



# Royal Australian Historical Society

## Knowing your history

22 June 2023

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



Macquarie Street, c.1890 [RAHS Image Collection]



**A row of townhouses along Macquarie Street c.1870 [RAHS Collection]**

## **From RAHS President Dr Iain Stuart: History House Update**

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The RAHS would like to thank all our History House project donors for their financial support and ongoing patience. I want to now share a recent update with our eNewsletter subscribers.

In the [2022 annual report](#), I discussed that the RAHS had decided to seek a loan of \$500,000 from a financial institution. The RAHS planned to continue to seek grants and donations and only use the loan as a drawdown facility if required. One of our donors has agreed to organise this loan facility so that the RAHS does not have to use History House as security. We really appreciate this generosity and the generosity of all our donors in making the History House project go forward.

As we are about to obtain our Construction Certificate, we are approaching the construction stage. The RAHS has also engaged Paul McNamara as Project Manager to provide the RAHS with expertise in managing construction projects. Paul has extensive experience in construction project management, with expertise in managing contract variations. He will be representing the RAHS in communications with the architects, builders, certifiers, and NSW planning, as well as advising the RAHS on the construction progress.

Our preferred builder, A J Bristow, can start within 6 – 8 weeks of signing the contract. He is revising his quote again for updates due to the construction certification process.

We are pushing hard to lock in a construction date so that we can start planning to move our library offsite, as well as a final event at History House before the cranes and builders arrive.



**Tree on the site of Yuranigh's Grave, Molong NSW [Photo: Graham Scriberras]**

## **A Voice to Parliament: Resources for informed debate**

The RAHS is committed to implementing its 2023-2024 Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). Part of this commitment includes exploring our sphere of influence and encouraging other organisations to consider their reconciliation journey.

Reconciliation Australia, which endorsed the Society's Reflect RAP, has



several useful resources and links related to the upcoming referendum on the Voice to Parliament. [Read more.](#)

The RAHS supports respectful debates on this important referendum. We also recognise that how our members decide to vote should be a matter of informed choice. Therefore, along with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, we recommend reading the following paper produced by the Australian National University: '[Responding to the Common Concerns about an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice](#)' (2023).

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**RAHS members visit Regentville, 18 May 1929 [RAHS Collection]**

## **RAHS Council: Casual Vacancy**

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The RAHS Council is a body of twelve representatives elected from financial members of the Society. The Council meets ten to twelve times yearly. Its main role is to define key strategic initiatives and support RAHS employees and volunteers in delivering projects and core operational activities.

The Council is currently seeking Expressions of Interest to fill a casual vacancy. If you are interested in supporting the [RAHS's goals](#), please email your name, contact details and a 250-word statement on how you could contribute to the

goals of the RAHS in your role as Councillor.

Please note that you must be a financial member of the RAHS to apply. The successful applicant will also be required to apply for a director identification number (director ID). To find out more, [visit the ABRS website](#). RAHS Company Secretary Suzanne Holohan is happy to answer any questions on directors' Identification numbers and how to set them up.

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## RAHS Events



Image courtesy Australian War Memorial

### Forgetting Women in the History of Australian Science

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**Speaker:** Jane Carey

**When:** Wednesday, 5 July 2023 at 1 pm - 2 pm

**Where:** Online via Zoom

**Cost:** Free

Histories of Australian science largely overlook women. This gives the

impression that, until recently, there were no Australian women scientists. But this is far from true. Engaging in myriad scientific pursuits from the first years of colonisation, by the early twentieth century (white, middle-class) women were highly visible in many areas of science and were even in the majority in some fields. Join Associate Professor Jane Carey to hear more about this unexpected history, which has broader implications for understanding women's 'pioneering' achievements in supposedly 'male' domains.

**RESERVE TICKETS**



Image courtesy Mélanie Méthot

### **Hanged for Bigamy? Alexander Wilson Smart's Love Stories**

**Speaker:** Mélanie Méthot

**When:** Wednesday, 26 July 2023 at 1 pm - 2 pm

**Where:** Online via Zoom

**Cost:** Free

In 1878, twenty-year-old Alexander Wilson Smart married eighteen-year-old Mary Jane Bailey in Eltham (VIC), and a mere three months later, the young couple welcomed their first son. Over the next twenty years, Alexander and Mary Jane added four children to the family and appeared to live happily. Like many Australian men lured by the gold rush, Smart left his home and made his

way to Western Australia in 1898 but continued to write and send money to Mary Jane for the next six years. In March 1910, claiming to be only thirty-four and now going by a pseudonym, Smart went through a form of marriage with a different Mary-Jane on her twenty-first birthday, thereby committing bigamy. As a result of his guilty plea, Smart was given a two-year jail sentence. A few weeks later, while serving his sentence in Fremantle jail, he was charged with the wilful murder of one Ethel Harris, his paramour from 1904 until her death, presumably at his hands.

