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Dictionary of Sydney Newsletter June 2016



Pic: A bird's eye view - Sydney Harbour Bridge c1931 Courtesy: State Records New South Wales
(12685_a007_a00704_873100053r) <http://dictionaryofsydney.org/image/94937>

Welcome to our June newsletter

The year is flying by as we prepare to move the Dictionary website to its new home at the State Library of NSW, finish up projects with our partners at the Australian National Maritime Museum, Varuna The Writers House and Transport Heritage NSW, as well as launching our latest tour, Randwick Heritage, for our app.

In April we welcomed back Dr Naomi Parry to our small team. Naomi is helping us finalise our unpublished entries. We are especially pleased to see some long awaited histories come online. Thank you to our contributors for your patience, perseverance and generosity.

We were thrilled to be part of the 2016 Sydney Writers Festival with a panel discussion on our Blue Mountains Icons project held at the Carrington Hotel in Katoomba on the 16th May. Many thanks to

our authors Delia Falconer, Julian Leatherdale, John Low and Naomi Parry, and facilitator Lisa Murray, for an engaging and inspiring discussion (and Mark O'Flynn from the floor!).

Thank you to everyone who has responded to our call for donations. If you've just made a donation - many thanks! If you would like to but haven't done so yet, you still have time before the end of the financial year. All donations are tax-deductible and every donation will help us achieve our goal of ensuring the Dictionary continues to grow.

Jacqueline Spedding

Executive Officer, Dictionary of Sydney

Phone: 02 9571 1659

Email: executiveofficer@dictionaryofsydney.org



Pic: Dr Lisa Murray (l) chairing the Dictionary of Sydney panel discussion with authors John Low, Delia Falconer, Julian Leatherdale and Naomi Parry at the Carrington Hotel. Credit: Bette Misfud, official photographer for Varuna with Sydney Writers Festival 2016

There is still time to donate!



Pic: Demonstration of the "Plus" Rapid adding machine c1937, Courtesy: Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW
(a217011 / PXE 789 (v.16), 11)

What your donation can do

The Dictionary of Sydney publishes freely accessible, reliable and authoritative information about Sydney's history. Every day we provide facts, information, images, multimedia and unique stories to a growing audience of students, teachers, history enthusiasts, researchers, residents and visitors to this beautiful city.

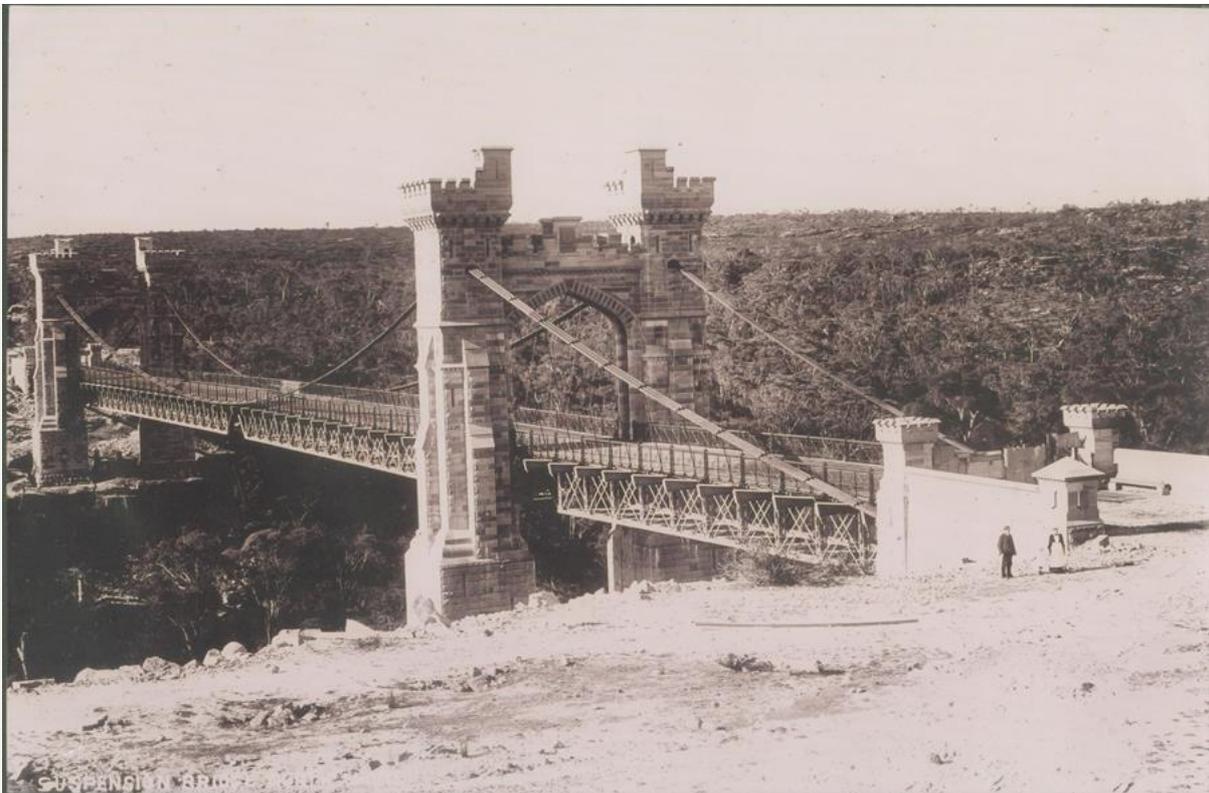
We couldn't do this without the passion, dedication and expertise of our staff, board and volunteers and the ongoing support of our project partners and contributors.

