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Royal Australian Historical Society

Knowing your history

18 May 2023

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Macquarie Street, c.1890 [RAHS Image Collection]



Image courtesy Government House Sydney

Coronation Ceremonial Tree Planting at NSW Government House

On Saturday 6 May, RAHS President Iain Stuart attended a ceremonial tree planting at Government House to celebrate the coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

The event began with a smoking ceremony by the Koomurri Dancers and included the National Anthem and Royal Anthem played by the Australian Army Band. Short addresses were delivered by His Excellency the Honourable Andrew Bell, Lieutenant-Governor of New South Wales, and Lottie Dalziel, NSW Young Australian of the Year.

The melaleuca tree sapling planted during the ceremony was grown from a cutting of the tree planted at Government House by Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II during her 1954 visit to Australia. This tree continues to stand tall by the Government House driveway.

The RAHS has a long association with the monarchy, having been granted the

title 'Royal' in 1918. Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of New South Wales, and Mr Dennis Wilson are joint patrons of the Society. In 2020, the RAHS published *Playing Their Part: Vice-Regal Consorts of New South Wales, 1788–2019*, which tells the stories of the wives, daughters, sisters and husbands of the Governors of New South Wales.

Find out more about the ceremony at the Governor of NSW's website.



RAHS 2023 Annual General Meeting

On 18 April 2023, the RAHS held its AGM via Zoom. The following motions were passed unanimously:

- Confirmation of the minutes of the previous AGM, held 12 April 2022.
- Adoption of the RAHS Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022.
- Adoption of the RAHS Financial Accounts for the year ended 31
 December 2022.

The 2023 Council nominations were then announced. Two nominations were received for four positions:

- Carol Liston
- Kathrine Reynolds

Under Regulation 28 of the RAHS Constitution, a postal ballot did not need to be held this year. The President welcomed Carol Liston and Kathrine Reynolds back as returning RAHS Councillors. He also thanked Pauline Curby, Linda Emery and Peter Hobbins for their contribution to the Society in their role as RAHS Councillors.

The 2023 Council nominations were followed by the 2023 President's Address, delivered by Dr Iain Stuart. The President gave a short talk on the history of the Burraga Copper mine (west of Oberon), which was once owned by the now-forgotten Copper King – Lewis Lloyd. He discussed the historical and heritage significance of the site.

The meeting closed and a special 2023/2024 Council meeting was held to elect members of the RAHS Executive. The results were:

President: Dr lain Stuart

Senior Vice President: Ms Christine Yeats

Vice President: Mr Graham Shirley

Treasurer: Dr Kathrine Reynolds

Executive member: Adjunct Associate Professor Carol Liston AO

Associate Professor Richard White was appointed to fill one of two casual RAHS Council vacancies. Nominations for the second vacancy will be discussed at the May 2023 Council meeting.

RAHS Council

President: Dr lain Stuart

Senior Vice President: Ms Christine Yeats

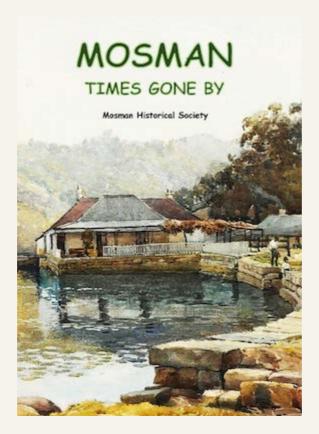
Vice President: Mr Graham Shirley
Treasurer: Dr Kathrine Reynolds

Executive member: Adjunct Associate Professor Carol Liston AO

Councillors:

Mrs Lynne Allen
Mrs Judith Dunn OAM
Mr Craig McPherson
Dr Mark St Leon
Associate Professor Richard White

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A successful 2022 Cultural Grants project by the Mosman Historical Society

2023 Cultural Grants Program

We are pleased to share that the 2023 Cultural Grants Program is now open!

The Cultural Grants Program is a Create NSW devolved funding program administered by the Royal Australian Historical Society on behalf of the NSW Government. This Cultural Grants program assists historical research and publication of local, community and regional history projects.

