

Royal Australian Historical Society

AN INTRODUCTION



VETERIS NON
INSCIUS AEVI



Contents

WELCOME	1
AN INTRODUCTION	2
ALL ABOUT THE SOCIETY	4
THE SOCIETY OFFERS YOU	6
THE SOCIETY SEEKS YOUR SUPPORT	8
VISIT HISTORY HOUSE	10
MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM & BOOKMARK	11/12
AT THE SOCIETY	13

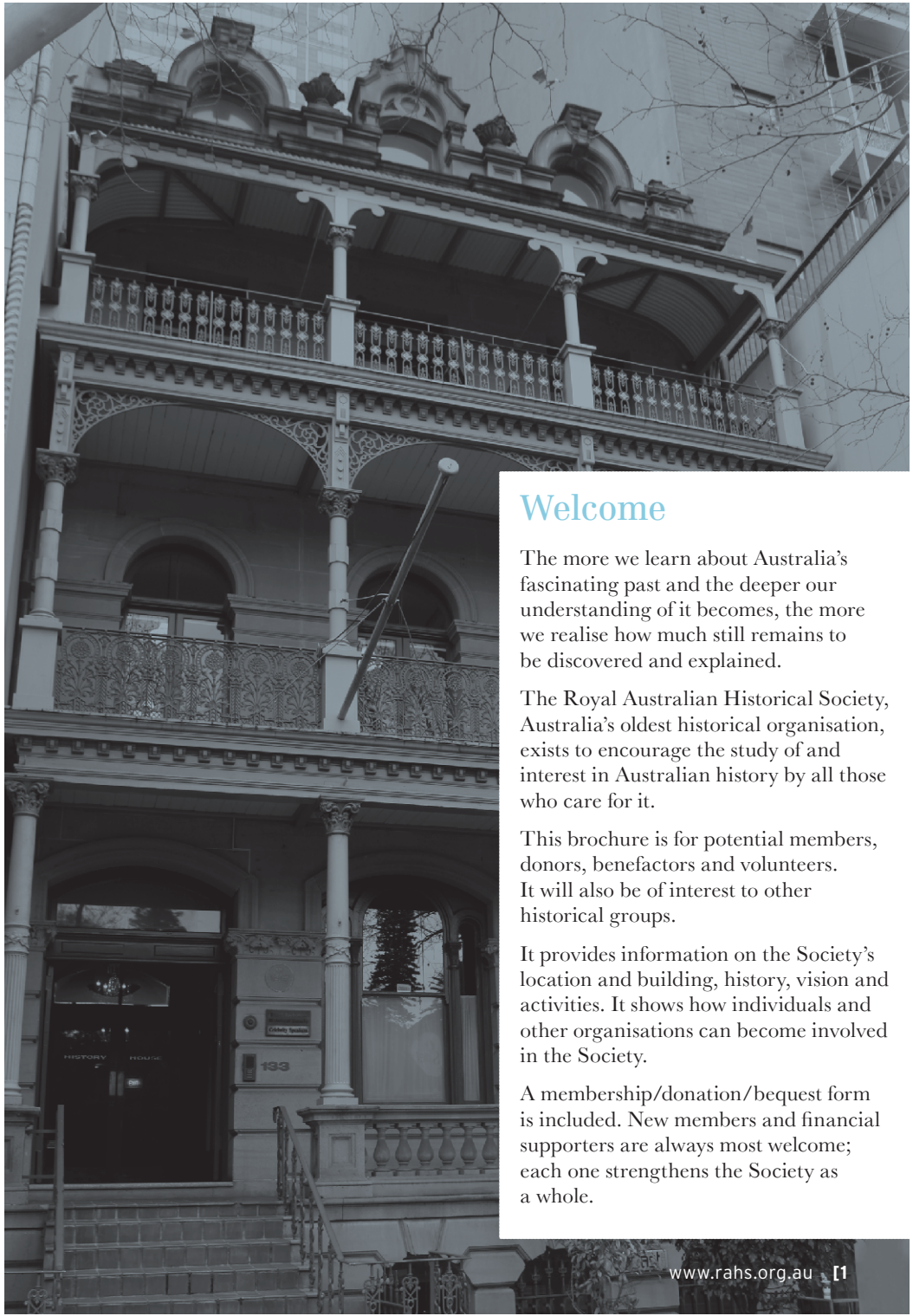
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The Society is a company limited by guarantee
and subject to the rules of the Australian Securities
and Investment Commission. It is a not-for-profit organisation.

