



Museums
eNews

What's on in August



Sydney Open Symposium

1 Elizabeth, Saturday 23 August, 10am–2pm

We are excited to introduce the inaugural [Sydney Open Symposium](#), where leading industry experts will take a deep dive into conversations centred around architecture, design, placemaking and heritage.

Our first event will explore how the Sydney Metro Martin Place project

seamlessly integrates a major interchange for Australia's largest public transport project with Macquarie Bank's new global headquarters.

Members get more: Members enjoy a 20% discount on tickets and a chance to win prizes valued up to \$233 in a member only competition.

Book now

Sydney Open Symposium is made possible thanks to our principal partner, **NSW Architects Registration Board**, and our presenting partner, **1 Elizabeth**.

Sydney Open Series



Luna Park Behind-the-Scenes Tour

Luna Park, various dates and times from Thursday 18 September

Join us as we explore behind the scenes at Luna Park, a rare example of an intact Art Deco amusement park.

Hear stories about the architecture, the rides and the real-life drama, from author Helen Pitt's forthcoming book about the heritage-listed Sydney Harbour icon, which has delighted generations at its Milsons Point location since 1935. These exclusive tours take place outside of normal park opening hours.

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Members get more: Members enjoy priority pre-sale access and a 20% discount on tickets.

Book now



The impact of your support

Thank you to all our donors who contributed to our *2025 Annual Giving: 'Sharing our stories'*. With your generous support, Museums of History NSW raised over \$270,000. This will help to fund new interpretation of Elizabeth Bay House, upgraded wayfinding at Rouse Hill Estate, digitisation of the Small Debts Registers in the State Archives Collection and further conservation of our unique and significant places.

Events and programs





Wentworth Mausoleum Walking Tour

Vaucluse House, Saturday 9 August, 10am–11.30am

Join us for a walking tour to the rarely opened Wentworth Mausoleum and learn about William Charles Wentworth's extravagant 1873 state funeral.

Your tour will start in the beautiful pleasure gardens at Vaucluse House and journey to the mausoleum – Wentworth's final resting place. Hear stories about the funeral and discover how colonial newspapers reported the details of this great event.

Members get more: Members enjoy a 20% discount on tickets and 10% off at Estate Vaucluse House.

Book now



Convict Sydney Walking Tour

Museum of Sydney, Wednesday 13 August, 10.30am–12.30pm

Join one of our knowledgeable



Shark Arm Case

Justice & Police Museum, various dates from Thursday 14 August, 6.30pm–7.30pm & 8pm–9pm

Anzac Day, 1935. A shark in the

Join one of our knowledgeable guides for a tour of convict Sydney. Walk from the site of the first Government House, a place of important early contact between Aboriginal people and the British colonists, to the 'Rum Hospital' (now The Mint) and the Hyde Park Barracks, which housed male convicts and was the epicentre of the colony's convict system.

Members get more: Members enjoy a 20% discount on tickets.

Book now

Coogee Aquarium vomits up a tattooed human arm – identified as belonging to missing police informant Jim Smith. But the arm was severed by an axe. Join us for an immersive theatre experience that takes a deep dive into Sydney's criminal underworld, with smuggling, insurance fraud, corruption and murder.

A Deadhouse and Museums of History NSW co-production.

Use the code **MHNSW2025S** for a 10% discount on tickets.

Book now



Elizabeth Bay House from Dusk to Darkness

Friday 22 August, 6pm–8pm

Experience Elizabeth Bay House as the sun sets during this unique tour. Marvel at the architectural grandeur of the magnificent domed saloon enhanced by candlelight, visit the servants' quarters to understand how difficult the life of a servant was, particularly before the advent of electricity, and explore the wine cellars underneath the house.

Complete your visit with a glass of wine and some nibbles in the elegant dining room while learning about the rise and fall of the house's original owner, colonial secretary Alexander Macleay, his family, and the Macleay's unique natural history collections.

Members get more: Members enjoy a 20% discount on tickets.

Book now



Sonic Spaces with Germ Studies

Hyde Park Barracks, Friday 22 August, 6.30pm–7.15pm & 8.30pm–9.15pm

Join Germ Studies in the hammock room at the Hyde Park Barracks for an evening of musical transformation through sound and melodic experimentation.

Germ Studies is the inspired Australian pairing of renowned pianist Chris Abrahams and harpist Clare Cooper. Rather than presenting the expected harmonic interplay of piano and harp, the duo conjure immersive sonic environments that feel simultaneously ancient and futuristic. With the crystalline resonance of the 1380s Chinese guzheng meeting the shimmering textures of a 1980s Japanese DX7 synthesiser, their music is a study in contrasts: organic and electronic, meditative and ecstatic, familiar and alien.

Members get more: Members enjoy a 20% discount on tickets.

Book now

Collections on Tour



Archives for Everyone: No debt too small or petty

Port Macquarie Library, Tuesday 12 August, 11am–12.30pm, free event

From missing wages to disputes between neighbours, the Courts of Petty Sessions (now known as the Local Court) were long a place where communities sought justice. From 1846, the courts settled claims for debts of up to £10, and their Small Debts Registers document countless cases.

As part of our *Archives for Everyone* project, we've partnered with NSW community groups to digitise and index these valuable records.

Now the registers are on tour! Join us at Port Macquarie Library for the first talk on this tour, and enjoy a unique opportunity to view these original documents and gain insights from our archivists.

[Register now](#)

Talks and webinars





In Conversation with Joan Ross and Coby Edgar

Museum of Sydney, Saturday 30 August, 2pm–3pm

Join us for a conversation between artist Joan Ross and independent curator and writer Coby Edgar as they delve into Ross's wide-ranging practice, which covers drawing, painting, photography, sculpture, installation, video and virtual reality.

