



Museums
eNews

What's on in November

Events and programs



Less than a week until Sydney Open

Sunday 2 November, 10am–4pm

Go behind the scenes of some of Sydney's most fascinating buildings and spaces at *Sydney Open*.

This one-of-a-kind annual celebration of architecture and design invites visitors to some of the city's most iconic places, many of which are rarely open to the public, while uncovering hidden gems that tell new stories about Sydney's evolving character.

[View full program](#)

Members get more at *Sydney Open*. Members enjoy a 20% discount on tickets, exclusive entry to the *Sydney Open* VIP Lounge, *Sydney Open Members Hour* and entry to members competition to win \$705 worth of prizes, and more.

[Book now](#)

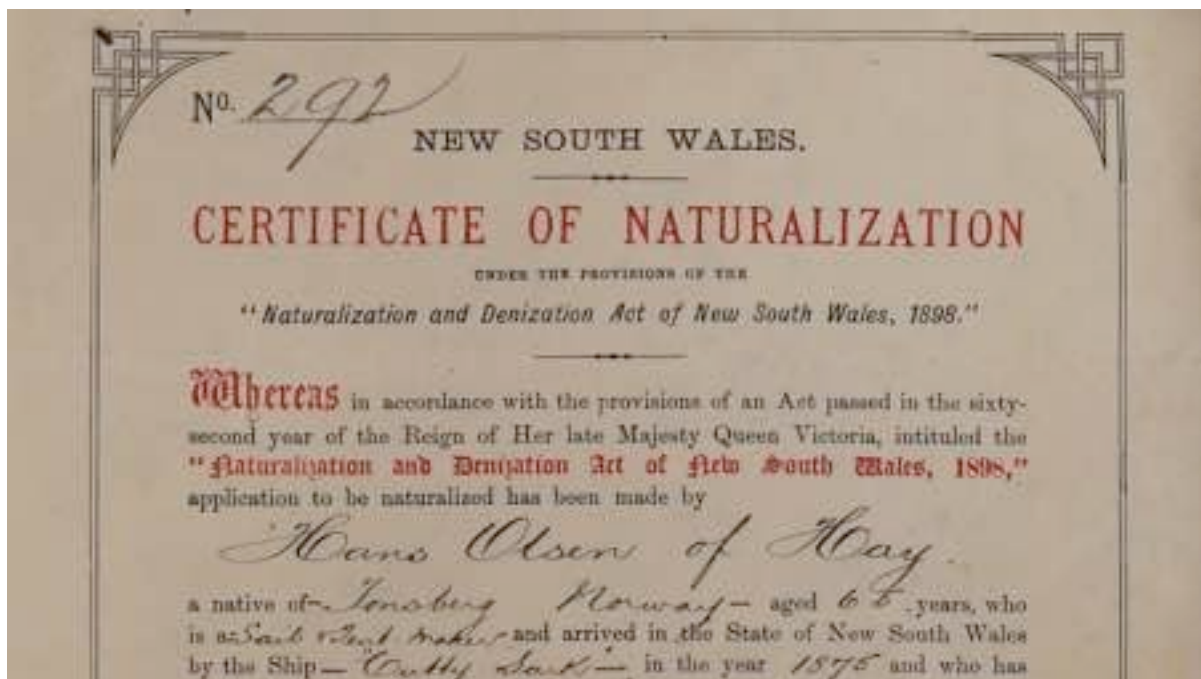


Experience Susannah Place in our new guided tours

Step inside Susannah Place and discover stories of the families who once called these modest terraces home. Through new intimate guided tours of the re-created interiors, visitors can explore how different generations of working-class residents lived, worked, and adapted to the changing city around them.

Guided tours are the only way to explore inside the houses. We offer two guided tours at set times throughout the day, each tour visiting different houses and exploring different themes.

[Book now](#)



More Than a Name: NSW Naturalisation Records

Friday 31 October, online, 10.30am–11.30am

The system of naturalisation in NSW was established in 1849 with the passing of the Act to Amend the Laws relating to Aliens. Naturalisation allowed 'aliens' (that is, non-British subjects) to gain the same privileges and rights of citizenship held by British subjects or people born in NSW, such as the right to vote and the right to own land.

The State Archives Collection holds records relating to naturalisation up to 1903. Join us for a webinar that showcases the various naturalisation records held, including original applications for naturalisation, and advises what you may be able to discover about your immigrant ancestors in the collection.

