



Royal Australian Historical Society

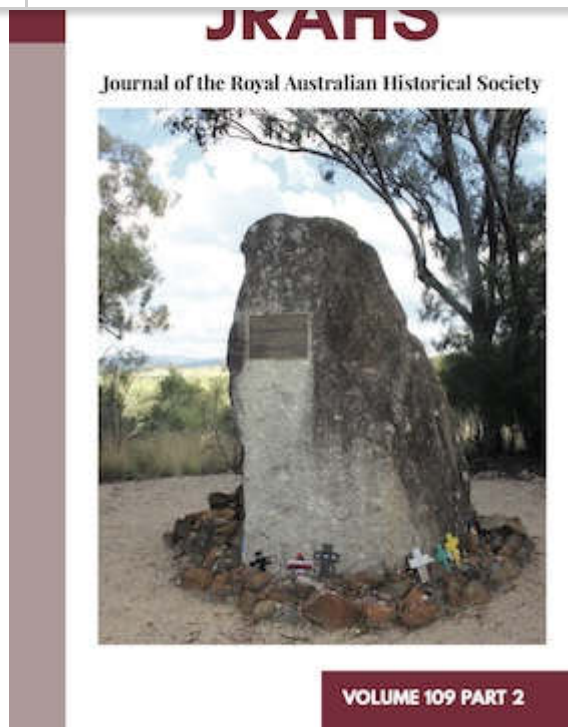
Knowing your history

7 December 2023

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George St. near GPO, Sydney (RAHS Postcard Collection)



Memorial Rock, Myall Creek Massacre Site (Photographer: Richard White)

Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society Volume 109, Part 2, December 2023

The December 2023 issue of the *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society* features four research articles that explore law and politics, sport and race relations, agriculture, and diplomacy. The issue also features eight book reviews on the latest Australian history titles. As Dr Samuel White, our new Chief Editor notes, it is in many ways a transition piece: covering colonial and post-colonial Australian history, as well as marking the end of an era of stewardship. Moving forward, the *JRAHS* will be seeking to grow and change how the Journal engages with history, including a new 'Interpret an Image' part, similar to the *Victorian Historical Journal*.

The issue's front cover features the Memorial Rock at the Myall Creek Massacre Memorial Site, which is where the journal begins. Jim Ritchie's article revisits the abandoned third trial against the remaining four accused of the massacre of 28 Wirrayaay People on 10 June 1838.

Sydney businessman, philanthropist and social advocate Mei Quong Tart is the

given that Quong Tart's former home in Ashfield was honoured with [a Blue Plaque in July](#). Rerceretnam explores how Quong Tart used popular sport to influence anti-Chinese public opinion.

Ian D. Rae's biographical article discusses Angus Mackay's contributions to agricultural education in late 19th-century New South Wales. Mackay wrote several books on bees, sugar cane, agricultural chemistry, and guides to agriculture in Australian settings, delivered public lectures, and was an instructor at the Sydney Technical College.

James Cotton's article rounds out the issue. Cotton considers the contributions of the lesser-known individuals in the Chungking (Chongqing) Legation, whose roles in the mission to open diplomatic relations with China in 1941 have been neglected or overlooked.

This issue also marks a change in the editorial team, as Christine Yeats will be stepping down as journal editor and handing the reigns to Dr Samuel White in 2024. 'It is an absolute honour to address you as the new editor of the JRAHS', Samuel said. 'I am filled with a profound sense of reverence for the journal's esteemed legacy and an overwhelming excitement for the future'. Christine thanked Samuel for accepting the role of editor on behalf of the RAHS.

Scroll down to read Dr Samuel White's vision for the Journal. RAHS members can [download and read the issue](#) by logging into the [Members' Area](#).



Beryl McLaughlin, c.1910 (Blue Mountains Historical Society)

New Blue Plaques recognise 'firsts' and patron of Blue Mountains Historical Society

On 20 November 2023 the NSW Department of Planning and the Environment announced the 14 additional Blue Plaque recipients. They join the 30 plaques already located across the State, highlighting significant people and events that have contributed to our history. Two significant but very different 'firsts' are recognised – the founding of Australia's first surf lifesaving club at Bondi Beach in 1907 and the world's first biological program to control pests – the CSIRO's release of myxomatosis in 1950.

