Women in History

Joint RAHS SAG Event

Speakers and topics

Time	Speaker	Title	Description of talk
TBC	Carol Liston	*Women convicts in NSW: Reassessing the evidence*	Carol Liston will discuss the research findings from the project on NSW convict women that she and Kathrine Reynolds (RAHS Treasurer) are undertaking. Associate Professor Dr Carol Liston OA is the President of the RAHS. She is an Australian historian who specialises in the history of early New South Wales (1788-1860). She teaches 19th century Australian history, local history and heritage at the University of Western Sydney. Dr Liston is a Fellow of the RAHS.
TBC	Joy Hughes	*Damsels, "Old Dames", Reprobates and Recidivists: Women of Hyde Park Barracks*	Hyde Park Barracks is usually associated with male convicts, however between 1830 and 1887 diverse groups of women passed through its doors and stayed for periods ranging from one day to 25 years. The first half of this talk will identify the various groups and discuss relevant primary sources. The second half will focus on research of the women of Hyde Park Destitute Asylum (1862-1886) and the patterns and anomalies that can only emerge when a large collective search is undertaken. Joy Hughes is a professional historian whose work for the Historic Houses Trust of NSW, involved extensive primary research of its properties and their former owners and occupants, including Hyde Park Barracks. She has also undertaken considerable private study of Hyde Park destitute asylum women.
TBC	Noeline Kyle	*The Dark Side of Nursing: mythologies, murder, malpractice and mistakes*	The portrayal of women and crime is almost always sensational. The reality is much more prosaic – most

			women, in Australia and elsewhere, are in prison for minor crimes – theft, larceny or drug related offences. Crimes against the person are rare. However, in the late 19th and early 20th century Australian nurses and midwives were involved in abortion, (then a criminal offence), baby farming, infanticide and sometimes murder or manslaughter. The records for these are now more easily found because of TROVE and the indexation of prison records. Drawing on her research of *Constance Kent and the Road Murder* and *Nurses and Midwives in Australian history* Noeline will focus on the family (where most women commit murder or infanticide) and the complexity of not just how women and crime are portrayed in writing but how each generation of writers repeat the sensationalised and often horrific details of crimes, without analysis and certainly without checking the facts. Dr Noeline Kyle OAM writes and publishes biography, memoir writing, women's history and text on how to write more professional family and local histories. Noeline was awarded an Emeritus Professorship from Queensland University of Technology for her distinguished career and contribution to history and education in 2001 and is an Honorary Professor at the University of Sydney.
TBC	Christine Yeats	*Chasing the ubiquitous "Mrs" in family history: wives, mothers, sisters and aunts in nineteenth and early twentieth century NSW*	While researching a male ancestor's family history may pose a number of challenges – and even a few brick walls – tracing their female counterparts provides its own special problems. Identified as wives, mothers, sisters and aunts in family stories – and often simply known as "Mrs" or "Miss" – many women were invisible outside the family. This can make them extremely difficult to document. Christine Yeats will explore some of the strategies for unravelling the stories of the lives of our once invisible female ancestors. Christine Yeats is the Senior Vice president of the RAHS

			Society, President of the National Council of the Independent Scholars Association of Australia (ISAA) and the Chair of the NSW Chapter of ISAA. An archivist by profession, she is a researcher and professional historian with a particular interest in Australia's colonial history.