



Royal Australian Historical Society

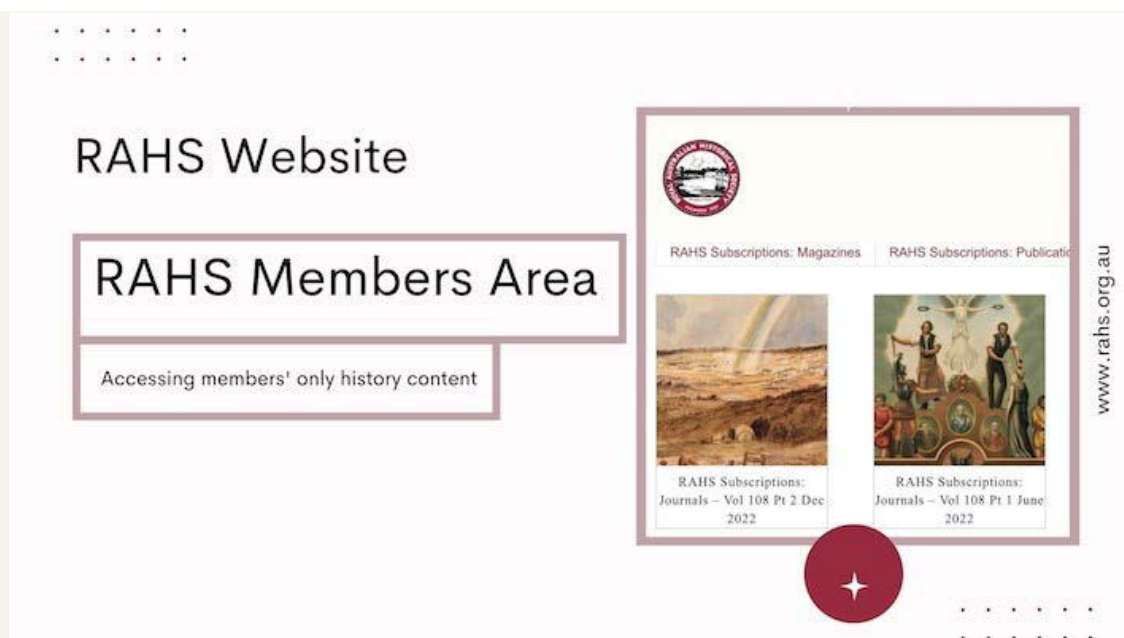
Knowing your history

13 July 2023

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



Macquarie Street, c.1890 [RAHS Image Collection]



New RAHS website with an updated members' area

The RAHS has launched a new website on a new platform which will help us better manage our increasing number of website visitors. We have also introduced new features to improve accessibility for visually impaired visitors, people using devices with small screens, and those using a slow Internet connection with limited bandwidth.

We want to thank RAHS volunteers Rebell Barnes AO and Elaine Phillips for helping us test the members' area of the RAHS website. Rebell also provided descriptive text for our blog post images using website guidelines provided by [Vision Australia](#).

