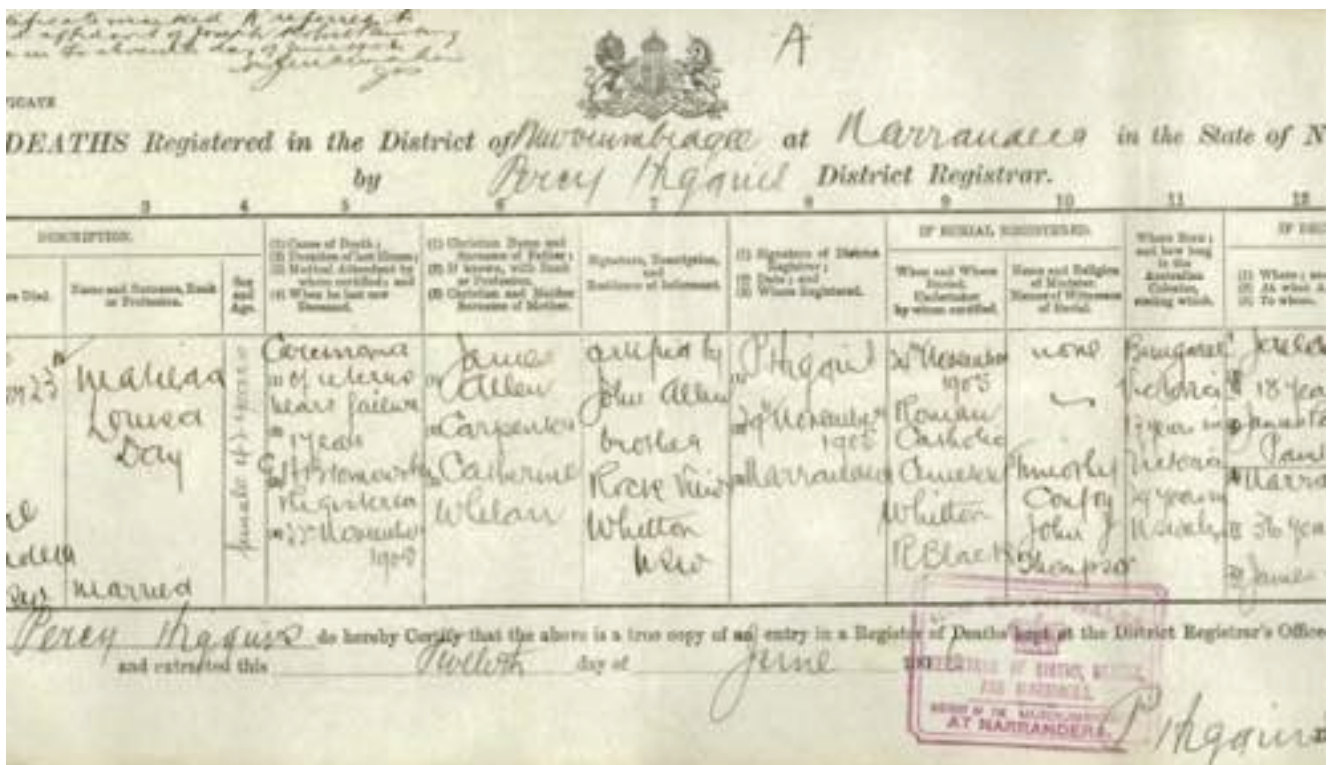


The latest events and information about Museums of History NSW collections, incorporating the State Archives Collection, the Caroline Simpson Library Collection and museum collections

### Upcoming seminar



### Vital Records: Tracing Births, Deaths, and Marriages in NSW

Western Sydney Records Centre, Friday 7 August, 9am–4.30pm

Join us for a full-day seminar on the vital records that are key to all forms of historical research – births, deaths and marriages. The seminar will feature talks by the NSW Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages and experts Heather Garnsey OAM, Angela Phippen, and Laura Daaboul from MHNSW.

The talks will present information and case studies on how to trace births, deaths and marriages in NSW.

There will also be an opportunity to take a behind-the-scenes tour of the Western Sydney Records Centre.

General \$50, members \$40.

