The Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS) in conjunction with Kiama Historical Society (KHS) present

2026 Kiama Regional Seminar and History Talk

Building Research Skills and Exploring Local History

Saturday 18 July 2026 – 10:00 am to 3:30 pm

at

Kiama Library, 7 Railway Parade, Kiama NSW 2533

Session A: RAHS Research Skills Seminar – supported by Create NSW

10:00 am – 1:45 pm

Join the RAHS and KHS for a skills-based seminar designed by the RAHS to support family and local history research. Sessions will explore how to search Trove more effectively, learn to navigate the Historical Land Records Viewer (HLRV) to research individuals, families and properties in New South Wales, and work with NSW colonial records to gain insights into personal and family life in the early colony.

Cost including morning tea and lunch: $25 RAHS, KHS and RAHS affiliated society members | $30 non-members

Bookings essential in advance for catering purposes.

Session B: Local History Talk

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Join the RAHS and KHS for a history talk exploring the lives of the Rutter sisters, from their early years at the Female Orphan School in Parramatta to their connections with the Kiama and Gerringong districts. The session also offers an opportunity to learn more about KHS and its work.

Cost including afternoon tea: $3 RAHS, KHS and RAHS affiliated society members | $5 non-members

Advance booking recommended. Tickets may be available on the day, subject to availability.

For more information and online bookings:
www.rahs.org.au/rahs-events
(02) 9247 8001 | history@rahs.org.au

RAHS Regional Seminar and History Talk – Program

Session A: Research Skills

Time	Details
9.45 am	Registrations
10.00 am	Welcome to Country | Introduction to Session A
10.15 am	**Speaker:** Christine Yeats, RAHS Senior Vice President ***Beyond the Search Box: Mastering Trove and evaluating newspaper evidence***: Advanced search techniques, evaluating newspaper evidence, and researching beyond Trove.
11.00 am	Morning tea
11.20 am	**Speaker:** Carol Liston AO, RAHS President ***Tracing people and families in early New South Wales:*** Using colonial records to explore people, land and community under Governors King, Bligh and Macquarie.
12.00 pm	Short break: View Kiama Historical Society materials and publications
12.15 pm	**Speaker:** Christine Yeats, RAHS Senior Vice President ***HLRV: Searching for Individuals:*** Techniques and Insights into using the Historical Land Records Viewer to trace individuals and properties through parish maps and historical land records.
1.00 pm	Lunch and networking
1.45 pm	End of Session A

Session B: Local History Talk

Time	Details
1.45 pm	Acknowledge to Country | Overview of upcoming KHS events | Welcome by Mayor| Introduction to Session B
2.05 pm	**Speaker:** Carol Liston AO, RAHS President ***The Female Orphan School, Parramatta, and the Rutter sisters:*** Tracing the lives of the Rutter sisters and their connection to Kiama and Gerringong.
2.50 pm	Questions
3.00 pm	Afternoon tea
3.30 pm	Close

About the RAHS Regional Seminar Program supported by Create NSW

The program aims to promote the study, writing and dissemination of Australian history. It aims to develop historical expertise in the community that will support history and heritage projects. To learn more about online and regional seminars, grants, RAHS membership and how we can support your history projects, see our website www.rahs.org.au or contact us on (02) 9247 8001.