

Ryde District Historical Society and Family History Group

e-NEWSLETTER JULY 2017



NEWS UPDATE

➤ PROTECT PARRAMATTA'S HERITAGE – OBJECT TO STATE DRAFT PLAN

Suzette Meade is President of the **North Parramatta Resident's Group** (NPRG) and recently discussed the group's work at RAHS (to view Suzette's presentation on YouTube, [click here](#)). Suzette has set up a template submission portal to enable people to easily make a submission objecting to the Draft DCP and the first DA from Urban Growth NSW, which is to approve the subdivision of Fleet Street Heritage Precinct land into *17 super lots for sale to private hands for residential development*. Suzette explains that there are over "77 state heritage listed buildings around the Cumberland Hospital grounds. The **Female Factory Precinct**, filled with buildings designed by government architects Francis Greenway to Walter Liberty Vernon, is undergoing a National Heritage Listing Assessment and is a more than worthy candidate to be added to the current 11 convict locations on the **UNESCO** world heritage listing. If sympathetically re-interpreted and re-developed this huge site could become Australia's equivalent of Colonial Williamsburg but with one unique advantage - it is all real, all still there physically and historically and not some modern confection channelling the past." To access the portal and make a submission, [click here](#)

➤ NSW PARLIAMENT - FIRST COUNCIL RECORDS DIGITISED

The *Parliament of New South Wales* has launched an extensive new digital archive accessible to historians, students and anyone with an interest in learning more about the political, social and cultural history of NSW. Available now on the Parliament's [website](#), the records cover the period of the First Legislative Council from 1824 to 1855 and include more than 60,000 tabled papers, Bills, minutes of proceedings, reports of debates, correspondence and more. Also included are tabled papers, SMH newspaper reports of debates, and documents relating to the administration of the First Council (classified as "non-tabled papers"). These have been indexed by document type and date.

➤ 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.



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 July	Assisted Immigration Forum (Members Meeting)
Tuesday	11 July	Red Cross Tracing Agency – Finding Loved Ones Guest Speaker: Vicky Lin



WHAT'S ON

TALKS, EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

TALK: **MATERNITY AND MIDWIVES AT THE PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY**
TIME: 1 JULY 2017 1.30 PM-3 PM
VENUE: 'Hambleton Cottage' cnr Hassell St and Gregory Place Parramatta
COST: [For more information](#)

The government had intended that the Factory should be a place of retribution and punishment for recalcitrant women and a place of refuge and accommodation for convict women. Due to the presence of these refractory women the female factory was notorious as a place of mayhem and disorder. Join speaker Lesley Potter as she explores the significant role and impact of colonial midwives at the Factory and the burgeoning Colony as well.

TALK: **RECOVERING THE REPUTATION OF SIGNOR AUGUSTO LORENZINI**
TIME: 5 JULY 2017 1 PM to 2 PM
VENUE: History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney + [Google Map](#)
COST: FREE

Signor Augusto Lorenzini worked as an artist decorator in Sydney in the 1880s and 1890s. When the Historic Houses Trust (now Sydney Living Museums) acquired the **Lorenzini** archive in 1998, the achievements of this interior decorator working in Sydney in the 1880s and 1890s was recovered. Megan Martin will recount the story of this extraordinary Italian revivalist and his world where "cupids ruled", adorning the walls and ceilings of his most

opulent commission, the “dazzling” ballroom of ‘Chatsworth’ in Potts Point. Megan Martin is Head of Collections & Access at Sydney Living Museums. *For more information click [here](#)*

TALK: **‘SCORCHED EARTH’ – AUSTRALIA’S WW2 PLANS FOR JAPANESE INVASION**

TIME: 6 JULY 2017 12.30 PM to 1.30 PM

VENUE: Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street Sydney

COST: FREE

In 1942, the government developed secret plans outlining '[Scorched Earth](#)' preparation for the event of a Japanese invasion of Australia. The goal was to prevent the Japanese seizing resources for their war machine as they landed, capturing Australian as slaves as they had done in Malaysia and elsewhere in Asia. Join Sue Rosen for the fascinating story of her discovery of these top secret government documents. Sue Rosen is a heritage consultant and author.

