



Royal Australian Historical Society

Knowing your history

1 February 2024

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



Gosford, ca.1900–1927 (State Library of NSW)

2024 Central Coast Regional Seminar

BEYOND THE DIGITAL HORIZON: TROVE, LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES

We wish all our members and friends a Happy New Year! We hope you all had a great festive season and you are ready to seize 2024 with a new project!

The RAHS is pleased to share that we will be returning to Gosford in March to stage another regional seminar with the [Central Coast Family History Society](#). Last year's seminar was such a success, we just had to go back with a new program. The focus of the 2024 seminar will be ways to research 'beyond the digital horizon'.

RAHS Senior Vice President Christine Yeats will discuss researching passenger arrivals to the Australian colonies using the NSW State Archives Collection and the National Archives of Australia. Christine will also talk about making the best use of Trove for your historical research and offer tips and advice.

In a presentation titled 'It's not all online!', RAHS Councillor Adj. Assoc.

Professor Carol Liston AO will use examples from the State Library of NSW and NSW State Archives Collection to outline the benefits of stepping away from the

participants on a 'tour' of the RAHS Library and discuss what makes this collection so special for local and community history.

We would like to thank Create NSW for their ongoing support for our Regional and Western Sydney Seminars Program.

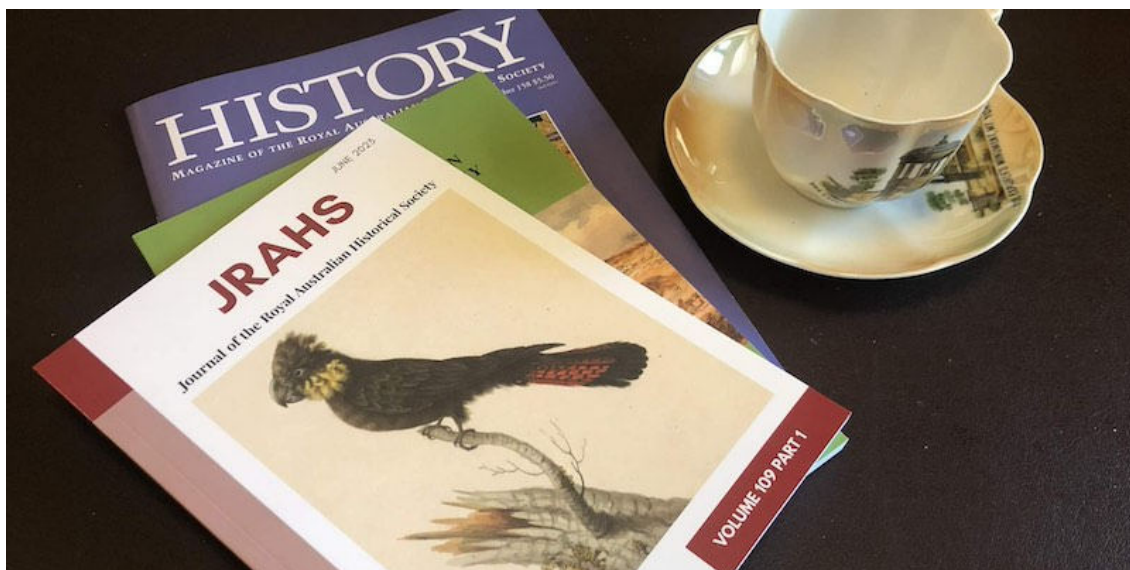
For more information and bookings, visit the seminar website:

www.rahs.org.au/shop/2024-central-coast-regional-seminar/

Be quick, as tickets will sell out!



The Regional and 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



**JRAHS Podcast:
Bridging the Past with the Present**

supporting cast of the Chungking Legation 1941–1942.

We are pleased to share the launch of a new digital initiative – a podcast that features interviews with contributors to the *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society (JRAHS)*.

Dr Samuel White, RAHS Councillor and *JRAHS* Editor, launched the initiative in January. In each episode, he speaks to contributors about what inspired them to pursue their research, what sources and archives they used, and their future research plans. The contributors also share how their article contributes new insights to our understanding of Australian History.

