



# The Arms Chronicle

Cnr. Gardenia Ave, Great Western Highway,  
Emu Plains, NSW 2751, Australia. Tel 02 4735 4394  
Open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am - 2pm  
1st & 3rd Sunday 1 - 4pm



No 103

August 2017

## Royal Australian Historical Society Conference at Cowra Services Club, Cowra NSW 28th – 29th October 2017



Tom Bryant's Team, Kendal Street, Cowra C.1903 (Cowra and District Historical Society).

The Royal Australian Historical Society in conjunction with Cowra & District Historical Society and Cowra Family History Group present the 2017 RAHS Conference...

### **Finding Lost Places, Lost People**

Uncovering hidden stories helps us better understand the past and can challenge our understanding of how the present came to be.

Historical societies have an important role to play in ensuring that their communities' history does not get lost and that members of the broader community can find out about their work so that they too can learn and contribute to this history.

Lost communities can be remembered and found through written archival records, photographs and voice recordings. The digital revolution is increasing accessibility to records and providing more tools to reach a wider geographical and demographical audience.

The RAHS invites you to join them at their 2017 conference in Cowra to explore these topics, learn skills that will support your history projects and enjoy opportunities to network and share histories with RAHS members and friends.

**For more information visit <http://www.rahs.org.au/2017-rahs-conference/>**

## August's Guest Speaker is Rosemary Roberts



### **Convict Clothing**

Rosemary Roberts will talk about the clothing worn by our Australian convicts, from the First Fleet until the end of transportation to NSW.

The early years were plagued by supply problems for our young colony. The issues surrounding this are explored.

The specific items of clothing given to men and women will be examined.

The items supplied have been cross checked with reference to available records and newspapers. There are few extant clothing items in museums, but those that are available are reviewed.

Examples of clothing that Rosemary has hand made will be displayed and discussed, you can even try some of them on. All of the clothing items are made from patterns available during the transportation period.

Come along and share this experience, some of it may just surprise you.

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- National Family History Month.
- Rodley House.
- Open House at the NFHS.
- The Wreck of the Schomberg.
- Friendship ended in violence.
- Open Day photos.
- Rachel Wong's award.

## National Family History Month Activities at Penrith Library

August is National Family History Month and Penrith Library has arranged a varied programme of activities and workshops during the month.

### **Workshop: Family history research with a local twist.**

**Wednesday August 2nd from 10:00 –12:00 PC Training Room.**

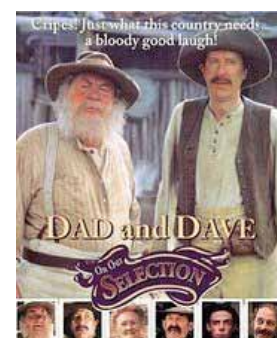
Using the resources found in the Library, especially the treasures to be discovered in the Research Room, Information Librarian Lorraine Stacker will present a talk on getting started in family history using the internet, and Ann-maree Bonner, Research Librarian, will detail some of the wonderful local records that can be used to flesh out your family tree.

### **Movie Morning: Dad and Dave: On Our Selection.**

**Friday August 18th from 10:00 –12:00 in the Peter Good fellow Theatre.**

There will be a short talk by Lorraine Stacker, Information Librarian, to introduce this 1995 remake of the Chauvel Classic starring Leo McKern, Dame Joan Sutherland (in her only non-singing role), Geoffrey Rush and a host of well-known Australian actors.

The movie will be accompanied by light refreshments



### **Guest speaker: 'The History behind Who Do You Think You Are?'**

**Tuesday August 22nd from 10:00 – 12:00 in the Peter Goodfellow Theatre.**

For the past eight years, Linda Emery has been a member of the research team for the SBS television genealogy program *Who Do You Think You Are?*, and is about to start work on Series 9. This will be a behind the scenes look at the research work involved in creating the programme.

Light refreshments will be provided.



### **Workshop: Recording Oral Histories.**

**Thursday August 24th from 10:00 – 12:00 in the Peter Goodfellow Theatre.**

Ever thought about recording your family memories for posterity? Lorraine Stacker, Information Librarian, and Vanessa Stockford, Research Coordinator, will provide some practical tips on creating oral history recordings and preserving them for the future.

