

## Ryde District Historical Society and Family History Group e-NEWSLETTER     MARCH 2018



### NEWS UPDATE

- **RYDE DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP 2018**  
*The Treasurer would like to thank those members that have paid their subscription and to remind others that fees are now due for 2018.* Cash payment can be made to the Treasurer or Betty Willis at either of the monthly meetings on a Tuesday evening or Saturday morning or you can post a cheque to **Ryde District Historical Society 770 Victoria Road Ryde NSW 2112**. If you choose to do a bank transfer payment or you have changed your contact details in the past 12 months, contact the Treasurer via [rdhs1@bigpond.com](mailto:rdhs1@bigpond.com) with the details. Please see the attached form for membership fee costs and payment details.
- **'FAMILY FINDER DAY' AT CONGRESS 2018 - SYDNEY CONVENTION CENTRE**  
 If you are quick you can still get tickets to **Family Finder Day** on **Friday 9 March 2018** - a special event running alongside the **15<sup>th</sup> Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry** in Sydney. It is aimed at people who are not attending Congress but want to view the exhibitions and listen to 3 short talks by SAG and the major sponsors, Ancestry and FamilySearch. More information and ticketing [here](#)
- **WW1 COMMEMORATIVE CHURCH SERVICE**  
 At 10.00am on **Sunday 11 November 2018** at **St Alban's Anglican Church, Epping** there will be a Centenary commemorative service to honour all those who served in World War 1. A particular focus of the service will be the men whose names appear on the WW1 Honour Board in the Epping church (*see attached list to this e-Newsletter*). Descendants of these men will have the opportunity to take part in the service by reading lessons or leading prayers. If you are related to any of the men who are named on the board and would like to participate in the ceremony, please contact [julie.evans@ihug.com.au](mailto:julie.evans@ihug.com.au)
- **'WHOLE HISTORIES: KEEPING THE STORIES ALIVE' CONFERENCE**  
 Yass District Historical Society Inc. invites you to join them for their 2018 Conference, **Whole Histories: Keeping the Stories Alive** at St Clement's Retreat and Conference Centre, Galong from **Friday 2 to Sunday 4 March**. The Conference will continue the theme of their April 2017 Conference, examining Australian history in all its facets and its presentation to modern audiences through museums, seminars, technology, publications and the interaction between historians and family historians.

➤ **'MANY CULTURES – OUR HISTORY' CONFERENCE**

**Glen Innes & District Historical Society** is celebrating its first 50 years as a local community organisation and a conference will be held from **Friday night 16 March through to Sunday 18 March** at the Glen Innes Services Club and Land of the Beardies Museum Glen Innes. For more information and registration click [here](#)

➤ **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>Saturday</b>	<b>10 March 2018</b>	<b>'Free Websites for Genealogy Research'</b> <i>Panel discussion of what's available on line</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>13 March 2018</b>	<b>'Finding the first Land Grants of Ryde'</b> <i>Fred De Belin (Team Leader Surveying - RCC)</i>

### **RYDE DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY AGM 2018**

Please see below, the office bearers and committee members, installed at the 2018 Annual General Meeting:

**2018 Executive**

*President:* **Kim Phillips**

*Vice President:* **Tina Bean**

*Treasurer:* **Margaret Farlow**

*Secretary:* **Christine Sanderson**

*General Executive:* **Christine Jones**

*General Executive:* **Peter Rich**

*General Executive:* **Kevin Shaw**

### 2018 Working Groups

*Archives and Museum Curator: Lesley Gibb*

*Family History Group Chair: Dianne Rayner*

*Family History Group Secretary: Christine Jones*

*IT Consultant: Peter Rich*

*Public Officer: Kevin Shaw*

*Publicity and Talks Officer: Maureen Copley*

*Research Officer: Kevin Shaw*

*Ryde Recorder Editor: Kim Phillips*

*Special Projects Co-ordinator: Kim Phillips*

*Street Walkers Photography Group: Ron Paton*

*Website and Social Media Officer: Tina Bean*

*Welfare Officer: Shirley Noble*

## **RDHS SCANNING DAY A SUCCESS!**

On Saturday 17 February, Ryde District Historical Society had its first photo scanning day at Willandra. Members of the Society and the general community were invited to bring along their personal photos of houses, streets, business buildings and school groups that relate to the Ryde Council area.

The idea for a scanning day was hatched last year as a way of tapping into the community's personal archive of local photos and memories. By doing so, the Society would have a greater collection of these types of photos in its collection as a resource into the future. The feedback from those that came to share their personal photographs was a great impression of the Society and of course the wonderful Willandra.



An event like this could not be held without the wonderful support from its members who willingly took on various roles (from scanning and cataloguing photos, selling our publications, doing tours of the House and serving morning tea just to name a few) so that the day ran smoothly – a big **'THANK YOU'** to all of you! The Society is hoping to have another scanning day sometime in the future – watch this space!