In the first interview with Emeritus Professor James Cotton – *Chungking Follies: The supporting cast of the Chungking Legation 1941–1942* – we learn how family records of letters and photographs can reveal insights into the interpersonal dynamics that impact high-stakes diplomatic initiatives, such as the opening of the diplomatic mission in Chungking (Chongqing).

Professor Cotton discusses the impact of several key employees – Bill Westwood, William Stanley Mew and Edmund Burgoyne. His interview highlights the human element in government bureaucracies and the impact of good (and not-so-good) employee choices that get hidden in more official records. We also learn how a very human story – talented employees who become disillusioned by less experienced and difficult colleagues – impacted foreign policy implementation between Australia and China.

Listen to the full interview [here](#).

We will be featuring more podcasts in upcoming eNewsletters.

contribute history content to the RAHS website, email history@rahs.org.au.

Members can [read this article](#) in the members' area. We have prepared an [instructional video](#) to help first-time users. Please contact us for assistance.



Mrs Lena Campbell strikes the first ball at Port Macquarie Croquet Club in 1953

The Game of Croquet: Sydney Croquet Clubhouse listed on SHR

The Sydney Croquet Clubhouse at Rose Bay was recently listed on the State Heritage Register. The RAHS Heritage Committee supported its listing in 2023. Croquet enthusiasts Lyn Stewart and Dr John Watson contributed the following short history of the game in Australia.

The game, in its present form, has been played in Australia since the late 1800s. A probable forerunner was 'crookey', played in Ireland with a curved mallet. Croquet reached 'craze' level popularity in Victorian times when both men and women played together. The mallet was always, to that point, swung from the side like a golf club. But swinging the mallet between the legs was recognised as providing a superior stroke and so the game, and the outfits, changed. In the 1950s, ladies played croquet wearing long skirts and stockings, and the clubs, understandably, limited their membership to women. The sexism

disappeared.

Clubhouses vary in size and design across the nation. A recent listing of the Sydney Croquet Clubhouse on the NSW State Heritage Register provides a rare example of an Inter-War period split-log building constructed for recreational use. Although the club had been playing croquet since 1922, the clubhouse was built in 1935. The building, within the Woollahra Golf Course at Rose Bay, stands on ground that was part of Captain John Piper's property in colonial NSW.

Vale



Betty Goodger (1924–2023)

The RAHS Council and employees were very saddened to learn of the passing of Betty Goodger on 22 November 2023. Betty was passionate about local history and libraries. She worked as a librarian at the Mitchell Library for many years and used her professional skills in active roles at Bankstown, Hurstville, Kogarah and Oatley Historical Societies. A RAHS member since 1973, Betty volunteered in the RAHS Library from 1995 to 2019, where she accessioned the incoming Affiliated Societies' newsletters and journals, contributed book notes to *History* magazine and helped with general library duties. She served on several committees at History House and was awarded the RAHS Certificate of Achievement in 1996 and 2013 for her contributions and commitment to local history.

Australia Day Honours

The RAHS congratulates the following recipients of Australia Day Honours, who have been recognised for services to history:

For distinguished service to the museum and arts sector, and to conservation and the environment.

Appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM).

Ms Janine BARRAND

For significant service to the museum, arts and cultural sector.

Dr June FACTOR

For significant service to literature, to history, and to the community.

Mr Robert Bernard FRENCH

For significant service to the LGBTIQA+ community, and to history preservation.

Distinguished Professor Anna Elizabeth HAEBICH

For significant service to literature as an author, historian and academic.

Dr John Joseph TAYLOR

For significant service to architecture, to heritage conservation, and to professional organisations.

Dr John Taber VALLANCE

For significant service to education, library services and programs, and the arts.

Awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM).

Mrs Ellen Diane CASIMATY

For service to the museums and galleries sector.

Mr Peter George CHRISTOPHER

For service to community history.

Mr James Andrew CLAVEN

For service to veterans, and to community history.

The late Mrs Beth Mary DAYTON

For service to the museum and galleries sector.

Dr Judith Marilyn MCKAY

For service to the museums and galleries sector.

Ms Janice Helen PEACOCK

For service to the museums and galleries sector.

