



# ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY SUMMER & AUTUMN 2025 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>JANUARY</b>					
Thu 30	5.30pm for 6pm – 7pm	RAHS Special Lecture – <i>Hardy Wilson’s Old Colonial Architecture, 1924–2024</i>	Hector Abrahams & Cameron Logan	\$20	\$25
<b>FEBRUARY</b>					
Sat 1	11am	Exhibition Tour – <i>Hardy Wilson’s Old Colonial Architecture, 1924–2024</i>	Hector Abrahams	Free	Free
Wed 5	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Day Lecture – <i>Joy Howarth: Australia’s Forgotten Film Star</i>	Camille Scaysbrook	Free	Free
Tue 25	6pm – 7.30pm	RAHS Evening Event – <i>A Legacy in Print: Honouring the Past and Embracing the Future of the Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society</i>	Various	Free*	Free*
<b>MARCH</b>					
Wed 5	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Day Lecture – <i>How to watch a flogging: Pop culture convicts and the making of Australian history</i>	James Findlay	Free	Free
Fri 7	10am – 12pm	RAHS International Women’s Day Event	Judith Dunn & Catherine Bishop	\$10	\$10
Wed 19	5.30pm for 6pm – 7pm	RAHS Special Lecture – <i>Aspects of Chinese-Australian Heritage: Landscape Traces</i>	Stuart Read	\$20	\$25
<b>APRIL</b>					
Wed 2	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Day Lecture – <i>The True Story of the Dog on the Tuckerbox</i>	Richard White	Free	Free
Wed 9	11am – 1pm	RAHS/WEA Workshop – <i>Using Maps in Local History Research</i>	Carol Liston	\$35	\$39
Tue 15	6pm – 8pm	RAHS Annual General Meeting			
18 April to 18 May		National Trust’s Australian Heritage Festival (NSW) <i>Theme: Unearthed</i>			

Please check the venue details as some events are online and some are at History House, 133 Macquarie St, Sydney. Some History House events may be hybrid. 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>



**RAHS Special Lecture – *Hardy Wilson’s Old Colonial Architecture, 1924–2024***

**Thursday, 30 January 2025, 6 pm – 7 pm at History House (doors open 5.30 pm).**

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

2024 marked the 100th anniversary of Hardy Wilson’s *Old Colonial Architecture in NSW and Tasmania*. By many measures, it is the foundation of historical scholarship on architecture in Australia and the first major publication dedicated to the conservation of Australian buildings. A special exhibition hosted by the Fisher Library celebrated the book and Wilson’s role in establishing publication as a significant mode of architectural production in this country. It also reflected on Wilson’s complex legacy. Wilson proclaimed a mix of views about architecture, society, and the environment, which ranged from fascinating and kooky to obnoxious.

In this lecture, Hector Abrahams will preface a tour of the exhibition by presenting a historical slice of intellectual artistic life in Sydney in the years up to 1924 to which Wilson was connected. It will be introduced by Associate Professor Cameron Logan.

**Hector Abrahams** has been a leading heritage architect in Sydney since 1986. His experience covers a great range of heritage in NSW and beyond. He is current Deputy President of the National Trust of Australia (NSW). His notable publications have been the major essays on Blackett and Hunt for the *Australian Encyclopedia of Architecture* and Sydney Christian Church Architecture for the *Dictionary of Sydney*.

**Associate Professor Cameron Logan** is an urban and architectural historian and director of the postgraduate program in Heritage Conservation at the University of Sydney’s School of Architecture Design and Planning. He is the author of *Historic Capital: Preservation, race and real estate in Washington DC*. He has a special interest in health buildings and the buildings of modern Australian universities.

**Exhibition Tour – *Hardy Wilson’s Old Colonial Architecture, 1924–2024***

**Saturday, 1 February 2025, 11 am at Level 2, Fisher Library, University of Sydney Campus**

**Cost: Free (no bookings required)**

Meet at Rare Books exhibition space, Level 2, Fisher Library, The University of Sydney at 11 am.

This exhibition marks the 100th anniversary of Hardy Wilson’s *Old Colonial Architecture in NSW and Tasmania*, considered by many to be the foundation of historical scholarship on architecture in Australia. Join Hector Abrahams for a tour of the exhibition at the Fisher Library on the University of Sydney campus.

The exhibition draws attention to the book’s creation, examines its enduring presence and influence in Australian architecture, and contextualises the book in Wilson’s biography and wider body of published work. In doing so, the exhibition highlights Wilson’s artistic ability and his catalytic role in architectural publishing in Australia, while raising important questions about his legacy and the status of his best-known book.

**RAHS Day Lecture – *Joy Howarth: Australia’s Forgotten Film Star***

**Wednesday, 5 February 2025, 1 pm – 2 pm at History House. 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 fascinating true tale of a forgotten Australian trailblazer is revealed here for the first time.

