



Stories Donate Shop



Opening soon at the Museum of Sydney



Eora by Michael Riley

Opens Saturday 7 December, open daily (closed Christmas Day), 10am–5pm, free entry

Eora, by acclaimed Wiradjuri/Kamilaroi filmmaker Michael Riley (1960–2004), is a 20-minute digital film on display at the Museum of Sydney from December.

This compelling work, shown across three large screens, interweaves archival imagery, natural landscapes, and contemporary First Nations art with a soundscape featuring the voices of local First Nations people. Recently digitised, *Eora* was originally commissioned for the Museum of Sydney's opening in 1995 and remains a powerful tribute to First Nations resilience, cultures and beauty.

Experience Riley's legacy as we prepare to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Museum of Sydney.

Members get more: Enjoy a 10% discount at the museum shop and This Way Canteen.

[Find out more](#)



Beauty Rich and Rare

Opens Saturday 7 December, open daily (closed Christmas Day), 10am–5pm, free entry

Immerse yourself in a 180-degree visual experience depicting Australia's unique flora and fauna, collected by Sir Joseph Banks on HMB *Endeavour* in 1770.

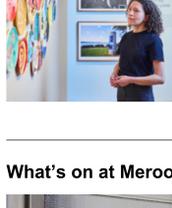
Beauty Rich and Rare is a 20-minute digital work of art that uses maps, journals and other documents from the *Endeavour* voyage to re-create the wonder experienced by Banks and the botanists, scientists and illustrators on that extraordinary adventure. From the first landing at Botany Bay to the last landfall in Australia's far north, Banks and his companions captured Australia's beautiful, rich and rare flora and fauna in meticulous detail and collected it in great volume.

Beauty Rich and Rare is an original exhibition by AGB Creative. Commissioned by the National Library of Australia.

Members get more: Enjoy a 10% discount at the museum shop and This Way Canteen.

[Find out more](#)

On now



Coomaditchie: The Art of Place

Open daily (closed Christmas Day), until February 2 2025, 10am–5pm, free entry

Experience community life by the ocean through the works of First Nations artists, celebrating Coomaditchie's history, ecology and Dreaming stories in paintings, ceramics and screen-prints.

[Plan your visit](#)

What's on at Meroogal



Meroogal Women's Art Prize 2024

Exhibition now on, open Saturdays, 10am–4pm

Congratulations to the winners of the Meroogal Women's Art Prize 2024: first prize winner Jackie Street for *Vexations in blue*; second prize winner Sassy Park for *Flower boy*; and highly commended Mariana del Castillo for *Deep longings settled*. The exhibition of finalists' and winners' works is now on display at Meroogal. Visitors can vote for their favourite work in the People's Choice Award.

Meroogal is open on Saturdays from 10am to 4pm with free timed entry. Please check tour times in advance and pre-book your tickets.

[Plan your visit](#)

Explore



Elizabeth Farm: A Museum at 40 Tour

Saturday 30 November, 11am–12pm

Celebrate 40 years of Elizabeth Farm as a museum! Join MHSW Curator Dr Scott Hill for a special tour of Australia's oldest surviving colonial homestead and its re-created garden and learn how the property has been preserved and presented over the decades.

[Book now](#)

On display



A Generous Gift: The John and Phyllis Murphy Collection

Caroline Simpson Library, *The Mint*, open Tuesday to Friday, 10am–4pm

Explore *A Generous Gift: The John and Phyllis Murphy Collection*, our latest display at the Caroline Simpson Library. Discover vibrant historical wallpapers from Australia's largest wallpaper collection, compiled by architects Phyllis and John Murphy. Spanning more than a century, this collection of sample books, trade literature and rare designs captures a colourful slice of Australia's decorative heritage between 1850 and 1980. In 2022, Phyllis Murphy generously donated this collection to MHSW, and we're delighted to share it with the public.

[Find out more](#)

Talks



Webinar: Assisted Immigrant Records

Friday 6 December, 10.30am–11.30am

Assisted immigrant records can add so much to family history. This webinar will provide an overview of our assisted immigrant indexes and the digitised passenger lists. Learn new ways to search for records, and how to interpret their secrets.

