



## **2026 Jack Marsh Lecture**

### **Expression of Interest Sydney Cricket Ground, SCG Heritage Trust Committee and Venues NSW**

#### **1. Introduction**

Venues NSW invites Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for the 2026 Jack Marsh History Lecture, an annual research initiative established to foster innovative scholarship relating to the history of the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) precinct.

Revitalised by Venues NSW as part of the ongoing work of the SCG Heritage Trust Committee, the lecture aims to deepen public understanding while celebrating and preserving the cultural, social and sporting significance of the SCG precinct.

This initiative is supported through a generous donation from private benefactors of the former SCG Trust.

#### **2. About the Jack Marsh Research Grant**

Each year, a one-off research grant of \$10,000 is awarded to individual undertaking original research leading to the delivery of the Jack Marsh Lecture.

The lecture must align with the SCG Museum's narrative thematic framework (Point 4 & Annex A), and research may be delivered in print, audio, visual, or mixed-media formats.

The final research outputs—including papers, presentations and recordings—will be considered for inclusion into SCG Museum exhibitions and heritage interpretation projects, with the researcher retaining copyright while granting Venues NSW non-commercial usage rights.

#### **3. Scope of Research**

EOIs are invited on any aspect of the social, economic, political, or sporting history of the SCG precinct—past or present—including:

- Sydney Cricket Ground
- Sydney Cricket Ground No. 2
- Sydney Sports Ground
- Sydney Football Stadium
- Victoria Barracks and Military history in establishing the Grounds

Submissions may explore:

- A specific topic that aligns with one or more of the seven SCG Museum narrative themes (clause 4 and Annex A)
- Historic events (sporting or non-sporting) or notable historical figures
- Experiences of SCG members, the public, or visitors

#### **4. SCG Museum Narrative Core Themes (Annex A)**

Applicants are encouraged to align their proposed research with one or more of the following thematic areas:

1. Our Site: from First Nations history to the evolution of the SCG precinct
2. Our Identity - cultural growth through sport, including politics, social change, and urban life
3. Our community: shared generational experiences of sport and culture
4. Australia's Sporting Stage: sport by code, event, team and individual performance
5. Women in Sport - Sisterhood: contributions of women sport pioneers and changing representation
6. Sports Science: evolution and impact of science, data collection, analytics on athletes across disciplines
7. Digital Sport, Media & Virtual Experiences: the re-imagining of sport in digital environments at the SCG precinct

#### **5. About Jack Marsh (Annex C)**

The lecture honours Jack Marsh, a Bundjalung man born around 1874, who emerged as a prodigious athlete and one of the fastest bowlers in early Australian cricket.

Despite his talent, Marsh faced controversy regarding his bowling action and significant racial discrimination that impeded his career—an issue now well-documented by historians.

He remains a symbolic figure representing the struggles of many Aboriginal sportspeople whose potential was constrained by prevailing political and social forces.

#### **6. Eligibility**

EOIs are open to:

- Independent researchers
- Historians and academics
- Postgraduate students
- Museum, archival and cultural sector practitioners
- Writers, documentarians and multimedia storytellers

Applicants may come from any discipline, provided the proposed research aligns with the thematic scope.

#### **7. Submission Requirements**

Your Expression of Interest should include:

1. Project Title
2. Research Summary (max. 500 words) outlining the topic, significance and relevance to SCG Museum themes
3. Methodology & Proposed Format (e.g., written, oral history, film, audio documentary)
4. Connection to SCG precinct history
5. Proposed outputs (research paper, lecture plan, multimedia materials etc.)

6. Curriculum Vitae (max. 3 pages)
7. Examples of previous work (optional but encouraged)

## **8. Assessment Criteria**

EOIs will be assessed on:

- Strength and originality of proposed topic
- Alignment with SCG Museum narrative thematic framework.
- Research viability within the provided timeframe
- Contribution to understanding SCG's cultural, social or sporting heritage
- Researcher's demonstrated capability

Venues NSW will oversee advertising, engagement, selection and delivery of the lecture.

## **9. Key Dates (Annex B)**

- EOI submission due: 30 April 2026
- Researcher appointment: 30 May 2026 – *\$2,500 released*
- First draft due: 15 August 2026 – *\$3,000 released*
- Final research delivered: 30 October 2026 – *\$3,000 released*
- Lecture presentation: *Date to be agreed* – *\$1,500 released*

## **10. Lodging an Expression of Interest**

Please submit all EOI materials as a single PDF or Word file to:

SCG Heritage Trust Committee

Email: [rina.hore@venuesnsw.com](mailto:rina.hore@venuesnsw.com)

Subject line: EOI - 2026 Jack Marsh History Lecture

## **11. Enquiries**

For questions or assistance, please contact:

Phillip Heads, Group General Manager Heritage, Community and Communications

[Phillip.Heads@venuesnsw.com](mailto:Phillip.Heads@venuesnsw.com) or

Rina Hore, Museum Operations [Rina.Hore@venuesnsw.com](mailto:Rina.Hore@venuesnsw.com) - 0408253800