### **Guest Speaker: 'Jane Austen: Her Life and Works.'**

**Tuesday August 29th from 1pm – 3pm in the Peter Goodfellow Theatre.**

2017 marks the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen's death at 41.

Her six completed novels are well-loved classics and relevant even today. Susannah Fullerton OAM FRS(N), President of the Jane Austen Society of Australia, writer and Jane Austen fan, will talk about Jane, her family and her work.

Light refreshments will be provided.



*All events are free, but bookings are essential due to limited availability for some sessions, and are available through Penrith Library.*

*To book a place at any of these activities, call into any branch of Penrith City Library or call (02) 4732 7891.*

*All activities are located within Penrith Library, 601 High Street, Penrith.*



## Rodley House

12 Vista Street, Penrith

by  
Lorraine Stacker



Photos of Rodley House courtesy Penrith City Library.

A partition deed, drawn up and signed on 21 June 1881, divided the estate, 497 acres south of the Western Road to Frederick Woodriff and 503 acres north of the Western Road to Francis Woodriff. They were the great grandsons of Captain Daniel Woodriff, the original land grantee of 1000 acres where Penrith stands today.

With these arrangements in hand the two brothers moved to Penrith.

Frederick married Mary Ann Catherine (Katie) Kelleher in February 1882 at St Stephens Anglican Church.

In the following month, the young couple moved into Rodley, their newly-built home near Mulgoa Road. This property, eighteen acres in all, was valued in 1904 at £1550. Rodley was a brick villa with four bedrooms, verandahs on three sides, kitchen, servants' quarters, pantry, store room and bath room. Four paddocks, a small orchard, stable and buggy house, corn and hay sheds adjoined the house.

Frederick was an active community leader. He was an alderman on Penrith Council from 1900 to 1904 and was Mayor from 1902-1904.

Frederick Woodriff died in 1904. Having no children, Woodriff bequeathed his entire estate to his wife Katie.

Katie sold the household furniture on 5 March, just over a month after Frederick's death and before the death duties were to be paid on his estate.

Rodley was let at the same time as her auction.

Katie sold Rodley around 1919. A succession of high profile families like Waldron and Vine leased the property. Mayor of Penrith David Fitch also farmed Rodley.

In 1949, Rodley was purchased by doctors Bill and Eileen Cammack and renamed Mountain Mists.

For more info on the Woodriff family in Penrith see

<https://penrithhistory.com/home/makings-of-a-city-history-conference/the-makings-of-a-city-history-conference-2011/2011-conference-the-woodriff-estate/>

## Congratulation to NDHS member Rachel Wong

*On the 11 July, Rachel Wong was named a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of the Lower Blue Mountains in recognition of her service to the community.*

As well as belonging to the NDHS, Rachel is also a member of the Nepean District Historical Archaeology Group, the Zonta Club of Nepean Valley and a Friend of the Penrith Regional Gallery & Lewers Bequest.







## The 'Ghost Voyages' of the Schomberg Pt 2

by John Staats

President, NSW Corps of Marines

### The Wreck of the Schomberg

Much to the disappointment and disgust of 'Bully' Forbes, the *Schomberg* sailed poorly. The captain became sullen and cantankerous. By Boxing Day 1855, the ship was still some 240 kilometres short of Melbourne and battling headwinds. Forbes, grumpy with the ship's sluggish performance, had retreated to play cards with the first class passengers below deck. Hours passed with the captain away from his post. At 10.30 in the evening the mate reported that the ship was drifting close to land. Forbes, who was losing at cards and in a bad temper, curtly retorted that he would not be interrupted and played another rubber. Half an hour later the captain was on deck. He ordered the ship to turn about, but it was too late. The *Schomberg*, caught in a westward current and wind, ran aground on a sandbar near Curdies Inlet in four fathoms of water.