In this talk, Professor Méthot will dissect the media coverage and the case files and argue that not only was Alexander Smart convicted of murder on circumstantial evidence, but his bigamy conviction would play a significant role in the inevitable verdict and his eventual death sentence.

RESERVE TICKETS



Using Trove to Discover the Australia of Yesteryear

**Presenter:** Christine Yeats FRAHS  
**When:** Wednesday, 9 August 2023 at 11 am - 1 pm  
**Where:** Online via Zoom  
**Cost:** RAHS/WEA members \$32 | Non-members \$35

Trove is the place to explore all things Australian. Through a single point of entry, we can all go back in time to explore the Australia of yesteryear. By tapping into Trove’s digital newspapers; government gazettes; magazines and newsletters; maps, photographs and artefacts; manuscripts and archives; sound recordings; archived websites and research reports, we can all enjoy the pleasures of time travel with just a few keystrokes. This workshop will demonstrate how Trove’s online resources can be explored to discover more about the way Australia has changed over multiple generations.

BUY TICKETS

## RAHS News

### King's Birthday Honours

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Congratulations to RAHS member **Dr Stuart Braga**, who was awarded an OAM for service to education administration and community history.

We wish to also congratulate the many other King's Birthday Honours recipients for their contributions to community history and heritage.

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### Forthcoming New Website

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The RAHS is planning on launching a new-look website in the coming days.

Please be aware that the current website will be unavailable for 24 hours from Sunday evening on 25 June. If you plan on making any purchases, bookings or membership renewals, please do so before this date.

Members will receive a password reset email after the new site launches and will be required to reset their account password.

During the website outage, please contact (02) 9247 8001 during business hours or email [history@rahs.org.au](mailto:history@rahs.org.au).

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## 2023 Transport Heritage Grants Program

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The Transport Heritage Grants Program (the Program) is a NSW Government funded program, administered by the Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS), and supported by Transport Heritage NSW (THNSW).

The 2023 Transport Heritage Grants Program closes on **8 August at 5 pm**. The [Transport Heritage Grants website](#) has information to assist prospective grant applicants in understanding the scope of the Program, the requirements in submitting a grant application, and recipient responsibilities.

## JRAHS News

### Editorship of the Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society

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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](mailto:history@rahs.org.au) by **31 August 2023**.

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

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## Make a Submission to the JRAHS

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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 [style guidelines](#) and be accompanied by a completed [submission checklist](#).

Please send manuscripts to The Editor at [history@rahs.org.au](mailto:history@rahs.org.au). You can learn more about [submitting to the JRAHS](#) on our website.

## Vale

## Peter Chapman

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Associate Professor Peter Chapman died peacefully at the Royal Hobart Hospital on 29 May 2023. Peter completed a BA at the University of Tasmania and an MA at the University of Oxford. He was appointed at the University of Tasmania in 1976. From the mid-1980s, he played a leading role in the establishment of the Centre of Tasmanian Studies. Peter was a dedicated teacher and scholar of Tasmanian and Australian history and supervised more than a dozen masters and PhD candidates. Well into retirement, he still devotedly pursued his ongoing work as general editor of *Historical Records of Australia*. He was a firm believer in the importance of conviviality within the history profession, and wider university life. His absence will be noted in seminars, hallways, and the university club. He is survived by five children (Rachel, Emma, Sophie, Olivia, Toby) and eight grandchildren.

## Affiliated Societies News



## Left Wingers and Bohemians of 20th Century Sydney

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Archaeologist Wayne Johnson will be focusing on the 20th century, with mentions of the art-cinema in the 1930s, touching on the Communists and ASIO but with an emphasis on the 1950s-1970s left-wing push and the likes of Robert Hughes, Germaine Greer, and Margaret Fulton.

