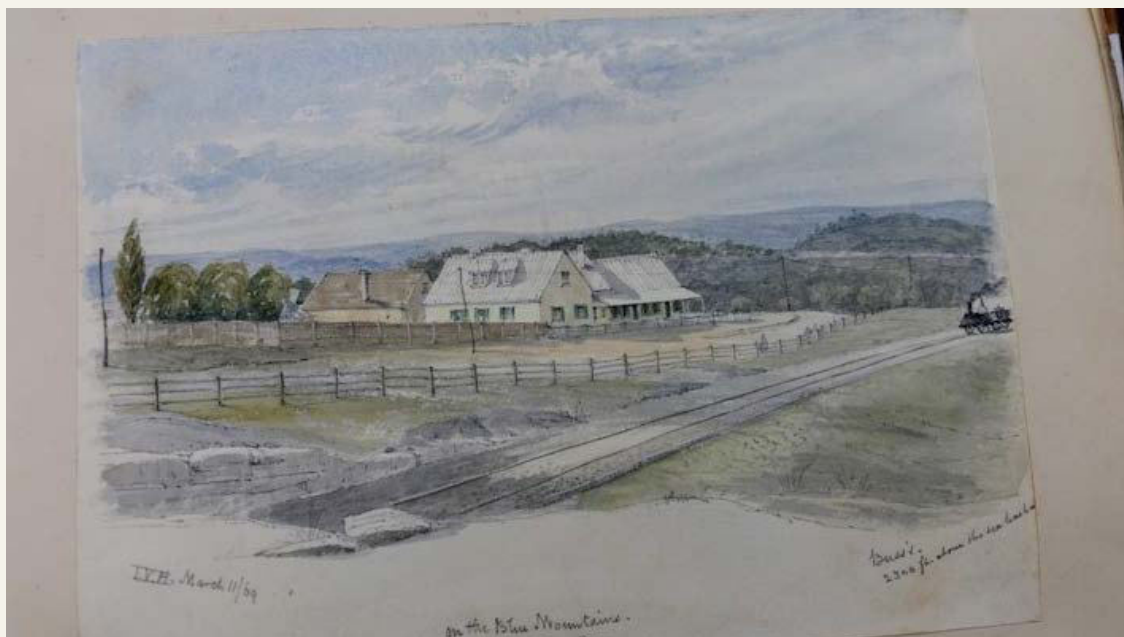
There were several armies conducting several battles and campaigns in various states during the nine and a half months that Petersburg, only about 20 miles (or approximately 35 kilometres) south of the Confederate capitol at Richmond in Virginia, was said to be under siege. It was not technically a siege, as it was never surrounded, but it was a portend of what was to happen in Europe 50 years later. The campaign at Petersburg did not kill as many people as other battles of the war, but it accounted for a long period of time, and its outcome was of huge political significance. The lifting of the siege signalled the end of the American Civil War shortly thereafter.

**Where:** The Auditorium, Anzac Memorial Hyde Park.

**When:** Saturday 4 February at 10.30 am.

**Cost:** Admission is free, but a donation would be appreciated.





## Blue Mountains History Conference 2023

Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations Inc (BMACHO) invites you to attend the Blue Mountains History Conference 2023, to be held during the National Trust's Australian Heritage Festival.

**Theme:** Blue Mountains Railways

**When:** Saturday 6 May 2023, 9.00 am to 5.30 pm

**Where:** Springwood Sports Club, 83 Macquarie Road, Springwood

**Cost:** \$80 for full program, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea

**[BOOK HERE](#)**

For more information, contact [committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au](mailto:committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au)

**Accommodation:** Check out accommodation in Springwood and surrounding areas on Booking.com [HERE](#)

**Program for the Blue Mountains History Conference 2023**

9.00 am – 9.30 am: Registration and coffee/tea on arrival

9.30 am – 9.45 am: President to open conference, Acknowledgement of Country, Housekeeping

9.45 am – 10.45 am: Keynote: Phil Hammon – **The Ian Jack Address: *Steam, Rails and Rope***

10.45am – 11.15am: Morning Tea

11.15 am – 12 pm: David Griffiths, THNSW and President of Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society – **The *Richmond to Kurrajong Pansy Line***