There are eight plaques recognising the State's women. They include Aboriginal midwife, nurse and activist Emma Jane Callaghan; one of Australia's first women wartime journalists Dorothy Simpson McGregor Drain; writer and essayist Charmain Clift; founder and first President of the Country Women's Association Grace Emily Munro and Beryl Mary McLaughlin, one of the first three women graduates of the University of Sydney's Faculty of Architecture. Beryl, an enthusiastic amateur historian, was also a generous patron and supporter of the Blue Mountains Historical Society. The Society is housed in a

Noted artist Sir William Dobell; Symes Covington, who was Charles Darwin's assistant and later the postmaster at Pambula; the founder of the TNT transport empire Ken Thomas and Ioannis (Jack) and Antonios (Tony) Notaras who established the Saraton Theatre at Grafton, where it is still operating, will also be honoured with Blue Plaques.

To find out more, visit the [Blue Plaques website](#).

Christine Yeats

RAHS Senior Vice President

The RAHS would like to congratulate Laura Signorelli on her new role as Senior Project Officer for the Blue Plaques program at Heritage NSW.



Write yourself into history: Legal Deposit at the National Library of Australia

As a member of the Royal Australian Historical Society, you've almost certainly discovered the wealth of the State Library of New South Wales collections as well as those of the National Library of Australia. Perhaps you've whiled away many hours making discoveries on Trove. Did you know that a large proportion of these collections were built through legal deposit?

[Legal deposit](#) is a law which has been in place in Australia in various forms

electronically or in print is to be given to the National Library and the relevant state or territory library in which it was published. Legal deposit ensures that our published heritage is preserved for future generations, providing a diverse and inclusive picture of the nation, capturing what we are thinking, imagining, and writing about over time.

We're reaching out to members of the Royal Australian Historical Society to make sure that those of you who publish are aware of the opportunity to contribute to our national heritage through legal deposit.

Published means an item that is available to the public for sale or for free, for example if it is available to read through your society library. If your work was published in Australia, whether in print or electronically, you need to deposit a copy with the National Library and your state or territory library. Works that are self-published or published commercially are included. You don't need to have an ISBN. If you, as an Australian, self-publish using an international service, your publication is still considered to have been published in Australia.

If you live in New South Wales and your publication fits the above description, you should deposit a copy with the National Library and the State Library of New South Wales. Deposits are accepted in print and electronic formats. Where both formats are available we prefer electronic and we only require one copy. Electronic deposit is easy, free, safe and fast through the [National edeposit service \(NED\)](#). By depositing through NED publications will be available to both the National Library and the State Library of New South Wales.

Find out more on our website [here](#).

JRAHS News



Vision to Members

Bridging the Past and Present: A New Chapter in Historical Scholarship

The Journal of the Royal Australian
Historical Society



Vision to Members – Bridging the Past and Present: A New Chapter in Historical Scholarship

Dear RAHS Colleagues,

It is with great enthusiasm that I take on the role of Editor for the *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society* (JRAHS). As we celebrate our storied history and look to the future, I am excited to announce an evolution in our mission – one that bridges the gap between the traditional and the contemporary, between academia and the world of professional history. I want to try to make history more user-friendly, and to that end, I hope to produce, in tandem with the Journal, a podcast/live lecture with the authors. This will be promoted through the usual social media channels and stored on our website. We also will be taking inspiration from the *Victorian Historical Journal* and publishing a new section on 'Interpreting an Image'.

With the rise of professional history beyond the university walls, we see ample opportunities to embrace a wider community of researchers, writers, and practitioners. Moving to digital engagement with the Journal reflects that whether you are an independent historian, a researcher in a heritage organisation, a curator, an academic, or an archivist, your unique insights and research deserve a platform. I hope to share your experiences, discoveries, and perspectives on Australian history.

Our Vision:

The *JRAHS* has a longstanding tradition of showcasing the best of Australian historical scholarship. Under my editorship, we aim to focus on:

histories, social and cultural studies, political narratives, and more.