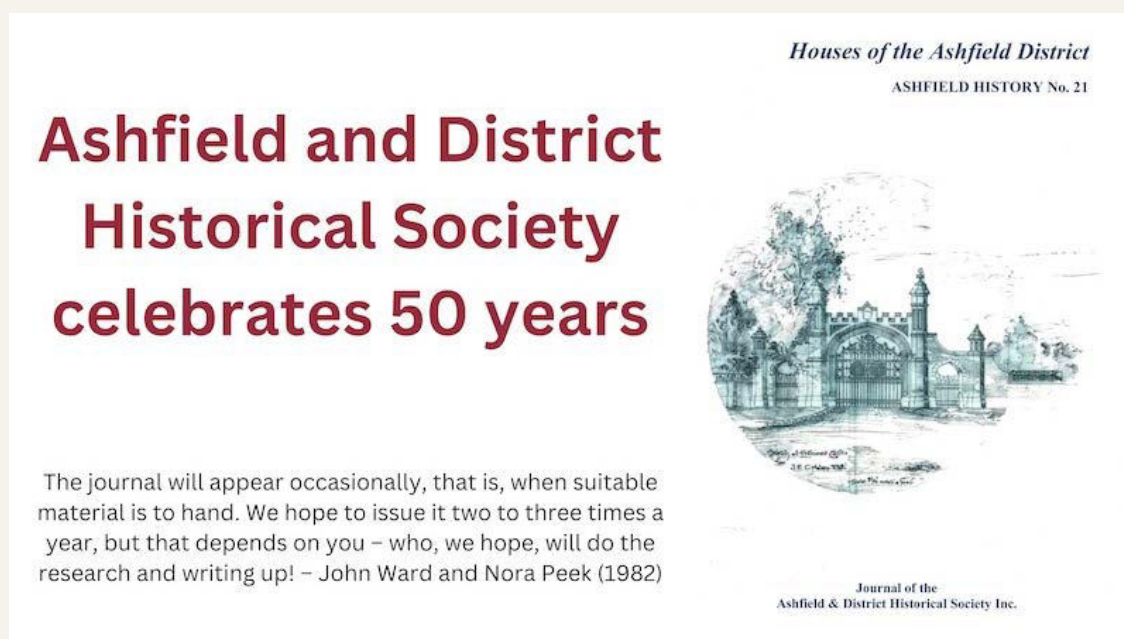
If members haven't accessed the members' area yet, we have prepared [a short five-minute instructional video](#) that provides an overview of the type of content that you can access from the members' area.

The new website is another good reason to join if you still need to become a member. The December 2020 edition of *History* magazine is one of many examples of the breadth and depth of the content available to members only. Edited by RAHS Councillor Richard White, the articles 'straddle the entertaining

and the substantial, often in the same article.' It features:

- The history of sunbaking by Caroline Ford;
- Gary Werskey's analysis of artist Albert Henry Fullwood's 1886 five-week sketching tour of New England;
- Jennifer Debenham's article on the award-winning project mapping Australian frontier massacres, led by Professor Lyndall Ryan;
- Meredith Lake, the presenter of ABC Radio's *Soul Search*, writes about the Windsor astronomer John Tebbutt and his crisis of faith;
- Catherine Bishop on businesswomen in the twentieth century.

It is available for [download](#) for a limited period on our main website.



On Saturday, 24 June, the Ashfield and District Historical Society (ADHS) celebrated its 50th anniversary at Wests Ashfield Club. Many ADHS members dressed in the fashion of its inaugural year – 1973 – and part of the celebratory events included a quiz to test attendees' knowledge of this important decade. There was also a [presentation](#) on the history and achievements of the ADHS, played throughout the event, which can now be viewed on the ADHS website.

The Hon. Penny Sharpe MLC, the NSW Minister for Heritage, and Inner West Mayor Darcy Byrne attended the event. The Minister spoke of the importance of the Heritage Act and the need for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage reform, and the mayor spoke of the role of community groups in promoting discussions on the Voice to Parliament. Both wished the ADHS another successful fifty years of community contribution.

