



Royal Australian Historical Society

Knowing your history

23 March 2023

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



Woman enjoying Lodden Falls, 1926 [RAHS Photograph Collection]



RAHS Honours - Christine Yeats

The RAHS recognises contributions to the advancement of education in the field of Australian history and the promotion of the Society's goals. In 2023, our Council unanimously awarded a RAHS Fellowship to Christine Yeats.

Christine has contributed to Australian history through her work as an archivist, researcher, historian and an active committee member of a number of history organisations. Her commitment to professional development and community history has included the following memberships and service roles:

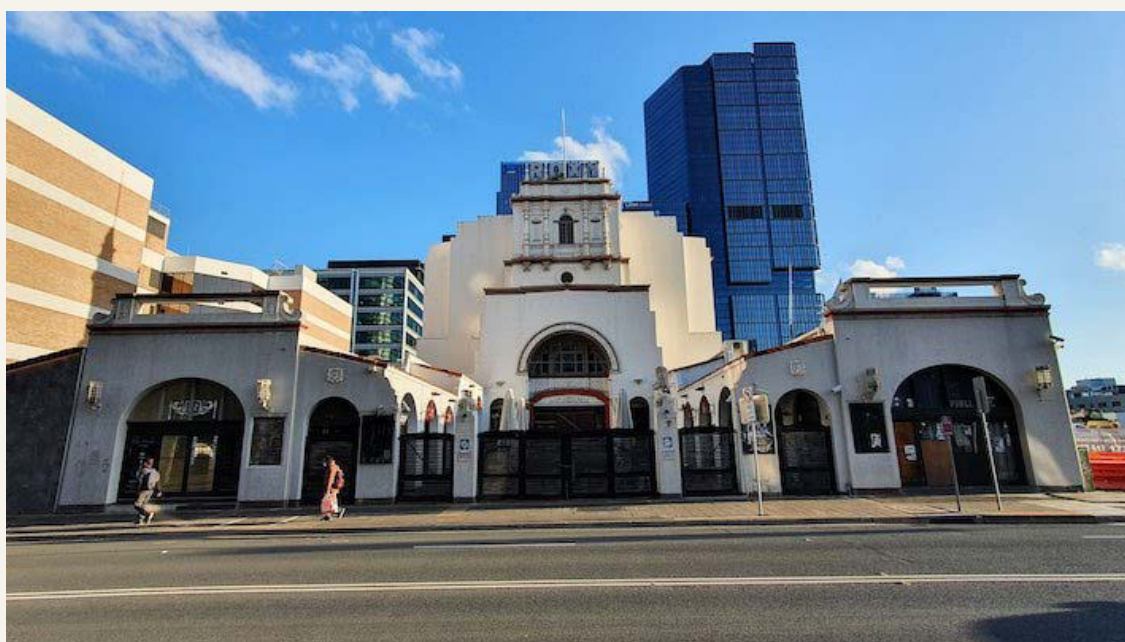
- Randwick and District Historical Society (including Vice Presidency)
- History Council of NSW
- Professional Historians Association NSW & ACT (serving as Treasurer)
- Australian Society of Archivists
- Independent Scholars Association of Australia (including National Presidency).

She played an important role in the Australia Women's Archives Project and was appointed in 2017 as Chair of the Assessment Committee of the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register.

Having joined the Royal Australian Historical Society in 1996, Christine has remained active in the Society for twenty-five years. She was a Councillor for nine years from 2012–21, returning in 2022, including service as the Senior Vice President 2012–17 and President 2018–21.

She has been a member of the Library Committee since 2012 and its chair since 2014. During this period, she developed the Draft Archives Disposal Schedule to guide the management of the Society's archives. She has assisted the RAHS in selecting a new online library system and is providing technical oversight for its implementation.

Christine also made a significant contribution as a member and chair of the Events Committee since 2012, continuing to the present. During the COVID-19 pandemic disruptions, she worked tirelessly to ensure that the RAHS members had access to events, managing the change to online Zoom presentations and identifying suitable speakers to address the Society.



