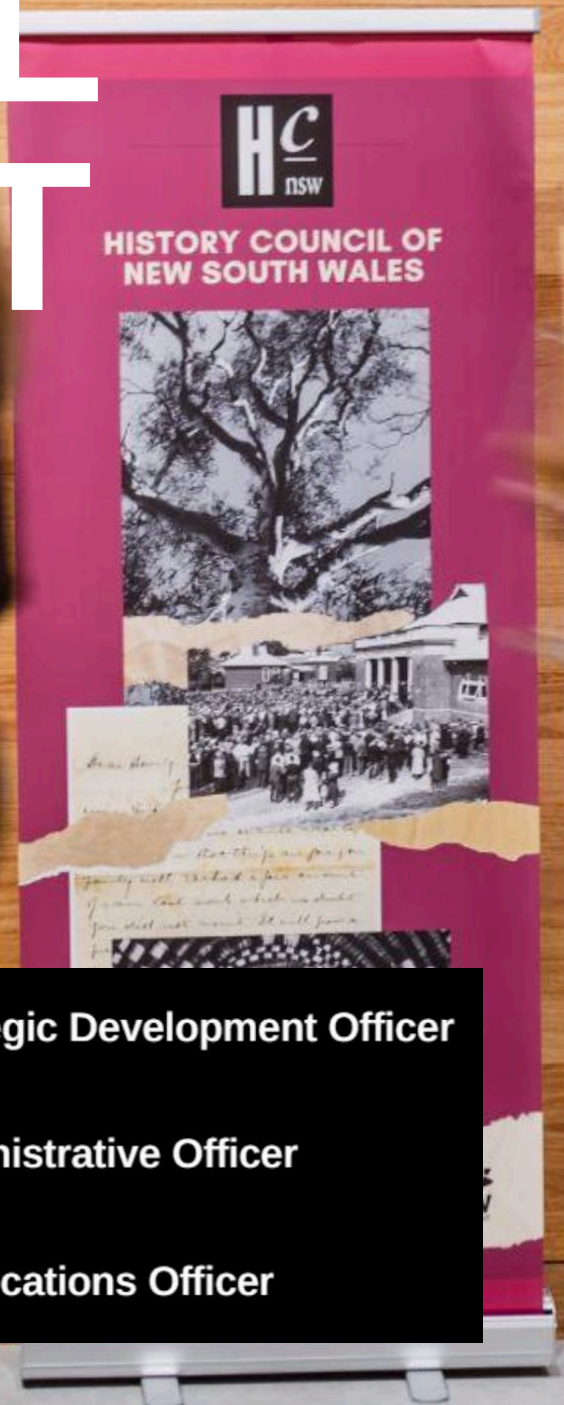




HISTORY COUNCIL OF NSW INC.

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Prepared by

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*Photograph on cover and in footer: Audience walking into the Chau Chak Wing Museum auditorium, taken on the evening of the 10th of September 2024 at the HCNSW Annual History Lecture and Awards. Credit: Tim Harris, TWH Photography.*

# President's Report

## President's Report

With 2025 being the final year of my term as President, it is wonderful to report that 2024 was a year of expansion for the History Council of New South Wales (HCNSW).

Building on what we had achieved in previous years through our online and in-person History events, the HCNSW embraced new partnerships with several key cultural institutions to convene and stage a wide range of events and activities.

**History Week 2024** commenced on Friday, 6 September, with the staging of the **New South Wales Premier's History Awards** in which the State Library of New South Wales (SLNSW) and HCNSW continued their long-standing, successful partnership.

**History Week** saw events continue to be staged by HCNSW members across New South Wales in 2024. A total of 95 events, up from 81 in 2023, were staged in **History Week** by HCNSW members across the state, addressing the theme **Marking Time**, which invited members to consider how we commemorate the past.

78 events were held in-person, 13 online, and 4 hybrid events were staged using a variety of formats, including presentations, in-person and digital exhibitions, walking tours, lectures, debates, and talks.

63.5% of **History Week** events (57) were held in Sydney by our members, 17.7% of events (13) were staged in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, and 18.8% of events (12) held in Regional areas of New South Wales.

Engagement for **History Week 2024** was very positive and a testament to the continued interest and engagement of the public in learning about various topics on local, multicultural, Indigenous, public, and state history.

In **History Week 2024**, the HCNSW also staged several events itself:

- The **Annual History Lecture**, delivered by Professor Frank Bongiorno, Professor of History at the Australian National University.
- The **HCNSW Annual History Awards**, staged in combination with the lecture for the first time in several years.
- **Panel session (hybrid): 5 Years on from COVID-19: Lessons from past health crises and the future of global health.** This interdisciplinary panel of 8 experts explored how to think about lessons learned from historically important diseases to create more effective and adaptive strategies for present and future health crises.
- **Gudyarra (hybrid):** The HCNSW partnered with organisers at the Parliament of New South Wales to bring together Elders of the Wiradyuri community and other experts to discuss the 200th anniversary of the first use of martial law in the Colony of New South Wales against Aboriginal people at Bathurst.

The HCNSW continued to stage events outside History Week in 2024. These core programs being:

- **History Now:** 8 seminars, featuring 2-5 speakers each, between March and November. HCNSW recorded these events and published them as podcasts.
- **Sydney Writers Festival Panel: Winning Histories**
- **First Nations Histories:**
  - **History and Memory:** Oral Histories and the Science of the Dreaming (Professor Patrick Nunn)
  - **Weaving Memories** (Jayne Christian and Heidi Duncan)
  - **Walangari biographical interview** (Colin Walangari Karntawarra McCormack).

Further details of each of these events can be found later in this Annual Report.

The HCNSW is extremely grateful for the support of the NSW Government through Create NSW, without which it could not host such a wide range of History programs. We thank our other sponsors including Macquarie University & the Professional Historians Association (NSW/ACT) for the Applied History Award, Dr Stephen Gapps and Emeritus Professor David Carment for their support of the First Nations History Award, Geoffrey Jones for his sponsorship of the Max Kelly Award, the Jill Roe Bequest for its support of

the Jill Roe Regional History Award, and the Addison Road Community Centre for the provision of the Addi Road Award for Multicultural History.

We acknowledge the invaluable and continued support of our cultural partners – City of Sydney; Macquarie University (Faculty of Arts); National Archives of Australia; Placemaking NSW, Reserve Bank of Australia; State Library of New South Wales; Museums of History NSW; University of New England; University of Newcastle (School of Humanities, Creative Industries & Social Sciences); University of New South Wales (School of History & Philosophy).

Special thanks go to the General Council, Executive Committee, and HCNSW Staff.

