



Royal Australian Historical Society

Knowing your history

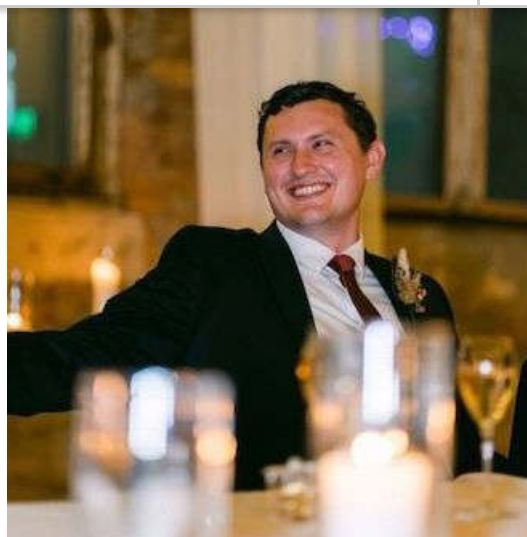
12 October 2023

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



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

Meet Our New RAHS Councillors



Alison Wishart

Hello RAHS members,

I've been asked to introduce myself, as I joined the RAHS board as a Councillor about 12 months ago.

I've been working in the GLAM sector for 20 years – mostly as an exhibition curator – but I started out writing heritage citations for the Brisbane City Council heritage unit and then moved to Townsville to manage a maritime archaeological collection. I've really enjoyed curating social history exhibitions at the State Libraries of Queensland and NSW, the National Museum of Australia, and now, for Bayside Council Libraries (which are located in southern Sydney near the airport and Port Botany).



I've worked with quite a number of collection management software systems in my various roles in libraries and museums, and I'm hoping that some of that experience will be useful to the RAHS Archives and Libraries Committee, which I sit on.

I've also had the privilege of listening to, and recording, lots of interesting people's stories. I'll be talking about conducting oral histories at the RAHS conference later this month.

I am also secretary of the Professional Historians Association of NSW-ACT and work as a professional historian. You can read some of the articles I've written at: <https://deakin.academia.edu/AlisonWishart>

I really love history, and I feel fortunate to have been able to carve out a career in this area.

Samuel White

Dear RAHS members,

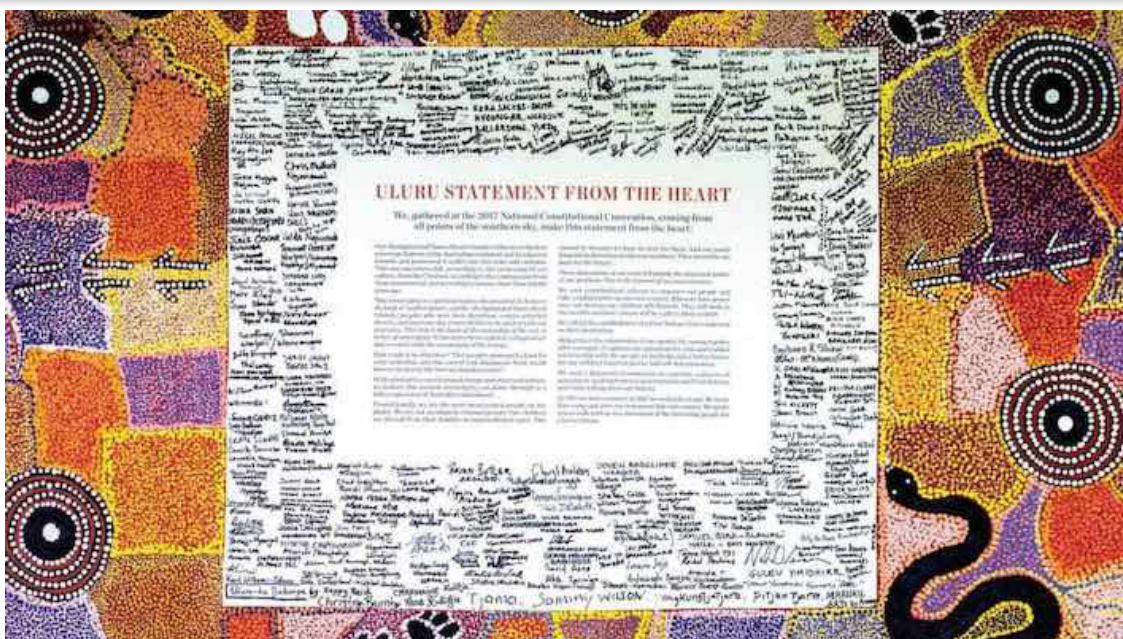
In September 2023, I was appointed to fill an RAHS Council position and as Editor for the *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*.



