



Royal Australian Historical Society

Knowing your history

7 November 2024

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Pitt Street, Sydney (RAHS Photograph Collection)



Reflecting on the Success of the 2024 RAHS Conference in Campbelltown

The 2024 RAHS Conference, themed *Windows into Local History*, brought together members of historical societies, history enthusiasts, and those eager to delve into local history. Held in Campbelltown on Dharawal Country, the event commenced with a pre-conference gathering at the Campbelltown Arts Centre, hosted by the Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society. Attendees connected over drinks and were welcomed by Campbelltown's newly elected Mayor, Cr. Darcy Lound, who emphasised the importance of preserving local heritage.

The conference officially opened with a heartfelt Welcome to Country by Aunty Glenda Chalker of the Dharawal people, whose ancestors endured the Appin Massacre—a significant chapter in New South Wales' history. The site was acknowledged with a [State Heritage listing](#) in 2022.

Emeritus Professor Mark McKenna delivered the keynote Lesley Muir Address, exploring how local histories can reshape our understanding of Australia's national narrative. His insights highlighted the profound role of community stories in shaping our collective history.

In the coming weeks, presentation highlights will be available on our website.

The next edition of *History* magazine will feature the winners of the RAHS Certificates of Achievement and Appreciation, honouring the invaluable contributions of our dedicated volunteers. We extend our sincere thanks to our partners, the Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society, and Campbelltown Council for their support in making this event memorable.



Martyn Killion, Deborah Bennett and Carol Liston (Parliament of NSW)

Launch of the Digitised Settlers' Muster Book 1800

A rare surviving record of European settlers in Australia has been digitised. The 1800 Settlers' Muster Book is held by the NSW Parliamentary Library. Inscribed on the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register in 2021, it is the earliest, most comprehensive record of the colony. Compiled by Governors Hunter and King to establish the demands on government resources, it lists the military, their convict servants, the emancipated convicts and their families in a series of returns. Historians have known the names since the publication in 1988 of the 'red book' – *The Musters and Lists New South Wales and Norfolk Island 1800–1802*, edited by Carol Baxter.

The Settlers' Muster Book is not a complete muster but a series of lists showing how many people had to be fed, how many acres were farmed, who were the farmers, what crops were grown, and who was relying on the government to feed their convict servants. Women and children appear usually only as numbers – one woman off stores, three children on stores – but family historians will recognise the composition of these households. Lists of convict work gangs reveal how the government allocated this labour to build and maintain the colony's infrastructure.

The digitisation is a collaboration between the NSW Parliamentary Library and Museums of History NSW and the digital copy is freely available on their websites. [Parliamento](#) is the new image database of the NSW Parliament. It will include images and archives from the Parliament's collections. Turn the pages of the Settlers' Muster Book 1800, search for names and enlarge the images to see the rough paper, the pencil drafts and the inked-in entries.

[See the launch event online here.](#)

Carol Liston

RAHS Vice President



Celebrating 10 Years of the Transport Heritage Grants at History House

Transport Heritage NSW announced the 2024 Transport Heritage Grants recipients at History House on Saturday, 19 October. The 2024 program marked a significant milestone, as the Transport Heritage Grants celebrated 10 years of helping to preserve and promote New South Wales' rich transport heritage. Since its inception, the program has awarded over \$1.7 million to 47 organisations, supporting 132 projects that bring rail, bus, tram, and maritime history to life. Many local historical societies have benefited from the program. In 2022, the Albury and District Historical Society, for example, received \$4,200 for [*Connecting the NSW and Victorian Railway Systems*](#).

This year's program awarded more than \$180,000 to 14 projects. In a first, more Category 2 'Education, Interpretation, Exhibition and Publication' projects were funded than Category 1 'Restoration and Conservation' projects. This year's projects also represent the biggest geographic reach than in previous years. [Learn more about the 2024 Transport Heritage Grants](#). Congratulations to all the successful projects and THNSW for reaching double figures!

