

THE ENDEAVOUR



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BOTANY BAY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

Discovering Your Heritage

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Meetings

Normally held on the first Wednesday of the month (except January) at the 'Tradies', The Kingsway, Gymea, 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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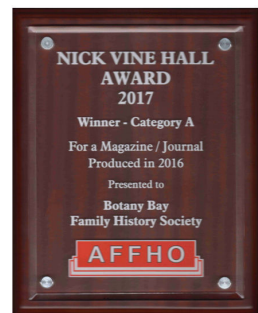
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CALENDAR



The calendar as at 15 February 2021. Many of the BBFHS activities are not listed here and will depend on the COVID-19 situation. Many will be held on ZOOM – please check the Events Calendar on our website (www.botanybayfhs.org.au) or see your BBFHS Email News when it arrives in your email inbox.

2021

- Mar 3 Meeting – 7.30 pm on Zoom. Speaker – Sue Reid.**
Australian Newspapers and Substitutes after the 1950s: What can we do when Trove runs out?
- Mar 17 Discussion Meeting – 7.30 pm on Zoom.**
- Apr 2 Good Friday Public Holiday (Centre closed)**
- Apr 3 Easter Saturday Public Holiday (Centre closed)**
- Apr 5 Easter Monday Public Holiday (Centre closed)**
- Apr 7 Meeting – 7.30 pm on Zoom. Speaker – Sylvia Valentine.**
More Scottish Resources
- Apr 21 Discussion Meeting – 7.30 pm on Zoom.**
- May 5 Meeting – 7.30 pm on Zoom. Speaker – Erica Cervini.**
Rose Pearlman: Piecing together the life story of a woman who left few personal papers or diaries
- May 19 Discussion Meeting – 7.30 pm on Zoom.**
- Jun 2 Meeting – 7.30 pm at Tradies. Speaker – Jean Campbell.**
Scotland
- Jun 14 Queen’s Birthday (Monday) Public Holiday (Centre closed)**

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

The BBFHS Research Centre has finally been connected to the NBN. Installation was originally planned for December 2020 but was delayed until further work on the street connection had been carried out. This work has now been done and installation was finalised in February. Internet download speeds are now 28 Mbit/sec – approximately 25 times faster than the previous very slow system.

Although we are still operating on restricted hours the booking system continues to work well, and it is wonderful to physically see members using the Centre.

On the next page in this edition of *The Endeavour* you will find a summary of the results from our 2020 Member's Survey. I would again like to thank all who participated. The replies to the questions regarding topics for online workshops and guest speakers were way too numerous to summarise, but your Committee is grateful for all the suggestions, which will all be considered.

I mentioned in my previous report that there was strong support for a Military Interest Group, a Continental European Interest Group and a Scandinavian Interest Group. However, we need volunteers to convene these suggested Interest Groups, so if you feel you can help, please contact me.

Recently, Rowan **Morrison** stepped down as our Guest Speaker organiser and I would like to thank him for his time on Committee. While our first physical monthly meeting at Tradies won't be before June, Lilian Magill and I have lined up some great speakers to take us through to August.

- March: Sue Reid (Qld) – Australian newspapers and substitutes after the 1950s: What can we do when Trove runs out? (Zoom)
- April: Sylvia Valentine (UK) – More Scottish resources (Zoom)
- May: Erica Cervini (Vic) – Rose Pearlman: Piecing together the life story of a woman who left few personal papers or diaries (Zoom)
- June: Jean Campbell – Scotland (Tradies – fingers crossed)
- July: Rob Hamilton (Vic) – Masonic records (Zoom)
- August: Mia Bennett (UK) – Hidden in plain sight: Freely available sources we often overlook (Zoom)
- September: Will be our Annual General Meeting and we would like to hear BBFHS Member's Father's Day stories (Tradies)

Jennie Fairs



2020 BBFHS SURVEY RESULTS

by Jennie Fairs (President)

Thank you to those who responded to the survey. There were far too many suggested topics for online workshops and guest speakers to cover here but all suggestions are being considered for future events. The following points summarise the 2020 Survey results rounded to the nearest whole number:

1. Attendance at monthly Tradies meetings: Yes – 65% No – 35%
2. Attendance at monthly Zoom meetings: Yes – 42% No – 58%
3. Attendance at Interest Groups: Yes – 54% No – 46%
4. Top three interests in forming new Interest Groups:
 - a. Military (26 responses)
 - b. Continental Europe (16)
 - c. Scandinavia (12)
5. Attendance at the Research Centre: Yes – 70% No – 30%
6. Top three facilities used at Research Centre:
 - a. Computers
 - b. Books
 - c. Microfiche/film
7. Top three areas of research interest:
 - a. British Isles
 - b. Oceania
 - c. Western Europe
8. Interest in attending online workshops: Yes – 67% No – 33%
9. Attending online workshops if fee charged: Yes – 74% No – 26%
10. Attending an online presentation by an international speaker if we charged a fee: Yes – 75% No 25%
11. Social media usage (out of 157 responses):
 - Facebook – 92 users
 - Pinterest – 30
 - Instagram – 24
 - Twitter – 13
12. Members receiving eNEWS: Yes – 92% No – 8%
13. Members using the private BBFHS Forum: Yes – 27% No – 73%



THE GREAT WHITE PLAGUE

By Colleen Passfield (Member)

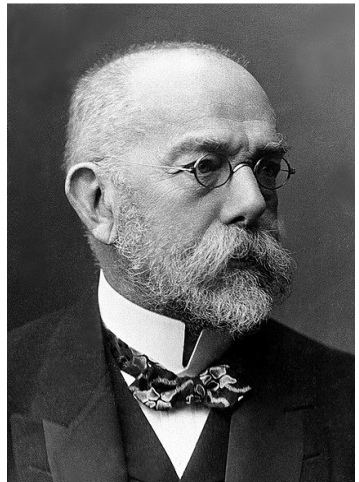
In 2020, as the world tried to cope with the highly contagious and dangerous disease COVID-19, there were often references to other outbreaks and how they were addressed. The Spanish Flu after WWI and, in more recent times, SARS, Avian Influenza and Ebola are examples. But, there is another disease that has existed since antiquity. Its incidence grew progressively during the Middle Ages and Renaissance, peaked between the 18th and 19th centuries and, despite major advances in treatment and control, is still regarded as ‘a disease of global public health significance’ by the World Health Organization (WHO). That disease is tuberculosis also known as TB, consumption, phthisis, scrofula, the Kings Touch and the Great White Plague.

18th and 19th Centuries

The idea of TB as a ‘romantic disease’ was portrayed in novels like **Dumas’** *La Dame aux Camelias* and **Hugo’s** *Les Miserables* and operas such as **Verdi’s** *La Traviata* and **Puccini’s** *La Boheme*. The reality of TB was far removed from this. As the Industrial Revolution saw workers move from rural communities to cities looking for work, the poverty and squalor that ensued created an ideal environment for TB to take hold and, in England in 1815, it caused one in four deaths.

By the end of the 19th century, scientific advances gave hope that a cause and cure might be found. In 1840, Dr. Bodington **George**, a prominent physician of Edinburgh, wrote an essay describing his interaction with consumptive patients and their appearance and recommended the creation of what would later become known as the sanatorium. This was an asylum-like retreat in high-altitude areas where rest, nutritious food, and sunlight would often cure mild cases. It had been observed that infection, disease and mortality were all less common at higher altitudes. But, even under the best conditions, half of those who entered died within five years.

The cause of the white plague was a mystery. In 1882, Robert **Koch** a German physician discovered the cause: *tubercle bacillus*, a bacterium. The disease, formerly known as consumption, was now identified as TB. In 1905 Koch was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine for his discovery.



Robert Koch (photo: Unknown author, Wikimedia Commons)

In 1908, Albert **Calmette** and Camille **Guerin** discovered a vaccine that was the first genuine success in immunization against TB. It was first used on humans in 1921 in France, but achieved widespread acceptance only after World War II.

In 1946, streptomycin and other antibiotics made effective treatment and cure of TB a reality. Improvements in sanitation, vaccination and other health measures began significantly reducing TB rates. By the 1950s, mortality had decreased by about 90%. With the rise of drug-resistant strains in the 1980s, hopes of completely eliminating TB ended. Resurgence of TB led to the declaration of a global health emergency by the WHO in 1993.

New South Wales

TB arrived in New South Wales (NSW) on 1 May 1770 in Botany Bay. Captain **Cook** recorded in his private log, that seaman, Forby **Sutherland**, had died of a ‘consumption’ and that his body had been interred ashore at the watering place to be named Sutherland’s Point. From that time on, the disease would be brought into the country by migrants from overseas and spread through the community.

It was commonly believed that the healthy climate of the colonies would prevent, improve and even cure the consumptive. Many, who were diagnosed with TB, immigrated to Australia and took treatment that consisted of isolation, fresh air, good food and mild exercise. Although this improved the patient’s general health, it was never a cure. In 1870, William **Thomson** a Melbourne physician, produced evidence that the cause, cure and progress of consumption had little to do with the climate and its benefit was overstated. His work and advice was ignored.

Australian colonial governments sent envoys to conferences in Berlin where Robert Koch’s work was discussed and accepted. Hopes were raised that a breakthrough cure would be achieved. When this did not happen, the promotion of the sanatorium movement, as the most significant means of treatment, continued.

In 1884, the Australian death rate from TB peaked at 135 per 100,000 persons. By 1901 it had fallen to 93 and the decline continued throughout the 20th century as the improvements mentioned above took effect. In 1911-1920, 6.8 percent of all deaths were from TB but by 1948 TB caused only 2.8 per cent. In the 1980s, the rise of drug resistant strains of TB caused a resurgence of the disease.

Sanatoria

The Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital at Picton was probably the first TB sanatorium in Australia. It was established by John Hay **Goodlet** (1835-1914), a Presbyterian philanthropist, timber merchant and manufacturer. Born in Leith, Scotland, Goodlet arrived in Melbourne aged 17, and found work as a clerk in a firm of timber merchants. Within a year he was a partner in the business. When a depression hit Melbourne in 1855, he moved to Sydney and set up a timber yard

and sawmill in partnership with James **Smith**. Goodlet and Smith's firm expanded into producing bricks, pottery and earthenware using state of the art labour saving machinery. It became a large and profitable business. John Goodlet had many interests and was a prominent and influential member of the Sydney community. Amongst his many appointments were Elder of the Presbyterian Church, a founding member of St Andrew's College, Sydney University, Director and chairman of AMP, founding member of the Sydney City Mission, a member of the Sydney Hospital Board and a member of the Council of the Agricultural Society.