Bold and experimental, Ross's work investigates the legacy of colonialism in Australia, with a particular focus on reconfiguring the colonial Australian landscape and drawing attention to the complex and ongoing issues surrounding the effects of globalisation and colonisation.

Ross's digital artwork [Let's party like it's 1815](#) is currently on display at the Museum of Sydney.

Members get more: Members enjoy a 20% discount on tickets, 10% discount at the museum shop and dining at This Way Canteen.

Book now





From Mail Order to Online Shopping

Caroline Simpson Library, The Mint, Tuesday 12 August, 6pm–7.30pm

Long before online shopping existed, there was mail order shopping. As far back as the late 19th century, Sydney's largest department stores, including Anthony Hordern & Sons, Mark Foy's and David Jones, sent out mail order catalogues of over 1,000 pages to the far corners of the continent.

Join curator Michael Lech on a tour at the Caroline Simpson Library of department store materials and artefacts. Browse the mail order catalogues and learn to shop the old-fashioned way.

Members get more: Members enjoy a 20% discount on tickets and a 10% discount on shopping and dining at the Bullion Store.

Book now



Ships, More Ships, and Still More Ships

*Webinar, Friday 29 August,
10.30am–11.30am*

The NSW State Dockyard



Dark Waters: Crime, Smuggling and Shipwrecks in NSW

*State Archives Reading Room,
Friday 10 September, 10am–10pm*

The NSW State Dockyard, Newcastle, opened in 1942 at the height of World War II. The dockyard played a large role in the war effort by meeting the increasing demand for 'ships, more ships, and still more ships'.

Featuring files, plans, and our recently digitised series of photographs, negatives, slides and microfilm (NRS-21054), this webinar will explore the records of the State Dockyard, Newcastle, held in the State Archives Collection.

[Book now](#)

Friday 12 September, 10am–12pm

Join us for a gripping talk about the darker side of NSW's rivers and harbours to celebrate NSW History Week 2025.

Uncovering tales of daring smuggling operations, dramatic shipwrecks and dastardly acts of piracy, this talk will dive into little-known stories of crime and disaster on the water. Drawing on the rich holdings of the [State Archives Collection](#), we'll explore how NSW waterways have featured in tales of both scandal and survival.

[Book now](#)



Lane Cove River Crime Walk

Wednesday 10 and Sunday 14 September, 10am–12pm

Join Mark Tedeschi AM KC, barrister, author, photographer and former prosecutor, for a leisurely bushwalk in the Lane Cove National Park to hear about two fascinating historical true crimes that will transfix and horrify you in equal measure.

Mark, who conducted some of the most significant trials in NSW during 35 years as a Crown Prosecutor, will take you on a 2.5-kilometre walk along a section of the Lane Cove River where two remarkable crimes were committed in 1917 and 1963.

Members get more: Members enjoy priority pre-sale access and a 20% discount on tickets.

Book now

Dine and shop



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 the opening hours for This Way Canteen, Estate Vacluse House, the Bullion Store and Bullion Bar and Dining. **Plan your visit**

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

Plan your visit



Shop online

Our exclusive collection of *Seeing Sydney, Knowing Country* merchandise is made in Australia in collaboration with Dharawal and Yuin artist and designer Alison Page.

100% cotton tote bags \$45 each,
100% Linen Tea Towels \$40 each.
Postage additional.

The range is also available to purchase at the Museum of Sydney shop and the Bullion Store at The Mint.

Members get more: Save a further 10% off the sale price by entering the member code at checkout.

the member code at checkout.

[Shop now](#)

From our friends



Sydney Contemporary

Sydney Contemporary, in partnership with MA Financial Group, returns to Carriageworks from 11–14 September to present one of the most celebrated events on Australia’s cultural calendar. Four days of curated exhibitions, large-scale installations, performances, panel discussions, artist talks, tours, and more!

Save on your entry with our special offer – 20% off Art Night, Friday Night and Day Tickets [here](#).

[Learn more](#)

1. Photo © Brett Boardman, 2024. Courtesy of Macquarie Group; 2. Image courtesy of Luna Park Sydney; 3. Photo © James Horan for MHNSW; 4. Photo Grace Mathis © MHNSW; 5. Photo © Katherine Lu for MHNSW; 6. Photo © Abe Bastoli, Pennant Hills Studio; 7 & 8. Photos © James Horan for MHNSW; 9. 11 Addresses Presented to Lord Carrington Governor of New South Wales no 14, page 11, Address from the Magistrates of the Orange Bench, October 1890 (detail); Wagga Wagga Courthouse, undated; Small debts registers [Newcastle Court of Petty Sessions], 14 March 1892. State Archives Collection, MHNSW: NRS-20455-1-13-14-13; NRS-4346-1-[9/5879B]-1-30; NRS-3247-[34/2010]; 10. *Let's party like it's 1815* (still), Joan Ross, 2022. Courtesy of the artist and N.Smith Gallery. © Joan Ross; 11. *The home beautiful*, Mark Foy's Ltd, trade catalogue. Caroline Simpson Library Collection, MHNSW; 12. SS *William MacArthur* in dock – surveyors test holes. State Archives

Collection, MHNSW: NRS-21054-4-1-D398; 13. Sailing ship *Hereward* on Maroubra beach, Government Printing Office, 1900. State Archives Collection, MHNSW: NRS-4481-3-[7/16031]-St16315; 14. Fig Tree House and wharf, Lane Cove River and foreshore, c1900–10. State Library of New South Wales: PXE 711/284; 15. Photo © Joshua Morris for MHNSW; 16. Songlines linen tea towel; 17. Image courtesy of Sydney Contemporary.

Museums of History 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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