



Royal Australian Historical Society

Knowing your history

3 August 2023

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The Bushman's Home, Wagga Wagga, 1910 [Museum of the Riverina]



2023 RAHS Conference - *The Way Ahead: Local and Community Histories for our Future*

Bookings have now opened for the 2023 RAHS Conference in Wagga Wagga, with early-bird prices available until 15 September. The conference will be held on 21–22 October at Wagga RSL Club.

The City of Wagga Wagga is the perfect location to explore the conference theme – *The Way Ahead: Local and Community Histories for our Future*. Today the people who call Wagga Wagga home reflect its rich and diverse history.

The commitment to remembering and honouring this history, both now and for future generations, can be seen with the launch of the redeveloped Museum of the Riverina. The museum is dedicated to telling stories about the people and events that helped shape the City of Wagga Wagga and the Riverina Region.

‘Participants in a conference themed *The Way Ahead* come with hopes of pondering the ways ahead for their work and that of their historical societies’, writes Adjunct Associate Professor Bruce Pennay OAM, who will present the Lesley Muir keynote address. Professor Pennay will use his address to showcase how Albury-Wodonga historical societies are meeting the challenge

of delivering local and community histories for the future.

The Conference program features sessions on using oral histories in your research and the digitisation of community archives. There will also be sessions showcasing local stories from the Riverina and a panel discussion of museum curators and experts.

As always, the Conference will feature opportunities to network with RAHS members and friends, including during the Welcome Reception hosted by the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society on Friday, 20 October, at the Historic Council Chambers. Delegates will also have an opportunity to experience a behind-the-scenes tour of the redeveloped Museum of the Riverina Botanic Gardens site on Saturday afternoon.

We will be sharing more stories about the Conference in our forthcoming eNewsletters. Check out the 2023 RAHS Conference website to explore the program and all that Wagga Wagga has to offer, including its museums, galleries and gardens: <https://www.rahs.org.au/2023-rahs-conference/>

We look forward to seeing you at the Conference.



Library and Information Week Where's the Source?

This week is Library and Information Week – an opportunity to celebrate the

work that library and information workers perform across Australia.

This year's theme – Where's the Source? – aligns with the RAHS's goals of promoting the research and study of Australia's history with a particular focus on NSW local and community history. It is also the goal of the many historical societies and groups that hold unique local studies collections in their libraries and archives.

In line with this year's theme, we encourage you to share news about your local collections and what makes them unique on social media, and of course, do not forget to visit your local library. Who knows, you may find that perfect *source* for your research.

The RAHS Library Catalogue is changing as we continue our data migration to Softlink's Liberty system. With the assistance of the RAHS Library Committee members, RAHS Librarian Donna Newton has been working behind the scenes to ensure the data meets best practices for the new library catalogue.

In line with this ongoing project, the RAHS is working with two student placements from Charles Sturt University, James Fahey and Tomika Meharg, who are cataloguing the Osbourne and Adastra Aerial Survey image collections. [Learn more about these collections on our website.](#)

James: *This placement at the RAHS Library promises to be a fulfilling and enriching experience where I can make meaningful contributions while applying what I have learned in my studies.*

Tomika: *Doing my placement with the RAHS has allowed me to work closely with these sources, notably the Adastra Aerial Survey Collection, expand my knowledge of Australian history, and have a greater understanding of the importance of the RAHS's work in advocating Australian history.*

Visit the [Australian Library and Information Association \(ALIA\) website](#) to learn how to participate in Library and Information Week.



Hornby Lighthouse, South Head, c.1890 [Henry King Collection]

An Update from the RAHS Heritage Committee

Whenever the Heritage Council of NSW advises the RAHS of proposed changes to the State Heritage Register (SHR), the RAHS Heritage Committee reviews the proposals on behalf of the Society.

So far this year, the Heritage Committee has responded to five nominations for listing on the SHR and one amendment to a current listing. These included: the Gooriwal Cultural Landscape; Plumwood in Monga; Manilla Railway Viaduct; Sydney Croquet Clubhouse, Rose Bay; the curtilage extension of North Beach Precinct in North Wollongong; and most recently, Bouddi Farm.

Our built and natural heritage is often the only tangible link to the past, so the committee's support for these listings is significant in ensuring they are

preserved for future generations. As RAHS President Dr Iain Stuart noted in the 2022 Annual Report, 'our contributions are valued, and often the only comments received about a proposed listing'.

