

Ryde District Historical Society and Family History Group e-NEWSLETTER APRIL 2017



NEWS UPDATE

➤ **'SPIRIT OF ANZAC CENTENARY EXPERIENCE' - VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED**

Take the opportunity to volunteer at the Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience, the flagship event in the Anzac Centenary National Program. Touring since September 2015, the exhibition will reach its final location of Sydney from the 15 - 27 April 2017 at the International Convention Centre, Sydney. This award winning national exhibition recreates the First World War environments featuring interactive digital displays and showcases over 200 artefacts from the Australian War Memorial, the majority never before seen by the public. Join the team and volunteer for morning, afternoon or day sessions. **Volunteers** will receive lunch, snacks, drinks and an 'Experience shirt'. To apply <http://www.spiritofanzac.gov.au/volunteers>
See the experience <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xvOHK40Ezqc>

➤ **HERITAGE FAIR AT GYMEA BAY**

Mark your diary for the *2017 Botany Bay Family History Society Heritage Fair* to be held at GyMEA Tradies Club corner of Manchester Road North and The Kingsway, GyMEA, **13th May from 10am-4pm**. Ryde District Historical Society will have a 'trade table' there as well as other societies. Included in the day will be guest speakers on a variety of historical and genealogy subjects. **There will be no RDHS Family History Group meeting on this day!** A number of members are car-pooling to attend this event. Please email rdhs1@bigpond.com for details.

➤ **WILLANDRA SHOWCASE OPEN DAY - SUNDAY 21 MAY 10 AM – 3 PM**

Ryde District Historical Society has pleasure in inviting you to their 2017 Open Day at Willandra. There will be tours of the house, museum and exhibitions of historic photographs and documents of the local area. The Society's publications will be available for sale as well. A walking tour from Willandra to Addington starts at 1 pm. Our popular Devonshire Teas will be available for sale. Entry is by gold coin donation. For more information phone: **9807 7137** or email rdhs1@bigpond.com for details.

➤ **ONLINE INDEXES-UPDATES FROM NSW STATE ARCHIVES**

The [Index to Intestate Estate Case Papers 1821-1913](#) is almost complete with the addition of papers from 1913. There are over 22,000 entries in the index. The [case](#)

papers relate to those persons who died intestate and comprise the following: amounts of money owed by the deceased; amounts of money paid from the estate to the individual creditors; petitions from the Curator of Intestate Estates to the Supreme Court relating to the administration of the deceased's estate; orders to collect; affidavits of death; circulars from shareholders (if applicable); newspaper cuttings and in some cases personal correspondence. Another volume of the Index to Registers of Nurses, 1926-54 has been indexed and added to the online index. This volume [6/4431] is the Register of midwives, 1931-50. The register shows name, hospital trained at, certificate number, date of registration or renewal, records number, and remarks.

➤ **RDHS POLO SHIRTS AND JACKETS**

If you would like to order a polo shirt (\$30) or jacket (\$55) please contact Sabina via rdhsfhg1@gmail.com for order forms and payment details.

VALE VAL AYERS AND MARGARET RALSTON

It is with much sadness that we report the passing in recent months of Ryde District Historical Society member **Val Ayers** and past stalwart of Brush Farm Historical Society **Margaret Ralston**. Both women were long term members of their respective historical societies and contributed in their own special ways. We send our deepest condolences to Val and Margaret's respective families.



REQUIESCAT IN PACE



MEETINGS! SAVE THE DATE

Here is a list of guest speakers planned for meetings at Willandra in the coming month – save the date in your diary so you don't miss out! *Tuesday Meetings start 7 p.m. and Saturday Meetings start 10 a.m.*

Saturday	8 April	<i>How (and why) I visited 28 churches in 28 days and survived: Practical advice for your overseas church crawl!</i>
		Guest Speaker: Angela Phippen
Tuesday	11 April	<i>Cockatoo Island</i>
		Guest Speaker: John Jeremy



WHAT'S ON

TALKS, EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

TALK: BRITISH CONVICT REUNIFICATION SCHEME
TIME: 28 MARCH 7 PM – 8.30 PM
VENUE: Lane Cove library, 'Library Walk', 139c Longueville Road, Lane Cove
COST: FREE

Dr McIntyre has been involved in Irish history and genealogy since the late 1970s. Her PhD in History was on convict family reunion was published by Irish Academic Press in late 2010. Her talk details the subsidised reunification scheme that operated for British convicts. Over 2000 men applied for their families to receive free passage to Australia-60% of who were Irish with 40% from England, Wales and Scotland.

<http://inthecove.com.au/events/lane-cove-historical-society-convict-talk/>

TALK: TOLL HOUSES IN THE 19TH CENTURY
TIME: 1 APRIL 2 PM – 3.30 PM
VENUE: City of Canada Bay Heritage Society Museum 1 Bent Street Concord
COST: FREE
BOOKINGS: <https://canadabayheritage.asn.au/event/toll-houses-in-the-19th-century/>

As you pay your tolls on Sydney's motorways, spare a thought for the colonists who were forced to pay a farthing for every sheep, pig and goat they moved along the roads, with double tolls on Sundays. Introduced by Governor Macquarie, toll bars (gates) and their related toll houses were common around Sydney until the 1870s, yet have now almost disappeared. Visit our Canada Bay Heritage museum on *Saturday, 1st April at 1:30 for 2:00 pm* start to hear *Dr Pam Lofthouse* speak about these long forgotten pieces of our history. You are invited to stay afterwards for some light refreshments and a chance to chat.