**Dr Stephen Gapps, President of the History Council of New South Wales, Inc**

*Looking ahead to 2025*



# About Us

## Our History

The History Council of New South Wales (HCNSW) was established in 1995. It is a not-for-profit membership association and a registered charity.

## Vision

The HCNSW believes that History shapes the present and the future. The HCNSW fosters the practice of history in all its forms. We provide programs and services that aim to build capacity within the history sector and showcase the importance of history.

## Objectives

History is often an under-represented part of the cultural industries. We focus on five key areas: awareness, diversity, excellence, advocacy, and outreach.

Our objectives are to

- provide a forum for identifying and responding to issues of relevance to the practice of History
- support History's role in informing and shaping public debate, policy, and future planning
- recognise the diversity of historical perspectives, including those of Indigenous peoples, and encourage excellence in historical practice
- facilitate communication within the History community and provide opportunities for collaboration
- provide professional development activities and opportunities for our members and audiences across NSW.

# Structure & Management

The History Council of New South Wales is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

## Committee members

Committee members in 2024 were:

**Dr Stephen Gapps**, President

**Dr Jesse Adams Stein**, Vice President (Australian Centre for Public History, University of Technology Sydney)

**Dr Effie Karageorgos**, Treasurer (University of Newcastle)

**A/Prof. Julie McIntyre**, Secretary (University of Newcastle)

**Richard Neville**, Councillor (State Library of NSW)

**Dr Cara Cross**, Councillor (First Nations)

**Laila Ellmoos**, Councillor (City of Sydney)

**Dr Isobelle Barrett Meyering**, Councillor (Macquarie University)

**A/Prof. Jan Láníček**, Councillor (University of New South Wales)

**Dr Naomi Parry Duncan**, Councillor (Professional Historians Association of NSW & ACT).

The following committee member stepped down in 2024:

**Jeff Hopkins-Weise**, Councillor (Professional Historians Association of NSW & ACT)

## Staff

**Catherine Shirley**, Executive and Strategic Development Officer

**Amanda Wells**, Programs and Administration Officer

**Laura Sayle**, Media and Communications Officer (January - June and October-December 2024)

**Lauren Chater**, Media and Communications Officer (June - October 2024)

**Katrina Dubé**, Project Officer - First Nations Histories (March - December 2024)

## Subcommittees

- Awards & Prizes
- Grants & Revenue
- Events
- Membership
- First Nations

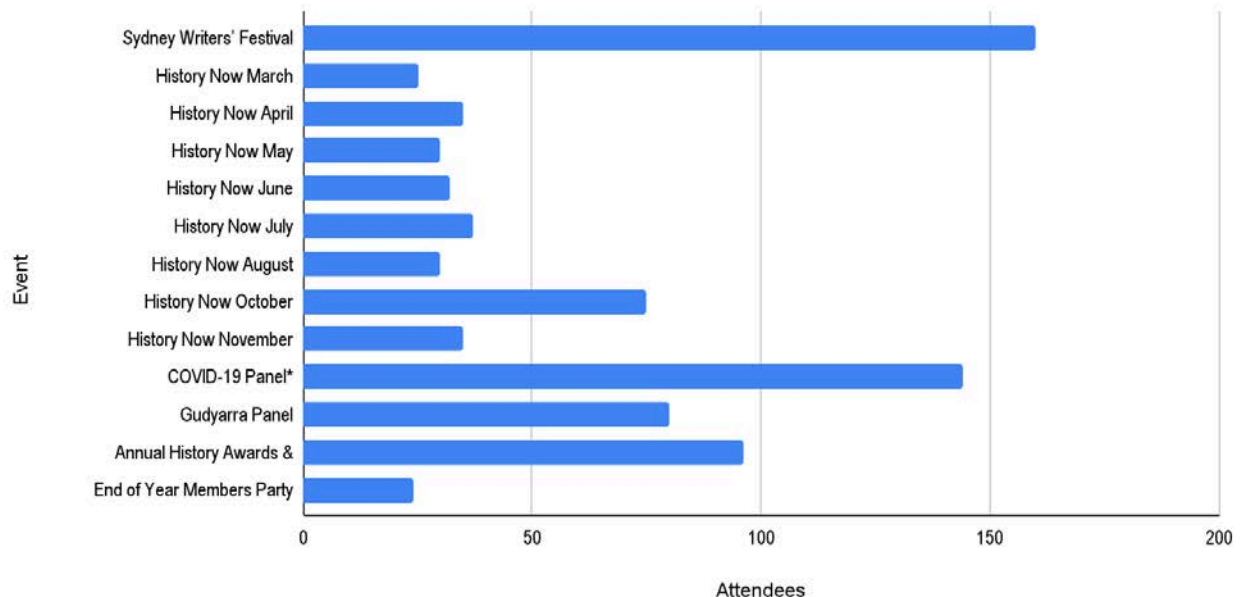


# Our programs

The HCNSW's core programs include the annual coordination of **History Week**, the production of the **Annual History Lecture**, the **First Nations Histories Program**, the **History Now** seminar series, and support of the **NSW Premier's History Awards**. A program of **History Awards** is presented annually by the HCNSW, including the **Annual History Citation**, the **First Nations History Prize**, the **Max Kelly Award**, the **Macquarie-Professional Historians Association Applied History Award**, the **Jill Roe Prize for Regional History**, and **The Addi Road Award for Multicultural History**.

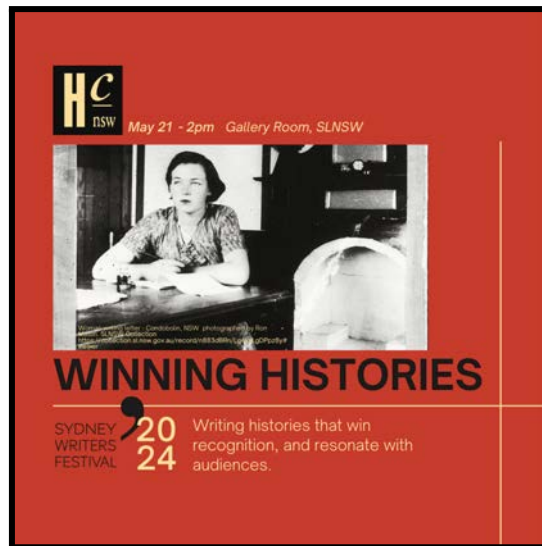
The HCNSW continues to build the diversity of its membership and to extend its reach to regional and remote areas of New South Wales. The following table shows the spread of attendees across Core (non-History Week) programs staged by the HCNSW in 2024.