Lachlan Valley Railway

Locomotive 3237's Major Tone up / overhaul. Awarded: \$45,000.

Steam Train and Railway Preservation Society

The 'Train in a Carriage' Project – Stage 2 of 4. Awarded: \$16,500.

Regional Heritage Transport Association

Windows restoration of June's 1937 TAM 505. Awarded: \$15,000.

Sydney Heritage Fleet

Tank removal of the Kanangra ferry. Awarded: \$9,000.

Capital Region Heritage Rail

Carriage AL1040's upholstery finalisation. Awarded: \$8,000.

Education, interpretation, exhibition and publication projects**Sydney Bus Museum**

Digitisation of the Ken Magor historic bus photo collection. Awarded: \$10,037.

Australian Railway Historical Society (NSW)

Book and online publication: *Corowa to Kywong: Riverina Branches of the NSW Railways 1892–1929*. Awarded: \$10,000.

Wagga Wagga Heritage Rail Association

The People of Wagga Wagga and Riverina – Rail History. Awarded: \$14,640.

Sydney Tramway Museum

Interactive touchscreen map for the display hall. Awarded: \$14,150.

Finley Pioneer Railway Museum

Exhibition upgrade. Awarded: \$12,012.

Cooma Monaro Railway

Historical interpretation for the Cooma railway precinct. Awarded: \$13,610.

Murrumbidgee and District Historical Society

Commemorative content for the Murrumbidgee Rail Disaster's 100 years (2026). Awarded: \$4,900.

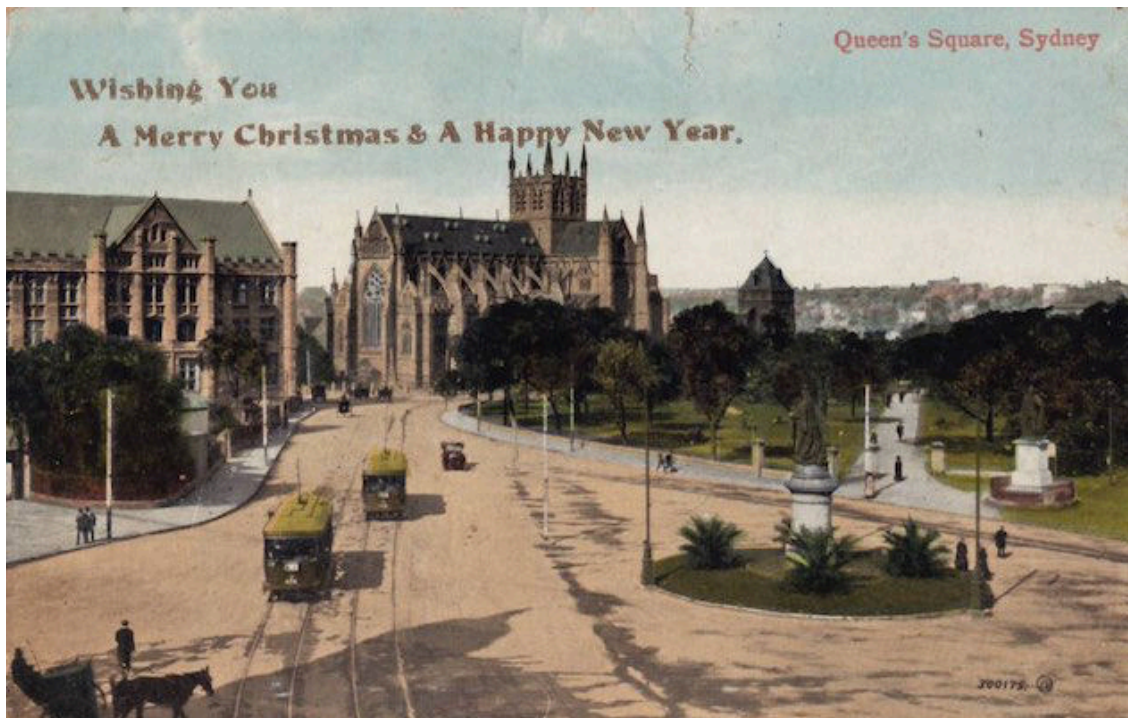
Planning and accessibility initiatives

Heritage management and strategic plan for the rail precinct. Awarded: \$1,485.