Roxy Theatre, Parramatta - Update

On 25 February, NSW's Premier Dominic Perrottet and Arts minister Ben

Franklin publicly announced they had committed to preserving Parramatta's heritage-listed former cinema, the Roxy Theatre. The government intends to turn the Roxy into an arts and cultural space, planning to acquire the building and, in the words of a *Sydney Morning Herald* article on the 25th, "reopen it for cultural use in time to celebrate the building's centenary in 2030". Money from the \$5 billion WestInvest Fund will be allocated to the development of a final business case to provide the government with options for securing the Roxy's future for the people of NSW. The state's Labor party has since proposed a similar scheme to enable the Roxy to have an ongoing cultural role.

The Coalition's and Labor's announcements are heartening news for the Roxy Theatre Action Group, who since their formation in 2017 have urged for the restoration of the theatre to its original configuration with the addition of full live theatre stage facilities and seating for 1,500. If readers wish to read in more detail about the Action Group's position, it can be found [here](#).

The government's ability to honour their Roxy commitment will depend on the outcome of the NSW State election of 25 March and an ultimate decision being conditional on final business case approval. In the meantime, David Kingston, the Roxy's current owner, has stated that within the next four months, he will lodge a new development application for the building with the City of Parramatta Council. As he told ABC Radio's James Valentine on 2 March and *Parramatta Times* five days later, he intends to transform the Roxy into "the Ivy of the west", featuring several restaurants and bars, and a cabaret-style theatre. He would also add new, wide windows and doors to the building's western wall to give patrons access to a public plaza planned as part of Parramatta's metro station project.

With the government's and the Roxy owner's visions for the Roxy being apparently at variance, the building's future will continue to be debated until a final decision is made.

Graham Shirley

RAHS Vice President



Convicts in New Holland, Juan Ravenet, 1793 [SLNSW]

Thief or Prostitute? Questioning the evidence against women transported to Australia

Adjunct Associate Professor Carol Liston AO recently spoke with Philip Clark on the ABC Radio Nightlife program about new convict research she and co-author Dr Kathrine Reynolds published in the *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society* in December 2022.

In their article, Professor Liston and Dr Reynolds used British court records to question the myth that women transported to Australia were actually prostitutes, usually convicted of theft. Their new research looked at roughly 5,000 women convicted in courts in Britain and transported to New South Wales between 1800–1836. They found that the transported women were guilty of a variety of crimes, such as uttering forged bank notes, pickpocketing and burglary. While

some women did use sexual wiles as a bait, there is no evidence that the majority of these women ever acted as prostitutes, and they were certainly not convicted or transported for the crime of prostitution.

Professor Liston and Dr Reynolds also uncovered cases of women political prisoners who were transported for participating in food riots against the inflationary prices of everyday items.

You can listen to Carol's ABC interview [here](#), and RAHS members can download a copy of Carol and Kathrine's article, 'Thief or Prostitute? Questioning the evidence against women transported to Australia', from the [members' area](#).

If you need assistance logging into your member account, please contact admin@rahs.org.au

RAHS Events



RAHS Day Lecture - Trailblazing Women of Public Broadcasting, 1945-1975

Presenter: Kylie Andrews

When: Wednesday, 5 April 2023 at 1 pm

Where: Online via Zoom

Cost: Free

Trailblazing Women of Australian Public Broadcasting, 1945-1975 presents a compelling feminist perspective of Australian radio and television history. It chronicles how a group of female producers defied the odds and forged remarkable careers at the ABC. This lecture traces their careers, following them as they worked on location shoots and in production

offices, in television studios, control rooms and radio booths. In doing so it highlights the barriers, both official and unofficial, that confronted so many women working in broadcasting in the decades after World War II.