HCNSW Events Audience



# 1. Sydney Writers' Festival

**Winning Histories** (21 May 2024, in-person, 160 registrations)



Event Promotion: Winning Histories social media image (Credit: HCNSW, using Canva Pro elements 2024)

The History Council of NSW hosted a panel discussion featuring three leading historians at the Sydney Writers Festival. The focus of the forum was the art of crafting compelling historical narratives that appeal to both academic and general audiences. The panelists, **Dr Margaret Cook, Nicole Cama, and Dr Shannyn Palmer**, examined the intricate balance between scholarly rigour and engaging storytelling. They explored how to write histories that are not only academically sound, with meticulous research and innovative methodologies, but also captivating and accessible to a wider audience.

The discussion highlighted the challenges of translating complex historical contexts into compelling narratives without oversimplification or sacrificing authenticity. The panelists shared their insights and strategies for bridging the gap between academic excellence and accessibility, emphasizing the importance of evocative language, relatable contexts, and engaging storytelling techniques to ignite curiosity and empathy in readers.

The forum provided valuable insights into the artistry of writing award-winning histories that resonate with both academic and broader audiences.

## 2. History Teachers' Association of NSW Annual Award Sponsorship

The HCNSW has supported the Australian History Prize, awarded by the History Teachers Association of NSW, since 2023. The History Teachers' Association of NSW was formed in 1954 by Renée Fauvette Erdos (1911-1997), with the simple aim of providing a means for teachers to 'meet and discuss the teaching of History and issues connected with our teaching of History'.

The HCNSW was delighted and honoured to sponsor this award which recognised the work of students who focused on Australian History and included original research within their Extension History Essay. Our team attended the History Teachers Association of NSW High Achievers' Night to present the Australian History Prize to the winners, including our President Dr Stephen Gapps who has presented the prize to the award-winners over the last few years.

We were delighted to announce First Place for the 2023 Australian History Essay Prize was awarded to Sarah Blaney of Sydney Girls' High School, for her essay 'Do museums still need objects? Discuss in relation to the Hyde Park Barracks'. Second Place was awarded to Zoe Dyson from Kambala, for her essay 'To what extent do historians contribute to the cultural memory of Ned Kelly?'



Dr Stephen Gapps with Sarah Blaney, winner of the Australian History Prize, and her teacher, Catherine Bavell. (Credit: Supplied by HTANSW)

### 3. History Now 2024



Event promotion: History Now 2024. (Image Credit: HCNSW, using Canva Pro elements)

First convened in 2015 by Historians Hannah Forsyth, Anna Clark, and Melissa Bellanta, **History Now** seminars explore current and compelling issues affecting the practice of contemporary history. This long-running series of public talks and discussions aims to bring new perspectives to all aspects of historical practice.

In 2024, the History Council of NSW (HCNSW) agreed to partner with the State Library of NSW, the Australian Centre of Public History (University of Technology), the Parliament of NSW, and the Centre for the Study of Violence, University of Newcastle to convene and stage eight **History Now** seminars between March and November. The series was programmed by Dr Jesse Adams Stein (Vice President of HCNSW / Member of ACPH).

#### 1. NEW EARTH HISTORIES

Speakers: Alison Bashford and Jarrod Hore, Chair: Frances Flanagan

Session Description: *Alison Bashford and Jarrod Hore reflect on New Earth Histories and how the history of geosciences and different world cosmologies can be brought together.*

(Published: Podcast)

#### 2. HISTORIES OF CAPITALISM

Speakers: Hannah Forsyth and Sophie Loy-Wilson, Chair: Mike Beggs

Session Description: *Hannah Forsyth and Sophie Loy-Wilson discuss the ways that historicising capitalism is changing how we approach history in Australia.* (Published:

Podcast)

### **3. ABORIGINAL POLITICAL HISTORIES**

Speakers: Heidi Norman, John Maynard, and Lynda-June Coe. Chair: Cara Cross  
Session Description: *Heidi Norman, John Maynard and Lynda-June Coe reflect on Aboriginal political histories – both in terms of activism and advocacy, as well as involvement with formal legislative change and politics.* (Published: Podcast)

### **4. HISTORIES OF MENTAL HEALTH**

Held in partnership with the University of Newcastle's Future of Madness Network.

Speakers: Catharine Coleborne and James Dunk, Chair: Effie Karageorgos  
Session Description: *Catharine Coleborne and James Dunk discuss the depth of historical writing about mental illness in Australia and reflect on its resonance in the present moment; how can we write the history of mental health now?* (Published: Podcast)

### **5. TRUTH-TELLING AND HISTORIES OF GENOCIDE**

Online only, held in partnership with the Centre for the Study of Violence, University of Newcastle.

Speakers: Lorena Allam, Dirk Moses and Ümit Kurt, Chair: Nancy Cushing  
Session Description: *Lorena Allam, Dirk Moses and Ümit Kurt reflect on what can be learned from histories of genocide, and locate their discussion between journalism, history, and the processes of truth-telling.* (Published: Podcast)

### **6. TRANSNATIONAL DESIGN HISTORIES**

Speakers: Livia Lazzaro Rezende and Isabel Rousset, Chair: Jesse Adams Stein  
Session Description: *Livia Rezende and Isabel Rousset explore the ways in which international exchange and transcultural connections inform design and visual histories.* (Published: Podcast)

### **7. MORE THAN HUMAN HISTORIES**

Speakers: Emily O'Gorman and Taylor Coyne, Chair: Warwick Anderson  
Session Description: *Emily O'Gorman and Taylor Coyne reflect on how history can be understood and written from more-than-human perspectives.* (Published: Podcast)

## 8. THE ETHICS OF CRIME HISTORIES

Speakers: Meg Foster and Rachel Franks, Chair: Nerida Campbell

Session Description: *Meg Foster and Rachel Franks discuss the ethics of writing crime histories that are geared towards a public readership.* (Published: Podcast)



**History Now 2024** event photo montage.

(Images & Graphics: Catherine Shirley, Amanda Wells & Laura Sayle)

## 4. First Nations Histories

In 2024, the HCNSW was fortunate to receive increased grant funding from the NSW Government through Create NSW to restart its First Nations Histories program, which was not funded in 2023. A Project Officer for First Nations History, Katrina Dubé, was appointed, and the resulting events were produced online and then published on the HCNSW's Podcast and YouTube platforms:

1. **HISTORY AND MEMORY: ORAL HISTORIES AND THE SCIENCE OF THE DREAMING**  
Presented by Professor Patrick Nunn
2. **WEAVING MEMORIES**  
Presented by Jayne Christian and Heidi Duncan



