



# Royal Australian Historical Society

Knowing your history

27 February 2025

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



Milsons Point Station (RAHS Photograph Collection)



Macquarie Street, Sydney, c.1940 (RAHS Collection)

## Annual General Meeting (AGM)

---

**Tuesday, 15 April 2025, 6 pm**

**Online via Zoom**

RAHS members are invited to attend our AGM. If you wish to attend, please email [admin@rahs.org.au](mailto:admin@rahs.org.au) and you will be forwarded a link to the meeting.

### Agenda

1. Apologies.
2. Confirmation of the previous AGM minutes held on Tuesday, 16 April 2024.
3. Consideration and, if deemed fit, adoption of the Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2024 (as printed in *History* magazine).
4. Consideration and, if deemed fit, adoption of the Financial Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 (summary of Financial Statements printed in *History* magazine. A full statement of accounts is available to members on request).
5. Declaration by the Returning Officer of the Council for the current year.
6. Presidential Address.
7. General Business.

All financial members are eligible to attend and vote at the AGM. They are also entitled to appoint a proxy to vote in their stead. A proxy must also be a financial member of the Society at the time of voting. Proxy forms addressed to the Returning Officer must be received at History House by no later than Tuesday, 8 April 2025 at 5 pm. Members who are not currently financial but renew their subscriptions before the AGM are eligible to attend the AGM and hold proxies for other financial members.

### **Notice of Election**

At the close of nominations at 4 pm, Monday, 17 February 2025, three (3) nominations were received for four (4) positions. The nominations were from:

- Bronwyn Hanna
- Mark St Leon
- Christine Yeats

Under Regulation 28 of the RAHS Constitution, a postal ballot does not need to be held to determine the four (4) positions on the twelve (12) member Council.



---

## 2025 Central Coast Regional Seminar

---

On 29 March, the RAHS and the Central Coast Family History Society will co-host a seminar for genealogists, historians, and researchers titled *Looking Outside the Square: Exploring Business and Biographical Records in Family and Local History*. The event will cover a range of resources essential for uncovering individuals' connections to historical businesses and institutions. Presenters will discuss how to access records from major archives, including the State Archives Collection, the State Library of NSW, the National Library of Australia, Reserve Bank of Australia and the Noel Butlin Archives Centre.

In addition, attendees will be introduced to the Historical Land Records Viewer (HLRV) and strategies for searching for individuals and land transactions. We will also discuss the Biographical Database of Australia (BDA), which offers detailed biographical information that aids in tracking individuals over place and time. This resource is ideal for those researching Australian convicts, soldiers, and other significant historical figures.

We look forward to seeing you on the Central Coast in March!

**For more information and bookings, visit:**

<https://www.rahs.org.au/shop/tickets-central-coast-regional-seminar-2025/>

BUY TICKETS

---





Samuel White, Ben Hingley, Christine Yeats, David Carment, Leonie Bell

## **A Legacy in Print: Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society**

We were pleased to host *A Legacy in Print: Honouring the Past and Embracing the Future of the Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society* at History House on Tuesday, 25th February. RAHS President Iain Stuart and JRAHS Editor Samuel White were joined by past contributors Ben Hingley, Christine Yeats, David Carment and Leonie Bell. The event also marked our first hybrid event at History House, with participants joining us online and in person.

The speakers reflected on their experience with the journal, why they decided to submit their research, how being published benefited their professional and personal engagements with history, and what advice they could give to others. A key theme that cropped up was the importance of peer review and how the thoughtful comments and feedback provided by anonymous reviewers helped them improve their manuscripts and consider avenues they had not thought of. It was also noted how important the journal was to their professional development as historians. David reflected on his first academic article, which was published in the journal in 1977, and Ben discussed how the publishing experience had helped him write a chapter for his doctoral thesis. All speakers

The session was recorded and will be available soon. Visit our website to learn more about the [\*Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society\*](#).

## RAHS Events



### RAHS Day Lecture How to watch a flogging: Pop culture convicts and the making of Australian history

**Speaker:** James Findlay.

**When:** Wednesday, 5 March 2025 at 1 pm.

**Where:** History House, 133 Macquarie St, Sydney.

**Cost:** Free.

Convicts loom large in Australian history having shackled the nation to a curious and contested origin story. In speaking to his book *Caught on Screen*, due for release in 2025, James Findlay will explore the role screen culture has played in projecting the convict experience to audiences in Australia and overseas. Including how such representations intersected with, and helped to direct major debates about nationalism, the legacies of colonisation, Aboriginal dispossession and the origins and character of Australian society.

RESERVE TICKETS



## RAHS Special Lecture Aspects of Chinese-Australian Heritage: Landscape Traces

**Speaker:** Stuart Read.

**When:** Wednesday, 19 March 2025 at 6 pm.

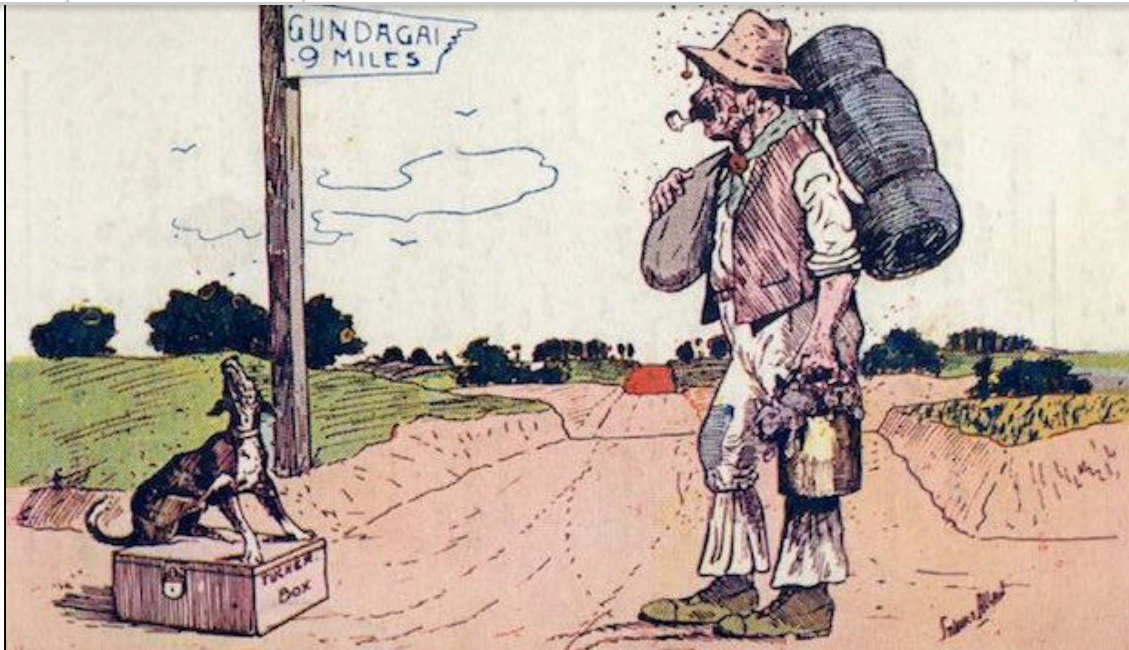
**Where:** History House, 133 Macquarie St, Sydney.

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

The Chinese have long known Australia. As 'sojourners', fleetingly chasing sandalwood, trepang, gold, and 'stayers'. They marked landscapes of transit, harvest, making, growing, and trade. This included harvesting food and timber, ringbarking, mining, water use, and gardening. At first vegetables, later, much more. China has long had sophisticated horticulture and a rich flora. We owe it much – many garden plants are Chinese and got here early. Find out more!

[BUY TICKETS](#)





## RAHS Day Lecture The True Story of the Dog on the Tuckerbox

**Speaker:** Richard White.

**When:** Wednesday, 2 April 2025 at 1 pm.

**Where:** History House, 133 Macquarie St, Sydney.

**Cost:** Free.

In 1932, the Australian Prime Minister unveiled the statue of the Dog on the Tuckerbox, in Gundagai, NSW, on the Hume Highway halfway between Sydney and Melbourne. As the town's 'pioneer memorial', it would become arguably the most popular purpose-built tourist attraction until the 'Big Banana' in 1964. To coincide with the opening, Royal Doulton released a collection of souvenir ware; other souvenirs would multiply through the rest of the twentieth century.

The statue celebrated a popular story – told in an 1857 poem, and later poetry and song – about an unlucky bullocky whose team had become bogged 'nine miles from Gundagai'. To cap it all off, his dog sat on his tuckerbox. Or did he?

RESERVE TICKETS





## RAHS-WEA Workshop Using Maps in Local History Research

**Speaker:** Carol Liston AO.

**When:** Wednesday, 9 April 2025 at 11 am.

**Where:** History House, 133 Macquarie St, Sydney.

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

Discover how crown plans, parish maps, town maps, subdivision plans and SIX Maps can enhance your research, shed light on local history, and assist in tracing family genealogy. Whether you're a beginner or looking to refine your skills, this workshop is perfect for all levels. Participants will be introduced to the Historical Land Records Viewer, the NSW State Archives collection and other resources.

[BUY TICKETS](#)

## Affiliated Societies News

**Military History Society of NSW**



### Chariot of Fire: The Development of the Tank

---

This talk will look at how tanks evolved after their first conception and the earliest attempts to design, test and produce them. There will be discussion of tank use on various battlefields and how this experience shaped tank design and production. The period covered will start before World War I and continue up until the present time. The lecture will look at the tanks of many different countries with the assistance of photographs and presentation of data and will show the differences between them through the years.

**Speaker:** Major (retd) Paul Handel, RFD.

**When:** Saturday, 1 March at 10.30 am.

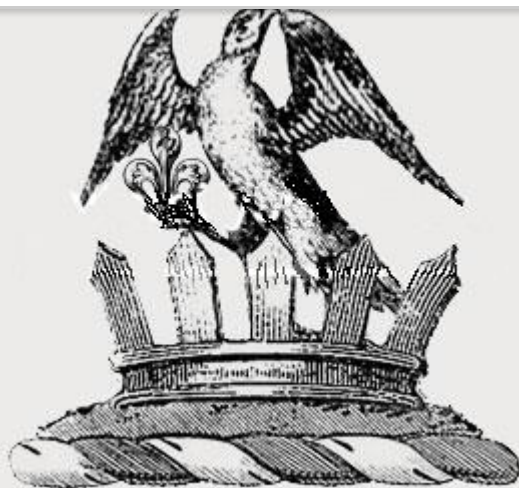
**Where:** The Auditorium, Anzac Memorial Hyde Park.

**Admission:** Free, but a donation is appreciated.

**For more information:** [president@militaryhistorynsw.com.au](mailto:president@militaryhistorynsw.com.au)

---

**The Australian Heraldry Society**



## The Heraldry of Sir George Bowen, First Governor of Queensland

---

Sir George Bowen was from a Protestant Ascendancy family in Ireland. His wife, born Diamantina di Roma, was from a noble family in the Ionian Islands. Both came from families who used coats of arms. This illustrated presentation will discuss those arms, as well as local government insignia in Queensland that were inspired by the first gubernatorial couple.

**Speaker:** Tarquin Nesbitt-Foster.

**When:** Saturday, 8 March at 10.15 am (doors open 9.45 am).

**Where:** Humanist Hall, 10 Shepherd St, Chippendale.

**Cost:** A donation would be appreciated. Light refreshments provided.

**Bookings Essential:** [secretary@heraldryaustralia.org](mailto:secretary@heraldryaustralia.org)

---

**City of Sydney Historical Association**



## Mothers, Matrons and Lady Superintendents, women working in NSW prisons 1788–1969

---

By the end of the 19th century, female staff were thought to be more appropriate to manage institutions housing women and children. However, the status, everyday experience and career prospects for women in these senior appointments was often difficult and within the NSW prison service remained discomfiting for male colleagues and problematic for the authorities.

Noeline Kyle says she wanted to find the details, the stories and the complexity which surely must have been part of their lives, their character, and their careers. This talk is the result of searching over for the lost and largely forgotten stories of senior women working in NSW prisons.

**Speaker:** Noeline Kyle AM.

**When:** Saturday, 8 March at 2 pm.

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

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

**For more information:** [sydneyhistorical.org.au](http://sydneyhistorical.org.au)

---





### **Mosman Story: The Council and Community Then and Now**

---

Dr Peter Abelson will discuss his recently published book *Mosman Story: The Council and Community Then and Now: A History and A Personal Memoir*. This covers the period from Mosman's Indigenous origins through to when the author retired from its local government in 2017. The book's key message is the enduring importance of the local community and council in Mosman residents' lives. Please join us for refreshments and a chat following the talk. Copies of *Mosman Story* will be on sale following the talk.

**When:** Wednesday, 12 March at 7 pm (please arrive promptly).

**Where:** Mosman Library, 605 Military Rd, Mosman.

**Admission:** Members Free. Visitors \$5.

**RSVP:** David Carment at [davidcarment@me.com](mailto:davidcarment@me.com) before Monday, 10 March.

---

**Australian Catholic Historical Society**



## The 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam war – a personal reflection by Bishop Vincent Long

---

The Australian Catholic Historical Society's [2025 programme](#) is now available. The Society meets generally on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 2 pm in the crypt of Saint Patrick's Church, Grosvenor St, Sydney.

### The next presentation:

The 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam war – a personal reflection

**Speaker:** Bishop Vincent Long, Bishop of Parramatta.

**When:** Sunday, 16 March at 2 pm.

**Where:** The Crypt, St Patrick's Church, Grosvenor St, Sydney.

**Admission:** Everyone is welcome. Bookings are not required.

**Goulburn Old Cathedral:** The magnificently restored St Peter and Paul's Old Cathedral in Goulburn is well worth a visit for anyone driving from Sydney to Canberra. It's just a five-minute detour from the route. The [Wikipedia article](#) is informative but does not entirely give a feel for how distinctive the interior is. The wooden carving and stained glass are spectacular.



St Peter and Paul's Old Cathedral at Goulburn  
(Image Courtesy: Mattinbgn, Wikimedia Commons)

## **Parramatta and District Historical Society**



**From the First Fleet to the Harbour Bridge:  
Sydney Astronomical Beginnings**

ordinance officer, from his arrival in 1788 up to his connection with the 1932 construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Dawes was a second lieutenant on HMS *Sirius*'s voyage as flagship of the First Fleet from England to Botany Bay. As shipboard astronomer, he was tasked with geographic position determination at sea and instructed to establish a permanent astronomical observatory on arrival in NSW. In fact, Dawes established not one but two observatories within a kilometre of Sydney's present-day city centre.

**Speaker:** Richard de Grijs.

**When:** Monday, 17 March at 7.30 pm.

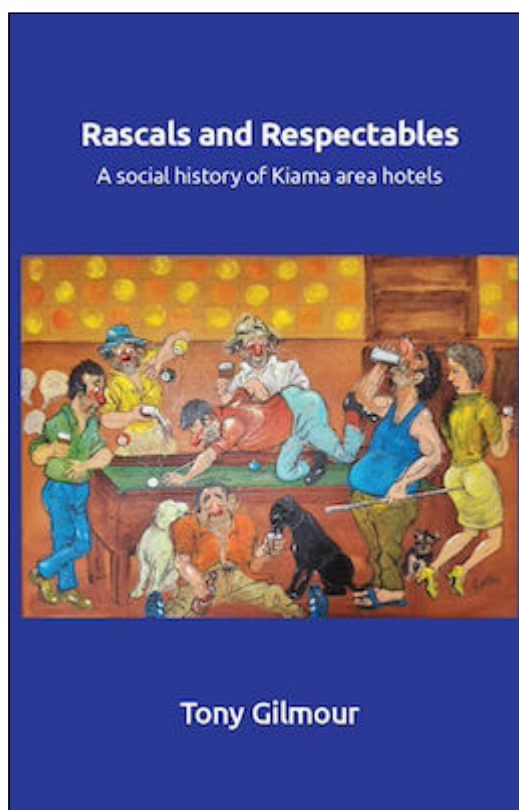
**Where:** Burnside Gardens Community Centre, 3 Blackwood Place, Oatlands.

**Admission:** Free and followed by supper. Visitors Very Welcome.

**Enquiries:** Jeff Allen at [jallen6@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jallen6@bigpond.net.au)

---

## Kiama and District Historical Society



## Launch of 'Rascals and Respectables'

---

Published by Kiama Historical Society, Dr Tony Gilmour's new book tells the exciting history of the hostelries of Kiama, Jamberoo and Gerringong on the NSW south coast. From the first local hotels licenced in 1837 to the present day, drinking venues have shaped local social life and character.



hosted an illegal 'sly grog' shop and Kiama's 1899 great fire led to mass bingeing on stolen alcohol. Tony will share many of these stories.

The book will be officially launched by The Hon. Gareth Ward, MP for Kiama.