[Book tickets](#)

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## Across our collections



## Digitised: NRS-3397 Proceedings, Judge Advocate's Bench

These records document the minutes and proceedings of the weekly and special meetings of the Judge Advocate's Bench of Magistrates in hearing petty sessions cases, from 19 February 1788 to 25 November 1820.

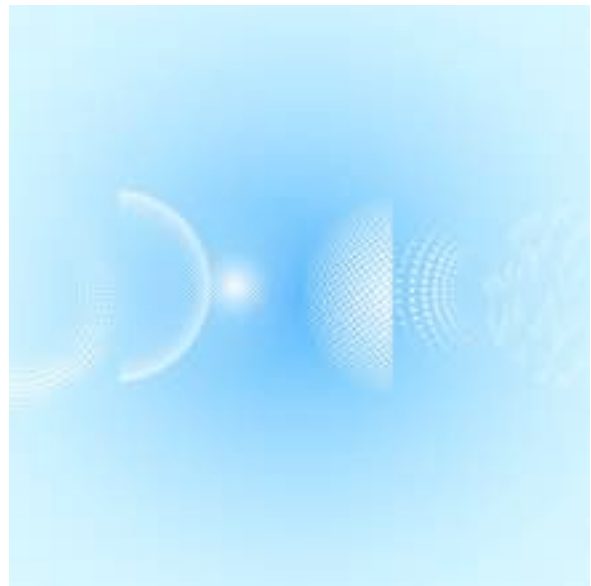
Information within the volumes include lists of the names of the magistrates present and evidence of the defender, prosecutor and any witnesses.

Sometimes, particularly in the early volumes, only the charge (in full) and sentence were recorded. The early volumes also contain information relating to small debts, as well as other records like orders for repairs to public buildings, general orders to constables and swearing in of constables.

Browse the digitised volumes [online](#).

Civil and criminal cases of interest can be found using the [Bench of Magistrates Index, 1788–1820](#), and the [Indigenous Colonial Court Cases Index, 1788–1838](#) (for the period 1788–1820).

[View now](#)



## International Archives Day 2026

Join us in celebrating International Archives Day on 9 June, a day to highlight the importance of archives and archivists. The theme for this year is [#ArchivesForJustice: Rights, Memory & Futures](#).

It reflects on the fundamental role that records held in archives play in the exercise of justice and the protection of rights and entitlements. The ways in which these records are preserved, described, accessed and managed directly influence how individuals and communities can pursue truth, accountability and justice.

The State Archives Collection documents the daily work of the NSW Government and its agencies from 1788 to today and its users are as diverse as its contents, ranging from First Nations linguists, family historians and care leavers to surveyors, lawyers and academics.

On International Archives Day, we reflect on the privilege of working with archives and engaging with the communities who use our services.

[Read more](#)





## Trainspotting wallpaper from Blackdown, Bathurst

Although the railway did not officially arrive at the NSW town of Bathurst until 1876, a virtual 'railway station' was created more than 20 years earlier at Blackdown, a nearby property.

The trains appeared on the wallpaper, running across the walls of the drawing room. Blackdown had been established by the Hawkins family in the 1820s but from 1852 was owned by businessman, Henry Rotton, who with his wife Anne, is likely to have installed the railway wallpaper.

During major conservation of the property in the early 1990s, a fragment of the railway wallpaper was uncovered in the old drawing room, removed and later donated to the Caroline Simpson Library by former owners Dr Ken and Helen Neale.

[Read more](#)



## Conservation tip: removing mould from records

Mould can damage and weaken paper records, including photographic prints, to the point of illegibility and loss. The term 'mould' is a generic name often applied to various types of fungi that grow on the surfaces of materials such as fabrics, paper, food and leather. They are multicellular organisms that send filaments through the materials they grow on and produce enzymes to break down their food.

Removing mould can be difficult, dirty and time-consuming. Mould remediation should not be undertaken lightly – especially where large quantities of records are affected. There are health and safety implications to be considered, as mould can seriously affect your health.

Read our advice on cleaning minor surface mould growth resulting from poor storage environments, and how to prevent it from growing in the first place.

[Read more](#)

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## Collections on Tour



### **Making Home: A Short History of Houses, Interiors and Gardens in NSW**

*Mid-Western Regional Council Library, Mudgee, Monday 1 June and Eskbank House Museum, Lithgow, Tuesday 2 June*

Join us in Mudgee and Lithgow for the next events in our *Collections on Tour* series.