TALK: **IF APRONS COULD TALK**

TIME: 14 JULY 2017 10.30 AM to 11.30 AM

VENUE: Lane Cove Library, 139A Longueville Road Lane Cove

COST: FREE

Come along to a fascinating show and tell session about the role of women’s aprons. Avid apron-collector, [Helen Burgin](#) will be displaying her collection of aprons and discussing the history and use of the humble apron – from the “pinny” to the peg apron to the formal dining room style. If you have an apron with a special story or memory, please bring it along to share.

MUSEUM: **‘CARISBROOK HOUSE’- HOME OF THE BROOKS FAMILY**

TIME: 15 JULY @11 AM and 16 JULY @ 4 PM

VENUE: 334 Burns Bay Road LANE COVE – enter from Waterview Drive

COST: \$8 Entry per person Phone: 9428 1364

Come and experience what life was like in the 1880s. [Carisbrook's](#) rooms take you back to the time when there was no plumbing, no ensuite, no telephone, no fridge, no microwave, and no computer or mobile phone. More information at: <http://www.carisbrookhouse.com/>

OPEN DAY: **RIVENDELL: THE THOMAS WALKER HOSPITAL**

TIME: 30 JULY 2017 9.30 AM for 2 PM

VENUE: [Thomas Walker Hospital](#), Concord West, NSW 2138 + [Google Map](#)

COST: \$15 Adults/\$10 Concession/Children enter free

Canada Bay Heritage Society is privileged to be allowed to conduct these Open Days. Because of the condition and upgrade of Rivendell, small group tours will be available only. This is to protect the site, for our continued access for Open Days and for you to have an enjoyable day. The gates will be open from 9:30 am until approximately 2:00 pm. Admission is by **pre-booked ticket only**. You may spend as much time on the grounds as you wish until the gates close. A Devonshire Tea and BBQ will be available to purchase. For more information and essential bookings please go to [here](#)

CARISBROOK HOUSE – A JOURNEY BACK TO THE 1880'S



On June 5, members of RDHS gathered at 'Carisbrook House' in Lane Cove for a group tour of a local iconic heritage house. This was originally the home of the **Brooks family** for many generations and is presently owned by Lane Cove Council and under the curatorship of **Lane Cove Historical Society**. After being treated to a

splendid morning tea, we were shown around the house and grounds by the dedicated and knowledgeable volunteers.

Built around 1884 by Sydney customs agent **Thomas Brooks** on a 38 acre property which was later subdivided, the single-storey, sandstone residence has 12 rooms and a spacious hall. The pink sandstone is believed to have been quarried at what is now Lower Brooks Street, Linley Point and was erected by Italian stonemasons.



The house itself contains much of the interior settings of the mid-Victorian era around 1884, thanks to restoration work carried out by the Lane Cove Historical Society and the local council. Carisbrook is listed on the State Heritage Inventory and State Heritage Register.



All members who attended thoroughly enjoyed the tour and would encourage you to visit this beautiful historic home too!

Note: see our events for details of when **Carisbrook** is open next.

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.

Here are the latest newspaper additions to Trove:

Macleay Argus; Moreton Mail; Millthorpe Post; Smith's Weekly

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>

Check out the latest edition of National Library's digital magazine ***Unbound***:

Capital Punishment in Australia, Comet Chasers and the Franklin River Blockade

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.

Family Tree UK Magazine - June 2017

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This article written by *Doctor Carole Eales* may open a few doors for you. Her 2x great grandfather was sentenced to seven years transportation for theft in the early 1830's. After a long search of passenger lists of convicts to Australia she failed to find him but strangely he appeared in the 1841 census at home in England. Records show that after sentencing he was contained in the hulk ***Cumberland*** but further searches revealed that he arrived in Bermuda in August 1833 where he was held on another hulk ***Commendal***, a Royal Navy vessel converted into a floating gaol. Living conditions were dreadful, many died or committed suicide. Those who survived were paid three pence a day for working on the dockyard; those who survived were repatriated to Britain at the end of their sentence. Carole's great grandfather was one of the lucky ones. If you are missing any of your convicts, try the Bermuda records, you will find details at the end of Carole's story.



HOT WEBSITES

Try these Web sites to further your research!

<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1779109>

South Africa, Cape Province death records 1895 to 1972

<http://www.scottishhandwriting.com/>

Good tutorials for reading historical records written in Scotland in the 16th to 18th centuries

<https://www.tcd.ie/library/1916/>

Library of Trinity College Dublin's research collections relating to the 1916 Easter Rising

<http://cornishmemory.com/>

Photo, film and audio archive documenting Cornish life from Victorian times to the present day