Last year, eighteen projects were recommended for funding to the value of \$59,105. Sixty per cent of projects focused on regional areas, twenty-three per cent on metropolitan Sydney, and seventeen per cent on Western Sydney. You can learn more about last year's program from the 2022 Assessment Report.

Mosman Historical Society was one of last year's successful projects. They

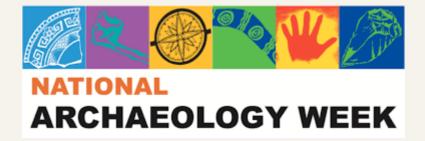
were awarded \$4,600 to publish a collection of research articles on early Mosman. The book was recently published as *Mosman: Times Gone By*. You can learn more about other successful projects on our <u>Cultural Grants website</u>.

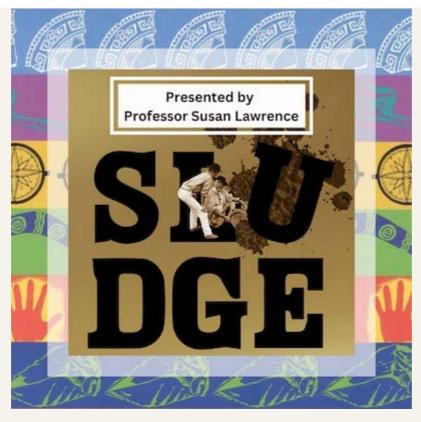
We want to thank Create NSW for providing funding for the cultural grants program that supports local history and heritage projects, facilitating an understanding of the history of the people and places of New South Wales.

The 2023 Cultural Grants Program closes on 23 June at midnight. Learn more about the 2023 Cultural Grants Program by <u>visiting our website</u>.



RAHS Events





Sludge: An Environmental History of Water and the Gold Rush

Speaker: Susan Lawrence

When: Wednesday, 24 May 2023 at 6 pm - 7 pm

Where: Online via Zoom

Cost: Free

Rivers are cultural artefacts transformed by human intervention. In Australia a significant influence on rivers has been the effect of mining.

Join Professor Susan Lawrence online for an overview of recent research investigating how the nineteenth-century gold rush continues to shape rivers and floodplains, 150 years after the event.

RESERVE TICKETS



North Harbour, with a view of Port Jackson Heads, taken from Belmont / drawn by J. Eyre, engraved by W. Preston [Caroline Simpson Library, MHNSW]

RAHS Day Lecture - Early Escapes from Sydney by Sea: The unknown routes from Port Jackson to the Spanish Americas, 1788-1820

Speaker: Chris Maxworthy

When: Wednesday, 7 June 2023 at 1 pm - 2 pm

Where: Online via Zoom

Cost: Free

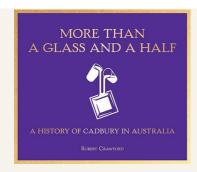
Chris Maxworthy will reveal the convicts, soldiers, mariners and stowaways who escaped from Sydney for the Spanish Americas between 1788-1820. In this rich tale are former soldiers of the Sydney garrison escaping debts, time-expired convicts joining up in visiting Cape Town privateers, and shipwrecked crews that all variously trans-shipped across the Americas (Mexico, Panama, Peru and Chile) as part of their long way home.

RESERVE TICKETS

RAHS Special Lecture - More than a Glass and a Half: A History of Cadbury in Australia

Speaker: Robert Crawford

When: Wednesday, 21 June 2023 at 1 pm - 2 pm



Where: Online via Zoom

Cost: Free

Australians have long had a love affair with chocolate. From the 19th century through to the present, Cadbury has played a pivotal role in supporting this chocolate craving. In this presentation, Professor Crawford will draw on his recent book, *More than a Glass and a Half: A History of Cadbury* (Halstead Press), to tell the story of the Cadbury brand in Australia.