**About the speaker:** Camille Scaysbrook has worked as a playwright, a radio writer, a media analyst, a political advisor on arts education, and an independent researcher on film history. She has participated in talks and interviews at the Biennale of Sydney, Jessie Street National Women’s Library and ABC Radio, covering topics ranging from women modernists in Australian art to film theory. She is the author of a forthcoming biography of actress Joy Howarth.

**RAHS Evening Event – *A Legacy in Print: Honouring the Past and Embracing the Future of the JRAHS***  
**Tuesday, 25 February 2025, 6 pm – 7.30 pm at History House and Online via Zoom. 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 Dr 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.

**Dr Samuel White** is Editor of the *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*. His work is focused on law, history and power. In 2024, he was appointed on a three-year term to be the Army Fellow at the Australian War Memorial to explore the notion of frontier violence. In 2025, he was made a Fellow of the National Library of Australia for his work on Australian constitutional legal history.

**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).

**David Carment AM** is Emeritus Professor of History at Charles Darwin University, where he was Dean of the Faculty of Law, Business and Arts. He has published extensively on aspects of Australian history.

**Leonie Bell** is a professional tour guide and local historian who has won Bayside Council's Ron Rathbone Local History Prize four times. She is an active member of the Botany Bay Family History Society.

**Ben Hingley** is a PhD candidate and sessional legal academic at UNE. His main area of interest is legal history. He is currently researching the use of martial law in colonial New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land.

**RAHS Day Lecture – *How to watch a flogging: Pop culture convicts and the making of Australian history***  
**Wednesday, 5 March 2025, 1 pm – 2 pm at History House. 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.

**About the speaker:** James Findlay is a Lecturer in Australian history at the University of Sydney. He has a research focus on historical film and television studies, convict history, Australian popular culture, and public history. He has held the Australian Film Institute Research Collection Fellowship and before becoming a historian worked extensively in film and television production, mostly in the field of documentary.

**RAHS International Women's Day Event**

**Friday, 7 March 2025, 10 am – 12 pm at History House. Cost: \$10 (includes morning tea)**

**Unknown Women Pioneers:** This talk reveals stories of women who did not reach the main history books but achieved much in the early days of the colony. You will not know their names, but all were hard-working, feisty and led lives obscurely great that shows tremendous resilience when women were thought as the weaker sex.

**Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Undertakers, Estate Agents & Department Store Buyers:** Discover some unexpected enterprises of turn-of-the-century Australian women who forged the way for later generations.

**About the speakers:** **Judith Dunn OAM** has been a RAHS Councillor for nine years and is a sought-after public speaker. A member of five affiliated societies, she has also been the convenor of the Historic Graves Committee at Parramatta for 40 years. **Dr Catherine Bishop** is a historian who has written several books, including the award-winning *Minding Her Own Business: Colonial Businesswomen in Sydney*.

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

**Wednesday, 19 March 2025, 6 pm – 7 pm at History House**

**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, growing, trade. This included harvesting food and timber, ringbarking, mining, 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.

**About the speaker:** Stuart Read is a landscape architect, horticulturist and historian, with ongoing curiosity on cultural introductions, influences, patterns of blending. His first NSW State Heritage Register Listing seen through to fruition was the Chinese Garden of Friendship at Darling Harbour. He is the Sydney Branch Chair and past national Australian Garden History Society Co-Chair and works by day for Heritage NSW.

**RAHS Day Lecture – *The True Story of the Dog on the Tuckerbox***

**Wednesday, 2 April 2025, 1 pm – 2 pm at History House. Cost: Free**

In 1932 the Australian Prime Minister unveiled the statue of the Dog on the Tuckerbox, in Gundagai, NSW, on the Hume Highway half-way 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 of the Dog on the Tuckerbox 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?

**About the speaker:** Richard White retired from the University of Sydney in 2013, having taught Australian history and the history of travel and tourism there since 1989. He is a Councillor of the RAHS and initiated the establishment of the History Council of NSW. His publications include *Inventing Australia*, *On Holidays: A History of Getting Away in Australia* and *Symbols of Australia* (new edition 2020).

**RAHS-WEA Workshop – *Using Maps for Local History Research***

**Wednesday, 9 April 2025, 11 am – 1 pm at History House**

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

**Bookings through WEA (02) 9264 2781 or online at <https://www.weasydney.com.au/class/UMLHR-1>**

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.

**About the speaker:** Carol Liston AO is an Australian historian who specialises in the history of early New South Wales (1788–1860). Her particular interest is the colonial development of the County of Cumberland (Greater Western Sydney), using land records, family history and surviving buildings to document the past.

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