I am a practicing lawyer and legal history academic, with a military background. I earned my commission in the Royal Australian Infantry Corps, and later served in the Australian Army Legal Corps across a variety of tactical, operational and strategic level postings. The focus of my work for the past decade has been on domestic security operations, with postings to Maritime Border Command and Special Operations Command and my PhD in the constitutional frameworks around calling out the troops. This was primarily from my interest in the legal history perspective of military intervention in industrial actions, and prerogative rule in colonial Australia. Indeed, Enid Campbell's paper on the topic in 1964 with the *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society* catalysed my interest in the subject!

Although not holding a 'traditional' entry in history, or Australian history, I do hope to earn my stripes. I have published a monograph on the history of military interventions in Australia ([*Keeping the Peace of the Realm*, LexisNexis, 2021](#)) and I edit a series of books that address different laws of war across time and history, outside of European constructs ([*The Laws of Yesterday's Wars*, Brill](#)). One of my professional aims with the *JRAHS* is to engage a wide spectrum of RAHS members, and academia, in publications. It is my hope that we will be able to start to record and publish pieces in presentations – just like Dr Campbell did. It will be great to re-invigorate the *JRAHS* and be able to engage with one another.

I look forward to my dual roles with the RAHS, and to connecting with everyone. I will notify members soon about my plans for the journal.



The Voice to Parliament Referendum

This Saturday will mark a significant milestone in Australia's history. Whatever the outcome, the result could be a 'paradigm-shifting moment', [to quote historian Clare Wright](#). Professor Wright and 350 historians have signed [an open letter](#) in support of the Voice and the Uluru Statement From The Heart. In their letter, they urge Australians to vote Yes on 14 October in recognition of the 'historical injustices' suffered by Indigenous Australians:

We know from our own empirical studies, and the evidence-based research of our peers and colleagues, that Australia's Indigenous peoples have suffered from historic injustices as a result of the colonisation and dispossession of their lands, as well as the exploitation of their labour and resources in a way that has prevented them from achieving full and equal participation in our society.

We each believe those injustices warrant Constitutional recognition and enshrinement of a Voice.

In the lead-up to this important referendum, the Royal Australian Historical Society urges its members and friends to make an informed decision before

Australia to help you become informed about the Voice.

- [Use these Referendum reference cards](#) to explain the question and the addition to the constitution.
- Share these [Multilingual resources](#) on the Voice and the referendum in up to 45 languages other than English.
- See info on the Voice to Parliament and reconciliation at reconciliation.org.au.

To learn more about voting in this referendum, [visit the Australian Electoral Commission](#).



The Tenth Theo Barker Lecture

On 21 September 2023, I presented the tenth Theo Barker Lecture titled *The more things change the more they stay the same* at the Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre. The lectures are held every two years and honour the memory of Theo Barker, a former President and active and valued member of the Bathurst District Historical Society from 1956 until his death in August 2003. My lecture focused on Theo Barker's presentation to the 1973 RAHS conference, where he discussed the results of his 1972 survey of the needs,

The survey was an attempt by the RAHS to 'get some facts about historical societies so that they would not be working from supposition'. It succeeded, providing a perfect snapshot in time while also confirming that despite the passage of time and the opportunities and challenges of modern technology, the problems facing today's historical societies differ little from those of fifty years ago. These include concerns about falling numbers of volunteers, lack of funds and space, difficulties in attracting and keeping members, and the need to maintain relevance within the community.

Theo's report also identified the aims of historical societies – collecting, researching, preserving, exhibiting and interpreting archives and artefacts relating to the area for the benefit and education of the community. There was one notable absence. None of the societies that responded to the survey referred to any engagement with First Nations people. Over the past fifty years, much has changed. Significant steps have been made towards reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous peoples, providing historical societies with the opportunity to be part of this process through their engagement with their local communities.

Christine Yeats

RAHS Senior Vice President

In June 2023, the RAHS launched its [Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan](#), developed with guidance and endorsement from Reconciliation Australia.