RESERVE TICKETS

RAHS News

Editorship of the Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society

The RAHS is looking for a new editor for its biannual journal, the *JRAHS*. The appointment will be made before the end of this year by the RAHS Council. The new editor will receive a handover from the current editor Christine Yeats and the History House Team before starting in February 2024 to help prepare the June 2024 issue. The editor is supported by an Editorial Board, Publications Committee and the History House Team.

Historians interested in the position should send an EOI outlining their credentials, publishing record and a statement on the journal's future direction, c/- Dr Iain Stuart, RAHS President, at history@rahs.org.au by 31 August 2023.

Any questions should be emailed to history@rahs.org.au or call (02) 9247 8001.

Contributions to the Journal of the Royal Australian

Historical Society

The RAHS welcomes contributions to the JRAHS. Submissions should be:

- Original, unpublished research;
- Between 6,000 to 8,000 words; and
- On any aspect of Australian history.

Submissions should follow our <u>style guidelines</u> and be accompanied by a completed submission checklist.

Please send manuscripts to The Editor at history@rahs.org.au. You can learn more about submitting to the JRAHS on our website.

RAHS YouTube Channel

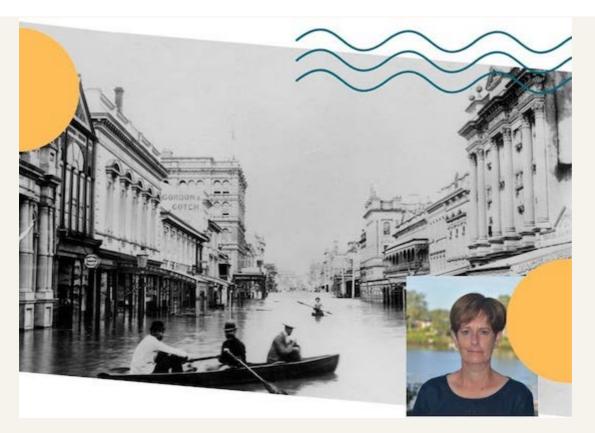
The RAHS YouTube channel features a range of video presentations, including lectures, webinars and grant-supported projects.

Recent highlights include:

- An introduction to the new Museums of History NSW website;
- Invitation to our forthcoming Conference;
- Researching Aboriginal Family History series; and
- Vice-Regal Consort lectures.

Subscribe to our YouTube channel to stay updated with our latest videos, and start exploring our YouTube channel at this link.

Affiliated Societies News



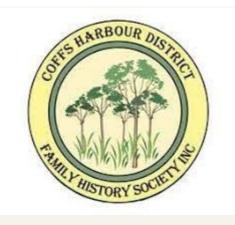
The Wilson History Oration
Inundated: Floods, History and High Water

Join the PHA to hear eminent environmental historian Dr Margaret Cook.

At the second annual Wilson History Oration, environmental historian, Dr Margaret Cook will explore the ways history can engage with the public, the media, other professions and policymakers. In discussing her work on floods, she will highlight how her role and training as a public historian shapes her scholarship and historical practice. Join us as we consider these themes during one of our greatest crises in history: the climate emergency.

When: Thursday 8 June at 5.30 - 7.00 pm.

More info: historians.org.au/wilson-history-oration



Coffs Harbour Family History Society Seminar

Kaye Vernon is the Manager of Teapot Genealogy, has extensive experience in tracing family history and is very willing to assist other researchers. She will speak on "The Plight of Children in Early 19th & 20th Centuries" and "Looking for Gold and Finding Gems" in the NSW State Records. These talks are on the background to the following records: Gold Records, Convict Records, Justices of the Peace, Hospital Records, Police, Prisons, and Orphanage Records.

Suzanne Voytas has been a compulsive and addicted family history researcher for many years and thoroughly enjoys helping new researchers learn how to avoid the many pitfalls we all fall into. She will speak on "Irish Ancestry: From Famine to Feast – Hints for Irish Research". Once, Irish research was a famine, but today it is a feast. So many unbelievable records are now within everyone's reach. However, to understand many aspects of these records, it is still necessary to understand the history of Ireland. Suzanne's other talk is on "Unusual Tips for Family History Research".

