



Royal Australian Historical Society

Knowing your history

2 November 2023

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George St. near GPO, Sydney [RAHS Postcard Collection]



The RAHS Conference Wrap-Up

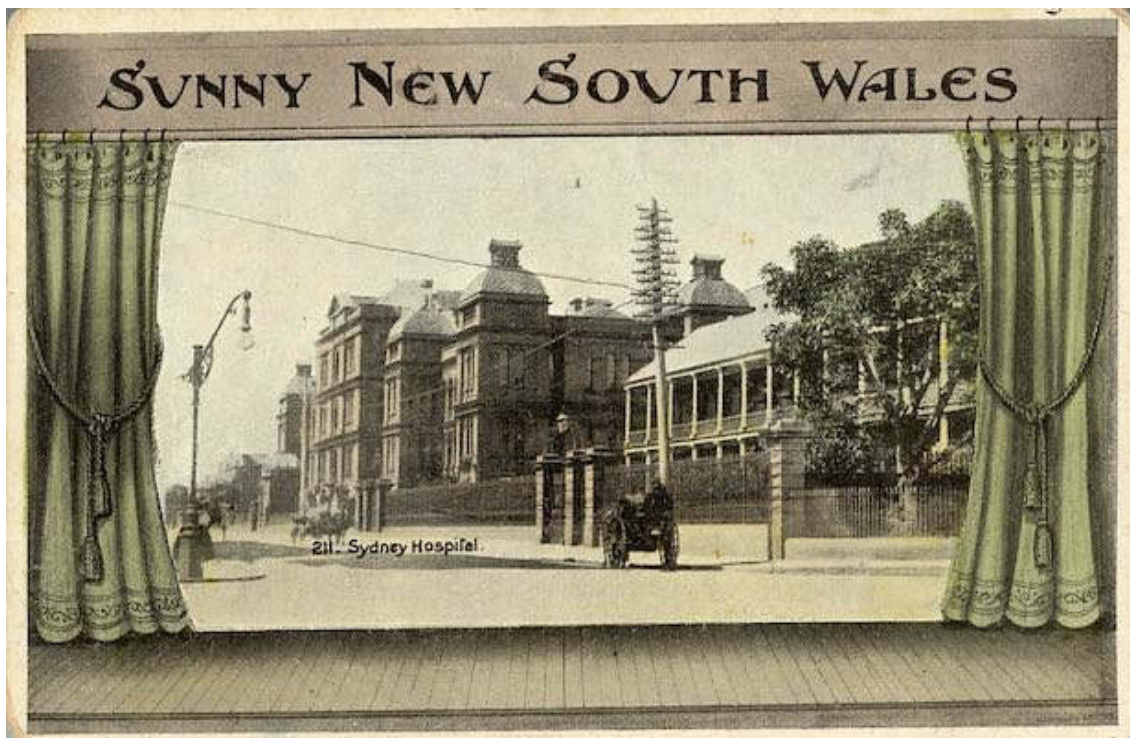
The RAHS would like to thank all the speakers and delegates who participated in the 2023 RAHS Conference at Wagga Wagga. This was our first in-person conference since our 2019 event at Tamworth. It highlighted the preciousness and importance of getting people who share a passion for local and community history in a shared space – and the special moments of serendipity when people cross paths with old friends and discover shared research interests with someone they have just met.

Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society hosted the pre-conference event at the Museum of the Riverina Historic Council Chambers site. Built in 1881, the Council Chambers' beautiful wooden arch ceiling was admired by everyone who attended this event. There were also items on display from the Museum's Tichborne collection – the [Tichborne Trials of the 1870s](#) made the town of Wagga Wagga famous worldwide for this imposter case.

Aunty Mary Atkinson, a proud Wiradyuri/Ngunnawal woman who has lived in Wagga Wagga for over forty years, opened the conference with a Welcome to Country. She spoke of her connection to the area, her work as an educator and the importance of the wider community knowing more about the history and

address. His keynote focused on how local historians are meeting the challenges and realising the promise of new technologies using examples of projects undertaken by the Albury and Wodonga District Historical Societies.

In future weeks, we will share handouts and other materials that delegates found inspiring and helpful for their local and community history projects. We will also formally announce the venue and location for our 2024 Conference.