The death of Goodlet's sister Florence at an early age affected him deeply. When it closed in 1877, he leased the Terminus Hotel in Picton and opened it as a home for consumptives. Renamed *Florence Villa* patients' ages ranged from 18 to 48 and while the numbers who were treated is not known, there were 80 deaths recorded during its nine years of operation. Due to increased demand for beds, he paid for the construction of a purpose built facility which was opened in 1886. Located between Picton and Thirlmere it was known as *The Goodlet Home for Consumptives* or *Thirlmere House*. By 1892 Goodlet was not able to fund this work and it became a public charity. In 1905 he donated the hospital and grounds to the Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee Homes for Consumptives Fund and sold the remainder of the estate to the charity for well below its real value.

In the late 1890s, community concern was growing about the spread of TB and the need to isolate consumptives in an appropriately designed facility. The Jubilee Committee was aware of the need for a new sanatorium and the Blue Mountains climate seemed ideal. In 1890, Kelso **King** (1853-1943), a prominent Sydney businessman, acquired a property at Wentworth Falls where he built his house. In 1900, soon after the death of his wife, he sold the property to the Committee. In 1897 an area of land adjacent to King's portion was acquired by Walter R **Hall** and, in 1904 and 1909 part of this land was given to the Sanatorium estate on King's portion. After Hall's death in 1911, the Walter and Eliza Hall trust was established and it is still an important philanthropic institution

In 1903 a new sanatorium for 20 male patients was opened. Two further sanatoria, *Bodington* also at Wentworth Falls and the *R T Hall* at Hazelbrook were also built. All three facilities were designed by George Sydney **Jones** who was the son of Dr Philip Sydney Jones, the then leading medical expert on consumption.

In 1911 the Queen Victoria Sanatorium became a state funded hospital under the State Hospitals Act. It was a chest hospital until 1958 when it became a hospital for the aged and chronically ill until its closed in 1999. The property at Wentworth Falls was sold as a development site in 2012.

Consumption – a notifiable disease

In 1897 a Sydney newspaper, *The Australian Star*, noted 'phthisis afflicts us

more in any year than smallpox...yet it is brought in with every ship without hindrance or challenge'. In 1899 in NSW, at a conference of municipalities, a resolution was carried urging the Government to make TB a notifiable disease under the Health Act. In 1901 the Victorian Board of Public Health did so and by 1908 the same applied in South Australia and Queensland.

In July 1910 the second reading of the Local Government (Tuberculosis Notification) Bill came before the Legislative Council of NSW and it was decided to hand the matter over to the Local Government authorities. It wasn't until 1915 that pulmonary consumption was made a notifiable disease in the State.

Meanwhile, municipalities in and around Sydney actively campaigned to control the spread of TB. Since early 1910 Alderman **Grantham** of Hurstville Council had advocated a regulation under the Council's by-laws that TB be a notifiable disease. In July 1910 he succeeded. He urged all shires and municipalities to co-operate in efforts to eradicate it. Many municipalities like Newtown and Ashfield were already leading the way, holding public meetings and pressuring the State Government under Premier Joseph **Carruthers**.

Consumptives Hospital

From 1900 there was a strong movement to force the Government to establish a public hospital to isolate and treat consumptives. Although sanatoria had been established they were not readily available for poorer persons. The public hospitals could not accommodate them. In NSW they were sent to the Liverpool Asylum, a refuge for poor and old men – a quite unsuitable institution where crowded wards made isolation impossible. The treatments recommended by medical experts were non-existent and the patients in the early and curable stages of the disease were in close contact with those who were near to death.

In April 1900, Liverpool Municipal Council complained to Colonial Secretary **See** about conditions at the Asylum and that patients could wander through the town – a distinct source of infection. **See** agreed that there should be a home for consumptives away from centres of population and promised that a report would be prepared. In the Legislative Council in 1901, Dr **Nash** stated that better provision should be made for consumptives. He reported the unsatisfactory conditions at Liverpool Asylum where over 100 consumptives were housed, close to 600 to 700 old people suffering only from senile decay and in danger of infection. Strong measures were needed to do away with the 'hotbed' at Liverpool.

Later, in October 1901, a well attended meeting in Sydney Town Hall was addressed by several well-respected speakers. All stressed the urgent need for the State to construct a public hospital where consumptives could be isolated and receive the most up to date treatment. It was pointed out that NSW lagged behind the other states. From this meeting, an Association for the Prevention and Cure of

Consumption was formed to pressure the State government. **Walter S Thompson** was one of the speakers who appealed strongly for support for the Association and was elected Secretary. Thompson was a foundation member of the NSW Labor Party and a prominent trade unionist - the first permanent secretary and organiser of the United Labourers Protective Society (holding the number six ticket) which later morphed into the Australian Workers Union (AWU). He was able to forcefully bring to the attention of the Labor Party and the State Government the condition of the incurables and the way they were treated in the Liverpool Asylum.

Although Government recognised the need, there was little progress. Losing patience, the various Sydney municipalities continued to apply pressure. On behalf of the Association, Walter Thompson drew up a petition to be presented to Parliament calling for immediate action. He aimed to get 10,000 signatures on the petition. In his obituary published in 1938 in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and several other papers, it was reported that 87,000 signatures were on the petition. Actively supporting Walter Thompson was Phillip **Lazarus** a prominent businessman and president of the Anti-Tuberculosis Association of NSW. He was managing director of Lazarus Rosenfeld and Co., china manufacturers and importers, on the board of the Sydney Hospital and the Queen Victoria Home for Consumptives, a leading member of the Jewish community and the Rotary Club, and a keen supporter of crippled children's organisations. The two men became friends and collaborated for many years in the anti-TB campaigns.

The various Sydney municipalities continued to apply pressure. In August 1906, at the Newtown Town Hall, a meeting of the Association attended by Members of Parliament, urged upon the Government the immediate necessity of proceeding with the establishment of such an institution. Walter Thompson and Phillip Lazarus were members of the representative group of eleven which delivered the petition supporting their demands to Premier Joseph Carruthers. Responding to the pressure, in March 1907 it was announced that the Department of Public Works had entered into a tender for building a Home for Incurables at Waterfall. It was designed to accommodate 240 persons. Despite fears expressed by Sutherland Shire Council about possible contamination to the nearby National Park and the proposed Woronora Dam, the construction proceeded.

Waterfall Sanatorium (1909-1958) was built to treat patients, including children, who had advanced TB. Patients were sent there, often against their will, and were not released until cured. At the time, most doctors believed that the fresh air and natural surrounds would help cure the disease. The Waterfall Sanatorium was the State's only purpose-built TB facility. In April 1909, after Dr. H W **Palmer** was selected as medical superintendent and Miss A **Tunks** from the Coast Hospital was appointed matron, transfer of patients in batches of 25, from the Liverpool Asylum began. In October 1909, plans had been completed for

additional buildings at Waterfall which included an admission and administration block, doctors' rooms and dispensary, offices and sleeping accommodation for the male staff. In September 1911, a wing to contain 110 beds for female consumptives was nearing completion and would be ready for occupation in the new year.



Waterfall Sanatorium (Photo: <https://seslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/garrawarra-centre>)

In June 1911, a deputation from the National Association for the Prevention and Cure of Consumption lobbied the Government for an annual grant of £2000 to establish anti-tuberculosis dispensaries where even the poorest could go and be examined, diagnosed and treated. Early stage cases could be cured in a sanatorium and if in an advanced stage, admittance to the Waterfall Hospital was compulsory.

From opening, there were complaints. In 1912, the Sydney newspaper *Truth* reported poor and unsanitary conditions – ‘a keep-down-expenses hospital’ with poor drainage, lack of disinfectants, inadequate medication, and unnutritious food. The cheapest of everything was accepted through contract and food was prepared and served from a kitchen and in a dining room which were not fly proof. There was criticism of the Board of Health inspectors and calls for a Royal Commission.

In 1926, there was no qualified, dispensing chemist on site and patients had to buy bread from the passing baker from Helensburgh as bread supplied was sour and mouldy. There was no special diet for patients in a critical condition. The Superintendent put up a notice forbidding patients to discuss either food or management with the threat of being severely dealt with if they did so. Official enquiries concluded that the complaints were justified.

In 1925, there were six boys in the men's ward, five boys under 14 years of age in ladies' ward and eleven girls in the ladies' ward of similar ages. Because the staff was over-worked and under-staffed, the children got little or no attention except from other patients. To relieve this situation, there was a call for a cottage home to be set up with a matron to care for the children and aid their recovery.

In December 1926, a Committee of Investigation recommended that the name of the institution be changed to Waterfall Home for Consumptives, that male and female patients be segregated and that child patients be separated from adult patients with segregation of the sexes and that there be an increase in the medical and nursing staff. The Report went on to make further recommendations that would deal with the complaints and improve conditions for patients and staff.

In the annual report for 1927, it was stated that 937 patients were treated, 333 were discharged, 428 were in residence and 176 had died. Most of those who died would have been buried in the cemetery that was attached to the Sanatorium. It was also reported that new treatments had been tried and failed.

In 1928, concerns were raised in *The Farmer and Settler* about the high incidence of deaths at Waterfall with nearly two in every three days. There was a lack of equipment and many hopeless cases were ‘dumped’ from country hospitals. There was indiscriminate mixing of incipient, early and advanced cases of TB. Although some families would claim bodies of the deceased for burial, in time, more than 2,000 were buried in the on site cemetery between 1909 and 1949.

In 1929, the *Daily Telegraph* (Sydney) reported that ‘a high official associated with the Institution’ admitted that a treatment trialed at Waterfall actually hastened the deaths of 20 patients. It was also tried at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital but was a failure. Trials of another, new preparation were continuing at Waterfall with the promising aspect that it helped to restore appetite.

On 29 June 1930, the Sydney newspaper *Truth* published a long, shocking article with the headline ‘Gruesome Burials of TB Victims at Waterfall’. It was an eye witness account by Percival **Hannon** of the desecration and burials of coffins of patients who had died. It described graves filled with water and what was done to make the coffins sink and comments of gravediggers who were present. The next day *Truth* investigators and Mr Hannon visited the graveyard and spoke to an old man who appeared to be in charge. He corroborated Hannon’s account. On 6 July 1930 *Truth* commented on a statement by the Minister for Public Health, Dr R **Arthur**, confirming the allegations. The cemetery was situated on the highest ground but it was on sandstone which retained water. It was impossible to drain and in the rainy season became waterlogged. Heavy stones were placed on the coffins to sink them. The only solution was a crematorium but he promised that the other desecrations described in the *Truth* would be abolished without delay.