**Speaker:** Tony Gilmour.

**When:** Saturday, 22 March at 2 pm.

**Where:** Kiama Library Auditorium (downstairs), 7 Railway Parade, Kiama.

**Admission:** \$5, includes afternoon tea.

**Enquiries:** [kiamahistory@outlook.com](mailto:kiamahistory@outlook.com)

More local anecdotes will be shared at a second (free) event hosted by Tony in the upstairs bar of Kiama Inn, 50 Terralong Street, Kiama from 5 pm.



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.

---

**BMACHO**



## Blue Mountains History Conference 2025

---

### *The Show Must Go On!*

#### **Blue Mountains Performance and Entertainment**

Join BMACHO at the Carrington Hotel for a day filled with fascinating insights into the Blue Mountains' rich performance and entertainment history. The lineup of speakers will cover a range of topics. Associate Professor Richard White will present the keynote R. Ian Jack Address.

Don't miss this opportunity to immerse yourself in the stories and heritage of this iconic region. See you there!

**When:** Saturday, 10 May 2025 at 9.00 am – 4.30 pm.

**Where:** The Ballroom, The Carrington Hotel, Katoomba.

**Cost:** \$85 per person (or \$80 early bird, closing 5 pm, 10 March 2025).

**For more information, bookings and speaker program, visit:**

<http://bluemountainsheritage.com.au/blue-mountains-history-conference/>

---

## Parramatta Female Factory Friends



**at the National Heritage Listed  
Parramatta Female Factory & Institutions Precinct  
North Parramatta**

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**VENUE: THE PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS ROOMS -  
THE 'GREENWAY' MATRON'S QUARTERS & ADMIN & STORES BUILDING  
5 FLEET STREET, NORTH PARRAMATTA  
10am -2pm**

**10:30 am - GUEST SPEAKER: - RONDA GAFFEY  
TOPIC: 'BANISHED BEYOND THE SEAS'**

**12pm - SITE TOURS: HISTORY - HERSTORY - OURSTORY**

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: Eventbrite: [bit.ly/PFFF-IWD-8-Mar-2025](https://bit.ly/PFFF-IWD-8-Mar-2025)**

**Talk: \$5**

**Tour: special event discount \$10 (plus % surcharge on all bookings)**

**The Friends Rooms are open for:**

- \*Research enquiries & sharing the convict women's stories**
- \*Herstory displays, sale of PFFF merchandise, bric a brac**
- \*The Matron Ann Gordon Tearoom for tea, coffee & light refreshments**

**NO PARKING ON SITE - TAKE THE PARRAMATTA LIGHT RAIL to NGARA - short walk to the Factory site.**

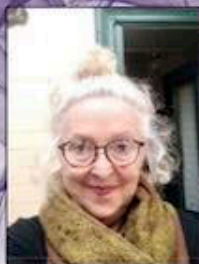
web: [parramattafemalefactoryfriends.au](https://parramattafemalefactoryfriends.au)

facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pfffriends/>

email: [parramattafemalefriends@gmail.com](mailto:parramattafemalefriends@gmail.com)

Image convict woman/PFFF Logo: Amiel Dizon: [dizonbydesign.com](https://dizonbydesign.com)





## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

### GUEST SPEAKER: Ronda Gaffey

**TOPIC:** *Banished Beyond the Seas -  
the Impact of Transportation on the Lives of Convict Women*

*In this talk, Ronda will draw on contemporary accounts, rare letters and official records with readings from some of the most poignant texts we have, demonstrating the loss and despair experienced by convict women transported as well as enacting scenes of hope drawn from her family female convict history.*

*In this presentation, Ronda, a retired executive teacher, demonstrates her penchant for storytelling and sharing her passion for convict women's history, especially those held at the Parramatta Female Factory & Penitentiary.*

*Ronda is the recipient of a number of awards including the Australia Day Senior Citizen of the Year Award, City of Parramatta 2024 for services to history & heritage; a Royal Australian Historical Society Achievement Award 2021; NSW Education Ministerial Award for Quality Teaching & Learning 2012.*

*Currently Ronda is on the Parramatta Female Factory Friends Committee fulfilling the role of Newsletter editor and Publicity Officer. She is also descended from two Factory women.*



