



# ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY AUTUMN & WINTER 2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Date	Time	Event	Presenter/s	Member	Friend
<b>MAY</b>					
Wed 4	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Day Lecture – <i>Sound Citizens: Australian Women Broadcasters Claim their Voice, 1923-1956</i>	Catherine Fisher	Free	Free
Wed 18	6.30pm – 7.30pm	RAHS/National Archaeology Week Lecture – <i>Known, Unknowns: The Archaeology of the Devonshire Street Cemetery</i>	Iain Stuart	Free	Free
Tue 31	11am – 12.30pm	RAHS Excursion – <i>Parramatta Girls Home</i>	Judith Dunn	\$10	\$10
<b>JUNE</b>					
Wed 1	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Day Lecture – <i>Australia's Great Depression</i>	Joan Beaumont	Free	Free
Tue 14	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Special Event – <i>Joseph Conrad's Eastern Voyages</i>	Ian Burnet	Free	Free
Wed 15	11am – 1pm	RAHS/WEA Workshop – <i>The Stories Behind the Pictures: Shedding Light on the Photo Materials in the NSW State Archives</i>	Anna Gray & Jennifer Sloggett	\$32	\$35
Thu 16	10.30am – 12pm	RAHS Excursion – <i>St Mary's Cathedral</i>	Donna Newton	\$10	\$10
Sun 26	11am – 2.30pm	RAHS Excursion – <i>Rockwood Cemetery</i>	Judith Dunn	\$20	\$20
<b>JULY</b>					
Wed 6	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Day Lecture – <i>Vandemonians: The Repressed History of Colonial Victoria</i>	Janet McCalman	Free	Free
Wed 20	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Special Event – <i>History of the Australian Backyard</i>	Judy Horton	Free	Free
<b>AUGUST</b>					
Wed 3	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Day Lecture – <i>Spies and Sparrows: ASIO and the Cold War</i>	Phillip Deery	Free	Free
Wed 17	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Special Event – <i>Crime, Punishment and a Noseless Hangman in Colonial NSW</i>	Rachel Franks	Free	Free
Wed 24	11am – 1pm	RAHS/WEA Workshop – <i>Lawyers and Land</i>	Carol Liston & Christine Yeats	\$32	\$35

Unless otherwise indicated, lectures and workshops are streamed online using Zoom.

Joint RAHS/WEA events must be booked through WEA (02) 9264 2781 or <https://www.weasydney.com.au>



State Archives  
& Records



**RAHS Day Lecture – *Sound Citizens: Australian Women Broadcasters Claim their Voice, 1923-1956***

**Wednesday 4 May 2022, 1pm – 2pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free**

In 1954 Dame Enid Lyons, the first woman elected to the Australian House of Representatives, argued that radio had ‘created a bigger revolution in the life of a woman than anything that has happened any time’ as it brought the public sphere into the home and women into the public sphere. Taking this claim as its starting point, *Sound Citizens* examines how a cohort of professional women broadcasters, activists and politicians used radio to contribute to the public sphere and improve women’s status in Australia from the 1920s until the 1950s. Radio provided a platform for women to contribute to public discourse and normalised the presence of women’s voices in the public sphere, both literally and figuratively.

**About the speaker:** Dr Catherine Fisher is a historian and policy adviser who holds a PhD from the School of History at The Australian National University. Her first book, *Sound Citizens: Australian Women Broadcasters Claim their Voice, 1923-1956* was published by ANU Press in 2021. She also co-edited *Expressions of War in Australia and the Pacific: Language, Trauma, Memory, and Official Discourse* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020).

**RAHS/NAW Lecture – *Known, Unknowns: The Archaeology of Devonshire Street Cemetery***

**Wednesday 18 May, 6.30am – 7.30pm via Zoom. Cost: Free**

What happened when a cemetery exhumed in 1901 was impacted on by modern redevelopment? This is the case of the Devonshire Street Cemetery which occupied a sand ridge from 1819 to 1901. After 1901 the graves were exhumed and reburied. The sand ridge was flattened and Central Station was constructed on the site. From 2018, redevelopment of Sydney’s public transport impacted on the location of the Devonshire Street Cemetery. But was anyone left? Interestingly, and at times controversially, the answer was yes! Dr Iain Stuart who was the Excavation Director on the two projects that impacted the Cemetery site will talk on the history of the Devonshire Street Cemetery, outline the archaeological programs that were undertaken and discuss some of the results of the work.