In the next few years, there were reports of unauthorised trips by patients to nearby Helensburgh, alcohol being taken back to the Sanatorium and long delays for TB sufferers to be admitted. Some residents of the village of Waterfall applied to change its name because of the perceived stigma of being associated with the Sanatorium. It was rejected.

Complaints about staff shortages and overcrowding continued during the years the hospital was in operation. As TB spread through NSW, there was massive overcrowding and many patients were moved outside to large verandahs. Patients were often kept waiting for months for admittance. Fibro ‘chalets,’ about the size of a garden shed were scattered about the grounds and patients in the active stages of the disease were isolated there until they improved in health or died.

Over the years there were many medical advances. With the discovery of penicillin and streptomycin and their success in treating TB and other infectious diseases; the Waterfall Sanatorium was closed in 1958. In 1959, after extensive remodelling, the Garrawarra Hospital for people with chronic diseases and diseases of the ageing was opened. From the 2000, the name was changed to the Garrawarra Centre for Aged Care - specialising in dementia care services.

Today some of the hospital buildings still stand though many have been vandalised and are in a sorry state. The older parts of the hospital were built with sandstone and are slowly being restored. The newer parts were built of fibro (asbestos) and are closed to the public – fenced and monitored by security cameras. A number of buildings are intended for demolition ‘subject to statutory authority



Male ward at Garrawarra, scheduled for demolition
(photo: Illawarra Historical Society and Museum)

approval’. Garrawarra is a local heritage site owned by the State. During any demolition, if heritage items are identified they have to be recorded and preserved.

Waterfall Cemetery was used from 1909 to 1949 to bury over 2000 TB patients. At its peak, a patient was buried every three to six days. Consultant Asher

Ford told Wollongong City Council that the youngest was three days old and the oldest was 101. Care of the abandoned and overgrown cemetery was handed to Wollongong City Council in 1967 and virtually forgotten. Thanks to the efforts and cooperation of the Helensburgh and District Historical Society, since 2012 the Council has been conducting research into the cemetery with the help of consultants and local historians. A short film *Not Forgotten: The Story of Waterfall General Cemetery* has been produced to provide members of the public with a better understanding of the condition of the cemetery and its history, see <https://youtu.be/Cgx9vmnz3Po>.

The *Illawarra Mercury* has actively reported the progress of the project and on 27 June 2019, *The Leader* reported that Wollongong Council was behind a push to stop the demolition at Garrawarra Hospital and would apply for an injunction if demolition began before a heritage assessment was done. The NSW Health Department had not set a date for demolition. On 1 October 2020 the UK *Daily Mail* published an online extensive report *Welcome to Waterfall Sanatorium* with numerous photographs about the abandoned hospital. An online site *Things to Do in Sydney* also has an entry titled *Exploring Sydney's Old Waterfall Sanatorium*.

The Lesson of Papworth Village Settlement

Those NSW campaigners of 1903 who had worked to improve the treatment and accommodation of consumptives were eager to learn about Papworth, a model TB colony in Cambridgeshire, England, established in 1917 by Dr (later Sir) Pendrill **Varrier-Jones**. This was a sanatorium where patients were treated in a 'settlement' in a rural environment where ex-patients lived with their families and were employed in industries at trade union rates of pay.

Varrier-Jones believed in a holistic approach to medicine – a happy family life being integral to the maintenance of health. At Papworth, graduated labour was part of the treatment. It was industrial work unlike farm work adopted by other schemes. The industries included carpentry, joinery, boot making and repair, horticulture, printing, cabinet making and leather goods. For psychological as well as financial reasons, it was important for Papworth to be a successful commercial enterprise and not dependent on charity. The Papworth site was isolated which was an advantage because settlers were encouraged to seek recreation and leisure activities within the community. Family and community were important. By 1927, Papworth was described as an independent community with a school house, post office, a parish church and non-conformist chapel, recreation rooms and a hall for public meetings, a cinema, stores and a public house.

Until 1957, the Papworth village settlement continued to accommodate TB patients many of whom chose to settle there permanently after treatment. The hospital passed to the National Health Service in 1954 and has developed over the

years to become one of the world's leading heart and lung hospitals. In 2017 the Royal Papworth Hospital celebrated its centenary of service to the community.

Picton Lakes Village Settlement

Phillip Lazarus and Walter Thompson were prominent members of the small group which persuaded the Government to establish the Waterfall facility. However, they were acutely aware that more was needed to reduce the spread of TB. Working class men were reluctant to be medically examined in the early stages of TB when the chance of a cure was possible, because a positive result meant isolation from their family and compulsory admittance to Waterfall. The family was left without a breadwinner and the patient was in a place where, because of overcrowding, staff shortages and, in particular, indiscriminate mixing of patients in various stages of the disease, the chances of a recovery were small.

Papworth was the model that campaigners in NSW had long been advocating. Phillip Lazarus visited Papworth during a trip to England to observe 'the success of an undertaking inspired by high ideals, realised in practice'. On his return, the movement to establish a similar settlement began and other prominent members of the community became involved. In 1923, the Governor of NSW, Sir Dudley **de Chair**, became Patron of the National Association for the Prevention and Cure of Consumption. Committee members included the Lord Mayor of Sydney, members of State Parliament, heads of the various religious communities, and lecturers in medicine from Sydney University and Phillip Lazarus. In 1924, a deputation called on the Premier, Sir George **Fuller**, to establish an open-air village like Papworth, for those in the early stages of TB. He ordered an investigation to determine the most suitable area for such a colony.

At least £50,000 was needed and an appeal launched. Members of the Help for Consumptives' Appeal Committee included Sir Joynton **Smith**, Sir Joseph Carruthers, Lady Mabel **Maitland**, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Sydney, members of Parliament, leading medical lecturers and doctors, Phillip Lazarus and Walter S Thompson. The Trades and Labor Council of NSW committed to raise £10,000 through an art union with a prize value of over £5,000 supervised by Mrs Lilian **Fowler**, President of the Central Women's Organising Committee.

By 1925, with Grant **Hanlon** as Organising Secretary, the movement, now known as the Consumptive Village Settlement Scheme asked the Government for a grant of land. Each municipality in NSW was approached to collect funds to erect one or more chalets at a cost of £300 each. The Village Settlement Scheme would provide families, where the father was infected with TB, with a rent-free chalet in a healthy district with the risk of infecting others minimised.

In December 1925, a ladies committee was formed to raise funds. Prominent on the committee were Lady Mabel Maitland (President), Lady Elizabeth **Fuller**,

wife of Sir Benjamin Fuller the theatrical entrepreneur, Mrs Lilian Fowler and Mrs Ellen Thompson, wife of Walter S Thompson.

In April 1926, the Committee announced that a site at Picton Lakes had been selected. Land clearing and construction would begin as soon as possible with enthusiastic volunteers from the various municipalities in and around Sydney. Members of the Committee were Sir Joynton Smith (President), Phillip Lazarus (Vice-president), Sir Owen **Cox**, G F **Earp** MLC, Dr Richard Arthur (Minister for Health), Lady Maitland, Dr **Laurence**, J **Munro**, A J **McCoy**, J **Easterbrook** and W S Thompson, well known in the district as the Labor candidate in the state elections of 1922. They were joined by Dr M **McIntyre** (Hon Medical Advisor), S P **Woodford** (Hon Architect). A S **Armstrong** (Hon Designer), and Grant Hanlon (Organising Secretary).

Sir James Joynton Smith KBE (1858-1943) was an hotelier, racecourse and newspaper owner (*Smith's Weekly*, *Daily Guardian* and *Sunday Guardian*), Lord Mayor of Sydney (1918) and philanthropist. He founded the Royal South Sydney Hospital and was a director of Sydney Hospital, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, the Wentworth Falls Convalescent Home and first president of the Picton Lakes TB Settlement. He was the first President of the NSW Rugby League between 1910 and 1928 and Patron from 1929 to 1943.

Lady Mabel Maitland (1871-1950) was the daughter of Samuel **Cook** for many years general manager of the *Sydney Morning Herald*. She was the widow of Sir Herbert Maitland (1868-1923), an eminent Sydney surgeon with a world-wide reputation for his generosity, taking no fee from patients who could not afford it. He was consultant surgeon at the Crown Street Women's Hospital, South Sydney Women's Hospital and the Coast (Prince Henry) Hospital and lecturer in clinical surgery, senior honorary surgeon and later director at Sydney Hospital. He met and became friends with Joynton Smith who, after his death, persuaded Lady Maitland to become President of the ladies committee. With her wide social contacts and interest in philanthropy she was an ideal choice.

Lilian Maud Fowler MBE (1886-1954) was an Australian Labor Party politician. She was secretary of the Newtown-Erskineville Political Labor League and from 1917 managed the electorate of Newtown MP Frank **Burke**. In 1928, in the Newtown municipality, she became the first woman in NSW to be elected as an alderman. Previously she had been president of the Labor Women's Central Organising Committee at the Trades Hall, a member of the Labor Party Executive and delegate at the ALP annual conference. She was Australia's first female mayor – at Newtown (1937-1939). She later represented the Newtown electorate in the NSW Legislative Assembly. The federal electorate of Fowler is named after her.

Grant Clinton Hanlon MBE (1887-1944) was an alderman on the Woollahra

Council before becoming the Organising Secretary for the Picton Lakes TB Settlement. He was responsible for raising a considerable amount of money and in 1933 was awarded the MBE for his efforts.

Arthur William **Yager** (1884-1967) was a prominent member of the NSW Labor Party, chairman of Trades Hall Association 1919-1920, secretary and chief executive of Picton Lakes TB Village Settlement 1947-1968, and foundation president of St George Rugby League Football Club 1821-1938. When he died in 1967 his funeral was at Woronora Crematorium with Church of England rites.

Phillip Lazarus (1868-1942) and Walter S Thompson (1858-1938) continued their collaboration in the fight against TB dating from 1900.

