



# ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## SPRING 2017

### Calendar of Events for Members and Friends

Date	Time	Event	Presenter(s)	Members	Friends
<b>MID SEPTEMBER</b>					
Wed 20	11am – 1pm	*RAHS/WEA – <i>Trove: A “flagship discovery service” for all researchers</i>	Christine Yeats	\$32	\$35
<b>OCTOBER</b>					
Tue 3	2pm – 4pm	RAHS/Independent Scholars Association of Australia (NSW Chapter) Open Forum – <i>Reflections on Writing Australian Press History</i>	Elizabeth Morrison	\$5	\$5
Wed 4	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Day Lecture – <i>Kilmainham to Kalgoorlie: the life and times of Hugh Mahon</i>	Jeff Kildea	Free	Free
Sat 7	9am – 4.30pm	RAHS/OHNSW – <i>Capturing Memories: Oral History in the Digital Age</i>	Pauline Curby and Andrew Host	\$95	\$105
Sat 28 – Sun 29	All day	2017 RAHS CONFERENCE – Cowra NSW <i>Finding Lost Places, Lost People</i>	Visit the RAHS website for full details: <a href="http://www.rahs.org.au/2017-rahs-conference">www.rahs.org.au/2017-rahs-conference</a>		
<b>NOVEMBER</b>					
Wed 1	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Day Lecture – <i>Women’s Business: Midwives on the Mid North Coast of NSW to 1950</i>	Noeline Kyle	Free	Free
Thu 2	6pm – 7.30pm	RAHS Evening Event – <i>History is Hot: Postgraduate students present their research</i>	Elicia Taylor, Bryce Abraham and James Farquharson	Free	Free
Thu 9	11am – 1pm	RAHS Seminar: Land Title Records	Carol Liston	\$20	\$25
Wed 15	11am – 1pm	*RAHS/WEA – <i>Annabella Boswell’s Table: Researching Family History Through Objects</i>	Carolyn Williams	\$32	\$35
<b>DECEMBER</b>					
Wed 6	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Day Lecture – <i>Nature and Education in Early Twentieth Century New South Wales</i>	Dorothy Kass	Free	Free
Tue 12	4pm – 7pm	RAHS Christmas Party	N/A	Free	Free
<b>JANUARY 2018</b>					
Fri 26	10am – 4pm	RAHS History House Open Day: <i>Pot Luck History and Book Sale</i>	Various	Free	Free

**Bookings Essential:** Book for events online at [www.rahs.org.au/events](http://www.rahs.org.au/events) or call (02) 9247 8001 to book and confirm availability as some events have maximum numbers. \*Joint RAHS/WEA events must be booked through WEA (02) 9264 2781. Events take place at History House unless otherwise indicated. For updates on RAHS and joint events, subscribe to our regular eNewsletter and blog on the RAHS Website [www.rahs.org.au](http://www.rahs.org.au) or find us on Facebook.



Tom Bryant's Team Kendal Street, Cowra NSW c.1903 [Cowra & District Historical Society]

**RAHS/WEA: *Trove* – A “flagship discovery service” for all researchers**

**Wednesday 20 September, 11am – 1pm at History House**

**Cost: RAHS/WEA Members \$32; Non-Members \$35. Bookings through WEA (02) 9264 2781.**

Mention the National Library’s wonderful search engine *Trove* and images of digitised newspapers come to mind, including that most salacious of papers the *Sydney Truth*. However, *Trove* is so much more. It brings together content from libraries, museums, archives, repositories and other research and collecting organisations big and small across Australia under one umbrella. Join Christine Yeats archivist, librarian and professional historian and discover some of the mysteries of *Trove* as she guides you along its research byways and pathways.

**RAHS/ISAA (NSW Chapter) – Open Forum: *Reflections on Writing Australian Press History***

**Tuesday 3 October, 2pm – 4pm at History House**

**Cost: \$5**

This is an opportunity to hear ISAA scholar, Dr Elizabeth Morrison, and enjoy afternoon tea at the historical History House. Dr Elizabeth Morrison, BA (Melbourne 1957), PhD (Monash 1992) is a historian of literary, publishing and newspaper his-tory. Now an independent scholar, before ‘retirement’ in 1996 she was employed as a librarian, a lecturer in librarianship, a research fellow of the National Centre for Australian Studies at Monash University, and finally a project manager for the Academy Editions of Australian Literature. She is author of many articles, conference papers and reviews on various aspects of Australian print culture and has edited novels serialised in 19th-century newspapers for re-issue as books in the Colonial Texts Series. Her history of Victoria’s country newspaper press, *Engines of Influence*, was published by Melbourne University Press in 2005 and her biography of a Melbourne *Age* newspaper proprietor, *David Syme: Man of the Age*, by Monash University Publishing in 2014.

