



Royal Australian Historical Society

Knowing your history

5 September 2024

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Campbelltown Railway Station, c.1916 (Courtesy CAHS)



2024 RAHS Conference - Featured Session ***Windows into Local History: Views of*** **Campbelltown's Past**

Bookings are now open for the 2024 RAHS Conference in Campbelltown, and we encourage you to take advantage of our discounted early bird tickets, which offer a 15% discount.

Campbelltown is the ideal location for this year's conference theme, *Windows into Local History*. Our Saturday program features a session dedicated to exploring Campbelltown's rich heritage.

Stephen Coppins, President of the Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society since 2023, will open this session with a presentation on the transformation of this "rural metropolis." He will examine the key people and events that shaped the township of "Campbell Town" into the metropolitan suburb it is today.

Gavin Andrews, a D'harawal man tracing his ancestry back to Nattaimattagal—Sweet Water—Country, which stretches from the Nattai Valley to Macquarie Fields, will provide a powerful insider's perspective on the Appin Massacre. His talk will explore both the causes and consequences of the massacre, centring on surviving oral histories and Stories of Country from a D'harawal standpoint.

Bob Gosling, President and Curator of the Ingleburn Military Heritage Precinct Association, will present on the history of the Ingleburn camp. He will share insights into the camp's construction, its daily operations, and its heritage significance, as well as the challenges faced as the precinct nears closure.

Conference delegates will have ample opportunities to delve into Campbelltown's history, including the Saturday conference tours and additional sessions that highlight different aspects of the area's past.

For more information and bookings, visit our [conference website](#) or fill out the [online booking form](#).



Through One Lens – Historical Insights through Biography

This month, we were honoured to have Tessa Morris-Suzuki, Professor Emerita of History at the Australian National University, deliver the RAHS Day Lecture titled *A Transgressive Life: Monte Punshon and the Transformation of Australia*,

famously known as the 'world's oldest lesbian.' However, her life defied simple labels. Throughout her century-long journey, Monte wore many hats: a member of a respectable Methodist family; a teacher to children in a travelling theatre; leading a secretive life with the 'love of her life'; an amateur actress; a radio presenter; a traveller; a student of the Japanese language; and even a warden at an internment camp for Japanese civilians near Tatura, Victoria.

Tessa's talk highlighted how Monte Punshon's life was transgressive in terms of employment; of gender identity; and White Australia. She demonstrated how biography can uncover aspects of history that grand narratives might overlook. Biography can also amplify the voices of those marginalised in traditional historical accounts.

During her presentation, Tessa shared material from Monte Punshon's personal scrapbooks—an invaluable resource that gave an intimate insight into her perception of self. Scrapbooks, Tessa demonstrated, provide a unique resource for those looking to research individual lives, including those of family members.

Tessa's lecture drew from her recent publication- *A Secretive Century: Monte Punshon's Australia*. The book delves into the hidden story of Monte Punshon and highlights significant aspects of Australian life during the 20th century. It is available at the MUP online shop—read more [here](#).

GLAM Name Indexes

Search for people across a collection of name indexes from Australian GLAM organisations

Search for records across 279 tables

Search

For more information about the datasets, see the [GLAM data portals](#) section of the GLAM Workbench.

Organisations

history-trust-of-south-australia

382,532 rows in 2 tables

[passengers-in-history-search-index](#), [suffrage125-petition](#)

libraries-tasmania

1,470,044 rows in 25 tables

[tasmanian-births-csv](#), [tasmanian-deaths-csv](#), [tasmanian-marriages-csv](#), [eheritage-data-csv](#), [tasmanian-departures-csv](#), ...

nsw-state-archives

2,429,744 rows in 80 tables

[deceased-estates-index](#), [assisted-immigrants-index](#), [colonial-secretary-letters-received-1826-1896](#), [convicts-index](#), [colonial-secretarys-papers-1788-1825](#), ...