During 1927, members of the executive committee travelled to city municipalities and country areas to appeal for funds. In May 1927, Lady Maitland, Phillip Lazarus and Grant Hanlon called on the Governor and Patron Sir Dudley de Chair to report that £15,775 had been raised; building could commence and invited him to lay the foundation stone. The Governor attended the Village on 16 June 1927 and, in the presence of the Executive Committee, the Ladies Committee, organisers, visitors and representatives of the communities involved in fund raising, laid the foundation stone of the Lady Maitland entrance gates. In his address, Sir Joynton Smith referred to the eleven Sydney citizens, who twenty years before, had started a campaign to deal with TB which led to the establishment of the Waterfall Sanatorium. He noted that two of those men, Phillip Lazarus and Walter Thompson were members of the current executive. He reported on the successful fund raising which would soon reach £32,000.

On 21 August 1927, TB Week was launched and appeals were made at 355 church services in the State. Lilian Fowler, Captain George **Burkett**, Walter Thompson and Grant Hanlon spoke at a large meeting in the Sydney Domain asking all workers to contribute to the appeal to help working class families.

In November 1927, as the building of the chalets and administration buildings proceeded, a deputation called on the senior officer of the Works Department for a donation of a quantity of used rails and sleepers to construct a single track from the existing railway at Picton which would help in the carriage of building materials. The request was refused.

By May 1928, on an area of 130 acres (52 hectares), a cottage funded by the school children of NSW was erected and ten others neared completion. Sites were reserved for a store, workshops, recreation hall and similar buildings. Plans were shown in newspapers and fund-raising events continued. Lilian Fowler conducted an Art Union and promoted a Queen competition – candidates being nominated by the various municipalities.

On 30 September 1928, *The Sunday Times* reported that cottages were almost ready for patients and showed photographs of the cottages, the Lady Maitland entrance gates and surrounding area. The first completed cottage would be occupied that week by a TB patient and his family. There were also two hostels, one for women and one for men.

In October 1928, it was reported in Parliament that accommodation for eleven families, six single men and six single women was ready but the opening of the Settlement was delayed by the absence of water and lighting facilities. Work on the settlement soon sped up. In January 1929, the Master Plumbers Association undertook to supervise the water project with the Boy Scouts of Dulwich Hill, under the supervision of Scout Commissioner A J **Williams** providing voluntary labour to lay the pipes. They were joined by scouts from Ashbury, Ashfield, Undercliffe, Marrickville, and Haberfield. Electricity would be installed by the 'Lister Lite' company.

The official opening was to take place in February but on 21 January 1930, a large crowd travelled from Newtown, St Peters and Marrickville to tour the Village. After a picnic lunch they saw the unveiling of the foundation stone of the administrative building, by Mrs Alderman Lilian Fowler, on behalf of the citizens of Newtown. Next Mrs. Ellen Thompson unveiled a tablet at the Walter and Ellen Thompson Hostel which housed six single women. This was erected by the citizens of Newtown, to honour Mr and Mrs W S Thompson, who for 26 years had worked on the various TB campaigns. Speakers at this event were Acting State President of the Picton Lakes Village Settlement Fund (Phillip Lazarus), Mr Walter Thompson and Mr C C **Lazzarini**, MLA. Miss Sadie **Johnston** unveiled a tablet at the Marrickville Hostel for men and the electric light plant was officially switched on. Other buildings open for inspection included the chalet erected with money given by the school children of NSW and the industrial building, funded by the citizens of Marrickville, where light trades would be taught and union wages guaranteed.

In February, representatives of the councils of Redfern, North Sydney, Paddington, Concord and Petersham unveiled the tablets on chalets funded by the people of their municipalities. The contractor, Mr F **Whorritt** was freely complimented on his work and Sir Joynton Smith addressed the crowd.

On 12 May 1929, the Governor, Sir Dudley de Chair, officially opened the Settlement. Despite rain, the large crowd heard the Governor recall that two years earlier he had laid the foundation stone and congratulated the executive and all concerned with the work so far. Other speakers included Sir Joynton Smith, Sir Joseph Carruthers and the Minister for Health, Dr R Arthur. His Excellency was presented with an illuminated address and later escorted around the settlement, where he turned on the water supply.

By November 1929, there was an administration block, 14 homes for families, a hostel for single men, and one for single women, an industrial building, recreational hall, library, hospital and matron's quarters, a store and a fumigator. Funds were still needed to support the scheme and, in December, a deputation waited on the Federal Minister for Health (Frank **Anstey**) and asked the Federal Government to make a special grant of £10,000. The Minister promised to visit the site and bring the matter before the Cabinet and party and give it his fullest support. In March 1930, Mr Anstey visited the Settlement and after inspecting the buildings already completed, he promised to investigate how and to what extent the Federal Department of Health could assist.

The next two decades were difficult for fund raisers as the Great Depression took hold. In 1939 war broke out and support for the war effort was a primary concern. The Settlement had support from the municipalities and attracted favourable newspaper coverage where the Village was described as the only one of its type in the Southern Hemisphere. In 1933, the Settlement was gazetted as a public hospital and a new board of directors included Phillip Lazarus, A W Yeager MLC, Dr. H K **Porter**, Ernest **Clarke**, Lilian Fowler, Alderman A C **Watt**, Councillor H Colin **Grace** and Alderman Charles B **Combes**. Successive NSW State Governors continued to visit the Settlement and act as Patrons but appeals to State Government for financial support were unsuccessful.

In March 1933, *The Labor Daily* reported on a function held in the Newtown Town Hall. Under the corporate seal of the Newtown Council, Walter and Ellen Thompson were presented with a framed, illuminated address in recognition of their 30 year involvement in the anti-TB campaign which led to the establishment of the Waterfall Sanatorium and the Picton Lakes Village Settlement. The Mayor, Alderman F **Newham** also referred to their many activities for the betterment of Newtown and in the cause of charity and that the two chalets built in the Picton Lakes TB Settlement would be lasting memorials to their work for TB sufferers.

In May 1938, *The Sunday Sun and Guardian*, in support of a major push to raise £10,000, published a glowing illustrated report, describing the community as a 'village built to mend lives' and referred to the 'hundreds of cured patients ... returned to the outside world as useful citizens'. In its ten year history, there had never been a case of infection transmitted to any of the children. In 1939, the Lady Maitland Entrance Gates were officially opened by Councillor S E **Prosser**, President of Wollondilly Shire.

In May 1938, **The Sun** (Sydney) under the heading 'Village Built To Mend Lives' ran extensive coverage. That year, the NSW Health Department ran a public campaign on the measures to treat and prevent TB. Early detection was emphasised and the facilities available through the TB Division of the NSW Department of Public Health. Doctors from the Department addressed the Labor Council of NSW,

suburban municipalities and regional councils to spread the information.

From February 1940, the Opposition pressured the Government to improve funding. In May, the Secretary of the Settlement, Arthur Yager, reported an alarming increase in TB patients in NSW and a serious lack of treatment facilities. If financial relief was not immediately forthcoming, the directors might have to curtail services and eventually close the Village. The same month, the Acting Minister for Health (H L **Primrose**), visiting the settlement to present a new truck on behalf of the North Sydney Women's Auxiliary, promised to lend his support for more funding.

In August 1940, a large gathering at the Village saw the opening of a bowling green, a gift from the State bowling community. President of the NSW Bowling Association, Mr P H **Pidgeon** and Greens Inspector Mr C B **Rigney**, were made Life Governors of the settlement, recognizing their work.

In October 1941, the Annual Report of the Village revealed satisfactory progress in all branches of their activities. Several patients had been restored to a state of health which enabled them to accept paid positions mostly in agricultural pursuits. After being cured, many residents of Picton Lakes sometimes returned to their previous locations and occupations or often decided to settle in the local area.

The value of the Village was more fully recognised by the Government which made greater financial assistance available. Revenue from Local Government bodies, Trade Unions, Friendly Societies and members of the public continued to support the village.

In July 1942, the community was saddened by the death of Phillip Lazarus. For more than 50 years, he had dedicated his life to the relief of TB sufferers and was one of the best known philanthropists in Sydney. The Sydney Hospital directors named the pulmonary clinic the 'Phillip Lazarus Pulmonary Clinic' to recognise his service to the hospital and his long involvement in the anti-TB campaign. In February 1950, the President of the Picton Lakes Village Board of directors, Mr J P Yager introduced the Premier of NSW (J **McGirr**) who unveiled a bronze sundial mounted on a stone pillar, erected to the memory of Phillip Lazarus. Replying on behalf of his family, Zade Lazarus, who had succeeded his father on the board of the village, appealed to those present and the general public to carry on and extend the work initiated by his late father.

The NSW Health Minister released a blueprint for a £1,000,000 health scheme to reorganise health administration on a regional basis and plans to combat the scourge of post-war TB in 1944. This included free chest X-rays for all persons and especially the 18-30 age group. In 1945, there were 866 deaths in NSW from TB and in 1950, 670 deaths. Staff shortages and availability of beds were still a problem. A third of the State's TB beds were reserved for eligible ex-service cases.

In 1949, conferences for State and Federal Ministers of Health and Premiers adopted plans for an intensive Australian campaign for the diagnosis, treatment and control of TB. Dr Marshall **Andrew** was appointed as Director of Tuberculosis in NSW and a chain of clinics offering free X-rays were set up throughout the State. Mobile units became a familiar sight as they moved through the community.

In 1952, Premier J J Cahill, when opening a new centre in North Sydney, spoke at length about the work the State had done in fighting TB and praised the work of the voluntary organisations co-operating with the Health Department. He appealed for the support of every citizen of NSW in the fight against TB.

As mentioned above, by 1946 new measures made effective treatment of TB a reality and cure a possibility. TB infection rates reduced significantly and by the 1950s, mortality had decreased about 90%. It became possible to treat patients diagnosed with TB in special units in public hospitals. Many of the TB facilities were adapted to care for the elderly. In 1958, the NSW Government Gazette announced the amalgamation of The Queen Victoria Homes and the Picton Lakes Village under the corporate name of Queen Victoria and Picton Lakes Homes. In 1964, under the Public Hospitals Act 1929-1959, the name was changed to The Queen Victoria Memorial Hospitals and operated as a nursing home. Buildings in the Picton Lakes Village complex became accommodation for nursing staff.

Conclusion

TB remains one of the most prevalent infections of human beings. From the continued commitment to provide specialised health services dedicated to the prevention and control of TB, Australia has one of the lowest rates in the world. In world terms, we have seen about 2.4 million people die from COVID-19 so far, but 1.8 million people die from TB **every year** – the most infectious disease killer in the world.

The National Advisory Committee's Strategic Plan for the Control of Tuberculosis, 2011-2015 sets out the goals and objectives of TB control in Australia. The NSW TB Program provides a network of accessible and culturally appropriate services, located across the State and available to all. However, until worldwide control of TB is achieved, air travel and migration means there is no room for complacency.

