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Museums eNews

April 2025

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What's on at the Museum of Sydney



Seeing Sydney. Knowing Country

Seeing Sydney, Knowing Country

Opens Thursday 17 April, 10am–5pm daily (closed Good Friday), free entry

Sydney is known for its iconic harbour, scenic foreshores, bushland reserves, and ever-growing urban and suburban areas. But how were its landscapes experienced and understood in the past?

Seeing Sydney, Knowing Country explores the development of the NSW colony through a selection of significant historical maps, plans, sketches, artworks and objects from the Museums of History NSW and other institutional collections, alongside picturesque colonial landscape prints from the collection of Beat Knoblauch.

Inscribed over this colonial perspective is an innovative artistic intervention, led by Dharawal and Yuin artist and designer Alison Page, in collaboration with the Sydney Coastal Aboriginal Women's Group, that layers First Nations understandings of Country. Traditional owners' knowledge of Country, developed over 60,000 years, offers a way to gain a deep appreciation of the landscapes we encounter in Sydney today.

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

[Learn more](#)



***Eora* by Michael Riley**

*Open daily (closed Good Friday),
10am–5pm, free entry*



***Beauty Rich and Rare* – closing soon**

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.

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

[Learn more](#)

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.

Beauty Rich and Rare closes on Sunday 30 March.

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

[Learn more](#)

What's on at the Hyde Park Barracks



***Hope* by Hiromi Tango**

On display from 12 April, free entry

Hope is a dynamic digital projection artwork that uses the facade of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Hyde Park Barracks as its canvas,

absorbing the stories within and connecting them with visitors today. The work responds to the history of the Barracks as a place that provided refuge to people who, for various reasons, found themselves in vulnerable situations.

Accompanying the digital projection are five large-scale 'hope flowers' that welcome visitors through the gates, and *Hope garden*, a textile-based installation that will grow throughout the artwork display period.

Visit the Hyde Park Barracks after dark. The museum will be open till late every night 12–27 April (closed Good Friday). Last entry to the museum at 7.45pm.

[Learn more](#)



In Conversation with Hiromi Tango

Sunday 13 April, 2pm–3pm, free entry

Join renowned multidisciplinary artist Hiromi Tango and Kim Tao, Manager of Curatorial at Museums of History NSW, for an in-depth discussion exploring *Hope*, Tango's dramatic new art installation at the Hyde Park Barracks.

The conversation will examine



Hope garden workshops

12–25 April, 11am–3pm (closed Good Friday), free drop-in

Experience the transformative power of art and community with *Hope garden*. Join us for a series of drop-in facilitated workshops that will see participants create intricate, nature-inspired blooms from upcycled textiles and other materials that will be added to an

Tango's practice, which explores the intersection between art and science, with a particular focus on health and mental wellbeing.

[Register now](#)

evolving, immersive garden installation.

The workshops on Saturday 12 April, Sunday 13 April and Monday 14 April will be run by artist Hiromi Tango.

[Members get more:](#) Members enjoy a 10% discount on dining and shopping at the Bullion Store, located next door at The Mint.

[Learn more](#)



Sonic Spaces with Eric Avery

Friday 4 April, 8.30pm–9.30pm

Join acclaimed violinist, vocalist, dancer and composer Eric Avery as he transforms the atmospheric space of the hammock room at the Hyde Park Barracks with his haunting and powerful soundscapes.

A proud Ngiyampaa, Yuin and Gumbangirr artist, Eric weaves together his family's custodial songs with striking compositions, often singing in the Ngiyampaa language while playing the violin.

Eric has performed alongside some of the world's greatest artists, from Yo-Yo Ma to Tina Arena, and his work has been commissioned by leading ensembles and orchestras across Australia. Don't miss this opportunity to experience his deeply moving performance in an intimate setting.

~~Members get more: Members enjoy a 10% discount on tickets~~

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

[Book now](#)

What's on these school holidays



These autumn school holidays, enjoy free entry to all our museums and historic houses, with extended opening hours at select sites. Explore our exhibitions at the Museum of Sydney and take part in free drop-in activities. Discover [kids activity trails](#) and follow the clues at the Justice & Police Museum and the Hyde Park Barracks.