2. **Inclusivity:** We are committed to fostering an inclusive environment where scholars, regardless of their background or career stage, can share their insights and contribute to our collective understanding of Australia's past.
3. **Interdisciplinary Exploration:** We encourage interdisciplinary approaches to history, where diverse methodologies and perspectives converge to shed new light on historical questions.

Call for Papers:

We invite submissions of original research articles, essays, and book reviews. Submissions should:

- Engage with Australian history (pre-colonial, colonial and post-Federation inclusive), offer fresh insights, and contribute to the ongoing scholarly conversation.
- Be prepared according to the Journal's guidelines, [found here](#).

All submissions will undergo a rigorous peer-review process to ensure academic rigour and excellence.

Be a part of this exciting new era in Australian historical scholarship. Contribute your expertise, share your research, and help shape the future of our journal by sending a submission to history@rahs.org.au.

Papers will be accepted on a rolling basis.

Sincerely,

Dr Samuel White

Chief Editor, *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*

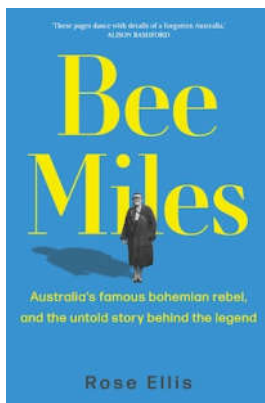
Christmas Close

Our Christmas period will commence on Friday, 22 December, at noon. We will return on Monday, 8 January 2024 at 9 am. The RAHS wish you all a merry Christmas, a safe holiday season, and a happy new year.



Narrabeen Beach, Christmas Postcard (RAHS Collection)

RAHS Events



RAHS Day Lecture

Bee Miles: Australia's Famous Bohemian Rebel

Speaker: Rose Ellis.

When: Wednesday, 7 February 2024 at 1.00 pm.

Where: Online via Zoom.

Cost: Free.

Bee Miles was famous for appearing in public in towns and cities across Australia, breaking their rules, and living, she said, 'recklessly'. But she was no ordinary wanderer. Born into a wealthy family, Bee moved in Sydney's literary and artistic circles in the 1920s and 1930s before she took up residence on the streets. A truly larger-than-life character, Bee constantly defied conventional expectations of female behaviour. Until now, no one has uncovered the real story behind the legend. This first full biography offers a fascinating glimpse into a dark side of Australia's history.

RESERVE TICKETS

Vale



Dr Dale Spender AM (1943–2023)

The RAHS acknowledges the passing of feminist writer, scholar, publisher and teacher Dr Dale Spender AM (1943–2023) on 21 November. Dale Spender was the author of a number of books, including *Man made Language*. She is remembered for always wearing purple, referencing the suffragettes of an earlier age.

Affiliated Societies News

Friends of Callan Park



Friends of Callan Park celebrate 25th Anniversary

Friends of Callan Park commemorated its 25th anniversary on 4 December at Writing NSW at Callan Park. About a hundred people attended its AGM and the party that followed. Former MP for Balmain, Jamie Parker, and current MP, Kobi Shetty, addressed the crowd. Guests included representatives from the Australian Garden History Society, Greater Sydney Parklands Trust, NSW Health and the National Trust. Also present were Mrs Judy Munday, the widow of Jack Munday, and Roger Parkes, the great-grandson of Henry Parkes, NSW Treasurer at the time of the purchase of Callan Park in 1873 – representing personal links

The Friends celebrated their quarter century with a sense of achievement, having defeated major attempts to sell off or transfer portions of Callan Park and Broughton Hall for redevelopment. Challenges lay ahead: Kirkbride remains empty and could fall prey to commercial pressures, and the call remains for modern mental health services. Meanwhile, the Friends continue its advocacy work of heritage tours, exhibitions and publications highlighting the remarkable history of this site – from a landmark Indigenous place to the landed estate, to an asylum for the mentally ill, to a psychiatric hospital, to a valued community asset and major regional heritage park.



