



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WINTER 2024

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Book online at <https://www.rahs.org.au/rahs-events/> or call us on (02) 9247 8001

Date	Time	Event	Presenters	Member	Friend
MAY					
Wed 1	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Day Lecture – <i>What Is So Good About Crime, Historians' Edition</i>	Nancy Cushing	Free*	Free*
Thu 16	11am – 1pm	RAHS-ARHS/WEA Workshop – <i>'Who Travels by Train sees NSW Best': The Role of Railways in the Progress of NSW</i>	James Dalton	\$35*	\$39*
Wed 22	6pm – 7.30pm	RAHS/National Archaeology Week Lecture – <i>Bricks, Bottles and Bones: Historical Archaeology at the Parramatta Metro Site</i>	Abi Cryerhall	\$12	\$15
27 May – 3 June		National Reconciliation Week – Now More Than Ever #NRW2024			
JUNE					
Wed 5	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Day Lecture – <i>Awabakal and Nikkin: Reconnecting histories of First Peoples, coal and colonists</i>	Julie McIntyre	Free*	Free*
Wed 12	10am – 2pm	RAHS History House Seminar – <i>How to Conduct Guided Historical Tours</i>	Judith Dunn	\$25	\$25
Wed 19	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Special Lecture – <i>Joseph Banks and the Endeavour: The Unauthorised Biography</i>	Ian Burnet	Free	Free
JULY					
Wed 3	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Day Lecture – <i>The Power to Read Others: Popular Phrenology in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand</i>	Alexandra Roginski	Free*	Free*
Sun 7 Jul – Sun 14 Jul		NAIDOC Week – Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud #NAIDOC2024			
Wed 10	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Special Lecture – <i>Broughton House, Parramatta: A Colonial Misnomer</i>	Michael Organ	Free	Free
AUGUST					
Wed 7	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Day Lecture – <i>Sylvia Lawson's Journey From Film Critic to Historian</i>	Sam Twyford-Moore	Free	Free
Wed 14	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Special Lecture – <i>Subjects of Time: Australian lives at the fin de siècle</i>	Mark Hearn	Free	Free
Wed 21	11am – 1pm	RAHS/WEA Workshop – <i>Stitching Stories: Crafting personal narratives using interconnected online resources</i>	Various	\$35	\$39

Please check the venue details as some events are online and some are at History House, 133 Macquarie St, Sydney NSW 2000. Events marked with an asterisk (*) are online.

Joint RAHS/WEA events must be booked through WEA (02) 9264 2781 or <https://www.weasydney.com.au>



RAHS Day Lecture – *What Is So Good About Crime, Historians' Edition*

Wednesday, 1 May 2024, 1 pm – 2 pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free.

While crime statistics trend downward, the appetite for stories about crime just keeps growing. This abiding interest makes historical crime a tempting area for historians following their own interests or with a view to writing histories that people want to read. In 2018, I became part of this trend when I developed a course on the history of crime in Australia. In this talk, I will discuss why crime can be so fruitful for historians, illustrating my points with examples from Australia's criminal past.

About the speaker: Nancy Cushing is Associate Professor in History at the University of Newcastle on unceded Awabakal land. Her teaching includes the history of crime while her research area is Australian environmental history. Her current book project is *A New History of Australia in 15 Animals* (Bloomsbury). Nancy is the 2024–2025 Coral Thomas Fellow at the State Library of New South Wales, Director of the Centre for the Study of Violence and a member of the executive of the Australian Historical Association.

RAHS-ARHS/WEA Workshop – ‘Who Travels by Train sees NSW Best’: *The Role of Railways in the Progress of NSW* | Thursday, 16 May 2024, 11 am – 1 pm online via Zoom.

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

Bookings through WEA (02) 9264 2781 or online at <https://www.weasydney.com.au/course/RRPNSW>

Railways are often overlooked for the significant role they played in the development of NSW. Most of us have some association or connection to railways, even if it is just to get us to and from work. But did you know that since 1855, railways have shaped the economic, social, technological, industrial and political development of our society? This presentation will explore this story and its significance to citizens and their families.

About the speaker: James Dalton is the Chair and General Manager of the Australian Railway Historical Society. The Society is over 90 years old and is dedicated to preserving and sharing the story of railways in Australia. James has a lifelong interest in railways and history and, with degrees in engineering and business, has worked in the railways, medical, and cultural sectors.

