



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY SUMMER-AUTUMN 2023 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 |
|---------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------|--------|--------|
| FEBRUARY | | | | | |
| Wed 1 | 1pm – 2pm | RAHS Day Lecture – <i>Reviving a Settler Colonial World: Landscape Photography in Australia and California</i> | Jarrold Hore | Free | Free |
| Fri 10 | 10am – 11am | <i>Introductory session on the new Museums of History NSW website</i> | Martyn Killion | Free | Free |
| Tue 14 | 1pm – 2pm | RAHS Special Lecture – <i>Semut: An Australian Secret Operation in WWII Borneo</i> | Christine Helliwell | Free | Free |
| MARCH | | | | | |
| Wed 1 | 1pm – 2pm | RAHS Day Lecture – <i>Spies and Sparrows: ASIO and the Cold War</i> | Phillip Deery | Free | Free |
| Sat 4 | 10am – 4pm | Central Coast Regional Seminar – <i>Land Records, Convict Crimes and Convicts Transported from Ireland</i> | Various | \$20 | \$20 |
| Wed 15 | 11am – 1pm | RAHS/WEA Workshop – <i>How to Research Your House's History</i> | Carol Liston & Christine Yeats | \$32 | \$35 |
| Tue 21 | 6pm – 7pm | RAHS Evening Lecture – <i>Reimagining the Bushranging Legend</i> | Meg Foster | Free | Free |
| APRIL | | | | | |
| Wed 5 | 1pm – 2pm | RAHS Day Lecture – <i>Trailblazing Women of Australian Public Broadcasting, 1945-1975</i> | Kylie Andrews | Free | Free |
| Tue 18 | 6pm – 8pm | RAHS Annual General Meeting | | | |
| MAY | | | | | |
| Wed 3 | 1pm – 2pm | RAHS Day Lecture – <i>Case Re-Opened: Revisiting the Forensic Artefact</i> | Peter Doyle | Free | Free |
| Wed 10 | 11.30am – 12.30pm | RAHS Excursion – <i>Q Station: Quarantine Wander Tour</i> | Donna Newton | \$23 | \$25 |
| Wed 17 | 1pm – 2pm | RAHS Special Lecture – <i>Courting: A History of Love and Law in Australia</i> | Alecia Simmonds | Free | Free |
| Tue 23 | 10.30am – 12.30pm | RAHS Excursion – <i>Edina Estate</i> | Michael Waterhouse | \$20 | \$20 |
| Sun 21 – Sat 27 May | | National Archaeology Week | | | |

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>



Central Coast Family
History Society



**RAHS Day Lecture – *Reviving a Settler Colonial World: Landscape Photography in Australia and California*
Wednesday 1 February 2023, 1 pm – 2 pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free**

This address introduces and surveys the white settler world of the late nineteenth century from the perspective of six different landscape photographers. It explores how a range of sites in the Australasian colonies and the American West were defined by a confrontation with environmental limits that led to the development of new territorial imaginaries. Dr Jarrod Hore suggests that landscape photography offers a fresh perspective on this settler colonial world, foregrounding new environmental attitudes and their immediate effects for both colonists and Indigenous peoples.

About the speaker: Dr Jarrod Hore is an environmental historian and Co-Director of the New Earth Histories Research Group at UNSW. His book *Visions of Nature: How Landscape Photography Shaped Settler Colonialism* was published by University of California Press in 2022.

**Introductory session on the new Museums of History NSW website
Friday 10 February 2023, 10 am – 11 am online via Zoom. Cost: Free**

Martyn Killion will introduce the new Museums of History New South Wales website, which brings the previous State Archives and Sydney Living Museums websites together. Martyn will guide participants through the site's many features including the new 'Subjects A-Z' area, which combines links to all the indexes, guides, webinars and events relating to that subject, and the facility to search across all the collections.

