



Royal Australian Historical Society

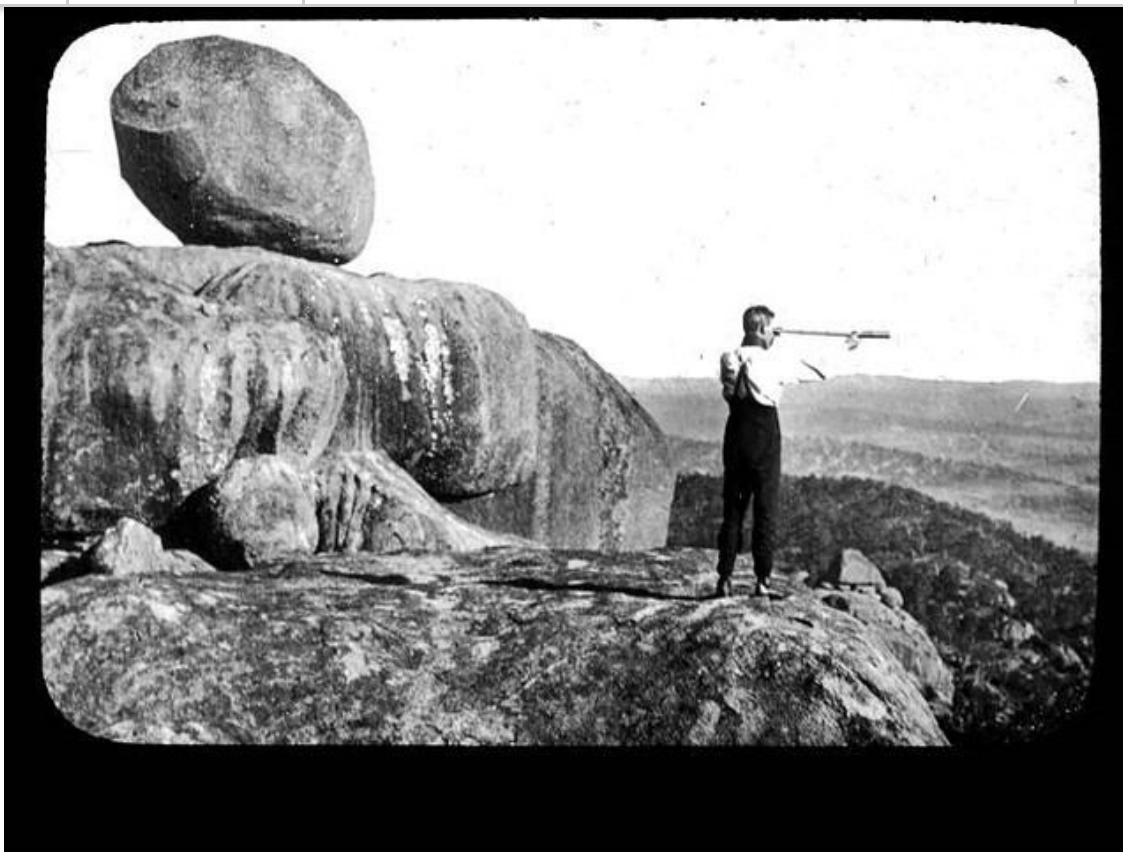
Knowing your history

8 May 2025

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



Katoomba, viewed from railway line circa 1920 (RAHS Collection)



Evans Crown, which overlooks Bathurst Plains, c.1910 (RAHS Collection)

A Note from the President

I am honoured that my Council colleagues have elected me as your President for 2025–26. Following the difficult decision not to proceed with the major building project, Council has begun addressing the repair and maintenance issues that were included in the broader proposal. History House, a modest heritage building nestled among high-rises, is particularly exposed to heavy rainfall, with water cascading onto its roof. Structural analysis has confirmed the steps needed to make the building weatherproof. Heritage approvals have been sought, and this work will proceed in stages throughout the year.

We are also undertaking subterranean investigations to map the drainage networks beneath our 1870 building. These pathways were altered during the 1969 extensions and subsequent works. Understanding how these changes have affected the building's foundations will guide efforts to stabilise the front section, which has shifted over time.

we can now begin to turn our focus back to our core purpose—Australian history.

The work of historians has never been more important. Digitisation has transformed access to evidence, making resources such as Trove, Spatial Services NSW, and Museums of History NSW invaluable tools for research. But our sources are no longer confined to written records. We now explore oral histories, museum and archaeological objects, and historical landscapes to question the past from multiple perspectives. This broad lens helps us uncover overlooked stories. There is still so much history to investigate, interpret, and share.

Carol Liston



Book launch of *Jacky Sloan: Miyagan Bala Yambuwan*, part funded by Create NSW Cultural Grant.

