



# ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## SPRING 2024

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Date	Time	Event	Presenter	Member	Friend
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>					
Wed 4	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Day Lecture – <i>A Transgressive Life: Monte Punshon and the Transformation of Australia, 1882–1989</i>	Tessa Morris-Suzuki	Free*	Free*
Wed 11	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Special Lecture – <i>The influence of English Revival architecture in Neutral Bay and Cremorne Point, 1885–1930</i>	Ian Hoskins	Free	Free
Wed 25	6pm – 7pm	RAHS Evening Lecture – <i>Portable Buildings: Port Jackson to Darwin</i>	Miles Lewis	\$20	\$25
<b>OCTOBER</b>					
Wed 2	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Day Lecture – <i>Mapping the Colony: The intriguing contributions of Francis Barrallier</i>	Andy Macqueen	Free*	Free*
Sat 26 – Sun 27	2024 RAHS Conference at the Campbelltown Catholic Club <i>Windows into Local History</i>				
<b>NOVEMBER</b>					
Wed 6	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Day Lecture – <i>The Antipodean Laboratory: Re-reading colonial archives</i>	Anna Johnston	Free*	Free*
Tue 12	6pm – 7.30pm	RAHS/HHA Evening Event – <i>In the House with Kate Fitzpatrick</i>		\$35	\$40
Wed 13	11am – 1pm	RAHS/WEA Workshop – <i>Stepping Ashore: Researching Passenger Arrivals to the Australian Colonies</i>	Christine Yeats	\$35	\$39
Wed 20	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Special Lecture – <i>Life So Full of Promise: Biographies of Australia’s Lost Generation</i>	Ross McMullin	Free*	Free*
<b>DECEMBER</b>					
Tue 3	11am – 1pm	RAHS History House Seminar – <i>Writing History: Some Tips and Taboos</i>	Richard White	\$20	\$25
Tue 3	4pm – 7pm	RAHS Christmas Party		Free	Free
Wed 4	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Day Lecture – <i>A Nation Divided: The Sister Liguori Affair 1920–21</i>	Jeff Kildea	Free	Free

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 streamed online.

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



Australian  
Institute of  
Architects

**RAHS Day Lecture – *A Transgressive Life: Monte Punshon and the Transformation of Australia, 1882–1989***  
**Wednesday 4 September 2024, 1pm – 2pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free.**

In her 106-year-long life, Ethel May (Monte) Punshon transgressed many of the social norms of her time. She crossed accepted boundaries of gender and sexuality and geographical borders separating Australia from Asia and the Pacific. This talk will explore the challenges of researching and writing Monte Punshon's story and consider the light that her life throws on the transformation of Australian society from the 1880s to the 1980s.

**About the speaker:** Tessa Morris-Suzuki is a Professor Emerita in the College of Asia and the Pacific, Australian National University. Her publications include *The Past Within Us* (2005), *Borderline Japan* (2010) and *On the Frontiers of History* (2020). She is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and the Australian Institute of International Affairs. Her most recent book is *A Secretive Century: Monte Punshon's Australia* (Melbourne University Publishing, 2024).

**RAHS Special Lecture – *Rough-casting, shingles and half-timbered gables: the influence of English Revival architecture in Neutral Bay and Cremorne Point, 1885–1930***

**Wednesday 11 September 2024, 1pm – 2pm at History House. Cost: Free.**

Delayed development on the north side of Sydney Harbour meant that houses in the waterfront suburbs of Neutral Bay and Cremorne Point were characterised by English Revival architecture, which rose in the 1880s to influence the so-called Federation style and continued into the 1920s. Walter Liberty Vernon, Edward Jeaffreson Jackson, BJ Waterhouse and other like-minded architects and builders left their mark on these suburbs so that they remain showcases of English Revivalism.

**About the speaker:** Dr Ian Hoskins has been the North Sydney Council historian since 2003. He is the author of four major books, including *Australia and the Pacific: A History*, which won the Frank Broeze Memorial Prize for Maritime History in 2023.

**RAHS Evening Lecture – *Portable Buildings: Port Jackson to Darwin***

**Wednesday 25 September 2024, 6pm – 7pm at History House (doors open 5.30 pm).**

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

Prefabrication played an important role in Australia from the first European settlement onwards, and more examples survive here than anywhere else in the world. They include wooden houses from Singapore (none of which survive in Singapore itself); English iron buildings of the 1850s (only one of which survives in Britain); plate iron buildings from Glasgow, like the Legislative Council building in Macquarie Street (none in Scotland), redwood buildings from the USA (none), and others from Germany, France and Italy. Most are of great historical and technical interest.

**About the speaker:** Professor Miles Lewis AM FAHA is an architectural historian specialising in the history of building technology and is the author of the research upon which is based the bid for UNESCO World Heritage listing of the buildings imported to Australia in the nineteenth century.

**RAHS Day Lecture – *Mapping the colony: The intriguing contributions of Francis Barrallier***

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

The French refugee Francis Barrallier – surveyor, cartographer, engineer and explorer – made significant contributions to NSW colonial endeavours from 1800 to 1803 but fell victim to the feuding between his fellow Rum Corps officers and Governor King. His talents were employed in the West Indies instead. In speaking to his book *The Frenchman*, Andy Macqueen will argue that Barrallier's French origin and associations influenced his undertakings and his fate in the colony.

