



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WINTER 2023

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
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>Stories of Love from the Archives of Law</i>	Alecia Simmonds	Free	Free
Tue 23	10.30am – 12.30pm	RAHS Excursion – <i>Edina Estate</i>	Michael Waterhouse	\$20	\$20
Wed 24	6pm – 7pm	RAHS/National Archaeology Week Lecture – <i>Sludge: An Environmental History of Water and the Gold Rush</i>	Susan Lawrence	Free	Free
Sat 27 May – Sat 3 Jun		National Reconciliation Week			
JUNE					
Wed 7	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Day Lecture – <i>Early Escapes from Sydney by Sea: The unknown routes from Port Jackson to the Spanish Americas</i>	Chris Maxworthy	Free	Free
Wed 21	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Special Lecture – <i>More than a Glass and a Half: A History of Cadbury in Australia</i>	Robert Crawford	Free	Free
Thu 22	10.30am – 12.30pm	RAHS Excursion – <i>Sydney Bus Museum</i>	Donna Newton	\$15	\$15
JULY					
Sun 2 Jul – Sun 9 Jul		NAIDOC Week			
Wed 5	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Day Lecture – <i>Forgetting Women in the History of Australian Science</i>	Jane Carey	Free	Free
Wed 26	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Special Event – <i>Hanged for Bigamy? Alexander Wilson Smart's Love Stories</i>	Mélanie Méthot	Free	Free
AUGUST					
Wed 2	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Day Lecture – <i>Connecting Oceans: Barbadians in Australia</i>	Roslyn Russell	Free	Free
Wed 9	11am – 1pm	RAHS/WEA Workshop – <i>Using Trove to discover the Australia of Yesteryear</i>	Christine Yeats	\$32	\$35
Wed 16	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Special Lecture – <i>Managing Change at the Sydney Opera House</i>	Alan Croker	Free	Free

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>



**RAHS Special Lecture – *Stories of Love from the Archives of Law*
Wednesday 17 May 2023, 1pm – 2pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free**

Between 1806 and 1976 nearly a thousand people in Australia, almost all women, sued their partners for jilting them, or in legal terminology, for breach of promise of marriage. Litigants came to court with their love letters, gifts, lost wages, gossiping neighbours, expert witnesses, trousseaux, rings and tales of blasted affection seeking financial compensation for the injuries suffered in consequence of a broken engagement.

This talk discusses some of the life-stories uncovered in my book *Courting: An Intimate History of Love and the Law* to tell a wide history of the relationship between love and law, specifically how these two institutions became separated over the long arc of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

About the speaker: Dr Alecia Simmonds is a senior lecturer in law at the University of Technology Sydney and columnist with the *SMH* and *Age*. She is an inter-disciplinary scholar whose work on Australian cultural history and the relationship between emotion, imperialism and law in the Pacific has been published in a range of international and domestic journals. She is the author of the book *Wild Man: the story of a police shooting, mental illness and the law*, published by Affirm Press in 2015, won the Davitt Prize for non-fiction in 2016. Her book *Courting: An Intimate History of Love and the Law* will be published by Black Inc/La Trobe in late 2023.

**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.

**RAHS/National Archaeology Week Lecture – *Sludge: An Environmental History of Water and the Gold Rush*
Wednesday 24 May, 6pm – 7pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free**

Rivers are cultural artefacts transformed by human intervention. In Australia a significant influence on rivers has been the effect of mining. Miners dammed and diverted rivers for water supply and then choked them with the sand, gravel and silt that poured from the mines. One hundred and fifty years after the gold rush this profound environmental disruption is all but forgotten yet the legacy is still here. Recent research has brought together multi-disciplinary teams of historians and scientists in order to study how the gold rush continues to shape rivers and floodplains. Understanding the lasting impact of mining has implications for the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage, remediation programs, catchment management, public health and debates about how people and environments interact.

About the speaker: Professor Susan Lawrence is an industrial archaeologist and environmental historian at La Trobe University, Melbourne. She has a long-standing interest in the social archaeology of industry, particularly the Australian gold rush, and has led several multi-disciplinary teams investigating the lasting environmental effects of historical gold mining. Susan is the author of over 100 refereed articles and chapters and several books, including *Sludge: Disaster on the Victorian Goldfields*, co-authored with Peter Davies, which was shortlisted for the Prime Minister's Awards in 2020.