For service to the community through history preservation.

RAHS News



Celebrate the reopening of History House

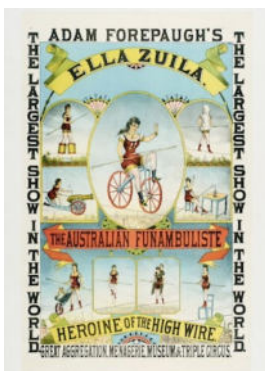
Save the date for a special evening event to celebrate the reopening of History House. We will have more information in our next eNewsletter.

In the meantime, while we make preparations for the reopening, members are welcome to visit our nationally significant research library by appointment. Contact library@rahs.org.au or phone (02) 9247 8001 to book a visit.

When: Wednesday, 10 April 2024 @ 6 to 8 pm.

Where: History House, 133 Macquarie St, Sydney NSW 2000.

RAHS Events



RAHS Day Lecture Ella Zuila, Australia's Forgotten Heroine of the High Wire

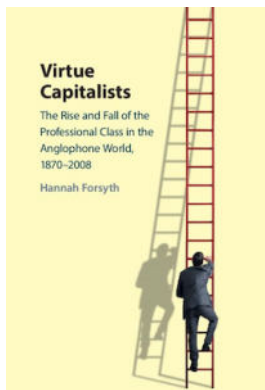
Speaker: Mark St Leon.

When: Wednesday, 7 February 2024 at 1.00 pm.

Where: Online via Zoom.

While Australia has been visited over the years by many circus companies, troupes and performers, Australia has also produced a number of circus artists who garnered international fame. One of Australia's earliest circus 'exports' was Sydney-born Catherine Webber (1854–1926) better known in the United States, England and Continental Europe in the last decades of the 19th century as 'Ella Zuila, The Australian Funambulist & Heroine of the High Wire'. This presentation will outline her life and career and will be richly illustrated with photographs and posters.

RESERVE TICKETS



RAHS Day Lecture Building a Place for Virtue in Australian Capitalism

Speaker: Hannah Forsyth.

When: Wednesday, 6 March 2024 at 1.00 pm.

Where: Online via Zoom.

Cost: Free.

In 1868, Lucy Osburn read a book on board the *Dunbar Castle*, where she and six Nightingale nurses travelled to Sydney to take up their posts in the Sydney Infirmary. Miss Osburn's book was a gift intended to help her prepare for life in the colonies, though 'she was afraid', she wrote to Florence Nightingale, that it was about a different colony. It was very easy to get the mix-up, partly because they all shared a common goal of building a new kind of economy based on virtues that seemed marginal at home in England.

Nurses like Osburn, but also medical doctors, lawyers, accountants, clergy, teachers, charity workers, engineers and even accountants were at the vanguard of moral-economic goals. Working in the 'social laboratory' that was Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, by the 1870s and 1880s, middle-class morality shaped such white-collar professions that were growing

in the Antipodes and in the other English-speaking settler colonies of Canada and the United States. Over the following decades, this middle class invested a combination of financial capital and morality into the economies of Australia and the rest of the settler world, building a model that would take over the global economy in the mid-twentieth century.

In this lecture, Hannah Forsyth will talk about the ways virtue was imagined and built into Australian capitalism, how it went wrong and what has happened to professional expertise and morality in the economy in recent decades.

RESERVE TICKETS



RAHS/WEA Workshop Using Trove: A Beginner's Course

Speaker: Christine Yeats.

When: Wednesday, 13 March 2024 at 11.00 am.

Where: Online via Zoom.

Cost: RAHS members \$35 | Non-members \$39.

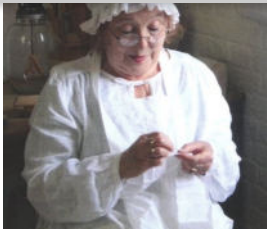
Trove is the place to explore all things Australian. With just a few of keystrokes, we can all enjoy the pleasures of time travel. This session will suit beginners and intermediate Trove users. A handbook will be provided to participants to help them become familiar with the Trove basics before the course.

