

THE ENDEAVOUR



Published quarterly by the

BOTANY BAY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC
Discovering Your Heritage

PRICE \$6.00

No. 144
September 2020

ISSN 0814-9828 (Print)
ISSN 2208-3278 (Online)

BOTANY BAY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

Discovering Your Heritage

Internet: <http://www.botanybayfhs.org.au> Email: botanybayfhs@yahoo.com.au

Mail Enquiries: The Secretary
Botany Bay Family History Society Inc
PO Box 1006
Sutherland NSW 1499

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	Maureen Murray	Kate Anderson
Webmaster	Pat Fearnley	
Education Team	Jean Campbell	Barbara Wimble
Public Officer	Doug Parkes	
Research Centre Coordinator	Jean Campbell,	
	jeanhcampbell47@gmail.com	

Meetings

Held on the first Wednesday of the month (excepting January) at the 'Tradies', The Kingsway, Gympie, commencing at 7.30pm

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-4pm; Sat: 10am-2pm. For bus route 978 & timetable, see <https://www.transdevnsw.com.au/services/timetables/south-southwest/>

Fees

Annual fees from 1 Jul 2019: single membership – \$40; family membership – \$55; Joining fee – \$10; Membership renewals due 1 July each year, late fee - \$10

Research

Volunteer members of the Society 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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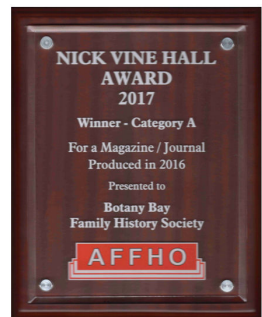
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CALENDAR



The calendar is as at 18 August 2020, the Research Centre and Library is closed until Friday 9 October. Whether the activities go ahead will depend on the Covid-19 situation. Some will be held on ZOOM. Keep an eye on your BBFS Email News when it arrives in your email inbox.

2020

- Sep 1 Legacy Computer Group – 2 pm BBFHS Research Centre
- Sep 2 **Meeting – 7.30 pm ZOOM. Speaker – Christine Yeats**
Uncovering the crimes and misdemeanors of the past
- Sep 5 English Interest Group – 2 pm BBFHS Research Centre
- Sep 24 Writers Interest Group – 1.30 pm BBFHS Research Centre
- Sep 26 DNA Interest Group – 1.30 pm ZOOM
- Oct 5 Labour Day Public Holiday (Centre closed)
- Oct 6 Reunion for Mac Computer Program Group – 10 am Centre
- Oct 7 **Meeting – 7.30 pm Tradies. Speaker – Jessica North**
The extraordinary true story of the First Fleet girl who became First Lady of the colony
- Oct 24 Irish Interest Group – 2 pm BBFHS Research Centre
- Nov 3 Legacy Computer Group – 2 pm BBFHS Research Centre
- Nov 4 **Meeting – 7.30 pm Tradies. Speaker – To be advised**
- Nov 10 Family Tree Maker Group – 1.30 pm BBFHS Research Centre
- Nov 14 English Interest Group – 2 pm BBFHS Research Centre
- Nov 21 Australian Interest Group – 2 pm BBFHS Research Centre
- Nov 26 Writers Interest Group – 1.30 pm BBFHS Research Centre
- Nov 28 DNA Interest Group – 1.30 pm BBFHS Research Centre
- Dec 1 Reunion for Mac Computer Program Group – 10 am Centre
- Dec 2 **Meeting – 7.30 pm Tradies. Christmas Meeting**
- Dec 5 Scottish Interest Group – 2 pm BBFHS Research Centre

Please check the Events Calendar on our website (www.botanybayfhs.org.au) to confirm the meeting details and to view a speaker profile.

Botany Bay Family History Society is a member of:

- **The NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies**
- **The Australasian Federation of Family History Societies**
- **The Family History Federation in the United Kingdom**

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

As with all volunteer societies in Australia, the Committee of Botany Bay Family History Society is following the day-to-day government health updates with the hope that there will be something close to a return to normal soon.

The Committee had already pushed back the reopening of the Research Centre to September. However, as this *Endeavour* goes to press, I expect that Committee may again vote to further push back our reopening in view of what is happening with Victoria and the new outbreaks in Sydney.

The Committee has been taking on board, and continues to welcome, all feedback from our members regarding this issue and it is possible because of our members' concerns, that we may not reopen at all this year. Whatever the decision, I can assure everyone that the decision will not be determined lightly.

We have been very fortunate that Sutherland Shire Council didn't charge us rent during the enforced closure but now that Council has reopened the Port Hacking Community Centre for use, we are expected to reopen and pay rent on our premises. Council has also advised that if we do not reopen until next year, we will still have to pay our rent while not using the premises.

There is concern that if we are not using the Research Centre, could we lose it altogether? The area is certainly a valuable space that Council could lease to a more willing organisation. While for a different reason, we only need to look at the situation Sutherland Shire Historical Society is now in, so there is concern among Committee about the fine line we find ourselves travelling at present.

If a decision is made to reopen this year, I expect the Centre will only open two days a week (Monday & Friday) and only be open for two hours in the morning (10am to 12 noon) with members having to make a booking for the timeslot as we will only be allowed to have a total of seven members, including the centre volunteers, to fit in with the 4 square metre rule.

If you haven't already paid your membership fee, I would like to remind you that outstanding renewals are now overdue. I appreciate there may be some members who no doubt feel the fee should have been reduced, however, I'd like to remind everyone that since the outbreak of COVID and our enforced closure of the Research Centre and lack of physical meetings and Interest Group sessions, our members have been receiving two Zoom meetings a month, as well as Zoom meetings for the DNA, Irish & FTM Interest Groups, newsletters for the English & Scottish Interest Groups, a weekly eNEWS service with lots of webinars, research repositories and Internet resources, and our new Forum for members questions and

help at <https://groups.io/g/BotanyBayFHS>. Various workshops via Zoom are currently in the planning stage with Lilian Magill having already delivered a terrific start to the program through her workshop on using the search and filter features of Ancestry DNA.

I would like to reassure our members that have any security concerns using Zoom that there is nothing to be afraid of. The developers of Zoom have worked hard and long to tighten all security features of the software. I have previously used Go-To-Webinar and Google Hangouts, and Zoom is by far the easiest and safest online platform for meetings. Admission to a Zoom session is by a user ID and password and all attendees remain in a waiting room until admitted to the session.

Finally, a reminder that the September AGM has been pushed back to our November meeting, but those Committee members retiring will still do so next month, with ratification to take place in November.

Jennie Fairs

BOTANY BAY FHS NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Botany Bay Family History Society Inc will be held on Wednesday 4 November 2020 at 'Tradies', 57 Manchester Road, Gymea. Only financial members can vote. Any financial member may be nominated for election to the Committee by any two other financial members. Nomination forms are available from the Secretary at botanybayfhs@yahoo.com.au. If Covid-19 precautions are ongoing, members will be notified of other arrangements.

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).

1843

Matt Barlow

Cronulla

HOW TO ATTEND A BOTANY BAY FHS ZOOM MEETING

by John Levy (Editor)

With the problems of Covid-19, Botany Bay FHS is using Zoom meetings to communicate with members, as Jennie has mentioned on her President's Page. On the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm, we have substituted the monthly members' meeting at Tradies for a Zoom meeting – an opportunity for our president Jennie to keep our members up to date with general information. And we have still been able to welcome our guest speakers.

There has also been a general 'chit-chat' meeting on the third Wednesday of the month, also at 7:30 pm, often with a general topic to get members talking and enabling members to talk to others on other matters. As well as these meetings, there have also been a number of Interest Group meetings held on Zoom – as well as a two special workshops on DNA by Lilian McGill.

The meetings so far have been well-supported, often with more than 50 members participating. We would, of course, welcome more. **Zoom is very easy to use** but you do have to download a small app onto your PC, laptop, iPad, Android tablet or mobile phone. New users should watch this 8 minute YouTube video: 'Joining a Zoom Call for the First Time; Fun and Easy Online Connection' (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E>). If you do not have a microphone or video camera as part of your system, you can still attend the meeting, for although we won't be able to see or hear you, you will be able to see and hear us and you will be able to type messages in the Chat line. Please note that Zoom is password protected and there are now no security problems as have been previously reported in the media.

Members only - what to do. Before the meeting starts, click on the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/y587386b>, (or type this address into your browser), download the app, save it and install it. Then click on **launch meeting**. As a security precaution, Zoom makes attendees wait in a 'waiting room' until the host starts the meeting. You will get a message on the screen advising this.



The Zoom meeting is password protected but you should not have to worry about this as you have access via the link above. However, if you do need to enter the password it is **517921** and the meeting ID should show as **407 952 1280**.

This link will work for all of our forthcoming meetings, where after clicking the link, you go straight to *launch meeting*.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

by John Levy (Editor)

As I sat working on the Calendar for this edition, I realised that I could now hold a DNA Interest Group meeting on the 'normal' fourth Saturday in September (26th) – because Covid has postponed my holiday to Norfolk Island until next year. The DNA meeting will be held via Zoom and any member is invited to attend. Please email me to let me know that you are interested if you are not already on the DNA Interest Group email list. Follow the instructions in the previous article.

Thank you to those members who have contributed articles for this edition. I can always do with some more. Perhaps other of our members may be able to find some time in isolation to submit an article – no matter how short or long – for our next edition.

Many other BBFHS activities are on hold, as you will see from our abbreviated or missing reports from our regular contributors. Members will be advised via our regular Email News from Jean **Campbell** and Stephanie **Bailey** as to what is happening at BBFHS. Please take the time to review it when it arrives in your mailbox.

Need a jigsaw to fill in some time? Check the BBFHS website where Pat **Fearnley** has an online Jigsaw of the Week (www.botanybayfhs.org.au) featured on the Home page.

As restrictions relax, please maintain your social distancing and keep safe. Best wishes to all.



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HOW SPANISH INFLUENZA AFFECTED TOURISM IN 1919

by Leonie **Bell** (Member)

‘After a period of five weeks, during which we were shut, business became absolutely dead in Sydney, for immediately the theatres were closed a gloom seemed to settle down over the city. There were no taxi cabs, and the hotels did no business and the refreshment shops were deserted and in some instances were compelled to close.’

This description of Sydney surely rings with veracity and familiarity, but it is not a description of our city today, but appeared in *The World* newspaper, Hobart, 11 September 1919 p 6.

When the 1919 Spanish Influenza pandemic broke out, governments of the day attempted to stem the spread of the disease through business closures, quarantine and travel restrictions, just as we have done in 2020. The tourist industry in Australia at this time was mostly concerned with domestic travel. Spread of the disease was exacerbated by overland or sea travel rather than by air travel, which was a rare and expensive affair only available to the rich. Most people travelled by train or ship.

Many Sydney and Melbourne places of accommodation were closed, together with pubs and places of entertainment, throwing an estimated 10,000 hospitality workers out of employment in Sydney alone. Remember that in this era there was no dole, so many workers rapidly became destitute, relying on charity and pleading for government help. Those employees lucky enough to retain a job, frequently had their hours reduced. A court ruling in April stated that hotel and accommodation providers no longer had to pay employees a weekly wage, but only for the hours actually worked, since most had very few, if any, guests.

The hotels challenged the closures in the Full Court in May, which sent it on to the High Court. Finally in November the High Court declared the enforced closure illegal, due to a technicality. The section under which the states had forced hotel closures only applied to shipping vessels, not pubs. It was rather too late to be of help to the struggling hoteliers. By this time the pandemic was all but over anyway.

Very early on, regulations were introduced that you must wear a mask in public places. One man appeared in Sydney Central Court charged with contravening regulations. He claimed he wore an invisible mask of divine protection. The unimpressed judge replied that he would rather the defendant wore a visible one. In contrast, the Board of Health advised people to ‘breathe the germ-

free air of the seaside’, which prompted great crowds to flock to Bondi and Manly beaches where they were allowed to divest themselves of face masks. Sound familiar?

Although there was not an extensive international tourist industry back then, domestic tourists and interstate visitors could be stranded away from home due to state border closures. Interstate rail travel between New South Wales (NSW) and Queensland (Qld) was disrupted in January. Tenterfield hotels were full, as 300-400 passengers were prevented from continuing north into the Sunshine State and soon it was estimated that around 1,000 Qld residents were stuck south of the border. It was also impossible to travel between Victoria (Vic) and NSW.

Road closures on the NSW/Qld border commenced operation in February, but it was evident that quarantine camps had to be established. By April 4,560 people had passed from NSW through the Qld border, but they were now subject to quarantine isolation. The Queensland Tourist Bureau advised that in the second week of April another 500 people were to be processed through the Wallangarra Quarantine Camp and a further 250 would be held at the Border Camp.

In South Australia (SA) two special trains were chartered to bring back interstate visitors who had been stranded in Melbourne. In February, 700 people arrived in Adelaide on these trains, fortunately with only seven cases of the flu on board. However they were all placed in quarantine for a week in the Exhibition Camp.

Meanwhile, the local council in Sale, Victoria wanted the government to cease rail operations for ten days to keep tourists away, but the Victorian Government was taking its position based on the advice of their own experts. Other country towns in Vic and NSW had banned commercial travellers from operating in this period. In Lakes Entrance, local boarding houses and accommodation providers were encouraged to refuse accommodation to tourists. No-one wanted the flu to spread to their region. Due to hotel licensing regulations it wasn’t possible for publicans to refuse accommodation to travellers, but several boarding houses closed their doors. Even if accommodation was available, people were wary. At Rosedale, two ‘motorloads’ of tourists were so afraid of catching influenza that they camped outdoors rather than risk infection in a boarding house.

We have seen calls on the government this year to assist overseas tourists arrange repatriation flights to Australia. The cause of the flu epidemic reaching Australia in 1919 was not international tourists, but the repatriation of infected World War 1 soldiers from Europe as they demobilised and returned home.

However, it was not only international travellers experiencing transportation and quarantine problems on the high seas. Overnight, on Tuesday 28 January, the Tasmanian Government decreed a seven day quarantine for shipping arrivals from

Melbourne, catching passengers unawares as they arrived in Hobart only to be told they were now in quarantine. The Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Lands were caught up in the decree, as they were in Melbourne attending a conference on the crisis and also subject to quarantine. No Zoom meetings back then!

Families who had taken an annual holiday across the Bass Strait were very hard hit. There were hundreds of tourists in the Apple Isle from Vic, Qld, NSW and SA, including some prestigious guests: the Anglican Archbishop of Brisbane and a Queensland ex-Premier.

The tourists were rapidly running out of money, many feared for their jobs if they returned late, and they were no longer on a jolly holiday but enduring an enforced nightmare. Not only were state borders closed but they had the added difficulty of getting a ship back to the mainland. To add insult to injury, shipping operators took advantage of the situation and doubled fares overnight, to the outrage of the stranded tourists. The shipping companies claimed this was to cover additional quarantine expenses, but this was an obvious falsehood because Tasmania was still free of the disease and therefore no precautions needed to be taken on the outbound trip to Melbourne or Sydney.

A meeting was called at the Hobart Town Hall on 11 February, where many of the 300 attendees expressed their anger and frustration. One irate tourist stood to his feet and hotly declared that they *'did not want to buy the ships but only required a couple of day's accommodation to get home'*. The meeting called on Federal Government to take action to get them home. The Mayor of Hobart promised to assist them in any way he could, prompting applause from the audience.

The Deputy Premier met with a delegation, promising to secure a ship, and issue coupons for board and lodging. He expected the other State Governments to reimburse Tasmania for the repatriation of their citizens.

STRANDED TOURISTS

—
300 at Public Meeting
—

Boat Urgently Required
—

Fares Increased 100 per cent.
—

Protest Entered

**"Landed, stranded, like
poor old Robinson Crusoe"**

1919 'STRANDED TOURISTS', *World*
(Hobart, Tas. : 1918 - 1924), 12 Feb, p. 7,
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article187735867>

As the timescale of the pandemic lengthened, with income drying up and limited travel permitted, tour operators were keen to encourage the rapid revival of their industry just as they are today with the ‘Now’s the time to love NSW’ campaign. Caves House at Yarrangobilly Caves in NSW were desperate to get some tourists into the region who would inject cash into the local economy. They advertised transfer services from Tumut and Wagga and promised patrons a safe experience. *‘The beautiful mountain scenery, invigorating air, beautiful caves, trout fishing, thermal baths, etc, make a desirable locality, unsurpassed in the world. No heat or duet, or Influenza there.’*

As to business in general, the following passage from *Sydney Morning Herald*, 8 February 1919, p 15, definitely echoes today’s experience.

‘Where people came to the city to buy, they have remained in their country homes or in their suburbs and have made what purchases they required there. Thus it is mostly the softgoods establishments, the drapers for the most part, who have suffered. People must eat, and they will build, and therefore the grocer and the timber merchant and the Ironmonger have not much to complain of in the way of the orders they have received for purchases. If they have suffered at all, it is that their chance trade, which comes from the people who pass their establishments, has been reduced. The chemical trade is having a small boom. Tons of disinfectants are being sold.’

Just think online ordering when you read the first sentence, and substitute ‘Woolies, Coles and Bunnings’ for ‘the grocer and the timber merchant and the Ironmonger’ and you get the picture. Some things never change.



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BBFHS EDUCATION PROGRAM

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

Because the Research Centre is still closed, there have been no meetings or classes in the room. Any talks to the community that were booked in, have been cancelled or postponed too.

Zoom is being used for Speaker's Meetings on the first Wednesday each month, as we cannot meet at Tradies. Members' Discussion Meetings are being held on Zoom on the third Wednesday each month. About 20 to 40 members have been attending these meetings, as it is one way we can stay together.

Thank you Rowan Morrison, who has been organising our Speakers.

- **Wed 2 September**, Christine Yeats is speaking on *Uncovering The Crimes And Misdemeanors Of The Past*
- **Wed 7 October**, Jessica North is speaking about a book she has written titled *Esther* about Esther Abrahams and her talk title is *The extraordinary true story of the First Fleet girl who became First Lady of the colony*

Some of the Interest Groups have been using Zoom for a few meetings too. Information is in the BBFHS eNEWS, which is being sent out each week. Members have been advised of Webinars, podcasts, websites and Family History news. There is also the *Resources on the Internet* information. Australia has been covered with 12 articles. New Zealand is next. That will make 28 A5 pages, as a booklet on Australasia.



COPY DEADLINE

Copy for the December 2020 journal should be submitted as soon as you have it available but the deadline is **Wednesday 4 November** – preferably by email to the Editor at bbfhs_eds@yahoo.com.au. Copy may also be left in the Editor's folder at the Research Centre, handed to the Editor or a committee member at a monthly meeting or posted to **PO Box 1006 Sutherland NSW 1499**. Please affix your name and date of submission to the copy and indicate if you want any materials returned.

USING THE MARRIAGE LOCATOR

By John Levy (Member)

The Marriage Locator can be found at <http://www.marriage-locator.co.uk/>. This is an initiative of the Guild of One-Name Studies (www.one-name.org) and it is run by volunteers as a free service.

The service allows you to use the data from *FreeBMD* at <https://www.freebmd.org.uk/> to determine where your ancestors were married in England and Wales – not only which registration district, but also which church. You just need the General Register Office (GRO) marriage index data: year, quarter, volume number and page number provided by *FreeBMD*.

If your ancestors married in church rather than in a register office, you can avoid paying for a GRO PDF Image at £7.00 (A\$12.80) by finding the church register free online – at *FamilySearch*, the local Online Parish Clerk or otherwise at a subscription website such as *Ancestry* or *FindMyPast*. This not only saves money but you will also see the original entry rather than a copy, including the signatures of the bride and groom and the witnesses.

The Marriage Locator principles page explains how the locator system works, based on knowing the way the GRO created the original index: <http://www.marriage-locator.co.uk/principles.html> but is not necessary to use the system.

As an example, I provide the marriage of my great grandparents Arthur **Buck** and Clara Louisa **Puddicombe** who married in London in 1887. In 1891, they emigrated with their young family to Townsville, Queensland on the *S.S. Jumna*. *FreeBMD* shows their GRO marriage index data as: year: 1887, quarter: Dec, volume: 1d and page number: 737. Plugging this data into the search boxes on the Marriage Locator website returns the following: registration district: **Lambeth**, church: **Lambeth St John the Evangelist**. An image of the parish register was not available on *FamilySearch*, but was found on *Ancestry* (see overleaf) in the **All London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1932** database.

Although access to *Ancestry* has not been available at our Research Centre because of the Covid-19 closure, if you are member of Sutherland Library you can get free access online at home. Go to their website and from the menu click on Digital Collections, Research Databases, then Ancestry Library Edition. You will need to enter your library password.

Good luck!

1887. Marriage solemnized at St John's Church in the Parish of St John, Waterloo Road in the County of Surrey

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
77	Nov 28 1887	Edward William Finch Mary Hannah Shepherd	32 22	Bachelor Spinster	Bookman —	84 Cornhill Rd	Thomas Finch William Shepherd	Gardener Carpenter

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by me after banes by me,
William
Edward Church in the Presence of us, { William Shepherd Minister Th. Hill, Curate
Mary Hannah Shepherd } Emily Jane Shepherd.

1887. Marriage solemnized at St John's Church in the Parish of St John, Waterloo Road in the County of Surrey

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
78	Nov. 29 1887	Arthur Buck Clara Louisa Puddicombe	29 26	Bachelor Spinster	School Master —	91 Waterloo Road	Joseph Matthews Buck Thomas Puddicombe Madeline	School Master —

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by me after banes by me,
Arthur Buck in the Presence of us, { J. S. Swearing Minister Th. Hill, Curate
Clara Louisa Puddicombe } Ed. McCarty.

Parish record, marriage of Arthur Buck and Clara Puddicombe in 1887 at St John the Evangelist Church, Waterloo Road, Lambeth, Surrey, England

WEB WATCH



AUSTRALIA

Flotilla Australia at <https://flotilla-australia.com/> is an interesting site containing a large collection of ships, ships lists and so much more. It is a free site but depends on donations for survival

BRITAIN

SS Great Britain at www.ssgreatbritain.org is one of the largest maritime collections in the world

The National Library of Wales at <https://newspapers.library.wales> offers a free source of digitized newspapers

The National Library of Scotland's Maps at <https://maps.nls.uk/> is an excellent site for locating the street where your ancestor may have lived

IRELAND

<https://www.irishnewsarchive.com/> is a paid site for Irish Newspapers **Archives and offers access to** over 300 years of **Irish** history through millions of **Irish Newspaper** pages. Obituaries from 1738 are available

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

BYU (Brigham Young University) at <https://script.byu.edu/> offers tutorials for help in deciphering old handwriting

MISCELLANEOUS

Arolsen Archives Online is available at <https://arolsen-archives.org/en/> for a comprehensive German archive on the victims and survivors of the holocaust

Greek Ancestry at <https://greekancestry.net/> offers a new website providing tutorial and searchable Greek records

Compiled by Kate **Anderson** (Member)

All journal contributions – large or small – are welcome. Email your input to bbfhs_edu@yahoo.com.au, leave it at the Research Centre or hand it to the Editor or any Committee member at our monthly meetings. Please add your name and contact details.

SOCIAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ON THE GRAND PARADE, BRIGHTON

by Leonie **Bell** (Member)

Botany Bay was promoted as a potential recreational resort from as early as 1877, when real estate agents Richardson and Wrench were advertising large plots of land along The Esplanade, Florence Street, Alice Street, Alfred Street, Frederick Street and The Boulevard at North and South Scarborough Townships on Lady Robinsons Beach.¹

‘Which is the largest and most beautiful beach near Sydney, and admirably adapted for the use of bathing machines...The whole township is laid out with great judgment and forethought, with a view to make it a GREAT PUBLIC RESORT, and the most beautiful and charming marine suburb of the AUSTRALIAN METROPOLIS. THE BEACH – Too much cannot be said in praise of this magnificent stretch of clean snow-white sand, so hard at ebb tide as to furnish a beautiful carriage drive or equestrian promenade. In point of salubrity the position of this estate can hardly be surpassed, and for beauty of situation scarcely equalled, as the eye never tires of dwelling on the magnificent sheet of water of the Bay of Botany.’

From the late 1880s to the 1920s, the old land grant estates of Brighton and Sans Souci were subdivided into profitable housing estates, accommodating single-story bungalow family dwellings, but by the late 1930s Rockdale Council was giving permission to an increasing number of developers to build unit blocks of flats along The Grand Parade at Brighton. High-rise apartments were considered ideal for a beachside setting.² As wartime impacted construction of homes in the 1940s, the government was eager to support construction of multiple unit dwellings in order to make the best use of building materials, which were in short supply.

However, not all bayside residents were part of the early 20th century real estate boom of this recreation paradise along Botany Bay. Unemployment reached a peak in 1932 when 29 per cent of Australians were officially out of work. The working class was the hardest hit. There was no unemployment benefit, so loss of a job during the Depression meant no income to pay rent, and consequently many people were evicted from their homes and left destitute. These people were often vilified by locals as bludgers or drunkards, but many respectable families desperately sought refuge in the camps that sprang up in various Sydney locations.³

The undeveloped land at the northern end of Lady Robinsons Beach was taken over by people rendered homeless. In stark contrast to prosperous Brighton Le Sands, the North Brighton Unemployed Camp, known as ‘Happy Valley’, was located in the sand hills along Cook Park at Kyeemagh, to the north of where

Cooks River now enters Botany Bay. Rough makeshift shacks littered the sandhills, constructed from scavenged scraps of corrugated iron, hessian, wood and even cardboard. Walls of calico cloth flourbags were painted with a mixture of lime and fat boiled up in salt water to make them weatherproof. The roofs consisted of corrugated-iron sheets and the sand floors were covered with a 'carpet' of more flourbags.⁴

Local charities staged fundraisers to assist the poverty stricken, but charity alone was insufficient to combat the problem. Post-war government policies evolved to deal with the housing shortfall. Investment along The Grand Parade was no longer confined to the private market. The government began to develop low-cost rental properties to combat the desperate situations confronting numerous Australian families.

In the wake of the Depression, the Housing Improvement Board was established under the Housing Improvement Act (No.59, 1936), with the goal of raising the standard and availability of housing. This was followed by the Housing Act of 1941 (Act no. 65), which set up the basis for the provision of public housing in NSW. Although a statutory body was created the following year to replace the Housing Improvement Board, wartime delayed significant policy development and implementation. The NSW Housing Commission was initially tasked to investigate methods of providing adequate housing at reasonable rentals and to provide affordable housing for the unemployed.

During the war it focused much of its attention on the provision of housing for munitions workers. Consequently, it did not commence effective operations until the war ended in 1945. When the Commission began its work in earnest, it selected tenants based on need, inability to afford properties on the rental market, overcrowding or living in properties which had been condemned.⁵

Now that the war was over, there was will amongst Labor Government politicians to address the severe housing shortage for low-income families and to rectify the appalling housing conditions endured by thousands of people in the wake of the Depression and the War. The government invested in public housing in a big way. Ballots were held for 40 Housing Commission homes in Rockdale in July 1948 and in October at Palings Concert Hall in the city, to choose tenants for an additional 200 properties in the St George area. These events were part of a program of 13,500 new dwellings being built across the city.^{6, 7, 8}

In 1947 Rockdale Council granted the Housing Commission approval to build a three-story, 30-unit block of one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments on The Grand Parade at Brighton Le Sands, bounded by Duke Street and Brighton Boulevard. The location was considered ideal due to its proximity to the tram line and the Brighton Baths. It was one of the first public housing developments in the

area.

The Commission's innovative social housing program was still a novelty enough to generate excitement amongst the large crowd which turned up on a damp Friday in October 1948 to witness the dedication of the foundation stone for Curtin Place on The Grand Parade at Brighton. Progress was steady, with a completion date just in time for Christmas the following year.

In his unveiling address, Clive **Evatt**, Minister for Housing, claimed that the



Curtin Place, corner of The Grand Parade and The Boulevard, Brighton Le Sands, designed by architects Bunning and Madden, built by C. Thompson, and named in honour of war-time prime minister John Curtin (photo: Leonie Bell)

Housing Commission was building over 100 houses per week, both directly and through sponsorship programs. He optimistically repeated the government's election pledge that 'every family with a housing need would be adequately housed'. The Commission had recently built 500 houses in the Sutherland and Rockdale council areas, with another 600 under construction and a further 350 under contract for imminent commencement. Houses were reserved for families with young children, while flats such as Curtin Place were offered to those with teenage children.

The dark brick block of units of Curtin Place stands in stark contrast to the modern 21st century glass and concrete buildings that line the bay today. By current design standards the building appears squat and a little grim with its heavy

brick façade, but Rockdale Mayor Norman **Guess** acclaimed the building design as ‘splendid’. The building’s architect, Walter **Bunning**, declared that NSW Housing Commission properties were the equal of any in the world.⁹

Public Housing was a relatively new concept, so the opening ceremony on 3 December 1949 was graced by the presence of the Federal Attorney-General, Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Herbert Vere **Evatt** (M.H.R. for Barton),¹⁰ Minister for Housing Clive Evatt (M.L.A. for Hurstville), Alderman P.J. **Ferry** (Chairman of the St George County Council), Mr W. **York** (President of the Brighton Le Sands Progress Association) and similar political luminaries. Dr Evatt’s wife, Mary Alice Evatt, officially opened the flats. Mrs Evatt spoke at length, reminded the 200-strong crowd that **Curtin** was Prime Minister at the time when the Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement was drawn up, prompting the construction of Curtin Place and thousands of Housing Commission homes around the country.^{11, 12}

Jumping forward to more recent events, in 2016 many Housing Commission tenants were concerned that the Coalition government was pursuing a policy of selling valuable harbourside social housing sites, such as the Sirius building in The Rocks, to developers, and allocating the money for construction of new social housing on the city outskirts. Long-term residents of these properties were often relocated to remote suburbs, where they were forced to create a new life and form new friendships far from their established communities.

The Curtin Place residents could see the distinct possibility of the State Government selling their homes, due to the building’s desirable bayside location. They became anxious for the future of the building and its tenants.

Although there was a mix of ages and situations amongst its tenants, many of them were aged or infirm and such a move would be traumatising. The Department of Family and Community Services was upbeat, with talk of the Communities Plus program ‘redeveloping some under-utilised sites, where we can get more social and private housing, to create a mixed community with better social outcomes.’ Despite the Curtin Place residents’ fears, in 2016 there was apparently no plan in hand to sell the land to private developers and the building still stands today as a testament to the social housing policies of a post-war Labor government.¹³

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Ralph Stilgoe (OAM FIE) passed away peacefully at home on 15 May 2020, aged 91. Ralph was a past president of Botany Bay FHS and his wife Joan is a former member of our Society. We extend our sympathy to Joan and to Ralph's family and friends.

It is with sadness that we report the death of **Dennis Garfield**. Our sympathies go to his wife Denise and his family.

Nancy Bishop passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family on 7 August 2020, aged 85. Our condolences go to her husband Colin and Nancy's family and friends.

Australian Family Histories is a bibliography of family histories published in and relevant to Australia. It has bibliographic details of each book and indexes all of the main family surnames mentioned in each, as well as states and regions in Australia. It currently contains over 10,000 titles, and with hundreds of thousands of names indexed, it is being added to monthly. Family History Connections' holdings of titles are noted in the records; locations of other titles can be found through the link to the National Library of Australia catalogue. This project was conducted by Ralph and Amy **Reid** between 2004 and 2015. Family History Connections took over the project in 2017, and it is now a searchable online database at <https://familyhistory.asn.au/layout.php?mod=aigsafh&h=1>

MASTERCLASS: finding birth certificates. Peter **Calver** of *Lost Cousins* at <https://www.lostcousins.com/newsletters2/endjuly20news.htm#Masterclass> has produced a Masterclass which looks at some of the key reasons why a birth certificate cannot be found. It focuses primarily on England & Wales but many of the principles can be applied in other countries, including Australia.

NSW BDMs. The Registry has updated the 'front-end' of their website although the actual search procedure remains the same. For access to a BDM search, click, and perhaps bookmark, <https://www.nsw.gov.au/topics/family-history-search>, then click on **Start searching your ancestry**. If you are searching before civil registration (1855), the index numbers will be preceded by a V and there will often be a two letter church code. These codes are listed on the webpage above. For these registrations, access to microfilm copies of the original parish registers is available at the Research Centre.

Irish Genealogy Resource Checklist. Access to Irish records, archives and heritage information has increased dramatically in recent years with many state bodies digitising documents and images, promoting their awareness, and sharing

them online. IrelandXO Insight provides their top selection of the best genealogical sources and repositories when carrying out your Irish family history research at <https://irelandxo.com/ireland-xo/news/irelandxo-insight-genealogy-resource-checklist>

Now on Trove. Two important publications for those researching colonial history - *Historical Records of New South Wales* (HRNSW) and the first 33 volumes from Series 1 of *Historical Records of Australia* (HRA) are on Trove. A description of these is available at https://guides.sl.nsw.gov.au/ajcp/colonial_office_hrnsw_hra

A Free Webinar Program at NSW State Records highlights the wonderful resources of the NSW State Archives collection and how to access them. You can register to 'attend' a live webinar or perhaps, more importantly, all webinars are recorded and past webinars appear in the library so that you can view them online at a time convenient to you. The webinar library now covers some 40 topics. Go to <https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/webinars> and scroll down.

The World When I Was a Child

I was born before computers – then:

A memory was something you lost with age

An application was for employment

A programme was a TV show

A cursor used profanity

A keyboard was a piano

A web was a spider's home

A virus was the flu

A hard drive was a long trip by road

A mouse pad was where the mouse lived

A screen was something you put up for privacy

Wifi was just Hi Fi miskeyed on a typewriter

Internet was where I went to avoid mosquito bites at night

CD was part of the alphabet, following AB

(from the Journal of the Family History Association of North Queensland)

EMAIL REMINDER: Any member wanting to be added to the BBFHS



Email News Group, please advise Stephanie **Bailey** by email at stephiib52@yahoo.com.au with your name, email address and membership number or access the BBFHS website home page at www.botanybayfhs.org.au and click on 'BBFHS Email List'

This article lists the new Library accessions. We remind members that there is a wealth of family history information accumulated over some 36 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

- When Grandma Was Just A Girl – Stories of Women in Past Times [A.HIS.26.30LC]
- The Struggle for Unity. A Story of the Federation of Australia [A.HIS.38.2LC]

NEW SOUTH WALES

- The History of Moorefield Racecourse, Kogarah, Sydney (1888-1951) [AN.LH.2217.3LC]
- Politics, Patronage and Public Works – The Administration of New South Wales, Volume 1, 1842-1900 [AN.HIS.38.8LC]
- Queanbeyan – District and People [AN.LH.2620.2LC]
- Waterfront Sydney 1860-1920 [AN.LH.2000.35LC]
- Death in Print. Deaths, Obituaries & Inquests as reported in the Kiama Examiner & Kiama Independent 1899-1919, Part 2, M-Z [AN.SOU.4.12]
- A River Revived. The Parramatta River [AN.LH.2150.9LC]
- Colonial Heritage – Historic Buildings of New South Wales [AN.HIS.22.4LC]

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

- Canberra – History of and Legends Relating to the Federal Capital Territory of the Commonwealth of Australia 1927 [A.ACT.2600.2LC]

VICTORIA

- Steamhorse to Power – A History of Morwell Town [AV.LH.3840.1LC]
- Kerr’s Melbourne Almanac and Port Phillip Directory for 1841 [AV.HIS.1.6LC]
- Reminiscences of Whittlesea [AV.LH.3757.1LC]
- The Rosedale Story, Vol.1 [AV.LH.3847.2LC]
- The La Trobe Journal No. 71, Autumn 2003. (Articles on Early Victoria) [AV.HIS.1.7LC]
- From Boudry to the Barrabool Hills. The Swiss Vignerons of Geelong

[AV.LH.3221.3LC]

- Central Goldfields of Victoria [AV.HIS.10.7LC]
- Phillip Island in Picture and Story [AV.3922.1LC]
- The Bacchus Story – A History of Captain W.H. Bacchus, of Bacchus Marsh and his Son [AV.LH.3340.1LC]

TASMANIA

- The Black War – Fear, Sex and Resistance in Tasmania [AT.HIS.1.3LC]
- Some Private Correspondence of Sir John and Lady Jane Franklin 1837-1845 (While in Tasmania) [AT.HIS.1.4LC]

OVERSEAS

- Fermanagh – It's Special Landscape – A Study of the Fermanagh Countryside and its Heritage [I.FER.HIS.1.2LC]
- The Scottish Migration to Ulster in the Reign of James I [I.HIS.1.21LC]
- North-East Midlothian – Monumental Inscriptions [S.MLN.SOU.5.2LC]
- The People's Past, Scottish Folk, Scottish History [S.HIS.1.12LC]
- Tales of Old Norfolk [E.NFK.HIS.1.2LC]
- Yorkshire to Humberside [E.YKS.41.1LC]
- Kirklees Archives 1959-1989. An Illustrated Guide to Kirklees District Archives (Yorkshire) [E.YKS.SOU.2.2LC]
- Huddersfield – A Most Handsome Town (Yorkshire) [E.YKS.LH.9LC]
- Knockbridge – A History [I.CAV.LH.1LC]
- Signposts to the Past. Places Names and the History of England [HIS.1.4LC]

GENERAL

- Port Macquarie's Last Convicts – The End of the Convict Establishment at Port Macquarie – by the Original Documents 1847 [G.CONV.SOU.28LC]
- These Few Lines – A Convict Story – The Lost Lives of Myra and William Sykes [G.CONV.HIS.38LC]
- The Letters of George & Elizabeth Bass [G.BIOG.7.BAS.1LC]
- Sea Adventures and Wrecks on the N.S.W. South Coast [G.IMM.SHP.AN.2.4LC]
- For the Love of a Soldier – Australian War-Brides and their G.I.s [G.MIL.A.HIS.41LC]
- The Diaries and Letters of G.T.W.B. Boyes, Vol.1 1820-1832 (Tasmania) [G.BIOG.7.BOY.1LC]
- A Bibliography of the First Fleet (Sources, Journals, Letters, Voyage & Settlement) [G.CONV.SOU.29LC]

NOTE: 'LC' indicates a loan copy, which can be borrowed; 'MF' a microfiche item.

Compiled by Janette **Daly** (Librarian)

DIGGINGS



D*igging*s 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 2014 to 2018. 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 the RAHS Mar 20

Not a motley throng: Australians on the Klondike, 1898

Ryde District HS Mar 20

Petition and Counter Petition regarding declaration of Ryde Municipality. It offers many names

FHA of North Queensland, Townsville Mar 20

Convict Odyssey: Tales from Norfolk Island

Early Scotch (Scotch College, Melbourne) Collegians in North and Far North Queensland

The 400th Anniversary of the Mayflower

South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society Feb 20

Glenelg to Millswood via Paraguay

Liverpool GS Jun 20

How to use Twitter for family history

BRITAIN

Journal of the Society of Genealogists Mar 20

The British and the Chinese Treaty Ports

A return to the past: Film is back

Family Tree Mar 20

Get the best out of the GRO website

Working in the Outposts of Empire

Taken a DNA test? Now what? – Karen Evans continues with excellent advice

Family Tree Apr 20

Where to find Parish Registers – Chris Paton gives some key websites

Keeping it in the family – family heirlooms

Taken a DNA test? Now what?

Cleveland FHS Apr 20

Genealogical Research Tips. For beginners but contains excellent tips even for the experienced researcher

Born, married, died elsewhere – continues to offer names of families from the North Riding of Yorkshire and South Durham who were later found in a different place

Family Tree May 20

Getting back to the Victorian & Edwardians – Britain in the 1800s & pre-WW1

How would our poorer ancestors have dressed?

Children at work. A case study into the textile industry using the Ripponden area as an example

Taken a DNA test? Now what?

How to keep track of your family history searches using the four major family websites

Family Tree Jun 20

The first VE Day

Taken a DNA Test? Now what? Karen Evans continues her excellent workshop

Family Tree Jul 20

Taken a DNA Test? Now What?

Researching the history of a road

Celebrating Brunel's most famous ship, the SS Great Britain which carried about 15,000 passengers from Liverpool to Melbourne from 1852 to 1875

Archives Masterclass – how to get the most of an archive visit

Family Tree Aug 20

Castles, their rise & demise – provides hints for tracing family connections to castles of the past

VJ day and the end of the war – 75 years ago

Taking it beyond transcriptions – check original documents for possible errors and clues

Maps for family research

Taken a DNA test? Now what?

IRELAND

Irish Roots First Qtr 20

Saint Patrick's Day Traditions in Ireland

Tracing your Co. Wexford Ancestors

Dating family photographs: 1900-1930

Researching your Irish Clan

Compiled by Kate **Anderson** (Member)

BBFHS RESEARCH CENTRE AND LIBRARY

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

The opening of the Research Centre has been pushed back to the second week in October, that is, to Friday 9 October, for Mondays and Fridays and for members only. The situation re Covid-19 is being closely monitored and decisions might change. Please read your BBFHS eNEWS, Website or Facebook, to see if there is further information.

Research Centre Volunteers have been kept informed of decisions. They will be asked if anyone is willing to be on duty the Mondays and Fridays, as a roster will have to be organised first. We all understand that many Volunteers have to be very cautious of their own wellbeing and that of their family.



SOCIETY EXCHANGE JOURNALS

Our Society exchanges our journal *The Endeavour* with other societies. Previously, these were in print, some of which are in our Library. But times have changed and we mostly exchange digital editions – covering 68 societies. These are on the Centre computers. Click the *Resources on the Server* icon on the desktop. We recommend that members read any journal originating from an area where their ancestors had connexions.



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BBFHS INTEREST GROUPS

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

Members are invited to attend one or more of our Interest Groups. No bookings are required; simply turn up at the Research Centre at 184 Gannons Road, Caringbah. (wearing your name badge) bringing your own questions, brick walls and stories and your ears willing to listen to similar from other participants.

Sessions are usually two hours each at a cost of \$5 for a member or \$10 for a visitor. For the computer software programs groups which organise and store your family history data (Legacy, Reunion for Mac and Family Tree Maker for Windows and Macs) it is helpful to bring a laptop or tablet but certainly not necessary.

The coordinators of the groups are:

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

English Interest – Sue **Hewitt** (9524 2540, suehewitt54@gmail.com)

Irish Interest – Barbara **Wimble** (wwimble@iinet.net.au)

Scottish Interest – Jean **Campbell** (jeanhcampbell47@gmail.com)

Australian Interest – Patricia **Jarvis** (9521 1375, patricia_jarvis@optusnet.com.au)

Legacy – Sue **Jones** (scjones@optusnet.com.au)

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

Reunion for Mac – Pat **Fearnley** (patfearnley@bigpond.com)

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

UPCOMING PROGRAM

WRITERS INTEREST:	Thursday 24 September 1.30 – 3.30 pm Thursday 26 November 1.30 – 3.30 pm
SCOTTISH INTEREST:	Saturday 5 December 2 – 4 pm
IRISH INTEREST:	Saturday 24 October 2 – 4 pm
ENGLISH INTEREST:	Saturday 5 September 2 – 4 pm Saturday 14 November 2 – 4 pm
AUSTRALIAN INTEREST:	Saturday 21 November 2 – 4 pm
REUNION FOR MAC:	Tuesday 6 October 10 am – noon Tuesday 1 December 10 am – noon
LEGACY:	Tuesday 1 September 2 – 4 pm Tuesday 3 November 2 – 4 pm

**FAMILY TREE MAKER
FOR WINDOWS & MACS:**

Saturday 10 November 1.30 – 3.30 pm

DNA FOR FAMILY HISTORY:

Saturday 26 September 1.30 – 3.30 pm
Saturday 28 November 1.30 – 3.30 pm



SEEKING READER'S IDEAS AND INPUTS



Do you have a great idea for something you would like to see in future journals? Have you had a recent good luck story in breaking those genealogical brick walls? What about a tip for other readers – a genealogical clue? A photograph you cannot date? A great new website you have discovered.

Share with other readers!

RESEARCH CENTRE OPENING TIMES

**Please check BBFHS Email News, our website or
Facebook – the situation is fluid.**

Phone 9523 8948 for computer and film reader bookings

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



DISABLED ACCESS

is available for Research Centre users.
Please phone the Centre on 02 9523 8948
to make arrangements.

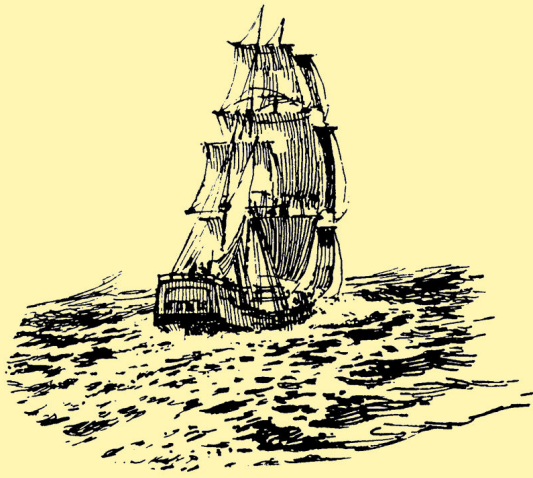
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Handy Guide – ScotlandsPeople	\$5.00
Handy Guide – German Words for Family Historians	\$5.00
Handy Guide – Online Newspapers	\$5.00
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Irish family history resources online – Chris Paton.....	\$19.50
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The Editor reserves the right to edit articles.

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