About the speaker: Martyn Killion is the Director, Collections at the Museums of History NSW. Martyn has oversight of the care, management and accessibility of our collections, most notably the State Archives Collection, the Caroline Simpson Library and Research Collection and house museum collections. Martyn has over 35 years experience in the NSW Public Sector. This includes a long association with NSW State Archives and extensive government experience particularly in the area of culture and the arts.

**RAHS Special Lecture – *Semut: An Australian Secret Operation in WWII Borneo*
Tuesday 14 February 2023, 1 pm – 2 pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free**

This lecture explores a secret Australian operation that took place on the Japanese-occupied island of Borneo during WWII. Christine Helliwell will argue that while local contribution has been largely invisible in previous accounts of Operation Semut, Borneo's indigenous Dayak people were in fact the backbone of the operation. Christine will also suggest that this ostensibly Australian operation was orchestrated by the British for their own political purposes and outline its hidden reliance on Dayak headhunting.

About the speaker: Christine Helliwell is an anthropologist and Emeritus Professor at the Australian National University. She has been researching Borneo's indigenous Dayak peoples for almost forty years and has written widely on Dayak social life. Her recent book *Semut* won the PM's Literary Award in Australian History and the Les Carlyon Literary Prize, was First Runner-Up for the Templer Medal (UK) and has been shortlisted for the NSW Premier's History Awards, the Reid Prize and the ACT Notable Book Awards.

**RAHS Day Lecture – *Spies and Sparrows: ASIO and the Cold War*
Wednesday 1 March 2023, 1 pm – 2 pm 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. He has written over one hundred publications in the fields of communism, espionage, the Cold War and the labour

movement. 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*.

Central Coast Regional Seminar – *Land Records, Convict Crimes and Convicts Transported from Ireland: A Treasure Trove of Research Possibilities*

**Saturday 4 March 2023, 10 am – 4 pm at Gosford Lions Community Hall, 3/8 Russel Drysdale St, Gosford
Cost: \$20 (includes lunch and morning and afternoon tea)**

Adjunct Associate Professor Carol Liston AO will discuss how to use land records from the Historical Land Records Viewer, Primary Applications and Court of Claims to research the early colony of NSW. Dr Kathrine M. Reynolds will discuss how to research convicts and their crimes, focusing on women convicted in the English Courts. RAHS Senior Vice President Christine Yeats will talk about the hidden resources you can use to research convicts transported from Ireland to Australia.

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.

Dr Kathrine M. Reynolds has been the Treasurer of the RAHS for a decade. She specialises in nineteenth-century migration and criminal history and has published several books on nineteenth-century migration in German and English. She holds a BA, MSc, PhD, BCrim and several diplomas in education and languages. Her current focus is on exploring female convicts, especially their criminality in Britain. She is an honorary member of the Department of History, University of Sydney and Department of Criminology, UNE.

Christine Yeats is an archivist and historical researcher. Christine's research interests include the silk industry in Australia and Romani migration and settlement. She is President of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies, RAHS Senior Vice President and RAHS Events Committee convenor. Christine also convenes the Assessment Sub-Committee UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Committee.

RAHS/WEA Workshop – *How to Research Your House's History*

Wednesday 15 March 2023, 11 am – 1 pm 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/HRYHH>

Have you ever wanted to go back in time and find out more about the history of your house and the area where you live? This seminar will use two case studies – one in the city and one in regional NSW – to look at the records you can consult to find out more about the history of your house. Carol Liston and Christine Yeats will show you how to search for the previous owners using the Historical Land Records Viewer and associated records. Then they will discuss the records that can tell us how the house was previously furnished. Finally, there will be a discussion about strategies for discovering more about the history of your locality.

RAHS Evening Lecture – *Reimagining the Bushranging Legend*

Tuesday 21 March 2023, 6 pm – 7 pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free

Bushrangers are Australian legends, but there is more to bushranging history than folklore and popular culture allows. Where did the bushranging myth begin? And why do we only celebrate white bushranging men? Bushrangers of Aboriginal, Chinese, and African-American descent, as well as women, have been excluded from our pantheon of national heroes. In this talk, historian Meg Foster reveals the stories of bushrangers who didn't fit the mould and how they challenge us to rethink a national legend.