## WHAT'S ON

### TALKS, EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

**TALK:** [THE WRECK OF THE SS ADMELLA 1859](#)  
**TIME:** 3 MARCH 2018 2 PM to 3.30PM (please arrive 1.30pm for 2pm sharp)  
**VENUE:** Canada Bay Heritage Society 1 Bent Street Concord + [Google Map](#)  
**COST:** FREE but donations welcome!

One of the worst maritime disasters in Australian history occurred on 6th August, 1859, when the *SS Admella* hit a hidden reef approximately one mile off the coast, close to the borders of South Australia and Victoria. Of the 113 persons on board only 24 survived. Despite many heroic attempts to rescue them, the heavy seas foiled all efforts. The survivors had to endure eight days in the water, clinging to parts of the wreck, with little or no drinking water or food, before they could finally be rescued. Join *John Eades*, a volunteer with the Australian Maritime Museum, as he tells this fascinating story.

**TALK:** [THE FIRST DELEGATION TO SYDNEY 1793](#)  
**TIME:** 7 MARCH 2018 1PM to 2PM  
**VENUE:** *History House, 133 Macquarie Street Sydney, NSW* + [Google Map](#)  
**COST:** FREE

The first foreign visitation to Sydney was by the Spanish in 1793 – that of the Royal Spanish Navy ships *Desubriete* and *Atrevida*, commanded respectively by Captains Alejandro MALASPINA and Jose BUSTAMANTE. [Chris Maxworthy](#) will explain the official Spanish government plan that arose to expel the British from Sydney Cove, and how close it came to be executed upon.

**TALK:** [SURVIVING THE 20<sup>th</sup> C – THE ROCKS FROM 1900-2000](#)  
**TIME:** 10 MARCH 2018 2PM to 3PM  
**VENUE:** Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney  
**COST:** \$3 Members \$6 Visitors - No bookings required

The Rocks and adjacent areas of Sydney Harbour fell under the ownership of the NSW Government after 1900. Plans to redevelop the area were achieved with limited success up to World War 1, and thereafter events such as the Great Depression, the Harbour Bridge and the Green Bans left their mark. Our speaker, *Wayne Johnson*, will focus on some of the people, places and policies that shaped the history of The Rocks and its significant place in the development of legislation to protect the State's heritage. (*Hosted by City of Sydney Historical Society*)

**TALK:** [LUCY OSBURN: A WOMAN THAT MADE HISTORY](#)  
**TIME:** 15 MARCH 2018 10 AM to 11AM  
**VENUE:** *History House, 133 Macquarie Street Sydney, NSW* + [Google Map](#)  
**COST:** FREE

Appointed Superintendent of the Sydney Infirmary and Dispensary, Lucy Osburn, along with five other nursing sisters, arrived in Sydney on 5 March 1868. Osburn's appointment was no coincidence – it followed Henry Parkes' appeal to Florence Nightingale for more trained nurses to be sent to the colony to reform the established nursing methods. To mark the 150th anniversary of Lucy Osburn's arrival in Sydney, [Elinor Wrobel](#) OAM will present a special lecture about Osburn's life

**TALK:** [REDISCOVERING OUR HARBOUR GEMS - SYDNEY HARBOUR TRUST](#)

**TIME:** 20 MARCH 2018 10.30AM to 11.30AM

**VENUE:** Gladesville Library, 6 Pittwater Road Gladesville [View Map](#)

**COST:** Gold Coin Donation

Come along to this talk by *Sydney Harbour Federation Trust Volunteer Marie Palmer* and enjoy historic and current photos, colourful and little known tales of former military, colonial and convict sites and join the many Sydney-siders rediscovering parts of our city. These include Cockatoo Island, North Head Sanctuary and Middle Head which have been hidden away for years. Learn of the future of these sites and how your group can now enjoy them through tours, events, day visits or even by staying overnight.

## **RDHS MAIL BOX**

### **PRINT JOURNALS\***

**Family Tree UK**, December, 2017, January, 2018 & February, 2018.

**Family Tree UK**, Family History Handbook for 2018.

**Irish Roots**, 4th Quarter, 2017.

**Traces Volume 1**, "Uncovering the Past". This magazine replaces "Inside History"

**The South Australian Genealogist**, November, 2017.

**Burwood & District Family History Group**, "Ancestry-Tree", November, 2017.

**Cowra Family History Group Inc.**, "Eagle Eye", December, 2017.

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

The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of **Canberra** Inc. "The Ancestral Searcher" December, 2017.

**Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc.** "The Cedar Log", December, 2017.

**Goulburn and District Historical Society & Goulburn District Family History Society**, "The Argyle Bulletin", November, 2017.