Sydney Hospital [RAHS Collection]

Lectures and Seminars to Close 2023

Just because our conference is now past us does not mean the RAHS Events Calendar will be winding up just yet. We have a number of lectures and seminars for the remainder of the year!

Starting next Thursday, 9 November, we will be staging [*Preserving Treasured Legacies: A Workshop on Gathering Family Memories*](#). This joint online workshop is in partnership with WEA Sydney, which is celebrating its 110th anniversary in November. This workshop will appeal to anyone interested in

Then, on Saturday, 18 November, join the RAHS and the Museums of History NSW at the Western Sydney Records Centre in Kingswood for our Western Sydney Regional Seminar – [*Unveiling the Untold: Crafting Compelling Local Histories*](#). This seminar will explore techniques and methodologies for conducting thorough and captivating research into your area's local history. The seminar will feature an address by RAHS President Dr Iain Stuart on 'the value and importance of local history' and a presentation from RAHS Councillor Judith Dunn on 'publishing local and community history'. Create NSW funds this seminar to support skills in researching, preserving and sharing the stories of the people and places of NSW.

Finally, our last online day lecture for the year will be presented by Emerita Professor Lucy Frost on Wednesday, 6 December. Lucy's talk will focus on the [*Convict Orphans of Van Diemen's Land*](#). Between 1828 and 1879, some 6,000 children passed through Orphan Schools, and as Lucy will discuss, most were 'orphaned' not by the death of their parents but by the convict system.

We look forward to seeing you out and about, online or in person. Let's close our year with big turnouts so we can start next year on an excellent footing. For more information and bookings, visit the [*RAHS Events Calendar*](#).



Toorale Station, Darling River, c. 1860–1879 [National Library of Australia]

Toorale Homestead and Woolshed Precinct

We are pleased to share news of the recent listing of the Toorale Homestead and Woolshed Precinct on the NSW State Heritage Register. The RAHS Heritage Committee wrote to the NSW Heritage Council to support the proposed listing in November 2022.

The heritage-listed site is located within the Toorale National Park in Bourke. It has been recognised for its long association with the Kurnu Baakandji people and as a representative site for the nineteenth-century pastoral industry.

The Kurnu Baakandji name for the site is Yarramarra, meaning 'tree' and 'hand'. Pastoralism was a disruptive force for the Kurnu Baakandji, who found ways to work with the industry to maintain their ongoing connection to Country. Their work as stockmen, domestic servants and shearers was valued. The listing does not mention whether their labour was unwaged or exploited, which was not uncommon on pastoral stations. 'Non-payment of wages to Aboriginal workers was widespread in Australia. It was especially prevalent on pastoral stations', [writes Professor Thalia Anthony](#).

The site also has associations with two wool barons – Sir Samuel Wilson, who

from 1880 to 1912. The homestead has been recognised for its 'ability to demonstrate early pastoralism and ingenuity in outback NSW'. The woolshed was also briefly the workplace of poet and writer Henry Lawson. Lawson worked as a rouseabout at Toorale in December 1892, which served as inspiration for several of his poems, including 'A Stranger on the Darling', 'The Darling River', 'Bourke' and 'Bosses Boots'.

You can learn more about this listing on the [Heritage NSW website](#).

RAHS News



Transport
for NSW

Transport
HeritageNSW



Image courtesy: Transport Heritage NSW

Over \$180,000 awarded in 2023 Transport Heritage Grants Program

Heritage transport groups from across New South Wales have received more than \$180,000 as part of the 2023 Transport Heritage Grants Program.

The 2023 Transport Heritage NSW Grants Program recipients are as follows:

Capital Region Heritage Rail

Restoration of locomotive 3016 to mainline operations. Awarded: \$25,000.

Sydney Bus Museum Ltd

Restoration of State Rail Denning Coach. Awarded: \$23,650.

Sydney Heritage Fleet

The Kanangra's Main Deck – between staircase restoration plus no. 1 diesel generator restoration. Awarded: \$15,000.

10 Class Locomotives Limited

Axle box, ashpan repairs, boiler inspection and testing of locomotive number 18. Awarded: \$15,000.

Richmond Vale Preservation Co-operative Society

New saddle tank for Marjorie. Awarded: \$15,000.

