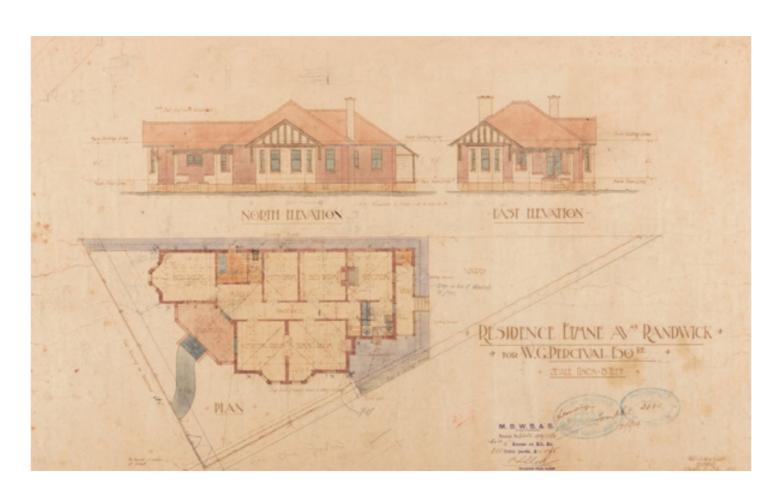


The latest events and information about Museums of History NSW collections, incorporating the State Archives Collection, the Caroline Simpson Library Collection and museum collections



The Alexander Mackintosh Archive: revealing records of a master builder

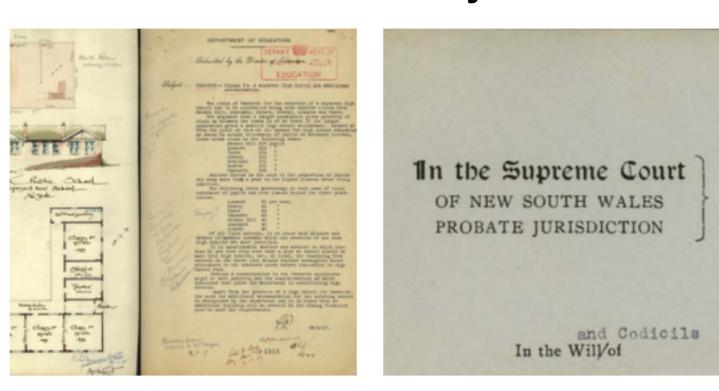
Forgotten for decades, the archive of Scottish-born building contractor Alexander Mackintosh was rediscovered in the 1990s in the roof space of the Mackintosh family's former home. It includes more than 270 architectural drawings and reveals information about the work of many of Sydney's leading architects of the early 20th century.

The collection is a remarkable survival, documenting Alexander's building work for domestic and commercial projects by architects such as B J Waterhouse, W Hardy Wilson, John Burcham Clamp and James Peddle.

The archive has been digitised and is viewable in the Caroline Simpson Collection catalogue.

Read more

What school files can tell you



Schools: what the files can tell you

School files reflect the growth or decline of towns, and are an excellent source of information, not only about the history of a school but about the history of a local community.

The series NRS-3829 covers the periods 1876–1939 and 1940–79. Each bundle contains correspondence between school staff and the NSW Department of Education and can also include letters from tradespeople, community members and nondepartmental government officials. Records may include applications to have a new school in a town (sometimes with details of possible pupils); teachers' leave and transfer requests; letters from parents about teachers; inspectors' reports; plans of school sites and buildings. See digitised examples of whole files, along with more information on

this valuable series on our website.

Changes to probate packets access While all probate packets held in the State Archives Collection continue to remain open to public access, the

Supreme Court has recently made an Access Direction (AD3292) that closes access to birth certificates in packets that are less than 100 years old because they contain personal information. That closure is now in place.

As a result, all probate packets less than 100 years old will be physically checked before being issued in the

State Archives Reading Room. Whenever a birth certificate less than 100 years old is found it will be temporarily extracted from the packet. You will be notified of the existence of a closed certificate when you are given access to the packet. We look forward to continuing to

assist you with your use of the probate packets and encourage you to submit a pre-order via the State Archives catalogue prior to your visit.

Read more

Webinars



Webinar: Settlers' Muster Book 1800

Friday 31 January, 10.30am– 11.30am

Inscribed on the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register, the Settlers' Muster Book 1800 provides a snapshot of life during this pivotal period of early European settlement, approximately a decade after the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788.

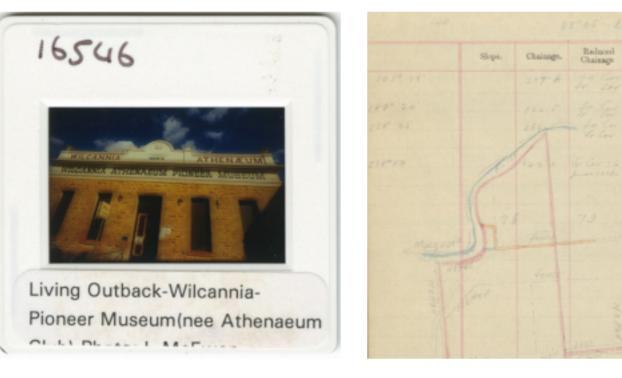
Join us for a webinar led by Dr Carol Liston AO, Adjunct Associate Professor in History at Western Sydney University, who will explore the contents of the recently digitised and indexed Settlers' Muster Book 1800, and how it can provide wonderful insights into the residents and the early administrative and economic workings of the colony.