**About the speaker:** Dr Iain Stuart is a graduate from Latrobe University (in Prehistoric Archaeology), Monash University (in Environmental Science) and the University of Sydney where he wrote his dissertation on 19th century rural landscapes. He has worked for the Government Heritage Agencies in Victoria and NSW and as an archaeological consultant on various projects since 1993. Although coming from an archaeological background he is also a professional historian as well as an industrial heritage specialist. He is a Councillor of the RAHS. He has a strong commitment to the protection and management of our heritage. He also has a strong belief that everyone working on Australia’s heritage should have at least a good working knowledge of Australia’s history.

**RAHS Excursion – *Parramatta Girls Home***

**Tuesday 31 May 2022, 11am – 12.30pm at 1 Fleet Street, North Parramatta. Cost: \$10**

Join Judith Dunn for a tour of the historic Parramatta Girls Home. This institution was the principal child welfare facility for girls in NSW from 1887 to 1974. Someone who was sent to Parramatta Girls Home as a child will give a talk on her experiences in the home before we inspect two of the buildings and the newly opened Children’s Memorial Garden. The home was originally erected as the Roman Catholic Orphan School.

**RAHS Day Lecture – *Australia’s Great Depression***

**Wednesday 1 June 2022, 1pm – 2pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free**

Some generations are born unlucky. Australians who survived the horrors of the Great War were soon faced with the shock of the Great Depression. With over a third of the workforce unemployed in 1932, Australia was one of the hardest hit countries in the world. In this wide-ranging account of the Great Depression in Australia, Joan Beaumont shows how high levels of debt and the collapse of wool and wheat prices left Australia particularly exposed in the world's worst depression. Threatened with national insolvency, and with little room for policy innovation, governments resorted to austerity and deflation. Violent protests erupted in the streets and paramilitary movements threatened the political order.

**About the speaker:** Joan Beaumont is Professor Emerita at ANU. She is an internationally recognised historian

of Australia in the two world wars, Australian defence and foreign policy, the history of prisoners of war and the memory and heritage of war. Her publications include the critically acclaimed *Broken Nation: Australians and the Great War*, joint winner of the 2014 Prime Minister's Literary Award (Australian History).

**RAHS Special Event – Joseph Conrad's Eastern Voyages**

**Tuesday 14 June 2022, 1pm – 2pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free**

Joseph Conrad's greatness lies in his ability to create an absolutely convincing illusion of reality and his greatest honour was to have his novels regarded as English classics in his own lifetime, even though English was not his native language. Conrad lived an adventurous life at sea in the final and glorious days of sailing ships and his favoured destination was Australia, the port of Singapore and the remote ports of the Indonesian archipelago. Towards the end of his sailing career, he began to write of his experiences of a river and a settlement in East Borneo which he described as 'One of the last, forgotten, unknown places on earth'. His first novels were all based on the places he had visited, the stories he had heard, and the people he had met during these voyages.

**About the speaker:** Ian is the author of six books that relate to both maritime history, the spice trade and the Indonesian archipelago. These include *Spice Islands*, *East Indies*, *Archipelago*, *Where Australia Collides with Asia*, *The Tasman Map* and his latest book is *Joseph Conrad's Eastern Voyages*.

**RAHS/WEA Workshop – The Stories Behind the Pictures: Shedding Light on the Photographic Material in the NSW State Archives | Wednesday 15 June 2022, 11am – 1pm 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/SBPSLPM>**

The NSW State Archives includes a vast collection of photographic images created by NSW Government agencies, beginning in the late nineteenth century. The State Archives digitisation program aims to bring many of these images to light using the latest technologies and Anna Gray will talk more about this digitisation project and program. Jenny Sloggett will talk about the photographic material in the collection, some of it hidden in plain sight, and how you can make best use of these records in your research.

**RAHS Excursion – St Mary's Cathedral | Thursday 16 June, 10.30am – 12pm at 2 St Mary's Road. Cost: \$10**

Built on land given to the Catholic Church during the earliest days of colonisation (1820), Australia's largest Cathedral is regarded as one of the finest examples of an English-style Gothic revival building in the world. There are many notable architectural features in the Cathedral's design including the sandstone interior and façade, its beautiful stained-glass windows and the high central nave. If you love history or architecture, the building and its interior will offer lots of interesting discoveries.

**RAHS Excursion – Bus Tour of Rockwood Cemetery | Sunday 26 June 2022, 11am – 2.30pm. Cost: \$20**

Tour this extraordinary "Sleeping City" established in 1868. View the Victorian layout including serpentine canals, fountains and summer houses. See the site of the main station and memorials to Chinese miners, those removed from Town Hall Cemetery and the gates from Devonshire St Cemetery. Visit many denominational sections and significant individuals such as David Scott Mitchell and Izzy Chapman.

