

# Ryde District Historical Society and Family History Group

## e-NEWSLETTER      AUGUST 2017



## NEWS UPDATE

### ➤ CHANGES TO RDHS CONSTITUTION

Members are reminded that modifications to the Society's constitution will be put forward for acceptance at the monthly meeting on **Tuesday 8 August at 7 pm**. The passing of these changes is very important for our long term viability and the sub-committee urges you attend the meeting and accept them. ***Please refer to RDHS email and attachments sent to members dated 13 July 2017.***

### ➤ 'BREAKER MORANT' ARTEFACTS FOUND

A hessian bag (with items which are believed to be the original property of ([Edward 'Breaker' Morant](#)) has been found at a Tenterfield Waste Tip. These items were apparently left to *James Francis Thomas*, the Tenterfield solicitor who was serving as a major in South Africa. Thomas was appointed to defend the two (*Edward Harry Morant and Peter Handcock*) at their war crimes court martial, one of the first in British military history. *Breaker* was infamously court-martialled and subsequently executed along with Handcock for alleged involvement in the murder of some 20 people during the Boer War. Articles included a bayonet scabbard, a cartridge bandolier (which carries the name *Henry Morant*) part of a trumpet and brass drinking cups, both etched with the initials HM, and a Boer War medallion. The person who found the items has donated them to Tenterfield's Sir Henry Parkes School of Arts. Peaking significant interest is a flag that was strewn across the graves of Breaker and Peter Handcock.

### ➤ WW1 STORIES FROM NEW 'SYDNEY LIVING MUSEUMS' WEBSITE

A new website recently launched by Sydney Living Museums aims to explore the impact of WW1 on those that lived in properties now owned and managed by the Museum Trust. The stories are often poignant and sometimes heartbreaking. Most are of individuals: combatants, pacifists, patriotic fundraisers and anti-war activists. Still others touch on the aftermath of the war and the memorialisation of those who had enlisted for Active Service, including those who made the supreme sacrifice.

Visit the [Sydney Museum WW1 website](#)

➤ **CENTRAL COAST FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY REGIONAL SEMINAR - 19 AUGUST 2017**

The RAHS in conjunction with Central Coast Family History Society presents the next regional seminar in its program funded by Arts NSW. The seminar will include: ***The WWI Soldier's Return: Was it a land fit for heroes?*** – Christine Yeats will discuss two important records relating to the men and women returning from WWI – Australia's WWI Repatriation files relating to the Australian soldiers physically or mentally disabled by the war and the post-war Soldier Settlement Schemes. Details on a second speaker will be announced shortly. This **full day seminar** will be held at *Gosford City Lions Hall, East Gosford*-\$20 entry [For more information and to book](#)

➤ **BEN HANEMAN LECTURE INVITATION**

The State Library of NSW Foundation in association with The Australian and New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine have pleasure in inviting you to ***'The Huxleys and Medical History'*** Lecture. It will be presented by **Professor Alison Bashford**, Vere Harmsworth Professor of Imperial and Naval History and a fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge. It will take place on Wednesday 23 August 2017 at 6 pm for 6.15 pm in the Gallery Room, Mitchell Wing, State Library of NSW, Macquarie St, Sydney. Please RSVP to [foundation@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:foundation@sl.nsw.gov.au) by 16 August.

➤ **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](mailto:rdhsfhg1@gmail.com) for order forms and payment details.



## **MEETINGS! SAVE THE DATE**

Here is a list of guest speakers planned for the Society's 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.*

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>8 August</b>	<b><i>'Time stops for no man - except the Gladesville Clock'</i></b> <b>Guest Speaker: <i>Michael Edwards</i></b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>12 August</b>	<b><i>'Finding my father'</i></b> <b>Guest Speaker: <i>Dianne Johnstone</i></b>



## WHAT'S ON

### TALKS, EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

**TALK:** **COLONIAL BROTHERS: ROBERT AND HELENUS SCOTT OF GLENDON**

**TIME:** 1 AUGUST 2017 11 AM to 12 PM

**VENUE:** State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street, Sydney

**COST:** FREE

*Robert and Helenus Scott* arrived in NSW in 1821 and took up a large estate in the newly opened Hunter Valley. They were part of a wave of free, wealthy emigrants and their family legacy lives on through the books and papers of David Scott Mitchell, their nephew, which formed the basis of the Mitchell Library. As prodigious letter writers and keepers of journals, the Scott brothers created a rich archive. Join [Dr Mark Dunn](#) as he examines their impact on colonial NSW and questions whether their legacy is as civilised as they hoped.

