

A U S T R A L I A N S T U D I E S B U L L E T I N

Welcome to the Australian Studies Research Network

Bulletin April 2025

Profile - Mary Blight

Mary is currently completing an MPhil student at the Centre for Aboriginal Studies at Curtin University.

She is of Irish and British settler descent, from the early Swan River colony. She completed an undergraduate degree at UWA, with a double major in Indigenous Studies and French, and went on in 2021 to do Honour's in French. Her research so far has focused on Wardandi Noongar boodjar at Geographe Bay. Her honour's thesis examined Wardandi oral history concerning the French sailor Vasse, who was left behind by the Baudin expedition at Geographe Bay in 1801. She received the Leon Tauman Memorial Prize in Honours French for 2021 for the thesis. Her MPhil topic is the 1841 Wonnerup Massacre at Geographe Bay, and Wardandi oral history concerning it. She is interested in researching colonial violence and its impacts and patterns in the first decades of the Swan River colony, and the governance, policies, Noongar oral histories and archival records about this period. She is also interested in the observations of Noongar culture by the Baudin expedition in WA in 1801 and 1803. She has presented on her research at the Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S) conference in 2023, the State Heritage WA conference in 2023, and the AHA conference in 2024. She was a co-recipient of the OHWA Jean Teasdale Oral History Bursary for 2024-2025.



2025 State Heritage Conference

12th-13th May 2025, The Esplanade Hotel

The 2025 State Heritage Conference, hosted by the Heritage Council of Western Australia, the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Committee and the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, will take place at The Esplanade Hotel, adjacent to Fremantle's historic West End precinct. The conference theme, The Heritage Ecosystem, highlights the evolving values of Western Australia's cultural heritage. Attendees will have valuable opportunities to network and discuss emerging trends and future projects in the sector.

[Further Information](#)

Reconciliation Truth Forum

Boola Katijin Centre, Murdoch University, Thursday 29th May 2025

The Reconciliation Truth Forum will bring together leading thinkers, historians, and advocates to explore best practices in truth-telling, while also encouraging truth-listening and truth-action. This forum will examine the intersection of historical acceptance and contemporary practice, while building dialogue on how we acknowledge and act on our shared history as a state.

[Further Information](#)

Weaving History into Film Making - History West Annual Lecture 2025

UWA University Club, Wednesday 2nd July, 6:30-7:30pm

[Further Information](#)

Australian Heritage Festival 2025, Western Australia

18th April-18th May 2025

The Australian Heritage Festival is an annual community-driven event that connects country by immersing you into the rich and diverse heritage our country has to offer. For more than 40 years, Western Australians have taken part by hosting special exhibitions, tours, talks, workshops, food fairs, ceremonies, demonstrations, dining events, interactive displays and so much more. Each and every event a wonderful interpretation of heritage and culture from around our great state. In Western Australia, the festival is both a celebration and reflection on the natural and cultural heritage of the state, taking place during April and May each year. In April and May 2025, the festival will return with the theme **Unearthed** – revealing the past, bringing to light lesser-known histories and stories, and unearthing knowledge to empower younger generations as custodians of culture and tradition.

[Further Information](#)

Jobs and Opportunities - Western Australia

Danjoo Koorliny Djilba Summit

EOIs now open

The Danjoo Koorliny Summit 2025 will bring together over 1,000 leaders, changemakers, and innovators to reshape how we invest in First Nations-led futures — across energy, enterprise, land, data, governance, and culture. Pitch to Prosperity is a bold new feature of this year's Summit — a curated, high-trust investment platform where Aboriginal-led businesses connect directly with aligned investors.

[Further Information](#)**Introductory Oral History Training, Oral History WA****State Library of Western Australia, Saturday 7th Jun, 9:30am-3:30pm**

This one-day workshop is ideal for those who are new to oral history and want to know more about what is involved. The workshop is also useful for librarians who are working with oral history archives, and would like an insight into the interviewing side of things.

The morning session focuses on oral history ethics, while the afternoon session is all about the practicalities of interviewing. Participants will have the opportunity to conduct a practice interview.

[Further Information](#)**Senior Education Officer****National Trust of Western Australia**

This role involves the provision of expertise and advice regarding Commonwealth, State and Local Government policies, strategies and proposals that impact on heritage places or issues. A focus will be to respond on behalf of the National Trust on proposals, plans and other actions which impact on cultural heritage places or issues.

[Further information](#)

Events

Australian Historical Association Annual Conference 2025**James Cook University, 30th June - 4th July 2025**

Historians engage in many forms of looking up. The popular image of a historian is a person with their head down in the depths of an archive or library looking up books and documents. However, historians are at their most impactful when they also look up at the world around them and connect their work to contemporary issues. The first historians and custodians of what is now Australia literally looked up to the stars that served as calendars and markers of the passage of time. From ancient times to the present, historians have looked up at the power structures that shape society. In Australia, the phrase "looking up" also has a significant geographical dimension. Most of Australia's population (and most of its historians) work in the southeast corner of the continent, even while nearly half the continent lies in the tropics. Periodically policy makers have looked up to northern Australia and the nations of the 'near north' and seen both threats and opportunities. In 2025 the AHA offers historians an opportunity to engage with the scale and place of the Australian continent and its history.