A lot of this centres on the Newcastle Hotel, one of Sydney's best-known bohemian hotels, the haunt of artists, actors, entertainers and journalists, on the corner of George Street and Sussex Street.

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

**When:** Saturday 8 July at 2 pm.

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

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**Black Sunday - 6th February 1938**

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Waverley Historical Society invites you to ‘Black Sunday – 6th February 1938’, a talk by guest speaker Peter Quartly.

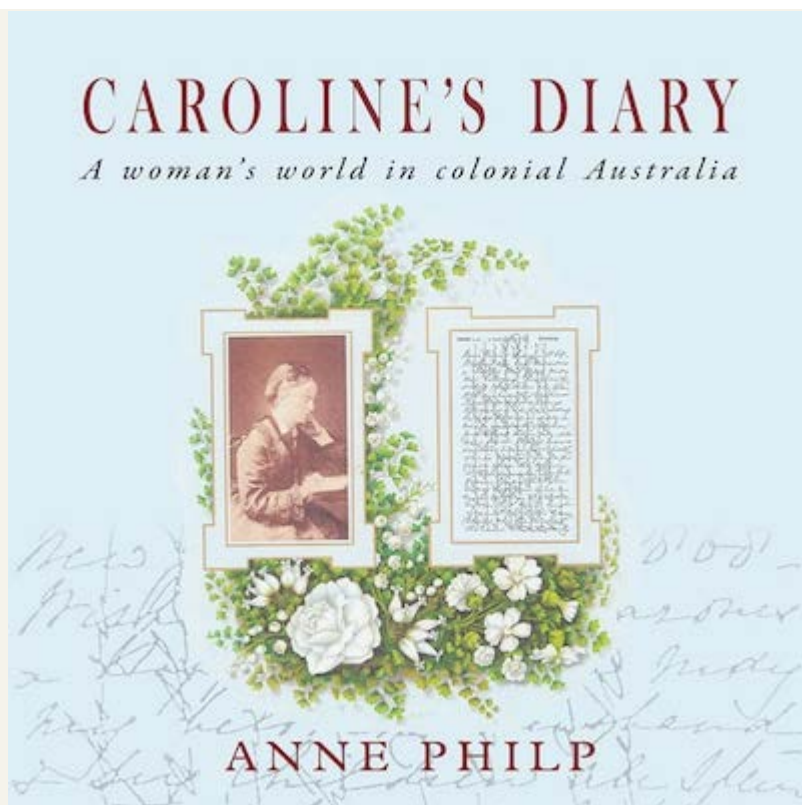
Peter, a past President and long-standing life member of Bondi Surf Life Saving Club, will talk about that crowded day in the surf at Bondi when a sandbar collapsed, throwing hundreds into peril.

**Where:** Waverley Library, Theatrette, first floor, Denison Street, Bondi Junction.

**When:** Saturday 8 July 2023 at 1.30 pm. All welcome.

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### **A Female Immigrant Story**

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Dr Perry McIntyre AM will discuss Anne Philp's book *Caroline's Diary*. While not about Mosman, its author is a Mosman woman. It is a transnational story that brings to life a young Englishwoman raised in comfortable family circumstances at the time of London's Great Exhibition in 1851. Caroline Thomas née Husband reveals her busy social life full of parties and fine dresses and her family's forced flight to Australia from her beloved home. She found love in Sydney, but her adored husband moved her, often without notice, from the city life she had always known to a relatively isolated country life where she faced the dangers involved in pregnancy and birth, the deaths of seven of her eleven children, her husband's chronic illness and her sister's death during the Siege of Lucknow. Caroline made a comfortable home as a young bride at *Buckinbah* in sparsely populated central New South Wales, then as a young mother at *Saumarez* in Armidale and later with her growing family at *Wivenhoe*, south of Sydney near Camden.

Perry is Mosman Historical Society's vice-president and acting secretary. She is well known for her highly regarded books on the Irish in colonial Australia and has served on many historical committees. She is also a director of Anchor

Books Australia, the publisher of *Caroline's Diary*.

**Where:** Mosman Library.

**When:** Wednesday, 12 July 2023 at 7 pm.

**Cost:** Members Free / Visitors \$5 donation.

**RSVP:** Contact [davidcarment@mac.com](mailto:davidcarment@mac.com) before Monday, 10 July 2023.

Copies of *Caroline's Diary* will be available for sale (cash only) at the much-reduced price of \$10 each.



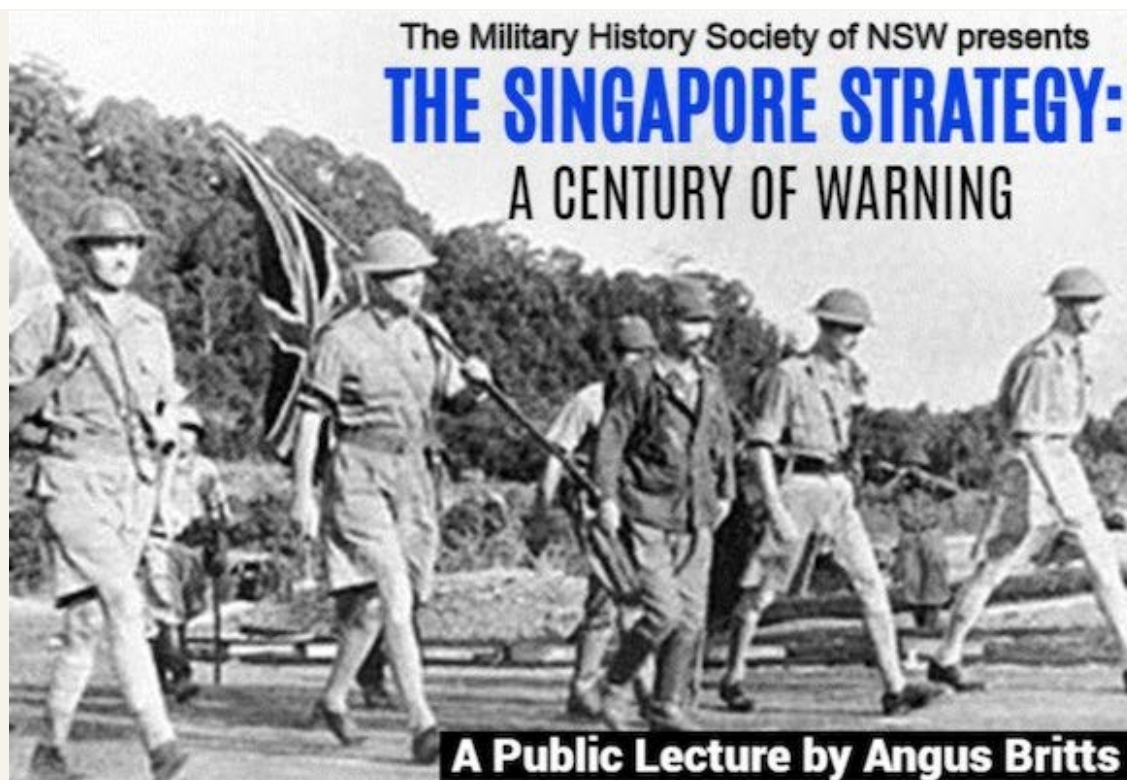
## ANZSHM 2023 Conference: Second Opinions

We are thrilled to unveil the Provisional Program for the ANZSHM 18th Biennial Conference 2023, themed 'Second Opinions'.

**Date:** Wednesday 12 to Friday 14 July 2023.

**Venue:** Health and Medical Science Building, [North Terrace, Adelaide, South Australia](#).

With over 70 captivating presentations across 24 sessions, this conference promises to be an enriching experience for all attendees. You can [view the program](#) on the conference website. Registration can be done [here](#).



## **The Singapore Strategy: A Century of Warning**

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October 2023 marks the 100th anniversary of the introduction of the Singapore strategy at the 1923 Imperial Conference in London. This scheme, which involved the construction of a major naval base at Singapore as its centrepiece, became the keystone for Australia's continental defence until the fall of Singapore on 15 February 1942 and the subsequent enforced withdrawal of the British Eastern Fleet from the eastern Indian Ocean on 8 April of the same year.

This lecture seeks to illustrate the progression of the strategy following its gestation in 1919, the opening 28 months of the Second World War before Japan's entry in December 1941, and the subsequent events noted above. Post 8 December 1941, attention shifts to the opening six days of the Malayan campaign, which ultimately determined the fate of Singapore itself, and the events which gave rise to the retirement of the Eastern Fleet.

Accompanying these various enquiries is an assessment of the impact of the strategy on Australian defence and foreign policy in the post-war era, extending to the present situation with AUKUS and China. With this objective in mind, the

title for the address has been chosen, for though the strategy itself is long gone, a number of its core themes are recognisable within the formulation of Australia's defence capabilities and alliance structures to this day.

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

**When:** Saturday 1 July at 10.30 am.

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

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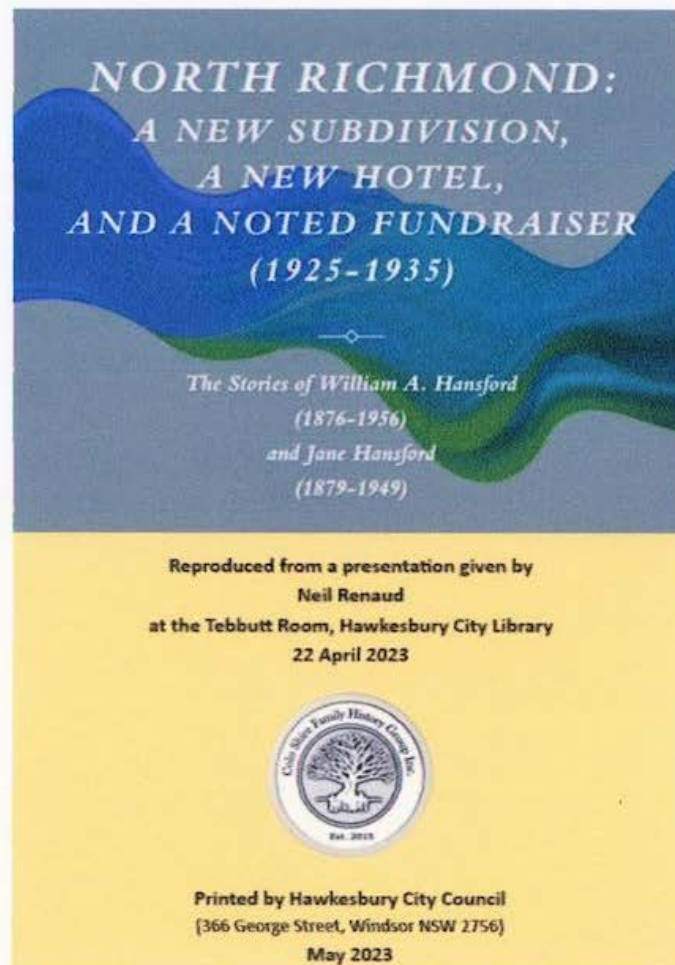


Colo Shire Family History Group announces ...

## A NEW PUBLICATION

(42 page booklet)

*Recently released ...*



Cost: \$18.00 for the general public, \$16.00 for CSFHG members  
(add \$5.00 for postage and handling, if required)  
(or may be collected from locations at Richmond/North Richmond by  
arrangement)

To purchase a copy contact Neil Renaud (email [nrenaud@bigpond.com](mailto:nrenaud@bigpond.com)) or  
phone 0423 157089.

Direct deposit details: BSB 633-000; account number 156701732  
(account name Colo Shire Family History Group)

## History News



**Museum Volunteer, Lee Brown at Port Macquarie Museum holds the Past Port History Teachers Toolkit, developed with funding from 2022 Small Grant [Debbie Sommers]**

## **2023 Volunteer Museum Small Grants**

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Small volunteer-led museums and galleries across the state will share in close to \$20,000 from the NSW Government to deliver a range of improvements, from purchasing much-needed equipment, enhancing operations, and delivering an improved visitor experience.

Chief Executive of Create NSW Annette Pitman said the 2023 Volunteer Museum Small Grants aim to enable volunteer-driven community museums and Aboriginal Keeping Places in NSW to deliver projects that strengthen the vital link between communities and local collections and histories.

“This round will provide 13 regional museums with support for projects that will help historians and volunteers in their important work of preserving and sharing NSW’s rich cultural legacy,” Ms Pitman said.

“These projects will equip regional museums from Broken Hill to Gilgandra and Bermagui with new assets, fixtures, signage, and other improvements, to boost access and engagement for local communities and visitors.”

Museums & Galleries of NSW CEO Brett Adlington said, "Small museums are the lifeblood of regional communities, keenly attuned to telling their respective stories. With this modest funding, our small and volunteer-led museums will be able to amplify their work in ensuring these local stories continue to be told."

