

Ryde District Historical Society and Family History Group

e-NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2017



NEWS UPDATE

➤ **RDHS CONSTITUTION**

Our amended Constitution, accepted by our members at the Special General meeting on 8 August, was sent to the Department of Fair Trading and they have approved our amendments. We now have 6 months to hold an AGM and on that day, our *new* Constitution will commence. ***Our next AGM will be held on 13 February 2018.***

➤ **OUR NEW RDHS WEBSITE – WE'RE NEARLY THERE!**

RDHS member Tina Bean, our IT expert, has been working hard on constructing a new website for our Society and is looking for feedback regarding the set out, ease of use, format etc. Please take some time to view the new website <http://www.rydehistory.org/wordpress/> before it 'goes live' as Tina is interested in your opinions. Send any comments to rdhs1@bigpond.com

➤ **'THE RYDE HISTORY SERIES' – YOUR LOCAL HISTORY RESEARCH IN PRINT**

Now is your chance to become a '*published author*'. Is there an aspect of the Ryde District – person, place or event that really interests you? ***The Ryde History Series*** will cover this interest. Write it up – around 15-20 pages (more if you like). We will be setting up a publishing sub-committee to look at the Society's publications before they are printed. Please consider volunteering for this group. It won't be an arduous task and most of the 'meetings' can be done by email. You won't need to edit or format the documents, just check them for suitability. Please contact ***Kim Phillips*** (editor@spirits-of-gallipoli.com) as soon as possible, if you are interested in being on this sub-committee. This is an opportunity for more of our members to become actively involved in the Society. ***Please see the attached information sheet with this e-newsletter.***

➤ **SYDNEY HARBOUR FEDERATION TRUST CALL OUT!**

The above organisation runs an Oral History program and is seeking to interview those who lived or worked at any of the following sites: *Cockatoo Island and Snapper Island; The School of Artillery or North Fort at North Head; Military personnel from Woolwich Dock, Georges Heights, Chowder Bay and HMAS Platypus or Lighthouse Keepers and their family from Macquarie Light Station.* We would love to hear from you, so we can capture the memories and stories, official and unofficial, of these

unique sites. To discuss being interviewed by one of our Volunteer interviewers, please contact: *Catherine Enright*, Tel: 02 8969 2112 or email: catherine.enright@harbourtrust.gov.au

➤ **AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL - 60,000 HAND MADE POPPIES**

The call has gone out to craftspeople from around Australia to help create 60,000 poppies to mark the centenary of the end of World War I in November 2018. It is hoped the poppies will carpet part of the grounds at the [Australian War Memorial](#) (AWM) in time for commemorations. Each poppy knitted will represent an Australian life lost in World War I, with the Great War remaining the costliest conflict to Australia in terms of deaths. Out of the 416,809 men who enlisted, 60,000 were killed and 156,000 were wounded, gassed or taken prisoner.

➤ **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 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.*

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|----------|--------------|---|
| Saturday | 9 September | 'Researching our Heritage House' Guest Speaker: <i>Janice Eastment and Kevin Shaw</i> |
| Tuesday | 12 September | 'Murder and Mayhem in Ryde' Guest Speaker: <i>Kim Phillips</i> |



WHAT'S ON

TALKS, EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

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|---------------|---|
| TALK: | <u>EXPLORING THE 1890 CONCORD MUNICIPALITY</u> |
| TIME: | 2 SEPTEMBER 2017 1.30 PM to 3.30 PM |
| VENUE: | City of Canada Bay Museum, 1 Bent Street Concord |
| COST: | FREE (Donations welcome) more information here |

In 1890 Concord was very different place. Just 7 years earlier the Municipality of Concord had been gazetted. Much of the area was covered with a healthy growth of eucalyptus, wattles and other trees. Around the bays there were extensive flats covered with mangrove, and more or less swampy, but the greater part of the district was high ground, with rich soil which supported many small farms and orchards. Also scattered around the area were some fine residences with extensive grounds and beautiful gardens. **David Sansome**, Local Studies Librarian will highlight some of the stories of the Concord community of the late nineteenth century as revealed by our newly restored 1890 map.

OPEN HOUSE: **EASTWOOD'S BRUSH FARM**
TIME: **3 SEPTEMBER 2017 10 AM to 4 PM**
VENUE: **Brush Farm Historical Society 19 Lawson Street**
 Phone (02) 9631 Email: mabwilson@live.com.au
COST: **FREE [Location details](#)**

This **Father's Day** the Brush Farm Historical Society will be hosting an open day at Brush Farm House, the home built by Gregory Blaxland during the 1820s. Interested community members are invited to visit **BRUSH FARM HOUSE** during the Open Day and to tour the historic house. The tour will include information about former owners and inhabitants. Light refreshments will be available, or you may like to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy in the grounds.

TALK: **SINGLE FEMALE MISSIONARY**
TIME: **5 SEPTEMBER 2017 11 AM to 12 PM**
VENUE: **State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street, Sydney**
COST: **FREE**

'The only white woman among 300 Aborigines at Bonny Well, 266 miles north of Alice Springs, Miss Annie Lock is "Big Boss" to the natives, to whom she is schoolmistress, evangelist and doctor.' This *Adelaide News* depiction of Annie Lock was one of the more positive of this controversial figure, who worked across Australia in the early twentieth century. Often dismissive of Indigenous culture, she also defended Aboriginal people's right to a peaceful livelihood and blew the whistle on the [Coniston Massacre](#). Join [Dr Catherine Bishop](#) as she explores this problematic but fascinating biographical subject.