IMPORTANT FOR EFTPOS PAYMENTS: Please register by Wednesday, 24th May 2023, at either our Research Rooms at Community Village, Block C, Rooms 1 & 2 Coffs Harbour, or post the form to PO Box 2057, Coffs Harbour, or send an email to coffs.genie@gmail.com

Where: Cavanbah Hall, 191 Harbour Drive, Coffs Harbour.

When: Saturday 27 May from 10 am to 4 pm.

Cost: Members \$25 / Non-Members \$30

Contact: coffs.genie@gmail.com



Recommendations for a cloud-based database for recording/retrieving historical data

The Glebe Society was founded in 1969 to foster Glebe's heritage, environment and community. It is one of Sydney's oldest and largest resident action groups.

In 1789 the British government granted 400 acres of Gadigal land to the Church of England to be used as a glebe (land to endow the operations of the church). In 1828 the church subdivided the grant into 27 lots. Today its surviving Georgian, Victorian and Federation houses, make it Sydney's most intact 19th-century inner-city suburb. Unlike most of Sydney's inner suburbs, it has not become a gentrified monoculture. It still has a broad social demographic, including the wealthy, middle class and the poor. It has strong links to Sydney University. Over time many students and academics have lived here. The Society does extensive work, particularly in relation to development, planning and researching the history of Glebe.

The Project:

The Society has no office and no computer network. We have several skilled volunteer researchers. We are looking for a cloud-based database that would provide a structure for recording and retrieving data, which we could train volunteers to use, accredit them and provide them with password access.

The type of information we want to record is:

Photographs

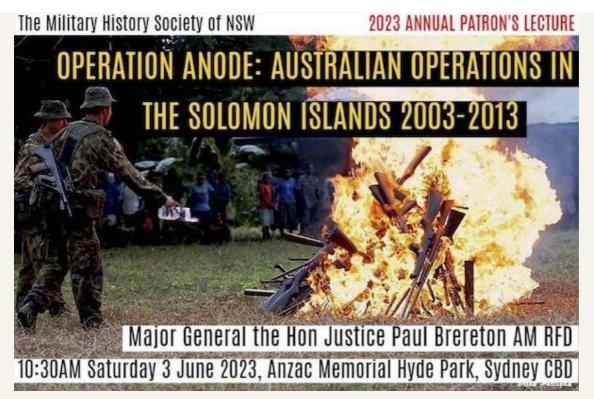
- Land Titles
- Builders
- Architects
- Residents
- Architectural details like windows, chimney pots and style
- Development applications
- Development submissions

We want to be able to generate reports by:

- Address
- Architect
- Builder
- Person
- Architectural style

This will be a virtual database where Glebe is the object being researched and catalogued. We want to be able to retrieve the research so that if a resident asks about their house, we can tell them everything we know, even down to details like whether it originally had shutters and the people who lived there over time. We all know the saying 'use it or lose it'. It is time to make our considerable IP about Glebe more accessible. For information about the Glebe Society, see our website https://glebesociety.org.au/.

We are a not-for-profit and need an affordable solution in terms of ongoing licence fees. Please send suggestions to Ian Stephenson at president@glebesociety.org.au.



Operation Anode: Australian Operations in the Solomon Islands

Since before Federation, the Bismarck Archipelago and the Solomon Islands have occupied an important place in Australian strategic thinking. On the outbreak of war in 1914, Australia moved swiftly to secure German possessions in the Bismarck Archipelago through the AN&MEF. In 1942, the ill-fated Lark Force was deployed to defend Rabaul. Following the Japanese seizure of Tulagi and Guadalcanal, fierce battles were waged on land, at sea and in the air to recapture the Solomon Islands, Bougainville, and New Britain.

In the 2000s, Australian military forces were deployed to the Solomons for over a decade. After five years of ethnic tensions and a coup in 2000, the Solomons faced serious problems: law and order had broken down, corruption was widespread, the institutions of government had ceased to function, and basic services were not being delivered to the people. In response to a request from the Government of the Solomon Islands in 2003, the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) was formed by Pacific nations, led by Australia, to help restore long-term stability and prosperity. The military component, known as Combined Task Force 635, was led by Australia and also comprised personnel from New Zealand, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Tonga. It was tasked with providing security and support for RAMSI's

multinational Participating Police Force.

Operation Anode (2003–2013) was the Australian Defence Force's contribution to RAMSI. From 2006, Reservists – including troops drawn from the Royal New South Wales Regiment – made a significant contribution.

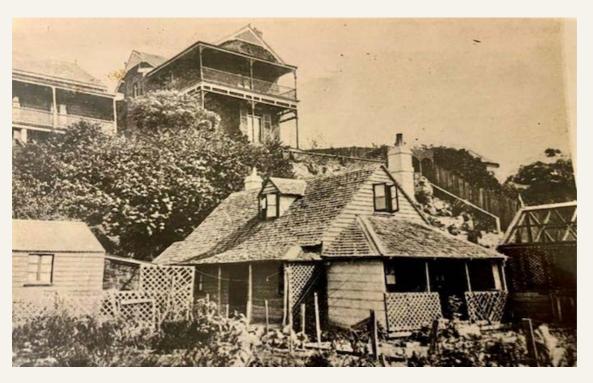
In this lecture Military History Society of NSW Patron, Major General the Hon Justice Paul Brereton AM RFD – who when Commander 5th Brigade was responsible for the preparation of two contingents for Operation Anode – will review Australian operations in the Solomons during the period 2003 to 2013, in their historical context, drawing on contemporaneous records and the reflections of some of the commanders.

Speaker: Major General the Honourable Justice Paul Brereton AM RFD.

Where: The Auditorium, Anzac Memorial Hyde Park.

When: Saturday 3 June at 10.30 am.

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



Death by Demolition

Balmain archivist Helen Carter traces the history of demolished houses in the Balmain area (Balmain, Birchgrove, and Rozelle) from its earliest house (built c. 1815) to an inter-war bungalow recently demolished in November 2021. There are many examples, with a small history of who lived in these houses until their demise, varying from a marine villa to the humble iron house. It starts with the idea that the demolition of the houses was a crime, although it soon becomes clear that there were various reasons for their destruction. This interesting talk includes photographs, advertisements and plans that give us evidence of what types of structures existed, their internal details, and their owners or occupants.

Where: Henry Carmichael Theatre, 280 Pitt St.

When: Saturday 17 June at 2 pm.

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

History News



NFSA opens digital access studio for Traditional Owners

Earlier this month, the NFSA opened a new digital access studio at the Strehlow Research Centre in Alice Springs to provide Traditional Owners of Central Australian Communities with digital access to the film and audio recordings contained in the unique Strehlow Collection.

This collection of film, audio, maps, photographs, genealogies, diaries and sacred objects, is one of the most important collections relating to Indigenous ceremonial life in the world.

It contains more than 400 reels of 16mm film and over 1000 audio recordings

representing more than 800 ceremonial acts and 150 hours of language, stories and songs. The collection was amassed by Professor TGH Strehlow, who spent more than four decades recording the ceremonial customs and traditions of Central Australian Aboriginal communities from 1932 through to the mid-1970s.

The NFSA's digitisation of these audiovisual recordings, and its subsequent building of the studio in Alice Springs, are the results of a Traditional Owner-led co-designed partnership with the NFSA and The Strehlow Research Centre to facilitate unprecedented on-Country access to the collection for Central Australian Aboriginal Communities.

"The Strehlow project is a demonstration of the unique intersection between First Nations knowledge and 21st century technology," said Patrick McIntyre, the NFSA's CEO. "Preservation and access are critical issues for Indigenous communities and archives all over the world."

Other News



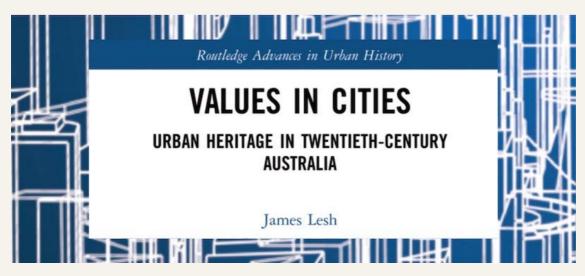
2023 Appeal: Local History Collections

The National Library of Australia's purchase of Ian Francis McLaren's collection of local histories in 1965 was a landmark acquisition. McLaren collected thousands of pamphlets, booklets and brochures from every state and territory

in Australia.

From Cairns to Canberra, Darwin to Deniliquin, Perth to Port Arthur, the McLaren collection spans the length and breadth of the nation. No matter what corner of the country you come from, you can find your story here.

By helping us raise \$200,000 to share the McLaren collection on Trove, you will be empowering countless others to find their stories, and yours. <u>Learn more</u>.



Values in Cities: Urban Heritage in Twentieth-Century Australia

CIRCA Presents: Lecture Series in collaboration with Architectural Theory Review (ATR) & Histories of Architecture and Built Environments group (HABEg) from the University of Sydney School of Architecture and Design.

Join us at 6 pm on Wednesday 24 May 2023 at the Wilkinson Building, University of Sydney for James Lesh speaking about his book 'Values in Cities'.

Across the twentieth century, heritage and ideas of value had increasing power to shape Australia's cities. Places found valuable by professionals and communities were conserved. Places perceived to lack value became subject to redevelopment. From the 1970s, alongside strengthened activism and legislation, with the innovative Burra Charter (1979), the values-based model emerged for managing the cultural significance of historic environments. Values transitioned from an implicit to an overt component of conservation. In this talk, James Lesh traces the Australian heritage movement and its role both in celebrating the Australian nation and in reconciling settler colonialism for the twentieth century.

Dr James Lesh is a historian and Lecturer in Cultural Heritage and Museum

Studies at Deakin University in Melbourne. His research explores the theory and practice of heritage conservation in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. He has also published widely in Australian urban history.

Register here: https://events.humanitix.com/circa-lecture-series

Book Details here: http://values.heritage.city



Mosman Art Society Seminar The women who painted Mosman

Friday 19 May, 10am-1pm Mosman Art Gallery



How did these women change the history of Australian art?

Margaret Preston (pictured above), Hilda Rix Nicholas (right), Grace Cossington Smith and Ethel Carrick Fox were leaders in the artistic hotbed that was the lower North Shore after World War I, rivalling their male colleagues in inspiration, experimentation and technique, especially their innovative use of colour.

Denise Mimmocchi, senior curator of Australian art at the Art Gallery of New South Wales and curator of the 2017 exhibition O'Keeffe, Preston, Cossington Smith – Making Modernism, will describe how Preston and Rix Nicholas found healing and creative renewal in Mosman after devastating war experiences in Europe.

Preston worked with shell-shocked soldiers in Devon, but for Rix Nicholas the war years were particularly tragic. Leaving France in 1914 to take refuge in London, she lost first her sister, then her mother, and finally her husband Captain George Matson Nicholas in battle only five weeks after their marriage.

Claire Eggleston, senior librarian at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, will explore the transformative influence of the Mosman-based Theosophy movement (still headquartered at the Manor in Iluka Road) in the work of Grace Cossington Smith, Ethel Carrick Fox and other Australian artists.

Both speakers are passionate about their subjects so it will be an unmissable occasion.

MOSMAN ART SOCIETY SEMINAR Friday 19 May, 10am-1pm, Grand Hall, Mosman Art Gallery, 1 Art Gallery Way, Mosman 2088

Made possible by a Mosman Council Community Grant, entry is FREE to members and nonmembers but booking is required.

https://www.trybooking.com/CHFGQ www.mosmanartsociety.org.au





Marrickville Medal for Conservation Entries Open 1 April - 30 June 2023



MINER WEST

innerwest.nsw.gov.au/Built

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Gates from Govenment House, c.1930 [RAHS Image Collection]

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