**About the speaker:** Andy Macqueen OAM is a Blue Mountains historian. He has produced six books and many other works, including several peer-reviewed papers published by the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations. His topics include colonial exploration and first contact, surveying and conservation history. His latest book is *The Frenchman: Francis Barrallier, life and journeys 1773–1853* (2024).

**RAHS Day Lecture – *The Antipodean Laboratory: Re-reading colonial archives***

**Wednesday 6 November 2024, 1pm – 2pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free.**

What if the Australian colonies, far flung and usually considered peripheral to nineteenth-century Europe, were in fact central to the period's philosophical, ethical, and scientific developments? This talk explores this provocative idea, showing how Australia was a key colonial field where British ideas could be trialled in experimental sites that transformed and distilled them before returning them as textual and material artefacts through circuits of correspondence and print culture.

**About the speaker:** Anna Johnston is Professor of English at The University of Queensland. Anna has held ARC Queen Elizabeth II and Future Fellowships at UTAS and UQ, and she was the 2022 John Oxley Honorary Research Fellow, State Library of Queensland. Her major books include *The Antipodean Laboratory: Making Colonial Knowledge, 1770–1870* (CUP, 2023); *Eliza Hamilton Dunlop: Writing from the Colonial Frontier* (SUP, 2022, edited with Elizabeth Webby); *The Paper War: Morality, Print Culture, and Power in Colonial New South Wales* (UWAP, 2011); and *Missionary Writing and Empire, 1800–1860* (CUP, 2003).

**RAHS/HHA Evening Event – *In the House with Kate Fitzpatrick***

**Tuesday, 12 November 2024, 6pm – 7.30pm at History House.**

**Cost: RAHS/HHA Members \$35 | Non-Members \$40.**

We are delighted to announce that the Royal Australian Historical Society, in partnership with the Historic Houses Association, will host a special joint event at History House. **Tamar Kelly** will interview **Kate Fitzpatrick** and explore Kate's extraordinary career that spans theatre, film, and television.

**Kate Fitzpatrick** has been hailed a National Treasure for good reason – star of Australia's stage and screen, artist's muse, writer and a trailblazing commentator. Career highlights include playing Magenta in the original Australian production of the *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, opening the Opera House in 1973 with the *Three Penny Opera*, being the first woman in the world to call the cricket, and most recently touring Australia in *Gaslight*. In 2025, you can catch her in Renny Harlin's latest film, *Deep Water*. Tamar Kelly will chat to Kate about her several appearances at the Opera House, time spent with Brett Whiteley, Martin Sharpe and Charles Blackman at the Yellow House and everything in between – including a rich and rambunctious collaboration with writer Patrick White.

**Tamar Kelly** landed her first acting role at age seven and spent weekends running backstage at the Sydney Opera House or whirling around a ballet studio. She has worked all over the world as a performer, writer, teacher and producer. Tamar is currently at Carriageworks in Redfern where she produced the Yellamundie Festival, 'swim' for Griffin Theatre and 'Gilgamesh' with Sydney Chamber Opera and Opera Australia, among others. Tamar loves exploring the techniques and inspirations of creatives and is excited to work with HHA to bring you a series of 'In the House' interviews.

**RAHS/WEA Workshop – *Stepping Ashore: Researching Passenger Arrivals in the Australian Colonies***

**Wednesday, 13 November 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/RPAAC>**

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

**About the speaker:** Christine Yeats is an archivist, historical researcher and active supporter of local historical societies. Her research interests include the history of the Romani (Gypsies) in nineteenth-century Australia and attempts to introduce a silk industry into the Australian colonies. She is President of the FAHS, Senior Vice President of the RAHS and a member of the Professional Historians Association (NSW & ACT).

**RAHS Special Lecture – *Life So Full of Promise: Further Biographies of Australia’s Lost Generation*  
Wednesday 20 November 2024, 1pm – 2pm 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.

**About the speaker:** Ross McMullin is an award-winning historian and biographer, and a renowned storyteller and speaker. His biography of Australia’s most famous fighting general, Pompey Elliott, won multiple awards. His other books, including his acclaimed ALP centenary history *The Light on the Hill*, are featured on his website: <https://rossmcmullin.com.au>.

**RAHS History House Seminar – *Writing History: Some Tips and Taboos*  
Tuesday, 3 December 2024, 11am – 1pm at History House.**

**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 simply let AI do it for them. Writing history is a literary endeavour. This workshop 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.

**About the speaker:** Richard White taught Australian history at the University of Sydney from 1989 to 2013, supervising over 100 honours and doctoral theses. His own publications include *Inventing Australia*, *The Oxford Book of Australian Travel Writing*, *On Holidays* and *Symbols of Australia*. He co-edited *History Australia*, the journal of the Australian Historical Association, from 2008 to 2013, mentored early-career academics and has been a judge for a range of History prizes.

**RAHS Christmas Party**

**Tuesday 3 December, 4pm – 7pm at History House (Please RSVP by Tuesday 26 November).**

**Cost: Free (light refreshments served).**

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

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

**RAHS Day Lecture – *A Nation Divided: The Sister Liguori Affair 1920–21*  
Wednesday 4 December 2024, 1pm – 2pm at History House. 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 unholy mix of politics and religion.

**About the speaker:** Dr Jeff Kildea is a retired barrister and honorary professor in Irish Studies at the University of New South Wales. In 2014 he held the Keith Cameron Chair of Australian History at University College Dublin. He has written extensively on the history of the Irish in Australia. His books include *Tearing the Fabric: Sectarianism in Australia 1910–1925*. His latest book is *Sister Liguori: The Nun who Divided a Nation*.