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Waterfall Sanatorium

Picton and District Historical and Family History Society

NSW Environment, Energy and Science (Heritage item)

Helensburgh and District Historical Society

Colonial Givers

Travel Bug Official, <https://travelbugofficial.com/>

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Author's Note: Ellen and Walter Samuel Thompson were my great-grandparents. Walter died in July 1938. Ellen Thompson, nee Condon, died in 1941. Both were buried in Woronora Cemetery.

Editor's Note. In allowing me permission to use the photo of the male ward at Garrawarra, the Illawarra Historical Society and Museum advised me that they will be launching a book on the sanatorium and cemetery in March 2021. Written by their former president, Carol



Walter and Ellen Thompson with Colleen in late 1937
(photo: Passfield family album)

Herben, it includes a list of all known burials in the cemetery. For more information, see <http://www.illawarramuseum.com>



BBFHS INTEREST GROUPS

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

The heart of BBFHS, the Research Centre, has slowly come alive – dealing with COVID-19 admittance, social distancing and sanitising. The general membership is grateful to the Committee and helpers for regularly updating members on current restrictions and the limited times that the Centre is open. Obviously, this too depends on the generosity and dedication of those volunteers who service and clean the Centre at these times. Please see the BBFHS Research Centre and Library report on page 28 for further details.

Behind the scenes, that heart connects via the veins and arteries of BBFHS to the Interest Groups. In 2020 it was extraordinary how the coordinators stepped up and established methods of communication for and with their Groups. The flavour of 2020, Zoom, was adopted by most. Greater use was also made of group emails issued at any time advising information pertinent to a Group – some even opting to meet via Zoom monthly instead of bi-monthly!

Unfortunately, the uncertainty of gathering in larger numbers in the Centre remains a problem. Realistically this can only be examined by the Committee month to month, then making short term decisions. At the time of printing, it is extremely unlikely that Interest Groups will meet at the Centre for the remainder of 2021. Already Groups have submitted their choices for the method their Group will function during March and April, accepting non-attendance at the Centre. All details for Groups are published in advance on the weekly eNews as well as other Society media.

Therefore, I issue the following invitation to members, new and old. If you have not participated in an Interest Group previously, and one or more Groups is relevant to your research, or maybe just general interest, you may like to take join one or more groups in 2021. This invitation should appeal particularly to home bound members. If you would like to be a (new) participant in any of the Groups, the coordinators' details are listed below. They will be only too pleased to add your name and email address to their Group email listing so that you become 'one of their family'.

Special Mention: There will be no English Interest Group meetings in 2021. In consultation with Sue Hewitt, it is recognised that much English information is currently available from other spheres – via eNews, subscription sites at the Centre, webinars and on-line conferences. Indeed, in 2021, English researchers are spoilt with available on-line resources at their fingertips!

Of course, we are all missing the social personal interaction together. We

have faith this will return. In the meantime, keep community flowing through participation in Interest Groups, a vital part of the BBFHS education arm.

The group Coordinators 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)



BBFHS EDUCATION PROGRAM

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

Nothing much has changed since the last report. The eNews continues to be produced every weekend and is emailed to members. There is information about the speakers at the members' Zoom meeting on the first Wednesday each month, as well as the focus of the third Wednesday Discussion Group via Zoom. In the eNews, there is information about webinars, on-line conferences, new internet sites for research and updates.

RESEARCH CENTRE OPENING TIMES

Currently Monday, Friday & Saturday – 10am to 1pm

Wednesday 12pm to 3pm

COVID-19 restrictions require bookings two days in advance at botanybayfhs@yahoo.com.au

Closed public holidays

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 to help.



The Family History Federation in the UK is presenting, online, the FHF REALLY USEFUL Family History Show on **Saturday 10th April 2021**. Tickets are £10 (~\$18). This virtual conference has a wide range of exhibitors and an interesting range of speakers – see <https://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/> and click Speakers. Talks are available for seven days after the event.

The 2021 NSW & ACT Annual Conference is planned to be a virtual conference, see <https://www.pmdfhs.org.au/2021-nsw---act-conference.html>. The conference will be run by Port Macquarie Family History Society, on Saturday 11 September from 8.30 am to 5.00 pm.

Those who know the Editor know that he has a bee in his bonnet about older persons – it may be you – driving old vehicles. Many of us are not as robust and/or flexible as we used to be so a crash may cause considerable personal damage. Compare crashes of a current vehicle with an earlier one of the same type: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TikJC0x65X0&feature=emb_rel_end It's an eye opener. Staying safe is not just a COVID-19 thing – check out what those airbags do – I feel sorry for the crash test dummies. You do not have to buy a new car – just choose a second hand one with a 5 star ANCAP rating.

A touching story about a current Australian's coming to grips with her family's past history: <https://tinyurl.com/5dw5a8mj>

Floating Prisons: Irish Convict Hulks and Voyages to New South Wales 1823-1837. Anne McMahon examines the history of the prison hulks *Surprize* (from 1823 in Cork) and *Essex* (from 1825 in Kingstown) where Irish male convicts were held awaiting transportation. More information at <http://halsteadpress.com.au/site/>

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PLEASE MENTION *THE ENDEAVOUR* WHEN CONTACTING

GETTING THE BEST RESULTS FROM A WORONORA CEMETERY WEBSITE SEARCH

By Geoff Dawes (Member)

The Woronora Memorial Park, at Sutherland, New South Wales (commonly known previously as Woronora Cemetery) has a website at <http://www.woronoramemorialpark.com.au/>. Their deceased search facility, 'Finding Loved Ones' (FLO) came back on-line in October 2020 after an eight month absence. Names covered are from when the cemetery opened in 1895 to the current date. However there are some differences from previous FLO searches. If a FLO search does not get a positive result then other options are available.

THE NEW WEBSITE CHANGES INCLUDE:

1. Interment Dates:

- Burial interment date as shown is the burial date.
- Cremation interment date is the cremation date (if known).
- Previously the interment date shown was the date the ashes were placed in the niche or garden. In some cases you will find a default interment date e.g. 1/1/1900 which means the correct one was unknown, or N/A – again there is no information (often this is because the cremation was not done at Woronora).

2. Ashes Scattered or Buried in Grounds:

Since the crematorium opened in 1934, it has been an option for ashes to be 'Scattered in Rose Garden' or sometimes 'Buried in Cemetery Grounds'.

- Buried in Grounds was also the nominated option when ashes were never collected by the family and after a certain period were interred in this manner.
- The new website does not list ashes interred in either of these ways (unlike the old website).

3. Ashes Collected or Posted:

These days, it seems the majority of cremations have the ashes collected for placement or scattering by the family at a location of their choice rather than having a spot in the cemetery.

- Previous Woronora websites listed all cremations and if the ashes were collected by the family, funeral director or any other authorised person, it would be shown as such. Now only some of those who have had their ashes collected from October 2020 are listed.
- Occasionally ashes are 'posted' – sent to another cemetery or a family member who is not able to collect the ashes. Ashes which are posted also do not appear on the new FLO.

Researchers who know a person was cremated at Woronora but who does not appear on FLO will have to contact the office for details – see Note 1.

- Note 1: Details of those people with ashes “Scattered” and/or “Buried in Grounds” between 1934 and 2018/19 can usually be found on *Find A Grave – Woronora*.
- Note 2: *Cemindex – Woronora* unfortunately is not totally accurate, as they apparently had an upload problem and particularly those “Buried in Grounds” or “Posted”, were allocated a garden spot or niche which is totally incorrect. They were starting to make corrections but the collapse of the old website seemed to have stopped any further efforts in that regard.

Unfortunately, some *Find A Grave* contributors used the *Cemindex* list as the basis for their Woronora entries which has led to the errors being transferred from *Cemindex* to *Find A Grave*. Many of these have been corrected but some still remain.

Other *Cemindex* listings e.g. Burial & standard cremation (Garden & Niches etc.) locations are usually accurate. So is their list of ashes collected - “Taken” (up to 2018-19). If you find a variance between *Cemindex* and *Find A Grave – Find A Grave* will be correct.

4. Ashes awaiting collection or placement:

Ashes that are still waiting for collection or placement in a niche or garden are now shown on FLO as being at ‘Administration’ or ‘Office’. Ashes are shown awaiting a decision for up to two years minimum!

5. Cremations – Books of Remembrance:

There are two ‘Books of Remembrance’, one in the Court of Remembrance between the West & South Chapels and one in the in Centenary Court. In some cases people have a cremation plot and plaque, perhaps even a burial, and also have an entry in one of these Books.

- The new FLO website now shows both if that is the case.
- If FLO shows an odd designation in the listing – such as September, Position P28, it should actually read the date of death – in this case 28th September.
- *Cemindex* has ‘COR’ for the Court of Remembrance Book and ‘CC’ for the Centenary Court Book – no dates shown.
- *Find A Grave* usually has the full date information.
- Both *Cemindex* and *Find A Grave* only list the preferred option. If there is a plaque location it will be shown. If there is only a Book entry it will be shown.

6. Memorials:

There are certain sections at Woronora that are specifically designated for Memorials.

- These include the DD Memorial Plaque section where 32 names are on each of 40 or so plaques mounted on bush rocks, Wollemi Book of Life, or This Peaceful Place.
- There are no ashes associated with these memorials just plaques. Ashes may have been scattered in the cemetery or elsewhere.
- Woronora new FLO just refers to these as “Cremated” rather than “Memorial” which was always the case previously.
- *Cemindex* abbreviates the location adding ‘mem’ meaning “Memorial”.
- *Find A Grave* usually has (Memorial) after the location.

There are many other cases of “Memorials” in a niche wall or garden. These are one-offs usually the partner of someone who has had ashes placed in the garden and the family wanted them to have plaques together. Some Military ones have their ashes in a War Memorial Wall and a Memorial Plaque with the wife/family as well.

- These are also classified as “Cremation” on the new website rather than “Memorial”.
- The new website often lists both positions whereas the old ones always just listed the first one.
- *Find A Grave* lists both where known. *Cemindex* just list the first/oldest.

7. Other Cremation Memorials:

Over the years dozens, if not hundreds, of memorials for people have crept into Woronora Memorial Gardens. Often their ashes were “Collected” after a cremation at Woronora or elsewhere such as Rookwood or Eastern Suburbs (Botany). Ashes were then placed in family grave or perhaps somewhere else.

