



# ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## SPRING 2021

### ONLINE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Date	Time	Event	Presenter	Member	Friend
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>					
Wed 1	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Day Lecture – <i>The Countess from Kirribilli</i>	Joyce Morgan	Free	Free
Tue 7	7pm – 8pm	Finding Your Ancestors – Researching Aboriginal Family History in NSW #6	Various	Free	Free
Wed 22	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Special Event – <i>Frances Burke: Designer of Modern Textiles – Sydney Connections</i>	Nanette Carter & Robyn Oswald-Jacobs	Free	Free
<b>OCTOBER</b>					
Tue 5	7pm – 8pm	Finding Your Ancestors – Researching Aboriginal Family History in NSW #7	Various	Free	Free
Wed 6	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Day Lecture – <i>Rum: A Distilled History of Colonial Australia</i>	Matt Murphy	Free	Free
Tue 12	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Special Event – ‘A Useful Accessory’ with <i>Too Much Cabbage and Jesus Christ</i>	Catherine Bishop	Free	Free
Wed 20	11am – 1.15pm	RAHS Regional Seminar – <i>But is there more? Researching our colonial history in the Hawkesbury area</i>	Carol Liston, Christine Yeats & Michelle Nichols	\$10	\$10
<b>NOVEMBER</b>					
Tue 2	7pm – 8pm	Finding Your Ancestors – Researching Aboriginal Family History in NSW #8	Various	Free	Free
Wed 3	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Day Lecture – <i>The Brilliant Boy: Doc Evatt and the Great Australian Experiment</i>	Gideon Haigh	Free	Free
<b>Saturday 6 November, RAHS Special Event – <i>Exciting New World Australian Life in the 1920s and 1930s</i></b>					
Wed 17	11am – 1pm	RAHS/WEA Workshop – <i>Researching Soldiers in Your Local Community</i>	Elizabeth Heffernan	\$32	\$35
<b>DECEMBER</b>					
Wed 1	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Day Lecture – <i>French Connections: Australia’s Cosmopolitan Ambitions</i>	Alexis Bergantz	Free	Free
Tue 7	7pm – 8pm	Finding Your Ancestors – Researching Aboriginal Family History in NSW #9	Various	Free	Free

Unless otherwise indicated, events are streamed online using Zoom. Joint RAHS/WEA events must be booked through WEA (02) 9264 2781 or <https://www.weasydney.com.au>



**RAHS Day Lecture – *The Countess from Kirribilli***

**Wednesday 1 September 2021, 1pm – 2pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free**

Elizabeth von Arnim was an international literary sensation and part of the artistic and society salons of late nineteenth and early twentieth-century Europe. Born in colonial Sydney and raised in England, she married a Prussian count and later an English earl. Those drawn into her orbit included Bertrand Russell, E.M. Forster, H.G. Wells and her cousin Katherine Mansfield. Elizabeth von Arnim was a prolific novelist who lived a dramatic, unconventional life that began in Kirribilli and ended with the march of Hitler through Europe.

**About the speaker:** Joyce Morgan is an author, journalist and a former arts editor of *The Sydney Morning Herald*. She is the author of *Martin Sharp: His Life and Times*, which was long-listed for the 2018 Stella Prize, and *Journeys on the Silk Road*, about the discovery of the world's oldest printed book. Her latest book is *The Countess from Kirribilli*.

**Finding Your Ancestors: Researching Aboriginal Family History in NSW – Session #6**

**Tuesday 7 September 2021, 7pm – 8pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free**

Join Paul Irish and Michael Bennett in our monthly online series as they answer your questions about the best way to research your family. They will be joined by special guests from Aboriginal communities, libraries and archives who have expertise in collections that could shed light on your family's past. So turn off the TV, put your mobile on mute & log on to Zoom to get advice on finding the information you are looking for.

**About the special guest:** Bronwyn Gerry is acting Senior Archivist in the Aboriginal Historical Records Team at Aboriginal Affairs NSW. She is responsible for the Family Records Service which provides free access to Aboriginal people to information about themselves or their ancestors that is held in the closed archives of the Aborigines Welfare Board, Aborigines Protection Board and the Chief Secretary. Prior to starting at Aboriginal Affairs in early 2020, Bronwyn spent a number of years working at the Department of Communities and Justice where she developed skills in processing personal and family records for release to Care Leavers.

