



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WINTER 2018

Calendar of Events

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

Date	Time	Event	Presenter	Member	Friend
MAY					
Tue 29	5:30pm for 6pm – 7pm	RAHS/ASHET Evening Lecture – <i>Saving the World: Australian Innovation in Solar Heat and Power</i>	Debbie Rudder	\$10	\$12
JUNE					
Wed 6	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Day Lecture – <i>Where Australia Collides with Asia: The Epic Voyages of Joseph Banks, Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace and the Origin of 'On the Origin of Species'</i>	Ian Burnet	Free	Free
Fri 15	10am – 4pm	Create NSW RAHS/State Archives & Records Seminar – <i>Taking your Research Outside the Square</i>	Various	\$35	\$40
Mon 18	2pm – 4:30pm	RAHS/HHA Lecture & Tour – <i>Jorn Utzon's Sydney Opera House: Architecture and the City Talk</i>	Dr Peter Kohane (lecture) Steve McAuley (tour)	Lecture: \$15 Tour: \$35	\$30
Wed 20	10:30am – 12pm	RAHS Excursion – Guided Tour of the Reserve Bank of Australia Museum		\$5	\$5
JULY					
Wed 4	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Day Lecture – <i>Conjuring India: Strange Tales of Magic and Mystery</i>	John Zubrzycki	Free	Free
Wed 25	11am – 1pm	RAHS/WEA Workshop – <i>Writing a Life: Key Elements of Historical Biography</i>	Various	\$32	\$35
Thu 26	10am – 12:30pm	RAHS Excursion – Guided Tour of Parliament House		\$5	\$5
AUGUST					
Wed 1	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Day Lecture – <i>Returning Home with Glory: Cantonese Villages and Australia before 1949</i>	Dr Michael Williams	Free	Free
Thu 30	5:30pm – 6:30pm	RAHS/HHA Evening Lecture – <i>Surry Hills: From Riches to Rags and Back Again</i>	Dick Whitaker	\$25	\$35
SEPTEMBER					
Wed 5	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Day Lecture – <i>Sandgate Cemetery 'Unearthed'</i>	Terry St George	Free	Free

Unless otherwise indicated, events take place at History House 133 Macquarie Street. *Joint RAHS/HHA events must be booked through HHA (02) 9252 554 or <http://www.hha.net.au/buy-tickets> and joint RAHS/WEA events must be booked through WEA (02) 9264 2781 or <https://www.weasydney.com.au/course/WLKEHB>

RAHS/ASHET Evening Lecture – *Saving the World: Australian Innovation in Solar Heat and Power*

Tuesday 29 May, 5:30pm for 6pm – 7pm at History House

Cost: RAHS/ASHET Members: \$10; Non-Members: \$12 (light refreshments served on arrival)

Hear about the important contributions Australian engineers have made to all three types of solar water heaters: flat plate, evacuated tube and heat pump. The suite of photovoltaic technologies developed here will also be discussed – a development that has reduced the cost of photovoltaic panels, making solar the world's fastest-growing source of power.

About the speaker: Debbie Rudder has degrees in chemistry and the history and philosophy of science. From 1991-2014 she was Curator of Power Technologies at the Powerhouse Museum, developing and interpreting one of the world's great Engine and Energy collections and the Australian Innovation collection.

RAHS Day Lecture – *Where Australian Collides With Asia: The Epic Voyages of Joseph Banks, Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace and the Origin of On the Origin of Species*

Wednesday 6 June, 1pm – 2pm at History House

Cost: Free (tea, coffee and biscuits served)

Ian Burnet will discuss the epic voyages of natural history of Continent Australia and the British naturalists Joseph Banks, Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace. Each of these naturalists made huge contributions to our understanding of the unique flora and fauna of Australia, the effect of geological forces on the diversity of life forms in the natural world and the origin of species. Ian has used their original diaries, letters and publications to tell a remarkable story of natural history and adventure.

About the speaker: Ian Burnet has a degree in Geology and Geophysics from the University of Melbourne. Starting work in Indonesia in 1968 he became fascinated by the diverse cultures and rich history of the archipelago. He has spent thirty years living, working and travelling in Indonesia.

Create NSW RAHS/State Archives Seminar – *Taking your Research Outside the Square*

Friday 15 June, 10:00am – 4:00pm at State Archives & Records NSW

Cost: RAHS Members \$35; Non-Members \$40 (includes lunch and afternoon tea)

This seminar will cover a variety of topics including:

- 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
- How to organise, maintain and recover large volumes of records
- Overview of NSW State Archives & Records' current exhibition, *Blaze* – focusing on the research and curatorial approaches involved in situating history within contemporary discussions
- Getting the most from Trove's *Government Gazettes* and Journals

RAHS/HHA Lecture & Tour – *Jorn Utzon's Sydney Opera House: Architecture and the City Talk*

Monday 18 June, 2:00pm – 4:30pm at History House

Cost (Lecture): RAHS/HHA Members \$15; Non-Members \$30 | Tour RAHS/HHA Members \$35

Bookings through HHA (02) 9252 554 or online at <http://www.hha.net.au/buy-tickets>

In our second joint event with Historic Houses Association of Australia, join Dr Peter Kohane for this talk offering insights into Jorn Utzon's work. The Sydney Opera House is analysed with reference to the platform, the relationship of the building to the city and the idea of a monument. Following the talk there will be a tour conducted by Steve McAuley, senior guide and history specialist at the Sydney Opera House.