For contact details, see back cover.

October 2011

On cover: Man O'War Steps, Sydney, 1901 [RAHS photograph collection]
Opposite page: History House by birdcreative



Welcome

The more we learn about Australia's fascinating past and the deeper our understanding of it becomes, the more we realise how much still remains to be discovered and explained.

The Royal Australian Historical Society, Australia's oldest historical organisation, exists to encourage the study of and interest in Australian history by all those who care for it.

This brochure is for potential members, donors, benefactors and volunteers. It will also be of interest to other historical groups.

It provides information on the Society's location and building, history, vision and activities. It shows how individuals and other organisations can become involved in the Society.

A membership/donation/bequest form is included. New members and financial supporters are always most welcome; each one strengthens the Society as a whole.

An Introduction

The Royal Australian Historical Society is a voluntary organisation founded in Sydney in 1901 to encourage Australians to understand more about their history.

It is based at History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney.

The Society boasts a membership network throughout New South Wales, comprising individuals and local historical societies, libraries and corporate partners.

As a not-for-profit organisation, its activities and facilities are largely funded by contributions from its members and benefactors.

As a cultural organisation, the Society works for the benefit of its members and the broader community to:

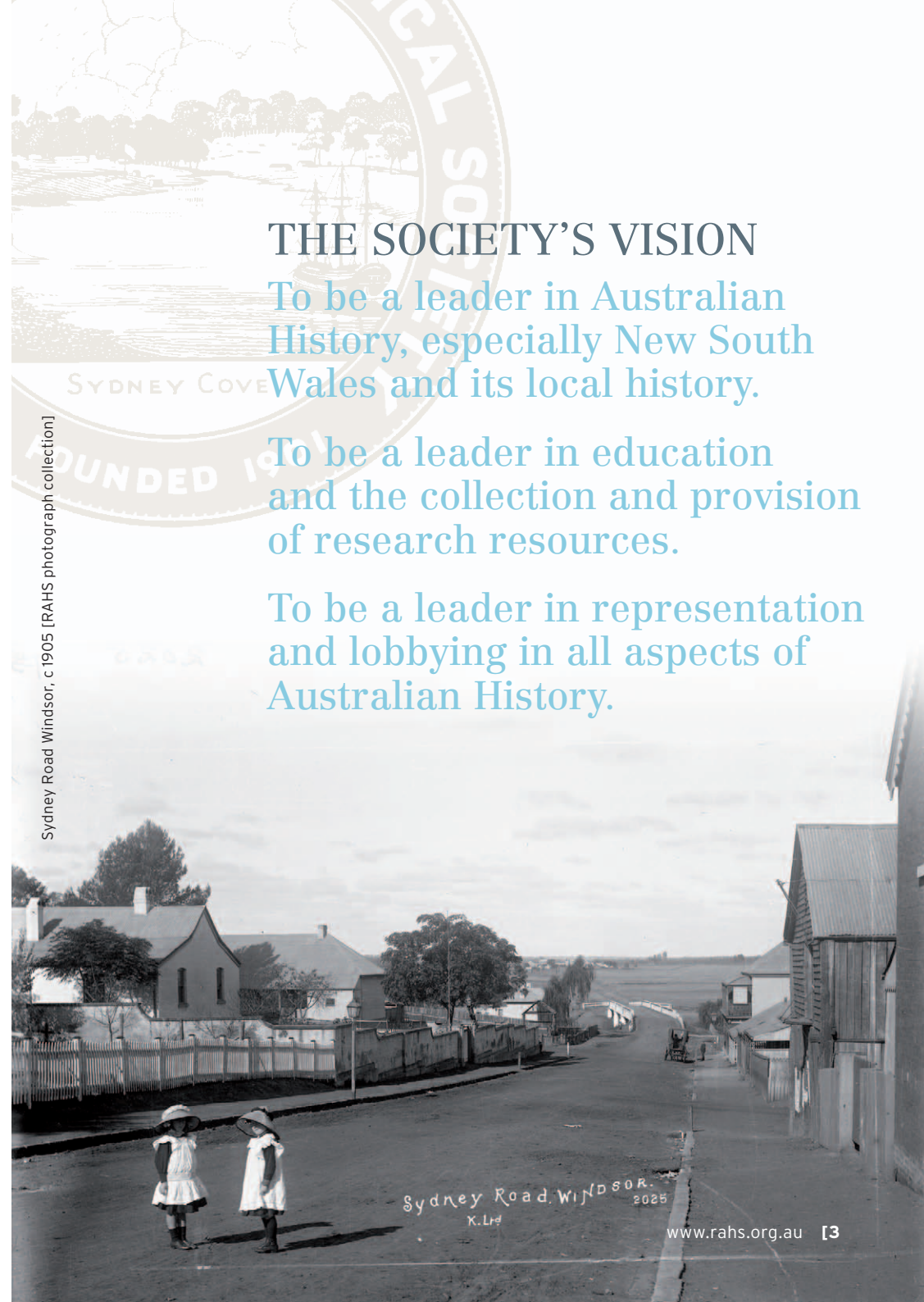
- Promote interest in Australian history
- Advance the study of Australian history
- Broaden opportunities for participation in historical research.