RAHS Day Lecture – *Early Escapes by Sea: The unknown routes from Port Jackson to the Spanish Americas, 1788 – 1820* | Wednesday 7 June 2023, 1pm – 2pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free

Chris Maxworthy's presentation will expand on his research in Spanish language archives of the Americas and Spain. Chris reveals the convicts, soldiers, mariners and stowaways who exited Sydney illicitly. In this rich tale are former soldiers of the Sydney garrison escaping debts, time-expired convicts joining up in visiting Cape Town privateers, and shipwrecked crews that all variously trans-shipped across the Americas (Mexico, Panama, Peru and Chile) as part of their long way home.

About the speaker: Chris Maxworthy is an engineering officer in the Royal Australian Navy (RAN). He is a graduate of the RAN College at Jervis Bay and also of the University of NSW where he graduated in both

Electrical Engineering and a BA in History. Chris served as a RAHS Councillor during the last decade. His historical research has been the early colonial maritime history of Australia and the Spanish rivalry that occurred once an English colony at 'Botany Bay' was announced in 1786. He is a Winston Churchill Fellow, awarded in 2011 to advance his research across Spanish language archives for the early history of Australia.

RAHS Special Lecture – *More than a Glass and a Half: A History of Cadbury in Australia*

Wednesday 21 June 2023, 1pm – 2pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free

Australians have long had a love affair with chocolate. From the 19th century through to the present, Cadbury has played a pivotal role in supporting this chocolate craving. In this presentation, Professor Crawford will draw on his recent book, *More than a Glass and a Half: A History of Cadbury* (Halstead Press, 2022), to tell the story of the Cadbury brand in Australia and to illustrate Australians' unique connection with the brand.

About the speaker: Robert Crawford is Professor of Advertising and Communication History in the School of Media and Communication at RMIT University in Melbourne. He is currently working on a history of department stores, details of which can be found at: <https://www.departmentstorehistory.org.au/>

RAHS Excursion – *Sydney Bus Museum*

Thursday 22 June 2023, 10.30am – 12.30pm at 25 Derbyshire Road, Leichhardt. Cost: \$15

The Sydney Bus Museum is a working museum, whose volunteer members help to preserve this rare and invaluable collection of historic buses dating from the 1920s to 2000 and provide the community access to this collection, telling a part of Sydney's transport history. Please note minimum 10 bookings.

RAHS Day Lecture – *Forgetting Women in the History of Australian Science*

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

Histories of Australian science largely overlook women. This gives the impression that, until recently, there were no Australian women scientists. But this is far from true. Engaging in myriad scientific pursuits from the first years of colonisation, by the early twentieth century (white, middle-class) women were highly visible in many areas of science and were even in the majority in some fields. This unexpected history has broader implications for understanding women's 'pioneering' achievements in supposedly 'male' domains.

About the speaker: Jane Carey is an Associate Professor in History at the University of Wollongong. She is a widely published author in the fields of Australian history, British colonial history, Indigenous history and women's history. She has edited numerous influential collections in these fields – including *Re-Orienting Whiteness* (2009), *Creating White Australia* (2009), *Indigenous Networks: Mobility, Connections and Exchange* (2014), and *Colonial Formations* (2021). Her most recent book is *Taking to the Field: A History of Australian Women in Science* (Monash University Publishing, 2023).

RAHS Special Lecture – *Hanged for Bigamy? Alexander Wilson Smart's Love Stories*

Wednesday 26 July 2023, 1pm – 2pm online via Zoom and live at UTS (hybrid event). Cost: Free

In 1878, twenty-year-old Alexander Wilson Smart married eighteen-year-old Mary Jane Bailey in Eltham (VIC), and a mere three months later, the young couple welcomed their first son. Over the next twenty years, Alexander and Mary Jane added four children to the family and appeared to live happily. Like many Australian men lured by the gold rush, Smart left his home and made his way to Western Australia in 1898 but continued to write and send money to Mary Jane for the next six years. In March 1910, claiming to be only thirty-four-years-old and now going by a pseudonym, Smart went through a form of marriage with a different Mary-Jane on her twenty-first birthday, thereby committing bigamy. As a result of his guilty plea, Smart was given a two-year jail sentence. A few weeks later, while serving his sentence in Fremantle jail, he was charged with the wilful murder of one Ethel Harris, his paramour from 1904 until her death, presumably at his hands.