New England Railway

Completion of internal restoration 635-765. Awarded: \$8,167.

Balranald Southern Cross Inc

Interpretation boards that tell the story of transport history within the Balranald Shire. Awarded: \$12,890.

Sydney Electric Train Society

Repainting of electric Locomotive 4627. Awarded: \$3,909.

Goulburn Crookwell Heritage Railway

Exterior painting of NSW GR Pay bus FP10. Awarded: \$1,887.

Exhibition, interpretation, education or publication**Sydney Bus Museum Ltd**

Book publication: *Remembering the Public Transport Commission*. Awarded: \$10,692.

Sydney Tramway Museum

Digitising the archive of 16mm film. Awarded: \$9,825.

Australian Railway Historical Society NSW

Development of the 'NSW Rail History Trail'. Awarded: \$7,000.

Book publication: *Railways to the Riverina 1855–1886 – personalities, policies and resources*. Awarded: \$8,000.

Audience development, accessibility, and inclusion

Illawarra Light Rail Museum

Accessible toilet facilities. Awarded: \$28,836.

Reminder: Member Contact Details

This is a general notice to all members and societies that you should provide up-to-date contact details to the RAHS as soon as they change. This includes an email address and/or phone number and a postal address for renewals and publications. For affiliated societies, it is critical that we are regularly updated about changes to personnel, postal addresses and emails. To check your details or to notify us of a change, please contact admin@rahs.org.au.

Kind Regards,
The RAHS Admin Team

RAHS Events



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



Western Sydney Regional Seminar Unveiling the Untold: Crafting Compelling Local Histories

Speakers: Iain Stuart, Judith Dunn, Matthew Stephens, Emily Hanna.

When: Saturday, 18 November 2023 at 10.00 am.

Where: Western Sydney Records Centre, 161 O'Connell St, Kingswood.

Cost: \$20 (includes lunch, coffee and tea).

Are you eager to dive into the fascinating world of local history research? If so, join us for this seminar on researching and writing compelling local histories.

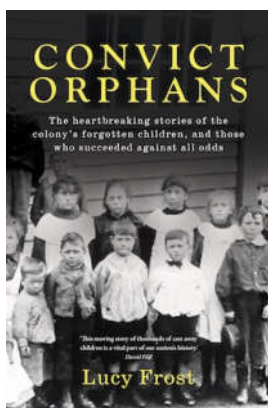
This seminar will explore techniques and methodologies for conducting thorough and captivating research into your local area's history. We will guide you through the process of unearthing hidden treasures, gathering reliable information, and piecing together a narrative that will captivate readers and preserve your community's heritage. You will learn from experienced historians, archivists, and researchers who have honed their skills in uncovering the past.

This seminar is in partnership with [Museums of History NSW](#).

BUY TICKETS



The RAHS Western Sydney Seminar Program is supported by grant funding from Create NSW. The aim of the program is to promote the study, writing and dissemination of Australian history. It aims to develop historical expertise in the community that will support history and heritage projects.



RAHS Day Lecture

The Convict Orphans of Van Diemen's Land

Speaker: Lucy Frost.

When: Wednesday, 6 December 2023 at 1.00 pm.

Where: Online via Zoom.