[Further Information](#)**AIATSIS Summit****Garramilla (Darwin), 2nd - 6th June 2025**

The AIATSIS Summit provides a unique forum for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, leaders, and youth along with Academics, Native Title stakeholders, legal experts, GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums) sector, and government representatives to come together and collaborate on the issues that matter most to First Nations peoples. This year's theme *Voices of Empowerment: Strengthening our Future* pays tribute to a world in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples'

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[Further Information](#)**Graduate Oral History Intensive****2nd–3rd, 16th–17th May 2025, 9.30am–4.30pm AEST, online via Zoom**

Postdoctoral Fellows and HDR, Masters, and Honours students are invited to apply to attend an oral history intensive course aimed at university research students. Taught by three of Australia's leading oral historians (Carla Pascoe Leahy, Sarah Rood and **Alistair Thomson**) and offered in partnership with [Oral History Victoria](#), the course will teach how to plan an oral history project and apply for ethics approval, explore different analytical approaches, and consider how to write a thesis using oral history and to create other types of oral history productions, and more.

Participants will develop a peer support group of graduate oral history researchers from around Australia, New Zealand and Southeast Asia. Each day school will be taught online via Zoom, from 9.30am-4pm Australian Eastern Standard time. The course will be limited to 18 participants.

[Further Information](#)**2025 Australian Heritage Festival**

Registrations are now open for the 2025 Australian Heritage Festival with the theme: ***Unearthed – Revealing the Past, Empowering the Future***. “Your event doesn't need to be big or fancy or boast of famous connections (although that's always good!) it just needs to be a heritage event related to our 2025 theme, ***Unearthed***.

[Further Information](#)**Making Public Histories online event, Spies and Cold War Australia****History Council of Victoria****Thursday 29th May, 5pm AEST**

In this seminar, two of Australia's foremost intelligence historians will discuss espionage and counter-espionage in Australia during the Cold War, share some of the fascinating stories they've encountered in their research, and reflect on the unique challenges of creating history based on intelligence records.

[Further Information](#)

Jobs and Opportunities

AWHN-AHA Bursary

The AWHN-AHA Bursaries are open to AWHN members who are currently enrolled postgraduate students, early career researchers (ECRs), or otherwise precariously employed historians with little to no institutional support to facilitate conference attendance. (*ECRs are defined as scholars who completed their thesis no longer than five years ago, taking into account potential career interruptions such as parental or carers' leave). Applicants must be members of both the AWHN and the AHA.

Application

Applicants should complete this [application form](#) and provide the following information:

- Title and abstract of accepted conference paper

the bursary funds to help meet costs associated with travel and/or accommodation (<500 words)

Closing date 12pm (AEST), Friday 16th May 2025

Australian Policy and History ECR Writing Fellowships, Deakin University

The Centre for Contemporary Histories and Australian Policy and History are offering 10 Writing Fellowships for Early Career Researchers, of a value of \$500 each. Successful applicants will be commissioned to write one opinion piece and one policy briefing note related to their research.

Potential applicants should briefly outline their area of research, their idea for a Conversation-style opinion piece, and potential policy-related issues. Successful applicants will be mentored by academics from the Centre for Contemporary Histories and Australian Policy and History in drafting and editing their opinion piece, and developing ideas for a policy brief. Successful applicants are required to attend the CCH/APH Policy Brief Workshop for ECRs on 13 August 2025 to workshop their policy brief. Any ECR researcher in Australia with a PhD can apply.

Submissions close 10 May 2025

[Further Information](#)

Australasian Mining History Association Best Paper Award

An award of \$500 and 12 months free AMHA membership is offered for the best paper published in the refereed section of the Journal of Australasian Mining History by an early career historian.

[Further Information](#)

Lynette Russel Prize for First Peoples' History in Schools 2025

The prize is awarded based on a project that displays knowledge, engagement and creativity, taking into consideration the year level of the student/s. The project submitted may take any form: written, visual, digital or performative. It may be a project or work completed in class or outside of class as an additional activity.

[Further Information](#)

National Library of Australia Community Heritage Grants

The Community Heritage Grants 2025 Round is now open. Please read the [Guidelines](#) for further information. The program supports community organisations to care for Australian moveable, cultural heritage collections. Since 1994, this program has provided more than \$9.3 million dollars in funding to over 1,700 projects across Australia.

[Further Information](#)

Nominations now open for the 29th Mander Jones Awards — Publications

These awards recognise excellence in publications relating to archives and recordkeeping. They are named in honour of Phyllis Mander Jones, a founding member of the Archives Section of the Library Association of Australia (later the ASA) and co-editor of the first issue of Archives & Manuscripts. Works published in 2024 are eligible for nomination.