RAHS News



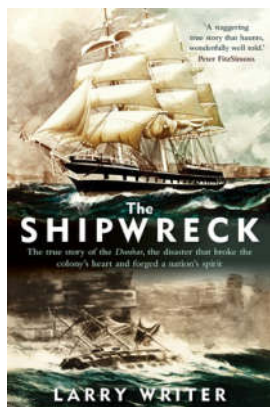
2023 RAHS Conference - The Way Ahead: Local and Community Histories for our Future

The RAHS and Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society are now in the final countdown for this year's [RAHS Annual Conference](#). The welcome reception will be at the Museum of the Riverina Historic Council Chambers on Friday, 20th October 2023. Hosted by Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society, this will be the first time since the COVID pandemic that RAHS members and affiliates from across the state will network again in person.

We want to thank the RAHS Affiliated Societies Committee, Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society and all those presenting at the conference for their dedication in putting the program together. There will be a full report on the conference in our next eNewsletter. We will also share details of the RAHS Certificates of Achievement and Appreciation recipients, which honour the work done by RAHS affiliated societies and RAHS volunteers.

Bookings for the conference have now closed. However, the RAHS events calendar has a number of lectures and seminars for the remainder of the year. We are currently finalising the program for our [Western Sydney Seminar](#). Create NSW funds this seminar to support skills in researching, preserving and sharing the stories of the people and places of NSW.

RAHS EVENTS



RAHS Day Lecture

The Shipwreck: The True Story of the *Dunbar*

Speaker: Larry Writer.

When: Wednesday, 1 November 2023 at 1.00 pm.

Where: Online via Zoom.

Cost: Free.

In *The Shipwreck: The True Story of the Dunbar, the Disaster That Broke the Colony's Heart and Forged a Nation's Spirit*, author Larry Writer chronicles the tragedy when, in a ferocious storm at midnight on 20 August 1857, *Dunbar*, a magnificent sailing clipper, collided with the cliffs of outer South Head and 121 of the 122 passengers and crew perished. Larry reveals why the ship crashed, who was to blame, and follows the personal stories of its crew, the passengers and the sole survivor, James Johnson, whose miracle rescue defies belief. The effect on the fledgling colony is movingly told. More than a third of Sydney's 57,000 population lined the streets as the funeral procession of the victims made its sad way at dusk from Circular Quay to Camperdown Cemetery. The aftermath to the shipwreck saw enormous and desperately needed changes to Port Jackson navigation and maritime safety, including the building of Hornby lighthouse that still stands overlooking the Heads, upgrading of the marine pilot service, and the construction of a telegraph line from South Head to the city.

RESERVE TICKETS



Preserving Treasured Legacies: A Workshop on Gathering Family Memories

Speakers: Pauline Curby, Heather Garnsey, Christine Yeats.

When: Thursday, 9 November 2023 at 11.00 am.

Where: Online via Zoom.

Cost: Members \$32 | Non-members \$35.

This workshop will guide you through discovering, collecting, and preserving the invaluable stories and experiences of your family's history and heritage. Our speakers will share their knowledge, techniques, and practical tips to help you embark on a fulfilling journey of preserving your family's legacy.

There will be tips on the following:

- Conducting meaningful interviews with your family members.
- Methods and mediums for documenting and preserving family memories.
- Organising and cataloguing your collected materials, whether physical or digital, to create a cohesive family archive.
- Understanding the importance of preserving intangible aspects of your family's culture, such as traditions, recipes, music, and language.

This workshop is in partnership with [WEA Sydney](#).

BUY TICKETS

Affiliated Societies News

Ceramic Collectors Society and Australiana Society Present



The Sydney Punchbowl

**State Library of NSW
Monday, 16 October 2023
The Gallery and Friends Room
6.00 to 8.30 pm**

A joint meeting of the Australiana Society and the Ceramic Collectors Society. \$30 per person with a welcome drink, then a talk and display of the State Library's 'Sydney Punchbowl', as well as a modern replica and relevant archival material. Members and their guests are welcome to attend.