Visit [Elizabeth Farm](#) and [Vaucluse House](#) for *History Kids – The Hunt for Clues*, where little adventurers can dress up, search for clues and solve puzzles as they uncover fascinating stories about these historic houses, the families who lived there, and the First Nations custodians of the land.

[Find out more](#)

Collections series





Up Close and Personal

Museums Discovery Centre, Castle Hill, Saturday 5 April, various times

Join Museums of History NSW Curator Anna Cossu and Collections Care Coordinator Sarah-Jane Rennie at the Museums Discovery Centre for a special behind-the-scenes look at the diverse Susannah Place Collection.

Discover the stories behind the objects – from remnants of linoleums and wallpapers to furniture, household items and personal mementos donated by previous tenants – and learn how they are stored and cared for at the Museums Discovery Centre.

After the tour you can explore the public displays of other collections held at the centre, which is open from 10am to 4pm. The onsite cafe is open 10am to 3pm.

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

Book now

What's on at Meroogal



**Meroogal Women's
Art Prize 2024**



ART F1126 2024

Open Saturdays, 10am–4pm

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.

Free entry; bookings essential

[Plan your visit](#)

Talks and tours



Heritage Tours of Cockatoo Island's Powerhouse

Cockatoo Island, Saturday 12 April, various times

In our latest *Sydney Open Series* event, the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust is opening the doors to Cockatoo Island's Powerhouse. Usually off limits to the public, the powerhouse is a heritage-listed facility that powered Cockatoo Island's historic dockyard throughout the 20th century

centuries and its historic significance throughout the 20th century.

This guided walking tour will explore the building's Federation Romanesque style of architecture and technologies from yesteryear, including its rare collection of electrical, hydraulic power and pumping equipment. You'll also hear from the Harbour Trust's Heritage Architect Sam Talas about the heritage works underway to conserve this important landmark.

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

Book now



Digging Up the Neighbourhood

Susannah Place, Wednesday 23 April, 10.30am–12.30pm

Join us for a walking tour that explores some of the fascinating archaeological sites in The Rocks and Millers Point, including a rare opportunity to view the Parbury Ruins.

Unearthed during the construction of an apartment block and now preserved below ground, the Parbury Ruins feature the extensive remains of an 1820s cottage once owned by ex-convicts.

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

Book now

Webinars



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.

Free; bookings essential

[Register now](#)



Soldier Settlement in NSW

Online, Thursday 24 April, 10.30am–11.30am

The *Returned Soldiers Settlement Act 1916* allowed the settlement of returned soldiers on Crown and Closer Settlement lands. Soldier settlement repatriation schemes were promoted as a pathway for some of the 300,000 returned servicemen and women to secure land ownership and financial independence.

This webinar will explore records in the State Archives Collection that tell the stories of these soldier settlers. Learn more about the individuals who participated in the scheme, and how you can research these men and women in our

these men and women in our collection.

Free; bookings essential

[Register now](#)

Dine & shop



Enjoy 40% off storewide at our Vaucluse House museum shop*

Browse a curated selection of books on history, food and gardening, as well as unique toys, gifts, homewares and more. Don't miss this opportunity to pick up a treasure or two at a great price.

* Exclusions apply. Instore only, not available at any other museum shop or online. No further discounts apply. Strictly while stocks last. No holds or rainchecks. Sale must end 4pm on Sunday 6 April.

[**Plan your visit**](#)



Happy Mother's Day

Estate Vauclose House, Sunday 11 May, 10am–12pm, 12.30pm–2.30pm, 3pm–5pm

Join us for a very special Mother's Day High Tea at Estate Vauclose House and explore the picturesque grounds and lush gardens of one of Sydney's few surviving 19th-century harbourside estates.

With unlimited Australian sparkling: **\$99 per person**. With unlimited French champagne: **\$123 per person**.

[Book now](#)

[Members get more](#): Members enjoy a 10% discount. Please advise of your membership at the time of booking.



Bullion Bar and Dining

The Mint, Monday to Friday, 11am–3pm

On the first floor of The Mint, overlooking historic Macquarie Street, our new restaurant offers superb contemporary Australian cuisine with hints of Asia and the Middle East and a focus on high-quality local produce and Australian wines.

[Book now](#)

[Members get more](#): Members enjoy a 10% discount.

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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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