18 APRIL 2018
THE JIM KERR ADDRESS ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR MONUMENTS AND SITES

GUEST SPEAKER: DR LISA MURRAY
Dr Lisa Murray is the City Historian, overseeing a diverse program at the City of Sydney Council encompassing community, civic and urban history. With over 15 years of experience in the field of public history, Lisa is passionate about making history accessible to the public. Lisa is the award winning author and a regular contributor to debates around public history, including being a speaker at TEDxSydney in 2013. Her most recent books are Sydney Cemeteries: A Field Guide (New South Publishing, 2016), which won a National Trust Heritage Award, and Our City: 175 Years in 175 Objects, an expansive catalogue for the anniversary exhibition at Sydney Town Hall in 2017. Lisa is currently writing a history of Australian Cemeteries. Other research interests include history in the digital age; sensory urbanism; history and creative practice; landscapes and memory; the Dictionary of Sydney; Sydney music; and Sydney cookery books.

ABSTRACT
Public monuments and memorials have been a vital form of commemoration that have shaped our collective memory and understanding of history for generations. Monuments have been erected by governments and institutions, private citizens through public subscriptions, and by individuals. They function to reinforce power and privilege, shaping public narratives. Memorials help people to remember, but at the same time they also assist in the art of forgetting. The meaning and social values of monuments are never static. Monuments take on layers of meaning through interpretation, cultural practices, re-inscribing and protest. Using the statue of Captain Cook in Sydney’s Hyde Park as a case study, this lecture will reflect upon how the social values of monuments evolve and the challenges in addressing conflicting memories, both European and Aboriginal social values, in our public monuments.

OUR MC FOR 2018:
Laura Matarese, Planning and Heritage Policy Officer at the Sydney Opera House Winner of the Australia ICOMOS Presidents’ Award 2017.