RAHS/National Archaeology Week Lecture – *Bricks, Bottles and Bones: Historical Archaeology at the Parramatta Metro Site* | Wednesday, 22 May 2024, 6pm – 7.30pm at History House.

Cost: RAHS Members \$12 | Non-Members \$15

Archaeological excavations at the new Parramatta metro station site commenced in 2022 and is being undertaken in stages through to the end of 2025. Comprising almost an entire city block in the heart of the CBD, the excavations so far have revealed evidence of environmental change, significant Aboriginal archaeology including contact-period artefacts, two convict huts, multiple phases of 19th-century domestic occupation, and local manufacturers and businesses. Post-excavation analysis is in its early stages, this talk explores some of the preliminary findings and artefacts from the site.

About the speaker: Abi Cryerhall is a Principal at GML Heritage and is the lead archaeologist for the project.

RAHS Day Lecture – *Awabakal and Nikkin: Reconnecting histories of First Peoples, coal and colonists*
Wednesday, 5 June 2024, 1pm – 2pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free.

In the late 1790s colonists encountered exposed coal measures along the 35-kilometre stretch of coastal cliffs from Newcastle's Nobby's Head to Catherine Hill Bay near Lake Macquarie. Geologist Edgeworth David later declared this extensive carbon-rich strata to be 'probably the finest of its kind in the whole world.' As this paper discusses, the prevalence of visible coal seams means it is no surprise that Awabakal people of the region named, used and traded bituminous, heat-softened, tar-like nikkin (coal).

About the speaker: Julie McIntyre is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Newcastle. She researches the relationship between commodity production, distribution and consumption centred on grape wine, people, plants and place. Research for her new book for Princeton University Press on Australia in global context has led to her interest in the Indigenous histories of coal and other minerals.

RAHS History House Seminar – *How to Conduct Guided Historical Tours*

Wednesday, 12 June 2024, 10am – 2pm at History House. Cost: \$25 (includes morning tea and lunch).

Join Judith Dunn for a practical seminar on conducting guided historical tours. This workshop will cover Commentary, Timing, Dealing with Difficult Customers, Leading Tour Groups, and Tour Group Management. Members and volunteers of historical societies that operate a museum/house museum or conduct walking or bus tours are encouraged to participate. The workshop is also suitable for anyone who has never guided before, and as a refresher for those that have.

About the speaker: Judith Dunn OAM has been a Professional Guide for 26 years. She is also a member of the Institute of Australian Tour Guides. Judith taught Tourism at TAFE for nine years and has also trained guides at the Whitlam Institute (University of Western Sydney), National Trust, Australiana Village and Bella Vista Farm.

RAHS Special Lecture – *Joseph Banks and the Endeavour: The Unauthorised Biography*

Wednesday, 19 June 2024, 1pm – 2pm at History House. Cost: Free.

Joseph Banks together with Daniel Solander collected hundreds of botanical specimens and were the first trained naturalists to describe the unique flora and fauna of Continent Australia that had evolved during its 30 million years of isolation. They returned to England with over 3,000 specimens which went into Joseph Banks's private collection. All the work was done to draw and describe the specimens which were to be published in a massive volume. But this never happened. Why?

About the speaker: Ian Burnet grew up in South Gippsland in Victoria and graduated with a combined major in Geology and Geophysics from the University of Melbourne. His books show his fascination with the diverse history of the Indonesian archipelago to the north of Australia. Ian is the author of six books that relate to maritime history, the spice trade and the vast archipelago to the north of Australia. These include *Spice Islands*, *East Indies*, *Archipelago*, *Where Australia Collides with Asia*, *The Tasman Map* and *Joseph Conrad's Eastern Voyages*. Details can be found on his website – www.ianburnetbooks.com.

RAHS Day Lecture – *The Power to Read Others: Popular Phrenology in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand*

Wednesday, 3 July 2024, 1pm – 2pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free.

The contentious science of phrenology once promised insight into character and intellect through external 'reading' of the head. In the transforming settler-colonial landscapes of Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, and well into the twentieth century, popular phrenologists performed their science of touch and cranial jargon everywhere from mechanics' institutions to public houses. Alexandra Roginski invites us into a history of this everyday practice and to reflecting on the enduring appeal of a shortcut to knowing who we can trust.

