

# Ryde District Historical Society and Family History Group

## *e-NEWSLETTER      JUNE 2017*



## NEWS UPDATE

### ➤ RED CROSS MISSING, WOUNDED AND POW WAR ENQUIRY CARDS DIGITISED

This recently digitized Australian series is comprised of approximately 60,000 cards used by the Central Bureau for **Wounded, Missing and Prisoners of War** of the **Australian Red Cross** to trace the welfare and whereabouts of members of the armed forces, and some civilians, during **WW2, the Korean and Vietnam Wars**. The series represents one of the Red Cross' major wartime services: assisting family members to know the fate of armed forces personnel and others displaced by war. In early 1940 the Australian Red Cross began to rapidly scale up its divisional state-based missing persons tracing services which had been largely dormant since the end of WW1. The digital database can be searched by surname [here](#) and records are downloadable. [Read more](#) about the story of the Enquiry Cards

### ➤ BLENHEIM IRISH CONVICT INDENT AT STATE RECORDS NSW

A piece of Australia's convict past, missing for more than 180 years, is now back in official custody at State Archives. This very rare manuscript is the original parchment convict 'indent' from 1834 which lists the details of convicts transported to Australia from Ireland on board the *Blenheim* transport ship. It is a listing of the convicts on the ship which details their names, ages, crimes, sentence and places of origin, and provides vital information for historians researching the convict era. The *Blenheim* arrived in Sydney on 14 November 1834, with 200 convicts ranging in age from 15-67 and crimes from manslaughter to stealing butter. Each convict transport ship carried an indent of its convict cargo. This particular 'Irish indent' was signed by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. The document effectively handed over the convicts from Ireland to the New South Wales authorities. Its acquisition adds to our extensive collection of convict indents from 105 vessels which transported convicts to Australia from Ireland in the early 1800s. Anyone who has an interest in the *Blenheim* should contact State Records NSW at [info@records.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@records.nsw.gov.au). **N.B. The next State Records NSW webinar will be held on 31 May 2017, covering the topic of tracing NSW convicts and is now available for booking on our website:**

### ➤ MILLTHORPE PUBLIC SCHOOL (NSW) SESQUI-CENTENARY

Celebrations to mark the 150th anniversary of the above New South Wales Public school are being held in November 2017, and it is interested in contacting former pupils, staff members, teachers, administrators, cleaners or anyone ever connected

with [Millthorpe Public School](#) in the hope they can be involved. You can also sponsor a paver engraved with your name and the years of association with the school, which will form part of a new pathway. For more details email [Millthorpe-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Millthorpe-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au) or phone 6366 3104.

➤ **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 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	10 June	<b>Researching Land Titles Online</b> <b>Guest Speaker</b> <b>Steve Ford</b>
Tuesday	13 June	<b>Monuments, Museums, Memorials and Mansions</b> <b>In and around Berlin: a traveller's tale</b> <b>Guest Speaker:</b> <b>Angela Phippen</b>



## WHAT'S ON

## TALKS, EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

**TALK:**            **INDIGENOUS VOICES – WHO GAVE THE WORDS?**  
**TIME:**            **3 JUNE            1.30 PM – 3.30 PM**  
**VENUE:**         **Gladesville Community Centre, 44 Gladesville Rd Hunters Hill**  
**COST:**            **FREE**

In this illustrated talk, historian Keith Vincent Smith will look at indigenous informants and cultural brokers from the Sydney area, including *Bennelong*, *Patyegarang*, *Bungaree* and *Maroot the Elder*. Their legacy is a gift of knowledge from the past, words and meanings, that now help revive the languages they spoke. *This talk is part of the 2017 Guringai Festival*

**TALK:**            **CHARLES ORMSBY - SUPERINTENDANT OF COCKATOO ISLAND**  
**TIME:**            **3 JUNE            1.30 PM for 2 PM start**  
**VENUE:**         **City of Canada Bay Heritage Society Museum 1 Bent Street Concord**

**COST:** FREE – Donations welcome

Superintendent of Cockatoo Island from 1842- 1859, Charles **Ormsby** was gentleman, autocrat and master of surveillance when the island became the venue for a secret fight club with prize-fighting convicts as its main attraction. Despite arguments with the engineers and multiple investigations that have left a rich vein of material, **Ormsby** survived. This [informative talk](#), by researcher and writer, **Sue Castrique** will examine his irascible life and uncommon career as superintendent of the last penal settlement created in NSW.

**TALK:** **A HISTORY OF LOVE AND LAW IN AUSTRALIA**

**TIME:** 6 JUNE 11 AM TO 12 PM

**VENUE:** State Library of NSW Metcalfe Auditorium Macquarie Street Sydney

**COST:** FREE

Between 1823 and 1975 nearly **1000** Australians, mostly women, sued their partners for jilting them, or in legal terminology, for breach of promise of marriage. Litigants came to court with their love letters, amorous gifts and heartbreaking tales. The speaker, **Doctor Alecia Simmonds**, is an inter-disciplinary scholar in law and history at UTS and NYU-Sydney. She has published on the relationship between intimacy, imperialism and law in Australia and the Pacific and her current book examines the legal regulation of love through the lens of breach of promise of marriage cases from 1824 to 1975. Dr Simmonds also writes columns and articles for the popular press.