**RAHS Day Lecture – Vandemonians: The Repressed History of Colonial Victoria**

**Wednesday 6 July 2022, 1pm – 2pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free**

It was meant to be 'Victoria the Free', uncontaminated by the Convict Stain. Yet they came in their tens of thousands as soon as they were cut free or able to bolt. More than half of all those transported to Van Diemen's Land as convicts would one day settle or spend time in Victoria. There they were demonised as Vandemonians. Burdened by their pasts and their shame, their lives as free men and women, even within their own families, were forever shrouded in secrets and lies. Only now are we discovering their stories and Victoria's place in the nation's convict history.

**About the speaker:** Emeritus Redmond Barry Professor Janet McCalman AC commenced teaching at the University of Melbourne in 1998. Since that time, she has pioneered the building of historical life course datasets for demographic and health analysis. She is the author of three multi-award-winning books.

**RAHS Special Event – *History of the Australian Backyard***

**Wednesday 20 July 2022, 1pm – 2pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free**

*History of the Australian Backyard* is a fun talk that will have everyone recognising something they remember from past gardens and will also pose a few questions about where our gardens are heading in the future.

**About the speaker:** Judy Horton OAM is a horticulturist who in 2015 retired after working for 22 years as a garden adviser for Yates. While at Yates Judy was responsible for updating six editions of *Yates Garden Guide*, the best-selling Australian gardening book. In 2009 she was awarded a Hall of Fame Gold Laurel by the Horticultural Media Association of Australia for her outstanding contribution to the gardening media.

**RAHS Day Lecture – *Spies and Sparrows: ASIO and the Cold War***

**Wednesday 3 August 2022, 1pm – 2pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free**

In the wake of the Second World War and the realisation that the Soviet Union had set up extensive espionage networks around the world, Australia responded by establishing its own spy-hunting agency: ASIO. By the 1950s its counterespionage activities were increasingly supplemented by attempts at counter subversion – identifying individuals and organisations suspected of activities that threatened national security. In doing so, it crossed the boundary from being a professional agency that collected, evaluated and transmitted intelligence, to a sometimes politicised but always shadowy presence, monitoring not just communists but also peace activists, scientists, academics, journalists and writers

**About the speaker:** Phillip Deery is Emeritus Professor of History at Victoria University, Melbourne. His previous books on the Cold War include *Red Apple: Communism and McCarthyism in Cold War New York* and the co-authored *The Age of McCarthyism: A Brief History with Documents, Third Edition*.

**RAHS Special Event – *Crime, Punishment and a Noseless Hangman in Colonial New South Wales***

**Wednesday, 17 August 2021, 1pm – 2pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free**

Robert Howard (1832–1906) used to be a household name. Today, the noseless hangman – better known as ‘Nosey Bob’ – who sparked fear and fascination everywhere he went is largely forgotten. In this presentation, Rachel Franks will detail how the longest-serving executioner for New South Wales (1876–1904), is vital to understanding changing attitudes towards capital punishment in Australia. Nosey Bob is a compelling figure in the story of Sydney. More importantly, he is a critical chapter in the history of how generally enthusiastic spectators at early executions were overtaken by campaigners for the abolition of the death penalty.

**About the speaker:** Rachel Franks holds PhDs in Australian crime fiction from Central Queensland University and true crime texts from the University of Sydney. A qualified educator and librarian, her extensive work on crime fiction, true crime, popular culture and information science has been presented at numerous conferences as well as on radio and television. She is the author of *An Uncommon Hangman: The Life and Deaths of Robert ‘Nosey Bob’ Howard* (NewSouth, 2022).

**RAHS/WEA Workshop – *Lawyers and Land***

**Wednesday 24 August 2022, 11am – 1pm via Zoom. Cost: RAHS/WEA Members \$32 | Non-Members \$35  
Bookings through WEA (02) 9264 2781 or online**

This workshop will discuss how you may find out about your ancestors through the records of the various firms of solicitors that have deposited records with the State Library of NSW. The speakers will discuss how these hidden gems can link to the online HLRV and the complications of ‘Old System’ records.

**Adjunct Associate Professor Carol Liston AO** is an Australian historian who specialises in the history of early NSW (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.

**Christine Yeats** is the Senior Vice President of the RAHS. Christine is an archivist and professional historian with a particular interest in women’s history and Romani migration and settlement in NSW.