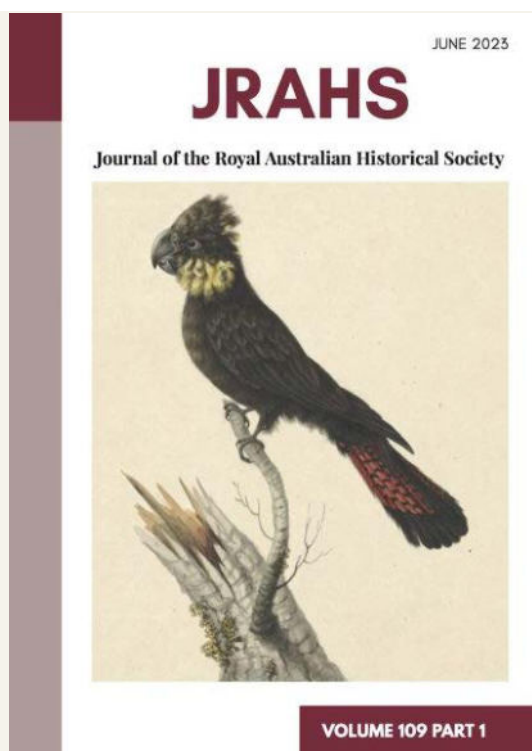
ADHS President Alex Lofts reflected on the work of the historical society and its members past and present, including founding and life member [Dr John O. Ward \(1940–2023\)](#). John's wife, Gail, also a life member, was a guest of honour and took the first cut of the ADHS 50th birthday cake. RAHS General Manager Suzanne Holohan also congratulated the ADHS on its achievements. Below is an excerpt from Suzanne's speech:

The RAHS congratulates the members of Ashfield and District Historical Society for all the research and writing you have done to promote and preserve the history and heritage of the area. It has helped create the sense of community and connection that makes a place a home for so many people. We look forward to seeing your future work in our library.

And we will not have to wait long! The ADHS will launch a new publication by Ann O'Connell – *John Jasper Stone (1848–1921): Engineer, Architect and Baptist*. The book will be launched on [23 July at Summer Hill Community Centre](#). RAHS Senior Vice President Christine Yeats will be representing the RAHS at this event.

New Look JRAHS

We are pleased to share our new look Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society (JRAHS), which



RAHS members can [download](#) from the online members' area.

The cover features a watercolour by Sarah Stone, depicting a 'Banksian Cockatoo', collected by Surgeon General of NSW, John White, for his friend and patron Thomas Wilson.

There are four refereed articles and nine book reviews in this issue.

Terry Kass discusses the War Service Home scheme operating after World War I. Mark St Leon's article outlines the origins and development of Beaumont & Waller's Botanical & Zoological Gardens at the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel, Botany Bay, between 1848–1861. Keith Amos discusses the history of the Ingleside Powder Works, from its creation in the 1880s to its controversial collapse. Matthew Fishburn's article documents the connections between Thomas Wilson Esq and the natural history collections of John White.

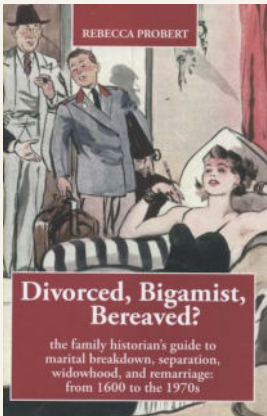
In the editorial, Honorary Editor Christine Yeats expressed 'appreciation for the incredible work and dedication of the previous editorial team':

Adjunct Associate Professor Carol Liston AO edited the Journal from mid-2002 to 2022. Under Carol Liston's guidance, the Journal has flourished, offering an important platform for historical research and scholarly discourse. For more than 10 years, Joy Hughes has proofread the articles, corrected historical inaccuracies, spent hours amending hundreds of reference notes and followed up elusive citations at the Mitchell Library and the NSW State Archives.

Christine also thanked the team at History House, the Publications Committee, Janette Pelosi and Bruce Pollack for their ongoing support.

You can [read the editorial](#) on our website. RAHS members can download and read articles published in the journal by [logging into their online accounts](#).

RAHS Events



English Bigamists and their Australian Travels

Speaker: Rebecca Probert
When: Wednesday, 19 July 2023 at 1 pm - 2 pm
Where: Online via Zoom
Cost: Free

This paper explores two sets of English bigamists – those convicted of the offence between 1795 and 1853 and sentenced to transportation to Australia and those who escaped prosecution because they had travelled down under before remarrying. The first sample is drawn from a systematic analysis of the Criminal Registers: the frequency with which transportation was ordered undermines the common claim that convicted bigamists were treated lightly in the first half of the nineteenth century. The second, unprosecuted, sample was amassed by means of the generosity of family historians across the globe who shared their ancestors’ stories. While it is unsurprising that those who put thousands of miles between their two marriages should escape prosecution, the fact that such persons accounted for a significant proportion of the unprosecuted does raise interesting questions about the extent of undetected bigamy amongst those who stayed in England.