[Register now](#)



Convict Sydney Walking Tour

Museum of Sydney, Wednesday 5 November, 10.30am–12.30pm

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. The Barracks 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



Collections in Focus: Rose Seidler House

Rose Seidler House, Saturday 22 November, various times

When completed in 1950, Rose Seidler House included the latest modernist furniture from the USA, locally made built-ins by Paul Kafka and the most up-to-date labour-saving appliances for the kitchen.

Join MHNSW's own Michael Lech and Joanna Nicholas for this behind-the-scenes look at the Rose Seidler House Collection.

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

Book now



State Library and State Archives: Where to find what in NSW

Tuesday 18 November, 11am–12pm, online

Ever wondered whether to head to the [State Archives Collection](#) at MHNSW or the [State Library of NSW](#) for the information you need? In this online session, experts from both cultural institutions ask each other the most frequently asked questions they receive about each other's collections, services and specialties.

Whether you're a researcher, family historian, or just starting your journey into NSW's rich documentary heritage, this session will help you understand where to go, what to look for, and how to make the most of both institutions.

Free, registration required

[Register now](#)



First Nations Speaker Series: Dr Danièle Hromek

Museum of Sydney, Tuesday 18 November, 6pm–7pm

In the next talk in our *First Nations Speaker Series*, Dr Danièle Hromek will share her perspectives on building genuine and respectful collaborations that prioritise Country and First Nations communities.

As director of Djinjama, an award-winning cultural design and research practice, Dr Hromek brings Indigenous rights and cultures to the forefront of the built environment, placing Country at the heart of design. Through Djinjama, she integrates Aboriginal ways of thinking, cultural practices and community narratives to create projects that are deeply connected to Country.

[Learn more](#)



Open Day: Western Sydney Records Centre

Saturday 22 November, 10am–4pm

Come and explore some of MHNSW's treasures on Dharug Country as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Western Sydney Records Centre, home of the vast State Archives Collection.

See the collection up close, hear from experts on a range of fascinating topics, take a behind-the-scenes tour, and enjoy family friendly workshops and activities. There will be delicious food available to purchase on the day.

Our open day is a rare opportunity to step inside the heart of the state archives and discover the largest collection of records relating to the history of NSW and the lives of its people.

Free event, register now for event updates.

Register now



Sensory Connections

Elizabeth Farm, Sunday 23 November, 10.30am–12pm

When you think of the food typically eaten by Australia's early colonists, spice-laden meals don't immediately come to mind. However, in the early 1800s, Indian curries and the exotic flavours of turmeric, cumin and cardamom were all the rage on the tables of the well-to-do.

Join Curator Dr Jacqui Newling and Bhavna Kalra Shivalkar (The Modern Desi), one of Australia's foremost culinary herb and spice experts, for a tantalising workshop at Elizabeth Farm.

All ingredients and materials are supplied; no previous experience is necessary.

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

Book now



‘Faces in Shadow’: Silhouettes from Our Collections

Caroline Simpson Library, Monday 1 December, 6pm–7.30pm

There are scores of silhouettes in MHNSW collections, from governors’ children to society figures, soldiers, cherished pets and even weathervanes.

Join Curator Dr Scott Hill as we explore albums, framed works and catalogues that showcase these shadowy figures.

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

Book now

Sydney Open Series



History of Sydney's Department Stores

Saturday 6 December, various times

Department stores once dominated central Sydney. Before the advent of suburban shopping centres in the late 1950s, most department stores were located in Sydney's CBD, in what were considered some of the finest buildings of their day.

Step inside the David Jones Elizabeth Street flagship store for a guided tour and discover how the history of David Jones is interwoven with the story of this landmark building.

Then join MHNSW Curator Michael Lech on a walking tour to discover where other shops, such as Anthony Hordern & Sons and Mark Foy's, were located, which buildings survive and how department stores became such a significant feature of Sydney's social history.

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

Book now

Coming soon to the Museum of Sydney



***Unearthed* – new exhibition**

Museum of Sydney, opens 5 December 2025

Even the most ordinary object has many stories to tell, depending on how you look at it.

Between 1983 and 1991, archaeologists excavated one of the most contested blocks of land in Sydney – the site of Australia’s first Government House. They unearthed around 140,000 objects that had lain hidden beneath the city’s streets for almost 140 years.