**RAHS Special Event – *Frances Burke: Designer of Modern Textiles – Sydney Connections***

**Wednesday 22 September 2021, 1pm – 2pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free**

Introducing Burke from the inception of her business in the 1930s and early recognition by Sydney designers, architects and retailers including Marion Hall Best. The talk then charts Burke's evolving career in the post-war period with the development of lifestyle magazines, the popularisation of modern design and her emerging position as design advocate for the new sun filled outward facing modern interior.

**About the speakers:** Dr Nanette Carter is Adjunct Scholar at Swinburne University. Robyn Oswald-Jacobs is an independent scholar.

**RAHS Day Lecture – *Rum: A Distilled History of Colonial Australia***

**Wednesday 6 October 2021, 1pm – 2pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free**

Could the Rum Rebellion have been averted if Major Johnston wasn't hungover? Would the Eureka Stockade have been different if the rebels weren't pissed? How were prisoners to get drunk if Macquarie closed the only pub in the gaol? And why should sailors under fourteen be deprived of their sixteen shots of rum per day? These are just some of the questions raised in Matt Murphy's account of Australia's colonial history. Brimming with detailed research and irreverent character sketches, *Rum* looks at not just how much was drunk in colonial Australia (a lot!), but also the lengths people went to get their hands on it, the futile efforts of the early governors to control it, and the often disastrous and/or absurd consequences of its consumption.

**About the speaker:** At school, Matt Murphy failed English and couldn't see the point of history. He became a fire and has been serving in Sydney's inner city for 33 years. He is now also a part-time historian and teacher, tolerating the attitudes of kids towards history that he used to share. His previous book, *Weight of Evidence*, is about what was the longest civil court case in New South Wales. Matt's younger self would be aghast that he is now writing history books but be consoled by the absurdist voice old Matt has achieved.

**RAHS Special Event – ‘A Useful Accessory’ with *Too Much Cabbage and Jesus Christ***

**Tuesday 12 October 2021, 1pm – 2pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free**

Annie Lock was an eccentric missionary, admirable and deplorable in equal measures, described as ‘lovely’ by some and ‘a crank’ by others. She worked across Australia between 1903 and 1937, hitting headlines for ‘living with naked blacks’ and reportedly being ‘happy to marry’ an Aboriginal man. Join Catherine Bishop as she introduces us to the unforgettable Annie, the subject of her new biography *Too Much Cabbage and Jesus Christ*, as Annie encountered child removal, school segregation, prejudice, violence and massacre, but also moments of connection and empathy, with Indigenous communities exercising power and agency and finding their missionary as ‘a useful accessory’.

**About the speaker:** Dr Catherine Bishop is the author of *Too Much Cabbage and Jesus Christ: Australia’s ‘Mission Girl’ Annie Lock* (2021), *Women Mean Business: Colonial Businesswomen in New Zealand* (2019), the award-winning *Minding Her Own Business: Colonial Businesswomen in New South Wales* (2015), and the co-editor, with Jennifer Aston, of *Female Entrepreneurs in the Long Nineteenth Century: A Global Perspective* (2020). She is currently a postdoctoral fellow at Macquarie University, researching 20th Century Australian businesswomen, and is writing two books, *The World We Want: Creating Global Citizens in Cold War Youth Forums*, and *Blackmail Bigamy and Bonking: Businesswomen of the Belgravia*.

**RAHS Regional Seminar – *But is there more? Researching our colonial history in the Hawkesbury area***

**Wednesday 20 October 2021, 11am – 1.15pm online via Zoom. Cost: \$10**

Adjunct Associate Professor Carol Liston AO and Christine Yeats will discuss ways of making the best use of the recently digitised Australian Joint Copying Project material, the Court of Claims records and related land and property information to learn more about the life and times of the Hawkesbury’s early settlers. Michelle Nichols OAM will speak about the local history resources in the Hawkesbury Library.

**Adjunct Associate Professor Carol Liston AO** is an Australian historian who specialises in the history of early New South Wales (1788-1860). Her research covers early colonial history with interests in people (convicts, colonial born and free immigrants and their family histories), local history, heritage and the built environment. 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. She is President of the RAHS and co-editor of the *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*.

**Christine Yeats** is a past President of the Royal Australian Historical Society, Immediate past President of the Independent Scholars Association of Australia (ISAA) and Immediate past Chair of ISAA NSW. She is the Senior Vice President of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies, Convenor of the Assessment Sub-Committee of the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Committee and Review Editor of the *Journal of the RAHS*. Christine is an archivist and professional historian with a particular interest in women’s history.