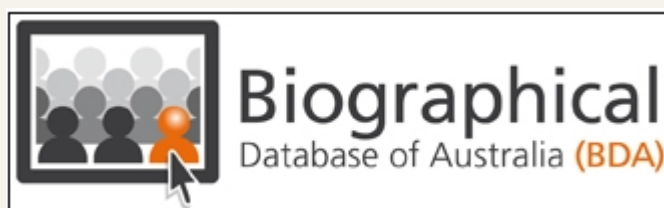
Previous grants have funded the purchase of cataloguing software, exhibition mannequins and display cases, oral history recording equipment and archival storage items.

Past recipient, Port Macquarie Museum, received funds in 2022 to design an educational resource, *Past Port History Teachers Toolkit*, which has been used to engage local students.

Debbie Sommers, Curator at Port Macquarie Museum, said the Museums and Galleries grant programs provide valuable support for innovation and improvements, particularly at independent community-based museums.

"Our museum, audiences, and community have benefited greatly from the funds provided, supporting new programs and exhibitions, important collection management resources, and skills development and training," Ms Sommers said.

**Applications for the second round of the 2023 Volunteer Museum Small Grants will close 10 September 2023.** Visit <http://www.mgnsw.org.au> for more information and guidelines, and a full list of 2023 Round 1 recipients.



### Biographical Database of Australia - Latest Release

BDA is pleased to announce the addition of 12 new datasets to the site, which is reaching a critical mass in terms of creating a profile for most NSW convicts by linking transcripts of surviving archival records. New additions range from profiles of the first convicts sent to Queensland, a major NSW transcription project adding the full text of ticket of leave, certificate of freedom and pardon documents from the years 1810-1833, full text of records of immigrants arriving in NSW in 1842, records of absconding NSW convicts up to 1841 from newspaper notices which include descriptions, residence and employer.

Full transcript of 5,723 records from the Randwick NSW Asylum for Destitute Children 1852-1915. Profiles of 1,149 soldiers of the 50th Regiment stationed in NSW 1833-1841: Sydney, Georges River, Longbottom, Parramatta, Windsor, Liverpool, Bong Bong, Berrima, Wingello, Illawarra + TAS: Ross, Flinders Island, Westbury, Avoca, Perth, George Town.

Other additions include: Catholic baptism entries for 1839-1840 and burials 1839-1844 from priests based in Bathurst who travelled across vast distances in NSW, ranging from Kings Plains (Carcoar-Blayney area), the Lachlan River, Cangaroooby (aka Kangaroooby near Gooloogong and Cowra), Tubbo (Dubbo), Vale of Clwydd (Hartley), Mudgee, Wattle Flat, Summer Hill (Orange), Cullin Roy (Cassilis), Breeza, Namoi River and Peel River.

Click [here](#) to search over 2.2m records.

## Other News



## State Records NSW

### State Records NSW - Building the Archives Review

State Records NSW is seeking feedback on [Building the Archives](#); a policy on appraisal and the identification of State archives in NSW.

The Building the Archives policy's objectives guide State Records NSW in making decisions about which records should be retained as State archives.

This [consultation paper](#) seeks feedback on the five objectives in Building the Archives. This policy will guide appraisal decisions and shape the future of the NSW State Archives Collection, which documents the daily work of the NSW Government and its agencies.

You can provide feedback using the form below:

- [Feedback form – Building the Archives](#)



We encourage you to share this survey with anyone who might be interested.

Please provide any feedback by **Tuesday, 27 June 2023**.



## Armistice in Korea: 1953-2023: New Exhibition at Anzac Memorial

A new photography exhibition at the Anzac Memorial features the photos and personal stories of 11 Korean War veterans. The exhibition is a collaboration with the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea to mark the 70th anniversary of the Armistice in Korea.

Over 17,000 Australians served in the Korean War, with 340 making the ultimate sacrifice. Commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Armistice, this exhibition honours the service and sacrifice of these veterans and passes their legacy down to future generations.

Entry to the exhibition is free. You can also read stories from each of the veterans [here](#).

The exhibition is open until 31 July. Don't miss this opportunity to discover the stories of service, courage and mateship on the frontlines.

Exhibition details are available [here](#).

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## Our Events