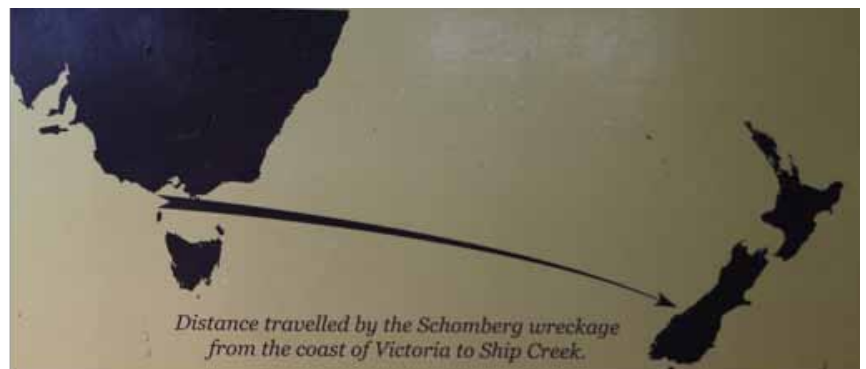
Forbes shouted, "Let her go to hell, and tell me when she is on the beach" before going below. The mate, Henry Cooper, took charge, signalled to a passing steamer and got all passengers (and the mail) disembarked with no loss of life.

In the coming months, the *Schomberg* began to break up. The ship was wrecked, and so too was James 'Bully' Forbes's reputation. A meeting of the passengers in Melbourne in February 1856 angrily denounced Forbes. He was accused of allowing the ship to run aground out of pique because of the ship's poor sailing. There were other allegations of scandalous 'ungentlemanly' and 'immoral' conduct on the part of Forbes on the journey – and this had involved the ship's surgeon and other officers. At the official inquiry, Forbes was acquitted of all blame for the loss of the ship on the grounds that the sandbank was uncharted, but he never again commanded a ship of the Black Ball Line.

### The Ghost Voyages of the Schomberg

The *Schomberg* was, however, to make further remarkable voyages. In 1867 a large piece of a ship's hull was discovered on the shores at Tauperikaka Creek, on New Zealand's South Island. The construction of the timbers - diagonally planked oak - was unusual.

Four years later more wreckage from the same ship was found. Dr James Hector, geologist and explorer sent the fragments to the New Zealand Institute for further investigation. Experts suggested that it might be from the wreck of the *Schomberg*. Parts of the hull were eventually sent back to Aberdeen, to the shipyard of the *Schomberg's* origin, Hall & Co. The company confirmed that the oaken timbers were indeed from the unlucky *Schomberg*. Further confirmation came in 1973, when divers in Australia located the wreck of the ill-fated *Schomberg* at the place she ran aground in 1855, and matched the wreck's timbers to the samples washed ashore in New Zealand.



Ghost Voyages - the West Wind Drift to New Zealand.

The *Schomberg* journeys may not be over yet. Remarkably, the West Wind Drift (the eastern moving circumpolar current) has swept the *Schomberg's* timbers 2,000 kilometres across the Tasman Sea to the shores of New Zealand for a period of at least 70 years. Tauperikaka Creek's other name, 'Wreck Bay', bears testament



Wreck Creek, New Zealand.

to the ongoing force of the wild southern seas and the Schomberg's legacy.

### What Became of James 'Bully' Forbes?

Forbes faded from history. He remained in Australia for a while and was reported as a "silent and sad man".

Between 1857 and 1859 he was in command of the *Hastings*. By 1860 he was in India, once again shipless. By 1864 Forbes had resurfaced in Hong Kong as master of the *General Wyndham* being described as a "seedy, broken down skipper ...a broken-hearted man". But there were still signs of the Forbes of old.

In Hong Kong he insulted two Americans

and it ended in fisticuffs; 'Bully' dished out a thrashing to them both.

He died in Liverpool in 1874 at age 52. Recognised as one of history's great circumnavigators of the world, his tombstone has the simple epitaph: "Master of the famous Marco Polo".

