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What's on in February



Through a Blak Lens

Museum of Sydney, Sunday 26 January and 2 February, 2pm–3.30pm

Join us for Sunday afternoon screenings of short films and explore the contribution and influence of the late Wiradjuri and Kamilaroi photographer, artist and filmmaker Michael Riley. This film program showcases examples of Riley's iconic work alongside the films of some of Australia's most celebrated First Nations filmmakers.

The 26 January program features three short films by Riley: *Quest for Country, Poison and Empire*. On 2 February we present Riley's *Boomalli: Five Koorie artists. I don't want to be a bludger* by Destiny Deacon and Riley, and *Nice coloured girls* by Tracey Moffatt.

Free; registration recommended.

[Learn more](#)



Sonic Spaces returns with Ziggy Ramo

Friday 7 February, 6.30pm–7.30pm

Sonic Spaces returns for 2025 with an exciting new series of music performances in one of the city's most unique venues – the hammock room at the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Hyde Park Barracks.

Immerse yourself in an audiovisual experience with atmospheric lighting, projected imagery and surround sound for an intimate performance by Ziggy Ramo.

Ramo for his lyricism and storytelling ability, Ziggy's experiences with racism in Australia have led him towards activism, both in his music and in the wider world.

Members get more: Enjoy 20% off tickets.

[Book now](#)

Hyde Park Barracks news



Hope by Hiromi Tango

We're delighted to announce a dramatic new art commission by renowned multidisciplinary artist Hiromi Tango at the Hyde Park Barracks from 11 April. *Hope* includes a dynamic digital projection artwork that uses the facade of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed site as its canvas, absorbing the stories within and connecting them with visitors today. The artwork will appear nightly and features people reflecting on the rich history of the Barracks and its significant collection and sharing their personal stories of hope.

Central to Hiromi Tango's *Hope* is *Hope Garden*, an immersive installation located inside the Hyde Park Barracks which incorporates colourful flower artworks, created from upcycled materials by the artist and many visitors who participated in hands-on school holiday workshops with Hiromi.

Hope is proudly supported by the NSW Government through the Blockbusters Funding initiative.

[Find out more](#)

Summer exhibitions



Eora by Michael Riley

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

Eora, a 20-minute digital film by acclaimed Wiradjuri/Kamilaroi filmmaker Michael Riley (1960–2004), is a powerful tribute to First Nations resilience, cultures and beauty. The film was commissioned for the opening of the Museum of Sydney in 1995, and we're proud to re-screen this important work in the museum's 30th anniversary year.

[Learn more](#)

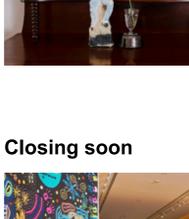


Beauty Rich and Rare

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

Beauty Rich and Rare is a 20-minute digital work of art that uses historical materials from the *Endeavour* voyage to re-create the wonder experienced by Joseph Banks and the botanists, scientists and illustrators on that extraordinary adventure.

[Learn more](#)



Meroogal Women's Art Prize 2024

Open Saturdays, 10am–4pm, free entry

Visit Meroogal in Nowra and see 38 thought-provoking artworks by finalists, displayed throughout the historic house to create a richly layered and textured exhibition. The works respond to Meroogal's stories, treasured collection of objects and enduring sense of place.

[Plan your visit](#)

Closing soon



Coomaditchie: The Art of Place

Museum of Sydney, closes Sunday 2 February, open daily, 10am–5pm, free entry

Don't miss out! There's only one week left to experience *Coomaditchie: The Art of Place*, which must close on Sunday 2 February.

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.

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

[Plan your visit](#)

Talks and tours



A Lesson in Bold Design

Caroline Simpson Library, The Mint, Wednesday 5 February, 6pm–7.30pm

This highlights tour and talk by Research Curator Michael Lech explores the John and Phyllis Murphy Collection of 3,000 wallpapers dating from the 1850s to the 1970s and now held in the Caroline Simpson Library.

