



Merewether Historical Society

"A society aimed at recording memories of the past for the benefit of the next generation."

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The Chronicle

July 2023

Meetings: Next meeting will be held at Merewether Bowling Club Caldwell St on **Tuesday 11 July** 10.30 for a 10.45 start. The Annual General Meeting will be held first so please ensure you are financial in order to be able to vote on any decisions to be made. This will be followed by our General Meeting and then lunch. Kevin opens the restaurant specifically for MHS so it would be good to see support from our members. The meals are definitely very good value, as well as delicious.

Life Membership: A number of names have been put forward as meriting life membership. These are Don Harris, Marj Roals, Jean Hodge, David Barrow, Dennis Hinchliffe and Laurie Graham and these nominations will be voted on at the AGM

Membership 2023 -2024 please complete a membership application when renewing your membership (\$20 single, \$30 couple) so our records can be updated. Thank you to those who have already done so.

Birthdays in July Many happy returns to Frances Ford, Jeff Graham and Janette Knowles. Wishing you and others who celebrate birthdays this month a wonderful special day.



Guest Speaker We are fortunate in having Robert Watson talk on the History of Historical Societies

Bus Trip

18 July our destination is the Wyong Milk Factory with a myriad of attractions including

both Cheese and Chocolate Shops! Lunch will follow at The Entrance Diggers Club. Cost is \$70. Please let Denise on 0413892214, or Monica 0419496988 know if you are interested in joining us.

23 to 26 October a 4-day tour to Batemans Bay is being arranged. Minimum of 30 passengers is required for the trip to proceed. So please contact friends and family who may be interested.



NAIDOC (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) Week falls on the week beginning 2 July this year and will perhaps be more relevant than previous years given that Australians will be voting in a Referendum towards the end of the year. Many have quite strong opinions on the issue while others are still ambivalent. [the voice to parliament - Search \(bing.com\)](https://www.bing.com/search?q=the+voice+to+parliament) "The Voice would be an independent and permanent advisory body. It would give advice to the Australian Parliament and Government on matters that affect the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples."



The Royal Australian Historical Society has launched its Inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) "Reflect RAP" and published information on it in its June 2023 Magazine. Details follow:

“Acknowledging Australia’s difficult past is a key step toward reconciliation between non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal peoples. By revisiting our own long history, and by promoting truth-telling in the histories that we write today, the Royal Australian Historical Society is proud to actively promote this journey via its inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan “RAP”.

Today (1 June 2023) the Society formally launches its Reflect RAP, developed with guidance and endorsement from Reconciliation Australia.

Launched in Gadigal land, this plan was shaped by a working party that includes Uncle Shayne Williams, a senior Dharawal man with strong links to the Sydney area, and Dr Michael Bennett who has helped Aboriginal families and communities connect with their histories for over two decades. RAHS Councillors in the working party include Dr Iain Stuart, Ass. Prof. Carol Liston, Graham Shirley, Craig McPherson, Dr Peter Hobbins and Suzanne Holohan.

The Society’s RAP has been endorsed by the RAHS Council as a guiding document for the coming years it is focused on real outcomes that include:

- Actively participating in National reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week events
- Consulting with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples regarding the Society’s cultural awareness protocols
- Initiating a grant-funded internship project to review the digitised journals of the RAHS to identify reminiscences and accounts that mention Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples and places
- Launching a timeline of representations of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australian screen and audio materials
- Developing a business case for procurement from Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander owned businesses

The Reflect RAP is the first step in the four-stage RAP process outlined by Reconciliation Australia. Operating from January 2023 to July 2024, it outlines the Society’s initial steps in building understanding, connections, initiatives and opportunities to fully acknowledge the deep and rich pasts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. A fundamental aspect is making contact and listening to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the vicinity of the Society’s headquarters at History House in the Sydney

CBD, the lands and waters of the Gadigal people of the Eora nation.

‘History is central to reconciliation’, noted Dr Peter Hobbins. ‘By starting this journey ourselves, in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, we hope to encourage other historical societies to also commit to the reconciliation process.’ “

If you would like to have more information about the RAHS Reflect RAP you can visit <http://www.rahs.org.au/reconciliation-action-plan>.



Point to Ponder: It’s never too late to have a happy childhood. Wayne Dyer

2022/23 Committee:

President:	Geoff Wright
Vice President:	Dennis Hinchliffe
Secretary:	Sue Kenny
Asst Secretary:	Denise Wright
Treasurer:	Greg Struck
Asst Treasurer:	Monica Jordon
Committee	Alison Chapman Iain Kelso Jan Welsman Judy Henry
Hon. Solicitor:	Nicholas Dan

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is proudly sponsored by:
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