Among the recent SHR listings is the [South Head Cultural Landscape](#), which the committee wrote a letter of support for in November 2022. The site is significant for its 'strong historical and archaeological links to the Birrabirragal people of the Eora Nation' and its early contact history between 'English and Indigenous people in 1788 and early 1789'. The landscape also features the Hornby Lighthouse, 'a rare and intact example of a 19th-century lightstation'.

The RAHS Heritage Committee is looking for volunteers to help review listings and comment on heritage-related matters. If you are a RAHS member interested in volunteering on the Heritage Committee, please get in touch by emailing admin@rahs.org.au and outlining your qualifications and experience.

RAHS Events



Image Courtesy: Don McMurdo performing arts collection, NLA

RAHS Special Lecture - Managing Change at the Sydney Opera House

Speaker: Alan Croker

When: Wednesday, 16 August 2023 at 1 pm - 2 pm

Where: Online via Zoom

Cost: Free

In this illustrated talk, Alan Croker will discuss the recent functional, acoustic and accessibility upgrades at the Sydney Opera House and how these have been managed to respect and celebrate its cultural significance. For Alan, the magic and extraordinary cultural value of this place and its continued function as Australia's pre-eminent performing arts centre is a lifelong passion.

[RESERVE TICKETS](#)



RAHS Excursion - Edina Tour

Presenter: Michael Waterhouse

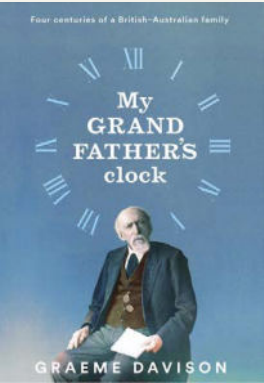
When: Sunday, 27 August 2023 at 10.30 am - 12.30 pm

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 27 August 2023.

BUY TICKETS



RAHS Day Lecture - My Grandfather's Clock

Speaker: Graeme Davison
When: Wednesday, 6 September 2023 at 1.00 pm - 2.00 pm
Where: Online via Zoom
Cost: Free

A great-aunt’s bequest – a 200-year-old grandfather clock – sends historian Graeme Davison on a journey deep into his father’s family’s past. From their tribal homeland in the Scottish Borders, he follows them to the garrison town of Carlisle, from industrial Birmingham to Edwardian Australia, and from the Great War to his own suburban childhood. This is the story of an ordinary family’s journey from frontier warfare and dispossession through economic turmoil and emigration to modest prosperity. At each step, we are led to reflect on the puzzles of personal identity and the mystery of time. Based on a lifetime of creative scholarship, *My Grandfather’s Clock* is a moving testament to the power of family history to illuminate the present.

RESERVE TICKETS

RAHS News



Nominations for 2023 RAHS Certificates of Achievement

RAHS Affiliated Societies are crucial in promoting local and community history throughout NSW. Has one of your members made an outstanding contribution to your historical society? Why not consider nominating them for the RAHS Certificate of Achievement award?

The RAHS Certificates of Achievement recognise members of societies whose contribution is significant and noteworthy. In 2022, we awarded thirteen Certificates of Achievement, which recognised contributions in publications; research; organising events; managing archival and museum collections; managing finances; and coordinating online initiatives. You can read about past recipients on the [2023 RAHS Conference website](#).

This year the Certificates will be presented at the 2023 RAHS Conference in Wagga Wagga, our first face-to-face Conference since 2019. Award recipients will also be published in the December 2023 edition of *History* magazine.

All nominations must be in writing and show one or more of the following:

- Comprehensive evidence of achievement
- Quality of service
- Significant support (financial or benefit-in-kind).

Candidates for the award must be nominated by a member of an affiliated society and be approved by either a general meeting, an executive meeting or a specially convened subcommittee. The presiding President and Secretary (or other appropriate office bearer) must also sign the nomination.

The deadline for nominations is 22 September 2023. Nominations should be emailed to admin@rahs.org.au. Successful applicants will be notified before the Conference so that arrangements can be made for their presentation.