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



Connecting Oceans: Barbadians in Australia

Speaker: Roslyn Russell

When: Wednesday, 2 August 2023 at 1 pm - 2 pm

Where: Online via Zoom

Cost: Free

Britain's vast imperial network in the 19th century brought individuals and families to Australia from Barbados. Names familiar to Barbadians, such as Gibbes, Alleyne and Montefiore, also appear in Australia in influential contexts. The development of Queensland's sugar industry was facilitated by a Barbadian, John Buhôt. An early boxing star, Jack Dowridge, the 'Black Diamond', also came from Barbados. This presentation explores these historical links between Australia and Barbados.

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



2023 Transport Heritage Grants Program

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

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.

Make a submission to the JRAHS

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. You can learn more about [submitting to the JRAHS](#) on our website.

Vale



Fred Gentle (1951-2023)

RAHS Member, Bankstown Historical Society Research Officer

The RAHS would like to acknowledge the work of Fred Gentle. Fred was the research officer for the Bankstown Historical Society and would represent the local historical society at the RAHS Conference and other RAHS events. When ill health prevented Fred from attending the Conference, the RAHS always ensured he got a copy of the conference booklet to add to his extensive collection. Fred always outlined his research and events he attended in the Bankstown Historical Society quarterly journal, copies of which are part of the RAHS Affiliated Societies' serial collection.

Fred was the loved son of Gordon and Christina (both deceased), brother of Brian (deceased) and Arthur, and uncle to their children.

Affiliated Societies News



Reflections on the contribution of the Australian Society for the History of Engineering and Technology (ASHET)

Many of our members and friends remember attending ASHET events at History House. Unfortunately, ASHET's members have made the difficult decision to wind up their organisation.

Mari Metzke (ASHET Secretary) has shared her memories of the group of fellow members and friends dedicated to researching and recording the changes in technology and engineering in Australia [in a blog post](#). Mari discusses not just the events, workshops, exhibitions, and papers delivered by ASHET but also the 'interesting meetings, stimulating conversation and congenial dinners'.

As part of its winding-up process, ASHET has transferred \$19,745.74 into the RAHS Building Account to support the History House project.

The RAHS thanks ASHET for its generosity. ASHET's memory will live on in the RAHS library, which has all the ASHET newsletters and the many articles ASHET members wrote for the RAHS journal and magazine.

Professional Historians Association



Join the Professional Historians Association (PHA) in Adelaide, where professional historians from across Australia will be discussing, sharing and celebrating our work as professional historians.

PHA's 2023 National Conference, *Other Histories: Other Audiences* is hosted by PHA (South Australia) and will be a hybrid conference, held both in person and streamed online.

Other Histories: Other Audiences will showcase the diversity of work undertaken by professional historians. We will explore the challenges we face when practicing history in a range of settings from public and private spheres to every level of government, in education institutions, the GLAMR sector (galleries, libraries, archives, museums and recordkeeping institutions) and as sole traders and consultants. Join us for an exciting weekend of discourse, discussion and inspiration.

[A draft program is now available on our website.](#)

Any questions or queries please contact us at: phaconference2023@historians.org.au

Dural and District Historical Society



June Roughley Memorial Lecture

Kosciuszko and Strzelecki: The Mountain and the Men

Join the Dural and District Historical Society for the 2023 June Roughley Memorial Lecture. John F. Brock will talk about the lives of the two great Polish patriots and how their pursuits were interwoven by adventure, lost loves, surveying, service to humanity and the dedication to freedom in a world of democratic liberalism. There will also be an inventory of their circle of cohorts and geological revelations concerning Australia.

Where: The Arcadia Community Hall, 136 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia NSW 2159.