In addition, a biographical interview was produced, which will be published across HCNSW platforms in 2025:

3. **WALANGARI KANTAWARRA BIOGRAPHICAL INTERVIEW**  
(Colin Walangari Karntawarra McCormack)



**Walangari Karntawarra**

Photo credit: Walangari Karntawarra and Diramu Aboriginal Dance and Didgeridoo (Supplied)



## 5. History Week 2024: Theme – Marking Time

The theme for History Week 2024 was '**Marking Time**', in which our members were invited to consider **how we commemorate the past**. What people, events and histories do we – or don't we – celebrate or remember? How do we mark time? From the personal marking of time in photographs to state commemorations of pageantry, the ways we remember the past are varied: sometimes grand, sometimes fleeting, sometimes conflicting. How have the different ways we mark historical moments changed over time? How might different communities remember the past? What pasts do we forget when we commemorate? In what forms do we mark time: statues, parades, monuments, plaques, displays, exhibitions, journals, diaries and even marks cut into a stone wall?

For example, across the state in 2024 there were several 200th anniversary moments. 1824 was an important year in the Colony of New South Wales. In August of that year, the Legislative Council met for the first time, leading to what has been called the 'birth of evolving democracy' in our state. Just days before the Council met, Governor Brisbane declared Martial Law west of the Blue Mountains in response to the Wiradyuri War of resistance, or the Bathurst War.

Other anniversaries this year included fifty years since the Women's Electoral Lobby presented a submission at the 1974 Wages Hearing, which led to a major milestone in gender pay equity: a uniform minimum wage for men and women.



Networking during history week, at the Chau Chak Wing Museum. Photo credit: Tim Harris, TWH Photography.

## NSW Premier's History Awards

Opening night of History Week 2024: On Friday 6 September, the **State Library of NSW (SLNSW)** and History Council of New South Wales (HCNSW) continued their long-standing, successful partnership during **History Week** in the staging of the **NSW Premier's History Awards**, for which the HCNSW offers financial and promotional support.

Premier of New South Wales, The Hon. Chris Minns said: "Historians have the unique ability to resurrect the voices, moments and events of the past. This evening, we honour the exceptional dedication and achievements of our storytellers, whose research brings to light untold or overlooked histories and offers fresh perspectives that inspire future generations."



The 2024 Premier's History Award winners. Photo credit: State Library of New South Wales, supplied.

## COVID-19 Panel with Public Health Experts

History Week event: **5 Years on from COVID-19: Lessons from past health crises and the future of global health**

The HCNSW partnered with the Australasian Health and Medical Humanities Network, the Australian New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine, and venue partner the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts to convene a panel to discuss how to use history to contextualise past and present health crises to prepare for the future of global health. It was a hybrid session with 144 registrations.



Event promotion: 5 Years on from COVID-19 promotional image (Credit: HCNSW)

### Speakers

- Edward Holmes, Professor of Virology, University of Sydney, and NHMRC Leadership Fellow
- Claire Hooker, Associate Professor in Health and Medical Humanities, University of Sydney, and President of the Arts Health Network NSW/ACT
- Julie Leask, Professor of Public Health, University of Sydney, and Visiting Professorial Fellow, National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance
- Brent Mackie, Director Policy, Strategy and Research at ACON

- Bernadette Saunders, Associate Professor in Life Sciences (Cellular Immunology) and Tuberculosis & Respiratory Diseases Group Head, University of Technology Sydney
- Susana Vaz Nery, Professor at Kirby Institute UNSW, and Neglected Tropical Diseases research group lead
- Jane Williams, Research Fellow (public health ethics), University of Wollongong
- Facilitator Philippa Nicole Barr, ANU and Western Sydney University

While the public responses to prescient threats like COVID-19, Zika, and monkeypox capture immediate attention and resources, endemic diseases with substantial global health impacts often do not incite a similar emotional urgency. Specific, acute crises may evoke stronger responses than statistical, chronic threats. Notwithstanding their long histories and high mortality rates, infectious diseases such as TB, HIV, and malaria often lack the attention given to diseases like COVID-19, reducing their visibility and the urgency of interventions. At the same time, a transforming climate may impact the spread and distribution of both novel and endemic diseases, producing new circumstances of response. This interdisciplinary roundtable, led by Philippa Nicole Barr, explored how we can think about lessons learned from historically important diseases to create more effective and adaptive strategies for present and future health crises.



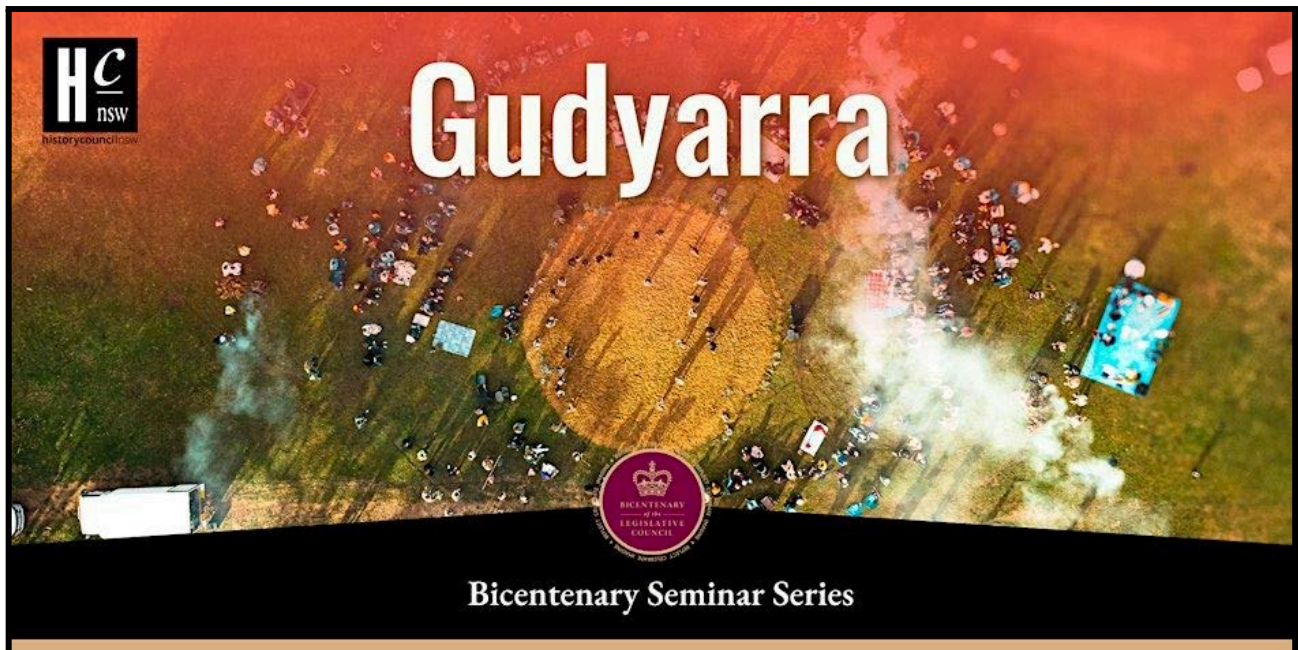
Facilitator Philippa Nicole Barr, with panelists Julie Leask, Brent Mackie, Susana Vaz Nery, Claire Hooker, Jane Williams, Edward Holmes, and Bernadette Saunders, at SWSA's Thomas Kenneally Theatre.