“History is our myth, our story, our dream of reality, grounded in the context of the past but created to inform the future.”

Robert R Archibald,
*A Place to Remember:
Using History to Build Community*,
p 66.

SOME KEY DATES

- 1901:** The Australian Historical Society forms in Sydney and begins its library collections.
- 1906:** *The Journal* is first published.
- 1916:** Launch of the scheme to mark places of historic interest.
- 1918:** The Society receives a royal charter, becoming the Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS).
- 1935:** The first two affiliated historical societies, the Clarence River Historical Society and the Girls' Secondary Schools' Club Historical Circle, join the Society.
- 1961:** The first annual Affiliated Societies Conference is held in Sydney.
- 1967:** The first cultural grants program.
- 1971:** History House relocates to its current address at 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney.
- 1985:** The Society collaborates with the State Bank of New South Wales to identify and place descriptive plaques on 101 historic sites in the Sydney area.
- 1986:** *History* magazine is founded.



Sydney Road Windsor, c 1905 [RAHS photograph collection]

THE SOCIETY'S VISION

To be a leader in Australian History, especially New South Wales and its local history.

To be a leader in education and the collection and provision of research resources.

To be a leader in representation and lobbying in all aspects of Australian History.

All About the Society



Since 1901, the Royal Australian Historical Society's members have collected, researched and written about all aspects of Australia's history. With members including affiliated historical societies and individuals throughout New South Wales, the Society is a vital community history network.

The Society plays many diverse roles. It encourages the study of Australian history, national and local, by amateur and professional historians alike. It exists as an advocate for community history in Australia. It also seeks to stimulate wider interest in, and knowledge of, Australian history.

The Society's home at History House in Sydney is not only an historic monument and symbol of the value of conservation, but a living forum for the debate and discussion of historical issues.

COMMUNITY HISTORY NETWORK

The Society shares practical information to help members research and publish history and encourages active networking between Society members throughout the state. It organises the Annual State History Conference to bring together local historians from around New South Wales.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Society publishes a quarterly Calendar of Events, showcasing a variety of lectures and social events that are conducted at History House in Sydney and regional New South Wales.

In addition, the Society's staff and the Affiliated Societies Committee arrange activities for members. Workshops are held throughout New South Wales, based on demand and interest from local groups.

GRANTS ADMINISTRATION

Each year the Society administers State Government grant programmes that assist the research and publication of local and specialist history. They include the ArtsNSW Cultural Grants Program (available to incorporated groups) and NSW Heritage Grants (open to both individuals and community organisations).

CUSTODIAN OF AUSTRALIAN HISTORY RESOURCES

In addition to the maintenance and preservation of History House, the Society serves as custodian for a valuable collection of Australian history resources.

The Society's library specialises in New South Wales local history and contains an extensive collection of both written and pictorial resources, which is regularly expanded through donations and purchases.

