



# Royal Australian Historical Society

## Knowing your history

14 September 2023

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



Historic Council Chambers, Wagga Wagga [Photo: Geoff Burch]

## 2023 RAHS Conference - Featured Session: *Stories from the Riverina*

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Bookings are open for the 2023 RAHS Conference in Wagga Wagga. **Our discounted early bird tickets are available until close of business tomorrow. Book now to save up to \$15 on your tickets.** In this eNewsletter, we take a closer look at our Session B speakers, who will share local histories that will deepen our understanding of the Riverina Region.

In 1865, Wagga butcher Tom Castro stepped across the threshold of his shop and into the history books. Claiming to be the long-lost heir to the Tichborne family's Hampshire estates, Tom unwittingly set in motion one of the greatest cases of disputed identity in recent criminal history. Michelle Maddison is Curator at the Museum of the Riverina and, in her talk, will answer the question: Who was the elusive Tom Castro, and did he ever really exist?

Dr Stephen Gapps is a historian committed to bringing the Frontier Wars into broader public recognition as Australia's First Wars. He has published award-

winning books and has previously worked as a consultant historian and curator at the Australian National Maritime Museum. Stephen is now Senior Associate Historian at Artefact Heritage Services and is working on his next project 'The Rising. Resistance Warfare along the entire frontier of the Colony 1838–1842'. Stephen's paper will build on his previous research on the Wiradyuri Wars.

Marie Narelle was a Riverina-born Edwardian concert singer blessed with a voice of operatic quality. With the aid of her extended family and her church, she drew upon her rich Irish heritage to overcome early challenges in her life and establish herself as a leading exponent of traditional Irish folk music in Australia, the British Isles and North America. Local historian Bill Spiers will showcase the life of Marie Narelle, 'The Australian Queen of Irish Song'.

Conference delegates will also have plenty of opportunities to explore Wagga Wagga's history, especially during the Friday welcome reception at the Historic Council Chambers and the Saturday behind-the-scenes tour of the redeveloped Museum of the Riverina. For bookings and more information, visit our conference website: [rahs.org.au/2023-rahs-conference/](https://rahs.org.au/2023-rahs-conference/)

We look forward to seeing you in October!



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## 2023 Cultural Grants Recipients

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RAHS President Dr Iain Stuart announced today that eighteen local history projects will receive funding from the 2023 Cultural Grants Program. This grant program is administered by the RAHS on behalf of the NSW Government.

'The Royal Australian Historical Society thanks Create NSW for funding this grants program, which supports local and community history projects. These projects provide unique insights into the people and places of New South Wales and strengthen community connections through preserving and sharing our histories. History is preserved and passed on at the local level through communities interested in our history and by the individuals working in community groups. Without this grant funding, many shared histories and local history resources would be lost to us,' explained Dr Stuart.

Recipients of the Cultural Grants cover a diverse range of projects, including research, publications, and conservation of historic material through digitisation projects.

### **Australian Catholic Historical Society**

For the publication of a comprehensive and contextual history of the Society, *The Australian Catholic Historical Society and Sydney Catholics 1940–2020*. Awarded: \$5,000.

### **Paterson Historical Society**

For the publication *Vacy to Gresford – People and Places*. The book will record the history along the Paterson and Allyn Rivers between the village of Vacy and the town of Gresford. Awarded: \$2,000.

### **Tomaree Headland Heritage Group**

For the publication *Tomaree Headland Port Stephens in World War II: Fort Tomaree, HMAS Assault*. Awarded: \$5,000.

### **The City of Liverpool and District Historical Society**

For the publication of a collection of recollections, journals, diaries, letters and articles. *Recollections of Old Liverpool Vol. 2*. Awarded: \$1,000.

### **Manly Warringah and Pittwater Historical Society**

For the publication of the Society's centenary history, *Bridging the Years: Manly Warringah and Pittwater Historical Society 1924–2024*. Awarded: \$4,800.

### **Albury and District Historical Society**

To include the *Border Morning Mail* 1953 on Trove and to conduct free public workshops on 'Exploring the Local Past with Trove'. Awarded: \$3,572.