(Photo Credit: Dr Charmaine Robson, President, ANZSHM - NSW)

The event was recorded and [published as a podcast](#), and a blog giving an overview of the panel was uploaded to the [HCNSW website](#).

## Gudyarra

History Week event: 12 September 2024 at NSW Parliament. (Approximately 80 attendees in person)



Speakers: Members of the Wiradyuri Traditional Owners Central West Aboriginal Corporation (WTOCWAC), Dinawan Dyrribang, Uncle Bill Allen Jr., Aunty Leanna Carr, and Yanhadarrambal Uncle Jade Flynn, as well as Dr Stephen Gapps, David Suttor, and the Hon Jeremy Buckingham MLC. Chair: the President of the Legislative Council, the Hon Ben Franklin MLC.

Session Description: The year 2024 marked the 200th anniversary of the first sitting of the NSW Legislative Council (Upper House), as well as the first use of martial law in NSW against Aboriginal people in Bathurst. The bicentenaries of these two events presented a valuable and necessary opportunity to better understand how these significant developments evolved and shaped NSW history.

This panel discussion opened a conversation that reflected on this complex history, continued the journey of healing and truth-telling, and imagined a more inclusive future for democracy in NSW. The event was recorded and can be viewed on the [Parliament of NSW's YouTube channel](#).

## Annual History Lecture & Awards 2024

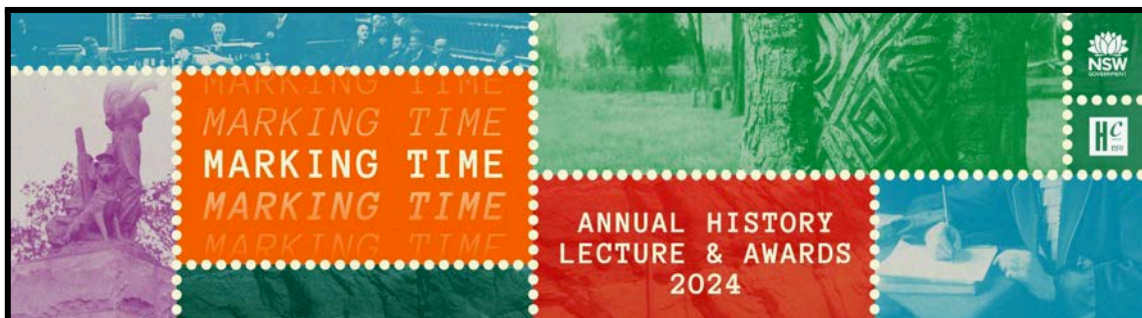
History Week event: On 10 September, the **HCNSW Annual History Lecture and Awards** ceremony was staged as a combined event in the Auditorium of the Chau Chak Wing Museum, at the University of Sydney. This was a partnership event in which the Chau Chak Wing Museum generously provided the venue to the HCNSW free of charge. 96 people attended.



Professor Frank Bongiorno giving the 2024 Annual History Lecture. Photo credit: Tim Harris, TWH Photography

The **Annual History Lecture** was presented by Frank Bongiorno, Professor of History at the Australian National University.

Professor Bongiorno's presentation explored Australian political commemoration and collective memory, highlighting how historians are recovering the diverse political participation of Indigenous people, non-European migrants, and women, the contestation over political commemoration, and the need for recognition of First Nations peoples' political systems.



Promotional Artwork for Annual History Awards and Lecture Event (Credit Isabelle Brown)

## HCNSW Annual History Awards

The HCNSW Annual History Awards support and acknowledge contributions towards historical practice and theory and celebrate history in all its diverse forms. In 2024, the HCNSW offered several awards and prizes across different fields of historical practice, totalling \$5,500 in prize money. Students, early career researchers, continuing historians, and those who produce digital histories were all catered for. Honorable Mention citations were also awarded.

### ANNUAL HISTORY AWARDS SPONSORS

The **Professional Historians Association of NSW & ACT**, **Macquarie University**, **Addison Road Community Organisation**, and **Geoffrey Jones** continued their support of the Awards and Prizes for 2024, with the First Nations History Prize sponsorship provided by **Emeritus Professor David Carment** and **Dr Stephen Gapps**. The History Council of NSW awarded the second Jill Roe Regional History Award, supported by funds from the **Jill Roe Bequest**.

### AWARD SUBMISSIONS AND WINNERS

The Awards and Prizes criteria include a wide range of digital media such as podcasts, websites, and documentaries, reflecting our aim of supporting History in all its forms. The HCNSW Awards Subcommittee consisted of academics from the Universities of New South Wales and Newcastle, as well as an independent historian from the Professional Historians Association (NSW & ACT). The judges reviewed **28 submissions** entered for the 2024 Awards. Submission numbers remained high for 2024, despite the adjusted timeline for this year's event. The HCNSW is working to sustain strong submissions for 2025.

The **Annual History Citation** was awarded to Emeritus Professor Grace Karskens in recognition of her leadership, mentorship, and exceptional historical writing and historical projects.

The **Max Kelly Award** was awarded to Harrison Croft for his article *Of Horses and Humans: The Multispecies Co-Constitutions of the Upper Yarra Reservoir*. The judges also awarded two special commendations for the Max Kelly Award in 2024. The first to Ruby Ekkel, for her article *Playing Devil's Advocate: Women's zoological expertise and the changing reputation of Tasmanian devils, 1908-1921*. The second to Dr Joshua Black for his article, *The Joyless Recovery: Recession, Reform and the Making of Modern Australian Productivity*.

The **Addi Road Award for Multicultural History** was awarded to Philippa Barr for her book excerpt: *Uncertainty and Emotion in the 1900 Sydney Plague*.