It features over 60,000 items, including books, journals, maps, pamphlets, microfilm/microfiche, ephemera, directories, affiliated society serials, photographic prints and a complete set of the Society's Journal, which has been publishing scholarly articles on Australian history since 1906.

The library offers research workshops, reader assistance, photocopying/printing facilities and fee-based research services.

LEADERSHIP

The Society's many committees play important leadership roles, bringing together a wide range of individuals and organisations on issues of historical importance.



Page 4: The Duke and Duchess of York at the opening of Parliament House, Canberra, 9 May 1927. Industrial Exhibition Croydon Certificate of Merit, May 1891 - presented to Mrs James Bray for baby doll special. Sublime Point - view looking south, c 1925. Cadbury truck, Macquarie Street, History House in background, c 1945 [all RAHS photograph collection]. Frank Walker, c 1910 [RAHS Walker glass slide collection]. This page: Unknown man at desk, c 1907 [RAHS glass slide collection]

The Society Offers You

The Royal Australian Historical Society offers members a diverse range of benefits.

Membership of the Society is open to individuals, historical societies, libraries and corporate partners.

By joining the Society and supporting its work, members further Australia's national heritage, become part of the Australian history community and help to strengthen the profile of history in New South Wales.

MEMBER EVENTS

An exciting calendar of events is open to members throughout New South Wales. This includes lectures, excursions to sites of historical interest, research training workshops and seminars.

The Annual State History Conference brings local historical societies together to share their publications and projects and learn new skills. It is open to anyone interested in Australian local history and heritage.

MEMBER FACILITIES

Members have full use of the Society's library at History House in Sydney, which holds both written and pictorial resources on all aspects of Australian history.

MEMBER INSURANCE

In addition to providing assistance and advice regarding association management, the Society facilitates public liability and personal accident/voluntary workers insurance cover for its Affiliated Society members.

This includes injury to members of the public, damage to third party property arising from the activities of the Affiliated Society and injury to voluntary workers.

“Through our local research and monthly talks on local history, we've been able to alert the community and Council to the importance of Armidale's historical features. I feel strongly that our membership to the Society gives us a link to the broader historical world. It gives us access to the member network and to Society connections. We love the networking.”

Affiliated Society Member
Judith Grieve, President,
Armidale and District Historical Society

MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

In addition to the Society's e-newsletter, members receive *History* magazine and the *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*.

The quarterly *History* magazine provides information on the activities of the Society and its members, notices of forthcoming events, articles of general historical interest, current issues of concern to historians, news from the Affiliated Societies' network and book reviews.

The Society's *Journal* includes an eclectic mix of topics from politics to bushrangers, Aboriginal studies, colonial and twentieth century topics, all written to a scholarly standard by amateur as well as academic historians. It is the longest established journal of Australian history and is published twice a year.

“Membership of the Society means that as specialised oral historians, we can connect with the mainstream history community. The Society's networks and communication channels help us reach others with whom we can exchange important information.

We have a collaborative partnership with the Society. History House is our registered office and recently we were joint sponsors of a very successful oral history workshop.”

Affiliated Society Member
Sandra Blamey, President,
Oral History Association of Australia

SS Orara, Byron Bay, c 1915 [RAHS photograph collection]



The Society Seeks Your Support

Since 1901, generous donors, benefactors and volunteers have enhanced the work of the Society.

DONATE

The Society is a not-for-profit organisation. Donations are gratefully received towards the Library Fund, the History House Building Fund, the Publications & Research Fund or for general purposes. The Society also welcomes donations of parcels of shares. All donations to the three Funds of over \$2 are tax deductible.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Those with a passion for history can assist the Society through volunteering. Volunteers who can attend at History House in Sydney one or two days (or half-days) per month will join a congenial group working on a range of activities, including:

- organising history lectures and programs
- planning new events and tours
- helping with *History* magazine
- undertaking tasks in the Society's library.

For enquiries please call (02) 9247 8001 or email office@rahs.org.au.

MAKE A BEQUEST

A bequest links one generation to the wellbeing of future generations. The Society is respected for its ability to translate the wishes of benefactors into successful historical preservation, education and research activities. A legacy left to the Society is valued and used well.