Create NSW Cultural Grants - Now Open

The RAHS is pleased to announce that applications for the 2025 Cultural Grants Program are now open. Administered by the RAHS on behalf of Create NSW, the program provides funding of up to \$5,000 to support the research and publication of local, community, and regional history projects that deepen our understanding of New South Wales' diverse past.

publication *Jacky Sloan of the Lachlan: Miyagan Bala Yambuwan* by the Callara Culture and Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. The book provides a detailed history, genealogy, and heritage of the family of Wiradjuri man Jacky Sloan from the Lachlan River, NSW. It is a significant contribution to Aboriginal family histories, including the remarkable stories of Jacky's twenty-one descendants who served in World Wars One and Two. The cover and internal artwork were created by Julie Hutchings, a descendant of Jacky Sloan, whose stunning illustrations feature throughout the publication. The book was launched over the Easter weekend at a Sloan family reunion in Forbes and Eugowra, accompanied by an art exhibition titled *Battle Scars* by Julie Hutchings. The exhibition explored the impact of war and intergenerational trauma through a Wiradjuri lens.

The RAHS congratulates the Callara Culture and Heritage Aboriginal Corporation on this important achievement, especially the tireless work of editor Rebecca Shepherd. We also thank the team at Create NSW for their ongoing support of the Cultural Grants Program, which enables communities across NSW to share their histories in meaningful and lasting ways.

To view the guidelines and application form please visit.

<https://www.rahs.org.au/cultural-grants-program/>

Photograph courtesy of Rebecca Shepherd, editor and additional researcher for *Jacky Sloan: Miyagan Bala Yambuwan*.

SCHEDULE B—(continued.)

Name of Emigrant	Age	Name of Depositor	Amount paid in the Colony towards		Additional payment required by the Emigration Commissioners	Remarks	Amount returned Depositor
			Passage	Outfit			
Far, James	30	Philip Thierman	5				
Delia	27	do	5				
Henry	9	do	2	10	Recommended in the Colony.	Rejected, - family comprising too many children.	
Margt	5	do	2	10	do		
Ellen	4	do	2	10	do		
Jane	2	do	2	10	do		
ins, Margaret	21	do	5		do	Declines to emigrate, on account of ill health.	
ney, John	38	Thos Tynell	5				
Judith	36	do	5		Recommended in the Colony.	Declines to emigrate.	
John	19	do	5		do		
Daniel	21	do	5		do		
er		J. Flower	2	10	Recommended in the Colony.	Dead	
ell, John	27	John Tracy	5		Recommended in the Colony.	Rejected, as the signature of the Surgeon attached to his Certificate proved a forgery.	
er, George	20	William Day	5		Recommended in the Colony.	Declines to emigrate.	
ie, Thomas	35	Philip Tigher	5				
Mary	35	do	5				
Patrick	6	do	2	10	Recommended in the Colony.	Declines to emigrate.	
Rosa	4	do	2	10	do		
John	1	do	2	10	do		
hon, John	40	Bridget Mc Mahon	10		Recommended in the Colony.	Dead	
van, Mary	25	Pat & Sullivan	5		do	Declines to emigrate.	
ath, Edward	20	Catharine Lantry	5		Recommended in the Colony.	Dead	
, Margaret	16	Bridget Grace	2	10	do	Rejected, being unable to pay the additional £2.10. required for her.	
-, Margaret	12	Ferdinand Dwyer	2	10		Gone to America.	
h, Elmina	60	Richd Smith	15		do	Declines to emigrate. The £10 paid in the Colony for the Outfit of Elmina Smith was handed to her family to assist them in preparing for the voyage.	
, William	33	John Owen	5		do	Dead	
o, Owen	20	do	5		do	Too ill to emigrate.	
ing, Margt	16	Edw Baull	5		Recommended in the Colony.	Gone to the Colony.	

Image: NRS-5268 [9/6182.2] Remittance List Refunds - Page 21

New online Index on Museums of History NSW Website

The latest MH NSW Collections eNews has some exciting news for those researching records relating to nineteenth-century immigration to NSW. Museums of History NSW, in partnership with Ancestry.com, has added a new index to its website - 'Selected Immigration Records' - which links to digital copies of the records.