The **Macquarie-PHA Applied History Award** (jointly sponsored by Macquarie University and Professional Historians Association NSW & ACT) was awarded to the Collector and District Historical Society for their entry: *Collector History Walk*.

The **Jill Roe Regional History Award** was awarded to Nadine Wilson for her essay: *Worimi 'hearts', water and fire: the environmental and cultural impact of the Hudson Brothers and a million meters of timber in Sydney's Garden Palace construction, 1879-1882*.

The **First Nations History Award** was awarded to Kazan Brown for her *Submission on Warramgamba Dam and associated artworks*.



2024 HCNSW Annual History Award winners and commendees: Dr Nik Orr, Kazan Brown, Nadine Wilson, Emeritus Professor Grace Karskens, Philippa Nicole Barr, Isabelle Moss, and Dr Joshua Black. Not pictured are Harrison Croft, Ruby Ekkel, Tim Calabria, and the Collector and District Historical Society.

(Photo credit: Tim Harris, TWH Photography)





Annual History Awards event photographs.  
 Photo credits: Tim Harris, TWH Photography

## History Week 2024 - outcomes

7-15 September 2024, across New South Wales



Promotional Artwork for History Week 2024 Graphic Design: Isabella Brown.

The HCNSW initiated History Week in 1997 to showcase the rich and diverse History being produced across New South Wales. Its objectives are to:

- Showcase History in an innovative and exciting format
- Provide educational experiences that reach students and the general public, and promote lifelong learning opportunities
- Present audiences with rich and diverse histories relevant to all aspects of our community
- Attract new audiences to History, demonstrating it is exciting, relevant, and all around us.

History Week provides a united umbrella under which participating organisations and individuals can promote their work and reach a broad audience. The HCNSW has played an integral role in planning and organising History Week and will continue to do so into the future.

During History Week, the HCNSW invited members, including community groups, local councils, libraries, archives, museums, universities, cultural institutions, and history professionals, to celebrate the best in community and professional history and highlight its important role in our cultural life.

## History Week Community Events

In 2024, we continued the opportunity to expand the media through which History Week is curated by establishing it as a mixed-delivery mode festival. As in 2023, this year most members chose to host events face-to-face, with continued enthusiasm for a return to in-person events following the restrictions of recent years. This proved successful, indicating our members and the communities they serve were eager to engage in person, increase their impact, and showcase the stories of commemorations big and small.

*On Saturday, September 7th, Dr Ian Willis presented his talk, The Memory Landscape of the Cowpastures in monuments, memorials, and murals, at the Camden Library. The talk was well attended, and the gathering was treated to a thought-provoking perspective of the Cowpastures and accompanying monuments, some of which have become outdated, overlooked, or, in contrast, quite loved by the community. (Report from Camden Library)*



Photo credit: Dr Ian Willis presenting his History Week talk (Camden Library)

## Number of events

A total of 95 events (compared with 81 in 2023) were registered by HCNSW members and staged across NSW in History Week 2024:

- 13 online events which consisted of webinars, virtual tours, podcasts, pre-recorded video content, and digital exhibitions
- 78 in-person events, which consisted of exhibitions, walking tours, keynote presentations, lectures, debates, and other talks, were held during History Week
- 4 events were staged both online and in person.

## History Week Event Calendar

A full list of History Week events can be found on the HCNSW website, under Past Events: <https://historycouncilnsw.org.au/whats-on-2/>



ent has passed.

### Marking Time – History Week

Tue 3 September 2024, - Fri 27 September 2024,



Lithgow Library invites the community to celebrate History Week with their display celebrating Andrew Brown and his contribution to the Lithgow Community. History Week 2024 runs from 6 September, but the library will be celebrating the whole month.

The History Week theme 'Marking Time' will be highlighted by a display on one of the Lithgow Community's founding fathers Andrew Brown. The display has a series of photographs from the library collection along with memorabilia and books.

Excerpt from Arts OutWest website describing Lithgow Library's History Week Event. Fully story: <https://artsoutwest.org.au/events/marking-time-history-week/>

## Region's rich migrant history celebrated in online exhibition for History Week

9 September 2024 | Jen White

Start the conversation



A group of migrants from the Port Kembla and Cringila areas decorating a car for an event, sometime between the 1950s and 1970s. Photo: Migration Heritage Project from The Photo Roma Collection: Martina and Ballesi Families 2023.

The Illawarra has a rich and proud migrant history which is now the subject of a new photo exhibition.

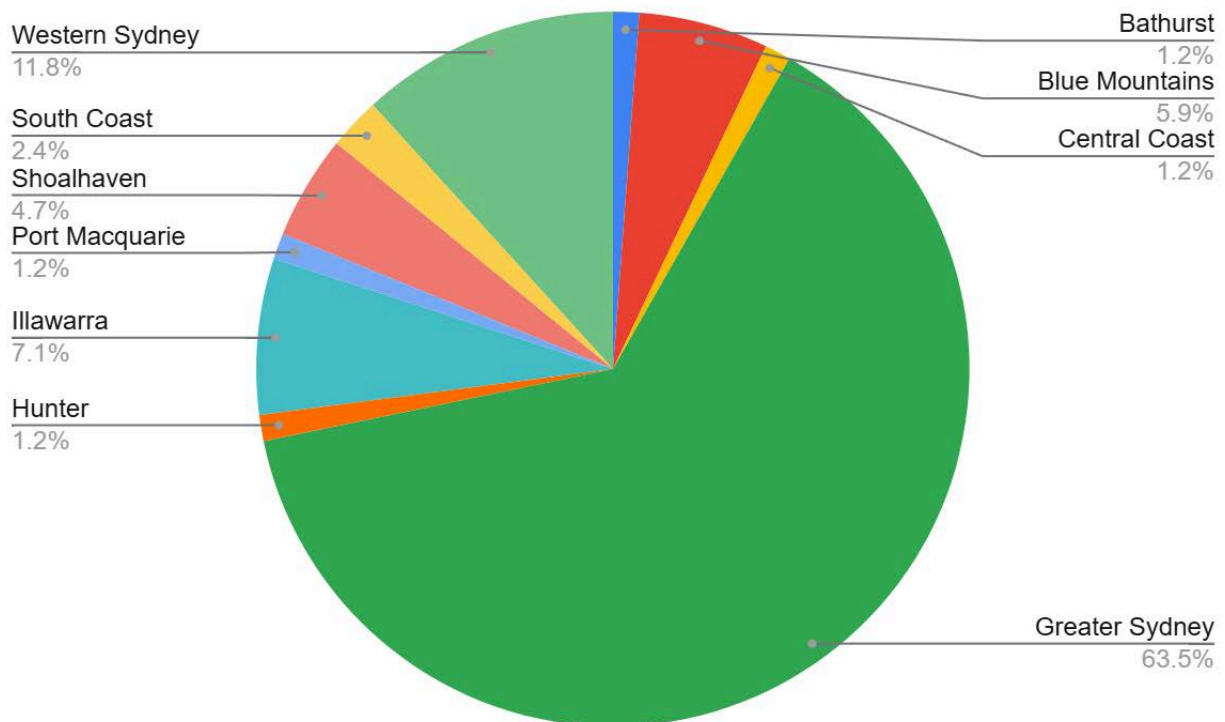
Excerpt from the Region Illawarra story by Jen White on the Illawarra Libraries' online exhibition held as part of 2024 History Week. Full story:

<https://regionillawarra.com.au/regions-rich-migrant-history-celebrated-in-online-exhibition-for-history-week/37484/>

## Location of In-Person/Hybrid Events

- 63.5% of events (57) were held in Sydney;
- 17.7% of events (13) were held in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains;
- 18.8% of events (12) were held in Regional areas of New South Wales.

The engagement for History Week 2024 was very positive, a testament to the public's continued interest in and engagement with learning about various topics in local, multicultural, First Nations, public, and state history.



## 6. End of Year Party

The **End of Year party 2024** was a members-only event held on December 11th at the New Britannia Hotel, Darlinghurst. Dr Stephen Gapps addressed attendees, discussing HCNSW's achievements over the previous 12 months. Attendees enjoyed drinks from the bar and pizzas from the hotel's catering partner, Angry Tony's.



Dr Stephen Gapps addresses the room at the HCNSW End of Year Party. Photo credits: Laura Sayle.

# Digital output: Publications, Media & Communications

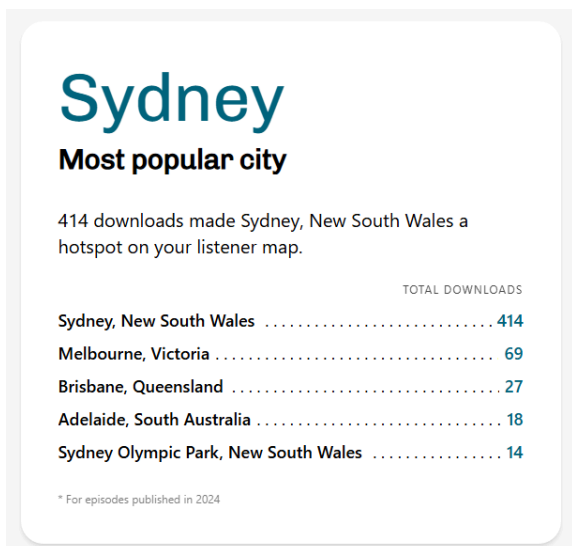
## Podcasting

In 2024, the HCNSW shifted from using its [YouTube channel](#) as its central medium to publish digital recordings from its past events to expanding its output on the **HCNSW Podcast Channel**, entitled [History Talks](#), to take advantage of shifting audience tastes and an increased global audience consumption of podcasts.

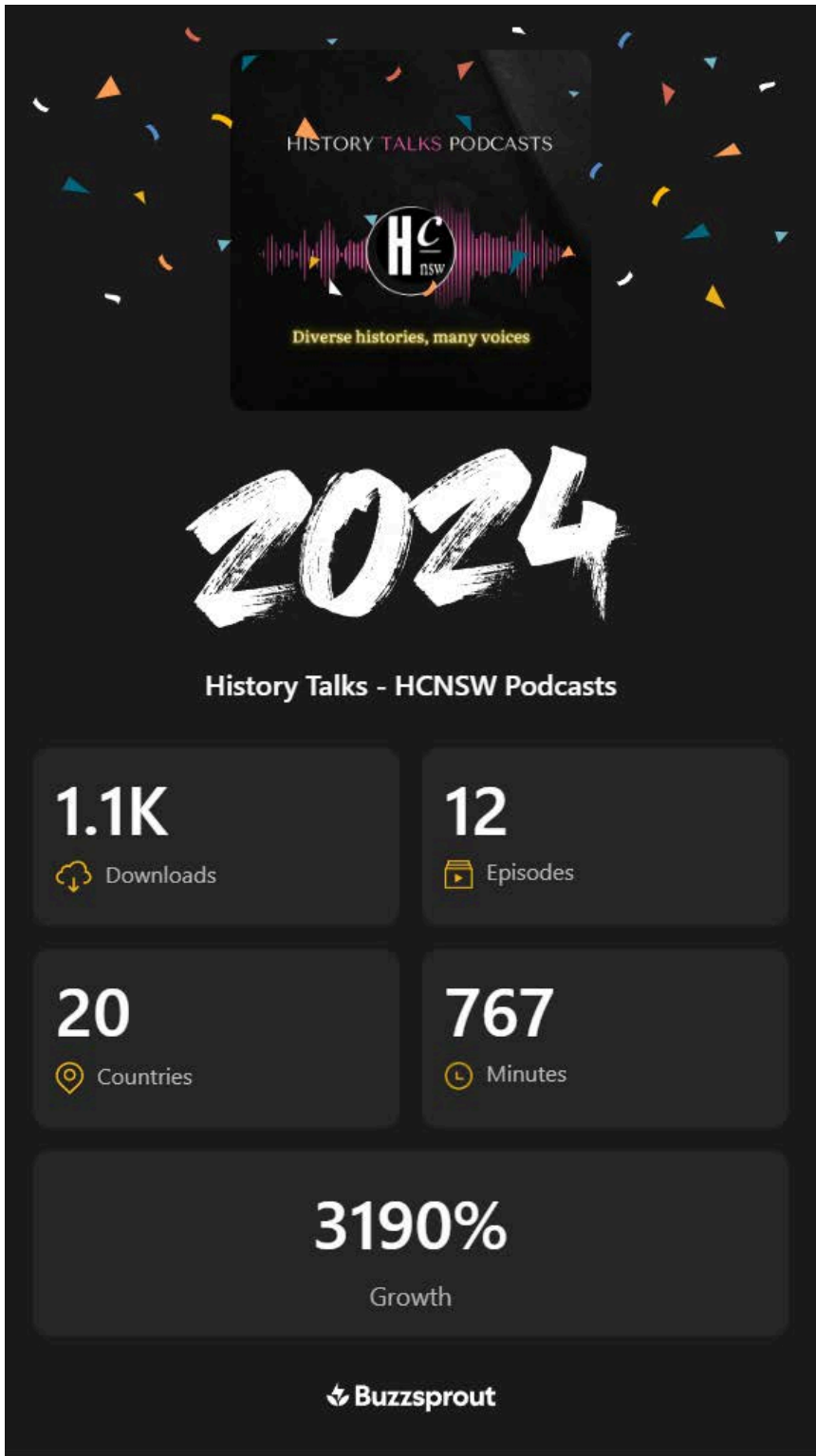
The outcome of this shift in publishing by the HCNSW has been an increase in consumption of its podcasts of events, including the **'History Now'** seminar series. The success of the series was seen in the impressive 3,190% increase in the download rate on our podcast channel, with over 1,000 downloads across the year. The most popular podcast episode was 'Histories of Mental Health,' featuring Professor Catharine Coleborne and Dr. James Dunk, with the highest download rate.