You may choose to leave a particular asset, a specified sum of money, or a percentage of the total estate. Alternatively, you can stipulate that the bequest be applied to a specific purpose of the Society, rather than for general purposes. A solicitor or trustee company will help with the wording of any bequest.

If you are considering a bequest to the Society in your will, please contact the Society's Chief Executive Officer on (02) 9247 8001. Privacy is respected at all times and discussions remain confidential.

HELP PRESERVE HISTORY HOUSE

History House is protected under New South Wales heritage legislation. It is classified by the National Trust and listed on the Register of the National Estate. To provide for its proper long-term care, the Society has established the History House Building Fund.

The Ferguson Bequest

The Society has received many bequests. Among them is the Ferguson Bequest, which funds the John Alexander Ferguson Memorial Annual Lecture.

Since 1975, the Society has presented an annual lecture by a prominent speaker on a subject relating to Australian history, bibliography or literature.

The lecture series commemorates the life of Sir John Ferguson, former judge of the N.S.W. Industrial Commission and noted book collector and bibliographer.

Through the lecture series, the legacy of Sir John Ferguson lives on.

Corporate Partnerships

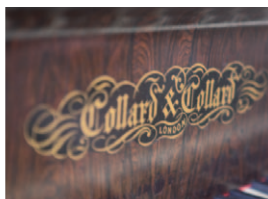
Corporate partners of the Society align their brands with a diverse network of members who share a passion for Australian history. Partners can communicate with the membership via *History* magazine, the e-newsletter or at the Annual State History Conference, to name a few. Commitments can be in cash or in kind.

The Society encourages organisations to make contact to discuss how partnering with the Society can benefit business.

Please contact the Society's Chief Executive Officer on (02) 9247 8001 or email executive@rahs.org.au.



Visit History House



A UNIQUE DESTINATION

The architect George Allen Mansfield designed the Society's home at History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney in 1871.

Originally designed as George Oakes' residence, the house served many purposes until acquired by the Society in 1969.

Renamed 'History House', it was officially opened by His Excellency the Governor-General of Australia, Sir Paul Hasluck, Patron of the Society, on 12 November 1971.

Level One of History House accommodates the Society's library and executive offices.

Members and guests are invited to visit History House and use the Society's extensive collection of written and pictorial resources on all aspects of Australian history.

The library is open Monday to Friday from 10am to 4pm.

VENUE FOR HIRE

After a major renovation in 2010, the Victorian-era charm of History House is available as a boutique venue. The ground floor is perfect for business functions, seminars, board meetings and launches, as well as catered lunches, dinners and cocktail events.

Auditorium: Features the latest in audio-visual technology and wireless connectivity (50 people).

Reception Rooms: There are two adjoining reception rooms. They feature ornate timber work, a grand piano and period furniture (50 people).

Catering: The Society can recommend caterers. Other commercial caterers are welcome. The venue's kitchen also facilitates self-catered functions.

Disabled access is available by prior arrangement.

See www.rahs.org.au for further information and bookings.

Photos by birdcreative

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER Annual Membership (tick one)

Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$81	Household Pair	<input type="checkbox"/> \$95
Fulltime		Fulltime	
Student*(<30yrs)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47	Student*(30+yrs)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$68
Pensioner/Senior*	<input type="checkbox"/> \$68	Pensioner/ Senior Pair*	<input type="checkbox"/> \$82

*ID or copy of ID required.

AFFILIATED SOCIETY Annual Membership (tick one)

<15 Members	<input type="checkbox"/> \$82	16-30 Members	<input type="checkbox"/> \$92
31-50 Members	<input type="checkbox"/> \$108	51-100 Members	<input type="checkbox"/> \$119
101-200 Members	<input type="checkbox"/> \$163	201-300 Members	<input type="checkbox"/> \$206
>300 Members	<input type="checkbox"/> \$249		

Name of society:

OTHER MEMBER Annual Membership (tick one)

Library	<input type="checkbox"/> \$165	Corporate	<input type="checkbox"/> \$210
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Name of organisation:

CONTACT DETAILS (of Individual Member/Key Contact)

Title: Prof/Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss

Family name: Given name/s:

Occupation: Age:

Email:

Second Member (of Pair) Title: Prof/Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss

Family name: Given name/s:

Occupation: Age:

Email:

Postal Address:

Telephone: ()

AREA OF INTEREST IN AUSTRALIAN HISTORY:

.....
.....

