



Royal Australian Historical Society

Knowing your history

12 December 2024

[View this RAHS email in your browser](#)



Pitt Street, Sydney (RAHS Photograph Collection)



RAHS Honours – Joy Hughes

The Royal Australian Historical Society recognises significant contributions to Australian History and the work of the Society through the award of a Fellowship. In 2024, the Society recognised the work of Joy Hughes.

Joy Hughes joined the Royal Australian Historical Society in 1973. A founding member of the Professional Historians Association NSW, as a freelance historian she has undertaken historical work for the National Trust (NSW), architects, lawyers and business groups. For a number of years, she was a contract historian for the Historic Houses Trust (now Museums of History NSW), where her research is held in the Caroline Simpson Library.

Her publications on Australian History include co-authoring with Christine Eslick and R. Ian Jack *Bibliography of New South Wales local history: an annotated bibliography of secondary works published before 1982* (1987); with James Broadbent *For the public good: crimes, follies and misfortunes, demolished houses of New South Wales* (1988), *The Age of Macquarie* (1992), *Francis Greenway architect* (1997); with Beverley Earnshaw (eds.) *Fanny to William: the letters of Frances Leonora Macleay 1812–1836* (1993); with Peter

(2002). She is currently preparing her Master of Arts Honours dissertation on Hyde Park Asylum for infirm and destitute women 1862–1886 for a book.

Joy's contribution to the work of the Royal Australian Historical Society has been outstanding. As a regular member of the Library Committee for many years, her knowledge of the collection is unrivalled. From 2012 until 2022, she was the proofreader and reference checker for the Society's journal.

In 1989, Joy led an RAHS project to identify surviving local government records. The resulting publication, Hughes (ed.) *Local government ... local history: a guide to NSW local government minute books and rate records* (1990), for the first time established the locations of rescued historical records. More recently, Joy volunteered her time as author, editor and picture researcher with Carol Liston and Christine Wright for the RAHS publication *Playing their Part: Vice-Regal Consorts of New South Wales 1788–2019*.

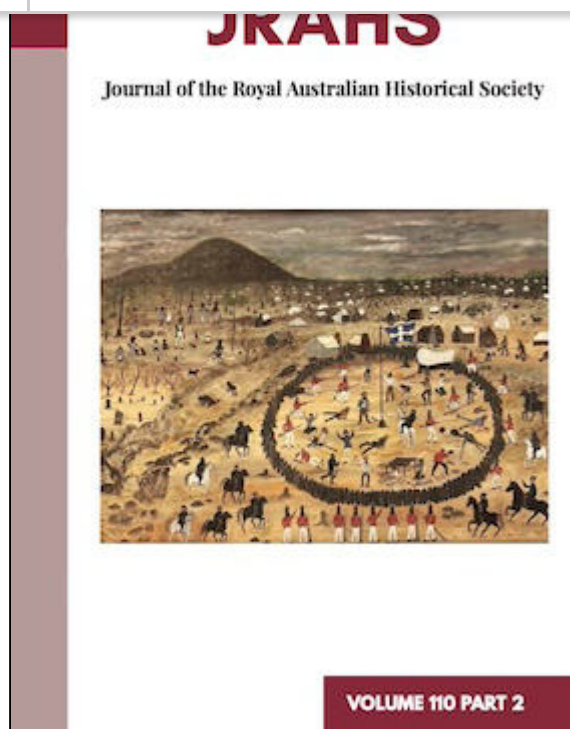


Thank you for your support in 2024

and friends who supported the RAHS in 2024. The support we receive from you helps us to continue our work promoting the study of Australian History.

This year has been a whirlwind for the RAHS. In January, we announced changes to the History House Project due to increasing building costs and the challenges of raising finances. The project has since been re-focused and the building reopened. In May, we held our first in-person event in the building since 2020. Since then, we have continued to hold events in-person and online, including the afternoon 'day' and 'special' lectures, book launches, and evening events. We had another successful conference this year in Campbelltown. We have also seen an increase in visitors to the RAHS Library. On the digital front, we have continued to release new lecture recordings on our [YouTube Channel](#), grown our social media reach, and launched the [JRAHS Podcast](#) to showcase research from the journal's contributors. The RAHS has also advocated for changes to reporting income tax for not-for-profits, and the Heritage Committee continues to support new listings on the State Heritage Register.