Now more than ever we need your help.

There are many people who would appreciate and use the Dictionary but don't know it exists. In order to continue to bring free, reliable and quality content to a wider audience, we need to keep growing the Dictionary. You can help! Find out what your donation can do [here](#).

DONATE TODAY

NEW to the Dictionary



Suspension Bridge looking north east c1892. Contributed by Willoughby City Library [PF 005809]

Did you know there are 712 suburbs in Sydney? Our goal is to have an entry on every suburb so we are pleased to showcase two new contributions that have made it onto our growing list.

Northbridge

Mark Butler writes about the suburb of [Northbridge](#) on Sydney's north shore. Now considered a 'hidden gem', the area didn't get an official name until 1913. There is much to explore including the suburb's Aboriginal heritage, the early days of settlement, the history of the bridge at the heart of the suburb's name, its churches, transport to the area and much more. Many thanks Mark!

Darling Point

Another long awaited suburb entry that we have recently published is Patricia Jacobsen's [Darling Point](#). Patricia has spent years researching and writing about Darling Point's significant buildings, parks and residents. We hope you take the time to explore Patricia's Darling Point history which includes six entries on the suburb's grand houses [Delamere](#), [Glenhurst](#), [Glenrock](#), [Lindesay](#) and [Carthona](#), [Mona](#) and [Greenoaks](#) and [Mount Adelaide](#) as well as three entries on [McKell Park](#), [Rushcutters Bay Park](#) and [Yarranabbe Park](#). Congratulations Patricia!



'View in Randwick - The Corner - Vauxhall Gardens Hotel' (detail), *Australian Town and Country Journal*, 16 August 1873, p208 <http://dictionaryofsydney.org/image/134805>