Bookings essential: general \$30, members \$24.

[Book now](#)



Historical Tour of Long's Lane

132 Cumberland Street, The Rocks, Sunday 16 February, 10am–11.30am

Step into Sydney's storied past with a guided tour of the Long's Lane Precinct in The Rocks. This historic collection of 14 terrace residences, built between 1857 and 1915, offers a rare glimpse into 19th-century urban life.

Bookings essential: general \$40, members \$32.

[Book now](#)



An Appetite for History

Caroline Simpson Library, The Mint, Wednesday 12 March, 6pm–7.30pm

Stimulate your appetite for history and join Curator Dr Jacqui Newling for a talk and viewing that explores the range of cookery books and handwritten recipes in our collections. Some are extremely rare, others are bespoke and one-of-a-kind, and all reflect the needs and aspirations of their authors and owners.

Bookings essential: general \$30, members \$24.

[Book now](#)



Sin City: Sydney Crime Stories

Starting at Justice & Police Museum, Sunday 30 March, 10.30am–12.30pm

Visit real crime scenes from the past and hear the stories behind the crimes in a two-hour walking tour of some of Sydney's most evocative and historic locations. From unsolved murders and violent robberies to gambling and the infamous Push gangs of The Rocks, we uncover Sydney's turbulent underbelly.

Bookings essential: general \$45, members \$36.

[Book now](#)

Webinars



Webinar: Settlers' Muster Book 1800

Online, Friday 31 January, 10.30am–11.30am

Join us for a webinar with Dr Carol Liston AO to explore the Settlers' Muster Book 1800, inscribed on the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register. Discover its insights into colonial residents, administrative systems and economic life, and learn how to navigate this newly digitised historical resource.

Free; registration required.

[Register now](#)



Webinar: Wallpaper: Murphy

Online, Friday 7 February, 10.30am–11.30am

Explore the John and Phyllis Murphy Collection of historical wallpapers in an upcoming webinar. Learn about the riot of colour and pattern with which Australians decorated their homes in the 19th and early 20th centuries and consider what these wallpapers can tell us about the aspirations of Australian homeowners in the past.

Free; registration required.

[Register now](#)

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Members get more: Members receive a 10% discount at all our museum shops, including online.



Eat & drink

Catch up with friends or family for a coffee, a delicious pastry or lunch at our cafes and restaurants before or after your museum visit. View summer opening hours for This Way Canteen, Estate Vaucuisse House and the Bullion Store. [Plan your visit](#)

Members get more: Members receive a 10% discount at all our cafes and restaurants.

1. *Boomalli: Five Koorie artists*, directed by Michael Riley, 1988. Image courtesy National Film and Sound Archive of Australia. 2. Photo © James Horan for MHNSW. 3. Photo © Karina Pires. 4. *Eora* (film still), Michael Riley, 1995 © MHNSW. 5. *Beauty Rich and Rare*. Artwork © AGB Creative. Commissioned by the National Library of Australia. 6. *Flower boy*, Sassy Park, 2024. Photo © Joshua Morris for MHNSW. Artwork © Sassy Park; 7. Photo © James Horan for MHNSW. Artwork © Coomaditchie artists and community members; 8. Murphy sample book 2: no 10, 1925. John and Phyllis Murphy Collection, Caroline Simpson Library, MHNSW; 9. Photo © Long's Lane; 10. Recipe booklet, *Fowler's method: of bottling fruits and vegetables*; Fowlers Vacla, Victoria, Melbourne, 1952. Rouse Hill Estate Collection, MHNSW; 11. Detective at foot of Argyle Steps, The Rocks (Sydney), late 1930s. NSW Police Forensic Photography Archive, Justice and Police Museum, MHNSW; 12. Cover of Settlers' Muster Book 1800. State Archives Collection, MHNSW: NRS-23979-1-1-[1]; 13. Photo © Simon Milder for MHNSW; 14 & 15. Photos © James Horan for MHNSW