Date and Time: Saturday 12 August at 2 pm.

Cost: Free. Afternoon tea provided. Jams and produce on sale.

Enquiries: Ph. 02 9653 1365.

Randwick and District Historical Society

Crime and Punishment in the Colony

The Randwick and District Historical Society is thrilled to announce that its regular lecture program is being revived after a period of hiatus over COVID. We will be reintroducing a series of lectures that delve into the rich tapestry of our history.



Join us for a free lecture on Saturday 19 August 2023 at 2 pm for *Crime and Punishment in the Colony* presented by Dr Rachel Franks in the Vonnie Young Auditorium in the Bowen Library.

As Dr Franks will tell us, Robert Howard (1832–1906) used to be a household name. Today, the noseless hangman – better known as ‘Nosey Bob’ – who sparked fear and fascination everywhere he went is largely forgotten.

For bookings and more information: 02 9349 3572 or randwickhistory@outlook.com

Military History Society of NSW

The Military History Society of NSW presents

NEW SOUTH WALES AT WAR

heroes and tragedies of a state in three conflicts

ONE DAY CONFERENCE, SAT 7 OCTOBER 2023

Anzac Memorial Hyde Park, Sydney CBD

Featuring talks by four renowned military historians and a special guided tour of the Memorial including back of house areas



BOOK YOUR TICKET NOW!



'Deep Thinkers': NSW's 5th Brigade 1st AIF, 1915-1919

Major General the Hon Justice Paul Brereton
AM RFD



On Our Doorstep: Japanese Submarines Attack Sydney Harbour, 1942

Dr Tom Lewis OAM



Two NSW Battalions in Hell: Kokoda and the New Guinea Beachheads, 1942-1943

Dr David W Cameron



Kevin Wheatley VC: Surry Hills Boy to Hero of the Vietnam War

Michael C Madden



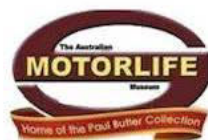
Featuring talks by four renowned military historians and a special guided tour of the Memorial including back-of-house areas.

[Book your ticket now via Eventbrite.](#)

Non-Members of the Society: \$50. Members of the Society: \$40.

For more information: president@militaryhistorynsw.com.au

Illawarra Historical Society



Australian Motorlife Museum



Integral Energy Recreation Park
94 Darkes Road, Kembla Grange

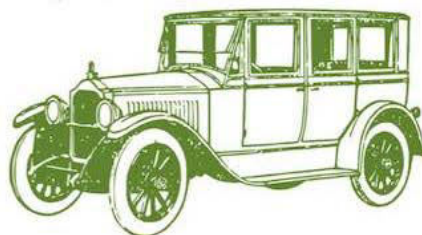
Friday 28 July 2023

Meet at the Motorlife Museum at 10am

Cost is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members.

The cost includes a guide for our visit.

If you need transport, Ring Jeanette on 0439 008 343.



We will have lunch afterwards (at your own cost) at
Dapto Leagues Club - Station St and Bong Bong Rd, Dapto

To book your spot
please RSVP and pay your
money by Friday 21st July.
BSB: 032 695 A/c 282484.
Please put your surname as reference



City of Canada Bay Heritage Society



The Queen of Nations

It was, quite literally, a dark and stormy night when the cargo ship Queen of Nations steered west to enter Sydney Harbour. But the vessel was nowhere near Sydney and, instead, ended up on a beach just north of Wollongong, where its wreck remains to day.

One crewman died and soon accusations were flying: the captain was drunk, aggressive and not fit for command.

Whose story should we believe, and what does the 1881 demise of Queen of Nations tell us about maritime safety at a time when steam was supplanting sail on the voyage to the Australian colonies?

The City of Canada Bay Heritage Society

invites you to join us to hear a talk by

Dr. Peter Hobbins

on

**Getting Wrecked on the Way to Sydney:
Drink, Drama and Death in the 1880s.**

at the

City of Canada Bay Museum

1 Bent Street, Concord

on

Saturday, 5th August, 2023

at 1:30 for 2:00 pm sharp start

*The talk will be followed by light refreshments and a chance
to chat with the speaker and our wonderful volunteers.*

Admission: FREE

(donations always welcome)

Come early to look around our new displays.

