

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



### NEWS UPDATE

➤ **WILLANDRA SHOWCASE OPEN DAY - SUNDAY 21 MAY 10 AM – 3 PM**

Ryde District Historical Society has pleasure in inviting you to their 2017 Open Day at Willandra. There will be tours of the house and museum, with an exhibition of over 150 historic photographs of the local area in the 'Images of Ryde' Digital Show. Items from our collection including a beautiful 1940's wedding gown will be on display. The Society's publications will be available for sale as well. Visitors can join a guided walking tour of St Anne's churchyard from Willandra starting at 2 pm. Our popular Devonshire Teas will be available for sale. Entry is by gold coin donation. For more information phone: **9807 7137** or email [rdhs1@bigpond.com](mailto:rdhs1@bigpond.com) for details.

➤ **HERITAGE FAIR AT GYMEA BAY**

Mark your diary for the *2017 Botany Bay Family History Society Heritage Fair* to be held at GyMEA Tradies Club corner of Manchester Road North and The Kingsway, GyMEA, **13th May from 10am-4pm**. Ryde District Historical Society will have a 'trade table' there as well as other societies. Included in the day will be guest speakers on a variety of historical and genealogy subjects. **There will be no RDHS Family History Group meeting on this day!** A number of members are car-pooling to attend this event. Please email [rdhs1@bigpond.com](mailto:rdhs1@bigpond.com) for details.

➤ **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/>

➤ **NSW STATE ARCHIVES MAY WEBINAR**

The latest **free** NSW State Archives webinar will be on Wednesday May 31, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. The subject will be **'Tracing NSW Convicts'**. You can register to attend this webinar [here](#). This will generate an email with a link that you click on at the appointed time to attend the webinar. We will also be recording our webinars so if you are unable to attend live, you will be able to view the webinar at a time convenient to you simply by selecting the recorded webinar of your choice. We will be building a library of recorded webinars in the coming weeks. Joining and

participating in a live webinar is easy. There are tutorials available if you are not familiar with webinars, including the [QuickStart tutorial](#)

➤ **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.*

|          |        |                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday  | 9 May  | Field of Mars Cemetery<br><b>Guest Speakers:</b> <i>Janice Eastment and Kevin Shaw</i>                                                                                         |
| Saturday | 13 May | <b><u>No Family History Group Meeting</u></b><br>Botany Bay Historical Society Trade Fair Day<br><a href="http://www.botanybayfhs.org.au/">http://www.botanybayfhs.org.au/</a> |



## WHAT'S ON

### TALKS, EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

**TALK:** THE BOMBING OF DARWIN POST OFFICE  
**TIME:** 3 May 2017 1 – 2 PM  
**VENUE:** RAHS, History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney + [Google Map](#)  
**COST:** FREE

On the floor of the Northern Territory Parliament is a small plaque that reads: "ON 19 FEBRUARY 1942 AN ENEMY BOMB FELL HERE AND KILLED TEN PEOPLE." It commemorates a major event in Australian history when 188 Japanese fighters and bombers launched a deadly air raid on Darwin. Among the targets was the Darwin Post Office, which suffered a direct hit. Taking cover in a slit trench in the backyard of the Postmaster's residence were nine members of the Postmaster-General's Department, including the Postmaster, his wife

and daughter – all nine were killed instantly. This talk will be presented by Brett Bowden, Professor of History and Politics at Western Sydney University.

<http://www.rahs.org.au/event/rahs-day-lecture-bombing-darwin/>

**TALK:** **WWII AND THE CANADA BAY CONNECTION**  
**TIME:** 6 May 2017 2 – 3.30 PM  
**VENUE:** City of Canada Bay Heritage Society Museum 1 Bent Street Concord  
**COST:** FREE – Donations welcome

The impact of the Second World War on the local community in Canada Bay is, in many ways, a reflection of the experience of Australia at that time. It was an “all-in” war, placing extraordinary demands on everyone. Parts of the local area became training grounds for Australian and American soldiers, while local industries were geared to war production, producing everything from ships (and the paint to paint them with) to ration packs for soldiers. It was a time of long hours of hard work and leisure hours given over to voluntary work. The war affected the lives of every man, woman and child in the community. Join David Sansome (Canada Bay Local History Librarian) for this [informative session](#).

**TALK:** **QUARANTINE STATION LECTURE SERIES**  
**TIME:** 7 May 2017 2 – 4 PM  
**VENUE:** Lecture Theatre Q Station North Head  
**COST:** FREE - Reservations essential - book [here](#)

Join speakers, Alan Hewson and *Judith Godden* for this informative afternoon. Alan Hewson will cover the subject of ‘Obstetrics and gynaecology in the 20<sup>th</sup> century in Australia’ whilst *Judith Godden* will speak on the topic ‘Lives, love and loathing at Crown Street’. *Crown Street Women's Hospital*, 1893-1983, was the largest women's hospital in NSW. Located in the heart of Surry Hills, it was a referral hospital for women throughout the State and a leading teaching centre for obstetricians and midwives. For more information [click here](#)

**TALK:** **INTERPRETING THE GREAT STRIKE AT EVELEIGH WORKSHOPS IN 1917**  
**TIME:** 13 May 2017 2 – 3 PM  
**VENUE:** Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street Sydney  
**COST:** \$3-Sydney Historical Society Members-\$5 for visitors

Eveleigh Railway Workshops was a centre for one of Australia’s largest industrial conflicts in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Known as *The Great Strike* it is a wonderful example of the voice of the people making sure that their voice is heard. *The Great Strike* began on 2 August 1917 when the employees at Eveleigh and Randwick Tram Workshops downed tools in protest against new working conditions imposed during a time of war. *Laila Ellmoos* will tell us about these troubled times and also how these stories will be retold in photographs and other media at a special centenary exhibition at Carriageworks during July and August.