About the speaker: Dr Peter Kohane teaches architectural history and theory at the University of New South Wales. He is the author of publications on architects and theorists, including Louis Kahn, James Barnet, Edmond and Corrigan, James Fergusson and Charles Robert Cockerell.

Please note: Tour is available to RAHS and HHA members only.

RAHS Excursion – Guided Tour of the Reserve Bank of Australia Museum

Wednesday 20 June, 9:30am – 12:00pm

Cost: \$5

The Museum tells the story of Australia's banknotes against the background of the nation's economic and social development, from colonial settlement through to today.

Please note: Attendees are welcome to join us at History House at 9:30am for morning tea, before walking to the Reserve Bank. Alternatively, attendees can meet outside the Reserve Bank at 10:30am.

RAHS Day Lecture – *Conjuring India: Strange Tales of Magic and Mystery*

Wednesday 4 July, 1:00pm – 2:00pm at History House

Cost: Free (tea, coffee and biscuits served)

India has long been considered the home of magic, its wonder-workers celebrated around the world. Join John Zubrzycki as he discusses the connections in the field of magic between Australia and India dating back to 1853. This includes visiting troupes such as 'The Men from Kabul', Indian 'jugglers' who performed in Melbourne and a trial of two Indian magicians in 1863 for murder near Queanbeyan.

About the speaker: John Zubrzycki's latest book *Empire of Enchantment: The Story of Indian Magic*, traces the evolution of the conjuring traditions of India from the realm of the gods to the domain of popular entertainment. He has worked in India as a foreign correspondent, diplomat and tour guide. He is the author of *The Last Nizam: An Indian Prince in the Australian Outback* and *The Mysterious Mr Jacob: Diamond Merchant, Magician and Spy*.

RAHS/WEA Workshop – *Writing a Life: Key Elements of Historical Biography*

Wednesday 25 July, 11:00am – 1:00pm at History House

Cost: RAHS/WEA Members \$32; Non-Members \$35 (tea, coffee and biscuits served)

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

Whether your interest is a single life or group of people, this session provides an introduction to the biographical process. Coordinated by historian Dr Peter Hobbins, this workshop will examine various approaches and historical sources – offering practical suggestions on researching and writing your own biographical project.

About the convenor: Dr Peter Hobbins is a historian of colonial and twentieth-century Australia at the University of Sydney. His work has explored the lives of immigrants, entrepreneurs and scientists. He has published two books: *Venomous Encounters: Snakes, Vivisection and Scientific Medicine in Colonial Australia* and *Stories from the Sandstone: Quarantine Inscriptions from Australia's Immigrant Past*.

RAHS Excursion – Guided Tour of Parliament House

Thursday 26 July, 10:00am – 12:30pm at History House

Cost: \$5

This tour will include the two Legislative Chambers of Parliament and some of the historic rooms and areas of the Parliament (subject to availability of those spaces at the time). Learn about the role, history, workings of the Parliament and experience first-hand the beautiful colonial Georgian architecture. Parliament House has been at the centre of the history of New South Wales and remains part of Sydney's oldest remaining complex of public buildings. After the tour, browse the Parliamentary Education's latest exhibition *Indignation in the Colony: The Failed Royal Assassination* on display in the Legislative Assembly foyer.

Please note: Attendees are welcome to join us at History House at 10:00am for morning tea, before walking to Parliament House. Alternatively, attendees can meet outside Parliament House at 10:45am.

RAHS Day Lecture – *Returning Home with Glory: Cantonese Villages and Australia before 1949*

Wednesday 1 August, 1:00pm – 2:00pm at History House

Cost: Free (tea, coffee and biscuits served)

Michael Williams provides us with a history of the Chinese in Australia that goes beyond the stereotypes of goldminers and market gardeners. Taking us into the families and the villages of southern China his work gives a voice to those who never left their villages, but who are nevertheless in many ways part of Australia's history.

About the speaker: Dr Michael Williams (Adjunct Fellow, WSU) is an historian of the Chinese Diaspora and a founding member of the Chinese Australian Historical Society. His current research involves a history of popular perceptions of the Dictation Test, and a comparative study of Australia's pre-1949 Chinese-Australian history with its post-1989 history.

RAHS/HHA Evening Lecture – *Surry Hills: From Riches to Rags and Back Again*

Thursday 30 August, 5:30pm – 6:30pm at History House

Cost: RAHS/HHA Members \$25; Non-Members \$35 (refreshments served)

Bookings through HHA (02) 9252 554 or online at <http://www.hha.net.au/buy-tickets>

In our third joint event with Historic Houses Association of Australia, join Richard Whitaker for this talk on Surry Hills. Richard will trace how the suburb consisted of elegant estates in the 1820s and 30s to drastic slum like conditions in the 1890s.

About the speaker: Richard Whitaker is known as Australia's premiere weatherman, with a career spanning over 40 years. Richard has also co-authored and edited 12 meteorological publications. His writings extend to the field of history and he maintains an interest with Foxtel as a writer for the History Channel and the Crime Investigation Channel.

RAHS Day Lecture – *Sandgate Cemetery 'Unearthed'*

Wednesday 5 September, 1:00pm – 2:00pm at History House

Cost: Free (tea, coffee and biscuits served)

To coincide with History Week 2018, join Terry St George as he 'uncovers' some of the well-known and infamous burials in Sandgate Cemetery. Terry will also discuss how the virtual cemetery data can be used to interpret Newcastle's demographics and history in a new light.

About the speaker: Terry St George has a degree in Surveying from the University of New South Wales. He worked for the Department of Lands and became involved with Sandgate Cemetery in 1995, and was also a member of the Trust Board in 2010–14.