BUY TICKETS

Affiliated Societies News

Ronda Gaffey

Parramatta Senior Citizen of the Year



protection. Despite her age and health challenges, Ronda dedicates her time to preserving history through participation in neighbourhood organisations such as the Parramatta and District Historical Society and the Parramatta Female Factory Friends. Using her theatrical storytelling skills, she engages audiences with captivating narratives of colonial Sydney, portraying her Irish ancestor Sarah Scott with remarkable flair. Rhonda is a passionate advocate for heritage preservation for the future generations, regularly writing submissions on the value of our local history. Ronda also volunteers her time to help organise and run various events and tours around the Parramatta Female Factory and Hambledon Cottage.

If other members of RAHS Affiliated Societies were recognised by their local councils, we want to hear from you! Contact history@rahs.org.au.

Randwick and District Historical Society



Sydney Benevolent Asylum, c.1840–1850 (State Library of NSW)

**The Sydney Benevolent Asylum: Its history, records and association
with the Randwick Institute for Destitute Children**

its links to the Randwick Institute for Destitute Children. The Asylum, administered by the NSW Benevolent Society, was established in 1818 as a philanthropic organisation caring primarily for Sydney's poor, abandoned, destitute and sick in the 19th and 20th centuries. Many of those entering the Asylum were placed in the Randwick Institute for Destitute Children.

Heather Garnsey joined the staff of the Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG) in 1984 and was its Executive Officer from 1988 until her retirement at the end of February 2020. Heather is an Honorary Member and Fellow of SAG, an Honorary Fellow of the Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra and was the joint recipient of the AFFHO Award for Meritorious Service to Family History in 2015. She holds a Masters degree in English History and SAG's Diploma in Family Historical Studies. In her retirement, she is enjoying having time to spend on her own family history research.

When: Saturday, 10 February 2024 at 1 pm.

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

RSVP (for catering): Ph: 02 9349 3572 or E: randwickhistory@outlook.com.

Military History Society of NSW



'Fighting Mac' McKenzie and Other Anzac Chaplains of WWI

the outbreak of war McKenzie applied for a chaplaincy immediately and joined the AIF, attached to the 4th Battalion. He was one of the first chaplains ashore at Gallipoli. He lugged stretchers and carried water for months on end as well as tending the wounded and burying the dead. In France and Belgium he continued to live in the front line with the troops. McKenzie was at Pozieres, Bullecourt, Mouquet Farm, Polygon Wood and Passchendaele.

What makes McKenzie's reputation incredible is that he embodied almost everything that the typical digger loved to hate. He railed against booze, brothels, betting and bad language, and ran frequent evangelistic campaigns for the Anzacs. Despite these apparent disadvantages Fighting Mac was worshipped and revered by the soldiers – becoming the man who best represented the Anzac ideal. In this talk, historian Dr Daniel Reynaud, author of *The Man the Anzacs Revered: The Legendary William 'Fighting Mac' McKenzie, Anzac Chaplain* will tell Fighting Mac's story and discuss the role and contributions of other Anzac chaplains of the First World War.

When: Saturday, 3 February 2024 at 10.30 am.

Where: The Auditorium, Anzac Memorial Hyde Park.

Admission: Free, but a donation is appreciated.

City of Sydney Historical Association



From First Fleet to the Harbour Bridge:

Sydney's astronomical beginnings

The voyage of the First Fleet to Botany Bay was more than a convenient way to rid Britain of its convicts. Join us as historical detectives on the trail of William Dawes, astronomer, engineer, surveyor and ordnance officer – from his arrival in 1788 until the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in 1932.

The First Fleet was not just for military but also scientific purposes, which is poorly known today. Astronomers were vital on voyages of discovery, because they could cross check the readings of a chronometer – a portable timekeeping device also used for determining longitude at sea – with time measurements based on the stars. William Dawes spent much time building rapport with the indigenous people and was working with a young Aboriginal woman to record the Gadigal language. He was the first European ever to do this. While Dawes was making scientific progress and surveying the stars and streets of the new colony, his relationship with Governor Arthur Phillip deteriorated.