- A new headstone, plaque or an existing headstone has been modified with the name & details. However, as the cemetery apparently was not informed (and fees paid), these names do not appear on the FLO website.
- These Memorials are normally listed on both *Cemindex* & *Find A Grave*.
- *Cemindex* also lists people who are not buried at Woronora but are mentioned on a headstone. e.g a son or relative killed in action during WW1 or WW2.
- In these cases *Find A Grave* does not list the person as being at Woronora but often links the same details to a *Find A Grave* Memorial in France or wherever Commonwealth War Graves has his/her grave or memorial).
- Note: *Find A Grave* has an extensive list of all Australian War Graves or Memorials wherever in the world they might be.

8. Burials with Dates prior to 1895:

There are a number of Burials at Woronora with the date of death prior to the cemetery opening in April 1895.

- These include those who were relocated from Devonshire Street when it was

resumed to make way for Central Railway Station. Others have come from the Anglican Church at Hurstville or elsewhere.

- Again these names do not appear on Woronora FLO. (They did not appear on the old FLO websites either!)
- All known early graves are listed on *Find A Grave* – Woronora. Some are also on *Cemindex*. Full stories on three of the Devonshire Street re-interments are also on the BBFHS Connections website.

GENERAL NOTE:

Woronora “Finding Loved Ones” is always a work in progress with the updating current burials/cremations.

Hopefully other missing older information will appear over time.

- The best source of information other than the cemetery itself is *Find A Grave* - Woronora. There are over 235,000 names listed and over 21% (about 50,000) have a Plaque, Headstone and or Grave photo. *Cemindex* has many Headstone photos but not many (if any) plaque photos.

Find A Grave Woronora like other *Find A Grave* Cemeteries is constantly being updated by family members and/or ‘contributors’. Literally hundreds of changes are made every week. *Cemindex* Woronora has most listings to 2019.

Website links are:

Woronora Memorial Park (Woronora Cemetery):

<https://woronoramemorialpark.worldsecuresystems.com/finding-loved-ones>

***Find A Grave* - Woronora Memorial Park:**

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2129856/woronora-memorial-park>[https://](https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2129856/woronora-memorial-park)

Australian Cemetery Index (*Cemindex*) Woronora:

<https://austcemindex.com/?cemetery=woronora+>

NEW MEMBERS

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

1847	Bob Head	Caringbah
1848	Mary Head	Caringbah
1849	Frances Cairns	Dapto

BBFHS RESEARCH CENTRE AND LIBRARY

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

Research Centre Volunteers have been kept up to date with what is happening with COVID-19. Their offers of rostered times has kept the Research Centre functioning. In December, we opened for two Mondays and two Fridays. In 2021, we reopened on 18 January, on two Mondays and two Fridays that month, from 10am to 1pm and had an excellent attendance of researchers – despite being limited to seven people at one time.

Following that excellent response, for February we decided to open on **Wednesday afternoons from 12noon to 3pm** and **Saturday mornings from 10am to 1pm**, as well as keeping the Mondays and Fridays. This of course relied on our Centre Volunteers offering their time in February. Researchers still needed to book in, two days before attending. There is now a QR reader which can be used for recording attendance.

Sadly, at the time of writing, although we had Centre Volunteers willing to attend, we had had very few bookings from members who wanted to research. Hopefully, there will be more by the time this goes to print. Volunteers do not need to be on duty if no one else is going to be there! Details of closures for the week ahead are always in the eNews.

The NBN has been installed at the Centre in February. Internet download speeds are now 28 Mbit/sec – approximately 25 times faster than the previous very slow system.

We are going to close the Research Centre on Friday 26 February and Saturday 27 February because RootsTech is holding their world wide conference and many members wish to view the presentations.

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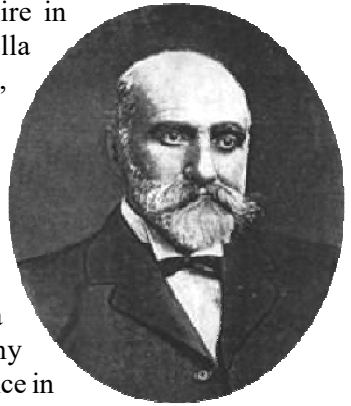
Copy for the June 2021 journal should be submitted as soon as you have it available but the deadline is **Wednesday 5 May** – preferably by email to the Editor at bbfhs_eds@yahoo.com.au . Copy may also be left in the Editor's folder at the Research Centre, handed to the Editor or a committee member at 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.

THOMAS SAYWELL AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF BRIGHTON

by Leonie Bell (Member)

Thomas Saywell was an astute businessman, land developer and entrepreneur, chiefly responsible for the development of Brighton-Le-Sands and opening up Lady Robinsons Beach. He lobbied Rockdale Council to extend roads from Rockdale to the beach, subsequently creating tourism infrastructure along the fledgling Grand Parade including the New Brighton Hotel, Saywell's Baths and a tramway from Rockdale Station.

Thomas was born in Radford, Nottinghamshire in 1837. His father George and step-mother Isabella migrated to Australia with their eight children, departing Plymouth on 16 June 1848 on the 669-ton barque *Agincourt*¹ when Thomas was eleven. They were in good company, being well acquainted with many of the other families on board. In common with most of the children from these families, the three youngest Saywell children were born in Calais, France. Thomas' father was a lace maker. After a period of economic and social unrest in England, many lace makers from Nottinghamshire had moved to France in search of work, from 1816.²



The 1848 French Revolution brought the downfall of King Louis Philippe and the ascension of Napoleon III, and the lace-makers moved again to escape the turmoil. With the destitute English workers' savings locked in French banks, they appealed to Britain for help. A relief fund was set up and the Emigration Commissioners chartered three ships to convey the distressed lace-makers to Australia.³ The 264 English refugees on the *Agincourt*; a ship full of lace-makers' families from northern England, shared the 111-day voyage to a new life in Australia, arriving on 6 October 1848.^{4,5} Half were sent to Bathurst, with the other half, including Thomas' family, shipped to Maitland for employment.⁶

The migrants could not pursue their former trade in the colonies, but their skills and dedicated work ethos brought success to many. Thomas' parents were initially employed as general servants and their son briefly gained work with a tobacconist. In 1854 Thomas moved to the goldfields, where his uncle Jasper worked as a cook at a pub in Bathurst. The entrepreneurial young man operated a lending library for the miners. Looking to the future, he asked for payment in gold. No doubt this was the basis of the capital finance he later required to set up in

business, initially in tobacco manufacture, and later investing in mining.⁷

Thomas became a highly successful businessman with diverse and extensive interests in coal, copper, tobacco, finance, building bricks, machinery manufacture and sales, furniture, wine, transport and real estate.⁸ He began astutely investing in property, initially at Macquarie Fields, then Redfern, Beaconsfield estate in Alexandria, and Queens Park Estate in St Leonards. He became a director of the Haymarket Permanent Land, Building and Investment Company Limited in 1886, which invested across the city including the Rockdale and Sans Souci areas.⁹

Saywell's Tram

In 1886 the government foresightedly resumed a narrow strip of land along Lady Robinsons Beach on Botany Bay, to create Cook Park. The 0.43 km² (105 acre) property extended from Cooks River to Sans Souci, although its area was eroded over time by the waters of the Bay and numerous storms. Thomas Saywell saw the great potential of the Brighton area, with its clear waters, sandy beaches, unpolluted fresh air and plenty of land ripe for development. He thought it ideal for an upmarket hotel and bathing pavilion in the grand European style. To support his vision, he was willing to invest a substantial amount of money to create a resort. Although there was no transport available to bring tourists into the area, Saywell was an entrepreneur prepared to lobby the authorities to build new roads and grant him permission to build the necessary transport links to fulfil his dream.¹⁰

Saywell purchased extensive land in the region – in 1882-1883 three lots of land at Lady Robinsons Beach. Saywell's agent Thomas Sellwood **Huntley** made representation in 1883 to get a road opened from Rocky Point Road to the beach. Today this is Bestic St. The *Hurstville Propeller* reported in 1944:

In the early eighties Saywell bought about one hundred acres of the wilderness and sandhills, facing the beach, extending from Bay Street to Bestic Street. It has been written that he paid £10 an acre for it, and that in twelve months he sold it all for £25 an acre to a building society. Later he bought back half of the area at £37/10/- per acre, conditionally that he erected a hotel. Much land other than that was also acquired by Saywell nearby, some acres being on the south side of Bay Street; where he laid out the popular "Shady Nook" park. On the northern side the frontage to his land ran from what is now Francis Avenue down to the beach.¹¹

The New Brighton Estate poster of 1886 shows the recent development from Bay Street north to McRae Street. Cook Park stretches the length of the bay, but The Grand Parade consists of a mere five blocks. Saywell was a major shareholder of The Metropolitan Permanent Building and Investment Association which auctioned the land, and Thomas Huntley was the principal. Saywell was also a director of the Sydney Investment Land and Finance Co. which was incorporated on 26 May 1886.¹² The *NSW Government Gazette* records that he purchased an

additional four acres of land in Bay Street in 1890, adjoining the New Brighton Estate.¹³ Saywell moved to the area with his family in 1887, to a residence he named *Nevada*, located at 8 The Grand Parade.

In late 1882, construction started on the Illawarra double railway line to Hurstville. In 1883 the government announced the location of stations in the St George area.¹⁴ Huntley approached the council on Thomas' behalf for permission to build tram tracks and operate a steam tram to the bay from Rockdale Station. A bill was passed in parliament on 6 March 1884, granting him a 30-year lease.