TALK: SYDNEY'S EARLY CEMETERIES
TIME: 4 APRIL 11 AM – 12 NOON
VENUE: State Library of NSW Metcalfe Auditorium Macquarie Street Sydney
COST: FREE

How were Sydney's early burial grounds established? Where were these cemeteries? What did they look like? The story of Sydney's early cemeteries is one of government indifference and indecision, sectarian conflict, dubious burial practices and allegations of profiteering. Join **Lisa Murray** as she reveals this turbulent history and showcases some of the resources held in the Library's collection. *Dr Lisa Murray* is a public historian, passionately committed to making history accessible to the public. By day she's the City Historian, by weekend, she's a *taphophile*. Her latest book *Sydney Cemeteries: A Field Guide (2016)* is published by New South Publishing.

TALK: THE SUMMIT OF HER AMBITION: THE SPIRITED LIFE OF MARIE BYLES**TIME:** 5 APRIL 1 PM -2 PM**VENUE:** History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney + [Google Map](#)**COST:** FREE

Marie Byles was the first female solicitor of NSW, a feminist activist for equal rights in law, and a devoted conservationist who worked to reserve National Parks and helped introduce mindfulness meditation to the West. Guest Speaker, [Anne McLeod](#), has worked in the film industry for thirty years then gained a degree in Adult Education and worked as Training Coordinator. She writes on biographical and environmental subjects.

TALK: FRANK HURLEY: THE MAN WHO MADE HISTORY**TIME:** 8 APRIL 2 PM – 3 PM**VENUE:** Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street Sydney**COST:** \$3-Sydney Historical Society Members-\$5 for visitors

Sydney photographer Frank Hurley captured the first images of Antarctic heroes, World Wars, phenomenal landscapes and mysterious natives in faraway jungles, seizing the imagination of all who saw them. His granddaughter [Toni Hurley](#) will tell us about the man regarded as a fearless explorer, master story-teller and creator of some of the most enduring and extraordinary images of the twentieth century.

For more information and bookings: <http://www.sydneyhistorical.org.au/>

TALK: 150th ANNIVERSARY OF ROOKWOOD NECROPOLIS**TIME:** 18 APRIL 12.30 AM – 1.30 PM**VENUE:** Mitchell Theatre, SMSA Building, 280 Pitt Street Sydney**COST:** FREE and Open to the Public

Join Warren Fahey, Rookwood's cultural historian and filmmaker, for a fascinating discussion about some to the curious history of the famous necropolis and the screening of several short films on Rookwood. Notable people buried there include the likes of Roy 'Mo' Rene; pioneer feminist Louisa Lawson, retail giants David Jones and Anthony Hordern, Chinese eccentric businessman Mei Quang Tart and the great singer Peter Dawson.

<http://smsa.org.au/events/event/warren-fahey-ales-of-old-rookwood/>

TALK: JESSIE 'CHUBBIE' MILLER: AUSTRALIAN HOUSEWIFE AND AVIATRIX**TIME:** 26 APRIL 6.30 PM – 7.30 PM**VENUE:** Ryde Library, 1 Pope Street, Ryde 2112 [View Map](#)**COST:** Gold Coin Donation – Bookings: Phone 9952 8352

Join acclaimed author [Carol Baxter](#) and discover the remarkable true story of *Jessie 'Chubbie' Miller*, a Melbourne housewife turned adventurer, aviator and international celebrity who found herself at the centre of one of the most notorious and controversial murder trials in United States history. Copies of Carol Baxter's book *'The Fabulous Flying Mrs Miller'* will be available for purchase at the event, thanks to *'The Burns Bay Bookery'* at Lane Cove. *Authors Platform are regular talks by local, national and international writers, covering both fiction and non-fiction genres*

<http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/Events/Listing/Authors-Platform-Carol-Baxter>

TREASURE TROVE – NEWLY DIGITISED NEWSPAPERS

'TROVE' is a wonderful resource for a range of Australian newspaper and publications – there is so much of interest for both researchers and family historians. The following titles are now available through Trove:

The Dookie & Katamatite Recorder (1902-1920), Western Australia

The Collie Miner (1900-1916) Western Australia

The Albany Mail & King George's Sound Advertiser (1883-1889) Western Australia

Trove has updated its *Help guide* to assist users with Trove 7. You will find a range of helpful information including tips for [browsing](#), [searching](#), and [downloading and printing newspaper articles](#), as well as some information on the new tools in the [newspaper and gazette viewer](#).
<http://www.nla.gov.au/research-guides/finding-newspapers>

Current List of digital Newspapers and Magazines <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/titles>

Unbound is the National Library's digital magazine - [read more](#) about it here

JOURNAL AND MAGAZINE RAMBLINGS

Please visit our library which is open every Friday and on Saturday mornings after our monthly family history group meeting. This is where you will find the following magazines as well as many others. We also have a fine collection of history books to help you with your research. **Compiled by Shirley Noble RDHS Member.**

Family Tree Magazine UK March 2017

- **Page 32-35** During World War 2 a little girl was evacuated from London. She was very sad leaving her mother but the popular song, *The White Cliffs of Dover* cheered her up; the song was sung by Vera Lynn. During the war Vera's voice was heard all over Britain. She entertained troops in Britain and war zones and was known as 'The Forces Sweetheart'. She was popular with audiences of all ages and songs she sang can still be heard on the radio. She was created a Dame for her work entertaining troops during the war and for various charity works. She will celebrate her 100th birthday in 2017. How many of you remember her?

Cedar Log Issue 131 March 2017

- **Pages 11-15** '*My Unknown Grandmother*' by Carol Donaghy, tells the story of Florence Lillian Evans who had four husbands and five children. Carol knew very little about her grandmother except she had an affair and left a husband and three children behind. She was divorced three times and her children spent time in various orphanages. Her last husband, Thomas Heath died and after his death his niece, Lorraine took her into her home and cared for her. The family of Florence thought she was not a good person but after Carol visited Lorraine she heard a story of a different Florence.