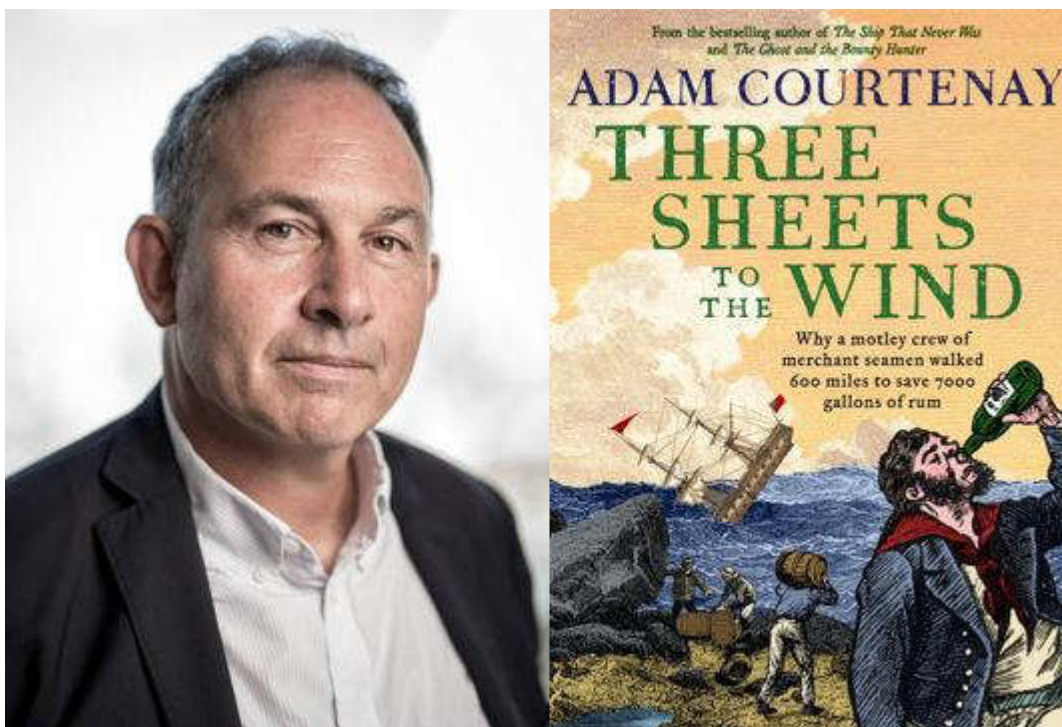
The Sydney Punchbowl in the State Library collection, c.1820, is one of only two Chinese export hand-painted porcelain punchbowls known to exist that depict scenes of Sydney Town dating from the Macquarie era. This punchbowl is rare and of exceptional interest to those with a love of Australiana and ceramics.

A PowerPoint presentation will be given by Robert Hannan of the Australiana Society. Reference to the second punchbowl in the National Maritime Museum of Australia will also be made.

The Sydney Punchbowl and a modern replica along with relevant material from the State Library archives will all be on display for close-up inspection. Curatorial staff will be in attendance to assist us and there will be time for Q&A.

Robert72hannan@yahoo.com.au.

City of Sydney Historical Association



Three Sheets to the Wind

When, in 1796, Calcutta-based Scottish merchants Campbell and Clark dispatched an Indian ship hurriedly renamed the *Sydney Cove* to the colony of NSW, they were hoping to make their fortune. The ship's speculative cargo was comprised of all kinds of goods to entice the new colony's inhabitants, including 7,000 gallons of rum. The merchants were planning to sell the liquor to the Rum Corp, which ruled the colony with an iron grip.

But when the *Sydney Cove* went down north of Van Diemen's Land, cargo master William Clark and sixteen other crew members were compelled to walk 600 miles to Sydney Town to get help to save the rest of the crew and the precious goods. Assisted by at least six Indigenous clans on his journey,

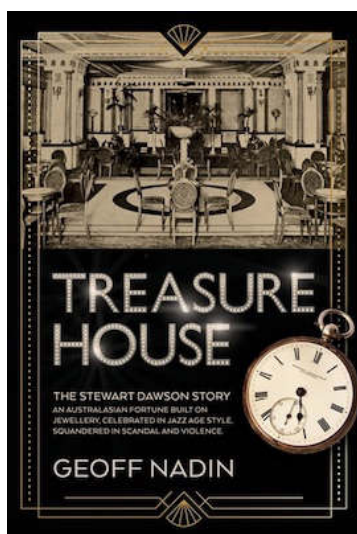
Clark saw far more of the country than Joseph Banks ever did, and his eventual report to Governor Hunter led to far-reaching consequences for the colony.