A range of events were recorded and uploaded to the HCNSW podcast platform, which streamed across to Apple and Spotify and other sundry channels, therefore increasing our audience reach and engagement.

Statistics from the HCNSW Podcast platform, BuzzSprout:







## Social Media

In 2024, the HCNSW maintained a strong social media presence, enabling it to continue to expand its core program of marketing and communicating History.

The HCNSW developed its audience engagement further in 2024, with the expansion of its Podcast channel across the Apple and Spotify platforms to encourage members and the general public to catch up on its past events. Buffer has remained the HCNSW's social media management platform for scheduling and analytics.

In 2023, the HCNSW saw an audience shift from **Facebook** to **Instagram**, and in comparison, in 2024, it saw engagement decrease on **Instagram** but increase steadily on **Facebook**. Its **LinkedIn** impressions also increased, but engagement was down.

Across the past two years, **X (Twitter)** has seen changes to its global social acceptability. However, HCNSW statistics reveal that its engagement and impression rates on **X** continue to increase in comparison to 2023. It reveals that in 2024, **X** remained one of the central points for our audience to obtain community-specific news and information, despite its issues.

HCNSW social media trends have revealed that people are experimenting with new and existing platforms such as **Facebook**, **Threads**, and **BlueSky**. This accounts for the increased engagement on **Facebook** with members attempting to shift from using **X** for their news and event announcements. The HCNSW is aiming to expand its social media presence with the launch of accounts on **Threads** and **BlueSky** at the end of the year.

HCNSW social media statistics for 2024 tell us that:

- Website engagement increased 43% between 2023 and 2024, mainly due to the increased use of the new Events Calendar, plugged into the HCNSW site.
- Social media posts across **Facebook**, **Instagram**, **LinkedIn**, and **X** continued to be popular with the HCNSW audience, with short bites of timely information and visuals about historical events being attractive and engaging for the audience.
- **Facebook** and **Instagram** continue to be a source of solid engagement for the HCNSW, with the **LinkedIn** audience growing.
- The **HCNSW podcast channel** has been successful in engaging our audience in audio content.

## Media and Communication Trends 2024

Communication Platforms	2024 Engagement	Trends compared to 2023
Podcast Downloads	1,070	Increased by 3,190%
HCNSW Website	20,000 users	Increase by 43%
Facebook Engagement	11,208	Increased by 14%
Facebook Impressions	153,011	Decreased by 38%
Twitter / X Engagement	4,240	Increased by 217%
Twitter / X Impressions	130,319	Increased by 81%
Twitter / X Followers	3,361	Decreased by 2.5%
Instagram Impressions	73,609	Decreased by 34%
Instagram Reach	42,644	Decreased by 19%
Linkedin Engagement	6.20%	Decreased by 19%
Linkedin Impressions	84,833	Increased by 39%
Newsletter Engagement	30%	Decreased by 25%

# Financial Matters

Statement of Surplus or Deficit and Other Comprehensive Income  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
<b>Income</b>	\$	\$
Operating Revenue	33,759	28,202
Other income - Grants and subsidies and subsidies	180,000	143,375
Total revenue	213,759	171,577
<b>Expenses</b>		
Accounting and audit services	(5,100)	(5,000)
Administration	(13,398)	(12,360)
Annual history lecture	(9,114)	(11,932)
Awards and prizes	(7,951)	(11,125)
Depreciation and amortisation expense	(576)	(1,031)
Employee benefits expense	(152,562)	(126,030)
Other expenses	(15,751)	(8,242)
Total expenses	(204,452)	(175,720)
<b>(Deficit)/surplus for the year</b>	<b>9,307</b>	<b>(4,143)</b>
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>9,307</b>	<b>(4,143)</b>

*The full Auditor's Report for 2024 can be made available upon request.*

## Matters in Detail

### Income and expenditure

Total income: \$213,759

- The HCNSW received one grant from Create NSW in 2024 for \$180,000.
- Our other income sources were membership subscriptions \$25,359, ticket sales \$2,157, interest \$1,243, and donations \$5,000.

Total expenses: \$204,452

- The HCNSW's main expense in 2024 was employee costs of \$152,562.
- The HCNSW ended the year with a surplus of \$9,307.

### Assets and liabilities

Total assets at the end of 2024 were \$335,286, including cash and cash equivalents of \$335,286.

Total liabilities were \$236,871, which included a Grant in Advance of \$195,000. Net assets were \$98,415.

The HCNSW remains in a secure position to continue its key activities and deliver an exciting program of events in 2025.

# Acknowledgments & Thank You

## Grants & Funding

### Principal Supporter

The History Council of New South Wales Inc. was supported in 2024 by the NSW Government through Create NSW (Arts & Cultural Funding Program).



## Cultural Partners

- City of Sydney
- Macquarie University (Faculty of Arts)
- Museums of History NSW
- National Archives of Australia
- Placemaking NSW
- Reserve Bank of Australia
- State Library of New South Wales
- University of New England
- University of Newcastle (School of Humanities, Creative Industries & Social Sciences)
- University of New South Wales (School of History & Philosophy)
- University of Technology Sydney (Australian Centre for Public History)

## Donors

- Macquarie University (Faculty of Arts) (The Macquarie-PHA Applied History Award)
- Professional Historians Association (NSW & ACT) (The Macquarie-PHA Applied History Award)
- Addison Road Community Centre (Addi Road Award for Multicultural History)
- Geoffrey Jones (Max Kelly Award)
- Emeritus Prof David Carment and Dr Stephen Gapps (First Nations History Award)
- Chau Chak Wing Museum (Venue for the 2024 Annual History Awards)
- City of Sydney (History Week flags)

# Report prepared by

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History Council of NSW Inc  
April 2025

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**HISTORY COUNCIL OF NSW, INC.**

