

Crime & Punishment

WALKING TOURS

*Interactive tours and activities
designed for HSIE students
in NSW*



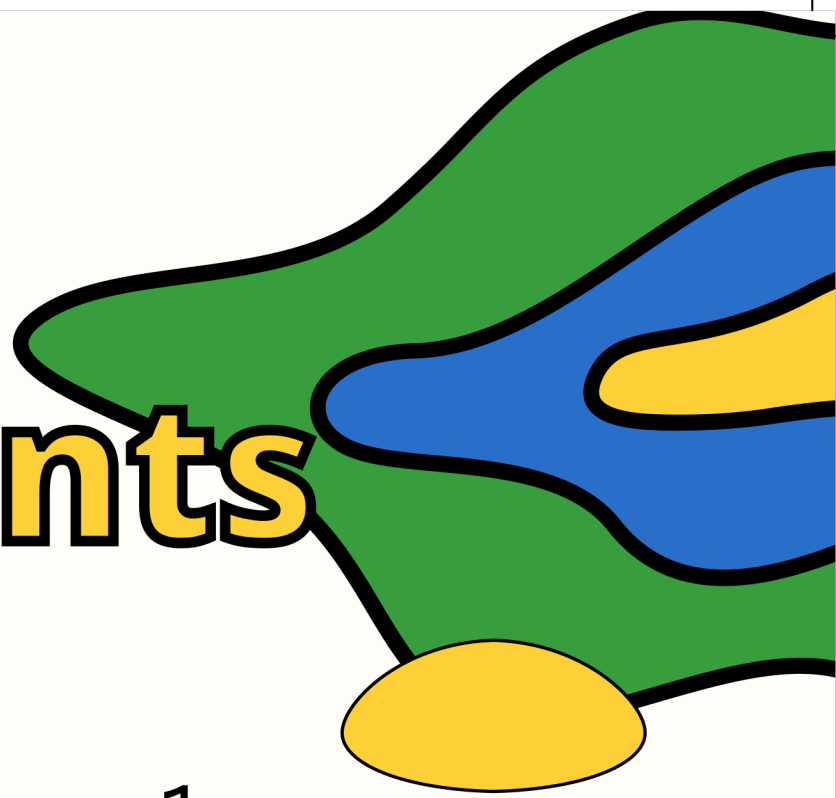
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About

Murders Most Foul is the historical true crime wing of *Walk Talk Explore*, it Sydney's most popular crime & punishment themed historical tour operator.

Murders Most Foul was established in 2020 by historian Elliot Lindsay. Since then he has guided thousands of people through the historical laneways and streets of Surry Hills and Darlinghurst. The aim of each tour is to change how people view, experience and learn history. This is achieved by exploring big picture historical topics from the perspectives of communities and everyday people. Exploring neighbourhoods with preserved heritage so students can see and feel exactly the same cobble roads and buildings as the characters in the stories did. But most importantly we make sure our tours are entertaining, engaging and fun.



We bring this approach to teaching history to high school students as well. Our Crime & Punishment tours have been crafted to supplement NSW HSIE educators and offer depth and diversity to the teaching of history elective subjects.



Our

Mission

CRIME SCENE CRIME SCENE CRIME SCENE CRIME SCENE CRIME SCENE

1

Creating fun and interactive ways for students to learn about 'crime & punishment' with historical criminal cases involving real people, at the actual crime scenes.

2

To encourage students' interest in and enjoyment of exploring the past, to develop a critical understanding of the past, and to enable them to participate as informed, responsible and active citizens.

3

Showing students that sources are not just found in textbooks; while also impressing the importance of evaluating the historical reliability of a source.