We are looking forward to bringing you more Australian History content in 2025. We hope you have a Merry Christmas and a safe summer break.



An Evening with the Journal: Celebrating the JRAHS's Past and Future

Join us for an evening event at History House on 25 February to celebrate the storied past of the *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society* (JRAHS), an essential outlet for Australian History research since 1906.

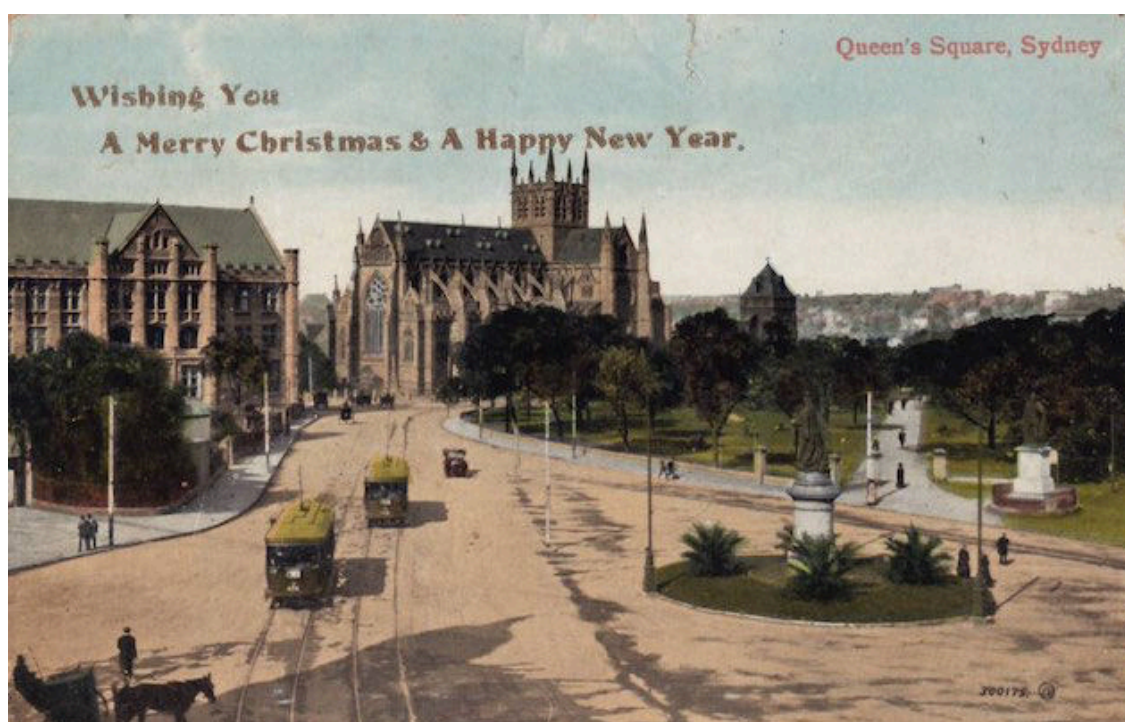
This event, chaired by Dr Samuel White, the Editor of JRAHS, will highlight the journal's history and provide a platform for engaging discussions with some of its past contributors. It's a unique opportunity to connect with fellow history enthusiasts, potential authors, and dedicated members of the RAHS. The Editor will provide an introduction to the journal, followed by a panel of contributors who will share their historical research methods and inspirations.

Whether you are a long-time supporter or new to historical research, we welcome you to celebrate with us and explore the journey of a journal that has continually shaped the understanding of Australian History.

RESERVE TICKETS

JRAHS Vol. 110 Pt. 2 is now online and available for members to download from the website's members' area. This issue features four research articles, an interpreting an image essay, and book reviews. [Read the abstracts here.](#)

RAHS News



RAHS Key Dates

2024 CHRISTMAS CLOSE

History House will be closed from 12 pm, Friday, 20 December 2024, to Tuesday, 14 January 2025. RAHS employees will return on Monday, 6 January, but will work remotely until Tuesday, 14 January 2025.

2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the RAHS Annual General Meeting will be held at 6 pm on Tuesday, 15 April 2025. Any financial member is entitled to attend and vote. A member may appoint a proxy to attend and vote in their stead. The proxy must be a financial member of the Society at the time of voting.