PAYMENT METHOD (tick one)

Cheque* ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Amount payable: \$

*Please make cheques payable to 'RAHS'

Cardholder's Name:

Card Number:

Expiry Date: Signature:

Please mail to address overleaf.



VETERIS NON
INSCIUS AEVI

WE INVITE YOU
TO JOIN TODAY.

By Mail

An Application Form for membership is opposite if you wish to join the Society.

Online

Alternatively, please join the Society online via our secure website www.rahs.org.au

www.rahs.org.au



VETERIS NON
INSCIUS AEVI

**WE INVITE YOU TO
DONATE OR MAKE
A BEQUEST TODAY.**

By making provision
for the Society in your
will, you can ensure
our work continues
for future generations.

By Mail

A donation/bequest form
is opposite if you wish to
support the Society.

By Telephone

Please telephone
the Society on
(02)9247 8001
to donate or
make a bequest.

Online

Please make a donation
online via our secure
website www.rahs.org.au.

DONATIONS

Yes, I would like to make a donation to the Royal Australian Historical Society. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Title: Prof/Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss

Family name: _____ Given name/s: _____

Telephone: () _____ Mobile: _____

I would like to donate \$ _____ to the Royal Australian Historical Society. In particular, I would like to donate to:

- ☐ Library Fund
- ☐ History House Building Fund
- ☐ Publications & Research Fund
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

PAYMENT METHOD (tick one)

Cheque* ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Amount payable: \$ _____

**Please make cheques payable to 'RAHS'*

Cardholder's Name: _____

Card Number: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Expiry Date: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Signature: _____

BEQUESTS

Yes, I would like to make provision in my will for the Royal Australian Historical Society.

Title: Prof/Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss

Family name: _____ Given name/s: _____

Telephone: () _____ Mobile: _____

☐ I would like the Society to contact me to discuss my bequest and how it could assist the Royal Australian Historical Society. Please call me to discuss () _____

Please mail to:

Royal Australian Historical Society
History House
133 Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

At The Royal Australian Historical Society

JOINT PATRONS

- The Governor General of Australia
- The Governor of New South Wales

RAHS MEMBERSHIP

Apply for membership online or via the application form on page 11 of this booklet.

RAHS COUNCIL & COMMITTEES

- Council
- Executive Committee
- Affiliated Societies Committee
- Building Committee
- Fellowship and Medals Committee
- Finance Committee
- Library Committee
- Publications Committee
- Publications and Research Fund Committee
- Western Crossings Committee

Members are elected to the Council and Committees and serve in a voluntary capacity.

A small staff manages the Society.

For further details, please see www.rahs.org.au.

WHAT'S ON

Find out what's happening at the Royal Australian Historical Society: subscribe to our e-newsletter via our website www.rahs.org.au.

DISABILITY INFORMATION

Accessible entry via Philip Lane.

EVENT BOOKINGS

Online: www.rahs.org.au

Email: history@rahs.org.au

Telephone: (02) 9247 8001

In person: Please enquire at the front counter on Level One.

Please mention any special requirements for people with a disability at the time of booking.

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www.canvass.net.au
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www.birdcreative.com.au

LOCATION OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

History House

133 Macquarie Street

Sydney NSW 2000

Email: history@rahs.org.au

Website: www.rahs.org.au

Office Hours

Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

Closed weekends and public holidays.

Phone: +61 2 9247 8001

Fax: +61 2 9247 7854

Nearest railway stations:

Circular Quay, Wynyard and Martin Place

Nearest parking stations:

Secure Parking is located next door at 131 Macquarie Street.

Limited, metered on-street parking available on Macquarie Street.

Nearest bus stop:

Macquarie Street for Chatswood to Bondi Junction service,
Philip Street for Eastern suburbs services.



VETERIS NON INSCIUS AEVI

The Society's motto
"veteris non inscius aevi"
is taken from line eleven
of book XV of Ovid's
Metamorphoses.

It may be translated as
"well-informed
about the past".



Henry Lawson with children c 1900