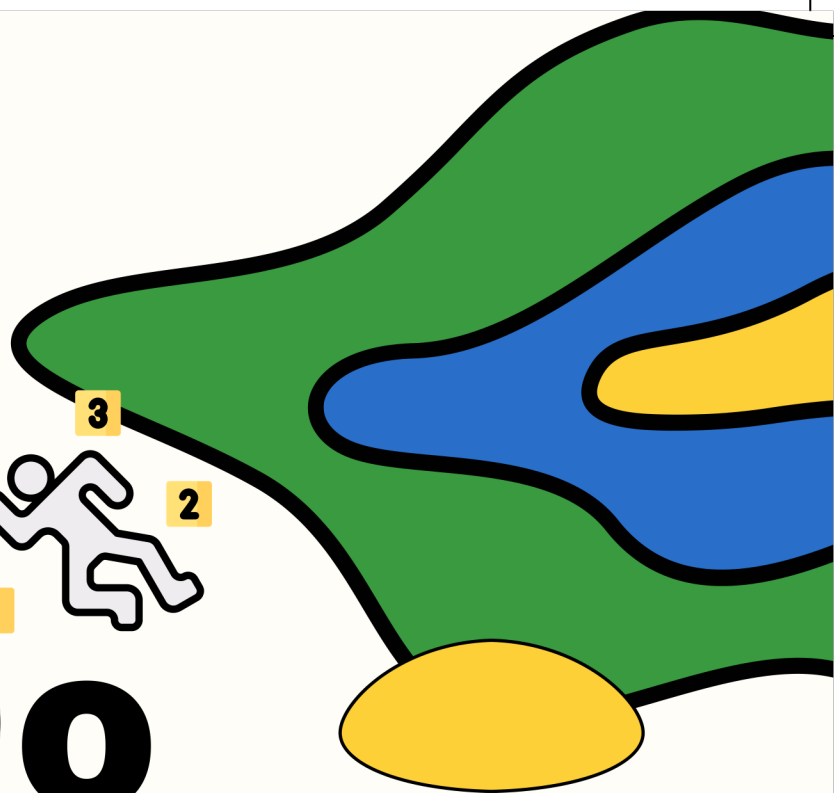
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Creating quality content and material to compliment and supplement the coursework and study plans of NSW HSIE teachers (*It is especially important that our content is interesting for teachers as well*).



What

We Do



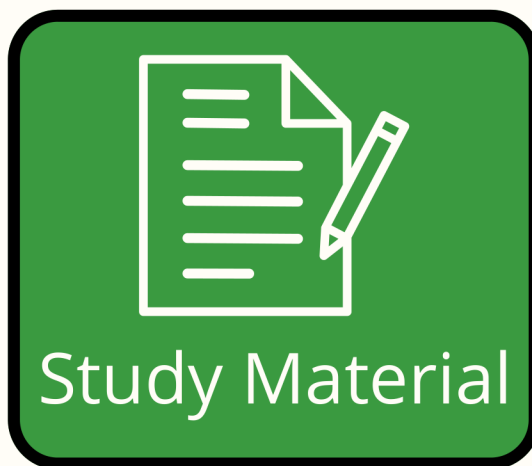
History Tours



History Talks



Mock Trials



Study Material





Surry Hills Walking Tour



2 Hours



Central Station



Criminal Justice, Social Change, Women in History

On this tour, students will meander through dark alleys and winding lanes, exploring Surry Hills, the centre of vice and crime during the 20th century. They will investigate historical crime scenes from between 1820 and 1960 and stand at the exact spot where police conducted their investigations. Using real police evidence, students will retrace the steps of detectives and unravel the mysteries of the case, learn about the criminal justice proceedings and the reaction of the public and press.

Students will stand amongst historical buildings while studying the past using various mediums of primary sources including photos, coroners reports, newspaper articles and the bricks and stones crafted by convicts.





Surry Hills

Content

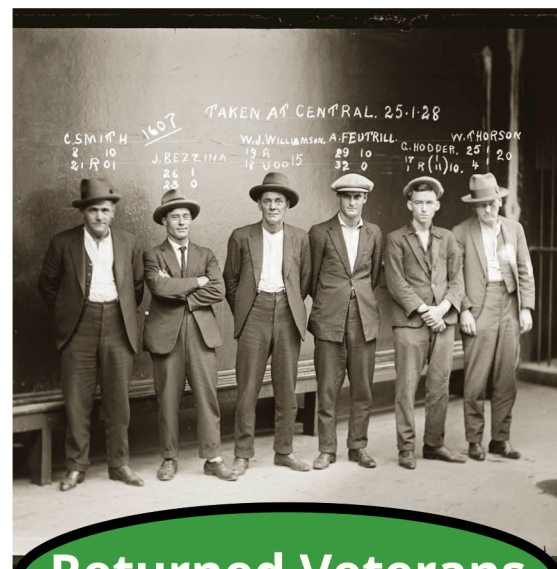


Each case explored is framed within the context of a community going through a period of instability and major social changes. Surry Hills was an affluent neighbourhood in the 1880s with so little crime it didn't need a police station. After the depression of 1890, Surry Hills underwent a demographic change that resulted in it becoming one of the most underprivileged and dangerous places in Australia for nearly a century.