public-records-office-victoria

5,162,537 rows in 6 tables

[unassisted-inward-passengers-1852-1923](#), [outwards-passengers-from-victoria-1852-1915](#), [index-to-wills-probate-and-administration-records-1841-2009](#), [british-assisted-passenger](#)

queensland-state-archives

1,812,972 rows in 114 tables

[assisted-immigration-1848-to-1912-combined](#), [nominated-immigrants-1905-1928](#), [australian-south-sea-islanders-1867-1948](#), [land-orders-1861-1878](#), [teachers-in-the-education-offic](#)

state-library-of-queensland

203,304 rows in 12 tables

[british-convict-registers](#), [world-war-1-soldier-portraits](#), [queensland-railway-removals-1890-1915](#), [queensland-railway-appointees-1890-1915](#), [queensland-mining-accidents-1882-194](#)

GLAM Name Indexes: <https://glam-name-indexes-yajhxrxxsa-ts.a.run.app/>

GLAM Peak Indexes: 'experimental search interface'

Researchers using Ancestry, Find my Past, FamilySearch, the Biographical Database of Australia as well as government archives sites such as NSW Museums of History offer researchers the option of a 'one-stop' search for individuals across multiple databases and record sets for some time. This facility makes possible to save time by locating links to records where the name appears in just a few keystrokes. 'Refine' options help to narrow the results even further.

There is now more great news for researchers looking for individuals in the indexes on the websites of Australian GLAM organisations (GLAM = Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums). Dr Tim Sherratt has developed the GLAM Name Indexes 'experimental search interface'. This means we can locate references to individuals across these collections of name indexes with a single search.

The index is part of Dr Sherratt's GLAM Workbench (<https://glam->

'This is an attempt' says Tim 'to assemble some useful information about Australian GLAM ... datasets. As a first step, I've harvested GLAM-related datasets from the various national and state data portals'.

To search the indexes go to:

<https://glam-name-indexes-yajhxrvtts-a.run.app/>

Next, simply enter the name you are researching. After just a few seconds the results will appear. Click on the link under 'Details' to go to the relevant index on the particular GLAM organisation's website to find out more and confirm it's 'your' person.

For more information about the datasets, see the GLAM data portals section of the GLAM Workbench at: <https://glam-workbench.net/glam-data-portals/>.

Happy researching

Christine Yeats

RAHS Senior Vice President

RAHS Digital News

JKRATS

Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society



VOLUME 110 PART 1

Canvas Town to Tin Town

Interview with Leonie Bell

Leonie Bell – four-time winner of the Bayside Council's Ron Rathbone Local History Prize – walks us through the interesting history of Stannumville and its origins as a cost saving measure during the First World War.

[Listen Here!](#)

RAHS Events

RESERVE TICKETS



Hollowforth, Neutral Bay, designed by EJ Jackson in the 1890s

RAHS Special Lecture

Speaker: Ian Hoskins.

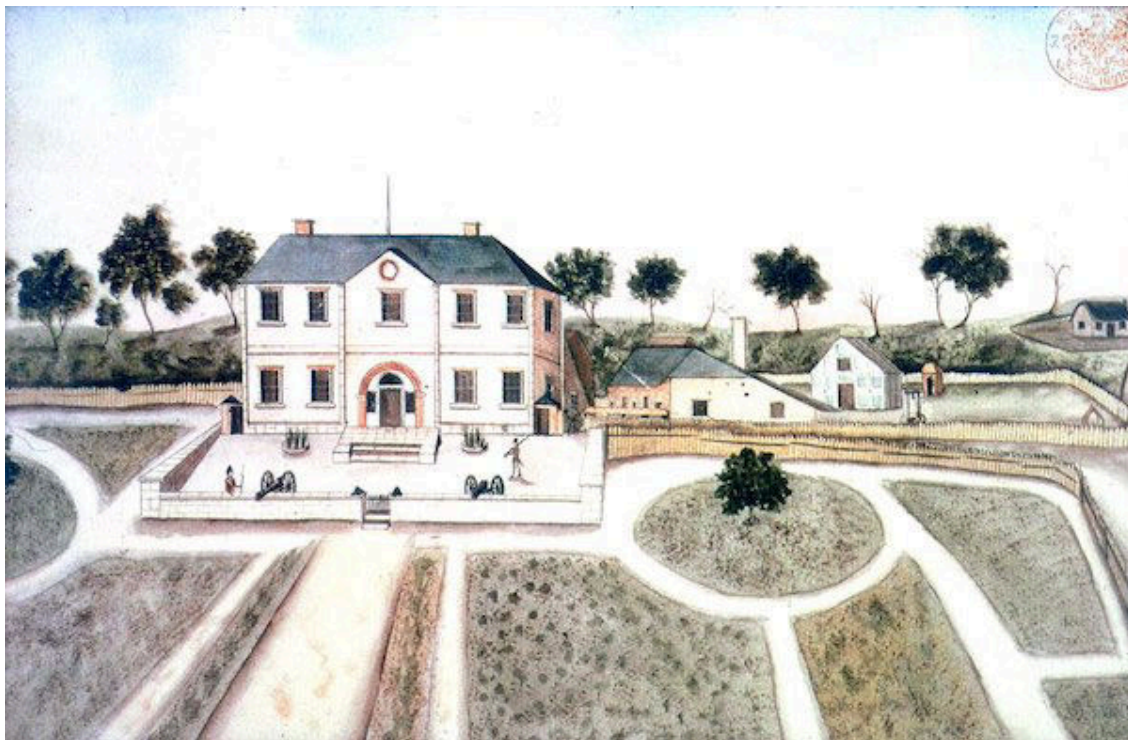
When: Wednesday, 11 September 2024 at 1 pm.

