

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



NEWS UPDATE

➤ RDHS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

The Annual General Meeting of the Ryde District Historical Society will be held on Tuesday 13 February 2018 at 7 pm at Willandra and you are encouraged to attend. Under new co-operative rules, nominations for executive positions need to be formally submitted ***before*** the meeting. If you would like to nominate for a position, please complete the attached form and ***submit it by latest 5 February*** to Ryde District Historical Society, 770 Victoria Road, Ryde NSW 2112 or via email rdhs1@bigpond.com. ***Note: A nomination for a position can only be taken on the night of the AGM if that position does not have a nominee for it.***

➤ RYDE DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP 2018

Membership fees are now due for 2018. Cash payment can be made to the Treasurer 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 with the details. Please see the attached form for membership fee costs and payment details.

➤ 'OLD PHOTOS DAY' AT WILLANDRA

Our first public event for this year will be on ***Saturday 17 February, 10.30am to 2.00pm***. It's a ***"BRING OUT YOUR OLD PHOTOS"*** Day. We are asking members of the public (parents or grandparents too) and RDHS to bring along their photos so that we can scan relevant photos. We're interested in photos of houses, streets, school photos and so on. We'll be scanning them on the day so there is no need to leave them. We have a variety of support roles that need to be filled on the day, so if you can help, email rdhs1@bigpond.com. More information can be found on our 'Facebook' page [here](#)

➤ 'FAMILY FINDER DAY' AT CONGRESS 2018 - SYDNEY CONVENTION CENTRE

Family Finder Day on ***Friday 9 March 2018*** is a special event running alongside the 15th 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](#)

➤ **NSW & ACT ASSOCIATION OF FHS ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2018**

This year the Association will be holding its annual conference in the beautiful southern NSW coastal town of Batemans Bay at Batemans Bay Soldiers Club from 14 to 16 September. The theme this year is *'Sailing into History'*. One of the keynote speakers will be Cora Num who has a wealth of knowledge particularly for online searching. Please visit the Association's website [here](#) for ongoing updates.

➤ **BENNELONG'S GRAVE SITE IN PUTNEY STREET**

A recent house auction in Putney hit the headlines late last year. The house was passed in at auction but, it is the proximity of the house to the famous indigenous man Bennelong's supposed grave site that is of significance. Read all about it [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 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.*

Saturday	10 February 2018	Members Meeting <i>5 Minute Talk about your latest family history find</i>
Tuesday	13 February 2018	Annual General Meeting <i>All members are encouraged to consider standing for election</i>



WHAT'S ON

TALKS, EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

EXHIBITON: **UNDERWORLD - MUGSHOTS FROM THE ROARING 20's**
TIME: 9 December 2017 - 12 August 2018 10-5pm daily
VENUE: Museum of Sydney, corner of Phillip & Bridge Streets Sydney
COST: Adults \$12 Concessions \$8

Meet bosses, bruisers, plotters and petty criminals in our unique exhibition of more than 130 captivating NSW Police mugshots, unlike any found elsewhere in the world at the Museum of Sydney. Descend further into Sydney's seedy underworld of crime from the decade of the ***Roaring Twenties***.

TALK: **POPULAR ENTERTAINMENT IN THE COLONIES 1828 - 1850**
TIME: **3 February 2018 1.30 – 3.30PM**
VENUE: **Canada Bay Heritage Society 1 Bent Street Concord [+ Google Map](#)**
COST: **FREE**

The Colonial Secretary, under An Act for regulating places of public exhibition and entertainment (1828), reviewed all applications for performances to be held in New South Wales. The applications include the scripts of plays from 1842 to 1856, including tragedies, comedies and pantomimes. They show the difficulties for theatre managers and performers in gaining the Colonial Secretary's approval from 1828 to the 1850s. Join guest speaker ***Janet Pelosi*** for this insight into entertainment offerings for the early colonists.

TALK: **THE LIFE AND DEATH OF OLIVER BAINBRIDGE**
TIME: **6 February 2018 11AM – 12PM**
VENUE: **State Library of NSW, Metcalfe Room, Macquarie Street Sydney**
COST: **FREE**

Frank Nelson aka ***Oliver Bainbridge*** was the son of a bush schoolmaster who claimed descent from ***Horatio Nelson***. After an early indiscretion he changed his name, becoming Oliver Bainbridge, 'explorer and anthropologist'. He supported himself by giving public lectures and writing books on India, China and Japan. Heavily involved in Balkan politics from 1913, he wrote propaganda pamphlets during World War I. His apparent assassination in 1922 by the IRA was 'hushed up' by the then NSW Premier. Join Edwin Wilson as he peels back the layers of Frank Nelson's unusual life.

TALK: **GEORGE HEDGELAND – STAINED GLASS ARTIST**
TIME: **20 February 2018 10.30AM – 11.30AM**
VENUE: **Gladesville Library, 6 Pittwater Road Gladesville [View Map](#)**
COST: **FREE**

Join Ryde Local Studies Librarian and Historian ***Angela Phippen*** as she explores the fascinating life of ***George Hedgeland***; a 19th century English stained glass artist and local Sydney surveyor who featured prominently in ***The Letters of Rachel Henning***, herself a well-known Hunters Hill identity.