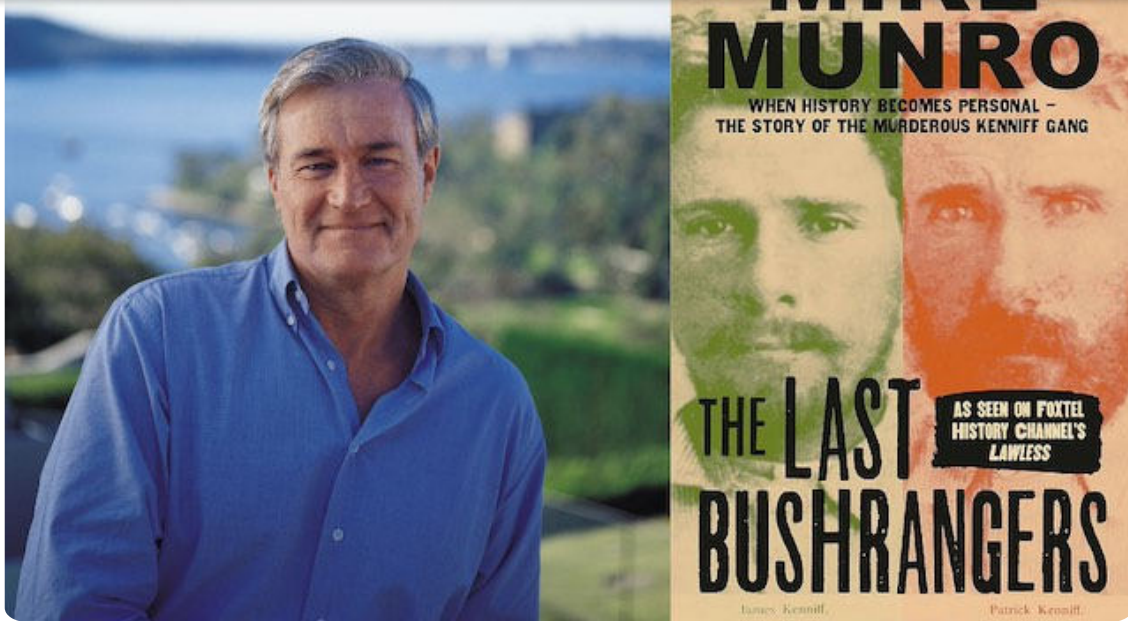
Well-known to us is the area in Sydney called Dawes Point, but how many have heard the story of this interesting man? Hear about him from Professor of Astronomy Richard de Grijs.

When: Saturday, 24 February 2024 at 2 pm.

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

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

Parramatta and District Historical Society



The Last Bushrangers

Television host and reporter, Mike Munro, will speak about his book *The Last Bushrangers* - the story of the murderous Kenniff gang.

The Kenniff brothers were Queensland's most notorious bushrangers. Graduating from petty crime, horse stealing and cattle duffing, they moved on to murder. It was a ghoulish, violent crime. After a massive manhunt, young Jim Kenniff and his brother Patrick were caught, charged and convicted. But were they tried justly and was the right man hung?

Mike investigates the story of these last bushrangers and the circumstances around the murders and the sensational trials. It's also a story that is personal. If not for his grandfather illegally changing his name to distance himself from his notorious cousins, this major figure in Australian television would be known to us as Mike Kenniff.

When: Monday, 19 February 2024 at 7.30 pm.

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

Admission: Free and will be followed by supper. Visitors Welcome.

Parramatta Family History Group

Invites you to join us for our next Meeting

Saturday 3rd February, 2024 1.30pm

Coach House, Hambledon Cottage

cnr. Gregory Place and Hassall Street, Parramatta



Guest Speaker

Kerima-Gae Topp

Presenting



Talking Tombstones Six

Kerima-Gae's 'curiosity' with intriguing headstones has been working overtime and today she will entertain you with more stories from 'beyond the grave', which will include a connection with a legendary Australian sporting 'hero' to a gentleman who thought he was on a ship to Holland, but instead was heading to 'New Holland', an early name for Australia.