**Lithgow Small Arms Factory Museum**

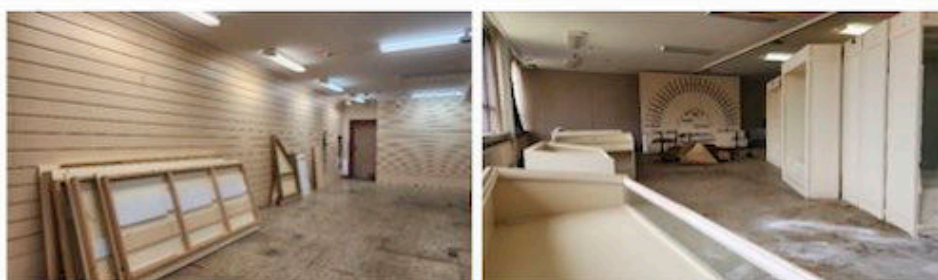


## HELP SAVE THE LITHGOW SMALL ARMS FACTORY MUSEUM

Before: thriving displays



After: Now dismantled



*Without a secure future this is what we're facing—empty rooms and a lost legacy. Help us save this icon of Australian history by signing our parliamentary petition*

Any NSW resident regardless of age can sign

Quick and simple – only name and email address is required

For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/savelithgowsafm>

**Scan here to sign the petition**



<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/ia/pages/epetition-details.aspx?q=iRYZVofsgPOg8sMVEG9Sag>

**Every signature counts. Together, we can save this museum!**

## History News

**PHA NSW-ACT**

**Oral History Association of NSW**



## Working as a freelance and/or oral historian in NSW

The Professional Historians Association NSW-ACT and Oral History NSW have partnered to bring you an informative discussion about working as a freelance historian and/or oral historian. You are invited to hear from three experienced freelancers, who will hopefully answer many of your questions, such as:

- How do I set myself up to work as a freelance/consultant historian?
- Can you provide some advice on those boring practicalities such as tax, insurance, and an ABN?
- How do I get work and clients?
- Should I be promoting myself on social media such as LinkedIn?
- What are some of the pros and cons of being a freelancer?

The session will be chaired by the PHA NSW-ACT President Dr Naomi Parry Duncan, who currently works as a [freelance historian](#).

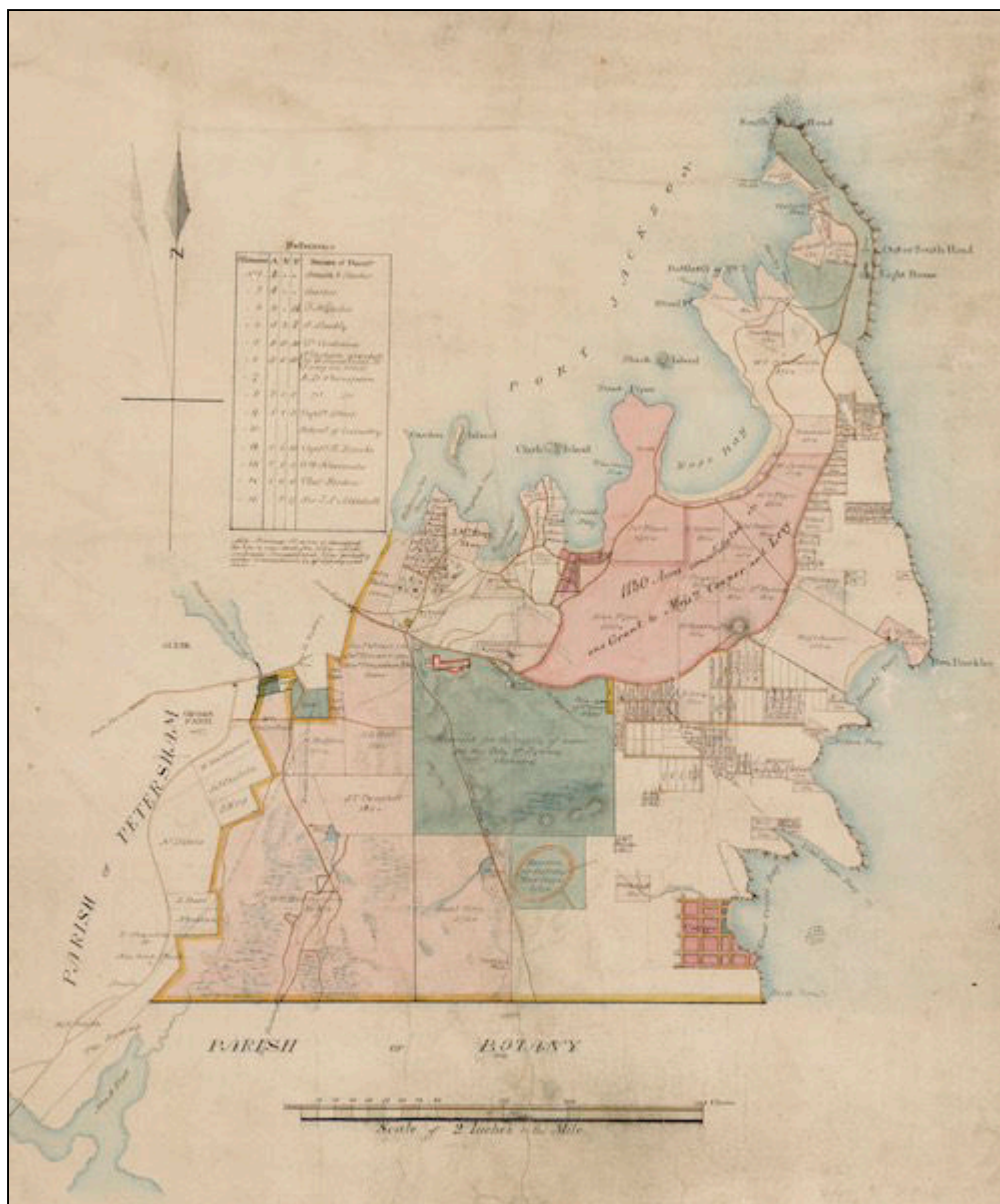
### Panel Members:

- Dr Martina Mueller – [Storialines](#)
- Dr Paul Irish – [Coast History and Heritage](#)
- Dr Margaret Leask – [Oral History Association of NSW](#)

**When:** Monday, 3 March at 5.30 pm – 7.15 pm.

**Where:** History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney AND online

**Registration:** <https://www.phansw.org.au/upcoming-events/>



Parish [of] Alexandria, [Maps/0018](#) (State Library of NSW)

## Subdivision Plans, Parish Maps, Town Plans and Town Maps

There is great news for those researching house and land history in NSW. The State Library's collection of subdivision plans for over 250 suburbs and towns, parish maps, town maps, and town plans has now been digitised and can be accessed through the Library's online catalogue. These resources complement the Maps and Plans Collection on the Historical Land Records Viewer (HLRV).



## Stars: Women in Military Aviation in Australia

With Brad Manera, Dr Catie Gilchrist and Dr Anna Williams



Discover some of the inspiring stories of Australian women in military aviation from the Second World War and beyond for a special afternoon of talks.

Hear three captivating presentations from leading experts and get up close to fascinating artefacts from the Anzac Memorial's collection.

Places are limited. Reserve your spot now.

5 March 2025, 3-5pm

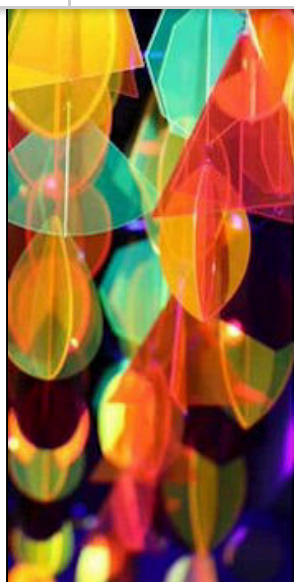
SCAN THE QR  
CODE TO  
RESERVE  
YOUR SPOT



ANZAC MEMORIAL  
HYDE PARK SYDNEY

**Other News**





# 2025 awards & grants

*Celebrating early-mid-career  
researchers in the humanities.*

**Nominations close 28 March 2025.**

## **Australian Academy of Humanities: Grants and Awards**

---

Applications are open for the Australian Academy of the Humanities **2025 Grants and Awards Program** for ECMRs working across the humanities.

### **Max Crawford Medal**

The Max Crawford Medal recognises an early-career scholar in the humanities whose publications contribute towards an understanding of their discipline. This award relies on nominations, and we encourage all to nominate an ECMR doing exciting work in their field.

### **John Mulvaney Fellowship**

Awarded to an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander early-career researcher or PhD student working in any area of the humanities, the John Mulvaney Fellowship provides \$4,000 to support research or fieldwork in Australia or overseas. This award accepts self-nominations.