The Illawarra Railway line to Hurstville opened on 15 October 1884, with Rockdale Station conveniently located along the route for thousands of prospective home buyers, who snapped up the land lots as soon as they were released.¹⁵

That same year, anticipating completion of his latest project, a splendid bathing pavilion located on The Grand Parade opposite Bay Street, the entrepreneur invested £15,000 to build the 1½ mile tramway from Rockdale Station to The Grand Parade. This connected the railway to the seaside, making the beach at Botany Bay easily accessible for the first time. Saywell's tramway opened within a year, on 9 November 1885, designed by Messrs **Kenwood** and **Kerle**, who later designed the New Brighton Hotel and Saywell's Baths.¹⁶

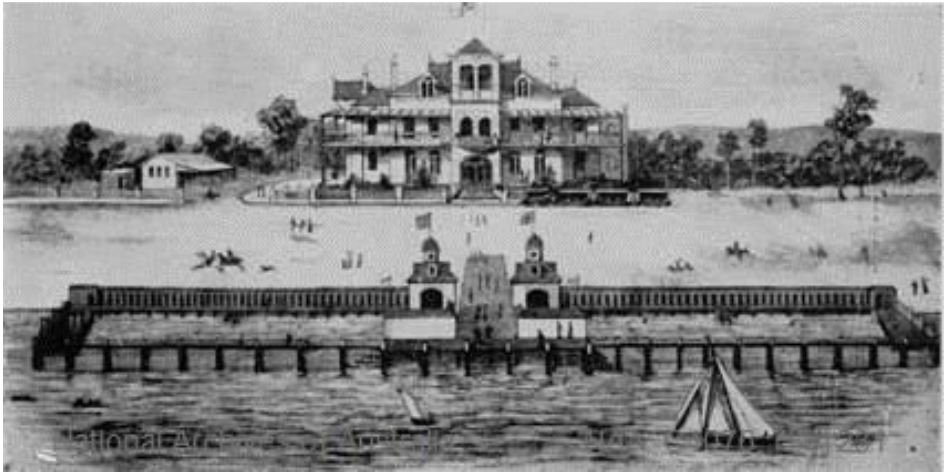
Although the Brighton baths were not quite finished, the tram was an immediate success, carrying 15,000 to Lady Robinsons Beach on its opening day, for a bargain threepence per adult and a penny for children. It was a boon too for the real estate salesmen, who could now advertise the benefits of an economical transport option from the city to the new suburbs and bring buyers to bid at seaside auctions.¹⁷

The *Saywell* and the *Pygmy* steam engines hauled thousands of people to enjoy the delights of the beach, where they alighted at a 100-foot-(30m) long tram shed at the entrance to Saywell's New Sea Baths, which opened almost a year after the tramline, in October 1886. The entry fee was a mere tuppence per adult and a penny for children, with combination transport and entry tickets available. Later the tram would also service his New Brighton Hotel.

Saywell's Baths

Saywell's Baths was the first recreational facility on the bay. It enticed thousands of people to take a day trip to Brighton Le Sands for over four decades, from its triumphant opening in October 1886 to its demise in 1928. Although the real estate developers, including Saywell himself, were investing heavily in the land between Rockdale and Botany Bay, the bathing pavilion was the key element that sparked interest in the area, inspiring businessmen to invest in the recreation industry, and positively influencing the growth of the emerging suburb.

The bathing structure was constructed of timber and corrugated iron, enclosing an area of about 2,700 m² (180 feet long (54m) x 160 feet (49m) wide, with dressing cubicles arranged along the sides. The enclosure was said to be capable of hosting 1,000 bathers at a time, and around 25,000 bathers patronised the establishment during one particularly busy January.



Saywell's Baths – 1800s (photo: © Commonwealth of Australia – National Archives of Australia, 2019 – Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia Licence)

There was no mixed bathing in this period. Scandalously, although it was enclosed from the street, women could still be glimpsed bathing in their modest neck to ankle bathing costumes between 10 am and 2 pm. The three yards (2.7 m) of heavy cotton used to make the costumes was not exactly helpful for the purpose of swimming, but preserved modesty. Respectable beach clothing remained an issue for another five decades. In 1928 there were calls for council to introduce ordinances requiring male bathers to wear shorts and women to wear kimonos when purchasing refreshments in the nearby street cafes, while Brighton P & C Association criticised the 'scanty attire' of 'persons undressed on the beach and in motor cars.'¹⁸

Bathing remained a chaste affair until the late 1930s, with the NSW Amateur Swimming Association rules requiring competitors wear neck to knee bathing costumes. Swimming trunks were increasing in popularity by 1938, forcing the Boy Scouts Association to declare that trunks were banned unless worn with a white singlet for modesty, particularly as an upcoming carnival would boast Girl Guide competitors alongside the Boy Scouts.¹⁹

Later Saywell modified the pavilion design, offering men only and women only sections to his pool, separated by a promenade pier, and covering a vast

5,000 m² of beach and water. The facilities offered fresh water showers, hot sea water baths, a refreshment room in which to partake tea, and a boathouse on the northern end.

A famous feature of Saywell's Baths was a prominent sign in huge lettering, painted on the galvanised iron sheets enclosing the women's baths, visible to people walking along the decking towards the end of the jetty. The message warned, 'Blackguards peep in, gentlemen pass on.' Mixed bathing was introduced in the early days of the 20th century.

Saywell's own family enjoyed swimming. His sons were members of the Nautilus Swimming Club at the baths,²⁰ and the venue was so popular that a special Sunday morning train service for city-dwelling early-morning bathers ran, departing Redfern Station at 6 am and returning from Rockdale Station at 8 am.

Just as he did not personally manage his hotel, Saywell leased the baths to a series of managers. Charles **Lineke** ran the baths in 1900. Ten years later, the baths proprietor was James **McGrath**, followed by Henry **Riley** in 1915. In 1921 Saywell sold the baths lease to one of the Saywell Terrace tenants, renowned sculler Neil **Matterson**, who also ran the nearby boatshed for some years.²¹

After Saywell's death, his Baths closed, replaced by the new council-run Brighton Baths (1928) at the end of Bay Street. Although commercial boatsheds continued to operate for some time, the provision of beach amenities shifted from private interests to publicly owned facilities, with the council beginning to provide free amenities at the beach.

Saywells Terraces

Thomas Saywell also built a row of terrace houses in the 1890s, on the corner of The Grand Parade and Princess Street, just north of his hotel, and where he lived until his death in 1928. Only five terraces remain of the original twelve and by 2005, they were a decaying, sad remnant of their former glory, with rotting timbers and pernicious attacks of mould. Although heritage listed in the Local Environmental Plan 2000 (LEP 2000), Councillor Gary **Green** called it, 'An ugly blight on the face of Brighton,' claiming further that, 'Saywell would turn in his grave if he thought his relatives would have to maintain them solely because a vocal minority in the community overly cherish nostalgia. He built them to turn a profit, not for posterity.' Green produced a document titled *Heritage Listings Often Just Façade*, advocating a review of the Heritage Act and removal of the burden on owners to preserve the terraces and other similar heritage buildings.²²

The late Harry **Seidler** (1923-2006), architect of Australia Square, Grosvenor Place, MLC Centre and Blues Point Tower, and arguably Australia's greatest post-modern architect, had an architectural design firm – Harry Seidler and

Associates. A partner in this firm, Harry **Feiner**, designed a residential development to incorporate and preserve the terraces, one of which was owned by Rudy **Sisic**, a Brighton International land developer. This building would sit behind the existing terraces, elevated three stories to enable light to reach the rear of the historic buildings. A sinuous white, curved façade fronted an 11-story apartment block, which featured an extravagant glass-bottomed pool above the lobby ceiling.

Local residents felt that the structure would overshadow the beach and voiced their concerns in 24 submissions to council. Moreover, although Seidler and Associates were keen to preserve the heritage buildings, the ultra-modern design was not considered sympathetic to the adjoining classic 19th century terraces.²³

The residents no doubt rejoiced that a not insignificant glitch to the developer's plan was the need for re-zoning from the existing Residential 2(c) under LEP 2000. The developer's request was brought before council in December 2005, but still unresolved by the following March.²⁴ Seidler's claimed:

The proposal will facilitate the construction of an iconic building as proposed in DA2005/538 of high design quality and architectural interest... The scale of a 13-storey development will be consistent with the surrounding 14 storey Novotel Hotel and 8 storey residential flat buildings, and will not be overbearing or out of character.

They noted that a 13-story development was essential to fund the restoration of the adjacent terraces, as the sale of units in a 5-story block (permitted by the current zoning) would raise insufficient money.

The application was accompanied by a Heritage Impact Assessment prepared by Graham **Brooks** and Associates, which confidently asserted:

On balance, it is considered that the impact of the proposal on the heritage significance of Nos. 64-68 The Grand Parade, on the streetscape in general, and neighbouring heritage items is not only within acceptable limits, but will make a positive contribution to the foreshore of Brighton-le-Sands.'

The Manager - Urban Planning, Alexander **Sarno**, believed in light of the council's Destinations Rockdale plan, which was being concurrently formulated, the development would most likely be approved if Seidler's proceeded with their application. A motion was passed asking the architects to submit full designs for council's consideration, while a draft amendment to the Rockdale LEP 2000 was prepared, which would allow the height restriction to be altered in the developer's favour.²⁵ A motion to suppress the change to the height restrictions was again lost in February 2006²⁶ but the matter was taken out of the council's hands.

Rockdale MP and NSW State Planning Minister Frank **Sartor** was not about to let the matter drop. Despite the favourable Heritage Report, Sartor described the design as a 'mangled car crash.' Finally, after much public discussion, in August

2006, he vetoed re-zoning the area from 5 to 13 stories, which effectively blocked the development. He cited the substantial height increase and the lack of context with the Victorian terraces as his reasoning, but one must wonder if ultimately it was the modern design itself which so offended him.²⁷

Perhaps ironically, by claiming to act to the benefit of the terraces because the modern building was out of character with its historic neighbour, Sartor condemned the terraces to further decay, denying them the vital investment dollars to restore the historic structures. The developer lost patience with the convoluted process and the constant requests for expensive reports, revisions and new development applications, not to mention PR battles with the Minister. They advised they no longer wished to proceed and an opportunity to save the terraces from further decay was lost.²⁸

It took another decade before the issue was revived. In March 2016 Rockdale Council resolved to support a re-zoning application with the aim to, ‘enable the development of a landmark building incorporating adaptive reuse of existing heritage structures.’ Consequently, they sought a Gateway Determination from the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE), which was received in May 2017.²⁹ After years of haggling, the land was finally rezoned by Bayside Council and gazetted on 25 June 2018.

The building was by now in terrible shape, with loose bricks and a cracked facade, requiring stabilisation with reinforcing framework. To improve its viability for development, the maximum permitted building height had been increased from 13 m to 36 m and the maximum floor space ratio from 1:1 to 4:1. The council invited three architects to submit plans to restore the original terraces and to construct a building of between 11 and 12 floors. The developer would fund the competitive process, which would be judged by a panel of five architects on both its contemporary and heritage merits. The Saywell Terraces would be retail or commercial in usage, with residential accommodation towering behind them.³⁰

In 2021 the plans for the terraces are still in limbo and the competition faded from memory. It remains to be seen whether the architects can address the issues to the satisfaction of heritage experts, council and residents, or indeed whether the council will take action in time to save the terraces from irreparable damage.