**RAHS Day Lecture – *Kilmainham to Kalgoorlie: The Life and Times of Hugh Mahon***

**Wednesday 4 October, 1pm – 2pm at History House**

**Cost: Free (tea, coffee, biscuits served)**

One of Australia’s most controversial politicians in the early years of the Commonwealth, Irish-born Hugh Mahon has the distinction of being the only member expelled from the federal parliament. Imprisoned in Kilmainham with Parnell in 1881 for his political activism he fled to Australia where he became a newspaperman, MP and government minister. Dr Jeff Kildea, is Adjunct Professor in Irish Studies at UNSW and was Keith Cameron Professor of Australian History at University College Dublin in 2014.

**RAHS/OHNSW Workshop – *Capturing Memories: Oral History in the Digital Age***

**Saturday 7 October, 9am – 4.30pm at History House**

**Cost: RAHS/OHNSW Members \$95; Non-Members \$105**

A practical workshop for all interested in recording the experiences of family, friends, local community, history of museum items or any other project incorporating memories of the past. Are you interested in recording the memories of your family, your community or your workplace? Then come along to this very popular and informative workshop to equip you to undertake oral history interviews. Workshop leaders will be Pauline Curby, an experienced oral historian and Andrew Host, whose 35 years experience as a sound engineer can help you get quality recordings that will stand the test of time. Both are members of Oral History NSW. Bookings through Oral History NSW <http://bit.ly/2iUFAv2>.

**2017 Royal Australian Historical Society Conference: *Finding Lost Places, Lost People***

**Saturday 28 – Sunday 29 October**

**Cowra Services Club, 101 Brisbane Street, Cowra NSW**

**For all RAHS Conference information visit [www.rahs.org.au/2017-rahs-conference](http://www.rahs.org.au/2017-rahs-conference)**

The theme of the 2017 Royal Australian Historical Society Conference is *Finding Lost Places, Lost People*. Uncovering hidden stories helps us better understand the past and can challenge our understanding of how the present came to be. Historical societies have an important role to play in ensuring that their communities’ history does not get lost and that members of the broader community can find out about their work so that they too can learn and contribute to this history. Lost communities can be remembered and found through written archival records, photographs and voice recordings. The digital revolution is increasing accessibility to records and providing more tools to reach a wider geographical and demographical audience. The RAHS invites you to join us at our 2017 conference in Cowra to explore these topics, learn skills that will support your history projects and enjoy opportunities to network and share histories with RAHS members and friends. There will be a pre-conference event on Friday 27 October at Cowra Japanese Garden and Cultural Centre where you will have the opportunity to meet fellow delegates. Subscribe to our eNewsletter and Blog for updates on the conference by visiting the RAHS website homepage [www.rahs.org.au](http://www.rahs.org.au) or find us on Facebook. Image: Man and woman playing tennis, Cowra, c.1907 [National Library of Australia]



**RAHS Day Lecture – *Women’s Business: Midwives on the Mid North Coast of NSW to 1950***

**Wednesday 1 November, 1pm – 2pm at History House**

**Cost: Free (tea, coffee, biscuits served)**

Dr Noeline Kyle will discuss her research into 200 midwives and more than 80 private hospitals on the Mid North Coast of NSW. This research began in 1979 when she was writing a biography of her great grandmother Mary Kirkpatrick and culminated in her latest publication *Women’s Business: Midwives on the Mid North Coast of NSW to 1950*. Noeline will discuss the training, career details, and family life of midwives who worked in country towns and outline the complex and extraordinary lives of these women who were the major health providers of women and babies in country regions of Australia. Dr Noeline Kyle is a professional historian and retired academic and has published women’s history, Australian history, biography/memoir and family history.

**RAHS Evening Event – History is Hot: Postgraduate students present their research**

**Thursday 2 November, 6pm – 7.30pm at History House**

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

The ‘History is Hot’ series is an opportunity for RAHS members and friends to hear about recent research findings in Australian history and how they impact our understanding and interpretation of the past. You are invited to join postgraduate students who will discuss their research projects.