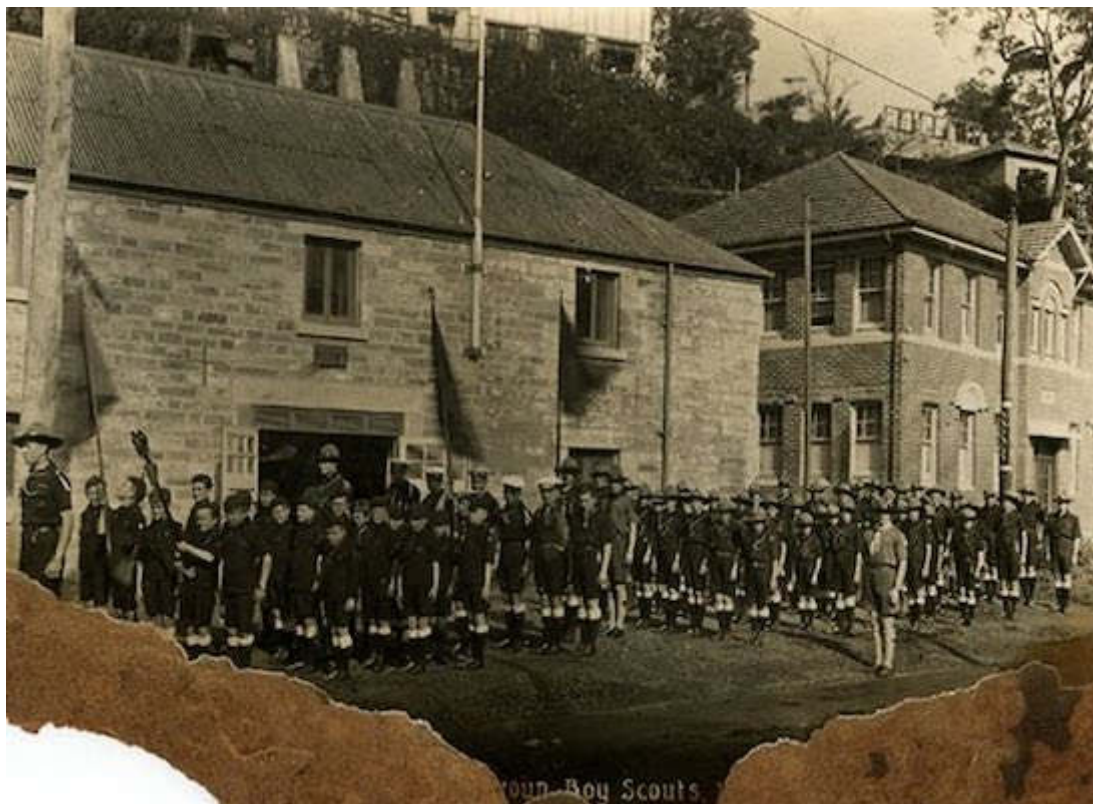
Cost: Free.

One of the largest convict establishments in Van Diemen's Land housed children. Between 1828 and 1879, some 6,000 children passed through the Orphan Schools, most 'orphaned' not by the death of their parents but by the convict system. They were convict orphans. Unless they were retrieved by their mothers or another family member before they were about 12 years old, they left the Orphan Schools as indentured 'apprentices'. During the final two decades of the orphanage, almost a thousand children were sent out as unpaid workers under conditions like those of assigned convicts. Once they turned 18 and were free to leave the colony, many sailed across Bass Strait to make new lives for themselves elsewhere in Australia and New Zealand. Only in recent years have their descendants begun to uncover the stories of these children who concealed from their families the stigma of growing up a 'convict orphan'.

RESERVE TICKETS

Affiliated Societies News

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.

Military History Society of NSW

The Military History Society of New South Wales presents:

FREDERICK WHIRLPOOL VC

THE FIRST VICTORIA CROSS PRESENTED IN AUSTRALIA, 1861



Public Lecture by military historian Lt-Col Rowan Tracey (retd)
10:30AM Saturday, 4 November 2023
The Auditorium, Anzac Memorial Hyde Park, Sydney

The First Victoria Cross Presented in Australia, 1861

Eminent military historian Lieutenant-Colonel Rowan Tracey LLB BA (retd) will speak on the life of Irish-born Frederick Whirlpool, including his actions in the face of enemy fire at the Battle of Jhansi (1858) during the Indian Mutiny that led belatedly to his Victoria Cross for extreme gallantry and saving the lives of colleagues. Whirlpool was invalided out of the British East India Company Army with serious wounds and what would today be called post-traumatic stress disorder.

Whirlpool migrated to Australia after the India campaign in 1859 and tried to keep his experiences secret, before being identified and awarded his medal. On 20 June 1861, the Victorian Governor's wife, Lady Anne Maria Barkly, presented the Victoria Cross to Australian resident Frederick at Albert Park in the colony of Victoria. This was the first Victoria Cross presented in Australia. Frederick died in Windsor, New South Wales, on 24 June 1899. Rowan will also discuss the role ex-British soldiers played in the settlement of colonial Australia.

When: Saturday, 4 November at 10.30 am.

City of Sydney Historical Association



Joseph Banks: A Short History

Joseph Banks individually financed his part of the *Endeavour* voyage, which consisted of a scientific group of twelve. Together with Daniel Solander, they became the first trained naturalists to describe the unique flora and fauna of Continent Australia that had evolved during its 30 million years of isolation.