About the speaker: Dr Meg Foster is an award-winning historian of banditry, settler colonial and public history, and the Mary Bateson Research Fellow at Newnham College, University of Cambridge. Her first book, *Boundary Crossers: The hidden history of Australia's other bushrangers*, was published with NewSouth in 2022.

RAHS Day Lecture – *Trailblazing Women of Australian Public Broadcasting, 1945-1975*

Wednesday 5 April 2023, 1 pm – 2 pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free

Trailblazing Women of Australian Public Broadcasting, 1945-1975 presents a compelling feminist perspective of Australian radio and television history. It chronicles how a group of female producers defied the odds and forged remarkable careers at the ABC. This lecture traces their careers, following them as they worked on location shoots and in production offices, in television studios, control rooms and radio booths. In doing so it highlights the barriers, both official and unofficial, that confronted so many women working in broadcasting in the decades after World War II.

About the speaker: Kylie Andrews is an award-winning historian whose writing centres on media and gender, production studies and biography. She has a previous career in film, television and audio production, and has just published a new history of women at the ABC, titled *Trailblazing Women of Australian Public Broadcasting, 1945-1975*. Kylie divides her time between her role as a sessional academic at the University of Technology, Sydney and her work as a professional historian.

RAHS Day Lecture – *Case Re-Opened: Revisiting the Forensic Artefact*

Wednesday 3 May 2023, 1 pm – 2 pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free

Not long ago it would have been unimaginable that something as bleak, official and anti-picturesque as the crime scene photo should become an important item of cultural heritage. In 1963 Andy Warhol saw the art potentials in the 'ugly' forensic and his 'Death and Disaster' series paved the way for a number of subsequent studies of forensic photography. Major gallery and museum exhibitions and numerous publications continued to bring the forensic photograph into popular culture. The discovery of a large, globally significant trove of old police negatives in Sydney heightened interest in forensic material culture and gave Australia a particular stake in the emerging field. This talk will review the forensic photograph's strange journey from locked vault confidentiality to high visibility cultural icon, and, drawing on my own research into forensic archives, consider some of the difficulties and opportunities which attend this process.

About the speaker: Peter Doyle is a non-fiction writer and novelist and has curated major exhibitions on pulp publishing and forensic material cultures. His books include *Suburban Noir* (2022), *City of Shadows* (2005) and *Crooks Like Us* (2009), and the novel *The Big Whatever*. He is the recipient of two Ned Kelly Awards, as well as a Lifetime Achievement Award. He is an Honorary Associate Professor of Media at Macquarie University.

RAHS Excursion – *Quarantine Wander Tour*

Wednesday 10 May 2023, 11.30 am – 12.30 pm at Q Station, 1 North Head Scenic Drive, Manly.

Cost: RAHS Members \$23 | Non-members \$25 | Child \$10

For over 150 years the Quarantine Station was for many the beginning of a new life in Australia. Ships suspected of harbouring people infected with contagious diseases such as Spanish Influenza, Smallpox or Bubonic Plague were quarantined here so that these deadly diseases would not spread to Sydney.

Experienced guides will fascinate with the stories behind the unique history of this amazing site, an enduring part of Sydney's history. We will explore the heritage buildings of the wharf and hospital precincts to discover the processes that arriving migrants undertook on arrival at the quarantine station. The Visitor Centre's historical exhibit comprises thousands of artefacts unique to North Head Quarantine Station.

RAHS Excursion – *Edina Estate Tour*

Tuesday 23 May 2023, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm at War Memorial Hospital, Waverley

Cost: \$20

Although few people are aware it exists, 'Edina' is one of the grandest private houses surviving in Sydney from the late Victorian era. Some will know it as a central feature of the War Memorial Hospital, Waverley. Michael Waterhouse, author of a new book *Family, Faith and Fortune in Victorian Sydney. The Edina Estate*, will provide a comprehensive two-hour tour of 'Edina' for RAHS Members on 23 May 2023.