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A LONG-STANDING GRAVESITE PUZZLE

By John Levy (Editor)

My great grandmother was Sarah Jane **Levy**, nee **Richey**, born on 2 July 1846, in Lambeth, London, England to Irish parents Henry Richey and Jane Richey, nee **Chapman**. In September, 1853, Sarah arrived in Melbourne on the *Hanover* with her parents and her eight siblings. Condensing a very varied and interesting life – she married my great grandfather John Levy in 1874 when he was 56 and she was 28 and had a further six children, including my grandfather. The family moved to Sydney after John died in 1903. But, where she was buried?

On 19 March 1912, Sarah died of cardiac failure and cancer (NSW BDM 3914/1912) and here began the puzzle of her grave location. I had good reason to believe that she was buried in Waverley Cemetery from the death certificate and a funeral notice in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 20 March via *Trove* which read:

LEVY.—The Relatives and Friends of the late Mrs. SARAH LEVY are kindly invited to attend her Funeral ; to leave her late residence, Mona, Paul Street, Waverley, THIS DAY (WEDNESDAY), at 2 pm., for Waverley Cemetery. W. CARTER, Undertaker, Waverley.

So, some years ago I went to Waverley Cemetery to view Sarah's grave. However, the staff could not find a record of her interment. They suggested that, being in Sydney's eastern suburbs which have a substantial population of people of Jewish descent and with a surname Levy, Jewish remains were often 'relocated'. I'm not sure that this is correct. In any case, I told them that Sarah was a Protestant, but that was no help.

Quite some time passed. I re-inspected Sarah's death certificate and read again that the undertaker was Walter **Carter**. I now knew (something I learned as a Centre volunteer!) that our Research Centre has an **index** of their funeral records on microfiche. It lists: 'LEVY, Sarah, age 65 years, place of death: Mona, Paul Street (near Old South Head Road), Waverley, date of death 19 March 1912'.

The next step was to obtain a copy of the full record held by Cape Banks FHS in Maroubra, New South Wales, which showed in part:

The image shows a handwritten record on microfiche, divided into several columns. The first column contains the name 'Sarah' and 'Levy' with some numbers. The second column contains 'Mona Paul St' and '(near Old South Head Rd)'. The third column contains 'Waverley' and 'Joseph Levy'. The fourth column contains 'Cold Chisel' and '238 Street'. The fifth column contains 'Hearse' and 'Carriage'.

Mar 20 3 PM	Sarah Levy 5-4x16 2/12	"Mona" Paul St (near Old South Head Rd)	Waverley H2285 Joseph Levy	Cold Chisel 157 Blake 238 Street	Hearse & Carriage
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Armed with this extra information I returned to Waverley Cemetery. Again, no record was found for Sarah in the Cemetery's database. However, Senior

Cemetery Administration Officer Renee **Cunningham** said to leave the problem with her. She found no record in the original register from which the Cemetery’s online database was transcribed. It appears that the appropriate page from the register has been lost along with details of five other interments.

However, in a different ledger, and using information from Walter Carter Funerals record, Renee found:

16/08	505	Lee	Lucy Ethel	Ellen	Lee	Elizabeth	2867	68
"	873	Lloyd	Frederick	William	McCread		5369	68
"	948	Leir	Ellen	Elizabeth	Smith	Ellen	2821	68
"	1012	Levy	Sarah		Levy	Joseph	4228	68
"	1033	Lapraik	Charles	Henrietta	Lapraik	Ellen	1119	68
April	1133	Le Bante	Antel	Marquise	Haunoy	John S	626	68

The owner of the grave is Joseph Levy, Sarah’s son and the 4228C mentioned matches that in the Walter Carter record. It is a Church of England (Anglican) grave site, confirmed by the death certificate recording that the officiating minister at the burial was Chas C Dunstan of that faith.



Location of Sarah Levy’s Grave.

Sarah Levy’s gravesite in Waverley Cemetery (photo: John Levy)

Until this time, Sarah's gravesite was regarded as an unoccupied virgin plot. Waverley Cemetery has corrected their records. I have added Sarah's cemetery details to *Find A Grave* at <https://www.findagrave.com>.



Sarah Levy's residence, 'Mona', Paul St Waverley, 2018 (photo: John Levy)



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'



WEB WATCH



AUSTRALIA

The University of Newcastle has online Anglican parish registers in the Diocese of Newcastle (NSW). The registers are as yet unindexed but volunteers to transcribe will assist in these records becoming easier to search, see <https://libguides.newcastle.edu.au/anglican/parishregisters>
1871 Census of St. John's Parish, Newcastle (NSW) is available at <https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/82240>

BRITAIN

A Dictionary of Occupational Terms (DOOT) based on the classification of occupations in the Census of Population, 1921 now has an online version at <http://doot.spub.co.uk>. An excellent resource for those hard to find occupations and descriptions

RMS Leinster which served as the mail boat between Kingstown and Holyhead was torpedoed and sunk on 10 October 1918. It was the largest single loss of life (probably 569) in the Irish Sea. Details of those on board during its final voyage are at www.rmsleinster.com

Past and current death notices and obituaries are available for searching at: <https://funeral-notices.co.uk/>

The National Archives' Paleography Tutorial is recommended for reading old handwriting at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography

The University of Leeds has an interesting collection including a Leeds Russian Archive at <https://library.leeds.ac.uk>

Compiled by Kate **Anderson** (Member)



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PLEASE MENTION *THE ENDEAVOUR* WHEN CONTACTING

THE FIRST TRAFFIC LIGHTS IN SYDNEY AND RANDWICK

By Ross **Delley** (Randwick and District Historical Society)

On 13 October 1933, Australia's very first traffic lights began operating in Sydney. The lights were installed at the intersection of Market and Kent streets in Sydney's CBD.¹ They were switched on by the then Minister for Transport, Colonel Michael **BruXner** at 11 am.

The Police Commissioner was against the erection of traffic lights as he did not want his point-duty officers replaced by machines. However, he approved on the condition that he could select the site. This busy intersection was chosen, but posed special problems for horses because Market Street was paved with wooden blocks. These formed a slippery surface for the horses' hooves as they travelled uphill from the Pymont and Darling Harbour wharves with heavily laden carts. Poor traffic control at this intersection would wreak havoc with the horse-drawn traffic ascending Market Street.²

It would be another four years before more traffic lights were installed. Motorists took to the innovation surprisingly quickly and a number of policemen who had been detailed to help educate motorists in the system had little to do. There were occasional incidents which temporarily marred the smooth workings of the system. An elderly lady who had several children in the back of her motor vehicle, stopped in the middle of the street and halted traffic for some minutes while the operation of the lights was explained to her. A number of men, evidently pleased to see that the traffic policeman was missing from his accustomed spot, drove gaily across the intersection in defiance of the red lights.³

In 1953 K R **McNairn** of Clovelly wrote to the *Sydney Morning Herald*:
*The ignoring of traffic lights by some motorists may be due to the fact that the signals are hard to see, especially at night or in wet weather. At the intersection of Botany and Gardener's Roads at Mascot, one signal is behind a large telegraph pole and is not visible till the last moment. In Randwick at the intersection of Avoca St and Alison Road, one signal is partly obscured by a memorial drinking fountain. Two others are close to red neon signs.*⁴

In that same year a Randwick resident was fined £5 (\$10) at the Paddington Court of Petty Sessions for having disobeyed traffic lights. Police told the Magistrate Mr E **Harvey** that Mr Henry **Pisko** of George Street, Randwick drove his car across the intersection of Bourke and Cleveland Streets, Redfern at 24 km/hr while the red light was against him. Other traffic had to stop. Mr Pisko pleaded guilty.⁵

Traffic lights in Randwick

While researching for information on traffic lights in Randwick, fellow volunteers joined in my interest on this subject. We found that ABC broadcaster James **Valentine** had an entertaining podcast on this subject in 2016.⁶ After listening to it, we found that where traffic lights are located, there is a nearby signal box for each of them with a number prominently displayed on it in order of installation. Number 1, of course is on the 1933 signal box in the Sydney's CBD as previously mentioned.

With no response from NSW Road & Maritime Services from an inquiry about our local traffic lights, this was a case of 'spot the numbers' for us. Thank you to those eagle-eyed volunteers who took part in our search.

We found the lights outside St Brigid's School at Coogee were numbered 2131, while those at Coogee Public School were 2149. The lights on the corner of Avoca Street and Alison Road which caused problems for the Clovelly resident in 1953 are numbered 115.

The more recent ones that we spotted were those numbered 4709 on the corner of Wansey and Alison Roads, 4811 at the corner of High and Clara Streets and 4813 on the box at the corner of Arthur and Botany Streets, Randwick.

So... the lowest number on the traffic lights we found and possibly the first one in Randwick was that at the corner of High Street and Belmore Road, Randwick, Number 114.

REFERENCES

1. *The Sun*, 13 October 1933 p 18
2. Traffic Signal Operation. tinyurl.com/2lksyq6d
3. *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 14 October 1933 p 16
4. *Ibid*, 1 August 1953 p 2
5. *Ibid*, 26 December 1953 p 11
6. James Valentine podcast. tinyurl.com/nk3i5mys

Editor's Note. This article was recommended to me by member David Mutton. I thank the author Ross Delley and Randwick and District Historical Society for permission to reprint it. I recommend the very entertaining podcast featuring James Valentine in reference 6. Who is ready to research and list all the traffic light numbers in Sutherland Shire?



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DIGGINGS



Digging 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 2016 to 2020. 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).

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Compiled by Kate **Anderson** (Member)



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Information is available on the Congress website at <https://affhocongress2021.com/> with a link to register.



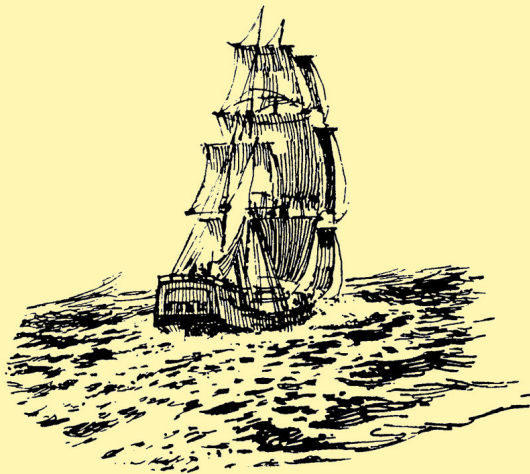
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