

## Eskbank House & Museum

Eskbank House was built on Wiradjuri land by Alexander Binning for Thomas Brown in 1842. It has been at the heart of Lithgow's history including the mining and iron industries. In 1966 it was opened as one of the first house museums in NSW.

The museum houses the Bracey Furniture Collection, the Nationally Significant Lithgow Pottery Collection, many objects from the history of the ironworks in Lithgow, including Possum the Locomotive, and other items that tell the social story of Lithgow.

Visitors to the museum can enjoy a group tour of the museum or wander by themselves amongst the buildings and gardens. The Courtyard Gallery hosts regularly changing art exhibitions of community and professional art.

Eskbank House also hosts music concerts, plays, and themed events such as the Garden Parties, Eskbank Steampunk and a Halloween Event. The grounds and enclosed Courtyard are available for hire for events and weddings.

# Eskbank News

## July & Aug 2016

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## ESKBANK STEAMPUNK

**1-5pm Saturday 30 July 2016**

### Tickets

**Adults \$40, Children 5-12 \$20,**

**Children under 5 free**

**Call 1300 76 02 76 to book**



## TOP HAT WORKSHOP

**10am – 12 pm Saturday 9 July**

**Cost \$60 (Pay at Workshop)**

**Bookings Essential: 6351 3557**

Join costumier Bess Elwell-Cook to create your own spectacular Steampunked Top Hat. Learn how to attach cogs, goggles, ribbons, feathers, brass and chains to the hats, then take these skills home to create your own full Steampunk outfit.

Suitable for men, women and children over eight.

Workshop includes all materials including the top hat.



Eskbank Steampunk returns in 2016 with amusements, delicious victuals and merriment for all.

This year Eskbank Steampunk will provide a plethora of experiences for you to participate in. Compete in the noble arts of tea and parasol duelling. Test your talents at croquet, badminton and quoits. Explore the penny farthing display. Get your hands on the Eskbank House collection of blacksmith tools, saddlery and gadgets. Add your punked up gun to the Lithgow Living History Firearms display, dating back to 1720. Pose with Possum our Locomotive, the Pioneer Roller or Buffalo Pitts Steam Engine. And have your photo taken by professional photographers in our Victorian Antique Furniture Display.

The Ladies of the Vale will once again be providing a magnificent High Tea for your enjoyment. Sit and sup on their delicious cakes, scones and savouries while our Wandering Minstrels entertain you. Then browse the specialty Steampunk Markets which will be in the Courtyard for you to purchase a memento of your day.

Most importantly arrive in your most splendiferous attire to turn Eskbank Steampunk into a true Victorian Village of the future. There will be a range of prizes for costume and accessories culminating with the crowning of the King and Queen of Eskbank.

The finale of the day will be the inaugural Great Eskbank Tea Pot Race. Bring along your teapot to compete or cheer for your favourite beautified vehicles as they negotiate the obstacle course and drag race each other to be the Eskbank Tea Pot Champion for 2016.



## Eskbank House & Museum

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## Future Happenings

- Sept—*Primary By Design Exhibition.*
- Sept 9—Mitchell Conservatorium Concert, *Phillip Braithewaite*
- Oct—Artist Community Galleries Exhibition and workshops, *Antony Symons*
- Oct 1—Blaxland and daughter play, *Matilda Fish and the Bushranger*



## Masters of Iron and Steel Exhibition

**2 July - 28 August 2016**  
**Courtyard Gallery**



Eskbank House was at the heart of Australia's Industrial Revolution which began in Lithgow in the late eighteen hundreds. From mining magnate Thomas Brown to the indomitable Hoskins Brother's, the Eskbank Estate was an empire of the Lithgow Steel and Iron Industries. The Eskbank Manufacturing Collection contains many objects that tell the history of this exciting time and the stories of the Masters of Iron and Steel and will be on display in the Courtyard Gallery for July and August.



## Eskbank Explorers

**Friday 8 and 15 July 2016**

**10am – 4pm**

**Entry fees apply.**

**No additional charge for activities.**

Transform into an explorer for the day at Eskbank House with one of our Lucky Dip missions.

Discover how archaeologist since ancient Chinese times have used rubbings to document objects then use this technique to create your own rubbings journal.

Learn some of the stories of Eskbank House and use watercolours or chalk pastels to create an illustration of the tale.

Choose your favourite treasure at Eskbank House and chart a treasure map to it.

Then take your finished mission to the front counter to receive your reward.

## Collection News

### The Drawing Room

During May and June the team at Eskbank have been doing an extensive and thorough conservation clean of the Drawing Room at Eskbank House.

Two of the pieces in the Drawing Room have been of particular interest as they belonged to Major and Mrs EH Bracey. It was their son Eric Bracey who saved Eskbank House and, with the Lithgow District History Society, restored it and turned it into the museum we have today.

The smoking hat of Major Bracey is a deep blue with gold embroidery. It was worn in the privacy of their home by gentlemen to keep the smell of smoke out of one's hair and to keep warm in drafty rooms.

This exquisite water colour of flowers was painted in 1880 by Miss Alice Pearce who later became Mrs EH Bracey. Ladies in Australia in the nineteenth century often painted flora and fauna as a hobby and this has become a valuable record of our countries environment.

Both objects are on display in the Bracey Collection.