### **McCredie Musicological Award**

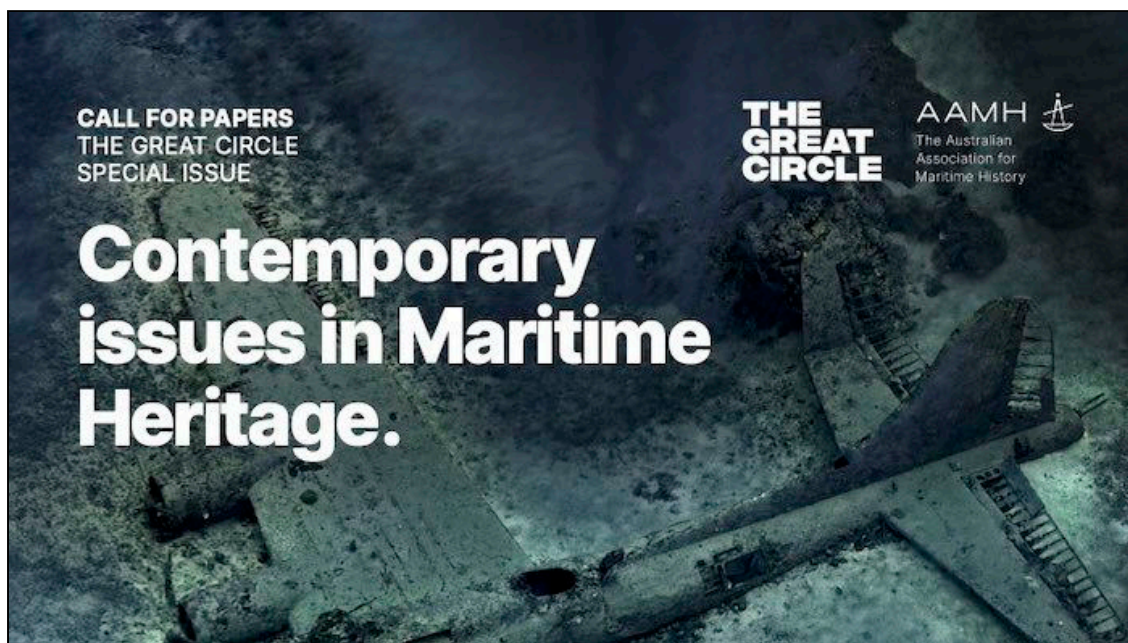
Recognising outstanding contributions in musicology by an Australian early career scholar. It is one of Australia's most prestigious awards for the study of musicology – from performance practice, music in the cultural context, through to the theory, analysis and composition.

### **Publication Subsidy Scheme**

The Publication Subsidy Scheme supports early-career researchers with costs of up to \$3,000 associated with the publication of scholarly works that advance knowledge of the humanities.

### **Humanities Travelling Fellowships**

Applications Close 28 March 2025. [Register Here!](#)



### Call for Papers: *The Great Circle* Special Issue

#### Contemporary Maritime Heritage in the Indo-Pacific Region

The oceans are rapidly changing around us, as exploration and exploitation of the subsurface realm is accelerating. Coastlines are under threat, challenging maritime cultural landscapes, while both offshore energy generation and illegal salvage threaten underwater cultural heritage sites. Museums large and small face changing demographics, shifting visitor expectations and ongoing commercial pressures. What are the other issues facing maritime heritage in today's environment?

This special issue of *The Great Circle* seeks to survey contemporary maritime heritage in the Indo-Pacific region. Contributions are welcome on diverse topics: archaeology and heritage regulation; museums and collections; places and spaces; communities and controversies.

Peer-reviewed articles of up to 10,000 words (including endnotes) and non-peer-reviewed notes of up to 3,000 words (including endnotes) are welcome.

**Manuscript deadline: 1 August 2025.** [Learn More!](#)



Kings Cross, Darlinghurst (RAHS Photograph Collection)

[Follow on Twitter](#)[Friend on Facebook](#)[Follow on Instagram](#)[Our News](#)[Our Library](#)[Our Events](#)

## The Royal Australian Historical Society

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

Disclaimer: Views from contributors published in the Affiliated Societies, History and Other News are not necessarily the views of the Royal Australian Historical Society.

### Our mailing address is:

Royal Australian Historical Society  
133 Macquarie Street  
Sydney, NSW 2000  
Australia

### Email:

[history@rahs.org.au](mailto:history@rahs.org.au)

Copyright © 2025 Royal Australian Historical Society, All rights reserved.