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

Cost: Free.

Delayed development on the north side of Sydney Harbour meant that houses in the waterfront suburbs of Neutral Bay and Cremorne Point were characterised by English Revival architecture, which rose in the 1880s to influence the so-called Federation style and continued into the 1920s. Walter Liberty Vernon, Edward Jeaffreson Jackson, BJ Waterhouse and other like-minded architects and builders left their mark on these suburbs so that they remain showcases of English Revivalism.

RESERVE TICKETS



RAHS Evening Lecture Portable Buildings: Port Jackson to Darwin

Speaker: Miles Lewis.

When: Wednesday, 25 September 2024 at 6 pm.

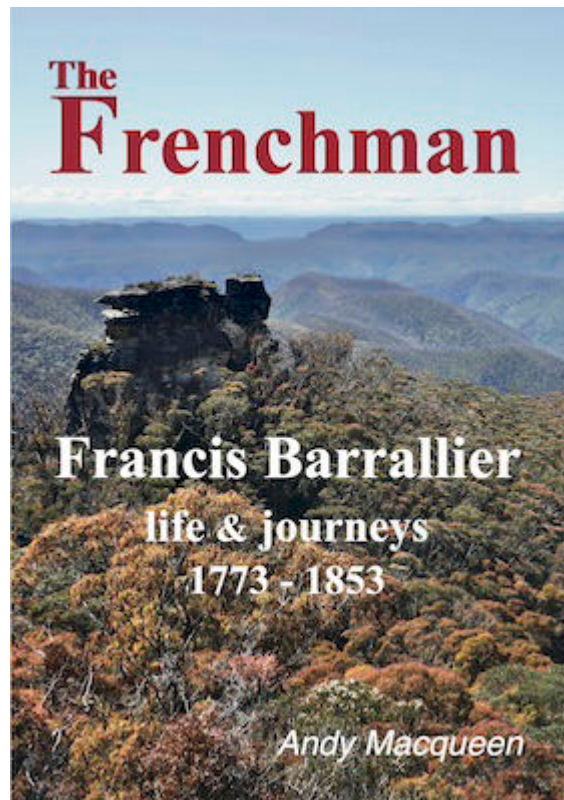
Where: History House, 133 Macquarie St, Sydney NSW 2000.

Cost: RAHS Members \$20 | Non-members \$25.

Prefabrication played an important role in Australia from the first European

Singapore itself), English iron buildings of the 1850s (only one of which survives in Britain), plate iron buildings from Glasgow, like the Legislative Council building in Macquarie Street (none in Scotland), redwood buildings from the USA (none), and others from Germany, France and Italy. Most are of great historical and technical interest.

[BUY TICKETS](#)



RAHS Day Lecture

Mapping the colony: The intriguing contributions of Francis Barrallier

Speaker: Andy Macqueen.

When: Wednesday, 2 October 2024 at 1 pm.

