

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



NEWS UPDATE

➤ RDHS 2017 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Society held its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 14 February. I am pleased to report that all positions have been filled with an excellent mix of experienced and enthusiastic members ready for the challenges of 2017. The Committee listing can be found [here](#). The outgoing president **BETTY WILLIS** has done a fabulous job over the past three years with raising the Society's profile and affirming connections with not only the City of Ryde Council, but also the community and school groups in our area. Our thanks go to Betty for all her unstinting work in the position as President of our Society.

➤ EASTERN SUBURBS MEMORIAL PARK – HEADSTONE AUDIT

Do you have any ancestors buried at *Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park* aka Botany Cemetery? I was recently informed that because of an issue with an injury caused by an unstable headstone that a safety audit would be taking place at the memorial park. If you would like to know more about the status of the audit, what this entails or to update your details, please contact the Memorial Park on **9661 5655** or by email esmp.enquiries@smct.nsw.gov.au

➤ WAUCHOPE DISTRICT REGIONAL SEMINAR – 18 March 2017

The RAHS in conjunction with Wauchope District Historical Society Inc. presents the Wauchope District Regional Seminar. The seminar program will include: **Accessing Land Titles Records: How to access them from home and understand what they mean** (Associate Professor Carol Liston), **Furnishing your Ancestors House** (Christine Yates) researching your ancestors home and possessions. This is a full day seminar 9.30 am to 4.30 pm \$20. For information and bookings:

<http://www.rahs.org.au/event/rahswauchope-district-regional-seminar/>

➤ NSW & ACT ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES CONFERENCE 2017

This year's conference will be hosted by Orange Family History Group **22 – 24 September**. The theme **Your Family Story: Telling, Recording and Preserving** will provide opportunities for keynotes, plenary sessions and workshops focussing on a range of topics including writing, publishing, e-publishing, use of social media, pictorial materials, copyright and preservations. For more details on the conference:

<https://yourfamilystoryinorange.wordpress.com/>

➤ **LILLIAN WATSON FAMILY HISTORY AWARD 2017**

The Lilian Watson Family History Award is to honour the memory and the contributions to genealogy and family history of Mrs Lilian Watson who died in March 1996. The aim of this Award is to encourage family historians to present the results of their research for others to read and enjoy. The Award is for a book, however produced or published, printed on paper, dealing with family history and must have a significant Tasmanian content. For more information: <http://www.tasfhs.org/LilWatAward.htm>

➤ **NSW STATE ARCHIVES AND RECORDS NEWS**

State Records are pleased to announce that they have a new name! On 25th October 2016, a change to the State Records Act 1998 (the Act) was approved returning 'Archives' to their name. The corporate name is now '**State Archives and Records Authority of New South Wales**' but may also be called **State Archives, State Archives NSW or State Archives and Records NSW**. *State Records* is also pleased to announce a new program of webinars! For those of you not familiar with webinars, they are essentially an online presentation which you can enjoy live or as a recorded session streamed to your computer or mobile device. The webinar program is **free** and uses *GoToWebinar* to deliver the presentations. Each session will focus on the wonderful resources of the State archives collection. *State Records* will be presenting sessions live but will also be **recording** those sessions and loading those on to the website. This means if you are unable to attend live, you will be able to listen to the presentations at any time! Joining and participating in a live webinar is easy. There are a number of tutorials available for those of you not familiar with webinars, including the QuickStart tutorial. <https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/>

➤ **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	11 March	First Fleet Family
		Guest Speaker: Merrill Rich
Tuesday	14 March	Australian POW's at Gallipoli
		Guest Speaker: Jennifer Lawless



WHAT'S ON

TALKS, EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

TALK: **NEW SOUTH WALES AND THE GREAT WAR**
TIME: 1 March 2017 1 pm -2pm
VENUE: History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney + [Google Map](#)
COST: FREE

Naomi Parry, co-author of *New South Wales and the Great War*, will discuss the impact of the First World War on the ordinary citizens of NSW, not just in the theatres of combat but at home in our cities, towns and rural communities, and reveal some of the treasures from the collections of the State Library of New South Wales, State Records NSW, the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park and regional libraries and museums, that guided the writing of the book. Dr Naomi Parry is a professional historian with a background in Aboriginal history, social welfare history, museums and heritage.

<http://www.rahs.org.au/event/rahs-day-lecture-writing-nsw-great-war/>

TALK: **LACEMAKERS OF CALAIS - PARRAMATTA FAMILY HISTORY GROUP**
TIME: 4 March 2017 1.30 pm – 3 pm
VENUE: ‘Hambleton Cottage Coach House’ Hassall Street/Gregory Place Parramatta
COST: \$2 donation

Join speaker Gillian Kelly for an insight into French lacemaking and in particular from the area of Calais, well known for its beautiful range of intricate laces. For more information:

<http://www.parramattahistorical.org.au/UpgradedFamilyHistory.htm>

TALK: **CROWN STREET WOMEN'S HOSPITAL 1893-1983**
TIME: 8 March 2017 12.30 pm -1.30 pm
VENUE: State Library of NSW Metcalfe Auditorium Macquarie Street Sydney
COST: FREE

Crown Street Women's Hospital, in the heart of Surry Hills, was the largest women's hospital in NSW. A referral hospital for women and an obstetric teaching centre, it also cared for Sydney's poorest and most marginalised women. The announcement of Crown Street's closure resulted in public uproar and street demonstrations. This comprehensive history reflects Sydney's rich past, and reveals Crown Street's 90 years impact on obstetric care. **Judith Godden** is a freelance historian specialising in the history of healthcare. She is a former academic at the University of Sydney and an Honorary Associate in its Department of History.

