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Museums eNews

March 2024

What's on at the Museum of Sydney



Coomaditchie: The Art of Place

Opens Saturday 30 March, 10am–5pm daily, free entry

Experience community life by the ocean through the works of First Nations artists in *Coomaditchie: The Art of Place* at the Museum of Sydney. This exhibition celebrates the 30th anniversary of the founding of the

Coomaditchie United Aboriginal Corporation in 1993. The corporation provides support and services to the broader community and to the people of the Coomaditchie settlement, located at Coomaditchie Lagoon in the city of Wollongong, the centre of the Illawarra region of NSW.

The loving and lyrical artworks featured in this exhibition, which include paintings, ceramics and screen-prints, speak of life in and around the settlement of Coomaditchie, its history, ecology and local Dreaming stories. This exhibition offers a glimpse into the political, social and artistic activities of a very special place.

[Find out more](#)



Ngaya (I am)

Opens Saturday 16 March, 10am–5pm daily, free entry

Mixing images of people and landscape with song and dance – and humour – the compelling five-minute video installation *Ngaya (I am)* is a self-portrait of the artist as a queer Ngarigo person from the Snowy Mountains region of south-eastern NSW. On display at the Museum of Sydney, *Ngaya (I am)* is accompanied by historical photographs of the Snowy Mountains region held in the State Archives Collection.

[Find out more](#)



Cast in cast out

Opens Saturday 16 March, 10am–5pm daily, free entry

Cast in cast out is a multifaceted artwork by Sydney-based Kamilaroi/Gamilaraay artist Dennis Golding. Inspired by his experiences and childhood memories of growing up in 'The Block' in the inner Sydney suburb of Redfern, the artwork 'recasts' Victorian-era ironwork panels – a distinctive feature of many 19th-century houses in Redfern. Golding has reclaimed the original ironwork panels to decolonise them and transform them into contemporary expressions of power and ownership. The artist's presence resonates throughout the exhibition in a photographic self-portrait and filmed interview.

[Find out more](#)

Closing soon



The People's House: Sydney Opera House at 50

Closes Sunday 3 March, open daily, 10am–5pm, free entry

Don't miss out! There's only one week left to experience *The People's House: Sydney Opera House at 50*, which must close on Sunday 3 March.

Drop by the Museum of Sydney to commemorate 50 incredible years of this architectural marvel that has become Sydney's great civic space and 'the people's house'.

Members get more: Enjoy 10% off at [This Way Canteen](#)

[Plan your visit](#)



The People's House: Sunday Sessions

Sunday 3 March, various times

Join us at the Museum of Sydney for the final day of fun activities and workshops for the whole family. Join a choir, watch performances, master new dance moves on the museum forecourt, capture the beauty of the Opera House in a drawing workshop, see a costume designer in action and listen to a fascinating talk with Architect Alan Croker and MHNSW Curator, Dr Jacqui Newling. Find out more below.

Members get more: Enjoy 10% off at [This Way Canteen](#)

[Book now](#)

Book a workshop



Let's Dance with Sydney Dance Company

Sunday 3 March, various times

Led by professional instructors from the [Sydney Dance Company](#), this inclusive class will get your heart pumping in a unique venue with the city skyline as a backdrop. Welcoming participants of all levels, ages and abilities, these free dance classes will get you energised as you shimmy on the outdoor dance floor on the museum forecourt while learning a range of styles, including hip-hop and jazz.

[Book now](#)



Sketching Sessions with Todd Fuller

Sunday 3 March, various times

Join Sydney-based artist [Todd Fuller](#) for a series of special life drawing sessions, suitable for both seasoned creatives and those new to the practice. Starting at the Museum of Sydney, participants will wander to the Sydney Opera House where they'll explore various drawing techniques and perspectives inspired by one of the world's most iconic buildings.

Bookings essential. General \$15, member \$12

[Book now](#)



Let's Sing with Soulfood A Cappella Choir

Sunday 3 March, 1pm–2pm

Have you ever wanted to experience the joy of communal singing? Join us for a free, uplifting celebration of song that welcomes all ages and abilities.