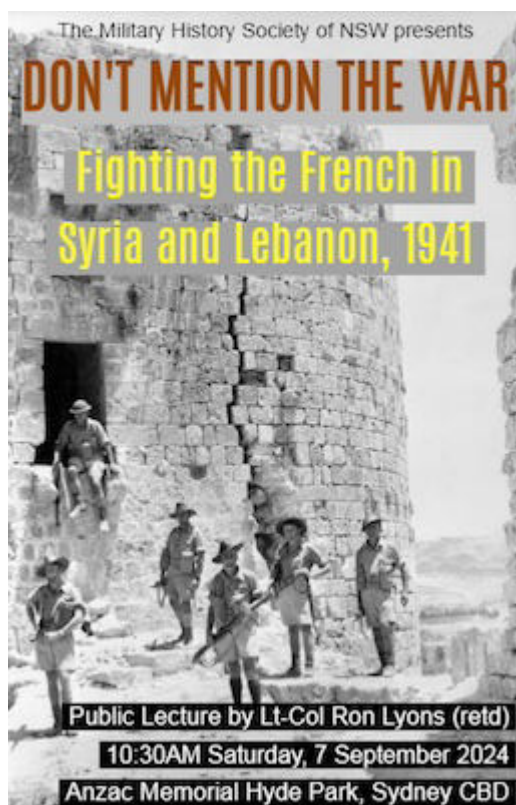
Where: Online via Zoom.

Cost: Free.

The French refugee Francis Barrallier – surveyor, cartographer, engineer and explorer – made significant contributions to NSW colonial endeavours from 1800 to 1803 but fell victim to the feuding between his fellow Rum Corps officers and Governor King. His talents were employed in the West Indies instead. In this talk, Andy Macqueen will argue that Barrallier's French origin and associations influenced his undertakings and his fate in the colony.

Affiliated Societies News

Military History Society of NSW



Don't Mention the War:

Fighting the French in Syria and Lebanon, 1941

The Syria-Lebanon theatre of the Second World War has become the great undiscussed warzone. In June 1941, Commonwealth, Australian and Free French forces invaded Syria, out of concern that Germany may begin using bases occupied by the Vichy French.

Operation Exporter is probably one of the most misunderstood and forgotten campaigns of World War II. It was a complicated mixture of strategic imperatives around airfields and oil, politico-diplomatic manoeuvring, and improvisation with scarce military resources. Lieutenant-Colonel Ron Lyons (retired) will discuss this often forgotten Second World War campaign.

When: Saturday, 7 September at 10.30 am.

Where: The Auditorium, Anzac Memorial Hyde Park.

History Council of NSW



2024 Annual History Lecture and Awards

Making Their Political Mark: How have Australians remembered politics? Professor Frank Bongiorno

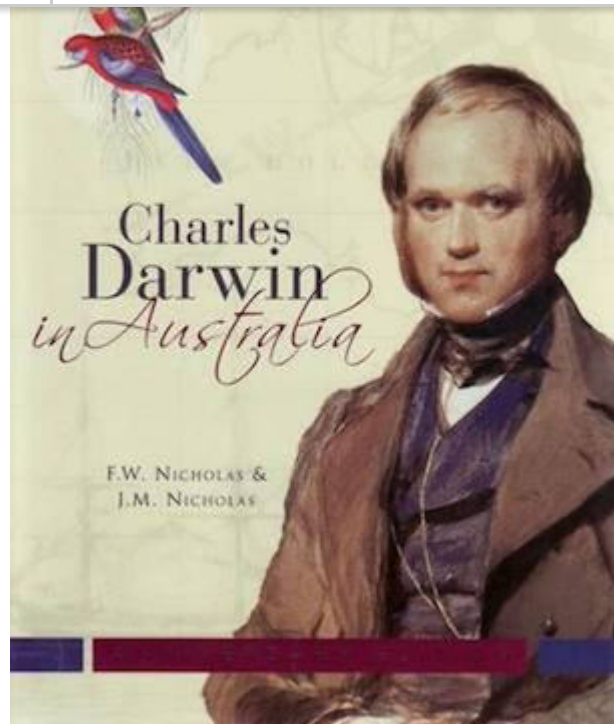
Professor Bongiorno will explore some of the Australian patterns of political commemoration and collective memory. The presentation will draw attention to how historians are recovering the manifold ways that Indigenous people, non-European migrants and women have participated in a political system designed by and for white men, the contestation (and lack of it) over political commemoration, and the need for a fuller recognition of the deep history of First Nations political systems.