Randwick Heritage tour – out now

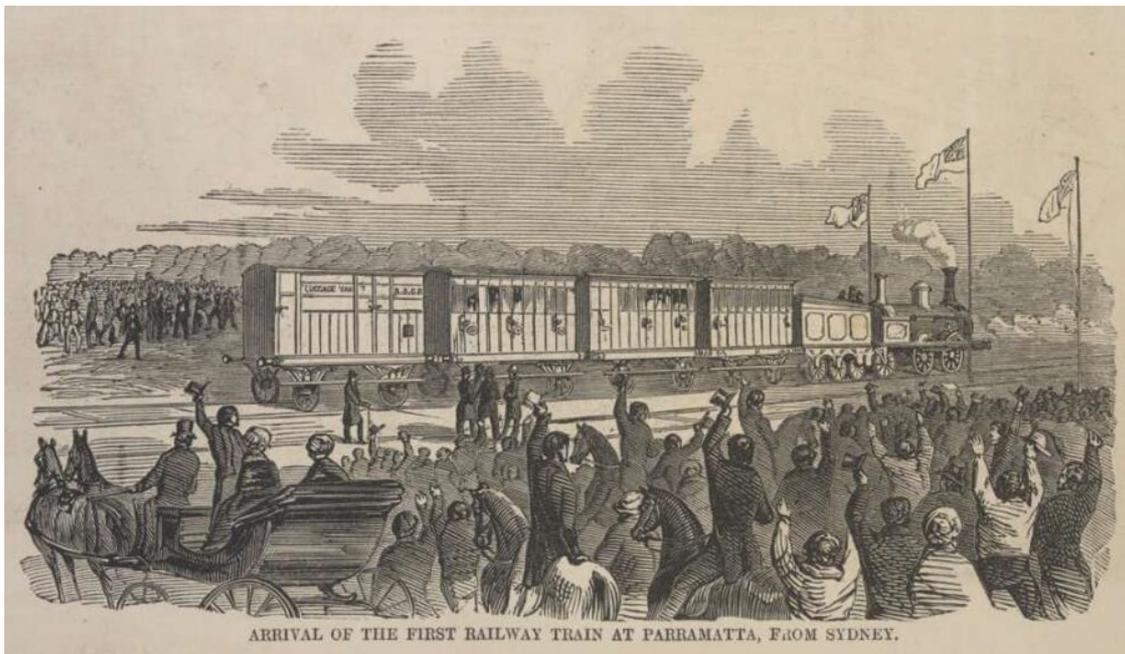
Our latest walking tour on the Dictionary of Sydney mobile app, [Randwick Heritage](#), provides a fascinating insight into Randwick's past with such stories as

- Captain Thomas Watson who had the first statue in the colony of Captain Cook erected outside his home in the Star and Garter Inn in 1874
- the Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens next to the Coach & Horses where you could visit the menagerie or play a game of skittles, and
- the world famous singer who donated the proceeds of her last Sydney show to the Destitute Children's Asylum.

Developed by the Dictionary of Sydney with support from Randwick City Council, the tour includes original text by Dr Catie Gilchrist accompanied by contemporary and historical images and GPS guided maps.

Enjoy the tour on foot or from the comfort of your home on the **Dictionary of Sydney app**, free to download to a variety of mobile devices via the [Apple](#) and [Android](#) stores.

Sydney's Railways

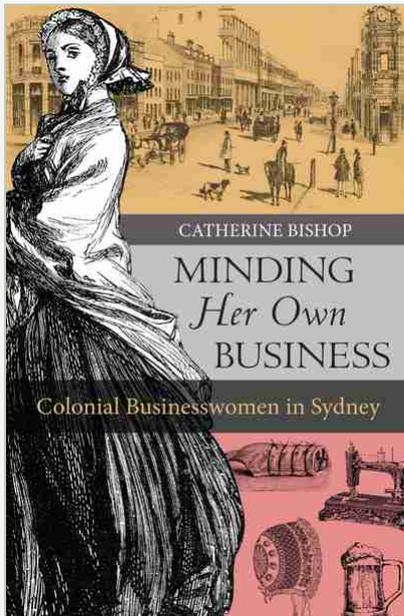


Pic: Arrival of the first railway train at Parramatta from Sydney 1857 Courtesy: National Library of Australia ([nla.pic-an8021264](#)) <http://dictionaryofsydney.org/image/18932>

The Dictionary of Sydney was delighted to partner with the [Australian Railway Historical Society](#) to publish two new essays by railway historian [Bob McKillop](#), greatly enhancing our coverage of this important aspect of Sydney's history. These fascinating entries were funded by the [Transport Heritage NSW Grants Program](#) administered by the [Royal Australian Historical Society](#).