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:

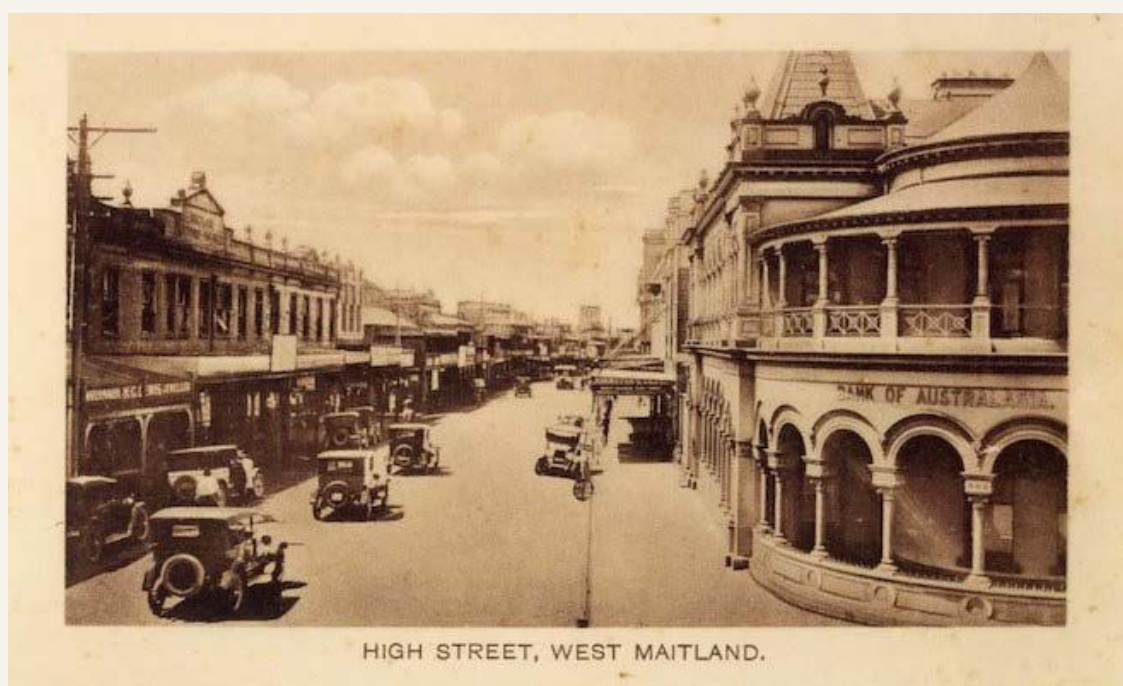
- Original, unpublished research;
- Between 6,000 to 8,000 words; and
- On any aspect of Australian history.

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.