The Rail Motor Society

Accessible platform to access and view TAM 503 and BR1395. Awarded: \$15,000.

RAHS News



RAHS Christmas Party

Join us as we celebrate the festive season and look forward to 2025!

When: Tuesday, 3 December 2024 at 4 pm.

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

Our Christmas Party is an opportunity for members to meet RAHS employees, councillors and other individuals interested in Australian history.

For catering purposes, please RSVP by Tuesday, 26 November.

Email: admin@rahs.org.au

Ph: (02) 9247 8001

RAHS Events



RAHS-WEA Workshop Stepping Ashore: Researching Passenger Arrivals in the Australian Colonies

Speaker: Christine Yeats.

When: Wednesday, 13 November 2024 at 11 am.

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

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

Explore the methods and resources that can be used to uncover the records of people who immigrated to the Australian colonies in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This course also delves into the significance of immigration, providing participants with the skills to access historical sources, with a focus on accessing and interpreting ship's passenger records, government archives, newspapers, and personal narratives.

[BUY TICKETS](#)



RAHS Special Lecture
Life So Full of Promise: Further Biographies of Australia's Lost Generation

Speaker: Ross McMullin.

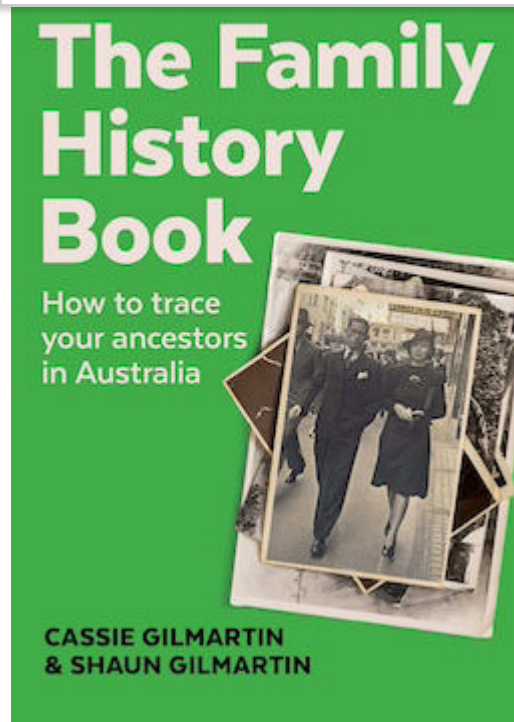
When: Wednesday, 20 November 2024 at 1 pm.

Where: Online via Zoom.

Cost: Free.

Life So Full of Promise, winner of the 2024 Age Book of the Year Award, is Ross McMullin's second multi-biography about Australia's lost generation of World War I following *Farewell, Dear People*, winner of the Prime Minister's Prize for Australian History. Ross has again combined extensive research and narrative flair in another collection of inter-woven stories about forgotten Australians who had radiant potential. With their families and friends also conspicuous in the narratives, *Life So Full of Promise* illuminates what the war was like at home and at the sharp end. It provides insights into the experiences of Australians before, during and after the war, whether they were combatants or civilians, or soldiers' wives or parents.

RESERVE TICKETS



RAHS-SAG Book Launch

The Family History Book: How to trace your ancestors in Australia

Speakers: Cassie and Shaun Gilmartin.

When: Wednesday, 27 November 2024 at 11 am.

