

Talking History events 2024

Local Studies,
Cessnock Library



Hebburn no. 1 Colliery Band, Weston, undated.

MARCH

Celebrating Cessnock's hidden herstories (International Women's Day event)

10.00am – 12.00 noon

Friday, 8 March

Cessnock Library

We don't have to look outside our own backyard to find amazing women, doing wonderful work. So why don't we know more about them? Hear the inspiring stories of hidden, local heroines at this annual event. Gold coin donation to Jodie's Place.

Bellbird Hotel: a history chat (Seniors Festival event)

10.30am – 12.30pm

Monday 11 March

Meet at Bellbird Hotel

Is the Bellbird Hotel our most haunted pub? Come and hear fascinating stories of the hotel's history and enjoy a chat with our Local Studies Librarian, Kimberly O'Sullivan.

Khartoum Hotel: a history chat (Seniors Festival event)

10.30am – 12.30pm

Monday 18 March

Meet at Khartoum Hotel, Kitchener

The Khartoum Hotel opened in 1926 as the watering hole for miners from Aberdare Central Colliery. Come and hear fascinating stories of the hotel's history and enjoy a chat with our Local Studies Librarian, Kimberly O'Sullivan.

APRIL

Cessnock School of Arts centenary (Australian Heritage Festival exhibition)

15 April – 13 May

Cessnock Library foyer

The Cessnock School of Arts building is one of our most prominent and this year is celebrating its centenary. It has been home to a hairdresser, operated as a cemetery office and even housed a Turkish baths. The School of Arts has many stories! This exhibition uncovers these and looks at the organisations which have called this magnificent building home.

MAY

Chinamans Hollow (exhibition)

14- 31 May

Cessnock Library foyer

Chinamans Hollow and Maybury Peace Park are beautiful green spaces, but what prompted the name 'Peace Park' and who was the market gardener who gave the Hollow its name? This exhibition brings the Hollow's hidden stories to light.

Exploring Chinamans Hollow (history walk)

10.00am – 12.30pm

Saturday, 18 May

Where were the market gardens which still give the Hollow its name? Come and have a look at a hidden bridge, a forgotten road and hear other stories of the Hollow. This is an easy walk, but to participate the ability to walk without restriction is necessary. Numbers are limited, so bookings are essential. Walkers will be required to sign a waiver to participate.

JUNE

Exploring Greta (history walk)

10.00am – 12.30pm

Saturday, 22 June

Greta is well known for the former Army and Migrant Camps, but there's more to its history. Join us for a walk around the town and then visit the local Museum. This is an easy walk, but to participate the ability to walk without restriction is necessary. Numbers are limited, so bookings are essential. Walkers will be required to sign a waiver to participate.

JULY

Basement tour: behind the scenes in the Local Studies collection

10.00am – 12.00 noon

Thursday, 11 July

Cessnock Library

The Local Studies Librarian will be showcasing some of the most intriguing objects in the local history collection for you to see and handle. Come along and be amazed at what we have.

AUGUST

The best free family history resources – that you've never heard of!

(Family History month)

10.00am – 12.00 noon

Monday, 12 August

Jointly presented with the Cessnock Family History Group (Monday)

It's easy to keep on using the same genealogical resources when doing family history, but what about all the sources you don't know about? So many not-online records, or lesser-known websites often fly under the research radar. Come and discover them!

SEPTEMBER

From brass bands to vineyard concerts: our musical heritage

(History Week exhibition)

1 – 30 September

Cessnock Library foyer

Our musical heritage is broad and deep, beginning with First Nations song and instruments. When Northern English and Welsh coal miners migrated in the 19th century they brought their tradition of colliery-based bands and choirs with them. Today international artists regularly play in the vineyards.

OCTOBER

Exploring Weston (history walk)

10.00am – 12.30pm

Saturday, 12 October

The private town of Weston was founded by a convict made good. What other hidden stories lie here? Join us on a history walk around Weston while we uncover its secrets. This is an easy walk, but to participate the ability to walk without restriction is necessary. Numbers are limited, so bookings are essential. Walkers will be required to sign a waiver to participate.

NOVEMBER

Exploring Ellalong (history walk)

10.00am – 12.30pm

Saturday, 16 November

The town of Ellalong is overlooked by the beautiful Myall Range. Cedar cutters once lived here, then coal miners and now it is a Hunter Valley haven. Come and take a wander around town while we discover some of its history. This is an easy walk, but to participate the ability to walk without restriction is necessary. Numbers are limited, so bookings are essential. Walkers will be required to sign a waiver to participate.

Do you want to come to these free Talking History events?

*Bookings are essential for all events. By booking in you assure your place. All bookings are done via Eventbrite, an online booking system, on the Library website:
<https://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/libraries/Home>*

*At the Library home page choose 'What's On', 'Adults', then scroll down, choose your event and follow the steps. You will receive a confirmation email with your tickets. No computer? No problem! The Librarians will help you with your booking.
Phone: 4993-4399.*