

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



### NEWS UPDATE

#### ➤ LOCAL 'REMEMBRANCE DAY' CEREMONY

A City of Ryde Commemoration Service will be held on *Saturday 11 November* marking *Remembrance Day* and will start at 10.30 am in Meadowbank Park Constitution Road, Meadowbank and conclude at 11 am. If you are attending the service, please wear your RDHS green polo shirt. The RDHS Family History Group meeting will still go ahead at 10 am at Willandra for those not attending the service.

#### ➤ CAPTURED: A PORTRAIT OF CRIME EXHIBITION

State Archives and Records NSW has just opened its latest exhibition (8 Sept 2017 – 28 April 2018) 'Captured: A Portrait of Crime'. This exhibition explores the stories of men, women and children who were incarcerated in NSW gaols from 1870 to 1930. The exhibition engages with photographic portraits and descriptions of prisoners sourced from the State Archives Collection of Gaol Photographic Description Books. These historic records have been digitised, and interpreted through research within and beyond the archives to illuminate events and contexts that led ordinary people to commit crimes. *Entry is free.*

#### ➤ SYDNEY OPEN WEEKEND 2017

*Sydney Open 2017* invites the curious and intrepid to see inside the heritage treasures that trace the city of Sydney's beginnings and the architectural wonders that are shaping its present and future. On *Sunday 5 November*, take the reins and devise your own itinerary from our open-access program of over 40 buildings across the CBD, Central, Redfern and Eveleigh. For ticket prices and bookings click [here](#).

#### ➤ HAVE YOU BEEN HACKED?

Security 'on line' is very important and recently there have been a number of breaches of security including the stealing of email addresses, some passwords and iCloud login information. This stolen information can be used to gain access to your accounts i.e. *Facebook, Dropbox, LinkedIn and email etc.* Member Peter Rich (our IT Technician) says you can check if you are on a database breaches list by going to <http://havebeenpwned.com/>. If so make sure you change your passwords immediately. For on line safety, change your password/s regularly to avoid this situation.

➤ **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.*

Tuesday	10 October	<b>John Ryan Memorial Slide Night</b> <b>All welcome</b>
Saturday	14 October	<b>Finding Old Letters and Diaries</b> <b>Guest Speaker: Tina Bean</b>



## WHAT'S ON

### TALKS, EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

**TALK:** **THE LIFE OF HUGH MAHON: PATRIOT, PRESSMAN AND POLITICIAN**  
**TIME:** 4 OCTOBER 2017 1 PM – 2 PM  
**VENUE:** ***History House, 133 Macquarie Street Sydney, NSW + [Google Map](#)***  
**COST:** FREE

One of Australia's most controversial politicians in the early years of the Commonwealth, Irish-born Hugh Mahon has the distinction of being the only member expelled from the federal parliament. Imprisoned in [Kilmainham](#) with Parnell in 1881 for his political activism he fled to Australia where he became a newspaperman, MP and government minister. [Dr Jeff Kildea](#) is Adjunct Professor in Irish Studies at UNSW and was Keith Cameron Professor of Australian History at University College Dublin in 2014. He is the author of *Tearing the Fabric: Sectarianism in Australia 1910-1925* (2002), *Anzacs and Ireland* (2007), *Wartime Australians: Billy Hughes* (2008) and *Hugh Mahon: Patriot, Pressman, Politician* (2017).

**TALK:**            [THE HISTORY OF CLOCKS](#)  
**TIME:**            7 OCTOBER 2017      1.30 PM to 3.30 PM  
**VENUE:**          City of Canada Bay Museum, 1 Bent Street Concord [+ Google Map](#)  
**COST:**            FREE (Donations welcome)

Today we take knowing the time and the day of the year for granted but for our ancestors it was far more difficult. When did clocks start to have an effect on our lives? How does a pendulum clock actually work? What is the largest clock in the world today? When did toothed wheels make their first appearance? Do you own a clock which is a true antique? **Rob Shipton** has had an interest in clocks for over 50 years. In the past he has carried out repair work on various pendulum clocks as well as maintaining some of the better pieces in his own collection. He is fascinated with clocks and is happy to share his interest with others.

**TALK:**            [PHOTOGRAPHY IN AUSTRALIA 1855 - 1880](#)  
**TIME:**            12 OCTOBER 2017    12.30 PM – 1.30 PM  
**VENUE:**          State Library of NSW, Metcalfe Room, Macquarie Street Sydney  
**COST:**            FREE

The current interest in virtual reality is not a new phenomenon. Between the Great Exhibition in London in 1851 and the end of the century, millions of stereo photographs were produced around the globe. Here in Australia they were among the earliest outdoor views of the colony and were sold in their hundreds of thousands. At the same time amateurs produced photos of their family and travels in very limited numbers. Join curator Geoff Barker in a talk about the early years of stereoscopic photography in Australia.

**TALK:**            [LAW AND ORDER IN SYDNEY 1788 - 1800](#)  
**TIME:**            14 OCTOBER 2017    2 PM – 3 PM  
**VENUE:**          Treasury Rooms, Sydney Town Hall George Street, Sydney  
**COST:**            \$6

**City of Sydney Historical Association** presents historian [Cathy Dunn](#) who will review some of the cases brought before the Court and Magistrate's Bench in Sydney, their outcomes and punishments. Matters include theft, drinking, rape, escape and debts. Colonial sentences consisted of lashes, executions, transportations to Norfolk Island and others. Discover where the records are available for researchers.