View a grave once visited by the famous Houdini, on his trip to Australia. Hear about a man who was the talk of the town but now lies in a pauper's grave, a race car driver who met with a tragic end, two convicts who celebrated two Australian firsts and a headstone of a man which features what killed him. Journey to Christchurch, New Zealand to view a grave of a man whose name is very well known but most locals don't know where he is buried.

A look at symbolism plus some wonderfully crafted Victorian era monuments and its for you to ponder the question ... "Are many of today's machine-made headstones as unique and creative as those from years gone by?"

Please join us for afternoon tea after the presentation.

All Welcome.

The City of Canada Bay Heritage Society



The Afghan Cameleers

After his interest was piqued by a nineteenth-century photo of a camel train in a country town, Ryan Butta found himself on the trail of Australia's earliest Afghan camel drivers.

Separating the bulldust from the bush poetry, his talk reveals the breadth and depth of white

Australia protectionism and prejudice. This gritty alternative history defies the standard horse-powered folklore to reveal the untold depth this country owes to humble dromedaries, their drivers and those who brought them here.

The City of Canada Bay Heritage Society

invites you to join us to hear a talk by

Ryan Butta

on

The Ballad of Abdul Wade

at the

City of Canada Bay Museum

1 Bent Street, Concord

on

Saturday, 3rd February, 2024

at 1:30 for 2:00 pm sharp start

The talk will be followed by light refreshments and a chance to chat with the speaker and our wonderful volunteers.

Admission: FREE

(donations always welcome)

Come early to look around our new displays.

***For more information: www.canadabayheritage.asn.au or
heritage@canadabayheritage.asn.au***

Phone: 9743-3034 (Museum hours) or 9744-8528 (Secretary)

Willoughby District Historical Society

Windsor District Historical Society & Museum

Fabulous 50th High Tea

Join us for High Tea as we celebrate 50 years of the WDHS&M

Sunday 24 March 2024

1- 4pm

Northbridge Golf Club



\$60pp

Secure your place - for bookings contact Judy on 0409 655475

Wear something Gold

History News



DHULUNY

"Truth and that which is direct"

Dhuluny 1824–2024:

200 Years of Wiradyuri Resistance Conference

On 14 August 1824, Governor Sir Thomas Brisbane declared martial law in the Bathurst region. This declaration was the first use in New South Wales of martial law against Aboriginal people.

The bicentenary is an opportunity to focus on the legacies of these events and their consequences for Wiradyuri people, settlers and colonists of Bathurst.

and how they are reflected in the broader history of the Australian Wars.

When: Thursday, 15 August to Saturday, 17 August 2024.

Where: Charles Stuart University, Bathurst Campus.

Call for presenters: Dhuluny is much more than an academic conference and wants to reach out to artists, dancers, storytellers, military lawyers and legal historians, interdisciplinary academics, research students, and more.

Deadline: 30 April 2024.

For more information, visit the [conference website](#).



Old trades make a hip return at Bathurst Heritage Trades Trail

Over 100 artisans from across Australia will inspire the next generation of craftspeople at the Bathurst Heritage Trades Trail from 16–17 March 2024.

Rare and lost trades are making a big comeback as new audiences are drawn to the beauty, passion and health benefits of learning a craft. There's also a trend toward sustainability and hand-made items that are made or mended, not discarded.

This renowned event is a must-do for anyone seeking inspiration and to 'meet the makers' all in one place, with some fabulous add-ons for visitors to explore

The huge two-day program features a fair at the historic Bathurst Showground with stalls, demonstrations, workshops, live music and entertainment. New exhibitors in 2024 include a professional sand sculptor and sock maker, joining blacksmiths, bodgers, candle-makers, Aboriginal tool makers, violin makers, spinners, weavers, upholsterers, furniture makers and winemakers.

Attendees can ride an authentic Cobb & Co coach, crack a whip, learn to crochet, stomp on wine, and hear first-hand from a variety of authentic and unique artisans.

There's also a new visitor 'Heritage Trail' to seven iconic heritage venues around Bathurst. Ticket holders receive 50% off entry to Abercrombie House, Miss Traill's House and Garden, the Bathurst Rail Museum, Chifley Home, Bathurst District Historical Society Museum and Old Government Cottage. Available as a self-drive, or via the free shuttle buses operating both days.