Drawing on our rich collections, MHNSW experts will deliver an illustrated presentation followed by a Q&A. There will also be an opportunity to view original collection material such as wallpaper, trade catalogues, tiles, architectural pattern books and historical garden sources.

[Book now](#)

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## Webinars



## **‘Confused heaps’ and ‘systemic order’: Keeping records in 19th-century NSW**

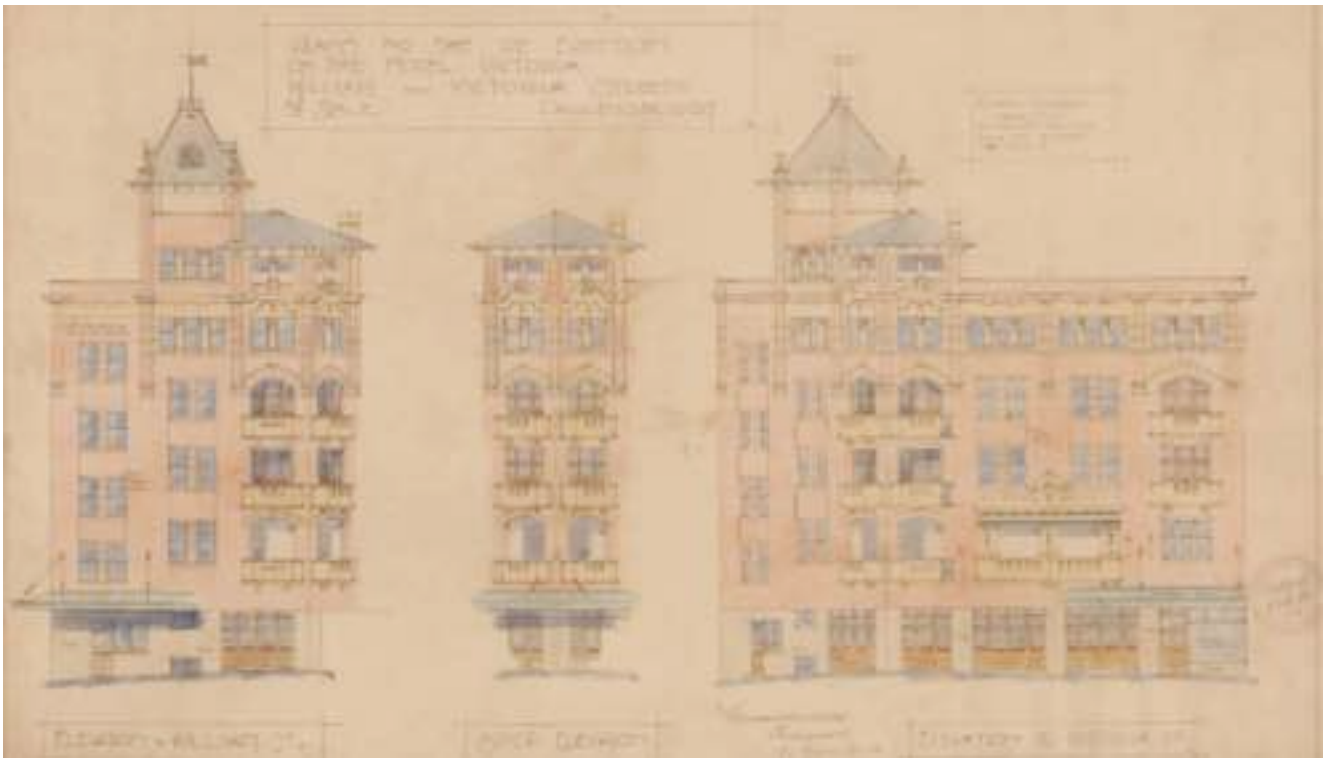
*Online event, Tuesday 9 June, 10.30am–11.30am*

From the pleas of public servants for more desk space, to intricate architectural plans detailing shelving, pigeonholes and presses, this talk will examine how records and the work of their keepers was organised and explore the material world of those ‘charged with the arrangement and care of Records’.

Join us for this webinar celebrating International Archives Day, which will uncover how official records were created, kept and carefully (and sometimes not so carefully) stored in 19th-century NSW.

Free, registration essential.