**OPEN DAY:**    ['RIOT DAY AT THE FACTORY'](#)  
**TIME:**            27 OCTOBER 2017    10 AM – 3 PM  
**VENUE:**          Cumberland Hospital, Fleet Street, North Parramatta  
**COST:**            Gold Coin donation – [Bookings essential for tours](#)

Come celebrate and commemorate, the 1827 Parramatta Factory Riot on the day, 190 years ago when the convict women 'downed tools' and broke out for freedom into Parramatta Town. There will be guided tours, inspiring talks about the incarcerated women and their survival plus exhibitions and trade tables. This is a rare opportunity to explore the glorious Governor Macquarie and Francis Greenway designed site. Bring your own picnic and share the day with the 'Friends', the descendants and history lovers.

**OPEN DAY:** **YARALLA ESTATE**  
**TIME:** 29 OCTOBER 2017 from 10 AM  
**VENUE:** Dame Edith Walker Hospital Concord West, NSW [+ Google Map](#)  
**COST:** \$15/\$10 concession/Children enter free

The next *Open Day at Yaralla* will be on Sunday, 29th October, 2017. The grounds will be open from 9:30 am Other than the time for your tour you are free to visit the Squash Court and Stables complex, or just wander around the grounds until the gates close at approximately 2:30 pm. [Bookings are essential](#). It is essential that you book a time for your tour as there may not have any spaces available for anyone who turns up on day without having booked. As the tours fill fairly quickly, particularly the early ones, we suggest you book early to get your preferred tour time.

## ***SYDNEY LIVING MUSEUMS EXHIBITION CALL-OUT!***

A new *Sydney Living Museums* exhibition is being planned for 2018. The Museum is excited to be collaborating with photo media artist [Anne Zahalka](#) on a new exhibition that will bring to life the extraordinary record of Sydney's street photography from the 1930s to the 1960s. Thousands of candid street photographs were taken each day, capturing people from all walks of life against the background of our cities and suburbs. If you would be interested in an opportunity to be part of this exhibition, simply scan your original street photographs from the 1930s to the 1960s and send them through to us. If you would like more information on how to be involved, click [here](#).

## ***NEW HYDE PARK BARRACKS WEBSITE***

This [new website](#) tells the story of Convict Sydney in five parts. It explains how the colony 'saw' its convicts and wove them into its social and economic fabric. It also shows how the growing colony from 1788 to 1848, with its dual emphasis on productivity and punishment, shaped and reshaped the convict experience.

## ***RDHS MAIL BOX***

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

Family Tree UK, September, 2017.

Casino and District Family History Group Inc. "The Crossing Place", August, 2017

Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society Inc., "Footsteps", August, 2017

Irish Roots, 3rd Quarter, No. 103.

The South Australian Genealogist, August, 2017.

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

### ***e-JOURNALS^***

Below are links to regional society journals that arrived in our mail box this month:

Archival Access, **Victoria**, No, 80.

**Manning Wallamba** Family History Society Inc. "Fig Tree", August, 2017.

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

**Central Coast** Family History Society, "e-Muster", August, 2017.

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

## **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. You can explore a wealth of newly digitised journals and newspapers.

These include 40 years of [The Daily Telegraph](#). This paper was a fierce competitor for the minds of the public during early federation, Australia's entry into the First World War and the rise of New Journalism. For a recent listing of new additions and what is coming up click [here](#)

A raft of different titles has been digitised with the support of the State Library of NSW through its Digital Excellence Program. For more information about these new additions

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

### **Family Tree September 2017**

**Page 38-42** '*Saints and Slaves*' is a story written by Martin O'Donnell about his quest to trace his Spanish roots, in doing so another surprising story unfolded. His research led him to the records of the remote island of St. Helena in the South Atlantic Ocean. It was in the records, which are exceedingly good, he discovered his 3x great grandmother Jane Scott was a slave most likely of African extraction. She was washerwoman employed by a Mr Baker. Jane married John Hoyle, a brewer who also worked for Mr. Baker. As well as general workers many British soldiers were sent to the West Indies, do you have a British soldier in the early 1800's? Have you looked at his records to find if he spent time in the West Indies? There was a lot of inter-marriage during that time and you may be lucky to find a wonderful story just like Martin discovered.

**Page 18** '*Dear Tom*' This is another one of Tom's gems sent in by Fleur Adcock. Have you any of the following names in your tree? Lucretia, Elvira, Alethea? Although these names occur in the general population, when you come across a cluster in one family, it is a very big clue that you are dealing with a gypsy or Romany family.



### **HOT WEBSITES**

Try these Web sites to further your research!

<http://archiveshub.ac.uk/features/firefighters.shtml>

Comprehensive list of online resources for UK Auxiliary Fire Service and NFS Members

<http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/london-fire-brigade-museum.asp>

History and photos Fire Fighting Service of London – Great Fire of London to WW2