### **Hurstville Museum and Gallery**

For the publication *Makers and Manufacturers: The Industrial History of St George*. Awarded: \$3,571.

### **Port Macquarie and District Family History Society**

To publish a register of the female convicts who came to Port Macquarie (for punishment, on assignment, on Tickets of Leave, or to join their husbands). *Rowdy Voices and Quiet Whispers*. Awarded: \$4,000.

### **Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society**

For an original journal with local content, *Grist Mills* 37. Awarded: \$1,000.

### **Surf Life Saving Mid North Coast Branch**

For an oral history project on preserving local and lifesaving history through interviewing life members, which will be available on a website. Awarded: \$495.

### **Nutcote Trust**

For a publication about the life of celebrated author and illustrator May Gibbs, *Inside Story: May Gibbs' Life and Work at Nutcote*. Awarded: \$3,300.

### **Hill End and Tambaroora Gathering Group**

For the publication of a detailed history of 150 years of St Paul's Presbyterian Church, Hill End, from 1872 until 2022. Awarded: \$3,530.

### **Australian Computer Museum Society**

For the Max Burnet Digitisation Project. Max Burnet played a major part in Australian computing, running the second-largest hardware vendor in Australia. This project aims to digitise his collection. Awarded: \$3,000.

### **The Royal Society of NSW**

To illuminate the cultural evolution of Australasia's earliest colonial scientific and philosophical society. *Sydney's Colonial Scientists: Origins of the Royal Society of NSW*. Awarded: \$5,000.

### **Maitland Regional Museum**

For the publication *Maitland Stories*, which will collect and record oral histories of Maitland's older citizens who represent a range of backgrounds and communities. Awarded: \$3,100.

### **Shoalhaven Libraries**

For the *Shoalhaven Heritage Newspaper Digitisation Project*, which will be made available on Trove. Awarded: \$5,000.

### **The Fort Street Foundation**

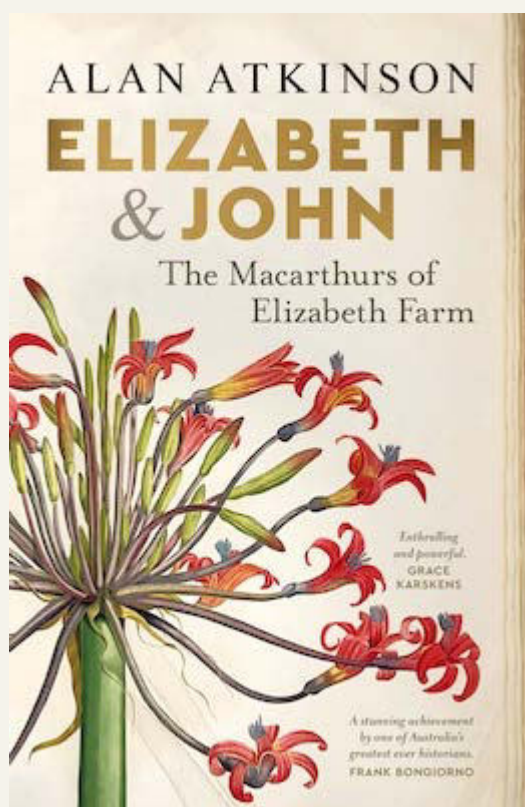
For the Fort Street Speech Day Digitisation Project (1899–2023), which will digitise at-risk

paper copies of all records associated with Speech Day at a nationally significant school institution. Awarded: \$3,850.

### **Clarence River Historical Society**

For the Carl Ehlers Collection. Awarded: \$3,450.

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## **NSW Premier's History Award Winners Announced**

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The 2023 NSW Premier's History Awards, with \$85,000 in prize money, were announced at the State Library of NSW on Thursday 7 September.

The winner of the Australian History Prize was Alan Atkinson's *Elizabeth and John: The Macarthurs of Elizabeth Farm*. The Judges said that Atkinson had 'produced a landmark book that will refresh early colonial studies and stand as a model for comparative biography, sensitive research and beautiful writing.'

The NSW Community and Regional History Prize was awarded to *He Belonged to Wagga: The Great War, the AIF and returned soldiers in an Australian country town* by Ian Hodges. The first episode of *The Australian Wars* was

awarded the Digital History Prize. The series can be watched on [SBS On Demand](#). The Anzac Memorial Trustees Military History Prize went to *Soldiers and Aliens: Men in the Australian Army's Employment Companies during World War II* by June Factor.

The RAHS congratulates all the winning and shortlisted entries. Read more about the winners and the judges' comments on the [State Library website](#).

## RAHS Events



### RAHS Special Lecture Garden Design Using Australian Natives: A History

**Speaker:** Stuart Read.

**When:** Wednesday, 20 September 2023 at 1.00 pm.

**Where:** Online via Zoom.

**Cost:** Free.

Landscape historian Stuart Read will talk on the history of Australian garden design using native plants, including waves of fashions (it didn't just start in the 1960s), players who were influential, and examples of gardens that remain so. You might be surprised how early and how widely natives were used. He'll

delve into matters of fashion, treatment and shrinking gardens.

RESERVE TICKETS



### RAHS Day Lecture The 'Girls' Who Made Australia Laugh

**Speaker:** Sharon Connolly.

**When:** Wednesday, 4 October 2023 at 1.00 pm.

**Where:** Online via Zoom.

**Cost:** Free.

Hundreds of Australian women graced the popular stage in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Despite the racism, sexism and other cruelties of vaudeville, it gave them space in which to live unusually public lives, and sometimes to test conventional ideas about how women should behave. Their stories speak to the treatment of women in earlier times. But they also show what is lost to our culture and our history when imported entertainments are permitted to overwhelm local artists and their work.

A former documentary filmmaker, television producer and chief executive of Film Australia, Sharon Connolly has been involved in making many landmark history programs since her first film, *Red Matildas*. In her first book, *My Giddy Aunt and her sister comedians*, she once more writes some remarkable yet uncelebrated women back into the stories of Australia.

RESERVE TICKETS

## RAHS News

### RAHS New Members' Evening

# Scandals From Our Past

Wednesday 11 October 2023, 6 pm – 7.30 pm online via Zoom

Join us for a New Members' Evening with a difference.

We will present a series of short, light-hearted talks on scandals from the past. Prepare to chuckle as we explore the quirky and amusing side of history.

For bookings and more information, visit the RAHS Events page:  
<https://www.rahs.org.au/rahs-events/>

#### Speakers:

Judith Dunn

Cath Bishop

Sue Tracey

## Affiliated Societies News

### Parramatta Female Factory Friends



**Come find me at the Factory! Family History Workshop**

Whether you are new to researching for your female factory ancestor or finding the family history brick walls too hard to climb over in your female factory research, this workshop is for you. It will provide hints, clues and pathways to discovering your ancestor or favourite 'adopted' factory woman.

**Please bring your computer and your family history research.**

Gay Hendriksen has worked as an art and history curator, writer, educator and director in the museum and gallery environment for 30 years, researching and interpreting cultural, local and family histories. She has specialised in women's history within Australian cultural heritage.

She has researched and developed over 50 art, cultural and social history exhibitions, from colonial times to the present. Three of these have been touring exhibitions covering six states.

Publications include: *Conviction – 1827 Fight for Rights at the Parramatta Female Factory*; *Historic Lives in Parramatta's Archaeological Landscape*; *Women Transported – Life in Australia's Convict Female Factories*.

Gay's special interest area is early colonial life and the largely untold story of Australia's convict female factories, which culminated in the multiple awards-winning *Women Transported* touring exhibition and accompanying publications. She has led advocacy for the Parramatta Female Factory since 2010.

**When:** Friday, 29 September 2023.

**Time:** 9.30 am for 10 am to 1 pm.

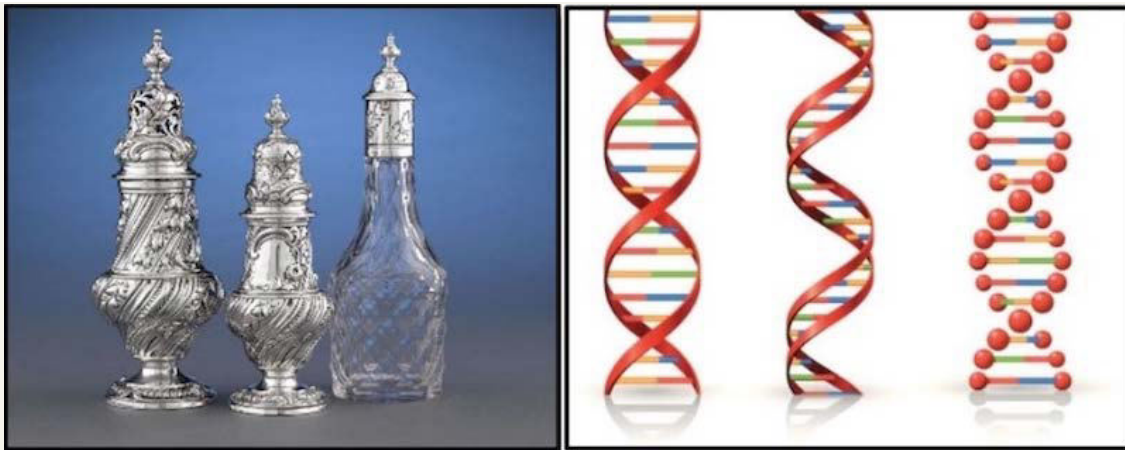
**Where:** Parramatta Female Factory Research Centre, 5 Fleet St, North Parramatta. Limited on-street parking. Cafe on site.

**Cost:** \$25. Spaces Limited.

Bookings and Payment [HERE](#).

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**Huguenot Society of Australia Conference**



## Huguenot Heritage: Past and Present

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**10.00 am - 5.30 pm**  
**Club York, 95-99 York St, Sydney**  
**21 October 2023**

The conference marks the 20th anniversary of the Huguenot Society of Australia as a registered society. Our keynote speaker is Dr Tessa Murdoch, author of *Europe Divided*. Huguenot Refugee Art and Culture and former Research Curator at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London; also a board member of the Huguenot Museum, Rochester. She lectures and writes widely on the history of the decorative arts.

Our other outstanding speakers are Dr Robin Gwynn, author of *Huguenot Heritage* and *The Huguenots in Later Stuart Britain*; Dr Randall Carter Working, author of *Visual Theory of the Huguenots: Towards an Architectural Iconology of Early Modern French Protestantism*; Melissa Hulbert, President of the Society of Australian Genealogists; Robert Nash, the 'Living Treasure' of the HSA; and our Vice-President and Patron, the Ven. Dr Geoff Huard.

**Cost:** \$165.00.

An early bird rate of \$150.00 will be available until 22 September 2023.

Morning and afternoon tea and lunch are included.

Not included in the cost will be an optional dinner at Cellini's in the nearby Queen Victoria Building at 6 pm.

### Registration options:

- Online at [www.huguenotsaustralia.org.au/2023-conference](http://www.huguenotsaustralia.org.au/2023-conference) OR
- EFT (bank transfer) to Huguenot Society of Australia BSB 659 000 A/C 300 022 491 (Please include your family name in the reference field) OR
- Cheque, payable to Huguenot Society of Australia, posted to David Milling, Unit 105, 1-9 Woniora Avenue, Wahroonga NSW 2076.

**Enquiries:** Pamela Summers [pamelaannesummers@gmail.com](mailto:pamelaannesummers@gmail.com)

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## WEA Sydney: Spring History Courses

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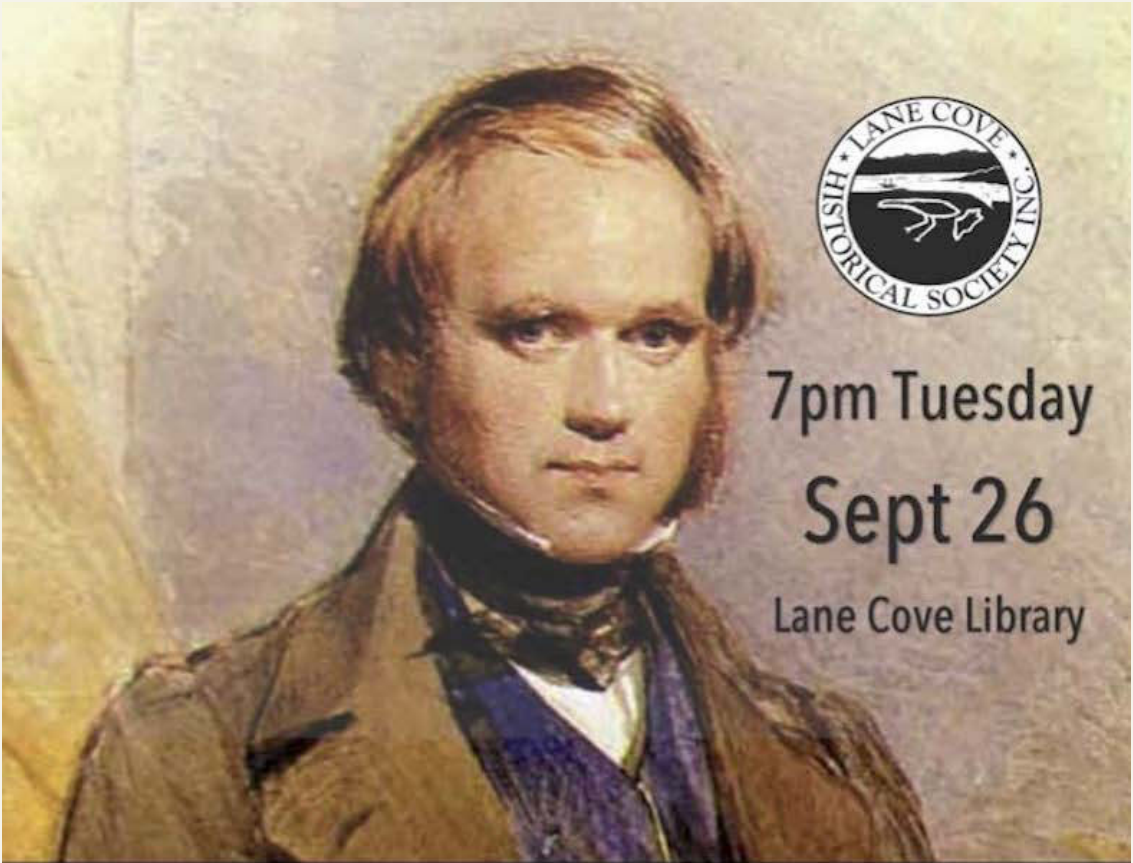
Check out the WEA Sydney for a range of Australian history courses. A selection is included here:

- **Australian Silent Films:** Fri 8 Dec, 6.00-8.30 pm F2F, \$51 for 1 session (with refreshments).
- **From Town to City: Colonial Sydney from 1840 to 1890:** Thu 12 Oct ONL, 2.30-3.30 pm, \$25 for 1 session.
- **Learning for the Masses: Early NSW Education and the WEA:** Sat 21 Oct, 10.00 am-1.00 pm F2F, \$10 for 1 session.
- **The Great Days of Sydney's Department Stores:** Tue 5 Dec, 10.00 am-4.00 pm F2F, \$117 for 1 session.
- **The Story of Australian Referendums 1906-2023:** Thu 19 Oct, 12.15-1.30 pm F2F, \$32 for 1 session.

For course info and bookings, [visit their website](#).


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**Lane Cove Historical Society**



7pm Tuesday  
Sept 26  
Lane Cove Library

At the Podium  
**Ian Burnet**  
**Darwin in Australia**



**History News**



## Rebel With A Cause documentary series

***Rebel With A Cause***, a four-part documentary series that celebrates four iconic and outstanding First Nations rebels – Senator Neville Bonner, poet Oodgeroo Noonuccal, magistrate Pat O'Shane and media icon Tiga Bayles – launches Sunday 1 October at 9 pm on NITV, SBS and SBS On Demand.

Intertwining interviews from colleagues, family and friends with archive material never before seen by the public, *Rebel With A Cause* sheds new light on Australia's modern political history.