Members wishing to submit notices of motions to be included in the agenda should submit them in writing by 4 pm on 17 February 2025.

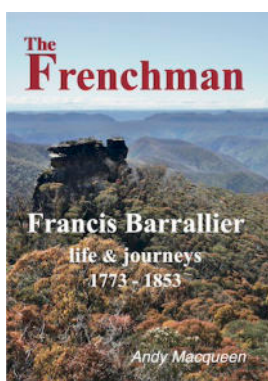
2025 RAHS COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

By order of the Council, members are invited to nominate candidates for election to the Council. Nominations must be signed by two financial members

A candidate may supply a factual statement as instructed on the nomination form. Only financial members of the Society are eligible to be nominated. Only those members who are financial at the close of nominations are eligible to vote. [Contact the RAHS](#) for a nomination form.

Under the RAHS Constitution passed in 2013, of the 12 positions on the Council, only four are available for election in 2025. These will have 3-year terms. Full details may be obtained from [the Constitution](#).

RAHS Digital News



Mapping the Colony: The Intriguing Contributions of Francis Barrallier

Presented by Andy Macqueen OAM

Andy Macqueen was our guest speaker in October. Andy spoke about the contributions of Francis Barrallier to NSW between 1800 and 1803.

[Catch up on YouTube!](#)



The Antipodean Laboratory: Re-reading the Colonial Archive

Presented by Prof. Anna Johnston

Anna Johnston was our guest speaker in November. Anna spoke about how colonial knowledge influenced global thinking about convicts, natural history and humanitarian concerns about Indigenous peoples.

[Catch up on YouTube!](#)

RAHS Events



RAHS Day Lecture
Joy Howarth: Australia's Forgotten Film Star

Speaker: Camille Scaysbrook.

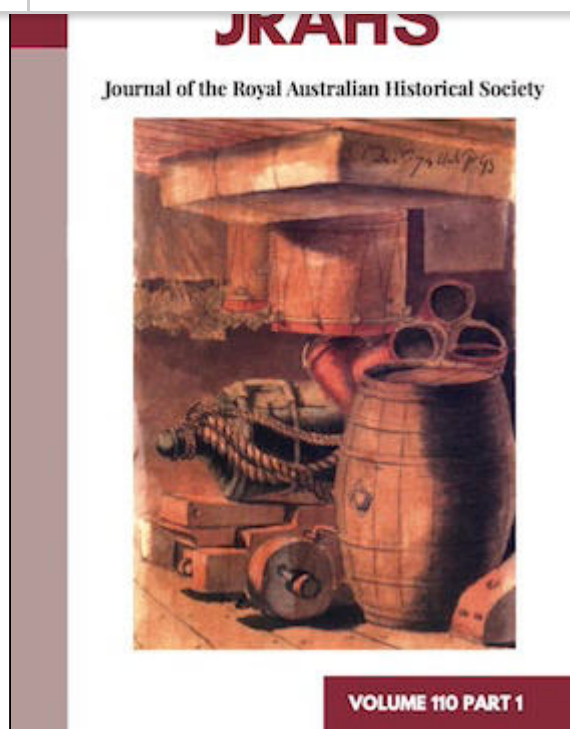
When: Wednesday, 5 February 2025 at 1 pm.

Where: History House, 133 Macquarie St, Sydney.

Cost: Free.

At the age of 22, Joy Howarth was plucked from obscurity, renamed Jocelyn Howarth, and cast in the 1933 Australian film *The Squatter's Daughter*, becoming an overnight celebrity. Hollywood soon came calling – but instead of the fame her talent and courage deserved, she encountered heartache, scandal and professional disappointment. Shrouded in mystery for decades, the true tale of a forgotten Australian trailblazer is revealed here for the first time.

RESERVE TICKETS



A Legacy in Print: Honouring the Past and Embracing the Future of the Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society

Chair: Samuel White.

Speakers: Christine Yeats, David Carment, Leonie Bell, Ben Hingley.

When: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 at 6 pm.

Where: Hybrid: History House, 133 Macquarie St, Sydney and Online.