[Free: register now](#)

School holidays



History Kids – Explore Elizabeth Farm

Elizabeth Farm, various dates, 10.30am–11.30am and 1.30pm–2.30pm

Learn about the Barramagal people, listen to stories about the house and dress up as one of the Macarthur family's servants – you'll do the laundry, clean the kitchen, explore the cellar and have fun making the beds. At the end of the program enjoy traditional light refreshments in the garden.

[Book now](#)

History Kids – Explore Vaucluse House

Vaucluse House, various dates, 10.30am–11.30am and 1.30pm–2.30pm

These summer holidays, learn about the Birrabirragal and Gadigal peoples, dress up as a Wentworth family servant, try your hand at laundry and kitchen work, and explore the cellar. Enjoy a glimpse at toys the Wentworth children played with and finish with light refreshments under the Moreton Bay fig tree!

[Book now](#)



Basket Weaving with Muru Mittigar

Sunday 8 December 2024, 19 January and 9 February 2025

Join Muru Mittigar at Rouse Hill Estate to participate in a fun and simple basket-weaving workshop. Families can drop in to learn weaving techniques and create their own basket to take home.

[Plan your visit](#)



Festivities at the houses

Step into a Christmas wonderland at our historic houses Elizabeth Farm and Vaucluse House where both sites will be traditionally decorated for the festive season.

Starting Sunday 8 December at Vaucluse House, join us for festive drop-in craft activities for kids and families. From Wednesday 18 December, admire the stunning Christmas tree, adorned with traditional ornaments.

Bring your family and join us at Elizabeth Farm from Friday 13 December where you can enjoy festive drop-in craft activities.

Share your festive moments on Instagram and tag us @museumsfhistorynsw to be part of the holiday cheer.

[Plan your visit](#)



Plum Pudding Demonstration with Dr Jacqui Newling

Vaucluse House, Sunday 8 December, 11am–12pm

Join Curator Dr Jacqui Newling for a festive demonstration in the historic kitchen at Vaucluse House. Watch as she brings to life a traditional 19th-century Christmas plum pudding recipe. Discover the secrets, history and heritage behind this timeless treat.

Free, registrations required

[Book now](#)

Dine & shop



Weekend museum plans?

This Way Canteen, corner of Phillip and Bridge streets, Sydney

Pop over to This Way Canteen, right next door to the Museum of Sydney. Flash this email for a free hot drink when you spend \$15 or more on a Saturday or Sunday. Offer is available until 31 December 2024. One per customer, per transaction.

Members get more: Enjoy a 10% discount at This Way Canteen.

[Plan your visit](#)

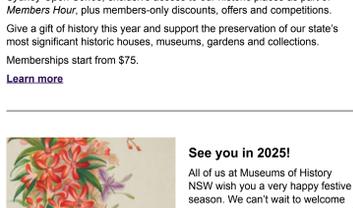
Sparkling savings

Buy any three or more decorations from the ever-popular Vixen & Velvet range in one transaction and save 20%.

Enter code **VV20** at checkout. Offer ends Saturday 7 December, 11.59pm AEST.

Stocks are limited, online only. Shipping additional. No further discounts apply.

[Shop now](#)



Give a loved one more with a membership

Members get more history, experiences and benefits. A membership unlocks priority access to tickets to events such as *Sydney Open* and *Sydney Open Series*, exclusive access to our historic places as part of *Members Hour*, plus members-only discounts, offers and competitions.

Give a gift of history this year and support the preservation of our state's most significant historic houses, museums, gardens and collections. Memberships start from \$75.

[Learn more](#)



See you in 2025!

All of us at Museums of History NSW wish you a very happy festive season. We can't wait to welcome you next year to our great line-up of exhibitions, programs and more.

Museums of History NSW



to significant historic places, collections and archives in NSW and is responsible for promoting knowledge and appreciation of history. It is a statutory body, principally funded by the NSW Government.