When: Saturday, 14 October. Members AGM 1.30 pm. Visitors 2 pm.

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

Admission: Members \$5. Visitors \$10. No bookings required.

Randwick and District Historical Society



Treasure House

The Stewart Dawson Story

In February 1998, the death occurred in South Kensington, London of David Stewart Dawson. The passing of the 75-year-old retired taxi driver went unremarked. There is no record of a funeral notice. He departed in obscurity. This was the same David who had inherited a life of privilege and luxury in Australia fifty years earlier, lived at Sydney's best addresses, married two beautiful women, owned a hotel and gambled millions, only to lose it all in scandal and shame.

Speaker: Geoff Nadin is a retired business consultant living in Springwood, Blue Mountains, who wrote too many dry-as-dust reports for too many indifferent readers. Seeking an outlet for his unacknowledged talents, he turned over a stone and found, right on his doorstep, a whole world hidden in plain sight: the long-forgotten saga of the Stewart Dawsons. The path it took him on was long and winding, the goal sometimes out of reach. But the reward was worth the effort, he thinks. With several short stories already published and a possible novel in the pipeline, he's playing the literary field, enjoying every minute of it.

When: Saturday, 21 October at 1 pm.

Where: Vonnie Young Auditorium, Lionel Bowen Library, Maroubra.

RSVP: Ph: 02 9349 3572 or E: randwickhistory@outlook.com.

Mosman Historical Society



Mosman Scouts outside the Barn, Mosman Bay, c.1908 [Scouts NSW]

Scouting in Mosman 1908–2023

Matthew Brownlie will provide a snapshot of Scouting in Mosman from its beginnings to the present. The 1st Mosman Scouts Group that was founded in 1908 is the oldest Scouts troop in Australia. In addition, there are currently three other Groups operating in Mosman, the 1st Balmoral, the 3rd Mosman Bay and the 1st Clifton Gardens. Matthew will discuss the histories of these as well as other Groups that have come and gone over the years. All have aimed to help young people become caring and responsible adults.

Matthew is the LNS/Turrumburra District Scout Leader. He has also been the Leader in Charge at 1st Balmoral for 15 years. Before moving to Sydney during the 1980s he was a Cub, Scout, Venturer and Rover in Hobart.

When: Wednesday, 8 November at 7 pm.

Where: Mosman Library.

RSVP: Please email David Carment at davidcarment@mac.com before Monday 6 November. Refreshments will be served following the talk.

Cost: Members Free / Visitors \$5 donation. Copies of *Mosman: Times Gone By* will be available for sale at \$30 each.

ANNOUNCES THE 35TH ANNUAL PRESENTATION OF THE JAMES JERVIS MEMORIAL LECTURE



TIME
7.30 PM



MONDAY
16 OCTOBER

SPEAKER

AUTHOR: LIZ HARFULL
Her Topic

THE WOMEN WHO CHANGED COUNTRY AUSTRALIA

In 1922 a group of women from both the city and the country joined forces at a gathering in Sydney, determined to improve the lives of families living in the bush. One hundred years on, the iconic Country Women's Association is famous for making scones, stitching handicrafts and raising money for worthy causes, but there is so much more to this national treasure.

In this year's James Jervis Lecture, Liz Harfull introduces the surprisingly radical women from diverse backgrounds who came together in this important moment in Australia's social history; and the appalling circumstances that motivated them. Refusing to sit back and wait for governments to act, the CWA was soon taking direct action. In the process, they changed country Australia forever.

*Venue: Burnside Gardens Community Centre
3 Blackwood place, Oatlands*

*This lecture is free and is followed by supper.
Visitors very welcome*



Parramatta Female Factory Friends

Parramatta Female Factory Friends Inc.

Bi-Monthly Guest Speakers' Programme - 2023



WHEN: Friday 20th October 2023 at 1pm

WHERE: Parramatta Female Factory
Building C102 - follow the signs
5 Fleet Street, North Parramatta

NO parking onsite - Limited on street parking.