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

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

Book Bundle: RAHS-SAG Members \$47.99 | Non-members \$52.99.

Do you wonder if that family legend your grandparents told was true? Or have you never known much about your family history and would like to learn more? Cassie and Shaun Gilmartin will be in conversation with Ruth Graham (SAG) to discuss all things family history and launch *The Family History Book*. *The Family History Book* takes you through the steps of researching and building a family tree, finding records of births, deaths and marriages, looking up newspaper archives and probate records, researching immigration and shipping, examining military records, as well as discovering your story through DNA testing. Whether you're just beginning or have already made a start, this book guides you through all the places you can learn about genealogy in Australia.

[BUY TICKETS](#)



RAHS History House Seminar Writing History: Some Tips and Taboos

Speaker: Richard White.

When: Tuesday, 3 December 2024 at 1 pm.

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

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

How do you turn your historical research into readable history? Historians don't simply 'write up' their research – or let AI do it for them. Writing history is a literary endeavour. This seminar discusses the nature of historical writing and provides some tips on history writing for people who would like to see their research published – and read.

BUY TICKETS



RAHS Day Lecture
A Nation Divided: The Sister Liguori Affair, 1920–21

Speaker: Jeff Kildea.

When: Wednesday, 4 December 2024 at 1 pm.

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

Cost: Free.

When in 1920 an Irish Catholic nun, fearful she was about to be murdered by her mother superior, fled her convent in Wagga Wagga and sought the protection of the Orange Lodge, it sparked a sectarian war that divided the Australian nation. The story of Sister Liguori is a remarkable tale which, if written as a novel, would be considered too far-fetched to be acceptable as a serious work of fiction. Yet it is a true story, full of tragedy and farce with an unholly mix of politics and religion.

RESERVE TICKETS

Affiliated Societies News

Federation of Australian Historical Societies



FAHS Newsletter Issue 56 (October 2024)

Issue 56 of the [FAHS Newsletter](#) features articles on digitisation and the impact of climate change on collections, as well as a report on the Western Australian State History Conference. Highlights include the launch of public Wi-Fi at the Burke and Wills Dig Tree, an exhibition on Melbourne's laneways, the history of early photographers in Victoria and NSW, and the 50th anniversary of the Maritime Museum of Tasmania. The issue also covers the Redcliffe settlement bicentenary and efforts to document a historic cemetery in Macau.

City of Sydney Historical Association



HMAS Australia (II): A History of the Aussie

Kez Hasanovic will talk about HMAS *Australia* (II) – A History of the Aussie, the second flagship to bear the name of our country, which had a very different career from the first flagship. We will find out how HMAS *Australia* (II) faced kamikaze attacks and a crew murder and the story of men who fought the enemy and survived the 'divine wind' attacks of the dreaded kamikazes in World War II. Kez has a lifelong interest in history. Previously a history teacher, he is a volunteer guide at the Australian National Maritime Museum.

When: Saturday, 9 November at 2 pm.

Strathfield-Homebush District Historical Society



Back to Black: The David Jones Family in Strathfield

The David Jones family have strong associations with the Strathfield district, dating back to the 1860s. Members of the family have played an important role in business, architecture, medicine, education, recreation and even the incorporation of Strathfield Council.

David Jones is one of the world's oldest department stores still trading under their original name. It was founded in Sydney in 1838 by Welsh immigrant David Jones and continued to be managed by his family for over 140 years.

This exhibition will take you on a journey through the history of David Jones and their stories and legacy in the Strathfield district. A talk will be held on Sunday, 10 November 2024, to accompany the exhibition.

This exhibition has been developed by Strathfield-Homebush District Historical Society with the support of Strathfield Council.

EXHIBITION:

When: 17 October – 1 December 2024.

Where: Strathfield Library & Innovation Hub (during opening hours).

TALK:

When: Sunday, 10 November 2024 at 2.30 pm.