Johnson, Cecil, "'Hell or Melbourne' Exploits of the Notorious 'Bully' Forbes" *The Argus* December 6, 1930: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/4232279>

Lubbock, Basil, *Clippers*, Glasgow 1921

Wilson, Derek, *A Brief History of Circumnavigators*, London 2003

<http://www.aberdeenships.com/single.asp?index=100116>

<http://www.environment.gov.au/shipwreck/public/wreck/wreck.do;jsessionid=71183326DCE27FAB6DD4D193CE017778?key=6595&action=expandAll>

<http://www.queenscliffherald.com.au/2014/06/05/hell-or-melbourne-in-60-days/>

Field Trip, Ship Creek, Tauperikaka Point, New Zealand May 2017

## National Family History Month @ Nepean Family History Society

### Free Open House – August 2017

**Tues, Wed & Thurs 10am to 2pm: Thursday 7pm to 9pm: Saturday 2pm to 5pm.**

Free access to the Library's Resources including **Ancestry** and **Find my Past**.  
Talk family history with NFHS members and have a chat over a cup of tea.

**Saturday 5 August 1.30pm**

**Guest Speaker: Lorraine Stacker**

"The House of Vicary" – Researching and writing a local family history.

Wednesday 2 August

Library Tour of the NFHS library

Wednesday 9 August

Help with your Irish research

Wednesday 16 August

Help with online databases

Wednesday 23 August

Help with your English research

Wednesday 30 August

Help with your Scottish research

Enquiries: Judy McLeod 02 4733 1631 [publications@nepeanfhs.org.au](mailto:publications@nepeanfhs.org.au)

**Old School House, Great Western Highway, Emu Plains (parking off Lawson Street)**

## Friendship ended in violence

**Article by Laurinda Montague from the Penrith Star - 16th June 1989**

“Long before a white man set foot on the banks of the Nepean River, the Dharug tribe of Aborigines were hunting the local wildlife and gathering its fruits. The Dharug people roamed for thousands of years with a way of life that had changed little over the millennia.

The main aboriginal “band” of the Dharug tribe in Penrith was known as “Mulgoa”, with the name Dharug referring to the language spoken by a large number of these bands.

The first European contact with the Nepean River Aborigines was made by Captain Watkin Tench in the year that the river was discovered, 1789. It is claimed the Aborigines lent Captain Tench a tomahawk and watched him climb a tree, native fashion. It was, by all accounts, a friendly meeting.

Unfortunately such a peaceful beginning gave way to the turbulence still experienced between the white and black cultures today. It is believed that more than half of the Dharug tribe died within three years of British settlement. Religion, in particular a mystic association with their land and natural environment, was one of the strongest feelings and controlling forces in their lives.

When the English settlers came to the Nepean District they discovered the lush and fertile land beside a perfect source of irrigation and put into action farming of crops and stock. The Aborigines then were moved off their land to make way for land grants.

The Aborigines didn't ever consider they owned the land and could not, therefore, understand man-claiming possession of a large area of their hunting grounds. Their tragedy, when the civilisation of the whites engulfed them, was that they would not or could not farm the land.

The Aborigines fell prey to those elements in the community who looked upon them as a nuisance. The colonial government hoped the blacks would “see the light” and adopt European ways, but blacks and whites each had different customs and interests and tended therefore to mistrust each other.

There was a dramatic decline in numbers of Aborigines from smallpox and other infectious diseases. Aborigines lacked the immunity of the Europeans gained through childhood and generations of exposure.

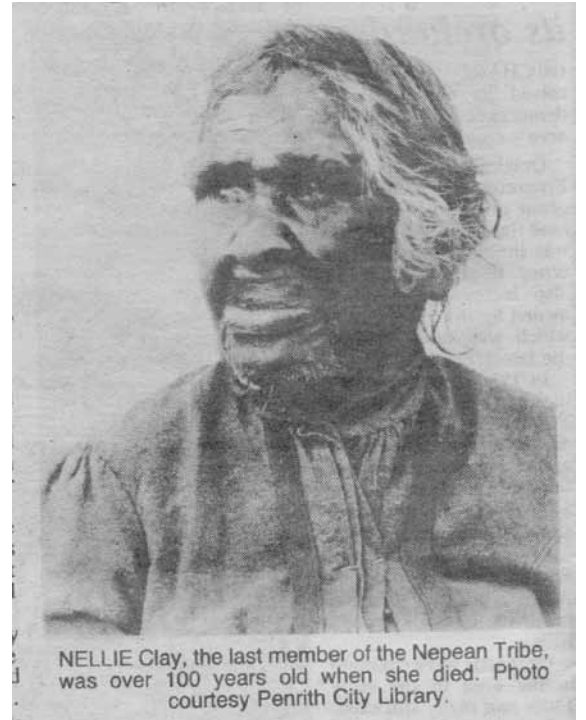
White man introduced missionaries to try and reform the black community to what they thought was ‘civilisation’.