As President of the Royal Society and the 'Minister for New South Wales', he had a distinguished career and long connection to Australia, but there is more about him that is not in the history books. Historian Ian Burnet tells us the story.

When: Saturday, 11 November at 2 pm.

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

Admission: Members \$5. Visitors \$10.

Parramatta and District Historical Society



Champion racehorse *Jorrock* [National Museum of Australia]

Hoofbeats in History

Judith Dunn OAM is a Fellow, Councillor and Past President of Parramatta and District Historical Society and a current Councillor of the Royal Australian Historical Society. In this talk, Judith reveals many local stories of horse breeding and racing in our district. Street signs, old inns, names of reserves, street art and an armorial crest all point to the history of racing – hidden in plain sight. The excitement of a race meeting brought rich and poor alike from 200 miles around to take part in races, attend grand dinners, lay bets, drink, socialise and buy horses. Rich days of excitement, incident and entertainment were a welcome break among days of often unremitting toil.

When: Monday, 20 November at 7.30 pm.

Where: Burnside Gardens Community Centre, 3 Blackwood Place, Oatlands.

Admission: The lecture is free and will be followed by supper. Visitors are very welcome. Enquiries: jallen6@bigpond.net.au.

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

Friends of Linnwood

THE FRIENDS OF LINNWOOD invite
you to attend an OPEN DAY at

LINNWOOD

on
Sunday 12th November 2023
from 11.00am – 3.00pm
at
25 Byron Road, Guildford

\$5 Admission
(Children under 12yrs admitted free)



**Linnwood – Listed on the
NSW State Heritage Register**



We do not have the facility
at the house or grounds for
Debit or Credit Cards



DUCATI OWNERS CLUB NSW

(Images courtesy of Ducati Owners Club NSW website)



British Car Clubs



including:

Alvis, Armstrong Siddely, Bristol, Daimler, Jensen, MG Restorers,
Rover, Singer, Sunbeam, Wolseley, and possibly others



FB-EK Holden
Car Club of NSW



Antique & Classic
Motor Car Club

(Images courtesy of websites)


For further information:
Email:
friendsoflinnwood@gmail.com
Website: www.linnwood.org.au
or phone
Dorothy – 0412 606 644
Helen – 0409 227 679



Refreshments Available:
Courtesy of The Friends of Linnwood

Display of
VINTAGE CHILDHOOD
Donations from the Friends of
Linnwood Collection
plus items on loan from
FOL members



PARRAMATTA CITY BAND

Session times – 12.30pm-2.30pm
Logo courtesy of
<https://parracityband.wixsite.com>



Coffee cart on the front
lawn near the BBQ

COME AND SEE.....

Community Information Stalls from:

Justices of the Peace (JP) "Awareness Stand"
Guildford Probus
Past Times Tours

A variety of craft stalls & displays including:

Western Sydney Woodturners (northern verandah)
The Traditional Tools Group (northern verandah)
Angel Gowns Australia
Friends of Linnwood bric-a-brac
Guildford Probus Plant Stall (in the grounds)
Lorraine's Handbags
Nitnooy Textiles (scarves & whole lot more)
Other stallholders yet to be confirmed



AUCTION



**De-accessioned museum items
Antiques, vintage & collectables**

Everything from a pipe to a pump organ!

11am, Saturday 18 November

Museum, 247A Comur Street, Yass

Viewing Fri 17 Nov 11am to 2pm & Sat 9am-11am

Cards & Cash payments. No Buyer's Premium!



YASS & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

Further details www.yasshistory.org.au

Society of Australian Genealogists

presents:

In Search of... DNA Connections

**Martin McDowell**

Education officer of the North of Ireland
Family History Society and an admin of the
North of Ireland DNA Project

Mags Gaulden

Genetic Genealogy Lecturer, Blogger, and
founder of Grandma's Genes in Ottawa

**Fiona Brooker**

Chief Memory Officer and Genealogist at
Memories in Time

Louise Coakley

Investigative Genetic Genealogist and founder
of Facebook group 'Using DNA for Genealogy -
Australia & NZ

**Friday 24 November 2023****8.00pm-9.00pm AEDT****Saturday 25 November 2023****9:45am-4:30pm AEDT**

Registration: <https://www.sag.org.au/event-5322521>

History News



RESERVE BANK
OF AUSTRALIA

Pre-Decimal Currency Calculator

today's currency. The Reserve Bank of Australia's online 'Pre-Decimal Currency Calculator' is a useful tool for calculating the value of items from the past.

rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html

This tool calculates the change in cost of purchasing a representative 'basket of goods and services' over a period of time. For example, it may show that items costing £10 in 1955 cost \$174.14 in 1990.