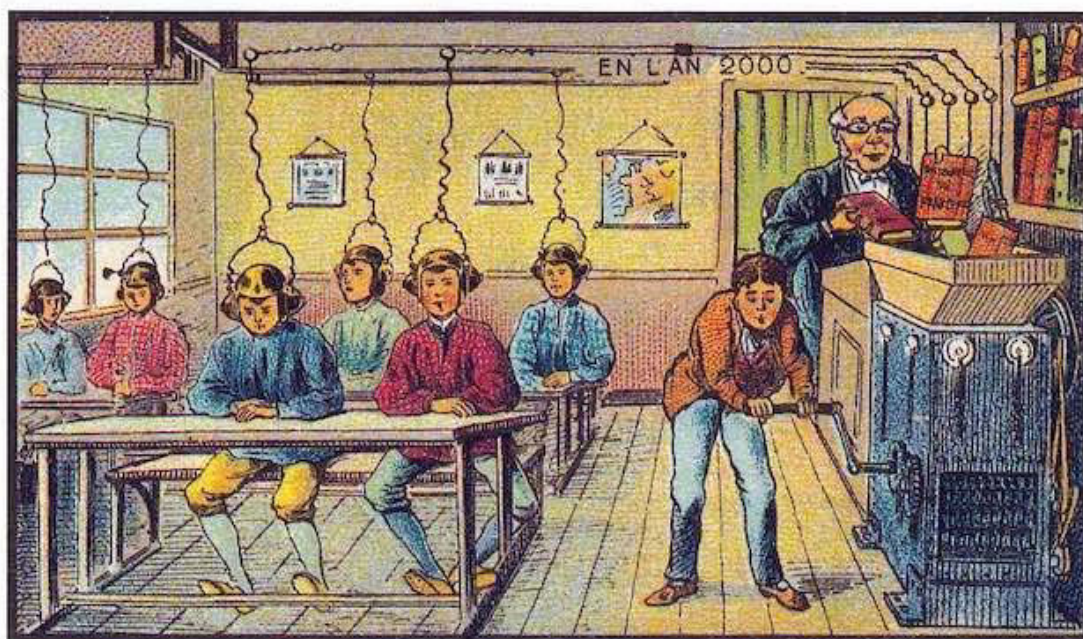
Affiliated Societies News

FAHS Newsletter



Relevance and Importance of Local History

Issue 55 (June 2023) of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies' Newsletter looks at the relevance and importance of local history through stories from around the country, from public art to our democratic history, from everyday views to using our history to inform urban redevelopment planning. There's also a review of the benchmarks for local history publications and other guides to compiling and preserving local stories. [Read More](#).



At School

The Impact of ChatGPT and other AI tools on the historical profession: a PHA presentation and open discussion

In 2023, AI language models have become increasingly advanced and capable of understanding human language and generating natural-sounding text. These models are trained using massive amounts of data and use complex algorithms to learn patterns and relationships in language.

Thanks to these advancements, AI language models are now able to perform a wide range of tasks, including language translation, summarization, question answering, and even creative writing. They are being used in industries such as healthcare, finance, and education to improve efficiency and accuracy.

However, there are also concerns around the potential misuse of AI language models, such as the spread of misinformation and the creation of deepfake content. As such, there is ongoing research and development focused on ensuring that these models are used ethically and responsibly.

This introduction was written by ChatGPT.

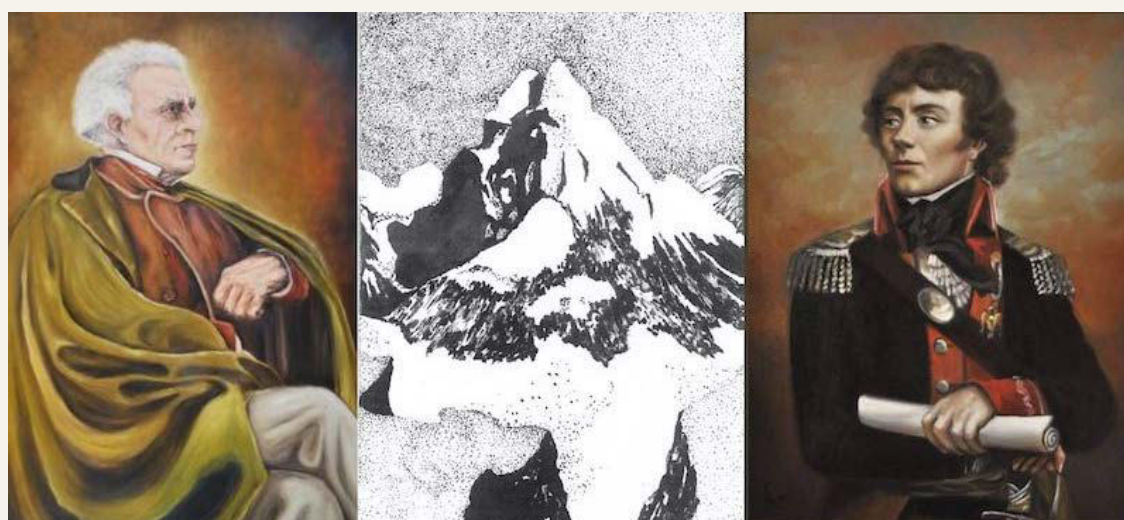
Join Dr Roland Leikauf, PHA NSW & ACT member, historian, media enthusiast

and European ethnologist to discuss the impact these models will have on the historical profession. The event aims to encourage an open discussion where the audience can voice experiences, doubts and hopes about AI.

Where: State Library of NSW, Map Rooms.

When: Wednesday 9 August at 6 pm. [Register Here](#).

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.