The Aboriginal children were offered schooling but this only served to segregate them from the family unit so important to the continuance of their culture and customs. Tension and resentment built up on both sides and there was, inevitably, violence and hatred. Atrocities were committed on both sides of the fence and eventually Governor Macquarie issued an extraordinary proclamation that declared war on Aborigines that attacked farms in Hawkesbury/Nepean district.

Macquarie charged Aborigines with animosity and hostility towards British inhabitants and the “... *indiscriminate murder of men, women and children from whom they had received no offence or provocation*”. The Governor therefore prescribed certain rules, orders and regulations to be observed by all Aborigines and enforced by magistrates and police.

Macquarie barred Aborigines from public places and prohibited them from carrying arms or loitering in groups of six or more. The Governor even offered to issue certificates or passports to any natives “who wished to be considered under the protection of the British government”.

Macquarie, described in history books as a humane, fair and earnest governor, was basically leaving the natives with one clear option, to behave like whites and place themselves under British law.



NELLIE Clay, the last member of the Nepean Tribe, was over 100 years old when she died. Photo courtesy Penrith City Library.



After years of conflict, Governor King announced a truce with Aborigines from July 1805 but the warfare continued on both sides. The Aborigines had been dispossessed of their land and therefore the root of their culture.

Not all confrontations between the white and black peoples were aggressive and conflicting. There are stories of amicable meetings between the two races dining and working together as partners. Tolerance and understanding are the key words in any relationship none more so than the one existing in our own back yards. We have made some progress in our plight of understanding.”

## 2017 Open Day photos

A big thank you to all our sponsors and volunteers who made the day a success.



*The NSW Corps of Marines Inc. is a re-enactment group. The Marine Corps we depict was formed in 1786 specifically to come to Australia to protect the new colony and preserve order. The 212 marines along with their families, other settlers and convicts on board 11 ships witnessed the official Flag Raising held at Farm Cove on the 26th January, 1788.*

**For more information call (02) 4620 5789**



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**PAAL KIT HOMES**

The 'Elizabeth' on display at Emu Plains.

113-115 Russell St. Emu Plains  
[www.paalkithomes.com.au](http://www.paalkithomes.com.au)

## SUNDAY ROSTER

### August

Sunday 6 Craig & Richard  
 Sunday 20 Tony & Paul

### September

Sunday 3 Joan & Bob F  
 Sunday 17 Richard & Craig

### October

Sunday 1 Jan & Joan  
 Sunday 15 Tony & Paul

### November

Sunday 5 Craig & Jan  
 Sunday 19 Reg & Elsa

### December

Sunday 3 Craig & Jan  
 Sunday 17 Richard & Harry

**Please note that the inn alarm is now on.**

## NOTICE BOARD

### Wednesday August 2

Pegasus Coach Tours + D'Ts

### Sunday August 6 - 2pm

Rooty Hill RSL Travel Club+ D'Ts

### Wednesday August 9

Penrith Public School

### Thursday August 10

Penrith Public School

### Wednesday August 16

355 Committee and AGM

### Saturday August 26

Monthly Meeting

### Friday/Saturday September 8/9

Book Stall, Nepean Square

### If you can't make your duty day, please try to change with somebody who can.

Please remember to sign in the diary in the meeting room, and write any information in the diary pertinent to your time on duty.

### Raffle Prizes

Marie Viviani always needs raffle prizes, so if you can help in providing some, please call Marie on 4735 6780, or take them to the inn.

### Gordon Leven

## Tyres & More

133 Russell Street, Emu Plains  
 02 4735 4500

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