RESERVE TICKETS



***RAHS Day Lecture - Case Re-Opened:
Revisiting the Forensic Archive***

Presenter: Peter Doyle

When: Wednesday, 3 May 2023 at 1 pm

Where: Online via Zoom

Cost: Free

Not long ago it would have been unimaginable that something as bleak, official and anti-picturesque as the crime scene photo should become an important item of cultural heritage. In 1963 Andy Warhol saw the art potential in the 'ugly' forensic and his 'Death and Disaster' series paved the way for a number of subsequent studies of forensic photography. Major gallery and museum exhibitions and numerous publications continued to bring the forensic photograph into popular culture. The discovery of a large, globally significant trove of old police negatives in Sydney heightened interest in forensic material culture, and gave Australia a particular stake in the emerging field.

This talk will review the forensic photograph's strange journey from locked vault confidentiality to high visibility cultural icon, and, drawing on my own research into forensic archives, consider some of the difficulties and opportunities which attend this process.

RESERVE TICKETS



Hospital block, Quarantine Station, Manly [Northern Beaches Council Library]

RAHS Excursion - Q Station: Quarantine Wander Tour

When: Wednesday, 10 May 2023 at 11.30 am - 12.30 pm

Where: 1 North Head Scenic Drive, Manly NSW 2095

Cost: Members \$23 | Non-members \$25 | Child (under 16) \$10

For over 150 years, the Quarantine Station was, for many, the beginning of a new life in Australia after making the arduous and lengthy journey from their homelands. Ships suspected of harbouring people infected with contagious diseases such as Spanish Influenza, Smallpox or Bubonic Plague were quarantined here so that these deadly diseases would not reach the general population in Sydney.

Experienced guides will fascinate with the stories behind the unique history of this amazing site, an enduring part of Sydney's history. We will explore the heritage buildings of the wharf and hospital precincts to discover the processes that arriving migrants through the 19th and 20th centuries undertook on arrival at the quarantine station. The moveable heritage collection comprises thousands of artefacts unique to North Head Quarantine Station, many of which are displayed in the Visitor Centre's historical exhibit.

BUY TICKETS



RAHS Excursion - Edina Tour

Presenter: Michael Waterhouse

When: Tuesday, 23 May 2023 at 10.30 am - 12.30 pm

Where: War Memorial Hospital, Waverley

Cost: \$20

Although few people are aware it exists, 'Edina' is one of the grandest private houses surviving in Sydney from the late Victorian era. Some will know it as a central feature of the War Memorial Hospital, Waverley. Michael Waterhouse, author of a new book *Family, Faith and Fortune in Victorian Sydney. The Edina Estate*, will provide a comprehensive two-hour tour of 'Edina' for RAHS Members on 23 May 2023.

BUY TICKETS

Vale

Hon. Dr John Kennedy McLaughlin AM

It is with sadness that we record news of the passing this week of the Hon. Dr John Kennedy McLaughlin AM. Dr McLaughlin was a long-term member of the society, having joined in 1966, and served one term as a Councillor between 1980–1983.

He published two articles in the *JRAHS*: 'The magistracy and the Supreme Court of NSW, 1824–1850: a Sesqui-Centenary Study' in 1976 and with John Bennett 'Sir John Dickinson: Almost a Chief Justice' in 1970.

Dr McLaughlin was also a Councillor of the Sydney University Union, President (and Fellow) of the Society of Australian Genealogists and made significant contributions to the Australian Dictionary of Biography.

He was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2014 "for significant service to the judiciary and to the law, particularly through the documentation and preservation of Australian legal and constitutional history, and to the community."

RAHS News



Regional Seminar at the Central Coast

On 4 March 2023 Adjunct Associate Professor Carol Liston AO and Christine Yeats FRAHS presented the first in-person regional seminar since COVID. The seminar was held in conjunction with the Central Coast Family History Society and we want to record our thanks to the Society for their assistance and support. Carol and Christine discussed the resources that are available online (as well as some of those that have not been digitised) relating to the ownership and occupation of land; tips on locating the crimes of English and Scottish female convicts and a review of the information about convicts

transported from Ireland that can be found online. While the RAHS is continuing to use Zoom for our Day Lectures and Special Lectures as History House is closed pending the building project, the seminar was a welcome opportunity to 'get out and about' with RAHS members and supporters.

