

[View in browser](#)

MHNSW

Museums eNews

March 2025

History.
Not as you
know it.

[Stories](#) [Donate](#) [Shop](#)



Collections on Tour 2025



Making Home: A Short History of Houses,

Interiors and Gardens in NSW

Cooma Cottage, Grossmann & Brough Houses, Retford Park, various dates

MHNSW is delighted to be collaborating with the National Trust of Australia (NSW) to share our stories with the people of regional NSW, with talks at Yass, Maitland, Bowral and Orange.

Learn about the history of houses, interiors and gardens in NSW and explore material relevant to your locality. Drawing on MHNSW's rich collections at the Caroline Simpson Library, the State Archives Collection and our museums, our experts will deliver illustrated presentations followed by a Q&A.

Members get more: Enjoy 20% off tickets.

[Book now](#)

What's on at Meroogal



Sculpture-making workshop with Kate Stehr

Saturday 22 March, 10am–3.30pm

Join Meroogal Women's Art Prize



Meroogal Women's Art Prize 2024

Open Saturdays, 10am–4pm

Visit Meroogal in Nowra and see 38 thought-provoking artworks by finalists, displayed throughout the

2024 finalist Kate Stehr for a hands-on workshop inspired by the memories held in everyday objects. Hosted in the grounds of Meroogal, Stehr will guide you through the sculpture-making process, showing you how to turn your everyday kitchen items into a beautiful work of art to take home. Included in this full-day workshop is lunch and a tour of the exhibition. Suitable for ages 16+

Members get more: Enjoy 20% off tickets.

Book now

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.

Free entry

Plan your visit

What's on at the Mint



Bullion Bar and Dining opens at The Mint

Open Monday to Friday, 11am–3pm

The 200-year-old Mint building welcomes a new dining era with Bullion Bar and Dining now open on the first floor.

Bullion Bar and Dining offers superb contemporary Australian-style food,

with hints of Asia and the Middle East and a focus on high-quality local produce and Australian wines. Overlooking historic Macquarie Street, the restaurant is open for lunch Monday to Friday, 11am to 3pm, and can be booked for private events outside these hours .

Head Chef, Adrian Widders, comes to The Mint from Capella Sydney and will lead the new restaurant menu, the Bullion Store cafe menu, and the event catering offer for business events, special events and weddings. The restaurant will also offer high tea (bookings essential), drawing on the highly successful high tea menu at Estate Vaucluse House.

Bullion Bar and Dining, the Bullion Store (on the ground floor) and event catering is delivered in exclusive partnership with Pearl Catering.

Members get more: enjoy a 10% discount on food and beverage.

For more details or to make a booking please visit [**Bullion Bar and Dining**](#).

[Learn more](#)

What's on at the Hyde Park Barracks



Sonic Spaces continues with Alyx Dennison

Friday 7 March, 6.30pm–7.30pm

Join us in the hammock room of the UNESCO World Heritage–listed Hyde Park Barracks for an intimate evening of music and performance.

In the second instalment of Sonic Spaces, hear the ethereal soundscapes of acclaimed composer, singer-songwriter and sound artist Alyx Dennison. Moving seamlessly across contemporary art, dance, theatre and film, Alyx creates immersive worlds that captivate and transport.

Sink into a hammock and soak up the atmospheric lighting and surround sound as Alyx’s music transforms this unique space.

Members get more: Enjoy 20% off tickets.

[Book now](#)

What’s on at the Museum of Sydney



***Eora* by Michael Riley**

*Museum of Sydney, open daily,
10am–5pm*

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



Beauty Rich and Rare

*Museum of Sydney, open daily,
10am–5pm*

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

for the opening of the museum in Sydney in 1995, and we're proud to re-screen this important work in the museum's 30th anniversary year.

Free entry

[Learn more](#)

and illustrators on that extraordinary adventure.

Free entry

[Learn more](#)

Talks and tours



Putting W C Wentworth to Rest

*Vaucluse House, Friday 21 March,
2pm–3.30pm*

Join us for a walking tour to the rarely opened Wentworth Mausoleum and learn about the extravagant 1873 state funeral of influential Australian-born colonist William Charles Wentworth.

This tour will start in the drawing room at Vaucluse House and journey to the mausoleum, Wentworth's final resting place.

Members get more: Enjoy a 20% discount off tickets.



Sin City: Sydney Crime Stories

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

Visit real crime scenes from the past in this two-hour walking tour of some of Sydney's most evocative and historic locations. Hear the stories of Sydney's turbulent underworld – from unsolved murders and violent robberies to gambling and the infamous Push gangs of The Rocks.

Members get more: Enjoy a 20% discount off tickets.

Book now

[Book now](#)

[BOOK NOW](#)



Birdwatching with the Sydney Bird Club

Vaucluse House, Sunday 30 March, various times

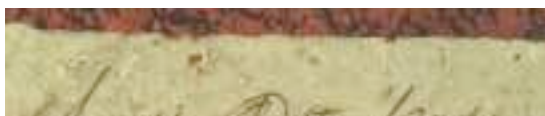
Join us for a birdwatching tour that will explore the Vaucluse House estate and Nielsen Park. You'll learn about some of the fascinating species of birds that inhabit this spectacular part of Sydney.

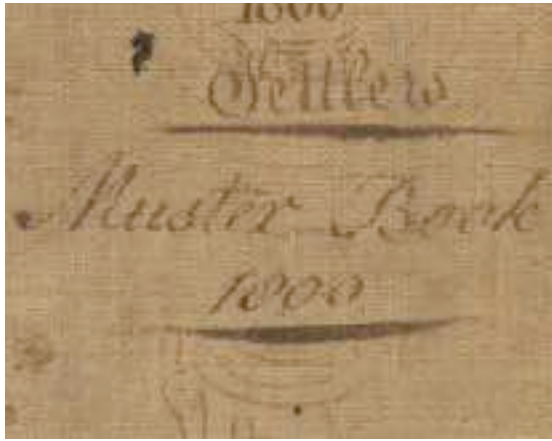
Amy Ranck and Stephanie Chambers from the Sydney Bird Club will lead you through hidden pockets of this lush landscape and discuss how to progress from casual birdwatcher to fully fledged twitcher, spotting birds, observing their behaviour and understanding their habitat needs.

Members get more: Members enjoy 20% off tickets.

[**Book now**](#)

Webinars





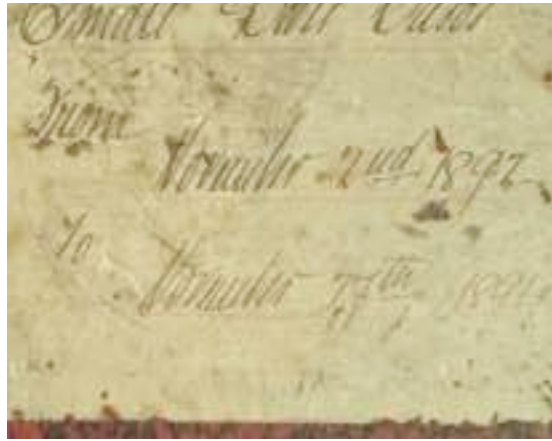
Webinar: Settlers' Muster Book 1800

Our webinar on the Settlers' Muster Book 1800 is now available to be viewed online.

The webinar, led by Dr Carol Liston AO, Adjunct Associate Professor in History at Western Sydney University, explores the contents of the Settlers' Muster Book 1800 and how it provides wonderful insights into the residents and early administrative and economic workings of the colony.

Learn how to use the indexes and guides to search and explore the Settlers' Muster Book.

[Watch now](#)



Webinar: Small Debts Registers

Online, Friday 28 March, 10.30am–11.30am

Our recent *Archives for Everyone* project has seen us partner with community groups and individuals across NSW to digitise and index Small Debts Registers from Courts of Petty Sessions, allowing users to search for and access these records.

This webinar will explore the newly indexed and digitised Small Debt Registers held in the State Archives Collection and how they can highlight the history of local communities in NSW.

[Register now](#)

Dine & shop





Further 20% off clearance items

It's stocktake time at MHNSW, and we're offering our subscribers a further 20% off our already reduced clearance items.

Enter **STOCKTAKE20** at check-out to receive the discount. Offer ends Sunday 2 March at 11:59PM AEST.

Offer applies to online clearance items only; no further discounts apply. While stocks last. Shipping additional.

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 Vacluse House and the Bullion Store.

Plan your visit

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

From our friends



Season XV

Phoenix Central Park's fifteenth season to date, Season XV unfolds from now until April 2025. With a focus on Australian artists, Phoenix are delighted to present a selection of the country's best. New works will be premiered by a number of artists, as they continue to platform bold and progressive programming.

Enter the ballots

1. Yoho & Merritt, *Craftsman bungalows: a collection of the latest designs, dedicated to 'the lover of a convenient home'*, trade catalogue, Seattle, Washington, 1919. Caroline Simpson Library Collection, MHNSW; 2. *Domestic arsenal I* (detail), Kate Stehr, 2024. Photo © Joshua Morris for MHNSW. Artwork © Kate Stehr; 3. *Deep longings settled*, Mariana del Castillo. Photo © Joshua Morris for MHNSW. Artwork © Mariana del Castillo; 4. Photo © Joshua Morris for MHNSW; 5. Photo © James Horan for MHNSW; 6. *Eora* (film still), Michael Riley, 1995. © MHNSW; 7. *Beauty Rich and Rare*. Artwork © AGB Creative. Commissioned by the National Library of Australia; 8. Wentworth Mausoleum. Photo © Grace Mathis for MHNSW; 9. NSW Police Forensic Photography Archive, Justice & Police Museum, MHNSW; 10. Image courtesy of Sydney Bird Club; 11. Cover of Settlers' Muster Book 1800. State Archives Collection, MHNSW: NRS-23979-1-1-[1]; 12. Cover of Newcastle Small Debts Register. State Archives Collection, MHNSW: NRS-3247-1-[34/2011]; 13. Cubebot Medium Multi; 14. Photo © James Horan for MHNSW 15. Image courtesy of Phoenix Central Park

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.

Copyright © 2025 Museums of History NSW

10 Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000, on Gadigal Country