12.00 pm – 12.45 pm: Doug Knowles, Glenbrook & District Historical Society – **Roads, Rails and Bridges**

12.45 pm – 1.30 pm: Greg Bourne, Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway – **The *Journey to reopen the Oberon Tarana Branch line to Tarana as a Tourist Facility***

1.30 pm – 2.30 pm: Lunch and Raffle Draw

2.30 pm – 3.15 pm: Carolynne Cooper, former Transport Signal and Communications Museum at Kurrajong – **Collecting *Railway History***

3.15 pm – 4.00 pm: Mark Langdon – Lithgow – **Hartley Vale Railway Station**

4.00 pm – 4.45 pm: Mike Pensini and Keith Ward, Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum – **The *fastest milk cart in the west!***

4.45 pm – 5.30 pm: Kate O'Neill, Chair, Woodford Academy – **...an old luggage train wuff wuffing along up-hill and taking my mind**

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## Gladesville Hospital Cemetery

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The Ryde District Historical Society is currently planning to update its 2012 publication, *Gladesville Hospital Cemetery: The forgotten cemetery - The forgotten people*. They would like to include the names of as many of the pre-1869 Tarban Creek Cemetery burials as can be found. A number of burials have been ascertained from St Anne's, Ryde, and St Charles, Ryde, Parish Registers and other sources but there are still many gaps. It would be appreciated if any descendant who has a relevant death/burial certificate could please contact [rdhs1@bigpond.com](mailto:rdhs1@bigpond.com) with a copy of that registration.

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COLO SHIRE FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.



*Christine Yeats BA, Dip Lib (UNSW), Dip Arch Admin (UNSW).*

Sydney genealogist and historian, Christine Yeats will be our guest speaker on the topic of NSW Land and Records. Christine is an archivist and historical researcher with over 35 years experience, much of it with State Archives NSW.

She has implemented a number of key initiatives aimed at improving access to the State's archives, and Parish Maps Online.

**Date: Saturday 25 February 2023  
(10.00am)**

**Venue: The Tebbutt Room, Hawkesbury City  
Library (Deerubbin Centre),  
300 George Street, Windsor**

**To attend: Please book with Neil Renaud (Secretary)  
by Monday 20th February.**

**Email: [nrenaud@bigpond.com](mailto:nrenaud@bigpond.com). Phone: 0423 157089 or 4571 2472.**

**A small charge of \$5.00 (members) or \$7.00 (non-members)  
is made on the day to cover morning tea.**

## Information Pack



### ***Maitland & Beyond Family History***

is presenting a Female Convict Seminar to raise awareness of the female convicts who were sent north to Maitland and the Hunter Valley. We are commemorating the lives of these ordinary women who were torn from their homelands and families, to be sent beyond the seas, to forge a new life, in a new colony, under extraordinary circumstances. Some succeeded. Some didn't.

#### **We have lots to share:**

- \* Maitland & the Hunter Valley Female Convicts' Transportation Story.
- \* Some of their stories;
- \* Our Maitland Female Convict Bonnet Project;
- \* Our Beautiful Bonnets Display and more.

**DATE:** Sunday 5 March 2023

**TIME:** 8.30am to 9am Registrations

9am to 3pm Seminar

3pm to 4pm Afternoon Tea and Mini Gaol Tour

*Maitland Gaol has offered to conduct a Mini Tour of the Gaol at the conclusion of the seminar. If you wish to attend please include payment with your registration*

**Booking Essential for tour**



**COST:** \$50, includes Seminar, Morning/Afternoon Tea, and Lunch, Bottled Water Coffee Van On Site. Plus Gaol Tour (if applicable)

**RSVP:** Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 **(Limited Numbers)**

### **Bookings and Payments:**

Please email [this form](#) (as an attachment) to [mbfhprojects@tpg.com.au](mailto:mbfhprojects@tpg.com.au) when completed. If you have problems emailing this form, please contact 02 4905 1878 or email [mdgs01@tpg.com.au](mailto:mdgs01@tpg.com.au). Opening hours are 9.30 am to 3 pm Wednesday and Saturday and 10 am to 2 pm Tuesday.