Led by acclaimed musical director Melissa Kenny and members of the multi- award-winning a cappella group Soulfood, this inclusive workshop will give you the confidence to express yourself in a fun and supportive environment.

[Book now](#)



Telling Tales with Bell Shakespeare

Sunday 3 March, various times

Join [Bell Shakespeare](#) for an action-packed workshop that explores key scenes and soliloquies from the Bard's plays and analysis of Shakespeare's language – all wrapped up in a fresh, modern take.

This is a playful and powerful approach to achieving hands-on learning and real engagement with Shakespeare.

Bookings essential. General \$15, member \$12

[Book now](#)

What's on at the Caroline Simpson Library



Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Caroline Simpson Library

The Mint, 27 February – 12 July, open Tuesday to Friday, 10am–4pm

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Caroline Simpson gift. The MHNSW library began as the Lyndhurst Conservation Resource Centre in 1984 and was renamed in 2004 in recognition of the extraordinary cultural gift donated by the children of Caroline Simpson OAM (1930–2003) to MHNSW. The endowment included furniture, artworks, books and decorative arts from their mother's collection. A keen collector, Caroline had a passion for colonial history and heritage and an eye for rare and significant material.

This display draws from Caroline's personal collection of objects related to the incredible voyage of Rose de Freycinet (1794–1832) aboard the French scientific vessel *Uranie* in 1817–20. It offers just a glimpse of the breadth and importance of the objects acquired by one of Australia's great collectors.

Members get more: Enjoy 10% off at the Bullion Store

[Plan your visit](#)

Talks



The Extraordinary Story of Rose de Freycinet

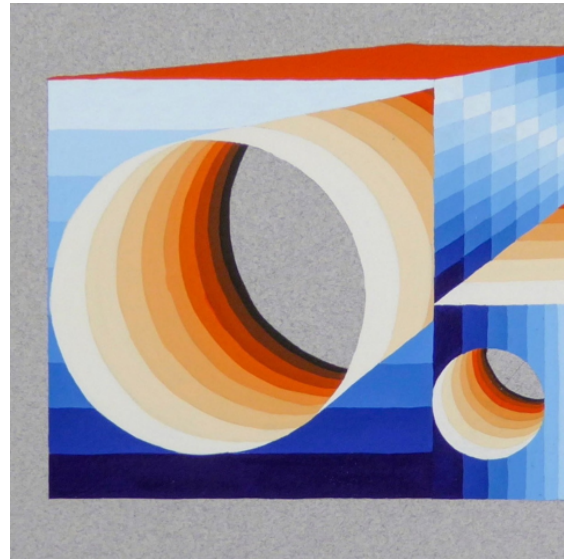
Friday 8 March, 6pm–8pm

As part of International Women's Day, join us for a conversation with Suzanne Falkiner, author of a biography of Rose de Freycinet. Suzanne will discuss her research into the incredible story of the young Frenchwoman who was smuggled aboard her husband's ship, the *Uranie*, in 1817, becoming the only woman on the three-year scientific voyage around the world.

Attendees will view books, manuscripts and pictures held in the Caroline Simpson Collection that relate to Rose de Freycinet and the voyage of the *Uranie* in 1817–20.

Bookings essential. General \$15, member \$12

[Book now](#)



Phyllis Shillito and her colour curriculum 1945–79

Wednesday 20 March, 5.30pm–8pm

Explore the colour curriculum of pioneering Sydney-based colour designer and educator Phyllis Shillito in this hybrid in-person and online event.

Examine the impressive collection of notes created by designer Eva Day during her time at the Shillito Design School in Sydney in the late 1970s. Our expert speakers will explore Shillito's approach to colour and the impact it has had on the interior design profession.

Bookings essential. General \$15, member \$12

[Book now](#)

What's on at Vaucluse House



Wentworth Mausoleum walking tour

Friday 22 March, 2pm–3pm

Join us for a walking tour to the Wentworth Mausoleum and learn about the extravagant 1873 state funeral of explorer and politician William Charles Wentworth.

The tour will start in the grand drawing room at Vaucluse House and journey to the rarely opened mausoleum – Wentworth's final resting place. Hear stories and listen to commentary from colonial-era newspapers about the details of this great event. Visitors are welcome to explore the house and gardens before or after the tour.