Photographer: Annie Smith

Willoughby District Historical Society



Willoughby Museum celebrates 30th Anniversary

The Willoughby District Historical Society Museum is celebrating its 30th anniversary. It is housed in the 1913 Federation-style cottage, 'Boronia', at 58 Johnson Street, Chatswood. 'Boronia' was bequeathed to the Society in 1988 by Sonya Narelle Kirkham, a young WDHS member who was tragically killed in a car accident in 1988. The aim of the museum is to inspire, educate and inform the Willoughby community and visitors and to contribute to the conservation of the history and heritage of the City of Willoughby.

50 Years Countdown:

Join us as we celebrate our 50th year as a historical society in 2024. We will celebrate our Golden Jubilee in March 2024 – the 50th anniversary of our first General Meeting. Stay tuned for more details, but set aside Sunday, 24 March, in your diary. Learn more about the [Willoughby District Historical Society](#).

City of Sydney Historical Association



Are you looking for a long cool drink? Well this talk should whet your appetite! Australian beer historian Peter Symons will provide a brief history of beer and brewing in NSW through the development of XXX beer.

Peter will track the progress of XXX over some 200+ years. XXX originated from English traditions, however, due to distance, world events, and local tastes, the beverage would change and end up in the modern era with a sole survivor in Toohey's OLD.

When: Saturday, 9 December at 2 pm.

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

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

Tall Tales

Tall Tales: Stories from COSHA

Join the City of Sydney Historical Association for a series of random, different and interesting stories from three members in January 2024.

Celeste Radcliffe - The Story of Mary Reiby

Have you ever wondered about the people pictured on our banknotes and stamps? Celeste Radcliffe will tell you about one notable person - Mary Reiby. A picture of her is featured on our \$20 banknote. Mary was born overseas, came to Australia as a convict and then devoted herself to making money and to good works that were an amazing achievement.

Betty Candy - Serendipity: Discovered By Chance

A serendipity is an unplanned fortunate discovery. They are common occurrences throughout the history of product invention and scientific discovery. Betty Candy will share an amazing story she stumbled on by chance. You will not be able to guess just what this is, but all will be revealed in her talk.

the non-seedy side. Our Newsletter Editor, John Edwards, has a wonderful story about his most unusual family, which will be narrated by Ruth Saunders.

When: Saturday, 13 January at 2 pm.

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

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

Royal Historical Society of Queensland



Charity and Culture: Chinese Youth Clubs in Queensland, 1930s–1940s

Join the Royal Historical Society of Queensland for *Charity and Culture: Chinese Youth Clubs in Queensland, 1930s–1940s*, presented by Dr Natalie Fong.

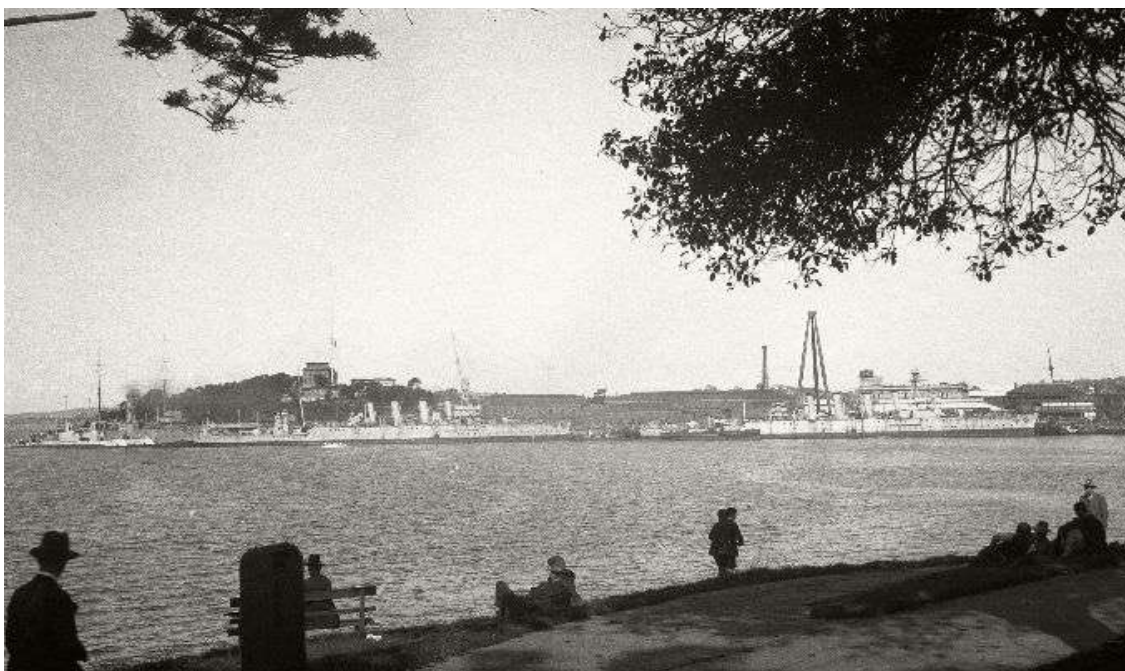
During the 1800s–1900s, Chinese in China and overseas communities organised charitable efforts to raise funds for disaster and famine relief in China, resistance of the Japanese in World War II, aid organisations like the Red Cross, and local fundraisers. This paper will examine Chinese youth clubs in Queensland in the 1930s–1940s and their fundraising activities, such as mounting plays that presented Chinese history and culture to the general public. Such clubs could also be patriotic and political in expressing support for Sun Yat-sen and the Chinese Republic.