### Broadcast dates:

- **Episode 1: Pat O'Shane AM.** Director Jill Robinson - Sunday 1 October at 9 pm on NITV and SBS.
- **Episode 2: Neville Bonner, The Senator.** Director Douglas Watkin - Sunday 8 October at 9 pm on NITV and 9.20 pm on SBS.
- **Episode 3: Oodgeroo Noonuccal, The Poet.** Director Sio Tusa - Sunday 15 October at 9 pm on NITV and 9.20 pm on SBS.
- **Episode 4: Tiga Bayles, the Media icon.** Director EJ Garrett - Sunday 22 October at 9 pm on NITV and 9.20 pm on SBS.



### **The People's House: Sydney's Opera House at 50**

*Museum of Sydney, open daily, 10 am to 5 pm, free entry.*

*The People's House: Sydney Opera House at 50* celebrates five decades of extraordinary performances and unforgettable moments at the Sydney Opera House. This year, we commemorate 50 incredible years of this architectural marvel that has become Sydney's great civic space and 'the people's house'.

Never static, the Opera House has evolved to embrace new uses, audiences and technologies. Relive the magic of past performances and events through costumes, posters and programs, set designs, rare archival records, architectural drawings, photography and much more.

[Plan your visit and find out more.](#)

### **Other News**



**MACQUARIE**  
University

## Call for Papers: Public Sport History and Community Sport

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**Symposium Sponsored by The Centre for Applied History**  
**Tuesday 5 December 2023, Macquarie University**  
**Hybrid face-to-face and online event**

This symposium will explore intersections between Public Sport History and Community Sport. It provides an opportunity for reflection on scholarship that these topics have generated in recent years and for collaborative discussion about current projects and the state of the field today. For the purposes of the event, we are defining Public Sport History broadly as the production, representation or consumption of sports history in the public sphere, for diverse audiences by a wide range of practitioners and organisations.

We are interested in exploring the importance of historical knowledge, education, employment, research and expertise outside of university environments, as well as connections and collaborations between academics, 'professional' and 'amateur' historians, cultural institutions, sporting organisations and the media.

We encourage reflective papers that interrogate processes, practices, representations or understandings of Public History in community sports-related research projects or community sports history in the public sphere. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to: oral history, public memory, sports history in the media and documentaries, commissioned histories, museums and cultural institutions, collaborations with community sports associations, gender, race, narrative, sporting statues and memorials, heritage and preservation, popular culture, and vernacular sports history.

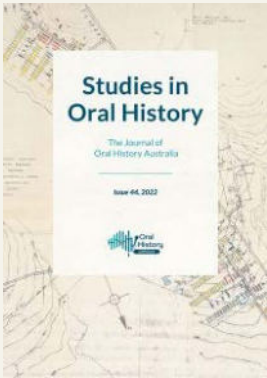
Contributions will be selected for a Special Issue of an international sports history journal, such as *The International Journal of the History of Sport*, depending on the mix of papers.

The symposium will feature a **keynote address by Dr Guy Hansen**, Director of Exhibitions, National Library of Australia: Grassroots: Community sport collections at the National Library of Australia.

Conference Papers: 20 minutes.

Abstracts due: 6th October 2023.

Please submit abstracts to: [tanya.evans@mq.edu.au](mailto:tanya.evans@mq.edu.au)



## Call for Papers: Studies in Oral History

Contributions for the peer review and reports sections of the 2024 issue of the Oral History Australia journal *Studies in Oral History* are now being accepted. The deadline for submission of peer review articles is 1 December 2023 and for reports is 30 April 2024. Go to the [Call for Papers, Issue No. 46, 2024](#).

This special issue will explore oral histories of working lives, workplaces and work, all broadly defined to incorporate histories of volunteering, military service and other types of service. Papers that employ or interrogate oral history methodologies and illuminate aspects of working life, workplaces, and workplace culture are invited.

Contributors are advised to review the following before submission:

- [Guidelines for contributors](#)
- [Journal Style Guide](#)



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

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# The Royal Australian Historical Society

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