<http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/events/bitesize-lunchtime-talk-crown-street-womens-hospital>

TALK: A VERY RUDE AWAKENING - SYDNEY'S BRUSH WITH INVASION**TIME:** **11 March 2017 2 pm – 3pm****VENUE:** **Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street Sydney****COST:** **\$3-Sydney Historical Society Members-\$5 for visitors**

This year will mark the 75th anniversary of the Japanese midget submarine raid on Sydney. Three midget submarines crept into Sydney Harbour on 31 May 1942, determined to sink the American cruiser USS Chicago. However, they didn't get very far. This is a true but farcical story of what happened to the submarines, and worse, how we – the Australians and Americans – handled the situation. This is the most amazing narrative of our closest brush with invasion. This talk is presented by Peter Grose, who is a former journalist, literary agent and publisher and has written several acclaimed books.

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

TALK: THE WOMEN OF THE PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY**TIME:** **14 March 2017 12.30 pm to 1.30 pm****VENUE:** **Mitchell Theatre, SMSA Building, 280 Pitt Street Sydney****COST:** **FREE and Open to the Public**

Gay Hendriksen shares some extraordinary stories of the women who worked in the Parramatta Female Factory and will also discuss the famous works' action, aka 'the riot, and the reasons behind it. Gay Hendriksen has worked in museums and galleries for over 25 years in the roles of director, curator and educator. These have included *Tongarra* and St George Local History museums, Penrith Regional Gallery, Norman Lindsay Gallery and Museum and Parramatta Heritage Centre. She is currently an active member of the Parramatta Female Factory Friends. She has won national and state awards for the Women Transported touring exhibition and accompanying publications which presented the largely untold story of Australia's convict female factories.

<http://smsa.org.au/events/event/gay-hendriksen-the-women-of-the-parramatta-female-factory/>

TALK: THE HISTORY OF 20th CENTURY MUSIC**TIME:** **30 March 2017 10.30 am – 12.30 pm****VENUE:** **Lane Cove library, 'Library Walk', 139c Longueville Road, Lane Cove****COST:** **FREE Bookings: 9911 3634**

If you have ancestors who were 20th century musicians then join local musician Graham Ball who will discuss the diversification of music in this iconic century including developments in classical music, jazz, film music and rock 'n roll.

EXHIBITION: DEMOLISHED SYDNEY**TIME:** **UNTIL 17 April 2017 Daily 10am to 5 pm****VENUE:** **Museum of Sydney corner of Philip Street and Bridge Streets Sydney****COST:** **<http://sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/museum-sydney/visit>**

This summer the Museum of Sydney will host *Demolished Sydney*, an exhibition exploring the buildings that once shaped the city's skyline, from the convict built Commissariat Stores to the city's last island of industry, the Kent Brewery. Through fragments salvaged from

theatres, hotels and office blocks, alongside stunning photography, artworks and film, *Demolished Sydney* brings back to life the heritage of a Sydney that is gone but not forgotten.

<http://sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/exhibitions/demolished-sydney>

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:

Tasmanian Punch (1866)

Colonial Advocate and Tasmanian Monthly Review and Register (1828)

Cornwall Advertiser (1870-1877).

National Library of Australia's e-Newsletter editor, Amelia Hartney, *recently explored some of our favourite Aussie slang*, featured in NLA Publishing's *Fair Dinkum!: Aussie Slang*. Get ready for some corkers!

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>

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.**

Australian Family Tree December /January 1917

- **Pages 22-24 Most Successful Bigamist on Record.**

This story first appeared in Australian Town and Country Journal 23 September 1899 and is an amazing story. In the latter part of the seventeenth century a young surgeon named William Morrell became involved in money difficulties and began life as a professional bigamist. He chose women with money whom he left after defrauding them leaving them penniless. He was eventually found out and was indicted for marrying 6 wives; he pleaded guilty and admitted marrying 12 others! He was jailed and after serving time he found a home with a local baker. He claimed he was William Wickham from a wealthy family in Oxfordshire. He became ill when he was 60 and wrote a will with a bequest to the baker amounting to two thousand

pounds. The baker wrote to the Wickham family informing them of the death of their kinsman and discovered that William Morrell was once more breaking the law, he was not William Wickham. He was buried as a pauper in a corner of the local church.



HOT WEBSITES

Try these Web sites to further your research!

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/categories/>

Archive of WW2 memories told by the public and gathered by the BBC-civilian and military

<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/list/?page=1®ion=AFRICA>

Birth, Death, Marriage/Church Records - Africa

<http://www.coram.org.uk/about-us/our-heritage-foundling-hospital>

History of Coram Foundling Hospital UK

<http://wellcomelibrary.org/collections/digital-collections/mental-healthcare/>

A variety of digitised mental healthcare archives – British institutions

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

Passenger listings, ship pictures, ship descriptions, shipping-line fleet lists and more

<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/indexes-online/indexes-to-education-and-child-welfare-records/index-to-schools-and-related-records>

Index to NSW Schools and related records 1876-1979

<http://collections.beamish.org.uk/>

North East England photographic collection-free to view

https://familysearch.org/search/collection/list/?page=1®ion=CARIBBEAN_CENTRAL_AMERICA

Birth, Death, Marriage entries database/Church records for Central America and Caribbean

<http://immigrantships.net/bremenproj/bremenproject.html>

Transcribed ships manifests departing from Germany covering 1700's to 1950's