EXCURSION: **RAHS EVENT – VICTORIA BARRACKS PADDINGTON SYDNEY**
TIME: **7 SEPTEMBER 2017 9.30 AM to 12.30 PM**
VENUE: **Victoria Barracks, Oxford St Paddington, NSW 2021 Australia + [Google Map](#)**
COST: **\$5 [Bookings essential](#)**

Join us for a tour of Victoria Barracks, one of the best-known examples of military architecture in Australia. The Regency-style building was designed by Lieutenant-Colonel George Barney and constructed using locally quarried sandstone between 1841 and 1849. **Important Note:** For security purposes, at the time of booking it is essential that you provide the **number and type of current identification you use** and that you bring this along with you on the day. *Examples include: Passport, Drivers Licence, Medicare Card or Seniors Card.* This information will be forwarded to Security Staff at Victoria Barracks.

N.B. Meet at the Victoria Barracks entrance on Moore Park Road, Paddington

TALK: **BEN HALL'S LAST DAYS**
TIME: **11 SEPTEMBER 2017 10.30 – 11.30AM**
VENUE: **West Ryde Library, 2 Graf Ave, West Ryde, [View Map](#)**
COST: **Gold Coin donation**

Bushranger **Ben Hall** participated in over 600 robberies in the period from 1862 to 1865. Ben Hall and his gang stole whatever they could, which included weapons, cash and gold. When he died much of the stash was never found. Find out more with author John Donohoe about the fascinating story of this treasure trove as he tells us about his book, 'Ben Hall's Last Days'. All welcome.

TALK: **THE AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS 1916-1918: AIR WARFARE BEGINS**
TIME: **12 SEPTEMBER 6.15 PM – 8 PM**
VENUE: **Lane Cove Library, Library Walk Lane Cove**
COST: **FREE - for details: 9911 3634**

Aviation was in its infancy when the Australian Flying Corps (AFC) was formed in 1916. However, it would go on to play a pivotal role in the Middle East and Western Front campaigns of 1918. Hear [Steve Weingarh](#), nephew of Squadron 4 AFC fighter pilot Lt. Jack Weingarh, discuss the beginnings and role of the AFC in World War I and its local ties.

TALK: **MANSIONS, MUSEUMS AND MONUMENTS IN AND AROUND BERLIN**
TIME: **18 SEPTEMBER 2017 10.30 – 12 NOON**
VENUE: **Gladesville Hunters Hill Library, Pittwater Road Gladesville**
COST: **Gold coin donation – light refreshments provided**

Come on an armchair journey with local history librarian **Angela Phippen**, and discover the fascinating stories behind some of Berlin's most iconic sites.

PICTORIAL HISTORY OF WOMEN'S FASHION

Many of us have photos or sketches of our female ancestors but alas there is no written date or details that accompany them – but how to date them? I recently came across a [website](#) that may be of some help in pinpointing the date of the clothing worn by your female ancestor. Each year from 1740 to 1970 is covered and gives you an idea of what the fashionable woman may have been wearing. You may find a clue to the date range that the photo was taken and therefore (with a bit of detective work) be able to put a name to the photo.

GREAT NORTH ROAD CONVICT GANGS

If your ancestor was a convict and sailed to Botany Bay, then they may have done some of their 'porridge' on the Great North Road. It is not always easy to source a start point on where they were assigned, but the website '[Convict Trail](#)' may be of help. The database includes whether the convict was on a 'road gang', 'iron gang' 'road party' or 'bridge party' which gives insight into the type of work involved. You can also contact them for more information as well. Begin your convict work gang ancestor research [here](#)

RDHS MAIL BOX

e-JOURNALS

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

[Manning Wallamba Historical Society](#)

[Central Coast Family History Society](#)

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.

Explore a wealth of newly digitised journals and newspapers. These include:

[Seaport News Review](#) (1954), [Port Adelaide District Pictorial](#) (1952-54), [The Citizen](#) (1938-40), [The Gateway](#) (1946) and [The Progressive Times](#) (Largs North 1949-51). These titles have been digitised with the support of the State Library of NSW through its Digital Excellence Program. For more information about these new additions [read the blog](#)

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



HOT WEBSITES

Try these Web sites to further your research!

<http://www.trasksdad.com/MusicHall/index.html>

Victorian Music Hall songs – lyrics and some audio

<http://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/cdm>

Historical Directories of England 1760s to 1910s

<http://www.nla.gov.au/research-guides/finding-ship-and-passenger-records>

A guide to locating and accessing Australian passenger and shipping records

<http://ireland.anglican.org/about/151>

Anglican Record Project – 14 Irish Church of Ireland transcribed registers to view and download

<http://www.nla.gov.au/research-guides/cemetery-records>

A guide to locating Australian Cemetery Records

<http://freeirishebooks.blogspot.com.au/>

Free Irish e-Books to read on line and/or to download

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

Yorkshire Film Archive – video, photos, information

<http://maps.nls.uk/>

Vast array of Scottish Maps from National Library of Scotland