*For more information: www.canadabayheritage.asn.au or
heritage@canadabayheritage.asn.au*

Phone: 9743-3034 (Museum hours) or 9744-8528 (Secretary)

Ryde District Historical Society

Ryde District Historical Society Inc.

New book

The 2023 publication, *Gladesville Hospital Cemetery: The forgotten cemetery—the forgotten people*, is a fully revised and updated version of the Ryde District Historical Society's 2012 booklet. As well as documenting 1200+ deaths and burials from 1869 to 1893, it contains an additional 555 names of patients who died at the Tarban Creek Asylum between 1839 and 1868. While it has not been possible to ascertain whether those people were necessarily buried at the cemetery, it nevertheless honours the names of these 'forgotten people'.

Gladesville Hospital Cemetery

The forgotten cemetery—the forgotten people

Revised and updated edition



Maureen Copley and Helen Patterson
Ryde District Historical Society

Cost: \$25

(plus postage and handling \$10, if applicable)

For further information, please contact: rdhs1@bigpond.com

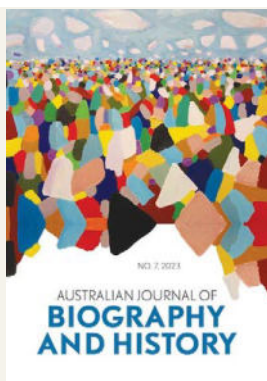
Direct deposit details for payment:

BSB 03208, account number 801289 (Ryde District Historical Society)

Please send confirmation email and postal address at time of deposit

History News

**The Australian Journal of Biography and
History:
Convict Lives Special Issue**



The *Australian Journal of Biography and History* has just published a special issue on the theme of 'Convict Lives'. It features research articles by leading academics through to early career researchers. The journal is open-access and can be viewed here:

<http://doi.org/10.22459/AJBH.07.2023>



The Rum Hospital: The building that refuses to fall down

Join the Parliamentary Education and Engagement team for a journey through time led by historian Paul Brunton as we explore the legacy of the hospital built on rum – and how it became a parliament.

Discover the stories behind this iconic building, its recent restoration efforts, and its enduring place in Sydney's heritage scene.

Hear from historian Paul Brunton (Emeritus Curator, the State Library of New South Wales) along with Lyndall Smith and Ryan Panton from the Parliament's project team responsible for the recent conservation and restoration work.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to explore the hidden history of the Rum Hospital and its significance in Sydney's heritage landscape, with an **EXCLUSIVE** tour of the works in progress.

Limited spots are available, so secure your ticket now!

Date: Monday, 7 August 2023.

Time: Optional tour at 5 pm, main event from 5:30 pm to 6:45 pm.

Location: Jubilee Room, NSW Parliament House.

[Book now](#) to reserve your place.

Other News



Call for Papers:

Performing Arts Heritage Network Working Group

Artists, Archives and Absences

Kaurna Country, Adelaide, 27 November 2023

The Performing Arts Heritage Network (PAHN) will meet and share 20-minute work-in-progress papers focusing on the intersection of history and heritage in any material, format, genre, or level of society. Proposals should also reflect some engagement with the nature of collection(s), in line with the wider [ADSA Conference](#). We also welcome proposals for panel discussions.

PAHN invites abstracts of 250 words responding to the questions or other scholarly or creative provocations raised by ADSA's conference theme to be submitted [via this form](#) by the extended date of Monday, 31 July 2023. We invite proposals for 20-minute paper presentations, artistic research presentations, workshops and roundtable discussions, and any other formats that might suit the diversity of research and practice in our field. To assist with travel and other costs, PAHN will award up to two bursaries of \$500 each to

presenters based on the submitted abstracts.



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

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