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

**WORKSHOP:** **TREASURES OF TROVE**  
**TIME:** 16 May 10.30 AM – 12.30 PM  
**VENUE:** State Library of NSW Metcalfe Auditorium Macquarie Street Sydney  
**COST:** \$11.45  
**BOOKINGS:** <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/events/treasures-trove-1>

This hands-on workshop provides an introduction to the unrivalled repository of Australian and online resources available from the Trove website. Search books, images, maps, music, archives and more. Learn how to access digitised newspapers and local history information on Trove and how to sign up and add comments, edit text and tag articles. *Basic computer skills are required.*

**TALK:**            **THE BATTLES FOR BULLECOURT APRIL-MAY 1917**  
**TIME:**            **18 May 2017 6.15 PM – 8 PM**  
**VENUE:**          **Lane Cove library, ‘Library Walk’, 139c Longueville Road, Lane Cove**  
**COST:**            **FREE** For more information and bookings click [here](#)

Hear *Lieutenant Colonel David Wilson*, military historian and battlefield guide discuss the two battles of Bullecourt (April – May 1917). This heavily fortified French town saw heavy fighting by Australian soldiers from April to May 1917. Australian casualties were high with over 10,000 troops killed or injured and 1,200 men taken prisoner in the first battle. The battles reinforced the average Australian soldier’s mistrust of upper command and witnessed the early use of tanks on the battlefield.

**TALK:**            **THE HISTORY OF TEA AND TEAPOTS**  
**TIME:**            **29 May 2017 10 AM – 12 PM**  
**VENUE:**          **West Ryde Library, 2 Graf Ave, West Ryde 2114** [View Map](#)  
**COST:**            **Gold Coin Donation – Bookings: Phone 9952 8352**

Join presenter Jan Wilson as she explores the mysterious and fascinating history of tea and teapots. You are invited to linger after the talk for a cuppa and light refreshments. For more information go to: <http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/Events/Listing/Tea-and-Talks-29-May-2017>

### **NATIONAL TRUST AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL-APRIL 18 to MAY 21**

Every April and May the National Trust and thousands of event organisers and volunteers across Australia invite you to more than 1,100 events, which celebrate our fantastic heritage, history and culture. For four weeks from April 18, you can join thousands of visitors enjoying Australia’s largest grass roots heritage festival. Show your support for cultural and historical assets from around the country and join the fun. [Click here](#) to explore the heritage Festival website.

### **NSW GOVERNMENT GAZETTE ON ‘TROVE’**

At a brick wall with researching ancestors in New South Wales? Then try the [New South Wales Government Gazette](#) on Trove. The lives of thousands of ordinary people are mentioned in every issue, making it a valuable source when researching Australia’s history. Exploring the *NSW Government Gazette* in Trove will take you on a journey from 1832 to 2001. <https://www.nla.gov.au/blogs/trove/2016/11/01/nsw-government-gazette>

### **ONLINE LANGUAGE AND TRANSLATION RESOURCES**

One difficulty that many researchers encounter is the discovery of information in a foreign language. If you don’t speak the language and you don’t want to miss out on a possible source of family information, there are websites that will try to translate a web page, text or document for you. While the translations are not always perfect, they should give you an idea of what has been written:

- [Bing Translator](#) - enter a URL for a web page or copy & paste text to translate
- [Google Translate](#) - copy & paste text, translate a web page or upload a document to be translated
- [GramTrans](#) - specialises in Scandinavian languages - Danish, Swedish and Norwegian. Translate text or a web page

## **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](#):

[\*The Murchison Times and Day Dawn Gazette \(Cue, WA: 1894-1925\),\*](#)

[\*Kyneton Guardian \(Vic: 1870-1880\)\*](#)

[\*Bent's Monthly Advertiser \(Hobart, Tas: 1828\).\*](#)

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>

**Unbound** is the National Library's digital magazine - *Issue 2* available [here](#)



### **HOT WEBSITES**

Try these Web sites to further your research!

<http://www.fredwalter.com/infirmary/>

Geelong Infirmary and Benevolent Asylum Admission Books 1861 to 1923

<http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/NameSearchForm.aspx>

National Archives of Australia name search – many different categories including Passenger Lists

[https://familysearch.org/search/collection/list/?page=1&region=PACIFIC\\_ISLAND](https://familysearch.org/search/collection/list/?page=1&region=PACIFIC_ISLAND)

Various databases including census, land records and passenger lists for Pacific Islands

[https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/most\\_customers\\_want\\_to\\_know.asp#OnlineIndex](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/most_customers_want_to_know.asp#OnlineIndex)

GRO UK Historic Birth and Death Indexes Information – free but site registration required to search

<http://www.victorianchildren.org/>

Victorian children history guide – impact on health, education, work and play

<https://www.scotlandpeople.gov.uk/search-our-records>

Official Scottish site for wills, parish registers, civil registration-free index search (cost for images)

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

British Home Children Migration to Canada Scheme Research/Advocacy Assoc. 1860 to 1948

<https://www.gov.uk/wills-probate-inheritance/searching-for-probate-records>

Search the index and order a will from 1858 onwards

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

Yorkshire Film Archive – short films covering 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Yorkshire life