[Register now](#)



## Designing Your Local: Hotel Plans in the NSW State Archives Collection

*Online event, Friday 26 June, 10.30am–11.30am*

Under the Sale of Liquor Act 1881, applications for liquor licences were submitted to the local Licensing Court for consideration. This Act required licensed premises to meet a minimum standard of accommodation.

Join us for this webinar which will explore the beautiful plans of historic NSW pubs held in the State Archives Collection, including thousands of Sydney plans submitted to the Metropolitan Licensing Court.

[Register now](#)

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## At our sites



## New exhibition: *Treading Feintly*

*Elizabeth Bay House, 17 May – 13 July, open Sundays and Mondays, 10am–4pm*

This exhibition showcases select pieces from fashion house Nicol & Ford's runway presentation for Australian Fashion Week 2026.

Inspired by artist Adrian Feint (1894–1971), the collection celebrates the coded aestheticism of Feint's works and shines a light on this underappreciated queer figure, who lived for many years across the road from Elizabeth Bay House.

This is a free exhibition.

[Plan your visit](#)



## Firestick #3: Runway Country

*The Mint, Thursday 18 June, 6pm–7.30pm*

The world of fashion design has fast become a beacon for First Nations excellence, reaching new heights each year. This talk will feature some of the new generation of talents who are shaping the industry today and shattering age-old stereotypes along the way.

You'll hear from Whadjuk Noongar man Nathan McGuire – model and founder of *Mob in Fashion* – and Sasha Sarago – a proud Yidinji, Jirrbal and African-American filmmaker.

Free event, registration recommended.

[Register now](#)

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## A compelling watch



## The Reinterment of Devonshire Street Cemetery

Established in 1820, Devonshire Street Cemetery was the main burial ground in Sydney until the passing of the Sydney Burial Grounds Act in 1866. Under the Act, interments in Sydney burial grounds were discontinued in an attempt to protect public health.

Only those who had existing family vaults or previously purchased plots could apply to the NSW Government for a licence to bury their family members in Sydney. A few decades later, in 1901, the cemetery was resumed by the state to make way for Sydney's Central Railway Station, and the government began the process of liaising with relatives of the deceased over the exhumation and reinterment of their loved ones.

This webinar delves into the records from the State Archives Collection that reveal the history of one of Sydney's oldest burial grounds and the mammoth job of reintering those buried there.

[Watch now](#)

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## From our friends



## The Library That Made Me – LIVE

State Library of NSW, Thursday 21 May, 6pm

Join an illustrious line-up of writers as they reflect on the libraries that shaped them, presented in partnership with Sydney Writers' Festival. Use promo code LIBRARY15 for 15% off your booking.

[Book now](#)

1. Death certificate for Matilda Louise Day, 1905. State Archives Collection, MHNSW: NRS-13538-11-[10/27738]-33; 2. Proceedings, 8th December 1798 to 5th March 1800 [cover]. State Archives Collection, MHNSW: NRS-3397-1-[SZ767]-SZ767; 3. Image © International Council on Archives; 4. The complete railway station wallpaper as displayed at Malborough House, London in 1852. 'The railway station', C & J G Potter, England, c1852. © Victoria and Albert Museum, London; 5. Mould damage on documents. State Archives Collection, MHNSW; 6. Illustration from Haberfield: the garden suburb (detail), Stanton & Son Limited (author and publisher), Sydney, c1913. Caroline Simpson Library Collection, MHNSW; 6. Public Instruction Offices, Bridge Street, Sydney: showing congestion, 1913. State Archives Collection, MHNSW: NRS-4481-3-[7/15966]-St5131. 7. Plan for the erection of Hotel Victoria, Darlinghurst by architect E Lindsay Thompson, 1914. State Archives Collection, MHNSW: NRS-9590-1-[Plan62745]-[141]; 8. Nicol & Ford. Photo © Liz Ham 9. Images Courtesy of Nathan McGuire and Sasha Sarago. 10. Devonshire Street Cemetery, pre-1903. State Archives Collection, MHNSW: NRS-17420-2-25-842/050. 11. The Library That Made Me – LIVE featured authors (left to right) Top: Anne Beate Hovind, Jonty Claypole, Winnie Dunn. Bottom: Suzie Miller, Jazz Money, Phillipa McGuinness.

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## Museums of History NSW

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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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