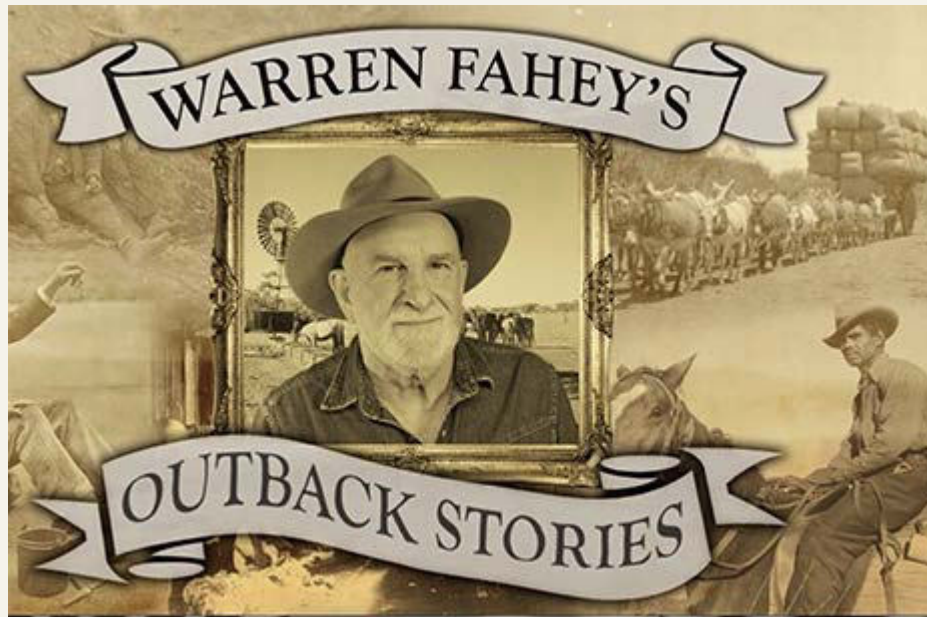
Where: The Arcadia Community Hall, 136 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia NSW 2159.

When: Saturday 12 August at 2 pm.

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

Enquiries: Ph. 02 9653 1365.

City of Sydney Historical Association



Warren Fahey's Outback Stories

Warren Fahey AM has spent over 55 years collecting, writing about, and performing Australian folklore, which he uses as signposts of our history. His most recent project is a series of twelve films celebrating the spirit of the Outback as told through stories, songs, recitations and archival films and photographs.

He will talk about some of his favourite Outback characters. The series features cranky bush cooks, shearers out on a spree, drovers leading their cattle overland, Cobb & Co coaches creaking their way across the country, and the story of Sidney Kidman, Australia's 'cattle king'. He will talk about some of his favourite Outback characters, sing some songs, and screen one of the films.

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

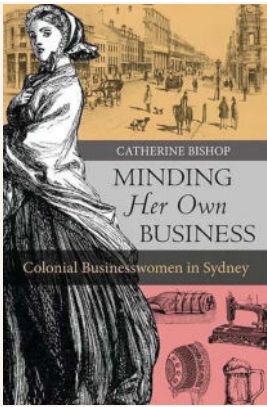
When: Saturday 12 August at 2 pm.

Cost: CoSHA members \$5. Visitors \$10. No bookings are required.

Historic Houses Association of Australia

Minding Her Own Business Walking Tour

Dr Catherine Bishop leads a revealing new walking tour



for the Historic Houses Association that brings Australia's early entrepreneurial women to life.

If you have always imagined Sydney's 19th-century women ensconced in their homes, hardly daring to venture out into the 'public sphere', think again.

There were proud publicans and pert prostitutes, feisty fortune tellers and demure dressmakers; there were bankrupts, bigamists, and business tycoons.

We learn about the one colonial businesswoman everyone sees every time they use a \$20 note - Mary Reibey.

And we end in a pub, whose early female publican has been written out of its history.

You will never look at Sydney in the same way again!

Copies of *Minding Her Own Business* will be available at the end of the tour at the special price of \$35 (RRP \$40).

Book at hha.net.au/events.



SAVE THE DATE: Canberra

Friday 20 - Sunday 22 October

After an absence of several years, it's time to revisit Canberra!

The HHA spring tour includes Yass and surrounds on the way to the nation's capital, returning via Goulburn two days later. In between we take in places from the 19th century as well as the early Federal capital buildings and the work of the Canberra modernists.

Details are being finalised, to express your interest [please email us today](#).