TALK: **TOUR DE OZ**
TIME: **21 February 2018 6.30PM to 8PM**
VENUE: **Ryde Library, 1 Pope Street, Ryde 2112 [View Map](#)**
COST: **FREE**

On 24 November 1896 a wiry and wily bushman named ***Arthur Richardson*** left Coolgardie for Adelaide by bicycle. Carrying only a small kit and a water-bag, he followed the telegraph line. After much 'sweating and swearing' on sandy roads west of Eucla, and enduring the scorching heat, 31 days later he became the first man to pedal across the Nullarbor. Within three years ***Richardson*** had set his sights on becoming the first

person to ride around the vast island continent, not yet a nation, and some 18,507km. Join [Bret Harris](#) for this revealing story.

RDHS MAIL BOX

PRINT JOURNALS*

Family Tree UK - December, 2017

Irish Roots - 4th Quarter, 2017

The South Australian Genealogist - November, 2017.

Ances-Tree - November, 2017 - Burwood & District Family History Group

Eagle Eye - December, 2017 - Cowra Family History Group Inc.

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

The Ancestral Searcher - December 2017 - The Heraldry & Genealogy Soc. of Canberra Inc.

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

Traces – Vol. 1, “Uncovering the Past” (*This magazine replaces “Inside History”*)

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

e-JOURNALS^

Time Traveller – December 2017 - Shoalhaven Family History Society Inc.

Nurungi – November 2017 - Canada Bay Heritage Society

Dubbo & District Family History Society, Newsletter - November December, 2017

^Email RDHS at rdhs1@bigpond.com for digital journals/newsletters to be sent to members

TREASURE TROVE – NEWLY DIGITISED

‘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.

Trove continues the quest to be every family historian’s favourite resource! Here is a list of the latest updates that have been added to the newspaper digitization project between [August to November 2017](#) just in case you’ve missed them!

Check out this story from [Dr Noeline Kyle](#) as she explores the nature of Australian family oral histories in the latest edition of National Library’s digital magazine [Unbound](#)

BITS AND PIECES

❖ 200 YEAR OLD PUB DISCOVERED AT PARRAMATTA

After 10 years of digging in the dirt, an archaeological team has discovered the remains of a 200 year public house in the centre of Parramatta CBD. They believe it to be the

Wheatsheaf Hotel built around 1801. There are also the remains of a wheelwright shop as well. Find out more with this [ABC News report](#)

❖ **BIOGRAPHICAL DATABASE OF AUSTRALIA – UPDATES**

This database is an online tool for historians and genealogists comprising transcripts and indexes of many original records. The published biographies are of deceased individuals who arrived in or were born in Australia, starting from the earliest times. You can *search the Indexes for free* or pay a \$30 subscription for full access details. Recent 2017 updates to the database can be found [here](#)

❖ **'TRACES' REPLACES 'INSIDE HISTORY' MAGAZINE**

For lovers of the Australian history magazine '*Inside History*' there is some good news for 2018. The magazine will be back but with the title '*Traces*' and will be a collaboration with Executive Media Publishers (Melbourne). Editor will be Eden Cox with *Inside History's* editor Cassie Mercer on board as consulting editor. *Traces* will be available as a quarterly publication.

❖ **HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS!**

What does an historic home and garden have to do with politics? Check out this article (October 9 2017) from *Garden Drum* regarding '*Homehill*' the home of Prime Minister Joseph and Dame Enid Lyons to find out.

❖ **NEW ACCESS ARRANGMENTS FOR 'FAMILYSEARCH' WEBSITE**

The longstanding family history database website 'FamilySearch' has now changed its access arrangements. You now have to create a (free) account to gain access to their vast array of records. There will be added benefits to having an account. Find out more [here](#)

❖ **NSW CEMETERIES – STATE PROPOSAL FOR RENEWABLE TENURE**

'Resting in Peace' may be a thing of the past if a NSW State Government proposal is accepted regarding burial plot tenure. Renewable tenures of between 25 and 99 years are being considered, as Sydney 'runs' out of space for its dear departed. More [here](#)



HOT WEBSITES

Try these Web sites to further your research!

http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20189/search_our_records/321/indexes_and_guides

Worcestershire Archives Indexes - Apprenticeships, Wills, Business and Trade Directories etc.

<https://worldwide.espacenet.com/>

Patents of historic interest database – on-going project

<https://collage.cityoflondon.gov.uk/>

The London Picture Archive – browse by subject

<http://www.coffinworks.org/newmanbros/newman-brothers-history/>

History of UK Newman Brothers cabinet and coffin makers

<http://members.iinet.net.au/~perthdps/convicts/ships.html>

An Australian guide to researching your convict ancestor