



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY SUMMER-AUTUMN 2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Date	Time	Event	Presenter	Member	Friend
FEBRUARY					
Wed 7	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Day Lecture – <i>Ella Zuila, Australia’s Forgotten Heroine of the High Wire</i>	Mark St Leon	Free	Free
MARCH					
Sat 2	10am – 3.30pm	Central Coast Regional Seminar – <i>Beyond the Digital Horizon: Trove, Libraries and Archives</i>	Various	\$20	\$20
Wed 6	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Day Lecture – <i>Virtue in Australian Capitalism</i>	Hannah Forsyth	Free	Free
Wed 13	11am – 1pm	RAHS/WEA Workshop – <i>Using Trove: A Beginner’s Course</i>	Christine Yeats	\$35	\$39
Tue 19	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Special Lecture – <i>Bee Miles: Australia’s Famous Bohemian Rebel</i>	Rose Ellis	Free	Free
APRIL					
Wed 3	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Day Lecture – <i>Bennelong and Phillip: A History Unravelled</i>	Kate Fullagar	Free	Free
Wed 10	6pm – 8pm	<i>Stories from the RAHS – Celebrate the reopening of History House</i>	Various	Free	Free
Tue 16	6pm – 8pm	RAHS Annual General Meeting			
MAY					
Wed 1	1pm – 2pm	RAHS Day Lecture – <i>What Is So Good About Crime, Historians’ Edition</i>	Nancy Cushing	Free	Free
Thu 16	11am – 1pm	RAHS-ARHS/WEA Workshop – <i>‘Who Travels by Train sees NSW Best’: The Role of Railways in the Progress of NSW</i>	James Dalton	\$35	\$39
Sun 19 – Sat 25 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 – *Ella Zuila, Australia's Forgotten Heroine of the High Wire***Wednesday 7 February 2024, 1 pm – 2 pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free**

While Australia has been visited over the years by many circus companies, troupes and performers, Australia has also produced a number of circus artists who garnered international fame. One of Australia's earliest circus 'exports' was Sydney-born Catherine Webber (1854–1926) better known in the United States, England and Continental Europe in the last decades of the 19th century as 'Ella Zuila, The Australian Funambulist & Heroine of the High Wire'. This presentation will outline her life and career and will be richly illustrated with contemporary photographs and posters.

About the speaker: Dr Mark St Leon, now retired, was a university lecturer in the areas of accounting, economics and management. He is a Councillor of the RAHS. He is the author of *Circus: The Australian Story*.

2024 Central Coast Regional Seminar – *Beyond the Digital Horizon: Trove, Libraries and Archives***Saturday 2 March 2024, 10 am – 3.30 pm at Gosford Lions Community Hall, 3/8 Russel Drysdale St, Gosford****Cost: \$20 (includes morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea)**

Christine Yeats and Carol Liston will consider ways to research 'beyond the digital horizon'. Christine will offer tips and advice for making the best use of Trove and discuss researching passenger arrivals to the Australian colonies using the NSW State Archives Collection and the National Archives of Australia. In a talk titled 'It's not all online', Carol will use examples from the State Library of NSW and NSW State Archives Collection to outline the benefits of visiting the archive and library. Carol will also take participants on a 'tour' of the RAHS Library and discuss what makes this collection so special for local and community history.

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 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 Day Lecture – *Virtue in Australian Capitalism***Wednesday 6 March 2024, 1 pm – 2 pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free**

In 1868 Miss Lucy Osburn, a trained nurse, read a book on board the ship *Dunbar Castle*. She and six Nightingale nurses were travelling to Sydney to take up their posts in the Sydney Infirmary. They arrived on 11 March to a strange small town known to be peopled by criminals and an infirmary that stank of sewage. Miss Osburn's book was a gift intended to help her prepare for life in the colony. It was much-needed, though 'she was afraid', she wrote to Florence Nightingale, that the book was about a different colony. It was very easy to get them mixed up, partly because all of the settler colonies shared a shaky, anxious goal of building a new kind of economy, based on virtues that often seemed overshadowed, at home in England, by the excesses of the old aristocracy and an entrenched class system. Nurses like Osburn, and also medical doctors, lawyers, accountants, clergy, teachers, charity workers, engineers, architects and surveyors were the vanguard of the moral-economic goals of these 'social laboratories'. Although many professions were modelled on those established in Britain, such white-collar work grew much faster in the Antipodes and in the other English speaking settler colonies of Canada and the United States than they had in the home country. Over the following decades, this professional class invested a combination of financial capital and morality into the economies of Australia and the rest of the settler world, building a model of 'virtue capitalism' that would take over the global economy by the mid-twentieth century. In this lecture, Hannah Forsyth will talk about the ways virtue was imagined and built into Australian capitalism, how it went wrong and what has happened to professional expertise and morality in the economy in recent decades.