**TALK:** **MURDER AT MYALL CREEK-THE TRIAL THAT DEFINED A NATION**

**TIME:** 2 AUGUST 2017 1 PM to 2 PM

**VENUE:** RAHS History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney + [Google Map](#)

**COST:** FREE

*John Hubert Plunkett* was the Attorney General of New South Wales between 1836 and 1856. His most controversial role was as the prosecutor of those responsible for the Myall Creek massacre in northern New South Wales in 1838. This was Plunkett's greatest test, as it pitted his forensic brilliance and idealism against the combined forces of the squatters (free settlers who had illegally invaded, taken over and cleared for grazing Aboriginal lands outside the areas of official government grants), the military, most of the newspapers, and even the convict population. Legal expert *Mark Tedeschi AM QC* will explore this amazing story in Australia's colonial history.

**TALK:** **SHIPWRECKS OF HOMEBUSH BAY**

**TIME:** 5 AUGUST 2017 2 PM to 3.30 PM

**VENUE:** City of Canada Bay Museum, 1 Bent Street Concord

**COST:** FREE (Donations welcome)

Most Sydneysiders have no idea we have our very own ship's graveyard in Homebush Bay. They were all abandoned at the end of their useful lives, mostly in the 1970s, and now adorn the landscape at what is now Wentworth Point. Betty Candy, a committee member of City of Sydney Historical Association, heard about these wrecks and, with a camera, decided to investigate. She will be sharing background information about the various wrecks.

**TALK:** **HANDING ON YOUR FAMILY HISTORY**

**TIME:** 9 AUGUST 2017 10 AM – 11 AM

**VENUE:** YOUR PLACE! [\(WEBINAR\)](#)

**COST:** FREE (for members and non-members)

The Society of Australian Genealogists welcomes donations of family histories and items for its collections, to help preserve them and to help others with their research. This free webinar will examine the types of items that the Society accepts and how to prepare your materials for donation. Join Heather Garnsey and Ralph Hawkins as they explain the process. [To register click here](#)

**TALK:** **THE STRUGGLE FOR UNITY-THE FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA**

**TIME:** 22 AUGUST 2017 7 PM – 8.30 PM

**VENUE:** Lane Cove Library, Library Walk Lane Cove

**COST:** FREE (Supper provided afterwards) for details: 0418276365

The struggle for federating Australia was a long drawn out affair. Speaker Graham Wilcox will explore the story of **Arthur Rutledge** and his 'one grand island continent' dream and how Australia became a united nation - Presented by the Lane Cove Historical Society.

**TALK:** **TEA AND TALK – 'MARY REIBEY'**

**TIME:** 28 AUGUST 2017 10am – 12.00pm

**VENUE:** West Ryde Library, 2 Graf Ave, West Ryde, [View Map](#)

**COST:** Gold Coin donation

**Mary Reibey** was an Englishwoman who was transported to Australia as a convict but went on to become a successful businesswoman in Sydney. Mary's image is on the Australian \$5 note. Come along to this in depth talk on Mary's life and legacy. All welcome.

## **RDHS MAIL BOX**

### **PRINT JOURNALS\*:**

**S.A.G.** Journal "Descent", June, 2017.

**Australian Family Tree Connections**, June, 2017.

**Family Tree UK**, July, 2017.

**HAGSOC**, "The Ancestral Searcher", March and June, 2017.

**Richmond – Tweed Family History Society Inc.**, "The Cedar Log" June, 2017.

**Botany Bay Family History Society Inc.**, "The Endeavour", June, 2017.

**Armidale Family History Group Inc.**, "Dust of Ages", June, 2017.

**Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc.**, "The Explorers' Tree", June, 2017.

**Hurstville Family History Society Inc.** - "Hurstville Genealogist", June/July, 2017.

**Burwood & District Family History Group**, "Ances-Tree", July, 2017.

**Inverell District Family History Group Inc.**, "Voices from the Past", June, 2017.

**Wagga Wagga & District Family History Society Inc.**, "Murrumbidgee Ancestor, June, 2017.

**Parramatta District Historical Society Inc.**, "The Parramatta Packet", July to October, 2017.

*\*Print journals can be accessed at the Research Centre at 'Willandra' at monthly meetings or Friday mornings*