About the speaker: Dr Alexandra Roginski (ANU, 2019) is a historian, writer and heritage worker based in Melbourne on Wurundjeri Country. Her work focuses on practices and ideas of the body, past and present. She is the author, most recently, of *Science and Power in the Nineteenth-Century Tasman World: Popular Phrenology in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand* (Cambridge University Press, 2023).

RAHS Special Lecture – *Broughton House, Parramatta: A Colonial Misnomer*

Wednesday, 10 July 2024, 1pm – 2pm at History House. Cost: Free.

Broughton House, Parramatta – so named in 1910 by Percy Waddy of the King's School – was built in 1838–9 for Colonial Treasurer Laurentz Campbell and his family. The likely architect was John Verge. This talk presents a history of the house, correcting a number of misconceptions as to ownership, along with a review of artworks featuring it, and a case for reassessment of the heritage status and restoration.

About the speaker: Michael Organ is former University Archivist and Repository Manager at the University of Wollongong, a Greens Federal member of parliament, Secretary of the Illawarra Historical Society, Chair of the Wollongong Art Gallery Committee, and present committee member of the Friends of the National Film and Sound Archive. Michael's research interests include Metropolis 1927, movie posters, Indigenous history and language, and colonial artists, including Conrad Martens. He is an inveterate blogger.

**RAHS Day Lecture – *Sylvia Lawson’s Journey from Film Critic to Historian*
Wednesday, 7 August 2024, 1pm – 2pm at History House. Cost: Free.**

In 1983, the Australian film critic Sylvia Lawson published her first book *The Archibald Paradox*. The work originated after Sylvia, ‘rummaging around’ the *Bulletin* magazine’s old headquarters, ahead of the sale of the storied magazine to media mogul Frank Packer, found a set of exercise notebooks which housed the makings of J. F. Archibald’s handwritten memoirs. In this talk, we will look at how Australia’s finest mid-century film critic became one of its boldest biographers and historians.

About the speaker: Sam Twyford-Moore is the author of *The Rapids: Ways of Looking at Mania* (published by NewSouth Publishing and the University of Toronto Press). His second book *Cast Mates: Australian Actors in Hollywood and at Home* was released in 2023. As a freelance writer, he has contributed to a wide range of titles. He is currently a PhD candidate within the Australian Centre for Public History at the University of Technology, Sydney.

**RAHS Special Lecture – *Subjects of Time: Australian lives at the fin de siècle*
Wednesday, 14 August 2024, 1pm – 2pm at History House. Cost: Free.**

The *fin de siècle* (c.1890–1914) reflected a tension between the movement towards the future and an enervating stasis: fears of degeneration contested with the promise of progress. Many of the biographical subjects of *The Fin de Siècle Imagination in Australia* – including feminist Vida Goldstein, writer Henry Lawson, and Aboriginal activist David Unaipon – seemed gripped by a sense of urgency in pursuit of their aims, as the possibilities of profound change seemed imminently within reach. The ideas available at the *fin de siècle* provided the imaginative resources for intensifying this search: first wave feminism and the New Woman, the emergence of radical politics and anarchism; the exploration of Symbolism and alternative spirituality. *The Fin de Siècle Imagination in Australia* explored the patterns of self-creation that emerged from these individuals experience, and their need to assert an identity at a moment of profound change in Australian society.

About the speaker: Mark Hearn is a senior lecturer in the Department of History and Archaeology, Macquarie University. His research focuses on the history, historiography, and historical theory of the *fin de siècle*, and the history of ideas and governance in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. He is the author of *The Fin de Siècle Imagination in Australia, 1890–1914* (London: Bloomsbury 2022).

**RAHS/WEA Workshop – *Stitching Stories: Crafting personal narratives using interconnected online resources*
Wednesday, 21 August 2024, 11am – 1pm at History House.**

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

Bookings through WEA (02) 9264 2781 or online at <https://www.weasydney.com.au/course/SSCPN>

This workshop will equip participants with the knowledge and skills to delve into the rich tapestry of online resources available for uncovering life stories. By exploring interconnected platforms and databases, participants will gain the ability to piece together historical narratives and paint a comprehensive picture of a person's life. It will showcase the wealth of information available in digital format (indexes, newspapers, government archives and genealogical websites), provide tips on effective search strategies, and highlight the importance of corroborating information across multiple sources to ensure accuracy.

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