GUEST SPEAKER: CHERYL BATES OAM

TOPIC: SAVING PARRAMATTA'S HERITAGE - THE BIG PICTURE

Advocacy requires a multifaceted approach in Parramatta where its significant heritage is under substantial threat from the burgeoning development plan for the Central River City. The challenges Parramatta faces are not only individual site based but require the recognition of Parramatta as an area with an overarching heritage context. Cheryl will use examples of some lesser known Parramatta advocacy battles in which she has been involved. In addition, she will talk about the need to create a strong heritage tourism economy to promote Parramatta's significance to local, state, national and world markets.

Cheryl is the Chair of the National Trust (NSW) Parramatta Regional Branch and has been active in advocacy for the past decade. She is also a member of the City of Parramatta Council Heritage Advisory Committee; Greater Sydney Parklands Parramatta Park Community Trustee Board; Parramatta Heritage Partners and the Roxy Theatre Action Group. In June 2022, Cheryl was awarded an Order of Australia medal (OAM) for 'community history preservation' to acknowledge her work in Parramatta.

BOOKINGS: EVENTBITE: <https://tinyurl.com/bdhtveth> Entry: Cost: \$5 (plus booking surcharge).
Places are limited, so please book early.

The talk will be followed by afternoon tea and then the PFFF General Meeting at 2:15pm. New members are most welcome.

Web: parramattafemalefactoryfriends.au
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/pfffrinds/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pfffrinds/>
Email: parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com



NATIONAL
HERITAGE
PLACE



IT'S A RIOT!

This event is proudly supported by ancestry.com



WHAT: ANNUAL RIOT DAY COMMEMORATION

WHEN: FRIDAY 27th October 2023 TIME: 9:00am - 3:00pm

WHERE: Parramatta Female Factory site, 5 Fleet Street, North Parramatta.

NB: limited on street parking - no parking at site.

TOUR AND TALK BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: BOOKINGS NOW OPEN: EVENTBRITE: <https://tinyurl.com/4zzymkd>



EVENT SCHEDULE

*9.00am OPEN

*10:00am TOUR 1 (bookings essential - places limited) Cost: \$10 plus booking fee

*11:30am WELCOME - HONOURING THE FACTORY WOMEN
LAYING FLORAL TRIBUTES at the BICENTENARY COMMEMORATIVE WALL

*12:30 THE ANNUAL THOMAS KENEALLY LECTURE - *The Sisters of Charity and the Factory Women*
GUEST SPEAKERS - Sr. Genevieve Walsh RSC & Sr. Margaret Fitzgerald RSC
(bookings essential - places limited) Cost: \$5 plus booking fee

*1:30pm TOUR 2 (bookings essential - places limited) Cost: \$10 plus booking fee

*3pm CLOSE

* COFFEE & TEA (PFFF fund raiser) ALL DAY

* SALES/INFORMATION ALL DAY

* MONSTER RAFFLE (PFFF fund raiser)

* HERSTORY & FACTORY MODELS EXHIBITION ALL DAY

* RESEARCH CENTRE OPEN & ENQUIRIES ALL DAY

facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pfffriends/>

e: parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com

Photograph: Parramatta Female Factory Gate c1900: SAG Artwork: PFFF Logo: Amiel Dizon dizonbydesign.com.au

On Thursday, 28 September 2023, the Federal and NSW State Governments announced that the Parramatta Female Factory and Institutions Precinct had been placed on the Tentative List for UNESCO World Heritage.

Glen Innes and District Historical Society

AT
THE LAND OF THE BEARDIES MUSEUM

12 noon November 7

\$45 covers entry, grand opening of

HISTORY OF HATS + FASHION PARADE

Scrumptious Food, Champagne

plus Afternoon tea, and THE RACE on big screen



CUP SWEEPS AND LUCKY DOOR PRIZE

Bookings essential 0267 321035

History News



Bicentenary Conference 2023: The Spark

Love history and curious about NSW's past? Don't miss this special two-day conference at NSW Parliament House that uncovers the intriguing stories and fascinating figures behind the *New South Wales Act 1823* – the spark that ignited 200 years of Parliament and the Supreme Court in NSW.

Hear from judges, historians, experts and authors as they explore the history, politics and society of early colonial NSW that laid the foundations for 200 years of evolving parliamentary democracy and the rule of law. Includes optional tours of Parliament and the historic St James Law Courts.

The Spark: The Act that brought Parliament and the Supreme Court to NSW runs across 13–14 November at NSW Parliament House (6 Macquarie St, Sydney). Tickets are limited so get in quick! [Book Now](#).