Members get more: Enjoy a 20% discount on all tickets.

[Book now](#)

Collections on tour



Making Home: A Short History of Houses, Interiors and Gardens in NSW

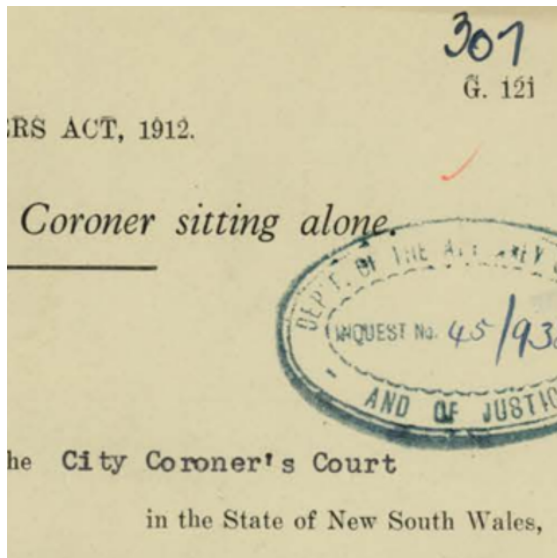
Bundanoon Soldier's Memorial Hall, Tuesday 12 March, 11am–12.30pm

Museums of History NSW is on the road again, sharing our stories with the people of regional NSW.

Join our experts in an illustrated presentation that explores the history of houses, interiors and gardens in NSW, drawing materials from our rich collections. This session will include a Q & A and an opportunity to view original material from the collections, including local Southern Highlands content.

[Find out more](#)

Webinar



Inquest Index: 1916–1963

Friday 22 March, 10.30am–11.30am

Our State Archives Collection has acquired surviving inquest papers from the periods 1916 to 1939 and April to December 1963 (Glebe Coroner's Court). Inquest papers are a valuable source for family historians, and this webinar will guide you on how to use the Inquest Index and explore the new additions.

[Register now](#)

Shop online



Online clearance

For one week only, save an additional 10% on a range of already reduced accessories, gifts, toys, books and more. Use code **CLEAR10** at check-out. The discount code is limited to one use per customer and applies to clearance products only.

Offer valid until 3 March. Offer not available in store. Stocks are limited. Shipping is additional, domestic shipping only.

Mid-Century Modern: Gift Wrapping Paper Book

Was \$21.99, now \$15, only \$13.50 with code CLEAR10

[Shop now](#)

1. *The first three decades (decade three)* (detail), Coomaditchie artists and community members, 2022. Coomaditchie United Aboriginal Corporation. Photo © Bernie Fischer. Artwork © the artists ; 2. Still from *Ngaya (I am)*, Peter Waples-Crowe, with Rhian Hinkley and composer Harry Covill, 2022. Commissioned by ACMI. Artwork © Peter Waples-Crowe ; 3. *Cast in cast out* (detail), Dennis Golding, 2020. Museum of Sydney Collection, MHNSW. Artwork © the artist; 4–5. Photos © James Horan for MHNSW; 6. Photo © Daniel Boud, courtesy of Sydney Dance Company; 7. Image courtesy of Todd Fuller; 8. Image courtesy of Soulfood ; 9. Photo © Daniel Boud, courtesy of Bell Shakespeare; 10. *The governor of Dili greets Rose de Freycinet*, J Alphonse Pellion, 1818, pen, ink and watercolour on paper. Caroline Simpson Collection, MHNSW; 11. *Coupang: île de Timor, visite chez Mr JM. Tieleman Secrétaire du Gouvernement Hollandias a Coupang*, J Alphonse Pellion, 1818, watercolour, ink and pencil on paper. Caroline Simpson Collection, MHNSW; 12. Image © Eva Fay 2021; 13. Image © MHNSW; 14. Saxton homes : modern, comfortable yet inexpensive, [trade catalogue]. Caroline Simpson Collection, MHNSW; 15. State Archives Collection, MHNSW; 16. Image courtesy of Thames & Hudson

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