Learn how to use our indexes and guides to search and explore the Settlers' Muster Book yourself. Free; registration required

Free; registration required

Register now

Super series



Tourism images

The slides held in this series (NRS-20506) depict tourist sites and destinations across NSW and were used in promotional literature and advertising campaigns dating from 1990 to 2002. The images include high-quality 35mm slides and large-format transparencies and photographic stills. Most of the series has not been digitised but can be viewed on light boxes in the State Archives Reading Room. The images are categorised into broad geographical regions, broken down by subject matter (such as history and heritage, nature, people and lifestyle), followed by more specific location information and the names of photographers where available.

Surveyors' field books

process of being alienated from the

management and administration.

in order to prepare Crown plans,

When gathering information onsite

surveyors took notes in field books.

Crown plans have been produced by the Surveyor-General's Department since 1788 to define roads, leases, licences and grants affecting Crown land or land in the

Crown, to ensure its orderly

Webinar: Murphy Wallpaper Collection

Sol and

Friday 7 February, 10.30am-11.30am

The recent donation to the Caroline Simpson Library of thousands of wallpapers in the John and Phyllis Murphy Collection means that MHNSW now has the largest holding of historical wallpapers in Australia. As we explore the collection, it's starting to reveal its riches.

This webinar will illustrate the (perhaps surprising) riot of colour and pattern with which Australians decorated their homes in the 19th and early 20th centuries and will also consider what these wallpapers can tell us about the aspirations of Australian homeowners in the past.





The field books in this series (NRS-13889) date from 1794 to 1954 and represent the primary record of land survey in NSW. They were required to be submitted to the Surveyor-General on completion of the survey or on demand. They contain additional information

that was not included in the Crown plans that were produced from them, primarily measurements but sometimes also the names of nearby land features, buildings and/or property owners, and surveyors' comments on the process of carrying out the survey.



What's on



Eora by Michael Riley

Museum of Sydney, open daily, 10am–5pm, free entry

Eora, by the Wiradjuri/Kamilaroi filmmaker and photographer Michael Riley (1960–2004), is a 20-minute digital film on display at the Museum of Sydney that tells the story of Sydney's First Nations people – before and after colonisation.

With scenes juxtaposed on three large screens, the work combines archival colonial imagery, natural landscapes and cityscapes, and artworks by many of Riley's contemporaries with an evocative soundscape that includes whispered words of local First Nations people.

The film, which has recently been digitised, was commissioned for the opening of the Museum of Sydney in 1995. The restaging of the work honours Riley's intent to celebrate First Nations beauty, cultures and survival despite the ongoing effects of colonisation.

The Museum of Sydney is proud to re-screen this important film in its 30th anniversary year.

Plan your visit



Beauty Rich and Rare Museum of Sydney, until 30 March, open daily, 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 20minute digital work of art that uses maps, journals and other documents from the Endeavour voyage to recreate 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.

Sonic Spaces Hyde Park Barracks, various dates from 7 February Sonic Spaces returns for 2025 with an exciting new series of music performances in one of the city's most unique spaces, the hammock room at the UNESCO World Heritage–listed Hyde Park Barracks. Originally housing convicts, the hammock room is steeped in history and personal stories. Immerse yourself in an audiovisual experience with atmospheric lighting, projected imagery and surround sound. From the comfort of a hammock, soak up the sounds of some of Sydney's most interesting and diverse artists exploring a range of genres.

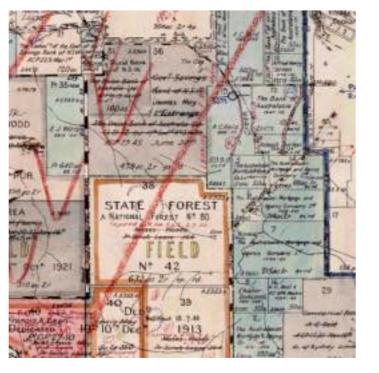
General \$55, members \$44.

Book now

Watch



Watch anytime



Webinar: How to Read a Parish Map

Parish maps function as indexes to land titling and land tenure records. This webinar shows you how to make sense of all of the details on a parish map.

1. Elevation and floor plan for residence at Ethne Ave, Randwick, for W G Percival Esq, by B J Waterhouse and J W Lake, ink and watercolour on card, 1914. Caroline Simpson Collection, MHNSW; 2. Pages from school file for Tamworth Public School, 1912–22. State Archives Collection, MHNSW: NRS-3829-2-[5/17768B]; 3. From the probate packet of Caroline Bell, 1922. State Archives Collection, MHNSW: NRS-13660-9-359-Series 4_115077; **4**. Cover of Settlers' Muster Book 1800. State Archives Collection, MHNSW: NRS-23979-1-1-[1]; **5**. Phyllis Murphy at home with her wallpaper collection, 2022. Photo © Simon Milder for MHNSW; 6. Wilcannia Athenaeum Pioneer Museum, undated. State Archives Collection, MHNSW: NRS-20506-2-3-[501][DUP2]; 7. Page 6 from surveyor's field book O7842B, Sheaffe, G L, 1921–23. State Archives Collection, MHNSW: NRS-13889-36-5-O7842B; 8. Eora (film still), Michael Riley, 1995. © MHNSW; 9. Detail from Beauty Rich and Rare. Original exhibition by AGB Creative. Commissioned by the National Library of Australia; **10**. Photo © James Horan for MHNSW; 11. Parish Ashburnam County Cookamidgera 1927 (detail). Land Registry Services.

Museums of **History NSW**

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NSW

Museums of History NSW cares for, and provides access 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.

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