[For more information and tickets.](#)

Entry: Tickets are \$20 (online early bird) or \$25 at the gate for unlimited entry over both days. All accompanied school age children are free. Tickets are valid for entry to both days of the Trail.

Date and time: 10 am – 4 pm on Sat 16 and Sun 17 March 2024.

Venue: Bathurst Showground, 28 Kendall Ave, Bathurst. The free shuttle bus departs from here to seven other venues around the region.

Other News



Australian Heritage Festival event registration now open

The National Trust Australia (NSW) Australian Heritage Festival returns on 18 April to 19 May 2024. Event registrations are now open!

Each year, hundreds of event organisers and volunteers host heritage events for their local communities in the form of walks, talks, exhibitions, demonstrations, fairs, lunches, open days and so much more. [Learn more](#).

Key Dates:

- **February 2024:** Festival program goes live.
- **Friday, 5 April 2024:** Registration closes.
- **Thursday, 18 April 2024:** Festival opens in NSW.
- **Sunday, 19 May 2024:** Festival closes in NSW.

Who can be involved?

All heritage enthusiasts, from local councils, community groups, galleries, museums, historical and literature societies, libraries and universities.



PREMIER'S ANZAC MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

**A unique study tour to discover more
about the history of Australians at war**

- **Travel** to historically significant sites across Japan
- **Experience** Japanese culture
- **Make friends** from across NSW

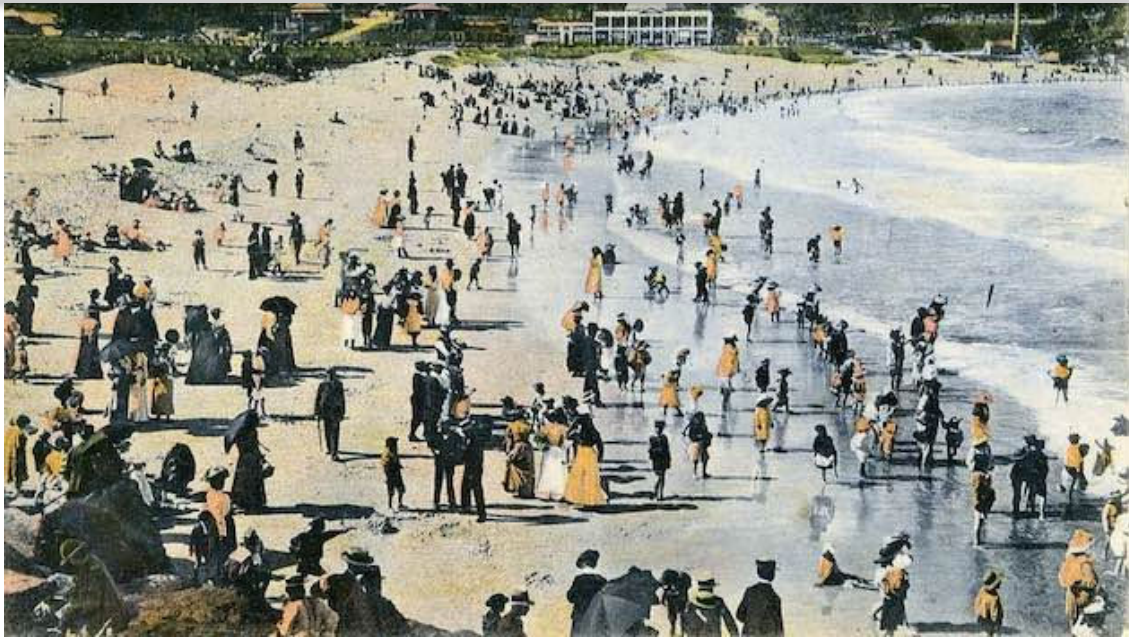
**For more info and to apply:
[veterans.nsw.gov.au/pams](https://www.veterans.nsw.gov.au/pams)**

Applications close 3 March 2024

SCAN FOR
DETAILS



For further info and to apply, visit www.veterans.nsw.gov.au/pams.



Coogee Beach (RAHS Postcard Collection)

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