Joint MHNSW and SLNSW webinar series on research

Discover the key resources available to you in the State Library of NSW, and in the State Archives Collection.

Explore a diverse range of resource types including official State government records, published material and personal manuscript collections. Learn how you can access and use these resources to enhance your research.

Presented by Museums of History NSW and the State Library of NSW, this series of four webinars will focus on a specific area of research each week:

- 8 November - [Finding resources about immigration](#)
- 15 November - [Finding resources about convict history](#)
- 22 November - [Finding resources about the history of a house](#)

Online, 10–11 am, Free, Registration Required.



View of Macquarie St with The Astor, c. 1930 [RAHS Collection]

Celebrating the Centenary of The Astor, 1923–2023

Upon completion in 1923, The Astor was the largest reinforced concrete building in Australia, the tallest residential block, and this country's first company title residences.

Designed by architects Donald Esplin and Stuart Mill Mould, The Astor was a visible sign of a modernising city, and provided residents with a new way of city living that incorporated a range of modern conveniences. One hundred years on, it remains an elegant and enduring Sydney landmark.

To celebrate the centenary, a display in the Caroline Simpson Library brings together objects from the archives of The Astor alongside collection material from the library to explore the concept, design, and construction of the building, as well as look at the apartments of several early residents.

When: Tuesday to Friday, 10 am to 4 pm.

Where: Caroline Simpson Library, The Mint, 10 Macquarie St, Sydney.



2024 State Library of NSW fellowships announced

Eight prestigious research fellowships totalling \$236,000 have just been awarded by the State Library of NSW.

‘The 2024 Fellows will bring fresh eyes and ears to a diverse range of topics – from 19th-century Aboriginal histories through to the impact of traditional Chinese therapies on contemporary Australian medicine, and many more,’ said Mitchell Librarian Richard Neville.

CORAL THOMAS FELLOW: Associate Professor Nancy Cushing for ‘Beauty and the Beasts: A History of Animals in Sydney’.

CH CURREY FELLOW: Dr Michael Bennett for ‘Empowering Dharriwaa Elders: Towards an Aboriginal History of Walgett’.

AUSTRALIAN RELIGIOUS HISTORY FELLOW: Dr Matthew Grubits for ‘Two Young Clergymen: Francis Russell and Peter Beamish in NSW’.

ROSS STEELE AM FELLOW: Deborah Beck for ‘Exposed and Composed: Artists’ Models in Australia’.

MEREWETHER FELLOW: Associate Professor Adele Wessell for ‘A Natural-Cultural History of the Richmond River: 1828–1928’.

DAVID SCOTT MITCHELL FELLOW: Dr Nicholas Hoare for ‘Australia’s Voice of the Pacific: A History of the *Pacific Islands Monthly*, 1930–2000’.

DR AM HERTZBERG AO FELLOW: Dr Caitlin D’Gluyas for ‘Archival Archaeology: A Spatial Reading of People and Things in Early Convict Parramatta’.

NANCY KEESING AM FELLOW: Dr Chi Chi Huang for ‘Integrating Chinese Medicine into Australian Public Health’.

Other News



2024 Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship

The Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship gives NSW teachers a unique opportunity to enrich their skills in teaching the history of Australians at war.

The role involves accompanying an engaged group of history students from across NSW, on a study tour to Japan exploring significant sites with a military historian. Travel to Japan will take place in Term 3 school holidays 2024.

Accompanying teachers learn from experts in the field while supporting students in immersive, hands-on, and site-specific educational experiences.

History teachers can apply online by submitting a cover letter, an up-to-date CV and a signed endorsement from their school principal.