**Singleton Family History Society Inc.** "The Patrick Plains Gazette" Vol. 33, No. 3, 2017.

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

**Casino & District Family History Group Inc.** "The Crossing Place" November, 2017.

**Port Macquarie & District Family History Society Inc.** "Footsteps", November, 2017.

**Armidale Family History Group Inc.** "Dust of Ages", February, 2018

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

### e-JOURNALS<sup>^</sup>

**Shoalhaven** Family History Society Inc., "Time Traveller", December, 2017.

**Canada Bay** Heritage Society, "Nurungi" November, 2017.

**Dubbo** & District Family History Society, Newsletter, November, December, 2017.

**Wyalong** District Family History Group Inc., "The Mallee Stump", December, 2017

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

## **TREASURE TROVE - 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. To see a current list of digitized papers and their publication periods available click [here](#)

Check out this story from **Matthew Higgins** regarding 'mysterious goings on' in Canberra's 'High Country' in the latest edition of National Library's digital magazine *Outbound*

## **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. The '**Ramblings**' are compiled by Shirley Noble, RDHS Member.

### Family Tree UK No 34 Feb 2018

Pages 74-75 **THE LAST BRITON TO DIE IN A DUEL ON BRITISH SOIL**

Nick Thomas researched the case of the fatal duel in Portsmouth and this is what he found. In the early 1840's James Alexander Seton and his wife lived in Southsea, Portsmouth. In 1845 he set out pursuing Isabella the wife of Lieutenant Henry **Hawkey** of the Royal Marines. Needless to say Henry was not impressed when Isabella danced with Seton at a ball and a quarrel occurred between Seton and **Hawkey**. **Hawkey** called Seton a 'blaggard and a scoundrel' and told him he would horsewhip him down the High Street of Portsmouth. Seton issued **Hawkey** with a formal challenge the next day. They met at Stokes Bay to settle the matter. **Hawkey** took with him Lieut. Edward Pym who was to be his second. There was trouble with the first shot but on a second exchange of shots Seton was wounded in the abdomen. He was taken to Portsmouth where two surgeons operated and the patient appeared to be doing well but infection set in and he died. **Hawkey** and Pym were both tried for murder but were acquitted. What happened to **Hawkey** and Pym after the trial? They were both Lieutenants in the Royal Navy and resumed their careers, one prospered, the other, well you will have to read the end of the story when you next visit our library where you will find lots of other books to browse.

## BITS AND PIECES

### ❖ NEW SOUTH WALES MUGSHOTS GO ONLINE

Do you have a New South Wales goal bird in the family history? Then you might be interested to see this recent collection of [mugshots](#) that have been made available online from State Archives NSW. Spanning the years **1870 to 1930** the photos and file descriptions are very detailed down to the smallest mark or tattoo. It also includes the detailed stories of the many who were incarcerated in New South Wales prisons during that time period. (From Gould Genealogy Newsletter)

### ❖ ANNIVERSARY OF DARWIN BOMBING – DIGGERS REMEMBER

On 19 February 1942 the city of Darwin in the Northern Territory was bombed by enemy aircraft and close to 250 people, both military and civilian lost their lives. The damage to infrastructure was widespread and costly. Recently [a remembrance service](#) was held to honour the brave military personnel and civilians that gave their lives on that fateful day - an event that will live forever in Australia's memory.

### ❖ FUTURE OF HISTORIC CAFÉ UP IN THE AIR

The well-known historic Paragon Café in Katoomba has an uncertain future as the current tenant Ms Robyn Parker, will be vacating the business in the coming months due to financial losses. Jack (Zacharias) Theodore Simos, who migrated to Australia from the Greek island of Kythera, opened the business in 1916 and originally called it the 'Paragon Cafe and Oyster Palace'. There are [ongoing plans](#) in place to try and save the iconic café.

### ❖ FINAL RESTING PLACE OF SUBMARINE AE1 FOUND

After 103 years of searching Australia's famous WW1 HMS [AE1 submarine](#) has been located on the sea bed off the coast of Papua New Guinea. AE1 disappeared after a tortuous engagement with the German Navy off the coast of the Duke of York Islands on September 1914. At the time there were 35 crew members on board and none were known to survive. Twelve private and government expeditions had failed to find a trace of the missing submarine until now.



### **HOT WEBSITES**

Try these Web sites to further your research!

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

Researching a Canadian War Bride? Start your research here

<https://www.cadbury.com.au/about-cadbury/the-story-of-cadbury.aspx>

History of the Cadbury Brothers of Birmingham

<http://www.navy.gov.au/fleet/ships-boats-craft/available-ship-histories>

Australian Navy Ship/Boat/Craft histories

<http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/Occupations>

UK and Ireland listing/explanation of a variety of occupations-quite detailed!

[http://immigrants.byu.edu/main\\_page](http://immigrants.byu.edu/main_page)

Immigrant ancestor project – immigration information not usually found on other sites

<http://rtfhs.org.uk/>

UK Romany and Traveller Family History Society-start your research here!