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Level A/B Lecturer (Teaching Specialist) in Korean Studies

University of Melbourne

0.5 FTE Fixed term until 30th June, 2026

Inspire future scholars as a Korean Studies educator, shaping understanding of contemporary Korea's society, politics, and global relations at Melbourne's prestigious Asia Institute.

[Further Information](#)

Lecturer in Art History and Art Curatorship

University of Melbourne

0.8 FTE continuing

Shape the future of art curatorship as a Lecturer in Art History, blending academic expertise with hands-on museum experience to inspire the next generation of cultural stewards.

[Further Information](#)

Faculty of Arts, Monash University - Multiple Opportunities Available

Monash University are seeking exceptional academics to join us in the role of Lecturer (Education Focused). Responsibilities will include designing, delivering, and evaluating engaging teaching activities, consulting with students, and fostering inclusive, student-centred learning environments. You will lead teams in implementing effective marking and feedback practices, develop and administer units or courses, and engage in scholarly activities that demonstrate advanced understanding of educational practice. Additionally, you will supervise Honours and Research Higher Degree students and actively participate in initiatives to advance education excellence and student success across the University.

[Further Information](#)

Asia-Pacific Academic Mentoring Program

International Science Council

The Asia-Pacific Academic Mentoring Program connects early-career researchers (ECRs) from Asia and the Pacific with senior scientists and scientific leaders from across Australia. The program aims to guide young scientists to become future leaders in academia within their home region. The Program will run for one year, with monthly online meetings between the mentor and the mentee. The ISC RFP-AP will provide financial support to the selected ECRs to assist in international travel to take part in the program launch in Canberra, Australia in September 2025. Mentees and mentors will also be supported by the ISC RFP-AP to attend Australia's premiere science event, **Science at the Shine Dome**.

[Further Information](#)

History Australia Book Reviewers

Interested candidates should provide their name, position, and areas of expertise to Elizabeth Roberts-Pedersen (elizabeth.roberts-pedersen@newcastle.edu.au) or Mirela Cufurovic (mcufurovic@csu.edu.au).

Calls for Papers

Conference, Professional Historians Association, 'Hot Histories'

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forthcoming national conference held in collaboration with the annual history colloquium History Talks in Darwin on Larrakia Country.

We are seeking papers and presentations along the theme of Hot Histories and invite members to share insights from their work on passion projects, hot topics, controversial histories, stories from the 'steamy' north (of Capricorn), professional challenges, love in the archives and any history-related work that has raised your temperature.

Call for Papers closes 4th April 2025

[Further Information](#)

Studies in Oral History, Issue No. 47

The Power of Oral History – Risks, Rewards & Possibilities

Oral history presents many possibilities; yet these possibilities come with risk as well as reward – recording sensitive subjects is never easy. Creating an oral history production takes time, skill and care, and sometimes goes wrong. Imaginative re-uses of oral history recordings can raise ethical and legal complexities. And oral histories that disrupt accepted narratives can generate pain and conflict in families, communities and nations. We invite papers that employ or interrogate oral history methodologies and illuminate aspects of the risks, rewards and possibilities of oral history.

[Further Information](#)

2025 Australasian Mining History Conference

1st–6th September 2025, Broken Hill, NSW

Abstracts will soon be open for the 2025 Australasian Mining History Conference.

[Further information](#)

Special Issue, The Great Circle

The oceans are rapidly changing around us, as exploration and exploitation of the subsurface realm is accelerating. Coastlines are under threat, challenging maritime cultural landscapes, while both offshore energy generation and illegal salvage threaten underwater cultural heritage sites. Museums large and small face changing demographics, shifting visitor expectations and ongoing commercial pressures. What are the other issues facing maritime heritage in today's environment? Edited by Professor Rod Mather, Dr John Jensen and Dr Peter Hobbins, this special issue of The Great Circle seeks to survey contemporary maritime heritage in the Indo-Pacific region. Contributions are welcome on diverse topics: archaeology and heritage regulation; museums and collections; places and spaces; communities and controversies. Peer-reviewed research articles of up to 10,000 words (including endnotes) and non-peer reviewed research notes of up to 3,000 words (including endnotes) are both welcomed.

Call for Papers closes 1st August 2025

[Further information](#)

'Current Debates' Section, Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History

We are happy to announce that from January 2025 the Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History (JICH) will feature a section devoted to current debates. This will include opinion pieces and commentary

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discussions in these and related fields.

[Further Information](#)

Conference, Australian Society of Archivists, “Telling Our Stories: Community, Connection, Resilience”

10th–12th November 2025, Sydney

The conference aims to bring together a wide range of perspectives and stories on our profession and practice by showcasing what archives mean to communities, institutions and individuals. It is also a space to explore where we have been, are, and want to develop as a sector.

Call for Papers closes 28th April 2025

[Further Information](#)

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