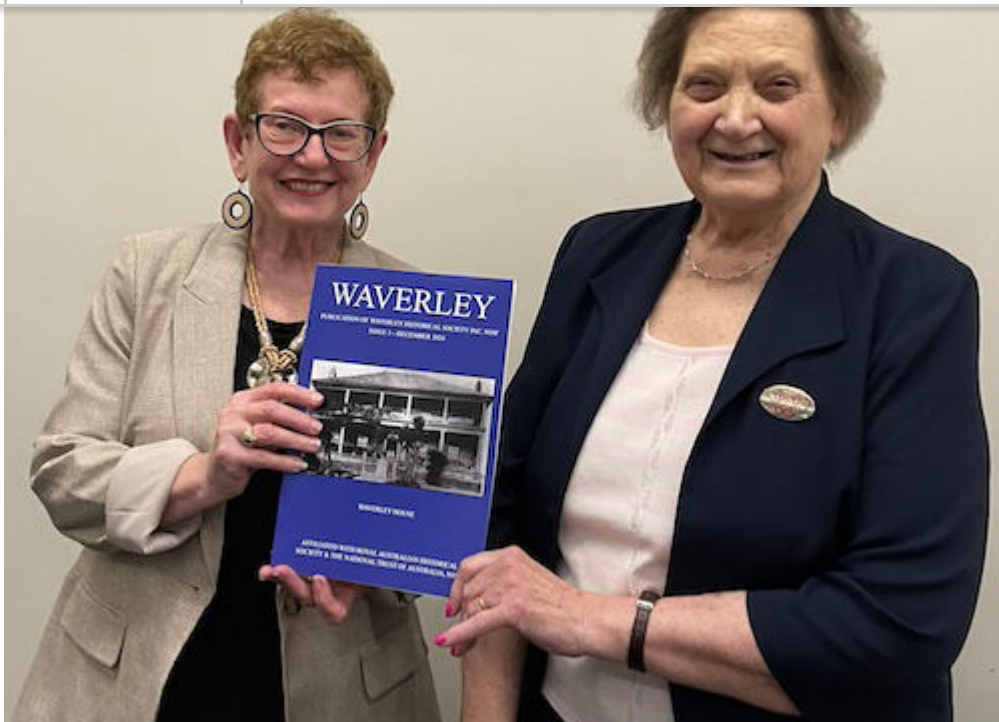
Cost: Free.

Celebrate the storied past of the *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, an essential outlet for Australian History since 1906. This event will be chaired by Samuel White and provide a platform for engaging discussions with some of its past contributors. It's a unique opportunity to connect with fellow history enthusiasts, potential authors, and dedicated members of our society. The Editor will provide an introduction to the journal, followed by a panel of contributors who will share their historical research methods and inspirations. The event is hybrid for members not in Sydney and will be recorded.

[RESERVE TICKETS](#)

Affiliated Societies News

Waverley Historical Society



Christine Yeats and Aubrey McCallum OAM

Launch of Waverley Journal

On 9 October 2024, RAHS Senior Vice President Christine Yeats launched *Waverley*, the inaugural journal of affiliate Waverley Historical Society (WHS), to members and visitors at Waverley Library.

In her remarks, Christine identified both continuity and change in the role of local history societies over the last 50 years. Historians, as storytellers, interpret past events in the context of the present, thereby bridging past and present. And local societies and historians have an important place in giving voice to people otherwise not heard about.

Today, many historians are researching First Nations people and undertaking new opportunities for truth-telling. Seeing how we can engage with truth-telling, especially at the local level, is important.

Digitisation of records has resulted in abundant and readily available digital material – a boon to researchers. Yet this abundance, together with the challenge of 'fake news', requires care in the way we do our research and how we present it.

WHS President Audrey McCallum gave a vote of thanks for a thought-provoking speech and a warmly received launch.

Alice C. Paul

READ JOURNAL



Waverley journal contributors. From Left: Alice Paul, Braham Dabscheck, Christine Yeats, Audrey McCallum, Joy Clayton and Gregory Ross.

City of Sydney Historical Association



The Buildings of Surry Hills

In this illustrated virtual 'walking tour', Angela Phippen will show some of the buildings of Surry Hills, ranging from colonial times to the 21st century.

down: it has been praised for its 'healthy breezes and beautiful views', but at other times damned as a squalid slum breeding crime and immorality. It has been home to colonial bluebloods in opulent villas and townhouses, but it has also sheltered the poor in dark basements and attics of appalling meanness.