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 Vonnice 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

City of Liverpool and District Historical Society



**THE CITY OF LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.
ESTABLISHED 1959**

THE PRESIDENT and MEMBERS

request the pleasure of your company at the

55th WARD AND OLIVE HAVARD MEMORIAL LECTURE

Saturday 12 August 2023. 10.30 am for a 11.00 am start

GUEST SPEAKER: JUNE YOUNG OAM



TITLE OF LECTURE: MY JOURNEY OF SERVICE

Followed by a light lunch and refreshments

LOCATION: LURNEA COMMUNITY HUB, 66 HILL RD, LURNEA

RSVP: FRIDAY 11 August 2023

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Email: glenop@yahoo.com

NSW & ACT Family History Conference



38th Annual Conference of the **NSW & ACT**
ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES



WYONG FAMILY
HISTORY GROUP INC.

THE RUNNING WATERS OF HISTORY

8th – 10th September 2023



At **Toukley 50 Plus Leisure Centre**, 1 Hargraves Street **TOUKLEY**
Hosted by
WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

Speakers include: **Keynote Speaker David Harris MP**

Jill Ball	Gay Hendrikson	Jason Reeve
Michael Bell	Martyn Killion	Richard Reid
Mark Bundy	Jeff Madsen	[Transcription trio forum:
Kerry Farmer	Michelle Patient	Joy Murrin, Marilyn Rowan,
	Geoff Potter	Laurence Turtle]

Register and pay online
Registrations for physical attendance will close at 200.

Cost:	\$175.00
Early Bird rate	\$155.00 if paid by 31 st July
Friday night Meet and Greet	\$25.00
Saturday night Conference Dinner	\$65.00
Virtual attendance	\$50.00
Group Virtual Attendance	\$150.00

Email: wfhgconference@westnet.com.au
Website: [The Running Waters of History – Home \(weebly.com\)](https://www.wfhgconference.com.au)

Email: wfhgconference@westnet.com.au

Website: [The Running Waters of History - Home \(weebly.com\)](https://www.wfhgconference.com.au)

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 032088, account number 801289 (Ryde District Historical Society)

Please send confirmation email and postal address at time of deposit

History News



The Remarkable Mr and Mrs Johnson

You're invited to the book launch of *The Remarkable Mr and Mrs Johnson* by Associate Professor Toby Raeburn.

The book explores the fascinating story of colonial NSW's first chaplains, Richard and Mary Johnson, who were the founders of modern Australia's first Church, schools and charity and friends of Aboriginal people in the early colony from 1788-1800. The book launch is scheduled for 6 PM on 23 August, at St Phillips Anglican Church, 3 York St, Sydney. All who attend will also have a chance to see the first Bible brought to Australia by the Johnsons in 1788.

Date: Wednesday, 23 August 2023.

Time: Doors open at 6 pm, the interview begins at 6:15 pm.

Location: St Phillips Anglican Church, 3 York St, Sydney.

For a free ticket to the launch, [register here](#).

Alternatively, you can [buy the book here](#).



One million Second World War records digitised

The National Archives of Australia is proud to announce that over one million Second World War service records have now been digitised as part of a large-scale digitisation effort. These records are now progressively being made available online, free of charge.

Records digitised include all of [Royal Australian Navy](#)

series A6769 and A6770, [Army](#) series B883 and B884, and [Royal Australian Air Force](#) series A9300. A significant portion of Royal Australian Air Force series A9301 has also been completed.

To learn more about the World War II Digitisation Project: [Digitising World War II service records](#).

For more information on war records in the national archival collection: [Defence and war service records](#).

Other News



History Week at WEA Sydney: In-person and online classes

Join WEA Sydney during History Week 2023 to hear the stories from voices of the past on Melbourne's origins, the wreck of the Batavia, medieval Normandy, historic London and the lost cities of the Americas.

WEA Sydney is offering five different classes across History Week - three online and two in-house. For more info and bookings, [visit their website](#).

HISTORY ILLUMINATED

1 - 10 SEPTEMBER 2023

History Illuminated Festival in Lake Macquarie

The annual History Illuminated festival will be held from 1–10 September in Lake Macquarie, 2 hours north of Sydney. The festival celebrates local and national history through art, story, environment, people and experience.

Headlined by Australian icon Ita Buttrose, the program includes events, exhibitions, tours and community days celebrating local and national history.

Speakers include comedian and presenter Mikey Robins, author Kate Grenville, and academic, author and proud Worimi man Professor John Maynard.

For the full program of events visit library.lakemac.com.au/historyilluminated.



Corner of Johnston and Fitzmaurice Streets, Wagga Wagga c.1890 [WWDHS]

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Our Events

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