- [The Railways of Sydney: Shaping the City and its Commerce](#) explores the role of railways in shaping the Sydney metropolis we know today
 - [Funeral Trains](#) - from 1867 through to 1948 tells the story of the branch line from the Parramatta to Sydney line that brought mourners and coffins into the Rookwood Necropolis, with grand sandstone mortuary stations at both ends.
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Book reviews

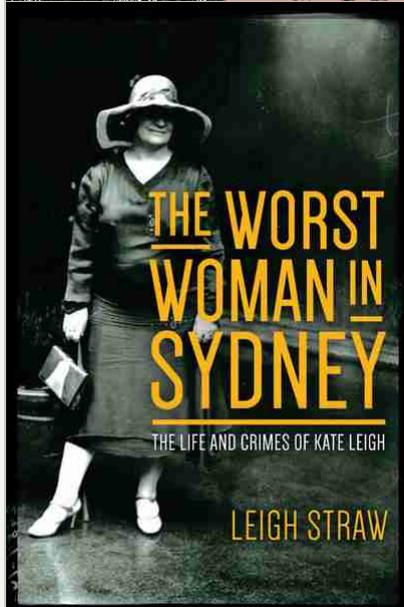


Catherine Bishop, *Minding Her Own Business: Colonial Businesswomen in Sydney*

New South, Sydney 2015, pp1-302, RRP \$39.99

In *Minding her Own Business: Colonial Business Women in Sydney*, historian Catherine Bishop adds to her wonderful Dictionary of Sydney entry [Women of Pitt Street 1858](#) and reveals more of the forgotten history of a colourful army of nineteenth century businesswomen who played a vital role in the development and growth of colonial society....

[Read more](#)

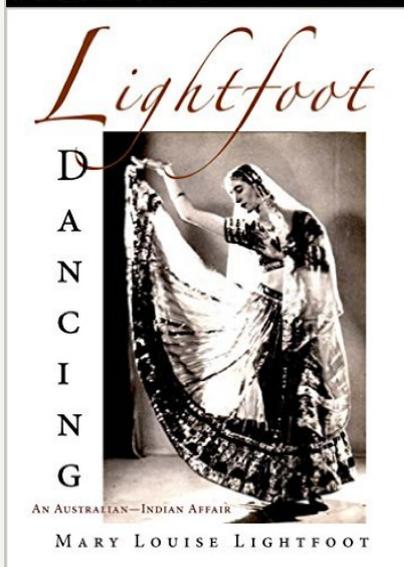


Leigh Straw, *The Worst Woman in Sydney: The Life and Crimes of Kate Leigh*

NewSouth Books, July 2016, pp1-266, RRP \$29.99

In *The Worst Woman in Sydney: The Life and Crimes of Kate Leigh*, the historian and author Leigh Straw has written the first biography of Kate Leigh, notorious underworld figure in the 1920s and 1930s. It is a fascinating read and in my opinion, utterly unputdownable – I read the entire book one rainy Saturday afternoon..

[Read more](#)



Mary Louise Lightfoot, *Lightfoot Dancing: An Australian-Indian Affair*

ISBN 978131080586 RRP \$10.99

Mary Louise Lightfoot, the author of the Dictionary of Sydney entry on dancer [Louise Lightfoot](#) has published *Lightfoot Dancing: An Australian-Indian Affair*, – part biography, part dance history, part inter-generational memoir...

[Read more](#)

[How to donate](#)



Pic: Training for the new decimal currency - a display of giant coins at the Channel 10 studio in Sydney 1965. By W Brindle. Courtesy: National Archives of Australia (A1200, L52590)

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Pic: The City of Sydney (a birdseye view), 1888 by MS Hill Courtesy: City of Sydney Archives / Historical Atlas of Sydney

<http://dictionaryofsydney.org/image/97526>



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