Christine Yeats FRAHS
Senior Vice President

Affiliate Insurance Renewals

We have started the renewals for our 2023-2024 affiliates' insurance scheme.

Each affiliate organisation will receive copies of the insurance documentation by email, and it will also be available for download from the members' area on the RAHS website, and hard copies will be mailed out. Please return the form only once, either via email or post to avoid confusion.

Return your completed form **before 25 April 2023** to ensure continuous coverage and avoid late fees.

If you have any queries then, please contact us by [email](#). Alternatively, you can call us on (02) 9247 8001.

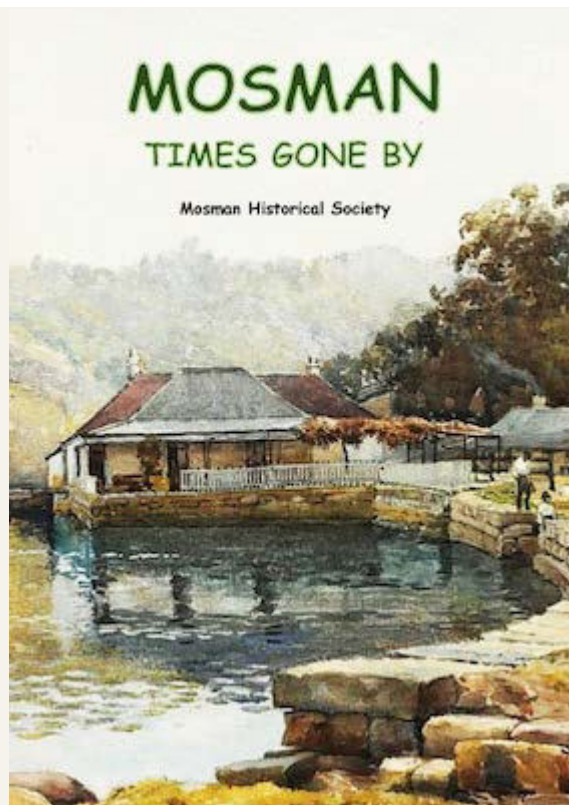
Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 18 April 2023, 6 pm | Online via Zoom

RAHS members are invited to attend our AGM. If you wish to attend, please contact us by [email](#) and you will be forwarded a link to the meeting.

The [2023 AGM Agenda and Papers](#) can be downloaded from the RAHS members' area by logging into your online members' account.

Affiliated Societies News



Mosman: Times Gone By

Mosman Historical Society has published this new book, *MOSMAN: Times Gone By*, to be launched by Mosman Mayor, Carolyn Corrigan, in early May. Publication of the book was funded by the 2022 Create NSW Cultural Grants program, administered by the RAHS.

The book is a collection of articles on many aspects of the early settlement and development of Mosman, with research on people, places and local historical homes, many now lost, as well as interesting stories of life in Mosman from the 1800s. These stories have been written over several years by our Society's researchers.

Available from 10 May 2023

Copies of the book can be purchased at a future Society meeting at Mosman Library (see website for dates).

Or pre-ordered, by email to mosmanhistoricalsociety@gmail.com. A mail-order form link for the book is available on the [Society's website](#).



The Lane Cove History Prize 2023

Calling all local and oral historians!