## History News





## **Australian Department Store History Project**

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Researchers at RMIT University and Macquarie University are undertaking a project on the history of department stores in Australia from 1945 through to the present that seeks to use oral history recollections from shoppers and staff alike. They are hoping that RAHS members will be able to contribute by sharing their memories and experiences – no story too small, no experience too big!

If you are interested in contributing to the project (or simply wish to learn more), please go to: <https://www.departmentstorehistory.org.au/>, where you can share your memories and details so that the research team can connect with you to organise an oral history interview.

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**Dancing in Fetters exhibition at the Rocks Discovery Museum**

The *Dancing in Fetters: The Culture of Convict Dance* exhibition will open at the Rocks Discovery Museum in the heart of Sydney from 1 February until 28 April 2023. The launch is on Friday 3 February at 11 am.

The exhibition is based on the doctoral research of Dr Heather Blasdale Clarke and traces the origins of a largely unknown aspect of life in the early colony.

[\*\*FIND OUT MORE\*\*](#)

**Other News**



**National Trust (NSW) Heritage Awards 2023**

Entries have opened for the 29th annual National Trust Heritage Awards,

returning Friday 12 May 2023 to Doltone House, Pyrmont.

The National Trust (NSW) Heritage Awards is an annual celebration of outstanding practice in the field of heritage, awarding excellence in conservation, protection, and interpretation of Aboriginal, built, natural and cultural heritage over the past year.

The Awards are a unique chance to unite the sector in celebration of New South Wales' diverse heritage projects, innovation and achievements.

Initiatives completed between 1 March 2022 and 31 March 2023 by organisations, individuals and community groups are invited to enter.

Entries are open for submission until 11.59 pm (AEDT) Friday 3 March 2023, with the finalist shortlist set to be announced in April 2023.

Tickets for the highly anticipated Awards ceremony are available via Eventbrite from Monday 6 February 2023. Would-be attendees are encouraged to secure spots early as the popular event traditionally sells out in advance.

The National Trust Heritage Awards are a signature event of the Australian Heritage Festival. The Australian Heritage Festival is coordinated by the National Trust and supported by the NSW Government through Heritage NSW.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



## 2023 Australian Heritage Festival

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More than 200 events celebrated our rich and diverse heritage in NSW as part of the [Australian Heritage Festival](#) in 2022, and this year is set to be even bigger.

Be part of the story by registering your inspiring, eye-opening and fascinating heritage event(s) now to help deliver unmatched opportunities for the community to actively engage in heritage, uncover untold histories and reflect on stories that will shape our future for generations to come.

### **2023 Theme: *Shared Stories***

This theme invites organisers to share the stories of our natural, cultural built and Indigenous heritage, and encourages the community to build connections through the contribution of their own rich and diverse stories along the way.

### **Who can get involved?**

From local councils, community groups, galleries, museums, historical and literature societies, libraries and universities, all are welcome to register events that fall within the festival dates and align with the theme.

### **Key Dates**

- **February 2023:** The Australian Heritage Festival website goes live
- **Monday 3 April 2023:** Registration closes
- **Monday 10 April 2023:** Australian Heritage Festival opens in NSW
- **Sunday 14 May 2023:** Australian Heritage Festival closes in NSW

### **I'm in! What do I have to do?**

To get started, visit the [event organisers webpage](#) for more information, including downloads, toolkits and checklists. This outlines the registration criteria and what support you will receive from the National Trust. When you have your event organised, you're ready to [register your event](#).



## PREMIER'S ANZAC MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



### **History Scholarship for Year 10 and 11 Students**

Do you know a Year 10 or 11 History student?

The Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship gives NSW high school History students the unique opportunity to travel on a funded two-week study tour to Singapore and Darwin to discover the history of Australians at war.

Accompanied by a military historian, the tour will visit significant historical sites to learn about and commemorate the service of Australian men and women, with a focus on the Second World War. Plus, there are plenty of fun activities and the chance to make friends from across NSW along the way.

If you know someone who loves history, don't let them miss out on the chance to apply for this rewarding, fun and hands-on learning experience.

Applications close on 13 March. [Apply here](#).





Macquarie Place, c.1930 [RAHS Osbourne Collection]

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## The Royal Australian Historical Society

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