About the speaker: Hannah Forsyth is a writer and historian. She has written two books, *Virtue*

Capitalists (Cambridge University Press, 2023) and *A History of the Modern Australian University* (UNSW Press, 2014). Hannah holds a PhD and an MA in History. She did her BA Honours in Near Eastern Archaeology and has a qualification in educational design (GradCert Learning Science and Technology). Hannah has taught (both in person and online) global history, historiography, Indigenous histories, Australian history, politics and the history of capitalism and has supervised postgraduate students. She has also facilitated adult learning and workplace training, run focus groups and conducted research interviews.

RAHS/WEA Workshop – *Using Trove: A Beginner's Course*

Wednesday 13 March 2024, 11 am – 1 pm online via Zoom

Cost: RAHS Members \$35 | Non-Members \$39

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

Trove is the place to explore all things Australian. With just a few keystrokes, we can all enjoy the pleasures of time travel. This session will suit beginners and intermediate Trove users. A handbook will be provided to participants to help them become familiar with the Trove basics before the course.

About the speaker: Christine Yeats is an archivist, researcher and active supporter of local historical societies. Christine has undertaken a range of consultancy projects, including significance assessments and biographical and local history research. She is President of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies, Senior Vice President of the RAHS and a member of the Professional Historians Association (NSW & ACT). Her recent publication is *Handy Guide: Convict Records of NSW: The Human Stories of the Transportation System* (2021).

RAHS Special Lecture – *Bee Miles: Australia's Famous Bohemian Rebel*

Tuesday 19 March 2024, 1 pm – 2 pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free

Bee Miles was famous for appearing in public in towns and cities across Australia, breaking their rules, and living, she said, 'recklessly'. But she was no ordinary wanderer. Born into a wealthy family, Bee moved in Sydney's literary and artistic circles in the 1920s and 1930s, before she took up residence on the streets. A truly larger than life character, Bee constantly defied conventional expectations of female behaviour. Until now, no-one has uncovered the real story behind the colourful legend. This first full biography offers a fascinating glimpse into a dark side of Australia's history.

About the speaker: Rose Ellis is a writer, editor and researcher based in Sydney.

RAHS Day Lecture – *Bennelong and Phillip: A History Unravelling*

Wednesday 3 April 2024, 1 pm – 2 pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free

Kate Fullagar will speak about her new book, *Bennelong & Phillip: A History Unravelling*, the first joint biography of Bennelong and Governor Arthur Phillip, two pivotal figures in Australian history. Fullagar's account challenges many misconceptions, among them that Bennelong became alienated from his people and that Phillip was a paragon of Enlightenment benevolence. To present this history afresh, *Bennelong & Phillip* relates events in reverse, moving beyond the limitations of typical Western ways of writing about the past, which have long privileged the coloniser over the colonised.

About the speaker: Kate Fullagar FAHA is currently professor of history at the Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences, in the Australian Catholic University, and co-editor of the journal *History Australia*. Her book *The Warrior, The Voyager and The Artist* won the Douglas Stewart Prize for Non-Fiction at the 2021 NSW Premier's Awards.

RAHS Day Lecture – *What Is So Good About Crime, Historians' Edition*

Wednesday 1 May 2024, 1 pm – 2 pm online via Zoom. Cost: Free

While crime statistics trend downward, the appetite for stories about crime just keeps growing. This abiding interest makes historical crime a tempting area for historians following their own interests or with a view to writing histories that people want to read. In 2018, I became part of this trend when I developed a course on the history of crime in Australia. In this talk, I will discuss why crime can be so fruitful for historians, illustrating

my points with examples from Australia's criminal past.

About the speaker: Nancy Cushing is Associate Professor in History at the University of Newcastle on unceded Awabakal land. Her teaching includes the history of crime while her research area is Australian environmental history. Her current book project is *A New History of Australia in 15 Animals* (Bloomsbury). Nancy is the 2024–2025 Coral Thomas Fellow at the State Library of New South Wales, Director of the Centre for the Study of Violence and a member of the executive of the Australian Historical Association.

RAHS-ARHS/WEA Workshop – ‘Who Travels by Train sees NSW Best’: *The Role of Railways in the Progress of NSW* | Thursday 16 May 2024, 11 am – 1 pm online via Zoom.

Cost: RAHS Members \$35 | Non-Members \$39

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

Railways are often overlooked for the significant role they played, and continue to play, in the development of NSW and Australia. Most of us have some association or connection to railways, even if it is just to get us to and from work. But did you know that since 1855, railways have shaped the economic, social, technological, industrial and political development of our society? This presentation will explore this story and its significance to citizens and their families.

About the speaker: James Dalton is the Chair and General Manager of the Australian Railway Historical Society. The Society is over 90 years old and is dedicated to preserving and sharing the story of railways in Australia. James has a lifelong interest in railways and history and, with degrees in engineering and business, has worked in the railways, medical, and cultural sectors.

Updated 20 February 2024