Applications close on 4 December 2023

For further info and to apply to be a PAMS Accompanying Teacher:
veterans.nsw.gov.au/pams



AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION Inaugural Public Fund Lecture 2023

CHASS Congress, Tuesday 28 November 2023, Lecture Theatre 200,
Social Sciences Building, University of Sydney, 6.00pm AEDT

RICHARD GLOVER, 'History as Inspiration'

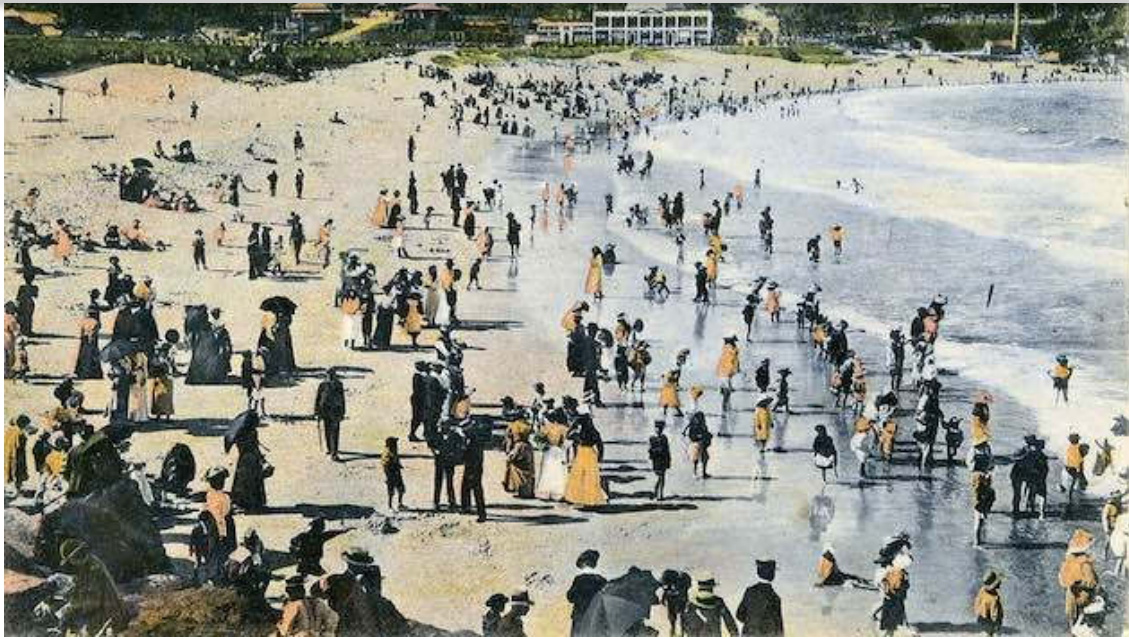
Positive change, it sometimes seems, is almost impossible to achieve. The individual feels powerless when it comes to doing something about climate change, inequality, Indigenous rights and a million other failings. Yet history – both family history and Australia's wider story – reminds us of how sharply things can change. In this talk, Richard will describe the strange, almost unrecognisable, Australia of the 1960s and 1970s, and also celebrate the National Library's Trove website, and how it has given us all the ability to take an express trip into the past...sometimes with the help of our families.

Richard Glover's most recent book is *Best Wishes*, a book about making the world a better, less annoying place, one wish at a time. He is also author of *The Land Before Avocado* – a journey into the bizarre Australia of the late 60s and early 70s – and the family memoir *Flesh Wounds*, which won the Readers' Choice Award as Biography of the Year in the 2016 Australian Book Industry Awards. Richard's weekly humour column has been published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age* for over thirty years. He writes regularly for *The Washington Post* and also presents Thank God It's Friday on ABC local radio.



The AHA Public Fund provides for crucial development and publishing opportunities for emerging historians. Launched in 2022, the Public Fund has already made a difference to the lives of recipients. The inaugural prize winners have reported the dismantling of 'financial barriers to participation' in conferences, 'valuable' mentoring from leaders in the profession, and a significant increase to their own 'self-esteem' as historians. To ensure the viability of these initiatives, please consider making a donation to the Public Fund at this event. All gifts to the Public Fund above \$2 are tax-deductable.

Registration: <https://forms.gle/33Wok3tqRedochpEA>



Coogee Beach [RAHS Postcard Collection]

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The Royal Australian Historical Society

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