RSVP: [Register Here!](#)

Mosman Historical Society



Archaeology at Parramatta

Georgia Wright will discuss archaeological excavations at the new Parramatta metro station site that were commenced in 2022 and are now 60 per cent complete. The 23,000 square metre area is being excavated in stages, with work to continue through to the end of 2025. The site once contained wetlands, which provided a rich resource for the Burramattagal people. It is also located in the centre of the early town of Parramatta, which was laid out from about 1790 to 1792. The excavations are providing an understanding of both its Deep Time past and interactions between Burramattagal and colonists following the British occupation of Parramatta in 1788. The excavations are also providing new information about the early colonial settlement, adaption to a new environment, local manufacturing, and the evolution of the township of Parramatta into the city it is today. With thousands of artefacts found so far, analysis is in its early stages. Georgia's talk will explore some of the key findings and artefacts from the site to date.

Georgia Wright is an archaeologist and Sydney Metro's Senior Heritage Advisor.

Join us for refreshments and a chat following the talk.

Admission: Members Free. Visitors \$5.

RSVP: davidcarment@me.com by Monday, 11 November 2024.

Friends of Linnwood

The Friends of Linnwood invite you to attend an OPEN DAY at

LINNWOOD

on
Sunday 10th November 2024
 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



Refreshments Available:
 Courtesy of The Friends of Linnwood

*Eftpos and credit card
 facilities available.
 Cash still accepted.*



(Images courtesy of Ducati Owners Club NSW website)

Anglia & Prefect Car Club
 Antique & Classic Motor Club
 Australian Speedway Riders Association
 FB-EK Holden Club
 MG Restorers Car Club
 Wolseley Car Clubs

Display by the Carnival Glass
 Collectors Association



11th November
Remembrance Day
Photographic display
by the Friends of
Linnwood



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



Paul's Café on Wheels and
 Mr Whippy on the front lawn
 near the BBQ



Images courtesy of websites

Community Information Stalls from:

Friends of Old Government House
 Justices of the Peace (JP) "Awareness Stand"
 Past Times Tours

A variety of craft stalls & displays:

Western Sydney Woodturners (northern verandah)
 Angel Gowns Australia
 Australian Lace Guild
 Friends of Linnwood bric-a-brac and books
 Guildford Probus Plant Stall (in the grounds)
 Lorraine's Handbags
 Mary's Gifts & Home Décor
 Nitnoy Textiles
 Sue's Transport Books (in the grounds)

Huguenot Society of Australia

The Huguenot Society of Australia



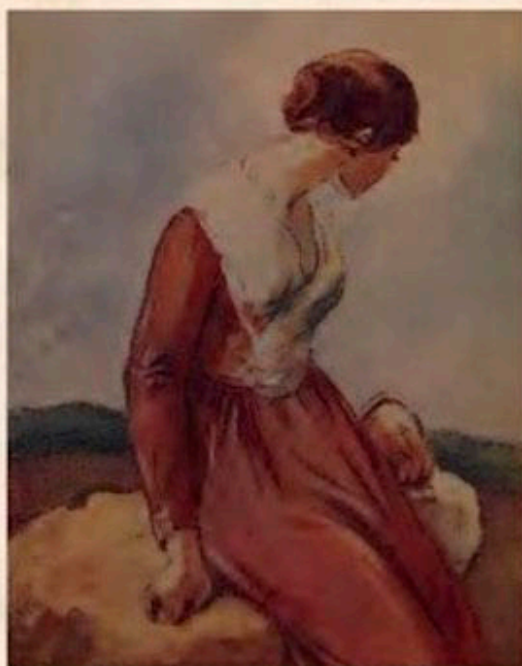
presents

The Unconventional Brownes

or

How an artistic family of Huguenot descent
survived Victorian England

A public lecture by Sarah Staveley



Saturday 16th November 2024 at 2.00pm
Gordon Baptist Church Hall, Park Avenue, Gordon
(near Gordon Railway Station - parking available)

All are welcome. Free entrance. Afternoon tea will be served.
For more information, contact Robert Nash ozhug85@gmail.com
www.huguenotsaustralia.org.au

Parramatta and District Historical Society

**Parramatta and District Historical Society
announces the Speaker for the**

November 2024 Monthly Meeting

The Speaker on this occasion will be

Dr Jillian Comber



Her subject

**“Aboriginal Archaeology & History of
Parramatta”**

Dr Jillian Comber is an archaeologist and heritage specialist, specialising in Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal archaeology, with over 35 years' experience. In that time, she has worked as a Government archaeologist, academic and consultant. She has undertaken detailed research into the history of Parramatta and archaeological excavations that have revealed the Aboriginal history of Parramatta. She was the recipient of the 2022, 2023 and 2024 National Australian Enterprise Award for the *Best Cultural Heritage Specialist* and the National Trust's 2024 Heritage Award for *Outstanding Female Heritage Professional*.

Jillian will provide a presentation on the results of her research and excavations in Parramatta, that reveal the deep time occupation of the Dharug including their interactions with other clans and with Governors Phillip and Macquarie.



TIME and DATE:

7.30 pm Monday 18 November 2024

VENUE:

**Burnside Gardens Community Centre
3 Blackwood Place, Oatlands**

**The presentation is free and will be followed by supper.
Enquiries Jeff Allen at jallen6@bigpond.net.au or 0414 996 497**

Visitors Very Welcome

History News



Makers & Manufacturers: The Industrial History of St George

Hurstville Museum & Gallery Exhibition

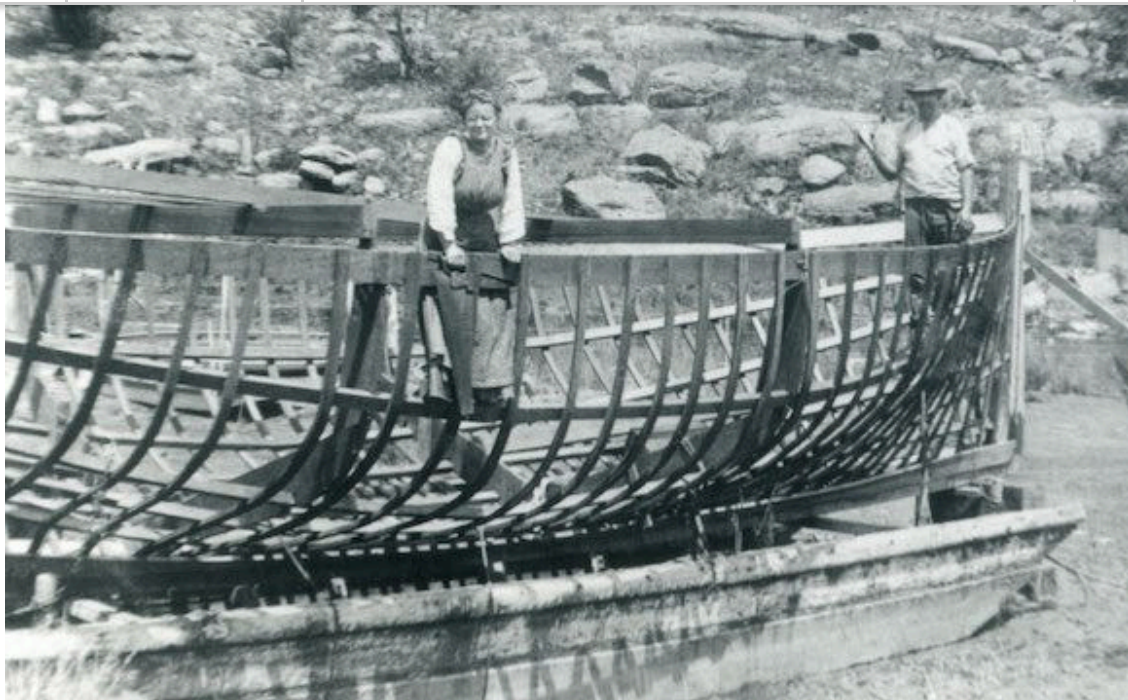
9 November 2024 – 11 May 2025

Makers & Manufacturers highlights the untold stories of the industrial history of the St George region. Incorporating historical material from Hurstville Museum & Gallery's collection, along with loan items from public and private collections, including the Powerhouse Museum, Australian National Maritime Museum and the National Film and Sound Archive, the exhibition sheds light on little-known aspects of the local social, economic and business history of the region. It explores many diverse industries, those who worked in them, and how they have contributed significantly to the development of the St George region.

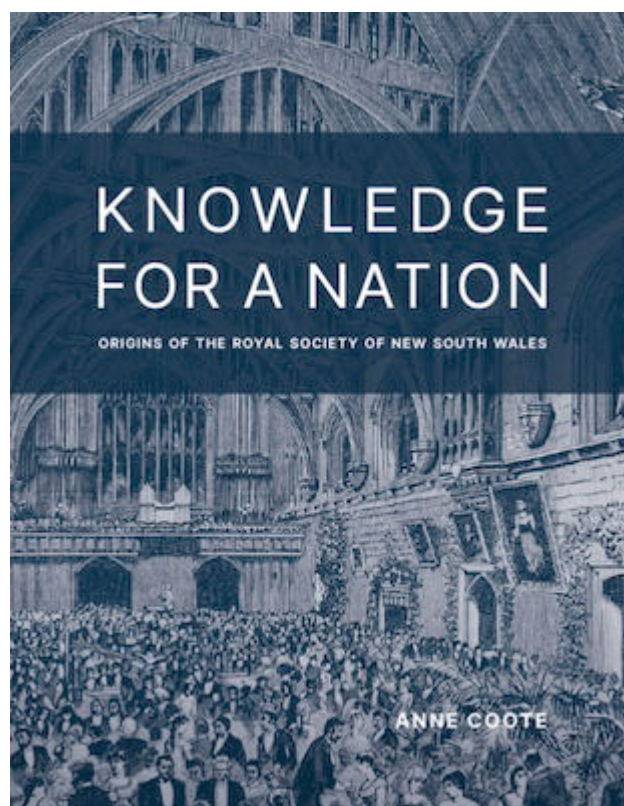
LEARN MORE



This project is supported by the Create NSW Cultural Grants Program, a devolved funding program administered by the RAHS on behalf of the NSW Government.



Boatbuilders, Neverfail Bay, Georges River, Oatley NSW, c. 1912. (Georges River Libraries Local Studies collection, SNR-871).



Knowledge for a Nation: Origins of the Royal Society of NSW

Knowledge for a Nation: Origins of the Royal Society of NSW by Blue Mountains historian Dr Anne Coote tells the early history of a learned society still active in the intellectual culture of twenty-first-century Australia. Hopes and

science, its all-male membership, the women who nevertheless contributed, and the society's glittering 'conversaziones'. The book concludes in 1914 when a visit to Australia by the British Association for the Advancement of Science demonstrated international recognition for the colonial scientific community. *Knowledge for a Nation: Origins of the Royal Society of NSW* is a 320-page paperback volume. It is available from the State Library shop, selected bookstores, and can be ordered from the [RSNSW website](#).

LEARN MORE



This project is supported by the Create NSW Cultural Grants Program, a devolved funding program administered by the RAHS on behalf of the NSW Government.

Other News



Tempe House, 2009 (Donna Newton)

Ron Rathbone Local History Competition: Winners Announced

the official ceremony at the historic Lydham Hall on Saturday, 26 October 2024.

Local historian Olga Sedneva won the open category and received a \$5,000 prize for [*Tempe House: Change of Landscape, Change of Purpose*](#). The piece looked at a new perspective of Tempe House, taking readers through the history of its owner, builder and the artworks associated with the historic house. Olga followed the change in the house through time by looking at sketches, watercolours and paintings, along with written accounts.

Riya Yeshwant-Suvarna from St George Girls High School was named the winner of the high school category. Kodie Mason was awarded Recognition of Effort for the open category and Joshua Osei-Agyei was awarded Recognition of Effort for the high school category.

The Ron Rathbone Local History Competition is a long-standing annual event in Bayside. Established in 2006 and named after Ron Rathbone, past Mayor of Rockdale and avid historian, it aims at encouraging the researching, writing and sharing of works of local history. It has resulted in many new and valuable works of local history being added to Council's collection.

[Learn more about the winning entries.](#)

EMAIL YOUR FAVOURITE OLD PHOTOS
photo@sundaytelegraph.com.au

OLD PHOTOS Insider

John Fern (right) and Giddell (left) on a walk in the Blue Gum Forest in the Blue Mountains in 1966.



GO THROUGH YOUR FAMILY ALBUM AND SEND US A COPY OF YOUR FAVOURITE PHOTO AND CAPTION TO SEE IT PUBLISHED HERE



Tony Hardman sent in this photo of the 1987 NSW rugby league Southern Division Team.



Diana Laguna sent in this photo of her parents Bruno and Adriano Zilli (nee Giaroli) at Treviso Italy in 1958.



During their courtship, Dawn Forkin poses for a photo on Niels Williams' Harley Davidson at West Leederville in WA in the late 1990s. Sent in by their daughter Diane Roberts.



When Eliza Givard, of Norwich, England, turned 100 in April 1952, the occasion made the headlines of her local newspaper. Special mention was made of the fact that 90 out of Eliza's 94 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren were living in Australia. Photo sent by Eliza's great-granddaughter Judy Saunders.



Stacey Plange loves this photo of her mum Joan McCabe (nee Donsett, centre) and the other "pigeon" ladies from the Maroubra S.L.S. Social Club in 1958.



Cyril and Eva Pyle from Matraville on their wedding day on February 17, 1943. Sent in by Graham Pyle.

Call for Photos: Sunday Telegraph

The Sunday Telegraph is searching for old photos for its page to showcase what life was like before the 1960s. They are happy to credit any historical society they come from in print to draw attention to your institution.

If you have any photos you think would suit this criteria, please send them to photo@dailytelegraph.com.au.



Anzac Community Grants Program

APPLY NOW



Anzac Community Grants Program 2024

Applications for the 2024 Anzac Community Grants Program are now open!

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

Individuals and not-for-profit organisations, including local governments, ex-service organisations, and educational institutions, are eligible to apply.

Applications close on 11 November 2024.

For further information and to apply, please visit veterans.nsw.gov.au/ACGP



A unique opportunity to explore Australia's wartime history with students in the Republic of Korea and Singapore.

APPLY NOW



Apply to be an Accompanying Teacher on the 2025 Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship

Applications for Accompanying Teachers on the 2025 Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship tour are now open!

Eligible NSW History teachers have the chance to travel to the Republic of Korea and Singapore during the 2025 Term 3 school holidays, accompanying a group of highly engaged NSW high school History students on a study tour.

Joined by a military historian, the tour includes visits to significant historical sites, memorials, and war graves to learn about and commemorate the service and sacrifice of Australian men and women.

This unique experience provides an unparalleled opportunity for professional development and the chance to support students' knowledge and understanding of the history of Australians at war through immersive, hands-on, and site-specific learning.

Apply now: www.veterans.nsw.gov.au/pams-teachers

Applications close on 25 November 2024.



Hyde Park from Liverpool Street, Sydney (RAHS Photograph Collection)

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The Royal Australian Historical Society

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