### **e-JOURNALS and e-NEWSLETTERS^**

**Hawkesbury Family History Group**, "Hawkesbury Crier" June, 2017.

**Dubbo and District Family History Society**, January and February, 2017 and March and April, 2017.

Archival Access, **Victoria**, No, 78.

*^Email RDHS at [rdhs1@bigpond.com](mailto:rdhs1@bigpond.com) for digital journals/newsletters to be sent to members*

## **BRITISH WAR GRAVES PHOTOS WEBSITE**

Recently I was searching for headstone and memorial photographs of ancestors that died as a result of military engagement. There were a number of sites with images but there was a cost involved which was awkward to do. After more searching I came across a site administered by [Michael McCann](#) in England that will provide images from their worldwide database free of charge with a fairly quick turnaround time. All the photos are taken by volunteers, of good quality but under the site's copyright. The website can be visited at <http://www.britishwargraves.co.uk/index.htm>. Please support this volunteer initiative.

## **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.

Explore a wealth of newly digitised journals and newspapers on the Australian construction, architecture and home design industries. These include the journals [Building](#), [Decoration and Glass](#) and [The Home: An Australian Quarterly](#). These titles have been digitised with the support of the State Library of NSW through its Digital Excellence Program.

Check out the latest edition of National Library's digital magazine [Unbound](#)

## **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/journals as well as many others. We also have a fine collection of history books to help you with your research. These **Ramblings** are compiled by Shirley Noble, RDHS Member.

### **[The Ancestral Searcher \(Canberra\) Vol.40 No.2 June 2017](#)**

#### **Page 62**

On a visit to Cornwall in 2015, Theresa Lynch, while walking along the main street in Penzance, was surprised to come across a wall plaque commemorating John and Catherine Sampson and their son John who lived in the area in the early days. John Jnr was a miner who migrated to Australia with his wife Mary Jane in 1864 to seek their fortune in the goldfields of Ballarat. John and Mary Jane Sampson had a daughter who married James Menzies, a Scottish crofter's son. James became a store keeper and stock agent. He went on to become Shire President and a State Parliamentarian. James and his wife produced six children one of whom they named **Robert Gordon**. **Robert Gordon Menzies** followed in his father's footsteps. He entered parliament and became Prime Minister and was knighted by the Queen. Read more about the background of **Robert Gordon Menzies** in this issue of an always interesting journal from Canberra.

## **SMALL CEMETERIES IN THE ALBURY & WODONGA AREAS**

Searching for evidence of deceased ancestors in the smaller cemeteries is always a challenge and often the information is not on line. RDHS member Mary Davidson has a CD copy of 'Small Cemeteries in the Albury & Wodonga Areas', which lists details of those interred in the following cemeteries: *Alma Park, Bungowannah, Burramine, Burrumbuttock,*

*Gerogery, Glen Wills, Goombargama, Granite Flat, Hopefield, Howlong, Jindera, Moorwatha and Pleasant Hills.* If you would like Mary to do a 'look up' for you, please email the editor at [rdhsfhg1@gmail.com](mailto:rdhsfhg1@gmail.com) for Mary's contact details.



### **HOT WEBSITES**

Try these Web sites to further your research!

<http://newspapers.library.wales/>

Welsh Newspapers 1804 -1919 – free to search

[http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Main\\_Page](http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Main_Page)

A leading source of historical information on industry and manufacturing in the UK

<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1609792?collectionNameFilter=false>

New Zealand passenger lists for 1839-1973 – ongoing data being added

<https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/>

Proceedings of the Old Bailey 1674-1913

<http://www.nla.gov.au/research-guides/finding-government-gazettes-getting-started>

Guide to finding information through Commonwealth Government Gazettes