

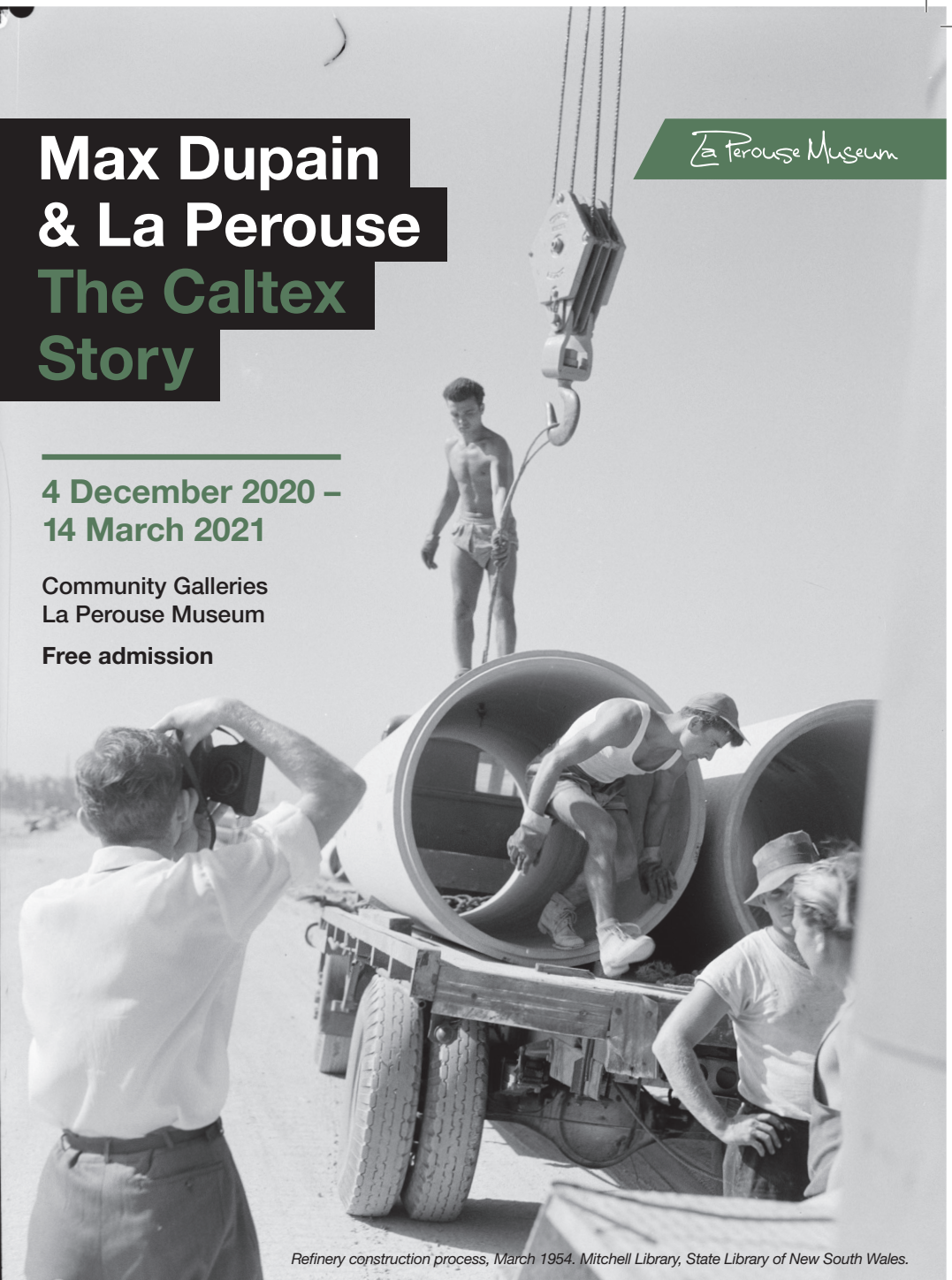
Max Dupain & La Perouse The Caltex Story

La Perouse Museum

**4 December 2020 –
14 March 2021**

Community Galleries
La Perouse Museum

Free admission



Refinery construction process, March 1954. Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales.

**Randwick City Council
and La Perouse Museum
acknowledge the Bidjigal
and the Gadigal people who
occupied the Sydney Coast,
as the Traditional Custodians
of the area on which the
Museum stands and serves.
We acknowledge and pay our
respects to the Elders past,
present, and emerging.**

*Caltex Refueller, September 1954. Mitchell Library,
State Library of New South Wales.*

Iconic Australian photographer Max Dupain was commissioned by Caltex in the 1950s to create a portfolio capturing Kurnell and La Perouse in Kamay Botany Bay. This exhibition explores what has been lost, and what still stands, through Dupain's distinctive lens.

Max Dupain was born in Sydney in 1911 and lived there all his life, photographing the city and its people for over fifty years. Though most Australians know and love his beach photography, he was also passionate about architecture and was often commissioned by commercial clients to document new infrastructure across Sydney.



His philosophy of *simplicity and directness* is reflected in his love of black and white photography, at a time when colour was widely available.