**Larrikins &
The Push**

Between 1880 and 1910 the suburbs of Sydney were teeming with street gangs. These gangs had crazy names and would fight each other for control of the neighbourhoods. Students will learn about the *Gipps Street Push*, their war with the *Redfern Push* and the Crown Street riot.

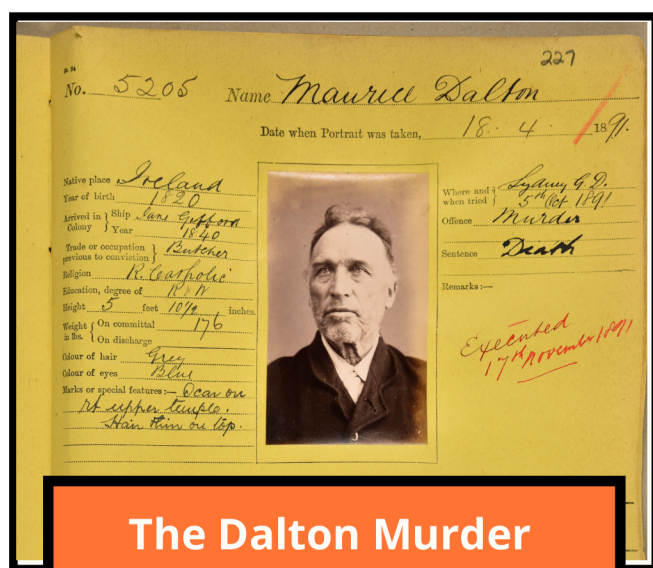


Returned Veterans

In 1919, the veterans of the First World War returned to Sydney. Most readjusted back into civilian life, but a portion did not. Students will discover the long term ramifications the war had on working class communities.

Surry Hills

Featured Stories



The Dalton Murder

In this case, students explore justice, prejudice, and the legal system. Focused on the accused, Maurice Dalton, convicted in 1891, on circumstantial evidence, of murdering his wife. Students will assess trial fairness and the "beyond any reasonable doubt" standard. Maurice's criminal past adds ethical complexity, prompting bias questioning. Discussions cover justice system flaws, historical context, and multidimensional analysis. This scenario enlightens students about legal processes, biases, and the multifaceted quest for justice.

Students will feel roused into debating whether the crown hanged a guilty man.



Sophia Street Mystery

In 1922, Francis Charles Kennedy was found murdered in Australia's most dangerous street. A witness accuses two known violent criminals; however, her evidence is inconsistent and problematic. Students will explore the crime scene, investigate the evidence and learn the importance of a coronial inquest. Students will be encouraged to analyse this case and debate the coroners decision. As more information is revealed about the identity of the witness, students will feel compelled to speculate on who was the true killer in this 100 year old cold case mystery.

This case features in the Justice & Police Museum.



Darlinghurst Walking Tour



2 Hours



Museum Station

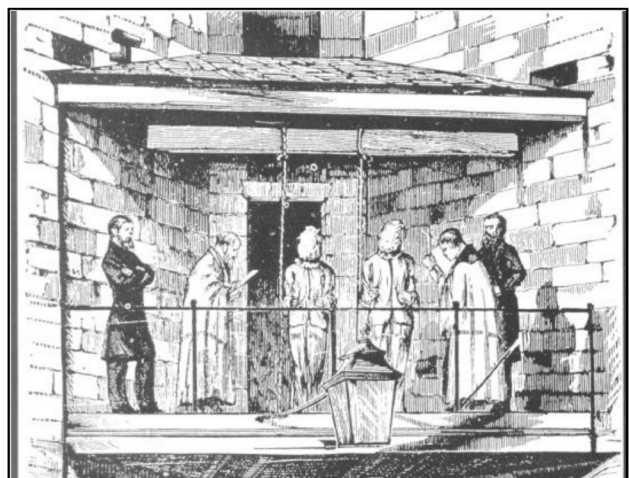


**Criminal Justice, LGBT History, Women in History,
WWII History, and African American History**

On this tour, students will explore the most notorious suburb in Australian history. Darlinghurst was a relatively well to do neighbourhood in the 19th century until it was transformed by the 1890s depression. How did a rich suburb become a slum?

