

2026 Bayside Local History Awards

Historian in Residence Program

Guidelines



Introduction

Bayside Council manages significant local history collections through its libraries, including the Local History Collections at Mascot Library & George Hanna Museum and at Rockdale Library. These collections preserve and provide access to the history of the Bayside area for its community and for future generations.

The Historian in Residence Program invites qualified historians, heritage professionals or those with other relevant qualifications and experience to undertake research on a specific topic related to Bayside and produce a written work that will provide substantial new information on an under-researched or little-known aspect of Bayside's history. All research will become part of Council's Local History Collection and will be made accessible on Council's online platforms.

Council's aim is to not only recognise historical work but to actively commission new historical knowledge for public use and long-term community benefit.

Program and Position Overview

The Historian in Residence will undertake an original research project focused on Bayside's history, drawing on Council's Local History Collections at Mascot Library & George Hanna Museum and Rockdale Library, as well as other relevant archival sources. Projects will address identified gaps in Bayside's historical records.

The timing of the Historian in Residence appointment will be negotiated; however, the successful applicant will be contracted for a period of four months and completion will be required by 30 June 2027.

Position Payment and Support

The Historian will receive a payment of \$10,000 for completing the project, which will be paid in instalments negotiated in relation to an agreed project plan and linked to agreed deliverables.

Access will be provided to Bayside Council's Local History Collection and support will be provided by the Library's Local History Team.

Application Requirements & Submission

Applicants must submit an Application Form including:

- A proposed research topic aligned with the themes outlined below or addressing a gap in Bayside's history
- Examples of previous work
- Relevant qualifications

- Names of referees
- Current CV

Application Forms should be emailed to: local_history@bayside.nsw.gov.au

Identified Subjects for Research

Applicants are encouraged to consider the following themes:

- A First Nations history of the Bayside area
- Cultural or migrant histories
- Histories focusing on individuals or groups not widely represented in existing histories
- Histories of the industries or workers along the shores of Botany Bay, the Georges River or the Cooks River
- Industrial histories, including the decline or relocation of industries and industries' impacts on land and communities
- Military histories, particularly local involvement in post-WWII conflicts such as the Vietnam War
- Convict settlers in the Bayside area

Applicants are also encouraged to propose original topics of their own choosing that address gaps in Bayside's historical record. Applicants should discuss their proposed topic with a member of the Local History Team before submitting their Application Form.

Program Outcomes / Deliverables

The Historian in Residence will be required to deliver:

- A major formal research report
- Three written local history stories/essays of 1,000 words each with captioned images and a bibliography
- Supporting images and research material, and any other relevant material such as oral histories gathered during the research process
- Public-facing interpretative content for Council use (e.g., photos for Flashback Friday Facebook posts and/or short articles for Council social media posts)
- At least one public presentation or talk

Conditions

All work produced will be added to Bayside Council's Local History Collections and made publicly accessible on Council's website.

Bayside Council will retain the right to publish and use all material created and supplied by the Historian in Residence in any format without further permission or remuneration. Images or associated material supplied must be able to be used without restriction. The Historian will be acknowledged as author at point of exhibition and access.

The successful applicant must produce original research that is his or her own work. Any use that is made of any AI tools or technologies in the research process must be stated and acknowledged.

Selection Criteria

Applicants will be assessed based on:

- Strength and relevance of proposed topic
- Demonstrated historical research and writing capability
- Relevant tertiary qualifications in history or other related disciplines or professional experience
- Demonstrated ability to write accessibly for a general audience and to communicate and engage with community members
- Familiarity with Australian copyright legislation, intellectual property and privacy legislation and the ability to apply these to the creation of historical works
- Possession of an ABN and relevant professional indemnity and public liability insurance

Key Dates

Applications open: 14 August 2026

Applications close: 18 September 2026

Applicants notified: November 2026

Project period: 2026–2027

Project completion date: 30 June 2027

Enquiries

For enquiries or further information, contact Bayside Council's Local History team on local_history@bayside.nsw.gov.au or visit www.bayside.nsw.gov.au