The following records are included:

- NRS-5268 Remittance list refunds, 1855–68
- NRS-5277 Payments from employers to Colonial Treasurer, 1854–55
- NRS-5324 Persons authorised to import migrants, 1838–42
- NRS-5269 Papers re persons proceeding to the colony under remittance regulations, 1856–58

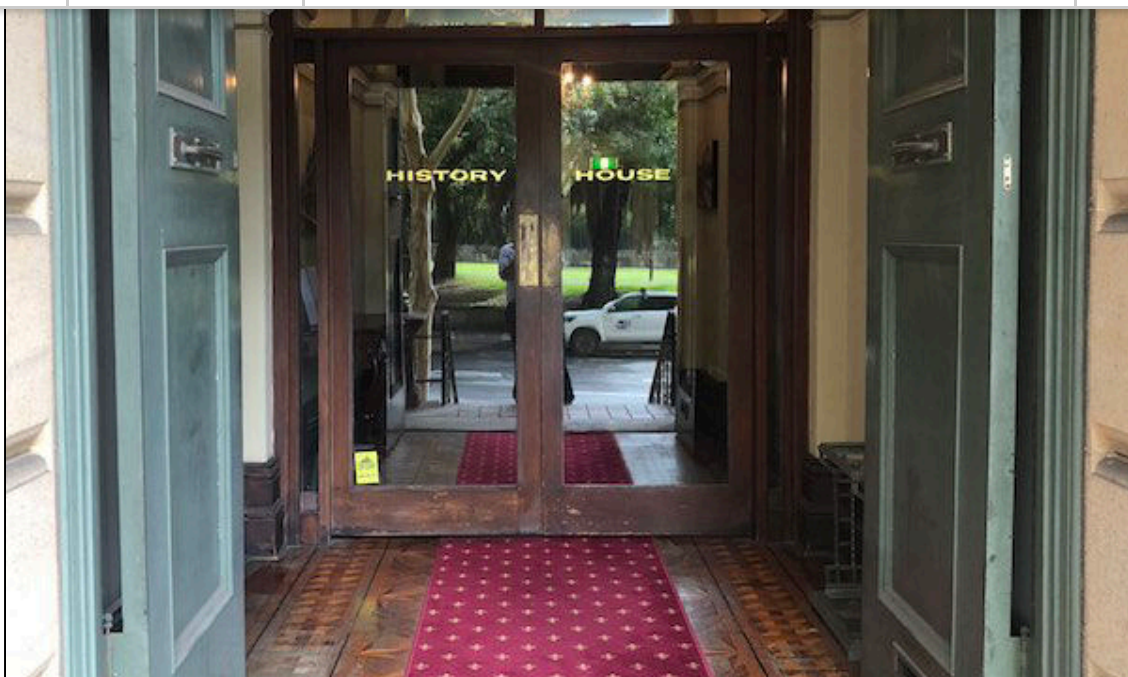
We understand that additional series will be progressively added to the index. These records can provide additional information about immigrant arrivals. The Remittance list refunds, 1855–68 for example can help answer the question – ‘but whatever happened to?’. It ‘lists of persons towards whose passage or outfit contributions have been paid under the Remittance Regulation but who for the reasons annexed have not proceeded to the Colony’. The ‘Remarks’ column provides the reasons for not emigrating – ‘Declines to immigrate’; ‘Gone to America’ and ‘Married...’.

You can search the index by first name, last name, ship or date. This is the link to the Index:

<https://mhnsww.au/indexes/immigration-and-shipping/selected-immigration-records/>

Christine Yeats

RAHS News



History House Front Doors

Unlocking Hidden Histories: Using Land Title Records for Research

The digitisation of historical land records in New South Wales has opened new opportunities for community historians and family researchers. The Historical Land Records Viewer (HLRV) now provides public access to more than 19 million images, including land grants, Old System deeds, Torrens Title documents, and name change records.

These resources contain far more than land ownership details – they hold rich personal information such as names, occupations, dates, addresses, and signatures. Properly interpreted, land records can help researchers trace individuals, build biographical profiles, and uncover hidden connections within local histories.

The RAHS has expanded its workshops to focus on using land title records for research, offering practical guidance on navigating and interpreting these sources. As part of our plans for the second half of the year, we are looking to run land records seminars both at History House and in regional NSW and Western Sydney, in partnership with affiliated societies. If your society is interested in hosting a seminar, or if you are a member or friend keen to attend a session at History House, please contact us. Email history@rahs.org.au to register your interest and help us assess demand for these workshops.