**TALK:** **HIDDEN IN PLAIN VIEW – THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE OF COASTAL SYDNEY**

**TIME:** 20 JUNE 12.30 PM – 1.30 PM

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

**COST:** FREE

Contrary to what you may think, the local Aboriginal people of Sydney did not lose their culture and die out within decades of colonisation. Join historian [Dr Paul Irish](#) as he discusses the process of piecing together the Aboriginal history of coastal Sydney with help from the Indigenous community, and sheds light on a poorly understood period of Sydney's history, challenging the way we think about our local history.

**TALK:** **TEA AND TALKS – CATALINA FLYING BOATS**

**TIME:** 26 JUNE 10 AM – 12 PM

**VENUE:** West Ryde Library, 2 Graf Ave, West Ryde 2114 [View Map](#)

**COST:** **Gold Coin Donation – Bookings: Phone 9952 8376**

A flying boat is an aircraft that can take off and alight on water. Because they can operate from any fairly calm stretch of water, they were beautifully suited to Australia with its long coastline surrounded by immense oceans. Catalina flying boats, in the Second World War, played a unique part in daring missions by Australian airmen in Asia and the Pacific and Indian Oceans. Come along and enjoy a cuppa and a chat about this month's topic [Catalina Flying Boats](#) Light refreshments provided.

**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 latest Tasmanian additions to Trove**, funded by the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office, include more than 30 titles, spanning the 1820s to the 1920s. Trove now provides access to

more than 100 of the approximately 130 newspapers published in Tasmania before 1954. Guest blogger *Ian Morrison* from [LINC Tasmania](#) shares some highlights from the newly digitised Tasmanian newspapers. Check out the list [here](#)

**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>

This month in **Unbound** the National Library's digital magazine:

### WAR LETTERS

*"Letters are all that I have to live for now"* – so reads the intimate, affirming and reflective letters between **Lieutenant Aldred Baldry**. Lieutenant Baldry was on active service in France in the First World War, and his wife was at home in country New South Wales - [Read more](#)

### **BOTANY BAY HERITAGE FAIR!**

As the old song goes 'singing toora-lie, toora-lie at-ta-tee, we are bound for Botany Bay' and so it was that members of Ryde District Historical Society joined **Botany Bay Historical Society** for their annual Heritage Fair on Saturday 13 May. An early morning start was well rewarded with an easy set up for our trade table and then seeking refreshment from the cafes available at 'Tradies Club' GyMEA. After refuelling, it was then off to see what was on offer from other groups and genealogical businesses. Lots were there including **Ancestry**, **State Records NSW** and **FamilySearch**. I particularly enjoyed the scheduled talks from leading experts in genealogy. If you get the chance to attend this or any other 'fair' it is well worth the effort!



## ***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 \(Heraldry & Genealogy of Canberra Inc.\) Vol 40 No 1 Mar. 2017](#)

**Page 24-25** The year was 1840, and a Frenchman named Jean Arthur Albert **Benaud** who was born in Bordeaux France, arrived in Sydney aboard the *Ville de Bordeaux* where he decided to settle in Australia and raise his family. Joan Pratt tells the story of the **Pratt-Benaud** family who were descendants of Jean **Benaud**. The well-known Australian cricketer, **Richie Benaud** was a descendant of this man. If you are a cricket fan you may like to read the story of this family.

### [Family Tree UK Vol 33 No 8 May 2017](#)

**Page 20** Sophie **Pigott** tells Tom Wood about an extract from a diary kept by a 'maid of all work' recorded in *The Assassin's Cloak*. The day described by Hannah **Cullwick** begins in the early morning of 14 July 1860. As well as scrubbing and cleaning, she cooked meals, plucked and gutted two ducks and roasted them, washed the dog and the previous day she had to climb up the chimney to sweep it clean! Her duties were too numerous to write here; how did she fit it all into one day? If you are interested in the working life of house maids of old, you would like this story.



### **HOT WEBSITES**

Try these Web sites to further your research!

<http://databases.dublincity.ie/index.php>

Dublin City Heritage Databases – free to search

<http://www.rotherhamfhs.co.uk/resources/latin-terminology-in-catholic-church-registers/>

List of Latin terminology used in Catholic Registers

<http://www.migrationheritage.nsw.gov.au/homepage/index.html>

A variety of migration stories (to Australia). Archived site with information from diverse groups

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

Database of cemeteries and graveyards in Meath and Kildare with photos and listings

<https://www.llgc.org.uk/information-for/family-historians/records/wills-and-probate-records/>

Pre 1858 Welsh Wills On-line- free to search

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

Search the largest collection of online gravestone inscriptions in Northern Ireland. Free Index search

<https://www.tracingthepast.org/index.php/en/minority-census>

German-Jewish research – includes the 1939 German Minority census information

<http://player.bfi.org.uk/britain-on-film/>

Historic and modern short films on many different subjects

<http://www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/>

Search national databases for historical resources relating to places in Scotland-free to view

<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 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries