

# THE ENDEAVOUR



Published quarterly by the  
**BOTANY BAY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.**  
*Discovering Your Heritage*

**PRICE \$6.00**

No. 154  
March 2023

ISSN 0814-9828 (Printed)  
ISSN 2208-3278 (Digital)

# BOTANY BAY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

## *Discovering Your Heritage*

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Vice Presidents	Carole Goodyer	Noele Watkins
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Treasurer	Brenda Connors	
Ordinary Members	Leonie Bell	Jackie Butters
	Jean Campbell	Maree Kirkland
	Richard Linklater	

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Webmaster	Pat Fearnley	
Education Team	Carol Cronan	Lilian Magill
Public Officer	Doug Parkes	
Research Centre Coordinator	Jean Campbell,	
	<a href="mailto:jeanhcampbell47@gmail.com">jeanhcampbell47@gmail.com</a>	

### Meetings

Held on the first Wednesday of the month (except January) commencing at 7.30pm. March, June, September and December meetings held at 'Tradies', The Kingsway, Gympie. The remainder of the year, meetings held online via Zoom.

### Library and Research Centre Messages and Bookings Only: 02 9523 8948

Port Hacking Community Centre 184 Gannons Road (south) Caringbah NSW 2229  
Open: Mon, Wed & Fri: 10am-3pm; Sat: 10am-2pm. For bus route 978 & timetable, see: <https://www.transdevnsw.com.au/services/timetables/south-southwest/>

### Annual Membership Fees

From 1 Jul 2021: single – \$40; family – \$55; distance – \$22. Joining fee for all categories – \$10; membership renewals due 1 July each year.

### Research

Volunteers from BBFHS will research family history relevant to the Sutherland Shire for non-members: minimum fee of \$20 (first hour) and \$20 per hour thereafter.

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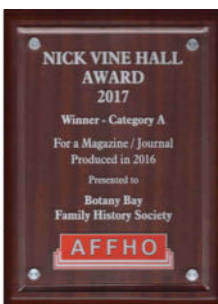
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# CALENDAR



**Members are advised to check latest details on our Events Calendar at [www.botanybayfhs.org.au](http://www.botanybayfhs.org.au) or see your BBFHS eNEWS.**

**2023**

- Mar 1** Meeting – 7.30pm Tradies. **Leonie Bell.** *Stannumville*
- Mar 7** Legacy Interest Group: 2-4pm Zoom & Research Centre
- Mar 11** English Interest Group: 2-4pm Zoom & Research Centre
- Mar 15** **Members Chat Meeting – 7.30pm Zoom.** BBFHS Member Stories. *A Dash of Irish*
- Mar 23** Writers Interest Group: 1.30-3.30pm Research Centre
- Mar 25** DNA Interest Group: 1.30-3.30pm Zoom & Research Centre
- Apr 1** Scottish Interest Group: 2-4pm Research Centre
- Apr 5** **Meeting – 7.30pm Zoom. Helen Smith.** *Topic to be advised*
- Apr 7-10** Easter Public Holidays (Centre closed, Friday-Monday)
- Apr 18** **Education Class. Jeff Madsen.** *Using Land Records in your Family Research - A Beginner's Guide.* **10.30am-Noon.** Research Centre.
- Apr 19** **Members Chat Meeting – 7.30pm Zoom.** BBFHS Member Stories. *ANZAC Stories*
- Apr 22** **Heritage Fair: 10am-4pm at Tradies**
- May 2** Legacy Interest Group: 2-4pm Research Centre
- May 3** **Meeting – 7.30pm Zoom. Frank Kitto.** *Using My Heritage*
- May 13** English Interest Group: 2-4pm Zoom
- May 16** Family Tree Maker Interest Group – 1.30-3.30pm Zoom
- May 17** **Members Chat Meeting – 7.30pm Zoom. Lilian Magill.** *Mummel Cemetery One Place Study*
- May 20** Australian Interest Group: 2-4pm Zoom
- May 25** Writers Interest Group: 1.30-3.30pm Research Centre
- May 27** DNA Interest Group: 1.30-3.30pm Zoom & Research Centre
- Jun 3** Scottish Interest Group – 2-4pm Research Centre
- Jun 7** **Meeting – 7.30pm Tradies. Louise Speding from Cold Case.** *Hartley Vale Cemetery: Unmarked Graves*
- Jun 12** King's Birthday Public Holiday (Centre closed, Monday)
- Jun 21** **Members Chat Meeting – 7.30pm Zoom.** BBFHS Member Stories. *New Zealand Connections*
- Jun 24** Irish Interest Group: 2-4pm Zoom & Research Centre

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# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

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As we welcome in the New Year, your Committee has come up with a wonderful theme for 2023 – Renew, Review, Research. The dictionary defines these words as:

- ★ **Renew** – resume (an activity) after an interruption.
- ★ **Review** – an assessment of something with the intention of instituting change if necessary.
- ★ **Research** – the systematic investigation into and study in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions.

Some simple ideas to get you started include:

- Set up a research log.
- Create a source citation workflow.
- Record all variations of an ancestral surname.
- Make a timeline for your ancestor.
- Discover which newspapers were published in your ancestor's lifetime.
- Google your ancestor's hometown.
- Revisit websites to check for new records.
- Study one of your ancestor's siblings.

Make sure you visit the BBFHS Research Centre where there is a wealth of information to restart your genealogy sleuthing. And elsewhere in *The Endeavour* you will find details of upcoming Education Classes, Monthly and Mid-month meetings – there is sure to be something for everyone.

The really exciting news, however, is the introduction of an annual Botany Bay FHS Lyndal Holland Writing Competition. Open to all members, entries will be anonymized by the Secretary to enable the competition to be judged fairly by Leonie Bell, John Levy and Colleen Passfield. You will have until 31 July to submit an entry on the topic of My/Our First Ancestor Who Arrived in Australia. Entry forms can be downloaded from our website.

Finally, in the past few months Committee has introduced the following user specific email addresses to assist members with any queries/comments they may have:

- [president@botanybayfhs.org.au](mailto:president@botanybayfhs.org.au)
- [secretary@botanybayfhs.org.au](mailto:secretary@botanybayfhs.org.au)
- [treasurer@botanybayfhs.org.au](mailto:treasurer@botanybayfhs.org.au)

- [membersec@botanybayfhs.org.au](mailto:membersec@botanybayfhs.org.au)
- [webmaster@botanybayfhs.org.au](mailto:webmaster@botanybayfhs.org.au)

For enquires regarding the Research Centre or any other general enquiry, continue to send your email to the [botanybayfhs@yahoo.com.au](mailto:botanybayfhs@yahoo.com.au) address.

Jennie Fairs

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## THE SUTHERLAND SHIRE CITIZENS' HERITAGE FESTIVAL (SSCHF)

By Noele Watkins (Member)

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This Festival has been running for over 30 years, comprising of many interesting and heritage places and events in our Shire. Running in conjunction with the Australian National Trust and with assistance from Sutherland Council, who give them a grant. The national Trust set the date and theme for the events.

The Festival comprises of many local, voluntary groups, who come together to showcase their activities, along with several well-known organisations. On Opening Day a vintage bus travels between each venue.

Our Society has been fortunate enough to join them to organise our own Heritage Fair at Tradies, Gynea for some time. We have gained quite a lot of new members over the years and have a very good reputation for the way we organise and present our Fair, along with offering interesting talks.

Last year we scaled back the number of exhibitors to enable more room between the tables, which I felt was a real success. Some Art and Craft people have been included to add interest. I welcome any new ideas anyone may wish to offer.

This event is mainly for our own members, to see exactly what we have to offer and to learn about the Interest Groups we have. Many of the other exhibitors can also offer help and advice to assist you. The date is Saturday 22nd April 2023 from 10am till 4pm. Details of exhibitors and talks will be in our eNEWS and on the Botany Bay FHS web page.

And so, I urge you all to inform your friends and bring them along to make our Fair a bigger and better success.



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# TROVE UNDER THREAT!!!

by John Levy (Editor)

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For most of our members who have family connexions in Australia's past, *Trove* at <https://trove.nla.gov.au/> is a fantastic resource for investigating details of your family history. Run by the National Library of Australia (NLA), *Trove* provides access to millions of searchable pages in Australian newspapers, as well as books, magazines, images, diaries, photographs, music, videos, and websites. **And it is free!** A similar service at the *British Newspaper Archive* at <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/search/advanced> costs AU\$150 per year, if you subscribe at home. Mind you, you can view these for free at your Research Centre – so come on down and look for details about your UK rels!

After many years of 'efficiency dividends' – political speak from both sides for reduced funding, the National Library is **struggling to keep Trove running**. To quote Dr Iain Stuart, President of the Royal Australian Historical Society: *State and local government libraries, cultural organisations of all types, newspaper companies and historical societies have had their collections uploaded to Trove since its inception. These organisations have trusted the NLA to manage the harvested data on behalf of all Australians for the benefit of the Australian nation. ... Together Trove and its partners have created arguably the most significant collection of Australian stories and cultural heritage. What has been achieved already is invaluable, but this work needs adequate and ongoing funding to continue.*

Supporting *Trove* is of vital interest to all Australians – and certainly family historians. It holds the nation's memories and allows everyone to understand and know their own history. Many people may not know it now, but it will be apparent as time passes and future generations seek to find out about their heritage.

There is a petition to the Government supporting full funding of *Trove*. The web address is <https://www.change.org/p/fully-fund-trove>. I simply ask that all of you that read this journal, please take a few seconds, click on the address and add your name, as I have, to join the over 29,000 petitioners, as at February 2023, to support *Trove*. **Please do it straight away as time is running out!**



Find us on  
**Facebook**

Follow BBFHS on Facebook at <http://tinyurl.com/39uzkb2b>

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## NOTES AND NEWS

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**Leonie Bell**, Botany Bay FHS member, co-ordinator of our Writers Interest Group and assistant editor of *The Endeavour*, has been announced as the winner of the Ron Rathbone Local History Competition. Sponsored by Bayside Council, this annual competition honours Ron Rathbone OAM – a former Councillor and Mayor of the City of Rockdale who was greatly interested in local history. In presenting the award, Mayor Dr Christine Curry said, 'Leonie is both a meticulous researcher and a gifted, highly readable, writer who has made an enormous contribution to our local history collection and knowledge.'

Leonie's topic was Stannumville, a tent town established near Daceyville, New South Wales, during World War 1. Although it only existed for a short while, Leonie investigated why it was there, the reasons for its establishment, what it was like to live there and why it was eventually abandoned. For her efforts, Leonie received a \$5000 prize. Congratulations Leonie on your fourth win in this prestigious competition. **Stannumville is the topic of Leonie's talk at the members' meeting on 1 March at Tradies.**

**Rootstech.** Join in to a great online family history conference which is coming up very soon: 2-4 March. The details are in the Education program on page 12.

**Have You Looked At The Botany Bay Connections Website at <http://www.bbfsconnections.com.au/>?** An on-going project of our Society, the *Welcome Page* states: *This website enables members of the Botany Bay Family History Society to submit and display their family trees in a communal "forest" as well as articles of historical interest. The Botany Bay Connections Genealogy Database contains many names that have a family connection with the Sutherland Shire and surrounding areas. By searching this database you may discover your ancestors and the connections between families. Presently in the database there are more than 16,500 names consisting of over 6,000 families and you will also be able to find the names of prominent, famous, and not so famous people who have had an influence on the development of the Shire or those who lived in the Shire and became well known for their war service or their endeavours in commerce, industry or the arts.*

We encourage all our members to add their family tree to the website. It is a great place to permanently record your efforts so that your family history is available to your descendents. Don't let all your research effort be lost!

If you need to find out how to produce a tree for this purpose, please contact the Research Centre, where a volunteer will be able to help you.



**Museums of History NSW (MHNSW)** has a new website at <https://mhnsw.au/> where the combined collections of the Sydney Living Museum and the NSW State Archives (with its catalogue, indexes, subject guides and webinars). A nine minute YouTube video at <https://tinyurl.com/42d7ym6s> gives a ‘walk-through’ of the new website. If you need help, go to ‘Ask an Archivist’ at <https://tinyurl.com/ks28wa8d>

**Kathleen le Gras, making a difference.** We have received news that ex-member Kathleen le Gras died in January, 2023. We extend our condolences to Kathleen’s family and friends.

As an Irish immigrant, Kathleen had a connection with an Irish surname, Cashin. While researching, she found Alice Cashin. Although Alice was not Kathleen’s family line, Kathleen followed her story and discovered that she was a nurse with the British Red Cross in WW1, and was buried in an unmarked grave in Woronora Cemetery. Kathleen tackled this project head on, resulting in the Nurses Association raising funds for a memorial. A statue and Alice’s story now stands quietly at Woronora – visited by many taken with Alice’s story. Kathleen visited the Irish Interest Group a few years ago to tell the Cashin story.



PLEASE MENTION *THE ENDEAVOUR* WHEN CONTACTING

## NEW MEMBER

We offer a warm welcome to the following new Society member. Please take advantage of your membership by attending meeting nights, classes and the Research Centre (please ask for help if you need it).

1908

Patrick Skene

Rockdale

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# BLACKWOODS BEACH

by Colleen **Passfield** (Member)

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**T**he recent report of a drowning at Cronulla triggered for me a childhood memory. When holidaying at my grand-father's house in Parramatta Street, my sister and I would often be taken by family members to learn to swim at a nearby pool among the rocks below the convent on the Esplanade. It was reached by a bush path across the face of the cliff and became known as 'the nuns pool'. There was a small beach and a concrete insert between the natural rock formation created a safe pool for children where the water in the pool was refreshed at high tides by waves washing over the concrete wall.

One day, I was wandering over the rocks with my aunt when we came upon a stretch of sandy beach halfway between the pool and Cronulla Point. It was opposite what is now known as Shark Island and the waves breaking on the shore looked inviting. It was secluded and, like the nuns pool, not visible from the Esplanade and only reached by scrambling over the rocks. Without going into details, my aunt sternly warned me that I must never even think about swimming at this beach as it was extremely dangerous. It was hard to accept such a serious warning as I looked around but I knew that there had to be a good reason for the warning. Soon I graduated to swimming in the pools at Shelley Beach and Oak Park and thought no more about it until, much later, I became aware of reports of incidents at Blackwoods Beach.

One of the most tragic incidents occurred in January 1914, and was widely reported. The **Louden** family, who lived at Penshurst and had a manufacturing business at Redfern, were holidaying at their summer residence on the Esplanade and above Blackwoods Beach. Alex Louden was a boot manufacturer, treasurer of the St George Cottage Hospital, Secretary of the St George Bowling Club and manager of the Australasian team which toured the British Isles in 1912. Family members holidaying at the cottage included his eldest daughter, Marjorie (21), his youngest daughter, Daphne (15), his eldest son R J Louden and his wife, Celia, and their children Alexander (12), Winnie (10), Marie (8) and two younger children.

About 7 o'clock in the morning of Tuesday, 30 December, 1913, Marjorie and Daphne with their sister-in-law Celia and the children left their house to go for a dip and decided to go to Blackwoods Beach. Locals knew this as a dangerous spot where the beach falls away to deep water rapidly with a treacherous undertow and swirling eddies. Even though drownings had occurred here previously, the family were, apparently, unaware of the danger. A young boy named **Morris** was playing on the beach and was witness to what happened after the Loudens arrived on the beach.



Blackwoods Beach, Cronulla, ca1910-1930 (photo: courtesy of the Local Studies Collection, Sutherland Shire Libraries.)

Mrs Louden decided to stay on the beach with the children but Marjorie dashed into the water and called out for the others to join her. When she tried to swim back she was caught in the under-current and called out for help. Young Alex Louden immediately dashed to the rescue but was caught in the undertow and also carried out. Daphne, hoping to save them, now plunged in and was soon also in trouble. Marjorie sank and soon Daphne disappeared and little Alex was seen floating lifeless out to sea.

Mrs Louden on the beach was watching in horror with the younger children clinging to her crying and restraining her. She was shouting aloud for help and sending Winnie and Marie for help to the family home and nearest house. Morris, the boy playing on the beach, ran all the way to the township and gave the alarm. It was some time before family members and lifesavers Frank **Giddings**, Jack **Perrier** and Ebbie **Rowbotham**, members of the Cronulla Surf Club, arrived at the scene. They saw Alex Louden floating about 100 metres off-shore and Perrier and Rowbotham soon reached him and brought him ashore while Giddings swam about searching for the girls.

The lifesavers worked for over an hour, hoping to resuscitate the young victim. Dr **Sproule** was summoned and declared life extinct. Later on, the bodies of the two girls were washed up on Shelly Beach. Flags in Cronulla flew at half-mast and the Cronulla Life Saving Club, of which Walter Louden, brother of the

drowned girls, was captain, announced that the carnival due to be held on New Year's Day was postponed.

In Cronulla, there was concern that the extensive and sometimes misleading publicity about the tragedy would harm Cronulla long regarded as one of the safest beaches in New South Wales and patrolled by members of the Cronulla Surf Life Saving Club. Blackwoods Beach was unpatrolled and known to be dangerous for swimmers. An explanation regarding this, written by Mr C J **Monroe**, appeared in *The Sun* on 6 January.

On Thursday 1 January 1914, the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported on the funeral of the three victims of the Cronulla tragedy. It was described as the largest ever held at Woronora Cemetery with representatives from many bowling clubs, boot manufacturers and associated trades, public bodies, the Cottage Hospital, Sutherland Shire Council and New South Wales State Parliament.

Alexander James Loudon, son of Mr and Mrs R J Loudon, was interred in the Roman Catholic section of the cemetery. Rev Father Briordy of St Declan's Church, Penshurst officiating. The bodies of the two sisters, Marjorie and Daphne, were buried side by side in the Presbyterian section with Rev F Barclay of Hurstville performing the last rites.

The chief mourners were Mr. Alexander Loudon, Mr. R J Loudon, and other brothers of the girls, Messrs. W., Archie, Alex., Ken and H. Loudon.

On 8 January 1914, an enquiry was held at the City's Coroner's Court concerning the death of Margaret (sic) Loudon aged 20, Daphne Loudon, 16, and Alex Loudon, 12. After hearing statements from various witnesses, including Mr R J Loudon, who stated that 'neither of the girls could swim and my son was not a good swimmer', the coroner found that Margaret Loudon was drowned while bathing; Alexander Loudon in attempting to save her; and Daphne in an attempt to save the lives of the other two.

#### REFERENCES

*The Cronulla Story – A Century of Surf Life Saving Vigilance and Service* by Gary Lester  
*The Sun* (Sydney, NSW) Tuesday 30 December 1913, page 1; Thursday 8 January 1914, page 7; Tuesday 6 January 1914. Page 5

*Daily Telegraph* (Sydney, NSW) Wednesday 31 December 1913, page 9; Thursday 1 January, 1914, page 7

*Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW) Thursday 1 January, 1914, page 8

*St George Call* (Kogarah, NSW) Saturday 3 January 1914. Page 7

*Barrier Miner* (Broken Hill, NSW) Wednesday 31 December 1913, page 1

*Farmer and Settler* (Sydney, NSW) Friday 2 January 1914, page 3

*Clarence and Richmond Examiner* (Grafton, NSW) Thursday 1 January 1914, page 5



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# EDUCATION CLASS – 18 APRIL 2023

## USING LAND RECORDS IN YOUR FAMILY RESEARCH

by Jeff Madsen (President)

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This class provides an introduction to NSW Land Records available online at the Historical Land Records Viewer (HLRV). It will also demonstrate how these historical land records can be used to enhance your family research.

The session will outline:

- Early land records
- Parish and Town maps
- Land Title systems
- Using historical Land Records for family research
- Use of NSW Land Registry Services (including HLRV), Geographical Names Board and SIX Maps websites

The session will be presented by BBFHS member, Jeff Madsen, who has had a long career in Information Technology using GIS (Geographic Information Systems) software to prepare maps for Government, private enterprise and family researchers. His interest in genealogy highlighted that maps and historical geography could be used to enhance a family tree or story to become more than just names and dates.

He has used the Historical Land Records Viewer (HLRV) since 1999 and, more recently, to research property owned by ancestors, greatly assisting the writing of family stories.

Jeff is involved in digitising manuscript material for the Society of Australian Genealogists.

### RESEARCH CENTRE OPENING TIMES

**Monday, Wednesday and Friday – 10am to 4pm**

**Saturday – 10am to 2pm**

**Closed Public Holidays**

**Please phone 9523 8948 if going in after midday.**

When researching, please ask for help if you need it – it is why the Centre assistants are there and they like to help.

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# BBFHS EDUCATION PROGRAM

by Carol **Cronan** and Lilian **Magill** (Educators)

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As we all know, BBBFHS is full of people with enormous talent and knowledge particularly in relation to genealogy. Therefore, it should be no surprise that our Education Classes for this year are being delivered by several members who have particular expertise.

We started in February with a class on *Tracing your Convict Ancestors*. This was the beginning of a particular focus on convicts throughout February with the Australian Interest Group concentrating on convicts and the mid month meeting focussing on the more personal convict stories of members.

The remainder of the classes for the year will cover such diverse topics as *A Beginners Guide to NSW Land Records* (this would also be a good refresher class for those who did Jeff **Madsen**'s three part course a few years ago), *Tracing your New Zealand and Jewish relatives* and *Making better use of Word for your Family Story*. Details of the class dates and times are, or will be, available on the BBBFHS website at <http://www.botanybayfhs.org.au/education.html> and are regularly mentioned in the eNEWS. You can book a class via the website at <http://www.botanybayfhs.org.au/payments.html>.

Our classes are not just aimed at beginners but those who have already some or even much expertise in the topic. Attendance at the class may provide updates on resources available, new perspectives or insights that you had not previously considered and the opportunity to seek assistance from the collective brains trust at the class, as well as a few laughs and tales along the way. Of course, the opposite is also true, and you more experienced members may be able to share your knowledge or skills with those in the class who are seeking guidance.

Rootstech is a large and well-respected family history conference, running from 2 to 4 March, which you can attend online here in Aus – <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/>. Registration is free and provides over 200 new and on-demand class sessions and classes, and allows you to access the sessions over the following year from the comfort of your own space. These can be a valuable source of new ways of seeing about particular aspects of our genealogical research.

As always, we welcome suggestions from members about classes they would like to see offered. Please contact me at [carolcronan@gmail.com](mailto:carolcronan@gmail.com) or Lilian at [lily@researchbylily.com.au](mailto:lily@researchbylily.com.au) should you have ideas. We are looking forward to seeing many of you at a class or two over the year.

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# JOHN ARCHER ‘JACK’ BISHOP

by John Levy (Member)

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For ANZAC Day 2022, Lee Evans, member for the NSW State seat of Heathcote produced an ANZAC booklet. In it, BBFHS member and president of the Helensburgh Historical Society Jenny **Donohoe** provided a great article about John Archer **Bishop** and the mystery surrounding his death in an aircraft accident in the final stages of World War 2. As ANZAC Day 2023 approaches, I offer this article in tribute.

John Archer Bishop, known in the family as Jack, was married to my father’s older sister, Joan (Lilian Joan **Levy**). When I was young I was told that Jack was killed when a plane, in which he was a passenger, was shot down over New Guinea in the last week of the war. Some years ago, I paid the National Archives of Australia to digitize Jack’s service record and make it publicly available on their website (<https://tinyurl.com/dm5y9jbv>), along with those of my parents and some other relatives. However, I did not follow up Jack’s story. When Jenny Donohoe contacted me because she was writing short biographies of servicemen from the Helensburgh area, it rekindled my own interest.

Jack was born on 27 March 1908 on his parent’s farm at Darkes Forest, a small rural community then, about 11 km south-west of Helensburgh, New South Wales. His parents were Walter Andrew Bishop (1885-1966) and Mary Helen (Ellen) Bishop, nee **Canning** (1891-1977). Jack’s six siblings were Walter Robert (1906-1997), Percy William (1910-1974), Alfred George (1912-1955), Edna Mary (1914-after 1940), Gweneth Joyce (1917-after 1947) and Elsie Jean (ca 1924-2006).

In about 1912, the family moved to Highfield (now Caringbah) when the area was still mostly bushland. Like other pioneers of the area, the family was self-supporting – they kept chooks, a couple of cows and grew their own fruit and vegetables. Walter (senior) was a labourer. Their property was in Jackaranda Street (now Jacaranda Ave) as shown in the electoral rolls (1920-27). On the 1930 electoral roll, Jack, then 22, listed his occupation as ‘butcher’. He remained in Caringbah until he married Joan on 26 February 1938. The couple rented a house in Stapleton Avenue, Sutherland until Jack enlisted. Joan then moved, with her young son, from the rented premises to live with her parents, my grandparents, Henry Levy and Effie (nee **Reynolds**) in Auburn Street, Sutherland.

John Archer Bishop, age 33, enlisted in the Australian Army on 10 January 1942 in Martin Place, Sydney and was given the service number NX83170. After 15 months service in New South Wales, he was transferred to Western Australia,



serving in the 1st Australian Armed Troops Workshop, Australian Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (AEME), where he completed an armourer's course. He returned to New South Wales to attend an advanced armourer's course in October and November, 1944. After successful completion, he transferred to the 13 Australian Advanced Troops Workshop, AEME, in Queensland in late December.



J. A. Bishop, (photo: War service record, NAA, B883, NX83170)

On 10 May 1945 he embarked by ship, disembarking at Morotai Island on 22 May. Morotai Island is part of the Halmahera group of the Dutch East Indies (present-day Indonesia) that was a key staging point and airbase for Australian operations into Borneo and American operations into the Philippines. US troops had landed on the island on 15 September 1944 and secured a perimeter around the island's airfield. Although that perimeter was subsequently enlarged, Japanese forces on the rest of the island were essentially side-lined for the rest of the war.

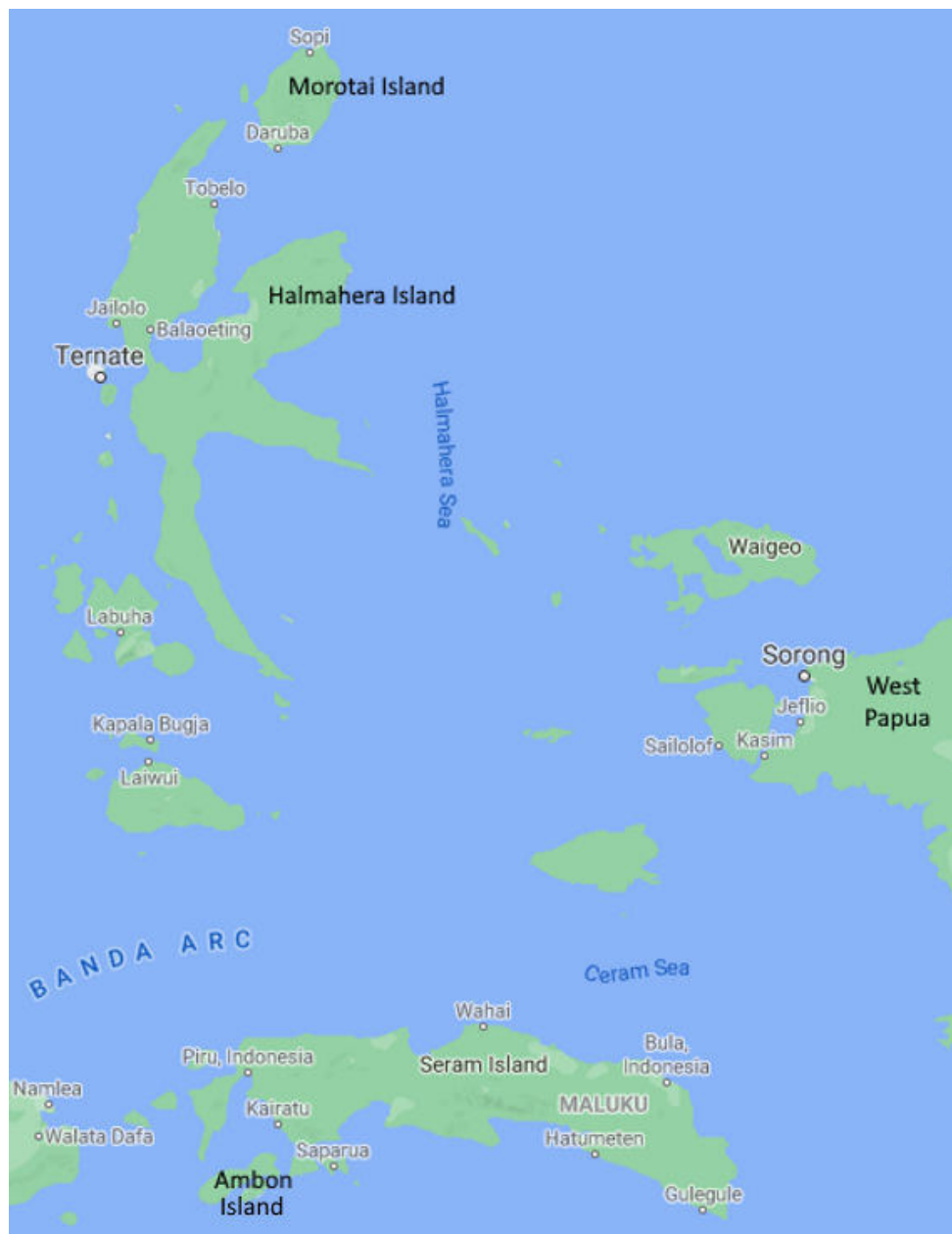
And so to the incident. A court of inquiry was held in the field on 31 July, 1945. It reported that Jack was, 'a passenger in a Beaufighter aircraft which crashed while carrying out practice bombing and strafing runs over HALMAHERAS on 28.7.45 – Because of nature of crash, it is considered that neither crew or passenger(s?) survived. Court considers soldier must be presumed killed in the accident.' As a result, 'Previously reported: 'Missing believed killed' was changed to 'Now reported: Killed Accidentally'. The aircraft had disintegrated when it crashed, the probable cause being a high speed stall during a dive recovery.

Jack's body was recovered and he was buried at Morotai War Cemetery on 13 September 1945 in Plot B, Row A, Grave No. 3, about seven weeks after the crash and about four weeks after the Japanese surrender announced by US President Harry **Truman** on 14 August.

Eventually, the bodies of all Allied servicemen at Morotai were exhumed and relocated to other cemeteries. Australian personnel were re-interred at Ambon



war cemetery on Ambon Island (now part of Indonesia). Jack is buried at Plot 28 Row C Grave 9. (Commonwealth War Graves website: <https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/>).





Plaque: J. A. Bishop, Ambon War Cemetery (photo: Jenny Ashcraft)

Almost 80 years after the crash, mystery still surrounds his death. The Beaufighter was usually crewed by a pilot and navigator. As to why Jack was also in the plane, I can only speculate. As an armourer, perhaps he was checking the guns or bomb release mechanism on the plane, although I would have thought that RAAF personnel would do this on the ground. It may have just been a chance for him to fly.

To try to find out more, I searched at the Australian War Memorial website at <https://tinyurl.com/zmet9z9a> to discover who else from Morotai Island died on 28 July. Clarence Gordon **Ireland**! Flight Sergeant Ireland was a pilot in 31 Squadron which flew Bristol Beaufighters. Returning to the NAA website I searched for his war service record. Unfortunately there is little further detail on the accident. It just states: ‘28/7/45 Missing believed killed non-operational flight Tagalaja Island, near Morotai’ – a location at odds with the Court of Inquiry (31 July 1945) report of Halmahera.

Tagalaja Island is a very small island (approx 1 km x 3 km) about 6 km east of the town of Tobelo off the north-east coast of Halmahera (see map).

However, in searching for the pilot's record, I noticed a category titled 'RAAF accident reports'. By searching for 'Clarence Ireland' I found an undigitised 47 page report about the accident. In the Item Details it states: 'In addition to the file subject, the following servicemen are mentioned in this record: **HILL-JONES G J** – (Sergeant); Service Number – 440569 and **BISHOP J A**; Service Number – NX83176 AIF' confirming that I had found the correct pilot and that Jack was involved in the crash. George Hill-Jones service record shows he was a navigator and was killed in the same incident. There was no further detail about the crash in Hill-Jones' service record. The bodies of Clarence Ireland and George Hill-Jones were also recovered and are now interred at Ambon in graves 28 B 14 and 28 B 15 respectively.



Bristol Beaufighters of 31 Squadron RAAF (photo: Randall Stockdale, Pinterest)

The Bristol Beaufighter was a very effective heavy fighter-bomber, known by the Japanese as Whispering Death because its speed at low altitude made its approach almost impossible to hear. 31 Squadron briefly relocated to Morotai in December 1944, to join 22 and 30 Squadrons as part of 77 Wing, 1st Tactical Air Force. From Morotai, the squadron conducted strikes on Japanese troop concentrations, shipping, stores and airfields in the Halmaheras, Celebes and Borneo area of operations.

To conclude this story, Jack and Joan had bought a block of land to build on at 129 Flora Street at Kirrawee but because of Jack's death Joan sold it my parents after the war (note – when the streets of Sutherland were renumbered in the 1950s, 129 became 84 Flora Street). Joan was a hairdresser and had a salon in Boyle Street, Sutherland, next to the Sutherland Picture Theatre, where the *MP Thai Rose* restaurant is located now. On 16 March 1954 Joan remarried, to Jim **Lind** and they lived in Sylvania Road, Sylvania Heights. The marriage was short for sadly Joan died on 6 February 1956 of heart disease, when she was only 44.

## IN MEMORIAM

**BISHOP.**—In loving memory of my dear husband and father, Cfn. John Bishop, NX83170, killed in accident, Fogalaji Island. July 28. 1945. Joan and Ron. 1946 'Family Notices', *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 27 July, p. 32. , <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article29767599>

## REFERENCES

John Archer Bishop, war service record. National Archives of Australia, B883, NX83170  
George Hill-Jones, war service record. National Archives of Australia, A9301, 440569  
Clarence Ireland, war service record. National Archives of Australia, A9301, 433488  
1920-1927 Electoral Rolls for Sutherland Shire, Botany Bay Connections at <http://www.bbfhsconnections.com.au/>  
*St George & Sutherland Shire Leader*: Shire Pioneer Woman Dies. 14 December 1977



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# BOTANY BAY FHS TOURS – SUTHERLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

## THURSDAY 16 MARCH 2023

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by Leonie Bell (Tour Leader)

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On the third Thursday of each month, Botany Bay FHS members are able to tour various wonderful sites of interest to family historians. Apart from their historical interest, the tours are a great way to meet other members with similar interests. The tours are advertised in the eNEWS and on our website. Our next tour is to The Sutherland Historical Society Museum, which has been relocated from the School of Arts at Sutherland to their new venue at Venetia Street at Sylvania. It is on Thursday 16 March.



Sutherland Historical Society - some exhibits (photo: Sutherland Historical Society)

The central theme of the Society's new Venetia Street museum is 'old but new', reflecting ancient Dharawal culture in contrast to the district's relatively recent suburbanisation. In the museum we highlight a selection of objects and stories reflecting this old but new history of Sutherland Shire – described in 1929 as, 'A sort of no-man's land between Sydney and the Illawarra' (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 11 May 1929, p. 13 quoted in Maryanne Larkin, *Sutherland Shire, a*



history to 1939, Sutherland History Press, 1998, p. 151.)

Museum displays highlight:

- Aboriginal life and art
- First contact - Captain Cook's arrival in 1770, including Banks and botany
- The story of Bass and Flinders
- Early landholders in the district especially Thomas Holt
- The Holt-Sutherland Company
- Farming
- Industry
- Essential services, including electricity, water, toilets, health
- The Coming of Suburbia
- Migrant stories
- Surfing and water sports
- Science and research
- Murder and Mayhem
- Local government, Sutherland Shire Council
- Environmental disasters

After arriving at 10.00 am, using private transport, there will be morning tea followed by the tour. After the tour there will be an opportunity to ask questions or to wander around the museum taking time to discover further interesting artefacts. Sylvania Bowling Club is close by if you are looking at having lunch.

The price is \$5 payable on the Botany Bay website at <http://www.botanybayfhs.org.au/payments.html>. For further information, please contact Leonie Bell at [LNBell@iinet.net.au](mailto:LNBell@iinet.net.au)

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<b><u>Richard Holt - Professional Genealogist - Based in the UK</u></b>		
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# THE ORIGINS OF ENGADINE SPRING FAIR

by Leonie **Bell** (Member)

---

**T**here was a sharp rap on the front door. Mum opened it to reveal a woman in a smart navy uniform and a quaint bonnet. It was 1968. The Salvation Army was in Engadine, and they were recruiting.

The young woman invited our family to attend a meeting, to be held in the local Engadine Methodist church hall, on the corner of Cambrai and Chipilly Avenues. On the specified day mum dressed her three children, myself aged ten, my sister aged eight and my five-year-old brother, in our Sunday best, as one did in that period, and we all went to church. When we entered the hall a sea of Army uniforms confronted us. The entire force of Petersham Training College cadets had been engaged to door-knock every house in the suburb with an invitation to join them in worship. The statistics weren't good. The only attendees were the five members of my family, five other people, and every cadet in Sydney. This was our family's first encounter with the Salvation Army. On reflection, it's a wonder we ever came back, but we became firm members of the latest outpost of Hurstville Corps.

The following story is a mixture of my childhood impressions, supplemented with further research in local newspapers of the period. It was over 50 years ago and sometimes our childhood memories do not completely recall all that happened at the time.

*Engadine District News* records the very first Engadine Spring Fair, described as the 'First Engadine Salvation Army Pet Parade', held 3 May 1972. It was actually a Salvation Army fund-raising fete staged at the Catholic Church's Boys Town sports field, the only place big enough to stage the festivities. My parents Barbara and Jim Bell were the primary organisers.

People lined the streets as Salvation Army Captain **Rowlands** led the Fancy Vehicle Parade down the [Old] Princes Highway to the site of the fete, accompanied by the Miranda Salvation Army band. Six hundred people were said to attend the event. The money raised was to be sent to London for a Missionary Appeal.

The Sutherland Shire Dog Training Club staged a dog obedience exhibition, and the Engadine Junior Naturalist Club held a wildlife and Australian display. There were competitions for dogs, cats, birds, guinea pigs and even mice. The day was almost derailed by a storm, but the animal judging moved indoors to the Boys Town Hall. The youths of Boys Town assisted with setting up and dismantling the stalls. Christine **Johnson** organised and judged the pet competitions and wrote an article for *Engadine District News* describing the occasion.

My favourite account of the competition entries is for the ‘Dogs most like their owners’ section. The winners were described in perhaps unflattering terms. ‘The Labrador and its owner were solidly built blondes with a swagger of the hips, the Afghan’s long fluffy coat matched its handler’s hair-do, the Irish Setter was also beautifully turned out and its handler was wearing a red skirt, hunting boots and the hairstyle reminded us of the dog’s long ears’.<sup>1</sup>

The following year on 21 March 1973, the fete activities increased with food stalls and a jumble sale in addition to the pet parade. *Engadine District News* covered the second fete in detail as a major Engadine event.<sup>2</sup>

The third time (2 March 1974), which was promoted as the 3rd Salvation Army Annual Show, was the straw which broke the camel’s back. Now it wasn’t just the Salvation Army Home League (women’s ministry group) baking cakes and making toffee apples. There were multiple demonstrations by local organisations such as the Jenko Pony Club, Cronulla Car Club, mini-bike riders, the Australian Society of Ju Jitsu, the Bushfire Brigade, the Patricia Yvonne School of Ballet, and the riders of the NSW Mounted Police, not to mention the popular Fancy Vehicle Parade.<sup>3</sup>



My father Jim Bell at the 1977 Engadine Fair, originally organised as a fundraiser for the Salvation Army (photo: St George and Sutherland Shire Leader, 30 March 1977)

There was a lot of work involved. What had started as simple fund-raising had been elevated to a significant local event, which was never the corps’ intention. It was felt that the effort outweighed the profit and it was decided a week later to



disassociate the Army from the show. The festival was taken over by the Sutherland Police Citizens Boys Club and later by an Engadine Show Committee.<sup>4</sup> It had become bigger and grander with each iteration. When my dad was pictured by the *St George and Sutherland Shire Leader*, blowing up balloons for the children at Anzac Oval in 1977, the Salvation Army was present but was not the organiser.

It morphed a few times over the years, changing name, venue, month, and organisers. It became the Engadine Show, and then the Engadine Spring Fair, which was a major event staged in Cooper St Park. Unfortunately Covid intervened and Health Orders caused its cancellation in 2020 and 2021. A council project to refurbish the park triggered a third cancellation in 2022. Hopefully the tradition will continue in 2023.

However, no-one remembers that the event was originally created by my parents and the Salvation Army.

#### REFERENCES

1. FIRST ENGADINE SALVATION ARMY PET PARADE, Engadine District News, 3 March 1972 p.6, Microfilm available at Sutherland Shire Library
2. PET PARADE AND FANCY VEHICLE PARADE, Engadine District News, 24 March 1973
3. 3RD SALVATION ARMY ANNUAL SHOW SUCCESS, Engadine District News 27 March 1974, p.5
4. IT'S GOING TO BE BIGGER AND BETTER NEXT YEAR, Engadine District News, 12 March 1975, p.2

#### Postscript

An important point to note when conducting research is that not everything is on Trove! Rockdale Library hold bound hard copies of every edition of *St George and Sutherland Shire Leader*, and Sutherland Library has it on microfilm. Sutherland Library also hold microfilm of *Engadine District News*. Although you can't do a word search of microfilm or hard copies, and you need to have a general idea of the time period you are researching, they are a valuable resource.

### COPY DEADLINE

Please submit copy for the June 2023 journal as soon as it is available but the deadline is **Wednesday 3 May** – preferably by email to the Editor at [bbfhs\\_eds@yahoo.com.au](mailto:bbfhs_eds@yahoo.com.au). Copy may also be left in the Editor's folder at the Centre, handed to the Editor or a committee member at a monthly meeting or posted to **PO Box 1006 Sutherland NSW 1499**. Please add your name to the copy and state if you want any materials returned.

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# BBFHS RESEARCH CENTRE AND LIBRARY

by Jean **Campbell** (Research Centre Coordinator)

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**D**uring the holidays, Margaret and Brian **Heaton** and Doug **Parkes** spent a day in the Centre, with ladders, and have done all the high cleaning, as well as the computers, benches, etc., plus the veranda and windows. We thank them sincerely for doing this preparation before we open each year.

The computers were all updated before we opened this year too. Thank you Megan **Neilson** and Jackie **Butters** who helped with this task, including crawling on the floor under the long desk to turn on all the computers!

The Research Centre will be open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10am to 4pm and on Saturdays from 10am to 2pm. Saturday is still being reviewed because very few members, if any, are going in to research. Please ring the Centre (9523 8948) if you are thinking of going in after 1pm. The Volunteers may decide to leave early, if there is no one researching and we don't want to disappoint members who want to research.

We now have two seats (two computers) with the subscription site, *Find My Past* plus the 1921 Census of England and Wales. That census will only be available until 30 June this year. It's on Computers 6 and 7.

Please read the eNEWS each fortnight. That tells members about the new content available on the subscriptions sites we pay for. Under the heading of **REVIEW, RENEW, RESEARCH**, members are reminded of all the other resources we have for researching.

Covid precautions continue. The doors are kept open for ventilation, there is hand sanitiser available and it's your choice to wear a mask or not. Desks, etc. are wiped down every afternoon before the Volunteers leave.

We really do need some more Volunteers. One day a month for a few hours would be excellent. If you can help your Society and other members, please let me know at [botanybayfhs@yahoo.com.au](mailto:botanybayfhs@yahoo.com.au)

Thank you to the three new volunteers (so far) this year.



## WHEELCHAIR ACCESS

is available at the Research Centre.

Please phone 9523 8948 to make arrangements.

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# WORONORA MEMORIAL PARK UPDATE

by Geoff Dawes (Member)

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After eight months, the refurbishment of the Woronora chapels (and former crematorium) building is now nearing completion. Originally planned to finish in October 2022, many factors, including the weather, saw that date extended by at least four months. The website currently just says 'is on track for early 2023' although I understand that 27 February 2023 is the tentative opening date.

The changes are documented on the cemetery website as follows: *This project will see a significant investment committed to help maintain and enhance the parks' important heritage assets, whilst also delivering contemporary requirements for modern-day funerals. These include improved seating, leading-edge equipment for high-quality live streaming, along with upgrades to public amenity and accessibility intended to increase the operational life of the buildings by at least 20 years. The Chapels will continue to serve the community with a high standard of service as meaningful and attractive spaces in the future.*



Port Cochere, South Chapel (photo: Geoff Dawes)

Externally the changes are barely noticeable. The colour is still cream and although different you can't notice it. There are new video screens, security cameras, new signage and lighting.

Access to the chapels has been improved with the roads under the porte cocheres being raised to eliminate the step-up from the road to the path level so that areas outside the chapel entrances now are all on one level.

A new ramp has been added to the West Chapel entrance and ramps for both chapels have brass hand and guard rails fitted. The South Chapel now has a wheelchair lift – from street level to entrance level.



South Chapel Entrance (photo: Geoff Dawes)

I understand the roof has been replaced over most of the building except for the ‘Court of Remembrance’ which has had its leaky old roof removed and has not been replaced. The original 1934 building had a ‘Pool of Remembrance’. This was filled in many years ago and a roof fitted. This roof has now gone and a garden fills the centre of the court.

The interiors of the chapels have yet to be seen, but taking the words from the website extract above, I don’t expect many obvious changes except perhaps to the seating and technical facilities for live streaming, etc.

New road/direction signage needs to be done but that should be completed by the opening date.

**Find a Grave Woronora** at <https://tinyurl.com/58avs75z> lists over 239,900 names of which some 82,400 have a grave, plaque or other location photo. Listed burials are current to October 2022. More recent burials are listed, although Find a Grave only shows limited information for three months from date of death.

This article lists the new Library accessions. We remind members that there is a wealth of family history information accumulated over some 38 years in our Library. **Not everything is online!** Check out our library catalogue at <http://www.botanybayfhs.org.au/library--research-centre.html>. You may be very surprised at what you find! **Come to the Research Centre and have a look.** Thank you for the donations from those members who are 'downsizing'.

## AUSTRALIA

- Mauritian Heritage - An Anthology of the Liomet, Cummins and Related Families. [A.HIS.11.27LC]
- Wild Ride - The Rise and Fall of Cobb & Co. [A.HIS.28.3LC]
- Pastoral Properties of Australia. [A.HIS.6.4LC]
- Beyond the Ladies Lounge - Australia's Female Publicans. [A.HIS.26.12LC]
- Greek Cafes & Milk Bars of Australia. [A.HIS.11.26LC]

## NEW SOUTH WALES

- The Story of Port Hacking, Cronulla and Sutherland Shire. (by Frank Cridland) [AN.LH.2232.19LC]
- *Ibid.* 2nd edition 1950 (1st edition 1924)
- *Ibid.* 2nd edition 1958 (1st edition 1924)
- Illawong - A Place of History - A Summary of Research carried out by Pupils of Illawong Public School. [AN.LH.2234.2LC]
- Sydney 1798 Memorial – Tomb of a Man Who Fought an Empire (1798 Irish Memorial). [AN.SOU.5.8LC]
- Captain Thunderbolt & His Lady. [AN.HIS.37.9LC]
- The Push from the Bush - A Bulletin of Social History 1838. [AN.HIS.1.33LC]
- Death in the Hunter - Inquests in the Maitland Area 1834-1942 - The Names. [AN.SOU.4.14]
- Death in the Hunter - Inquests in the Maitland Area 1834-1943 - The Reports 1841-1898. [AN.SOU.4.15]
- People of Wyong - Book 4 - Historic Buildings. [AN.LH.2259.2aLC]
- People of Wyong - Book 5 - Wyong District Schools. [AN.LH.2259.2bLC]
- Maitland in the Media 1841-1845. [AN.LH.2320.3LC]
- Notes and Sketches of New South Wales During a Residence in that Colony from 1833 to 1844. [AN.HIS.41.11LC]

## TASMANIA

- An Emigrant in Van Diemen's Land. [AT.HIS.1.2LC]

## OVERSEAS

- A History of Kent. [E.KEN.HIS.1LC]
- The Fermanagh Story - A Documented History of the County of Fermanagh from the Earliest Times to the Present Day. [I.FER.HIS.1.4]
- Finding Your Scottish Ancestors: Techniques for Solving Genealogy Problems. [S.GUI.1.16LC]
- Tracing Your Ancestors Using the UK Historical Timeline - A Guide for Family Historians. [BRIT.GUI.1.39LC]

## INTERNATIONAL

- The Good Genealogist - How to Improve the Quality of your Family History Research. [INT.GUI.1.19LC]
- Genealogy Standards. [INT.GUI.1.18LC]
- Ethical Dilemmas in Genealogy. [INT.GUI.1.17LC]

## GENERAL

- Beyond the Borders - An Anecdotal History of the Hume and Related Pioneering Families From 1790. [G.BIOG.7.HUM.2LC]
- James Cook - The Journals. [G.BIOG.7.COO.1LC]
- Anzac Memorial - 25th April, 1915 (The Returned Soldiers Association, Sydney, 1917). [G.MIL.A.HIS.47] (Ask at desk)
- Bathurst Pioneers - A Register of Pioneer Families of Bathurst, NSW before 1900. [G.BIOG.4N.34]
- Pioneer Register - Contains Genealogical Details of Pioneer Families in the Cessnock Local Government Area. [G.BIOG.4N.35]

**NOTE:** ‘LC’ indicates a loan copy, which can be borrowed; ‘CD’ a compact disc.

Compiled by Janette Daly (Librarian)



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# THE WUNDERLICH BROTHERS – ERNEST JULIUS, FREDERICK OTTO & ALFRED

by Colleen **Passfield** (Member)

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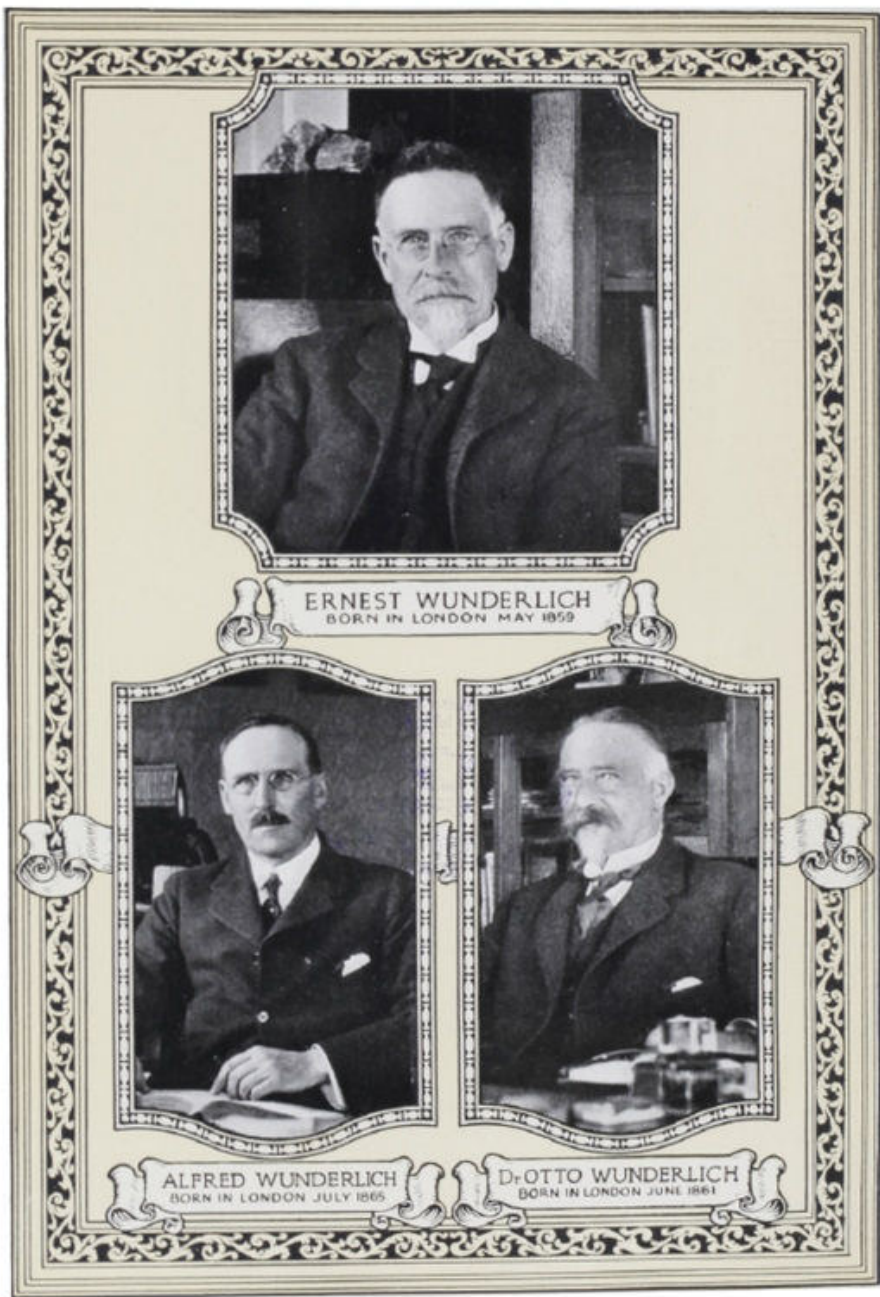
At times, there are programs on TV that follow the efforts of owners who are keen to restore neglected old houses or buildings to their former glory and the results are sometimes amazing, adding to the historical landscape when original materials and construction details are uncovered and revealed. There is always great excitement when the removal of a lower ceiling, which was added later, reveals an example of the elegant, pressed metal ceilings which were introduced and later produced in Australia by the Wunderlich Company which was founded by Ernest **Wunderlich** after his arrival in Sydney in 1885. Soon after, his brothers, Alfred and Otto joined him in the company which eventually opened branches in all Australian states and also in New Zealand, manufacturing an extensive range of metal products until the 1950s and having a significant impact on the nature and style of private and public buildings in Australia.

The Wunderlich Brothers, Ernest Julius (16 May 1859-11 April 1945), Frederick Otto (18 June 1861-12 May 1951) and Alfred (8 July 1865-12 July 1966), were born at Islington, London, to Charles Frederick Wunderlich, a clerk and later indigo merchant, and his German wife, Caroline nee **Schmedes**. In the early 1870s the family moved to Switzerland where the brothers attended the public school. At the age of 16 Ernest studied architectural and mechanical drawing at the Ecole Polytechnic at Lausanne. He was apprenticed to an engineer and then became a travelling salesman for a London firm. In 1884, Otto, a graduate of the Lausanne University, came to London to study medicine at St Bartholomew's Hospital and later practised in that city.

Working in London, Ernest met Fanny Amalia **Hoesch**, a talented musician and graduate of the Conservatorium of Cologne. They were married at Burtscheid, Germany on 15 May, 1885, and arrived in Sydney in July. Working as a manufacturers' agent, Ernest had imported stamped zinc mansard windows for a builder and then, on his own behalf, began importing German stamped metal ceilings which were installed in such buildings as the Colonial Secretary's Building in Macquarie Street and the piano showrooms of Octavius **Beale** and William **Paling** in George Street.

Joined by his brother Alfred in 1887, Ernest took out his first patent for 'an improved ceiling' in April 1888. They sold their patents in 1889 to W H Rocke & Co. of Melbourne but redeemed them late in 1892 when the company's Sydney branch became insolvent. The brothers then raised enough capital to form the Wunderlich Patent Ceiling and Roofing Co. Ltd (incorporated in 1904).





The Wunderlich brothers ca 1927 (photo from: *Forty Years of Wunderlich Industry. 1887 to 1927*, by Alfred Wunderlich)



The architects of the Sydney Town Hall, completed about 1889, had specified an elaborate plaster ceiling. Ernest and Alfred Wunderlich were intensely musical and, aware of the acoustic advantages of their metal ceilings, were able to convince the Sydney City Council to substitute stamped zinc for the ceiling and all its decorations. Their work on the Town Hall was a great success and their 1899 catalogue recorded an enormous list of achievements including public buildings like hospitals, law courts, municipal buildings, commercial buildings and private residences.

By 1897, Wunderlich's advertised as sole agent for imported Marseilles tiles. In March 1897 in Sydney, Alfred married, with German Lutheran forms, Blanche Marguerite **Guex**, daughter of a Swiss banker. With a factory established in Redfern, Ernest became manager in Melbourne and Alfred in Sydney.

During World War I, the company expanded, building a new tile factory at Rosehill and another at Cabarita where asbestos cement sheets from the company's asbestos mines at Barraba and Beaconsfield made. During World War II, the company produced Wirraway cowlings, food cans and service badges for the war effort and then supplied building materials for the post-war reconstruction.

Otto, who had studied medicine at St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London, reached Sydney in 1900 and set about improving the administrative, technical and scientific aspects of the company. In June 1908, Wunderlich Ltd was established and the three brothers became directors for life; William **Baillieu** and Theodore **Fink** were among the Melbourne board-members. That year Wunderlich claimed to be the first Australian firm to introduce a 44 hour week without a pay reduction. In addition to starting a profit-sharing scheme for employees in 1914, Otto instigated other improvements for the health and betterment of the staff. Wunderlich panels were produced until the 1950s when changing tastes brought about the demise of this decorative product and many of the original dies were lost. In 1983, with the growth in the restoration of old buildings, there was a demand for pressed metal panels and production recommenced under the name Wunderlite.

Ernest remained chairman until 1945 but was content to leave the running of the business to his brothers while he pursued cultural interests. He helped to establish the NSW Conservatorium of Music and was trustee and president of the Australian Museum in Sydney. An able amateur astronomer and a fellow of the British Astronomical Association, he set up an observatory at his holiday home on Gunnamatta Bay, Port Hacking which in 1924 he placed in trust for the Royal Astronomical Association. In 1972, the telescope from his observatory was on loan from the Association to Roger **Geller** of Engadine. He was a member of the Association and doing observations and research on the brightness of certain stars. Wunderlich's telescope was back in the Shire and still being used for scientific study.



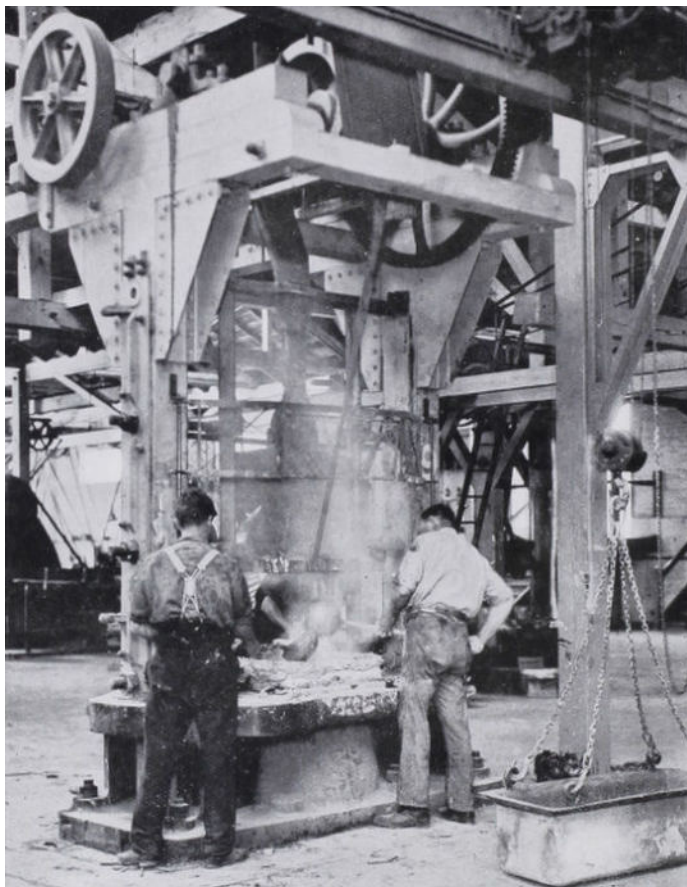
Pressed Metal Ceiling, Adam's Hotel Bar, George St. Sydney, 1888 (photo from: *Forty Years of Wunderlich Industry. 1887 to 1927*, by Alfred Wunderlich)

Wunderlich entertained many international visitors at his holiday home where there was access to boating and deep-sea fishing. His house *Wyone*, was built with a boatshed for their launch, change sheds and a swimming enclosure, on a waterfront block on the western side of Gunnamatta Bay, purchased from the Holt-Sutherland Estate. Like his brothers, he travelled extensively overseas. His autobiography *All my Yesterdays* was published in 1945 with a foreword by Neville Cardus the renowned English writer and music critic.