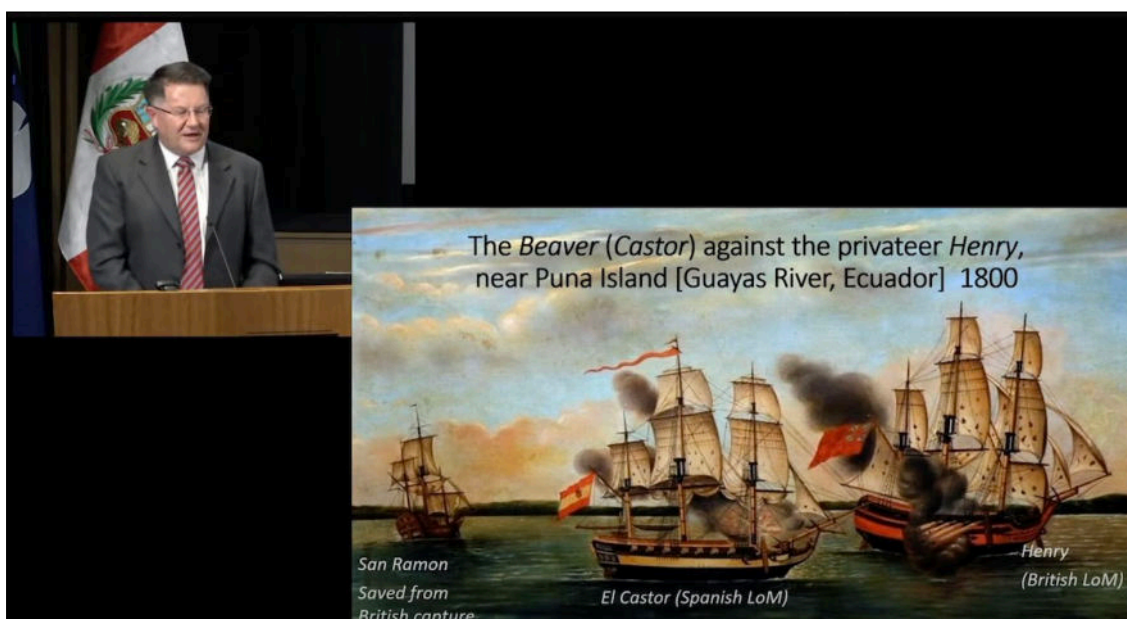
Reminder: RAHS Affiliated Societies Insurance

The 2024–2025 RAHS Affiliated Societies Insurance Renewal process is now complete. We have been trying to contact a number of affiliated historical societies whose renewal forms have not yet been received. In some cases, this may be due to changes in committee members and contact details.

If your society has not yet submitted a renewal, please contact the RAHS as soon as possible on (02) 9247 8001 or email history@rahs.org.au, as current insurance policies have now expired.

Our insurance broker, Marsh, is currently arranging for 2025/2026 certificates to be printed. Once available, we will circulate them to participating societies.

RAHS - Digital Pick Recommendation



Maritime historian Chris Maxworthy delivering lecture [Youtube, National Library Australia]

Watch online: *Privateers and Piracy in the Pacific*

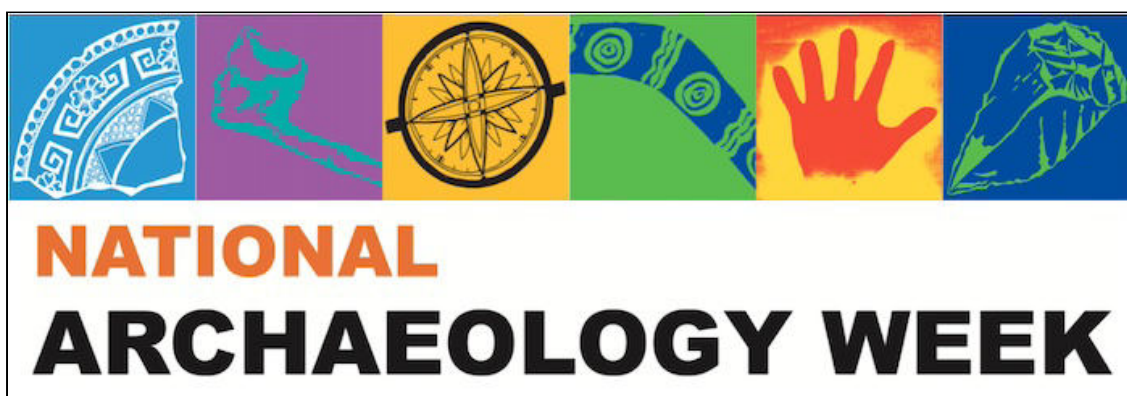
Privateers and Piracy in the Pacific. The talk is now available to watch on the National Library's YouTube channel - [watch here](#).

In 2018, Chris Maxworthy unearthed a set of documents that pointed to a Spanish plan of 1796 to attack the young colony of New South Wales using gunboats launched from Peru and Chile. This lecture, based on his primary source research in Spanish and South American archives, tells the fascinating narrative of this period—one that includes pirates, privateers, and grand ideas.

Chris also discusses the case of the English privateer *Chance*, which in April 1801 called into Port Jackson and took on 30 men. As a Letter of Marque vessel authorised to attack Spanish shipping, the *Chance* then cruised along the South American coast harassing vessels. In the ultimate indignity to Spain, the *Chance* battled and captured the Royal Spanish Navy brig *Limeno*, which was later condemned in the British Vice Admiralty Court in Cape Town.