Students will learn about the social upheavals of the depression and its effect on the suburbs demography. Starting in Hyde Park, students will discover the history and evolution of Sydney's 'red light district' starting in the park and winding down the lanes into Darlinghurst. They will hear about the two queens of the underworld, Tilly Devine & Kate Leigh, visiting their homes, and walking the battle grounds of the Razor Wars. Students will learn the history of Darlinghurst's LGBT community going back as far as the 1880s and the prejudices they faced.

The back lanes are full of secrets, including long forgotten crime scenes, which students will investigate using real crime scene evidence. They will then discuss the investigation, the trial and the sentence. Which will take us to the gates of the old *Darlinghurst Gaol* where many of the characters on our tour spent time as Her Majesty's guest.





Darlinghurst

Content

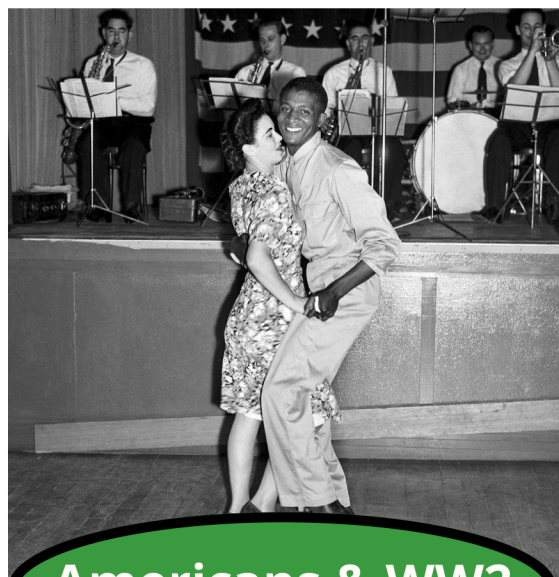


Each case explored is framed within the context of a community going through a period of instability and major social changes. Darlinghurst was an affluent neighbourhood in the 1880s. After the depression of 1890, Surry Hills underwent a demographic change that resulted in it becoming one of the most underprivileged and dangerous places in Australia. By the 1920s, it was the centre of Sydney's sex industry, sly-grog trade and the Razor Wars.



The Razor Wars

In the roaring 20s, the world of organised crime was dominated by men. Everywhere, except in Darlinghurst where the underworld was ruled by two women. Tilly Devine and Kate Leigh. In 1927, these two women went to war against each other. A period of violence known as the Razor Wars.



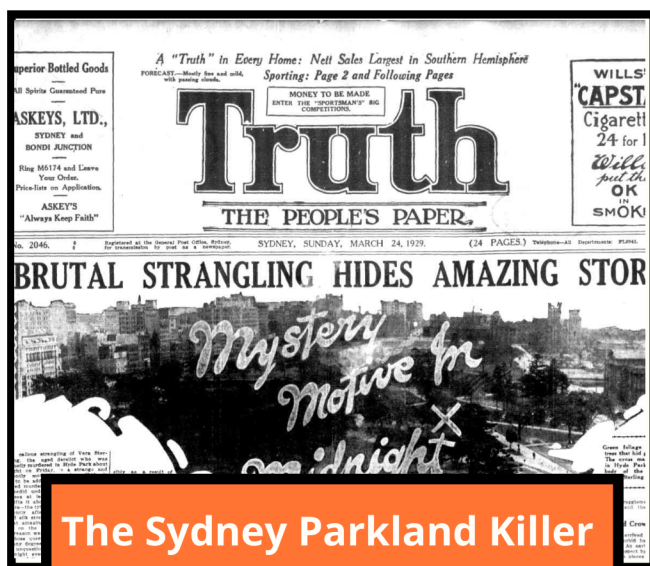
Americans & WW2

During WW2, thousands of African American Servicemen came to Sydney for R&R. Serving in a racially segregated military, they were forced to stay within the Darlinghurst 'black only' ghetto and were treated poorly by US military police. This shameful period of Sydney history has long been conveniently forgotten.