Opening in December 2025, *Unearthed* will display a fascinating selection of objects excavated from the site. The exhibition will explore the tangible and intangible histories embodied in the finds and shed light on the people who lived and worked at the house and those whose lives were impacted by decisions made within its walls.

Unearthed also presents the people and stories behind the archaeological digs.

Watch this space.



***Dig It!* – new experience**

Museum of Sydney, opens 5 December 2025

In December 2025, head to our dig site, grab your tools and become an archaeologist at the Museum of Sydney.

Dig It! will deliver a rich, multisensory, family-friendly experience that invites you to experience the excitement and challenges of archaeological excavation for yourself. Unearth artefacts in a digitally simulated excavation with a 1980s video game vibe. Piece together fragments of artefacts and sketch your find on a discovery sheet that can be pinned to the gallery wall or taken home as a memento.

Dig It! is an engaging way for the whole family to explore the science of archaeology and experience life on an excavation site.

Watch this space.

Dine and shop



Shop MHNSW exclusives

Our exclusive *Seeing Sydney, Knowing Country* tea towels and tote bags are now half price!

The 100% cotton tote bags were \$45 each, now \$22.50, and the 100% linen tea towels were \$40 each, now \$20.

All were made in Australia in collaboration with Dharawal and Yuin artist and designer Alison Page.

Available to purchase online, and at the Museum of Sydney, Bullion Store at The Mint, and the Hyde Park Barracks shops.

[Shop now](#)



Bridge Street Social x Heineken Bar

Museum of Sydney forecourt, Wednesdays to Fridays, 3pm–8pm, DJs from 4pm

The Museum of Sydney forecourt comes alive this spring and summer with the launch of Bridge Street Social x Heineken Bar – a new night time destination bringing live DJ music, food and drinks to the heart of the city.

You can savour wings, fries and share plates from [This Way Canteen](#), while our event partner, Heineken, serves up refreshing beers, wines, and cocktails.

Members get more: Members receive a 10% discount on food and drinks.

[Learn more](#)

From our friends



Dangerously Modern

Art Gallery of NSW, on now

Explore the art and lives of 50 trailblazing women artists including Grace Cossington Smith, Nora Heysen and Margaret Preston. Daring, brave and resilient, these women broke with convention in a period of rapid social change. On now, book your tickets.

[Learn more](#)



Parliament Unpacked: The Dismissal

NSW Parliament, Tuesday 11 November, free

A state versus federal comparison and a uniquely NSW perspective on the 1975 dismissal of Prime Minister Gough Whitlam.

Join this event in person at the Parliament of NSW or livestream online.

[Learn more](#)

1. Bundarra. Photo © Romello Pereira; 2. Photo © Katherine Lu for MHNSW; 3. Certificate of naturalisation for Hans Olsen per 'Cutty Sark', 9 April 1902. State Archives Collection, Museums of History NSW: NRS-905 [5/6614] 01/12389; 4. Photo © Katherine Lu for MHNSW; 5. Part of a 103-piece dinner service, designed by Russel Wright in 1937; manufactured by Steubenville Pottery Company, United States of America, 1946, glazed ceramic. Rose Seidler House Collection, MHNSW. Gift, through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, Harry Seidler AC OBE, 1991. Photo © Joshua Morris for MHNSW; 6. Image courtesy State Library of NSW; 7. Image courtesy Dr Danièle Hromek; 8. Photo © James Horan for MHNSW; 9. Photo © Jeremy Piper for MHNSW; 10. Silhouettes artwork © Heather Dorrough. Photo © Evolving Picture / Chris Bennett for MHNSW; 11. David Jones flagship store, Elizabeth Street, Sydney. Photo courtesy David Jones; 12. Excavations on the first Government House site at Raphael Place, photographer unknown, 1990. Museums of History NSW; 13. The Dig It! interactive experience at the Museum of Sydney. Design render © Museums of History NSW; 14. Photo © Joshua Morris for MHNSW; 15. Courtesy of This Way Canteen; 16. *Portrait of a woman in red* (detail), Helen Stewart, 1930s. Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, purchased 2006 with Ellen Eames Collection funds © estate of the artist; 17. Gough Whitlam. Keystone/Hulton Archive via Getty Images.

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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10 Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000, on Gadigal Country