When: Tuesday, 10 September at 5.45 pm.

Where: The Auditorium, Chau Chak Wing Museum, University of Sydney.

RSVP: [Register Here!](#)

Mosman Historical Society



Charles Darwin in Australia

Emeritus Prof. Frank Nicholas AM will discuss how Charles Darwin, famous for his theory of evolution, spent two months in Australia during 1836 as part of his voyage on HMS *Beagle*. He visited Sydney, travelled to Bathurst, visited Hobart and called into King George Sound. In addition to making extensive notes on the country's geology and recording some observations on natural history, Darwin interacted with several of the Australian colonies' leading citizens.

Frank is Emeritus Professor of Animal Genetics at the University of Sydney and a Mosman resident. He and his wife Jan Nicholas are the co-authors of the critically acclaimed book *Charles Darwin in Australia*, which Cambridge University Press first published in 1989 and re-published in 2002 and 2008. He was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2022 for 'significant service to animal genetics, and to tertiary education'.

Join us for refreshments and a chat following the talk.

When: Wednesday, 11 September at 7 pm.

Where: Mosman Library.

Admission: Members Free. Visitors \$5.

RSVP: davidcarment@me.com by Monday, 9 September 2024.



"NOSEY BOB."

An Uncommon Hangman

Originally a cab driver, Robert Rice Howard was an Australian executioner. He was employed as a hangman for the colony of NSW from 1875. Howard held the position of senior executioner from 1877 until he retired in 1904.

Throughout a career spanning 28 years, Howard assisted or supervised the execution of 62 persons in NSW. Howard had a facial disfigurement, resulting in the loss of his nose, that occurred while working as a cabman in the mid-1870s. His missing nose and lengthy high-profile career as an executioner led to him being generally known, in newspapers and common parlance, as 'Nosey Bob'. In this talk, Dr Rachel Franks will recount Nosey Bob's fascinating story.

When: Saturday, 14 September at 2 pm.

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

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

Willoughby District Historical Society

My Willoughby

'Reflecting on the past, looking to the future'



**An Exhibition capturing and celebrating
cultural diversity in Willoughby's History**

presented by

Willoughby District Historical Society & Museum Inc.

**Willoughby Museum,
58 Johnson Street, Chatswood**

Open Sundays 1-4pm

(groups by appointment)

Commencing 8 September 2024

Entry by Donation



Willoughby District Historical Society & Museum Inc. Phone 9410 3203 Website: www.willoughbydhs.org.au

Facebook: Historical Willoughby Email: wdhs58@gmail.com

Friends of St Johns Cemetery

HISTORY WEEK TOURS

WITH

Past Times Tours

Walk with the spirits of our colonial past on a:

WHISPERING BONES TOUR

of St Johns Cemetery Parramatta

- ❖ Tour the oldest remaining cemetery in Australia with the oldest headstone.
- ❖ Be enthralled with the surprising but true tales of happenings in early Parramatta
 - Whose bodies were carried to the grave by the chain gang?
 - How and where were suicides buried?
 - Which woman killed a policeman?
 - Why was a funeral service held for a leg?
 - Who was Miss Sportly?

ALL WILL BE REVEALED ON THIS FULLY RESEARCHED TOUR



Sunday 8th September

10:30am and 1:30pm

Meet at cemetery gates at junction
of O'Connell & and Aird Sts.

BOOKINGS 0408 234002 or
Judith@pasttimestours.com

\$20 per head - \$15 Seniors

NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies



FEATURING

Clive Smith

Andrew Redfern

Ruth Graham

Nick Reddan

**NSW & ACT
ASSOCIATION OF
FAMILY HISTORY
SOCIETIES INC.
PRESENTS**

DIG DEEPER IN 24

SAT 14 SEPTEMBER

**AN ONLINE CONFERENCE
FOLLOWED BY ANNUAL
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Power boat racing

Barry is a retired racer and referee for the Australian Power Boat Association.

He will bring to life the fast and exhilarating sport of power boat racing.

The City of Canada Bay Heritage Society

invites you to join us to hear a talk by

Barry Robinson

on

History of power boat racing circa 1920 - 2000

at the

City of Canada Bay Museum

1 Bent St, Concord

on

Saturday 5th October 2024

at

1.30pm for a 2.00pm 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 and look around our new displays.

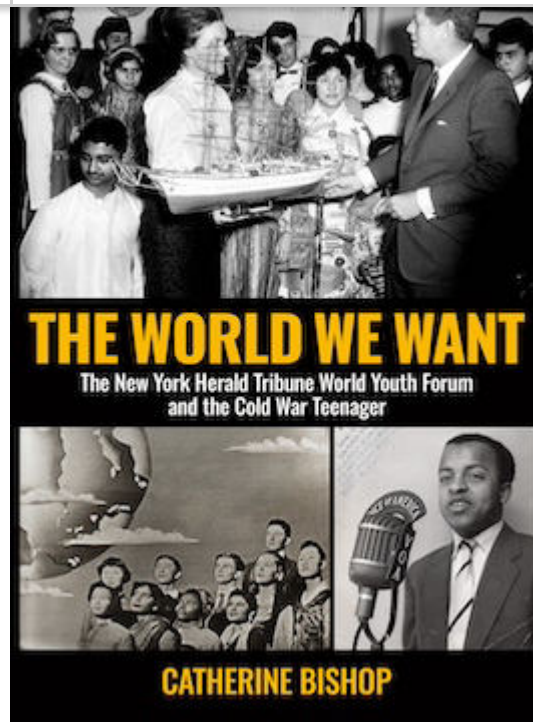
The museum opens at 10am.

For more information:

www.canadabayheritage.asn.au or email: heritage@canadabayheritage.asn.au

Telephone: 9743 3034 (Wednesday and Saturday 10am – 4pm)

History News



Book Launch – The World We Want: The New York Herald Tribune World Youth Forum & the Cold War Teenager

Join Catherine Bishop (author of *Minding Her Own Business* and *Too Much Cabbage & Jesus Christ*) to celebrate the launch of her new book, *The World We Want: The New York Herald Tribune World Youth Forum & the Cold War Teenager*.

To be launched by Diane Kirkby (Professor of Law and Humanities at UTS and a Research Professor (Emeritus) in History at La Trobe) and the author (with Alice Garner) of *Academic Ambassadors, Pacific Allies: Australia, America and the Fulbright Program*. Join us to celebrate over a glass of wine!

When: Friday, 20 September at 5.30 pm.

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

RSVP: [Register Here!](#)

Ninety Treasures

90 YEARS

Anzac Memorial 1934–2024

PRE-ORDER NOW

\$35.00 plus postage



Open House at NSW Parliament

Support the Anzac Memorial and help us celebrate its 90th Anniversary by purchasing a copy of our 90th Anniversary publication!

Ninety Treasures – 90 Years, showcases the remarkable depth of the Memorial's rich and varied collection from colonial times to the 21st century. Within its 144 pages, vivid illustrations and 90 stirring narratives demonstrate the diversity of NSW military experience and the courage, endurance and sacrifice of generations of Australians whose lives have been profoundly affected by war.

Opening in 1934, the Anzac Memorial is the State's principal commemorative and interpretive memorial dedicated to the service and sacrifice of Australians in peace and war. Over the decades, the people of NSW have donated a wealth of artefacts, cherished mementoes and keepsakes to the Memorial from their military service and that of their families.

Preorder your copy now and join us as we celebrate the stories of service and sacrifice of our veterans and their families.

[Order your pre-sale here.](#)

Other News



AHA 2025 Conference

Northern Australia Fellowship

The 2025 Australian Historical Association (AHA) conference is being hosted jointly by Central Queensland University (CQU) and James Cook University (JCU). To mark this occasion, the AHA 2025 conference committee is sponsoring two Northern Australia Fellowships worth \$1,000 each, both of which are to involve research in James Cook University Library's Special Collections. Subsequently, at the AHA 2025 conference, the Fellowship holder will present a paper based on their research. The Northern Australia Fellowship is open to all historians. However, postgraduate students and Early Career Researchers are especially encouraged to apply.

Applications close 30 September 2024.

[Further information.](#)



Commercial Bank, Queen Street, 1880 (Courtesy CAHS)

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The Royal Australian Historical Society

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