When: Wednesday, 13 December at 12.30 pm AEST.

Where: The Commissariat Store Museum, 115 William St, Brisbane.

RSVP: [Online via Eventbrite](#).

Naval Historical Society of Australia



Garden Island, c.1930 (RAHS Collection)

Invitation to Harbour Cruise Program

The Naval Historical Society (NHSA) offers three Navy harbour cruises, so you can learn about the Navy bases and activities from 1788 to the present.

Each cruise visits several locations seen from the water. At the start of each cruise the strategic importance of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) will be covered as well as an overview of the RAN fleet today.

- Cruise 1 – West of The Harbour Bridge
- Cruise 2 – East of The Harbour Bridge
- Cruise 3 – Japanese Midget Submarine Attack on Sydney Harbour

Full details are available on the [NHSA Website](#).

For group bookings (10 or more), contact the Cruise Coordinator at cruises@navyhistory.org.au or Ph: 0412 477 976 / 0451 218 336.

History News

(Name of School) Parramatta
 (Post Town) Parramatta
 (Class of School) 1st
 (Date) 19th October, 1932.

85202:10 OCT 1932
EDUCATION

From (Name and office of writer) (Mrs) Thelma R. Hitebeck. - Mistress.
 To G. R. Thomas Esq. Inspector of Schools Director of Education.
 SUBJECT (brief statement of subject matter, written in red ink) Protest against Unjust Dismissal from the Service.

REFERENCE (Date and Head Office registered number of previous correspondence on this matter)

Note.—Communications respecting different subjects must be made in separate letters. Sign your name at end of your letter.

A I desire to protest forcibly and emphatically against your wickedly unjust proposal to dismiss me, a proved and

Married Women Teachers' Applications

The Museums of History NSW holds copies of 693 declarations submitted by married women teachers for the years 1932–1935 as part of series NRS-12294 Special bundles [Public Service Board], which have all now been digitised and are available to [view in their online catalogue](#).

In 1932, against the backdrop of the Depression, the NSW Government passed the Married Women (Lecturers and Teachers) Act. This Act restricted the employment of married women in the Department of Public Instruction, which meant that currently employed married women faced dismissal and any woman intending to marry had to resign upon doing so.

However, married women teachers could apply for an exemption by completing a statutory declaration every year explaining their circumstances. Most applied on the grounds of hardship, combined incomes being inadequate to support a family, supporting husbands unemployed due to illness or injury (especially after service during World War I), or supporting family members.



The Spark: The Act that brought Parliament and the Supreme Court to NSW

Across this two-day conference, with esteemed experts and special guests, we delved into the intriguing stories and fascinating figures surrounding the NSW Act of 1823 – the Act that sparked the development of Australia's first Legislative Council and Supreme Court, laying the foundations for 200 years of evolving parliamentary democracy and rule of law.

The conference was held on 13 and 14 November 2023, and you can now [catch up on the recorded talks](#) and [download the conference booklet](#).