Fanny Amalia Wunderlich died in 1942 and, survived by his only son, Ernest died on 11 April 1945 at Bondi Junction and was cremated without a service.

In 1904, Otto Wunderlich married Eva Francie Marion **Ladd** at the manse of St Luke's Presbyterian Church, Redfern. They had three sons and a daughter

before they were divorced in 1917. He later married Nance Annie **Kaganski**. Survived by his wife and a son of his first marriage, he died in 1951 in Sydney and was cremated. Otto published *Accountancy in Modern Business* (1927), *A Technological Guide to the Private Exhibition of Arts and Craft in the Wunderlich Showroom* (1932) and privately, a translation in verse of the mediaeval French epic, *Le Chanson de Roland*.



Stamping. The zinc die cast in the foundry is placed in the stamper and a metal matrix is cast from it. This is secured to a drop hammer. Regulated blows by the drop hammer impress the steel sheet with the required pattern (photo from: *Forty Years of Wunderlich Industry. 1887 to 1927*, by Alfred Wunderlich)

The third brother, Alfred, had wide business interests. He was chairman of Wunderlich Ltd from 1944, director of a number of other companies and president of the New South Wales Chamber of Manufacturers and Associate Chambers of Manufacturers of Australia. He belonged to the New South Wales Club and the

Athenaeum, Melbourne. He enjoyed fencing, swimming and sculling on Sydney Harbour. Intensely musical, he was President of the Royal Philharmonic Society of Sydney, had a fine bass voice and sang regularly in its chorus as well as solo. He loved French culture, worked for the Alliance Francaise in Sydney and received its gold medal and was appointed chevalier of the Legion d'Honneur. His holiday property on Yowie Bay was called *La Boheme* had access from Taren Road and a water frontage. La Boheme Avenue is a reminder of his ownership of the property.

Alfred Wunderlich died in 1966 at the age of 101 at his Centennial Park home and was cremated with Anglican rites. His daughter and two of his three sons survived him.

After World War II, Wunderlich expanded into other areas of the building and plumbing trades and pressed metal panels were no longer produced. The Redfern factory closed and most of the original dies were lost. Many records and artefacts are preserved in the Power House Museum in Sydney. James Hardie (Asbestos) Ltd took over Wunderlich Homes Asbestos Pipes Pty Ltd in 1964 and, in 1969 Wunderlich Ltd was taken over by Colonial Sugar Refining Co.

In recent years, preserving and restoring Australia's unique heritage architectural features has become more important and specialist companies have responded to the growing demand for suitable products. Reproducing to the exact standards of the original Wunderlich design panels and other products, they offer an endless variety of applications as well as the traditional use for heritage projects. Companies like Australian Pressed Metal in Adelaide and, closer to home, Sydney Pressed Metal located in Caringbah, offer a product that can be used both indoor and outdoor in feature walls, splashbacks, ceilings, walls, doors and even gates. Resistant to heat and rust, pressed metal has become popular again in modern homes. Through the company which they founded and which was so dominant and influential for so long, the Wunderlich family have certainly earned their place in the history of manufacturing, building and construction in Australia.

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# BBFHS INTEREST GROUPS

by Barbara **Barnes** (Interest Groups Coordinator)

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Interest groups are led by co-ordinators who have a strong interest in the subject but are not necessarily ‘an expert’. They lead the groups whose members share their knowledge to help each other. The group members get to know one another and this social interaction is often a wonderful by-product of their involvement.

Sessions are conducted at the Research Centre or by Zoom. In the coming year, some co-ordinators are experimenting with hybrid sessions – we’ll see how that goes. Session dates are organised months in advance. Members are advised to check the latest details on our Events Calendar at [www.botanybayfhs.org.au](http://www.botanybayfhs.org.au) or see your BBFHS eNEWS. You can book and pay the \$5 fee to attend an interest group meeting on the BBFHS website at <http://www.botanybayfhs.org.au/payments.html>, preferably 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Once again we reach out to all members, especially new and distance members, who are not already participating in an Interest Group, to join one or more of the Groups offered. You’ll be welcome.

The group coordinators are:

Australian Interest – Lilian **Magill** ([lily@researchbylily.com.au](mailto:lily@researchbylily.com.au))

English Interest – Jennie **Fairs** ([fairsj@optusnet.com.au](mailto:fairsj@optusnet.com.au))

Irish Interest – Barbara **Wimble** ([wwimble@iinet.net.au](mailto:wwimble@iinet.net.au))

Scottish Interest – Jean **Campbell** ([jeanhcampbell47@gmail.com](mailto:jeanhcampbell47@gmail.com))

Writers Interest – Leonie **Bell** (0403 952 762, [LNBell@iinet.net.au](mailto:LNBell@iinet.net.au))

Family Tree Maker for Windows and Macs – Pam **Heather** ([pamheather@gmail.com](mailto:pamheather@gmail.com))

Legacy – Sue **Jones** ([scjones@optusnet.com.au](mailto:scjones@optusnet.com.au))

DNA for Family History – John **Levy** ([j.levy@bigpond.net.au](mailto:j.levy@bigpond.net.au))

## UPCOMING PROGRAM

**AUSTRALIAN INTEREST:** Saturday 20 May 2 – 4pm

By ZOOM

**ENGLISH INTEREST:** Saturday 11 March 2 – 4pm

By ZOOM Saturday 13 May 2 – 4pm

**IRISH INTEREST:** Saturday 24 June 2 – 4pm

Research Centre & ZOOM

<b>SCOTTISH INTEREST:</b>	Saturday 1 April 2 – 4pm
At the Research Centre	Saturday 3 June 2 – 4pm
<b>WRITERS INTEREST:</b>	Thursday 23 March 1.30 – 3.30pm
At the Research Centre	Thursday 25 May 1.30 – 3.30pm
<b>FAMILY TREE MAKER FOR WINDOWS &amp; MACS:</b>	Tuesday 16 May 1.30 – 3.30pm
	By ZOOM
<b>LEGACY INTEREST:</b>	Tuesday 7 March 1.30 – 3.30pm
At the Research Centre	Tuesday 2 May 1.30 – 3.30pm
<b>DNA FOR FAMILY HISTORY:</b>	Saturday 25 March 1.30 – 3.30pm
Research Centre & ZOOM	Saturday 27 May 1.30 – 3.30pm

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## DIGGINGS




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**D**iggings are titles of articles in journals that we exchange with other societies. We do not list all articles appearing in that particular journal but those that are noted as articles unrelated to the journal's origins. We recommend that you read any journal which originates from an area in which your ancestors had connections.

Members may borrow from the collection of printed journals exchanged with other family history societies held at the Research Centre and Library for the years 2017 to 2022. Please ask a volunteer for the loan procedure. Online exchange journals are also available at the Research Centre and may be viewed on the computers (click on the *Resources on the Server* icon on the desktop).

### AUSTRALIA

#### Magazine of RAHS Dec 2022

Before the Sherriff and the Provost Marshall in the Colony of NSW – examines what came before the appointments of that roll

### IRELAND

#### Irish Roots 4th Qtr 2022

Local Resources for Family History Research – County Wexford

Compiled by Kate **Anderson** (Member)





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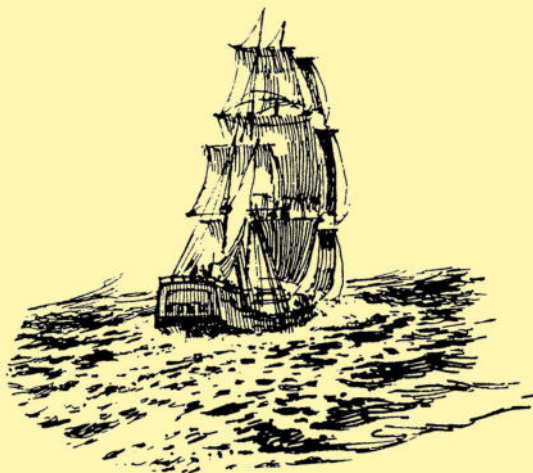
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