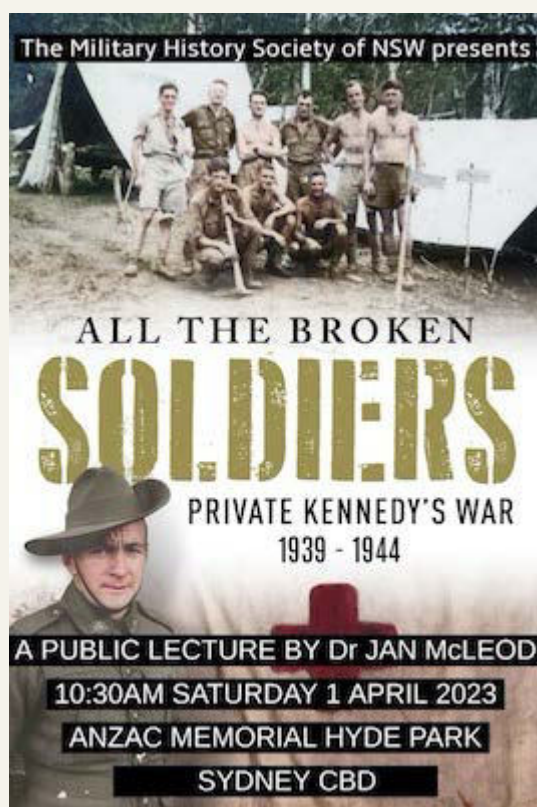
Sponsored by the Lane Cove Historical Society, the competition is open to all with an interest in Lane Cove and its past. A successful entry must document aspects of the lives of people in Lane Cove and its environs, including beyond modern Lane Cove, which covered a broader area in the past.

A vibrant community like Lane Cove deserves to have its history recognised!

Research subjects can cover a wide range as long as they relate to Lane Cove as a place. These include biographies of individuals or families; generational changes and ethnic groups in the region; histories of houses and shops, private or public buildings such as local churches; the histories of community groups

such as sporting teams; and environmental histories of bush care groups, rivers and gardens.

Submissions can be written essays, oral histories or DVDs. Entries must be received by 31st August 2023. Information about terms and conditions and criteria for submissions can be obtained at the [website](#).



All the Broken Soldiers: Private Kennedy's War 1939-1944

This presentation introduces 24-year-old NX21854 Private Lawrence Nicholas Kennedy and follows him through his first two years of service as a nursing orderly with the 2/4th Australian Field Ambulance during World War II. The presentation highlights the many ways in which primary sources, such as letters, diaries, sketches and photographs, contribute to our military history by humanising and personalising the war experience.

Like many service personnel before and since, Private Kennedy documented both the everyday and the extraordinary in his diary. He sometimes wrote little,

other times quite a lot. A few lines here and there noting the local geography or recording the movements of his unit were interspersed with vivid descriptions of peoples and places, or poignant observations of the 'scars and ruins' that war leaves behind.

Kennedy's photographs bring his diary writings to life – training in Ingleburn and Bathurst, voyaging across the seas, wandering through the streets of Jerusalem and Damascus, and trudging over the rugged Kokoda Track.

As well as providing a valuable first-hand account of the challenges confronted by medical personnel, Private Kennedy's diary and photographs allow a raw and unpolished insight into the suffering endured by those who cared for the broken soldiers.

Dr Jan McLeod is the great-niece of Private Kennedy.

Where: The Auditorium, Anzac Memorial Hyde Park.

When: Saturday 1 April at 10.30 am.

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



Kathleen Muriel Butler, the Godmother of the Sydney Harbour Bridge

John Bradfield was, by his own proclamation, ably assisted in building the bridge by his 'Confidential Secretary'. Much of her work would be considered engineering by any standard, although she was formally unqualified.

The participation of women in all aspects of society, including engineering, developed greatly during the 20th century. A young Australian woman, Kathleen Butler, was a pioneer in her time and well recognised in Sydney in the 1920s but is now largely forgotten. Despite great innate ability, her career was stymied by the exclusion of married women from many occupations. Participants will learn of the work of this woman, but also something of the character of the man for whom she worked – Bradfield. He recognised her ability and embraced it. He encouraged Butler and pushed her forward at every opportunity.

Where: Henry Carmichael Theatre, 280 Pitt St.

When: Saturday 15 April at 2 pm.

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



2023 Hassall Family Reunion

Now is the time to register for the Hassall Family Reunion, which is taking place from 5th to 8th May!

The Reunion provides a once in a generation opportunity to connect with relatives spread across the vast expanse of Australasia (we anticipate members from New Zealand) and gain a sense of this family's role in these two countries from the early 1800s to the present time. The main programme is on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th May, but for those who can make it, there are also optional events on Friday 5th and Monday 8th. [Book now](#)



WEA Sydney History Courses

Join the WEA Sydney for a mixture of face-to-face, online and hybrid classes. However you prefer to study, there is something for you.

Whether your interest is in the early colonial settlement of Australia; the 60,000 years of indigenous occupation; lies closer to home in the history of your family and ancestors; or all three, WEA Sydney offers you the chance to deepen your understanding of your own history in a friendly and social setting.

[Visit their website](#) to learn more about the courses they offer.

Upcoming classes:

- The History of Australia Through its Maps
 - Federation: Six States, One Nation
 - Remarkable Letters of Female Convicts
-



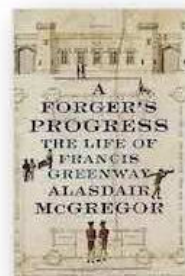
Parramatta Female Factory Friends Inc. Guest Speakers' Programme - 2023

WHEN: Friday 21st April 2023 at 1pm

WHERE: Parramatta Female Factory
Friends Rooms, the 'Greenway' Matron's Quarters
5 Fleet Street, North Parramatta
NO parking onsite - Limited on street parking.



GUEST SPEAKER: ALASDAIR MCGREGOR



TOPIC: A Forger's Progress: The Life of Francis Greenway

Sentenced to death for forgery, then granted a last-minute reprieve, Francis Greenway was transported to New South Wales in 1814. There, within a single eventful decade, Greenway and Governor Lachlan Macquarie began to transform Sydney with buildings such as Hyde Park Barracks, St. James' Church and the Supreme Court.

Alasdair's talk will profile Greenway's landmark buildings, his complex and fraught relationship with Macquarie and others, and his thwarted ambitions and inevitable self-destruction.

Alasdair McGregor is a writer, painter and one time architect. His professional and creative interests include natural history, architecture and design, and the history of exploration. He is the author of the much-acclaimed biography, *A Forger's Progress: The Life of Francis Greenway*.

BOOKINGS: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/a-forgers-progress-the-life-of-francis-greenway-tickets-596277681597>

Entry: Cost: \$5.65 (includes booking fee). Places are limited, so please book early.

The talk will be followed by afternoon tea and then the PFFF General Meetings at 2:15pm. New members are most welcome.

Photograph: Alasdair McGregor

Image: Cover - *A Forger's Progress: The Life of Francis Greenway* by Alasdair McGregor published by NewSouth books, 2014, Sydney NSW.

Web: parramattafemalefactoryfriends.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pfffrinds/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/pfffrinds/>

Email: parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com

History News



Image: Meroogal. Photo © Nicholas Watt for MHNSW

Her Home: Women's Housing Past and Present

Museum of Sydney, Wednesday 29 March, 6.30 pm–7.30 pm

This thought-provoking talk at the Museum of Sydney brings together leading experts to discuss women's housing in Australian history and the social, cultural and economic factors that have shaped housing options for women. Moderator April McCabe will be joined by panellists Dr Justine Lloyd, Jemima Mowbray and Dr Emma Power for this important discussion. [Book now](#)



New exhibition at the Anzac Memorial: *Serving the White Ensign*

In 1913 the Royal Australian Navy's first fleet sailed into Sydney Harbour. To recognise 110 years of service in peace and war, the Anzac Memorial presents the exhibition ***Serving the White Ensign***.

Discover rarely seen artefacts from defining moments in the Navy's colourful history.

The forbidding stern section of a Japanese midget submarine, lifted from Sydney Harbour in June 1942, a reminder of Australia under attack, contrasts with the whimsical personal souvenirs and mess deck art made by a young sailor steaming to the battle of Lingayen Gulf on HMAS *Arunta*.

To recognise generations of Australians who served the White Ensign on great waters, the Anzac Memorial will open a year-long exhibition on the Royal Australian Navy on 28 March 2023.

The exhibition is free and open daily from 9 am to 5 pm. [Learn more](#)

Other News



Official Opening

In a joint undertaking between the National Trust and the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the award winning exhibition 'A Moment in Time' will be opening as a display at the Hartley Historic Site during April and May 2023 as an element of the Australian Heritage Festival . The exhibition provides a focus on the Hartley Valley, the original custodians, the first Europeans, the road makers that followed and the settlers that came to call it home.

Join us at the opening on Saturday 1st April at 11am to hear noted historian Paul Brunton's commentary on the heritage significance of the Hartley Valley. Paul Brunton AOM, Emeritus Curator of the State Library of New South Wales, has led a life dedicated to the history of Australia and is widely respected across the heritage community. He has published and curated exhibitions covering many facets of our colonial history.

Save the date: Saturday 1st April, entertainment from 10.30 for the official opening at 11am. Coffee cart from 10am.
Reserve a free seat by booking at <https://www.trybooking.com/CFLJC>

Where: Hartley Historic Site - Corney's Garage

Getting there: Located in Hartley Historic Site just off the Great Western Highway near the Jenolan Caves Road turnoff.

Exhibition Access: 1st April–28th May 2023 10am-1pm, 1.30pm-4pm daily, closed Mondays
Admission : Adults gold coin donation. (Accompanied children free).



A joint undertaking between the National Trust (NSW) and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service supported by The Western Crossings Trust the Hartley District Progress Association and the Mt Victoria Historical Society



Open Day: Western Sydney Records Centre

Saturday 15 April, 10 am-4 pm, free entry

Get ready to explore the treasures of Museums of History NSW at an upcoming open day. You'll have the opportunity to visit the Western Sydney Records Centre housing the State Archives Collection.

Come see the collections close up, hear from experts on a range of fascinating topics, take a behind-the-scenes tour and relax with good food and coffee in our unique environment.

The heart of the state archives will be open to the public at the Western Sydney Records Centre, Kingswood, on Darug Country. This is a rare opportunity to step inside and discover the largest collection of records relating to the history of NSW and the lives of its people. [Find out more](#)



27th Mander Jones Awards - Publications

Nominations for the Australian Society of Archivists' 27th annual Mander Jones Awards - Publications are currently open. These awards recognise excellence in publications relating to archives and recordkeeping.

[Category 2B](#) may be of particular interest for Historians. 2B is an award for the best publication that uses, features or interprets Australian archives, written or edited by a person in their own right. Examples of works that might be nominated include history monographs, essays or articles that feature the use and interpretation of archives.

Nominations can be submitted via the online form. Works published in 2022 are eligible for nomination. **Nominations close Wednesday 5 April 2023.**

You can find full details about the [Mander Jones Awards - Publications](#) on the website including category information and nomination forms.



2024 National Library of Australia Fellowships

Applications for the 2024 National Library Fellowships, Creative Arts Fellowships and National Folk Fellowship programs are now open. These three programs offer opportunities to academic researchers, writers and creative artists, with the Fellowships funding between 4 to 12 weeks of intensive, on-site research into the unique collections held by the National Library of Australia.

Full details of the guidelines, closing dates and a link to application forms for each Fellowship are available on the Library's [website](#).



Macquarie Place, c.1930 [RAHS Osbourne Collection]

[Follow on Twitter](#)

[Friend on Facebook](#)

[Follow on Instagram](#)

[Our News](#)

[Our Library.](#)

[Our Events](#)

The Royal Australian Historical Society

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

Disclaimer: Views from contributors published in the Affiliated Societies, History and Other News are not necessarily the views of the Royal Australian Historical Society.

Our mailing address is:
Royal Australian Historical Society
133 Macquarie Street
Sydney, NSW 2000
Australia

Email:
history@rahs.org.au

Copyright © 2022 Royal Australian Historical Society, All rights reserved.