- Elicia Taylor, PhD candidate, University of Newcastle

**‘Unspeakably happy and content’: unmarried Australian women and First World War service**

Historical analysis of Australian women’s overseas service during the First World War has typically focused on the Australian Army Nursing Service or charitable fundraising efforts in which women’s roles conformed to conventional standards of feminine behaviour. Yet the conclusion that Australian women merely performed patriotic duties that adhered to accepted notions of femininity and maternalism overshadows our understanding of other models of women’s war service. Directing our focus to the specific experiences of some unmarried Australian women reveals surprising examples of individuals who defied convention and, like Australian men, pursued service and adventure overseas during the First World War.

- Bryce Abraham, PhD candidate, University of Newcastle

**‘A stimulating effect on the recruiting movement’: propaganda and military celebrity in First World War Australia**

Afghanistan veteran and Victoria Cross recipient Ben Roberts-Smith is one of the most well known faces of modern conflict in contemporary Australia. But Roberts-Smith’s social currency as a hero is not a recent phenomenon. It has its origins in the First World War, when ‘war heroes’ became entangled in the politics of recruitment and propaganda in wartime Australia. This paper explores how such men were used to inspire enlistment and promote a sense of loyalty to the war effort, which thereby created a legacy for the promotion of martial heroism and military celebrity that is reflected in Roberts-Smith’s status today.

- James Farquharson, PhD candidate, Australian Catholic University

**The response of African-Americans to the Nigerian Civil War, 1967-70**

The Nigerian Civil War (1967–70) has been acknowledged by historians to have had a crucial transnational dimension. However, the response of African-Americans to the war and the subsequent humanitarian catastrophe in Nigeria has been neglected. This paper will argue that African-Americans were politically, socially, and intellectually active in addressing the war in Nigeria. Using a variety of untapped primary sources, this paper will demonstrate that the war in Nigeria forced African-Americans to think deeply about questions of self-determination, the viability of Pan-Africanism, sovereignty and the protection of human rights, and the impact of neo-colonialism; even while continuing to fight for racial equality at home.

**RAHS Seminar: *Land Title Records***

**Thursday 9 November, 10am – 1pm at History House**

**Cost: RAHS Members \$20; Non-Members \$25 (light refreshments served)**

RAHS President, Associate Professor Carol Liston, will provide advice and guidance to assist researchers in accessing and using the historically significant records that Land and Property Information is making available through its SIX Portal – the official source of NSW geospatial information, which also provides access to authoritative land and property information.

**RAHS/WEA – *Annabella Boswell's Table: Researching Family History Through Objects***

**Wednesday 15 November, 11am – 1pm at History House**

**Cost: RAHS/WEA Members \$32; Non-Members \$35. Bookings through WEA (02) 9264 2781.**

Researching objects belonging to a family can give them greater meaning and significance but can also lead the researcher to investigate other histories (of technology and transport for instance) that are rarely considered in constructing family histories. Carolyn Williams will discuss this with reference to her research on 'Prince Charlie's Table', a table owned by the early colonial diarist, Annabella Boswell. Carolyn Williams is a retired university researcher from Western Sydney University who has recently taken up family history.

**RAHS Day Lecture – *Nature and Education in Early Twentieth Century New South Wales***

**Wednesday 6 December, 1pm – 2pm at History House**

**Cost: Free (tea, coffee, biscuits served)**

The reform of education for children aroused interest throughout the world at the turn of the twentieth century. At the same time, scientists, naturalists and others became increasingly concerned about the natural environment. Nature study, a newly conceived school subject, brought these two concerns together. This lecture introduces individuals from New South Wales who devoted themselves to advocacy for the natural world and provided crucial support for nature study. Dr Dorothy Kass is an Honorary Postdoctoral Associate at Macquarie University. She is the author of *Educational Reform and Environmental Concern: A History of School Nature Study* (Routledge, 2017).

**RAHS Christmas Party**

**Tuesday 12 December, 4pm – 7pm at History House**

**Cost: Free**

Join us to celebrate the festive season and the Royal Australian Historical Society's achievements in 2017. This is a wonderful opportunity for members to meet RAHS staff, Councillors and other long-standing members.

**RAHS History House Open Day: *Pot Luck History and Book Sale***

**Friday 26 January 2018, 10am – 4pm at History House**

**Cost: Free**

Call into History House between 10am and 4pm on Australia Day for a chance to visit our beautiful heritage building. While you are visiting, check out our Book Fair and listen to historians speaking about the events, people and places that contributed to Australia's history. There will be interesting ten minute talks every half hour between 11.30am and 3pm. There is no need to book, just turn up!



Annabella Innes (later Boswell) c.1850  
[National Museum of Australia]