The RAHS thanks Chris for sharing his research and helping to promote a deeper understanding of Australian history. His work highlights how uncovering these lesser-known international connections can shed new light on the global influences that shaped colonial New South Wales.

RAHS Events



RAHS-NAW Lecture *Irrawang: The History and the Archaeology*

When: Wednesday, 21 May 2025 at 6 pm to 7 pm.

Where: Hybrid: History House AND Online via Zoom.

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

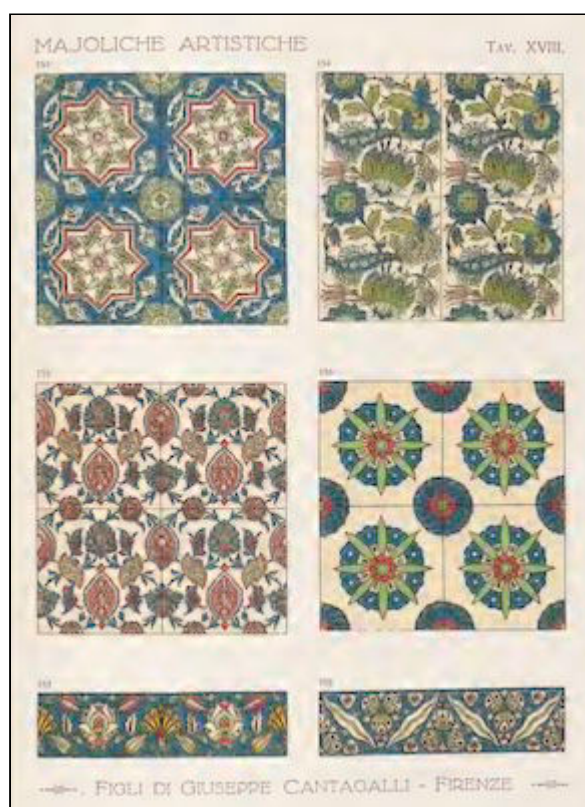
Online Cost: RAHS Members \$10 | Non-Members \$15.

important for its early colonial industry and for being one of the earliest historical archaeological projects in Australia. James King was a colonial entrepreneur with interests in a number of ventures. King experimented with glass manufacture before he took a grant in the Hunter Valley to develop a winery. He then set up a pottery on his land to manufacture utilitarian wares. The pottery was moderately successful until the gold rush resulted in his labour decamping and the enterprise closed down.

In the 1970s, Judy Brimingham and the students from the Archaeological Society at the University of Sydney began to excavate the Irrawang site. The work at Irrawang also provided a key stimulus to the development of historical archaeology in Australia. Recently, members from the Industrial Heritage Committee of the National Trust have revived interest in Irrawang, largely because it has not been listed on the State Heritage Register. Although many know of the site, little is known about what happened there.

This session hosted by Dr Iain Stuart and with contributions from Felicity Barry, Stephanie Moore, Isabella Trope and James Cole, aims to present what is known about the site's history and archaeology. Being a hybrid presentation, we hope to also have contributions from key individuals who worked on the site.

BUY TICKETS



Speaker: Matthew Stephens.

When: Wednesday, 28 May 2025 at 11 am.

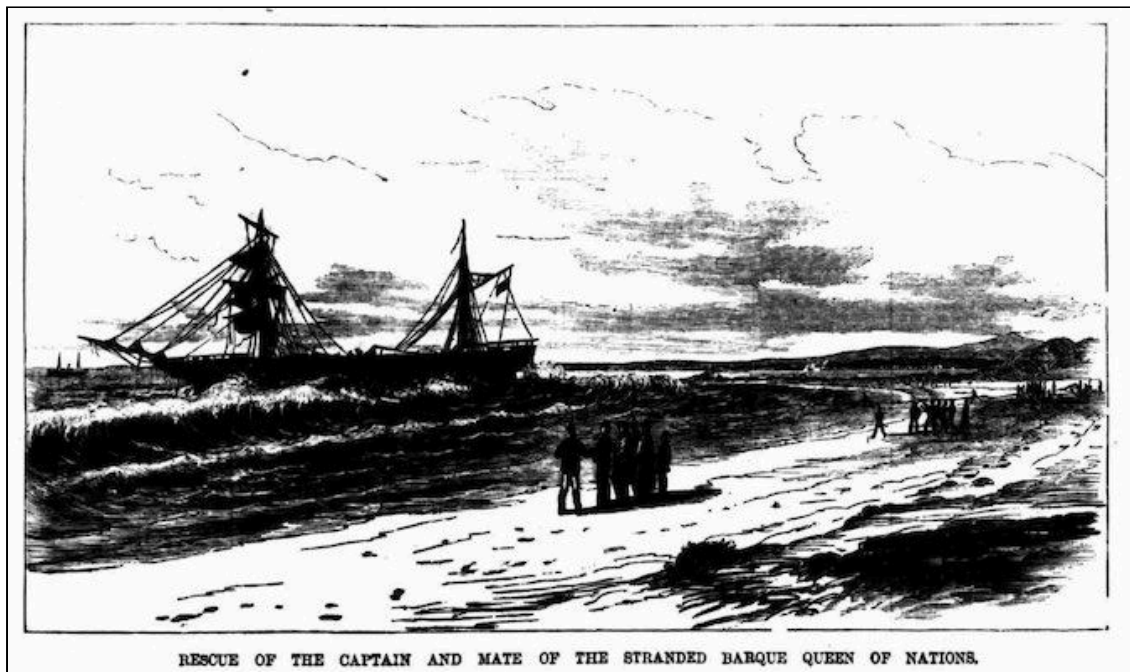
Where: History House, 133 Macquarie St, Sydney.