After Dupain returned from WWII he turned away from the artifice of advertising photography to a more documentary style. This also reflected his increasing interest in the social responsibility of filmmakers.

The La Perouse Museum team discovered this intriguing portfolio in the State Library of New South Wales collection, described as “The Caltex Story.”

Caltex constructed the Oil Refinery at Kurnell in 1953, and commissioned Dupain to document the project over several years.

The vignette of a moment within daily life is at the heart of ‘Max Dupain and La Perouse: The Caltex Story.’ Buildings that still survive today are imbued with timelessness while infrastructure that no longer survives, was burned down or washed away, now cast long and poignant shadows.



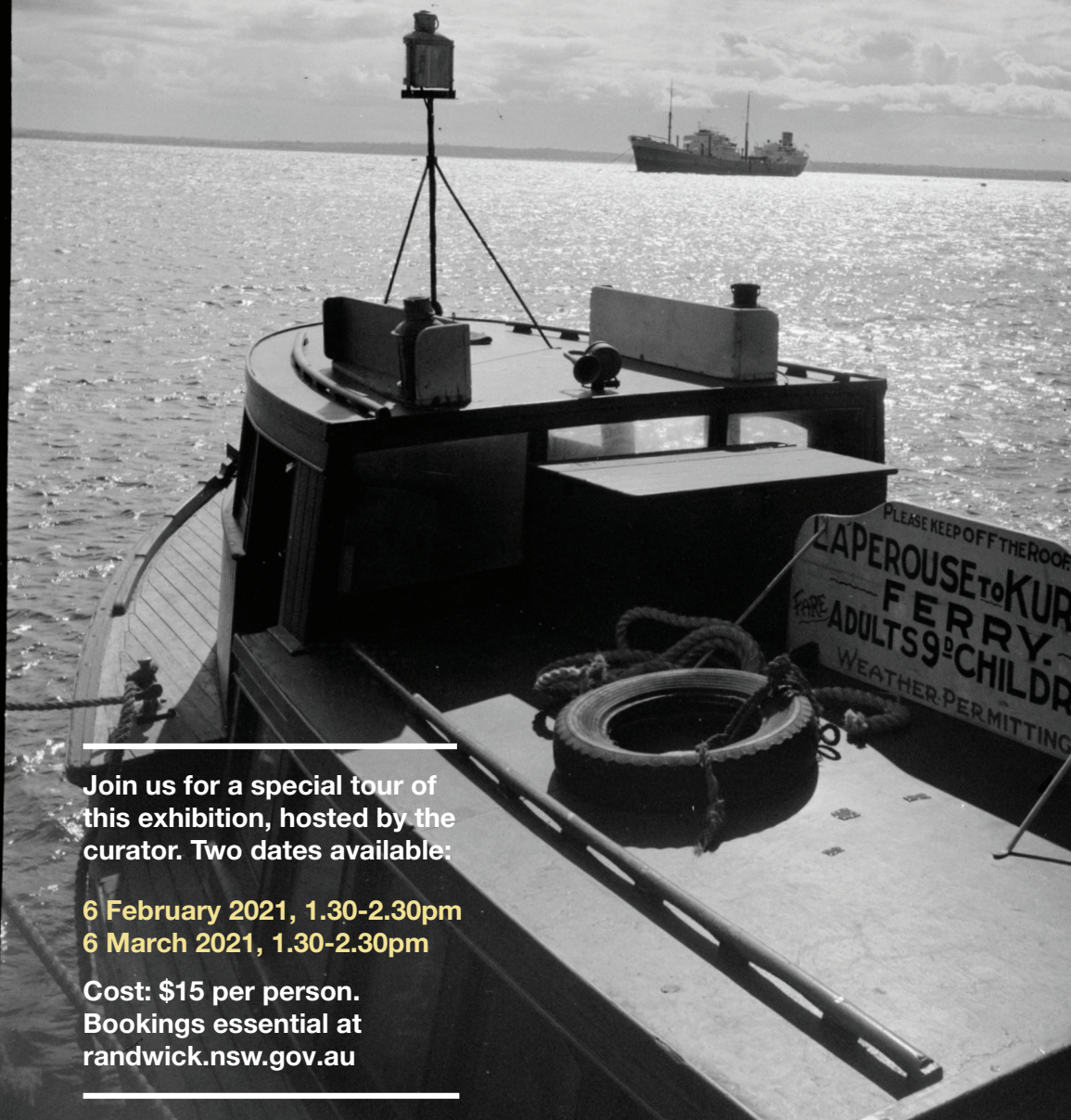
Images courtesy of Mitchell Library,
State Library of New South Wales.



La Perouse to Kurnell Ferry, 1953. Mitchell Library,
State Library of New South Wales.

“Modern photography must do more than entertain, it must incite thought and by its clear statements of actuality, cultivate a sympathetic understanding of men and women and the life they live and create.”

Max Dupain in Max Dupain: photographs, 1948.



Join us for a special tour of
this exhibition, hosted by the
curator. Two dates available:

6 February 2021, 1.30-2.30pm

6 March 2021, 1.30-2.30pm

Cost: \$15 per person.
Bookings essential at
randwick.nsw.gov.au