Presentations included:

- [NSW in the World of Empire](#)
- [The 1823 Act: From Debate to Enactment](#)
- [The Chief Justices of NSW Over 200 Years](#)
- [The Colonial Treasury](#)
- [Law & Justice in NSW After 1823](#)
- [The NSW Legislative Council's Place in the Political Landscape](#)

Other News

Have your say



Have your say: A Heritage Strategy for NSW

Heritage NSW is seeking your feedback to inform and shape the direction of the NSW Heritage Strategy, ensuring it responds to community aspirations in delivering a better future for our heritage.

Your input will help to build our understanding of what is important to the community, key challenges facing heritage and opportunities to address them.

Please share your insights and ideas by [completing the survey](#).

The survey will close on 31 March 2024.



2024 National Trust (NSW) Heritage Awards entries now open

Entries for the special 30th edition of the National Trust (NSW) Heritage Awards are now open! Returning in May, the Awards are the state's biggest and most anticipated celebration of outstanding practice in the field of heritage.

Have you been involved with any projects which promote, preserve or protect

If so, it's time to start crafting your submission(s)! [Learn more](#).

Key Dates

- **Entries close:** Wednesday, 6 March 2024.
- **Shortlist announced:** April 2024.
- **Awards ceremony:** Friday, 17 May 2024.

Who can enter?

Organisations, councils, government departments, community groups and individuals are encouraged to share heritage projects big and small.



Community War Memorials Fund

Grants of up to \$10,000 are available for the conservation of local war memorials.

Applications close 11 February 2024

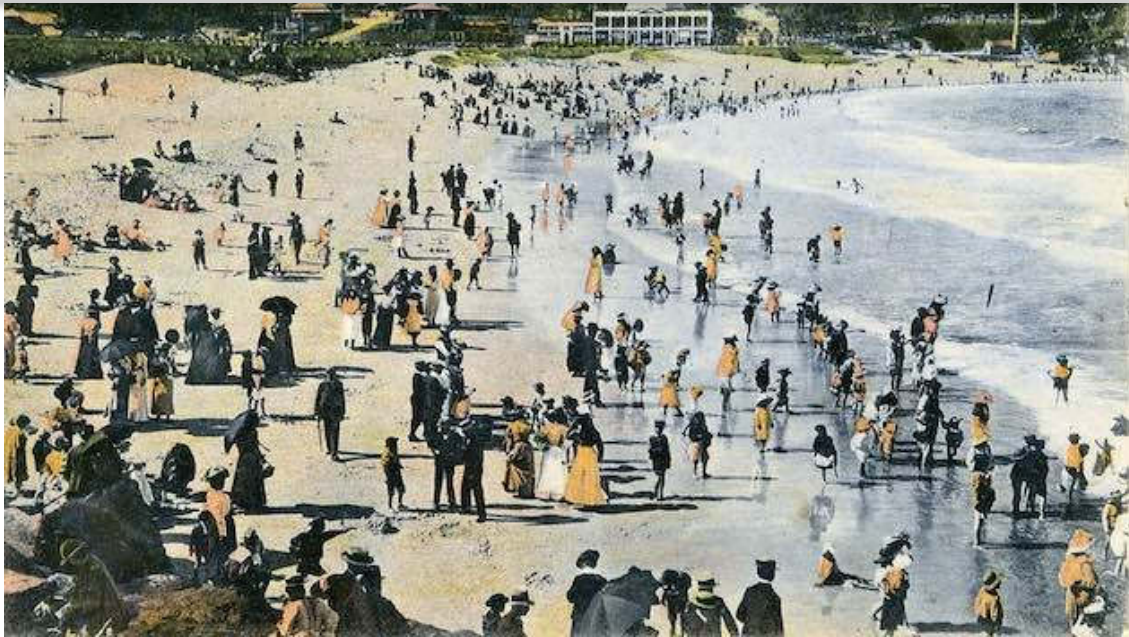
APPLY NOW

veterans.nsw.gov.au/grants

SCAN FOR
DETAILS



For further info and to apply, visit: <https://bit.ly/cwmf-2024>.



Coogee Beach (RAHS Postcard Collection)

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The Royal Australian Historical Society

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