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

This workshop is an introduction to the sources that help us understand the history of houses, interiors and gardens in NSW. The range of research material in terms of architecture and interior and garden design is extensive. You will discover the many tools available to help you interpret the range of housing stock that survives both in urban and country areas. You will be introduced to the historical contents of these houses, ranging from door fittings to kitchen furniture and wallpapers to tiles, using trade literature, pattern books and objects from the collections of the Caroline Simpson Library.

Please note: RAHS members should contact WEA first to check if their member number has been added to their student record before enrolling.

[BUY TICKETS](#)



RAHS Day Lecture
Stimulated, exhausted or inebriated? Investigating the *Queen of Nations* shipwreck

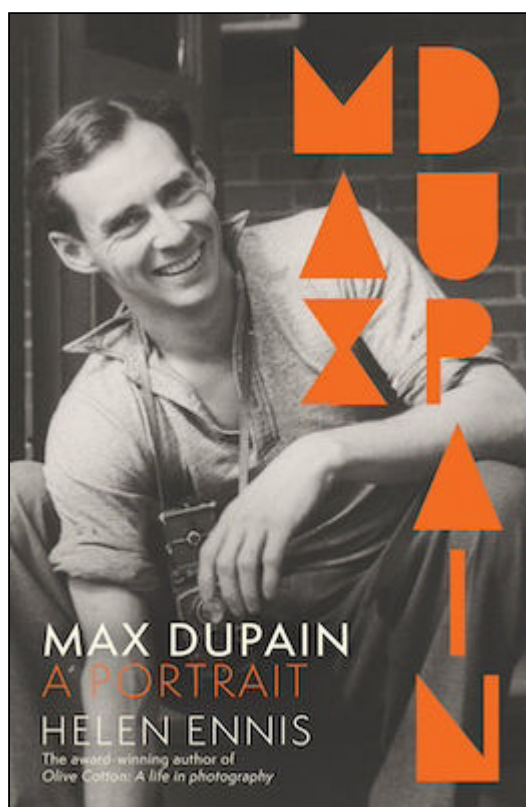
Speaker: Peter Hobbins.

When: Wednesday, 4 June 2025 at 1 pm.

Where: History House, 133 Macquarie St, Sydney.

Why did Captain Samuel Bache drive his fine clipper ship, Queen of Nations, onto Towradgi Beach in 1881? Was he really drunk as his crew insisted? And what about the captain's scandalous past involving a sailor who turned out to be a young woman? Dive into the drama and tragedy of sailing to nineteenth-century Australia in this lively presentation.

[RESERVE TICKETS](#)



RAHS Special Lecture
On Max Dupain

Speaker: Helen Ennis.

When: Wednesday, 18 June 2025 at 1 pm.

Where: History House, 133 Macquarie St, Sydney.

Cost: Free.

Max Dupain's photographs — especially of Sydney — helped shape the image of modern Australia. Helen Ennis will discuss Dupain's views and legacy and the challenges his voluminous archive poses to a biographical approach.

[RESERVE TICKETS](#)

Affiliated Societies News

Congratulations to Port Macquarie Museum



Port Macquarie Museum

Shortlisted for National Trust (NSW) Heritage Award

The RAHS warmly congratulates Port Macquarie Museum on being shortlisted in the Advocacy category of the 2025 National Trust (NSW) Heritage Awards. The Museum is recognised for its continued efforts in raising the profile of its State significant site and advocating for its conservation, interpretation, and sustainable future.

This recognition comes as the Museum marks 65 years since opening at 22 Clarence Street, Port Macquarie, on Easter Monday 1960. For nearly seven decades, the Museum has played a vital role in preserving and sharing the region's cultural heritage.