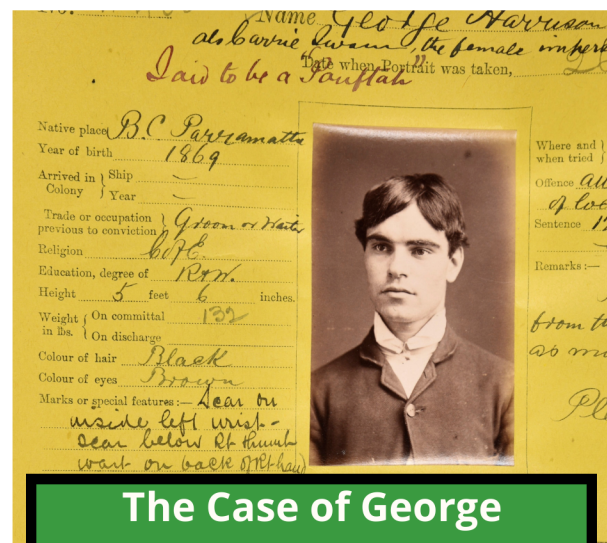
Darlinghurst

Featured Stories



The Sydney Parkland Killer

In the 1920s, only a few sex workers remained in Hyde Park, one of them was Vera Sterling, a woman born into a rich family but who fell into a life of alcoholism and destitution. In 1929, she was found murdered with her arms tied together with a silk stocking. At the scene of this crime, students will review the case and contemplate the seeming lacking interest of police to solve this horrible crime. Did her profession and position in society influence their opinion? Even when the press identified two similar murders in the same area, the police did not consider them related. We now know there were almost a dozen similar murders. Was it a serial killer? Could police have done more?



**The Case of George
"Carrie Swain" Tremain**

In 1891, a mansion in Woollahra was robbed by the butler who was later arrested and sentenced to seven years in prison. Why was he given such a harsh sentence? Was it perhaps because the butler, George Tremain, was a known homosexual who had been arrested on countless occasions around Hyde Park and Darlinghurst in drag? In an age when being gay was a taboo and practically illegal, Tremain, who went by the name, *Carrie Swain*, was a visual member of a secret LGBT community centred around Hyde Park. A community that was forced to hide in the shadows until they came out loud and proud in the 1970s.



Student Tour Inclusions

Guided Tour



A gentle, structured walking tour:

- Led by a qualified historian specialising in Sydney's true crime history.
- Lasting approximately two hours, starting at a city train station.
- We can host a tour any day or time of the week.

Casefiles eBook



Every student is provided with a *Casefiles* eBook that contains:

- A general history of the area which the students will be exploring. Summarising what they learned from the guide.
- Primary sources relating to each case including genuine crime scene evidence used in court, photographs, newspaper articles, coroners reports and witness interviews.
- All references are listed, making it a great document to study and discuss in the classroom after the tour.

**Ask us about our
customisable
options**



FAQ



Are any of the tours wheelchair accessible?

Yes, the Surry Hills Tour. We provide a free ticket for travel companions and helpers.

Do your guides have NSW Working with Children Certificates (WWCC)?

Yes, and it will be presented to you at your convenience.

Are the tours insured?

Yes, we are insured for \$10,000,000 public liability by QBE Insurance Australia.

Are teachers required to purchase a ticket?

No, all teachers and support staff attend free.

Can a historian do a lecture at our school?

Yes, this is certainly something we can do with a slide show and props.

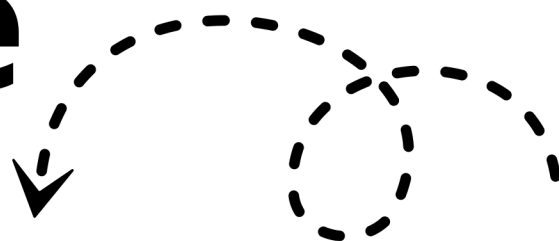
If there are some subjects and topics we feel are not appropriate for our students, can we request they be omitted?

Yes, we understand that some of the subject matter we approach on these tours is not suitable for everyone hence we are able to a) remove it or b) discuss it in a more sensitive manner.

Do you have more questions? contact us.



Meet Our Guide




Elliot Lindsay

Elliot is a University of Sydney qualified historian and archaeologist who specialises in Sydney's historical underworld and fringe communities. Slums, pubs, larrikins, the push, razor gangs, the East Sydney red light district and early LGBT communities are just some of the topics. He founded Murders Most Foul historical tours in 2020 and has since taken thousands of people around the streets of Surry Hills and Darlinghurst. Besides hosting walking tours, Elliot also hosts historical crime-themed talks across New South Wales.



Contact Us

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