Sit comfortably in your seats at SMSA and see and hear about one of the oldest and most interesting inner-city suburbs.

When: Saturday, 14 December at 2 pm.

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

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

National Trust of Australia



Australian Heritage Festival: Event registrations open

The Australian Heritage Festival, a nationwide celebration of our natural, cultural, Indigenous, living and built heritage, returns 18 April 2025.

In NSW in 2024, 116 organisers hosted more than 180 diverse events as part of the Australian Heritage Festival celebrations, including heritage walks, talks, foodie adventures, performances, exhibitions, open days, and so much more.

2025 Theme: *Unearthed*

Revealing the past, bringing to light lesser-known histories and unearthing knowledge to empower younger generations as custodians of our culture.

All heritage enthusiasts! From local councils, community groups, galleries, museums, restaurant groups, libraries, historical societies and more.

Registrations close 31 March 2025. [Register Here!](#)

Historic Houses Association of Australia

HHA TOURS 2025

*Exclusive, small-group, curated
experiences for heritage lovers*

Bluestone, Emerald and Gold
(Regional Victoria)
13-17 March

Gilded Gems of New England (USA)
7-18 September

Charming Christchurch and Beyond
(New Zealand)
3-15 November



hha.net.au/tours



History News



Legacy & Evolution: 200 Years of the NSW Legislative Council

NSW Parliament Exhibition October 2024 – January 2025

Encapsulating the theme of this year's Bicentenary, 'Reflect, Celebrate, Imagine', this expansive exhibition charts the NSW Legislative Council's evolution over 200 years – from humble beginnings through to the robust and representative democratic institution that it is today. Learn about all the highlights, important moments, and key figures that have shaped the Council along the way – plus plenty of interesting stories you won't hear anywhere else.

How to see the exhibition:

Visit NSW Parliament House on weekdays, 9 am to 5 pm until 24 January (excluding Christmas shutdown period of 23 December to 6 January). Access is to the left of the building via the security gatehouse.

[LEARN MORE](#)



The English Regency with Dr James Broadbent

RAHS members are invited to join historian, conservationist and author James Broadbent on his next UK tour – The English Regency: Houses, Gardens and Decorative Arts of the Early 19th Century.

The tour dates are 31 May to 15 June 2025.

The tour will range from the exoticism of *Sezincote* and the *Brighton Pavilion* to the picturesqueness of cottages ornés like *Al la Ronde* and *Houghton Lodge*; from the Grecian and Gothic mausolea of Kensal Green cemetery to Francis Greenway's work in Bristol.

[English Regency Tour - 2025 - Itinerary and Booking Form](#)

This is a small group tour and numbers are limited. Therefore, if you are interested in booking a place on the tour or wish to find out more about the tour itinerary, please don't hesitate to contact tour coordinator Judy Pittaway.

T: 0425 325 982 | E: judyp2404@gmail.com

Other News



Photo: Walcha Water Works, Oakhampton Heights (Maitland City Council)

NSW Heritage Grants Program 2025–27

Applications now open!

\$8.5 million in funding available
for our state's heritage

Funding will be provided for projects that:

- support declared Aboriginal Place
- activate and care for items listed on the State Heritage Register
- assist local councils to protect and promote local heritage

Applications close at 10 am Thursday 30 January 2025



For more information,
including eligibility
criteria and how to
apply, scan the QR code
or visit environment.nsw.gov.au/heritage-grants

**Department of Climate Change,
Energy, the Environment and Water**

EH2024/0319 November 2024





Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Grants

Applications now open!

\$500,000 in funding available for projects that support better management, maintenance, conservation and activation of declared Aboriginal Places under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

Eligible applicants can apply for up to:

- \$30,000 for an Aboriginal Place management document, or
- \$80,000 for works to a declared Aboriginal Place

Applications close at 10 am Thursday 30 January 2025

**Department of Climate Change,
Energy, the Environment and Water**

EH2024/0318 November 2024



For more information, including eligibility criteria and how to apply, scan the QR code or visit environment.nsw.gov.au/heritage-grants





Community War Memorials Fund

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

Applications close 12 February 2025

APPLY NOW

SCAN FOR
DETAILS





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

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The Royal Australian Historical Society

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