A highlight of the nomination is the recent Conservation Management Strategy for the Museum's historic Store building, developed by Design 5 Architects with support from Heritage NSW and The Copland Foundation. The project has revealed significant new details about the building's construction, age, and historical use—deepening the Museum's understanding of the site and strengthening its long-term conservation planning.

The RAHS commends the Port Macquarie Museum for its enduring contribution to heritage preservation and community history in regional NSW.

Hassall Family History Association - Upcoming Event



HASSALL FAMILY HISTORY BUS TOUR

ROUSE HILL - WINDSOR - EBENEZER

Discover the Hassalls' contribution to the early development of the Colony of NSW.

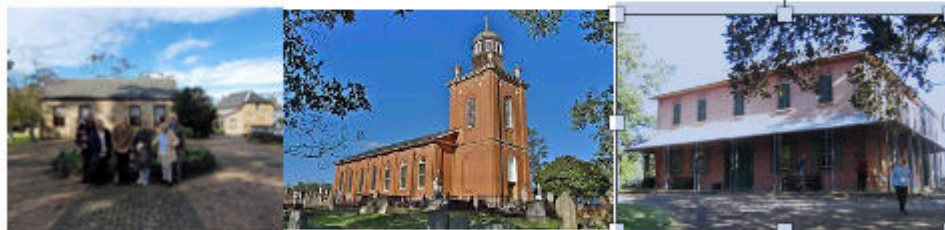
22nd June 2025

Working with NSW Living Museums and the Hawkesbury Historical Society our tour will:

1. Explore the northern Hawkesbury region treading the Hassall footsteps
2. See remaining heritage buildings and discover Hassall family connections with them.
3. Ascertain where and why Rowland Hassall preached at Ebenezer
4. Reveal the Hassalls' interest in the region and their connection to other colonial families

The tour will start 9-30am at Rouse Hill Metro Station with a chartered bus which limits the tour to 40 people

The bus will take us to all key points and return us at the end of the day.



To Register for the Bus Tour please contact

The Treasurer
Hassall Family History Association Inc
Email: brooksjno@gmail.com

Parramatta Female Factory Friends - Upcoming Event



PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC.

present

A COLONIAL CRAFT WORKSHOP 2

- STRAW PLAITING & BRAIDING



In this workshop participants will be completing a replica of a sun bonnet similar to a hat made and worn by Female Convicts. The workshop is being led by the talented Lyn Watkins, crafter and descendant of factory women

WHEN: SATURDAY, 10th May 2025 - 10 am to 1 pm.

WHERE: Parramatta Female Factory Friends Room

5 Fleet Street, North Parramatta

No parking onsite - street parking available

Straw plaiting was one of the numerous occupations of the convict women transported to the Colony of NSW. There were several women in the Female Factory with this skill and trade - all manner of household items and practical goods were made from plaited straw. A plaited straw hat or a bonnet was an essential item of clothing in such a hot climate and for women, an adornment when trimmed with a ribbon or two.

Equipment: Bring your own scissors and tape measure.

Cost: \$15

Please Note: If you are a NEW participant we can supply you with a straw kit for only \$15 (total cost \$30).

Enquiries to Lyn: parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com

Bookings essential - places are limited

Click this link: <https://bit.ly/Lyncraftworkshop>

web: www.parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au
facebook: www.facebook.com/pfffriends/
email: parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com
Ph: 0456 787 252



Randwick District Historical Society - Upcoming Event

History Talk (RDHS): Sydney Harbour Bridge Celebrations

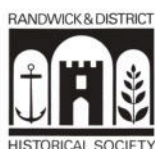


Join us for an engaging presentation exploring the celebrations associated with the building of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, the milestones celebrated during construction and the two weeks of celebrations on its completion. We will also discuss how the bridge has become an enduring symbol in the life of our nation.

This discussion will be presented by Gail Davis, who had a distinguished career at NSW State Archives as a Senior Archivist. Throughout her time there, she led research services, developed key indexes, authored the award-winning *The Convict Guide* and contributed to major research projects, including digital exhibitions.

[Photograph] Courtesy of Museums of History NSW. SHB: Schoolgirls at the 1932 opening celebrations.

This is a free event, held by the Randwick and District Historical Society (RDHS) and Randwick City Library.



Lionel Bowen Library
Saturday 7 June 1.00pm
669-673 Anzac Parade, Maroubra

**BOOK
NOW**



Bookings are essential online:
www.randwick.nsw.gov.au/library
Enquiries: 9093 6400

History News

Parramatta Female Factory and Institutions Precinct - Heritage Day

& Institutions Precinct -A National Heritage Site-



Whether you are a history buff or seeking a day of simple pleasures with friends and family, Heritage Day at this unique Parramatta site promises a memorable experience. Take a site tour or book a talk, delight in the music, the food, various market stalls and heritage.