Professor Mélanie Méthot will dissect the media coverage and the case files and argue that not only was Alexander Smart convicted of murder on circumstantial evidence, but his bigamy conviction would play a significant role in the inevitable verdict and his eventual death sentence.

About the speaker: Professor Méthot has been researching bigamy in Canada and in Australia for many years. She received in 2020 a SSHRC grant for her research project "Marrying too Much: Bigamy in Australia". She spent the last 6 months touring different State Record Offices to collect bigamy case files. She has recently developed [a website featuring bigamy stories and their relevance](#).

**RAHS Day Lecture – *Connecting Oceans: Barbadians in Australia*
Wednesday 2 August 2023, 1pm – 2pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free**

Britain's vast imperial network in the 19th century brought individuals and families to Australia from Barbados. Names familiar to Barbadians, such as Gibbes, Alleyne and Montefiore, also appear in Australia in influential contexts. The development of Queensland's sugar industry was facilitated by a Barbadian, John Buhôt. An early boxing star, Jack Dowridge, the 'Black Diamond', also came from Barbados. This presentation explores these historical links between Australia and Barbados.

About the speaker: Roslyn Russell PhD is an Australian historian and museum consultant. From 2006 to 2020 she developed content for the Museum of Parliament and National Heroes Gallery of Barbados; the Exchange Interactive Centre; and the Jairus Brewster Children's Gallery at the Barbados Museum. She was co-editor, with Alissandra Cummins and Kevin Farmer, of *Plantation to Nation: Caribbean Museums and National Identity* (Common Ground Publishing, 2012), and contributed a chapter on Barbados's museums.

**RAHS/WEA Workshop – *Using Trove to discover the Australia of Yesteryear*
Wednesday 9 August 2023, 11am – 1pm via Zoom. Cost: RAHS/WEA Members \$32 | Non-Members \$35
Bookings through WEA (02) 9264 2781 or online**

Trove is the place to explore all things Australian. It is also free. Through the single point of entry, we can all go back in time to explore the Australia of yesteryear. By tapping into Trove's digital copies of newspapers; government gazettes; magazines and newsletters; maps, photographs and artefacts; manuscripts and archives; sound recordings; archived websites and research reports we can all enjoy the pleasures of time travel with just a few keystrokes. This workshop will demonstrate how Trove's online resources can be explored to discover more about the way Australia has changed over multiple generations.

About the speaker: Christine Yeats FRAHS is the Senior Vice President of the Royal Australian Historical Society. She is the 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 Royal Australian Historical Society*. Christine is an archivist and professional historian with a particular interest in women's history and Romani migration and settlement in NSW.

**RAHS Special Lecture – *Managing Change at the Sydney Opera House: An Illustrated Talk*
Wednesday 16 August, 1pm – 2pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free**

In this illustrated talk, Alan Croker will discuss the recent functional, acoustic and accessibility upgrades at the Sydney Opera House and how these have been managed to respect and celebrate its cultural significance. For Alan, the magic and extraordinary cultural value of this place and its continued function as Australia's pre-eminent performing arts centre is a lifelong passion.

About the speaker: Alan Croker, founding director of Design 5 – Architects, has more than 35 years experience in conservation, adaptive re-use and new work across a broad range of project types and cultural contexts and he and his firm have won many awards at both state and national level.

Alan's first professional involvement with Sydney Opera House was in 1998 when he and two colleagues were invited to assist James Semple Kerr with his revision of the 1st edition of the Opera House's Conservation Plan. Alan was appointed to provide specialist advice to the Opera House when Kerr retired in 2004. He has since been involved with all major projects and issues at the site. Possibly the most important contribution Alan has made to the Opera House has been the preparation of *Respecting The Vision*, the 4th edition of Sydney Opera House's Conservation Management Plan, released October 2017. This document has been crucial in assisting the Opera House to guide and manage day to day issues, as well as proposals for change and renewal.