**Michelle Nichols OAM** has been employed as the Local History Librarian, Hawkesbury Library for over 40 years. Her studies include both local and family history and she is an experienced researcher. Michelle has authored a number of historical publications and regularly contributes articles to magazines, newsletters and newspapers and regularly blogs <http://hawkesburyheritage.blogspot.com/>

**RAHS Day Lecture – *The Brilliant Boy: Doc Evatt and the Great Australian Experiment***

**Wednesday 3 November 2021, 1pm – 2pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free**

Gideon Haigh will discuss one of the most complex and controversial cases to reach Australia's High Court at the time. ‘Doc’ Evatt's ‘innovative and empathic decision in *Chester v the Council of Waverley Municipality* argued for the law to acknowledge inner suffering as it did physical injury’.

**About the speaker:** Gideon Haigh is an independent journalist who has ‘been in the trade more than thirty years’. He has written extensively about cricket as well as true crime in *Certain Admissions: A Beach, a Body and a Lifetime of Secrets* (2015) and *A Scandal in Bohemia: The Life and Death of Mollie Dean* (2018).

**RAHS Special Event – *Exciting New World: Australian Life in the 1920s and 1930s***

**Saturday 6 November 2021 | Session A (10.30am – 12.30pm) | Session B (4pm – 6pm) | Online via Zoom**

**Cost: Sessions A and B \$25 | Session A \$15 | Session B \$15**

**Bookings online at <https://www.rahs.org.au/event/exciting-new-world-australian-life-in-the-1920-1930>**

Join the Royal Australian Historical Society for a special online event which will delve into an ***Exciting New World: Australian Life in the 1920s and 1930s***. The interwar years were decades of great change for Australia as people adjusted to a new way of life in a post-pandemic world. 100 years later, we are still in the midst of our own pandemic. Who knows what exciting new world lies in wait?

The event begins with a morning session (10.30am – 12.30pm) featuring three exciting presentations on life and leisure in the 1920s and 1930s. Graham Shirley (RAHS Councillor) will present on changes to entertainment media and its impact. Scott MacArthur (Marrickville Heritage Society) will discuss 1920s architecture, including its aspirational and health-based aspects. Dr Anna Wong (Director, ACT Historic Houses) will give a presentation on the furnishing of Calthorpes' House from the Beard Watson catalogues.

The afternoon session (4.00pm – 6.00pm) will feature the President's Address, the presentation of Certificates of Achievement, and raffle prizes. Our popular Business Session will also make a return, providing an opportunity to discuss the management of historical societies.

**RAHS/WEA Workshop – *Researching Soldiers in Your Local Community***

**Wednesday 17 November 2021, 11am – 1pm online via Zoom**

**Cost: RAHS/WEA Members \$32 | Non-Members \$35**

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

*Researching Soldiers in Your Local Community* is a WEA workshop presentation investigating the online resources available for researching First and Second World War Australian service personnel. Participants are invited to follow along the Internet trail with their own local soldier to ask questions such as: How did the people who once lived in our hometowns and suburbs experience war? How do we remember them? What can this tell us about the forces of change and resilience within our own communities?

**About the speaker:** Elizabeth Heffernan is a Higher Degree Research student at the University of Sydney, specialising in First World War Australian soldiers and religion. She has developed online resources to support people who wish to research the experience of Australian soldiers as part of her contribution to the Royal Australian Historical Society outreach programs.

**RAHS Day Lecture – *French Connections: Australia's Cosmopolitan Ambitions***

**Wednesday 1 December 2021, 1pm – 2pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free**

In the late nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth, Australian Britons looked to France with awe and suspicion. *French Connection* delves into the rich and complex history of Australia's fascination with French culture and of the French presence in Australia. It takes up common tropes about *haute cuisine* or *haute couture*, and clichés about the supposed decadence and licentious nature of the French and places them within a global frame to interrogate how a love of things French influenced people's lives and contributed to the making of Australia.

**About the speaker:** Alexis Bergantz is a lecturer in Global & Language Studies at RMIT University. His research focuses on Franco-Australian history, the French Pacific and New Caledonia. He co-Chairs the Research Committee of the Institute for the Study of French-Australian Relations (ISFAR), and his first book, *French Connection: Australia's Cosmopolitan Ambitions* was published by NewSouth in 2021.