Parramatta North



Join us for Heritage Day
Saturday 17 May 2025, 9am - 3pm

5 Fleet Street, North Parramatta
Public transport is recommended.
Visit transportnsw.info




Please note that all events are FREE however some pre-bookings are required for talks and tours. Tickets are allocated on a 'first come first served basis'. To be notified when bookings are available, please register your details:

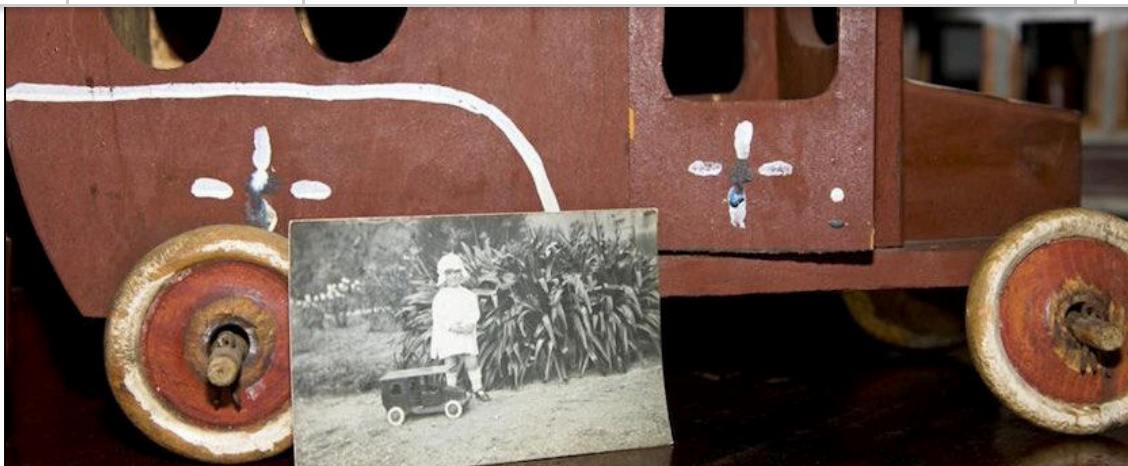
CLICK HERE: [Tickets for Heritage Day at Parramatta North](#)



- Visit the PFFF Research Centre & Babette Smith Collection - look up that elusive convict ancestor; share your stories
- Browse the unique PFFF sales corner and Sarah & Hannah's Ye Olde Curiosity Shoppe and view the History - Herstory - Ourstory displays
- Rest a while with a well-earned cup of tea or coffee and delicious scones at Matron Ann Gordon's Pop-Up Café located near the Friends' Rooms.
- Talks include "Banished Beyond the Seas" by PFFF's Ronda Gaffey, "Punishments in the Parramatta Female Factory and Beyond" by PFFF's Kevin Dodds and "Family History Archives" by MHNSW. See the above link to register your interest in Tours and Talks.

EASY ACCESS - TAKE THE PARRAMATTA LIGHT RAIL FROM PARRAMATTA SQUARE - ALIGHT AT NGARA

Other News



Community Heritage Grants 2025 Round – Now Open

What are the Community Heritage Grants?

The Community Heritage Grants (CHG) program supports community-based organisations to identify and care for Australian, moveable cultural heritage collections which are publicly accessible, locally held and nationally significant.

How we can help

The CHG supports small, local groups with limited funding and staffing resources, who would benefit from access to professional cultural heritage expertise. Grants of up to \$20,000 are available to help organisations undertake a three-stage journey to assess their collection, identify collection care recommendations and implement practical improvements.

Non-profit, incorporated organisations and some government agencies – including historical societies, archives, regional museums, public libraries, community groups, multicultural and First Nations organisations – are encouraged to apply. For more details visit the [CHG website](#).

Activities we support

In the first two stages, organisations work with experienced heritage practitioners to produce reports that:

- Explain the meanings and value of their collections (a significance assessment)
- Outline the condition of their collections and provide a conservation and collection management plan (a preservation needs assessment).

In the third stage, funding is available to:

conservation, purchase of collection housing and storage materials, environmental control and monitoring equipment or digitisation.

CHG also offers grants for collection management training projects or cataloguing and collection management system software.

Applications and guidelines

Applicants should read the 2025 CHG Round Guidelines before applying. The Guidelines and application forms are available on the [CHG website](#).

For queries or to discuss your project, contact chg@nla.gov.au



Church Street, Parramatta circa 1920 (RAHS Collection)

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The Royal Australian Historical Society

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