Call for Participants

Intimate Lives: The Ethics of Uncovering Family Secrets

Researchers Dr Ashley Barnwell (University of Melbourne) and Dr Alexandra Mountain (SAG) are planning to conduct a study entitled 'Intimate Lives: The Ethics of Uncovering Family Secrets'. The research project will focus on the

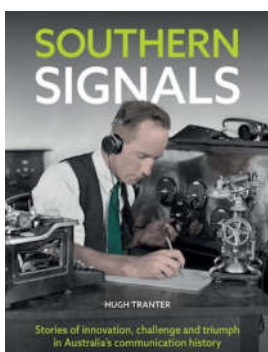
seeking family historians to join our research project.

Have you uncovered a family secret? Do you have suspicions about an ancestor's hidden life?

Did you tell anyone of your research findings? We'd like to know why, or why not.

If you believe your family history may contain secret facets or if you have a keen interest in this area, we invite you to join our project. Participants will be asked to join a series of focus groups, with the potential for individual oral histories. Your stories, insights, and experiences will contribute to a deeper understanding of the complexities that shaped the lives of our predecessors and help to support future family history research.

If you wish to express your interest or learn more about the project, please email Alexandra at archives@sag.org.au by **13 October 2023**. Registration is essential for ensuring we can accommodate all participants.



Southern Signals by Hugh Tranter

From sea-stained dispatches to data sent back from deep space, *Southern Signals* is the story of Australia's use of communications to bridge vast distances through war and peace, exploration and growth.

Communications have been vital at every stage of Australia's history. From the time the First Fleet ship *Prince of Wales* limped back into port eight months after leaving Sydney Cove, to the breakneck rush during the 1970 Apollo 13 crisis to bring Parkes' famous radio telescope on-line, this book shows how adoption (or not) of emerging communication technologies has influenced key events, and formed the backbone of Australia's development as a society and relationship with the world. [Learn More.](#)



Anzac Community Grants Program 2023

Applications are open for the 2023 Anzac Community Grants Program.

The NSW Government's Anzac Community Grants Program provides grants of up to \$3,000 for a range of projects that commemorate and educate New South Wales communities about the service and sacrifices of current and former military servicemen and servicewomen, as well as activities benefiting the NSW veteran community.

Grant applications are open to ex-service organisations, local government authorities, non-government organisations and educational institutions.

For further information and to apply, please visit <https://bit.ly/acgp2023>. Applications close on **Saturday 11 November 2023 at 5pm**.

Other News



Sydney Open call out for volunteers

Museums of History NSW is calling out for volunteers to partake in Sydney Open 2023.

Sydney Open is an annual event that unlocks the doors to the city's most historic and architecturally inspiring buildings. Sydney Open 2023 will provide approximately 6,000 visitors with the rare opportunity to go behind the scenes of architectural sites across Sydney. There are approximately 40 buildings taking part in this year's Sydney Open program on **Sunday 5 November**.

We are calling out for volunteers (aged 16+) to help guide and support visitors at a Sydney Open building. Volunteers are able to choose their own shifts and buildings on the day. To thank them for their help, volunteers are given a free ticket to the event, a certificate of appreciation and a thank you pizza party at our headquarters at The Mint.

This is a great opportunity for Sydney lovers to discover the hidden parts of their city, learn about its architecture and understand its history. Friends and family are welcome too!

Below is a link to our role description and our application form:

- [Role description](#)
- [Application form](#)

If you have any questions, please email SydneyOpenVols@mhnsw.au.

21ST OCTOBER 2023

90TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION

NORTHERN SUBURBS MEMORIAL GARDENS

90TH ANNIVERSARY OPEN DAY

Celebrate the history of our local community

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF ACTIVITIES

Event Runs
10am – 3pm

Entertainment
Market Stalls
Food & Drinks

Free Workshops
and Classes

History Tours
Kids Activities



NORTHERN SUBURBS
MEMORIAL GARDENS

FREE EVENTS

Scan code to find out more about the event or reserve a spot at our free tours, classes and workshops or visit us at: northernsuburbscrem.com.au





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

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The Royal Australian Historical Society

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Our mailing address is:

Royal Australian Historical Society
133 Macquarie Street
Sydney, NSW 2000
Australia

Email:

history@rahs.org.au

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