



# 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 101

June 2017



## Watkin Tench Luncheon Saturday June 17 at O'Donoghue's Irish Pub



Associate  
Professor Ian Jack.

The Nepean District Historical Society is delighted to welcome Ian Jack, Senior Fellow and Archivist, St Andrew's College, University of Sydney, as our guest speaker at the Tench Luncheon on Saturday 17 June.

Ian will talk about the publication of Watkin Tench's three major books on the beginnings of Australia, and their subsequent history.

Ian Jack taught in the Department of History at the University of Sydney and is now Senior Fellow at St Andrew's College.

He has been prominent in local history and in heritage. For six years he was a member of the New South Wales Heritage Council and was the longest-serving President of the Royal Australian Historical Society.

He has been the principal consultant for the Heritage Review of the City of the Blue Mountains and before that for the Heritage Study of the City of Greater Lithgow.

His books include Exploring the Hawkesbury and Macquarie's Towns.

**Cost:** \$35.00 per person.  
**To book:** Call 4735 4394 on opening days  
or  
email [info@armsofaustraliainn.org.au](mailto:info@armsofaustraliainn.org.au)  
After hours call 0407 247 806.  
**RSVP:** By June 10th 2017.

## June's guest speaker Peter Plowman



Our guest speaker for June 24th is Peter Plowman, who returns to us to talk about steam ferries.

He has been interested in ships all his life and is a noted maritime researcher and writer, having had five books published in Australia over the past twenty years.

He has been a member of the World Ship Society for over forty years.

From 1978 to 1993 he was the editor of the magazine, Australian Sea Heritage, published by the Sydney Maritime Museum.

Peter was born and raised in Bermuda, but as all his relatives lived in England, his family would visit the UK every two or three years, going by ship from New York to Southampton and back.

In those years Peter travelled on some of the greatest liners ever built - Queen Elizabeth, Queen Mary, Caronia, Mauretania and Ile de France to name just a few.

In 1965 he migrated to Australia, travelling by ship from London to Sydney. On arrival here he was very keen to learn about the Australian coastal liners, but found there was very little published material.

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## New mobile app to promote Colonial Heritage

At the Arms of Australia Inn Museum on Thursday April 27 the Hawkesbury, Penrith, Camden and Liverpool Councils launched a new mobile phone app, Colonial Heritage of Western Sydney, that enables residents to explore western Sydney's past.

The Mayor of Hawkesbury, Councillor Mary Lyons-Buckett, said the free app celebrates the diverse history of the Hawkesbury as well as Penrith, Camden and Liverpool Local Government Areas.

"This project has been a combined effort by all four councils and it has created further connections between the areas which will always be connected by the Hawkesbury-Nepean River," the Mayor said.

"It is this river, of course, which has made our areas fertile enough to sustain local agriculture, helping us become a vital part of Sydney's food bowl."

The four Local Government Areas feature one of the largest groups of early colonial European heritage assets in Australia, including churches, houses, bridges, roads, cemeteries and more, with 80 heritage items listed on the app.

Some local heritage items listed include Tebbutt's Observatory in Windsor, former Hawkesbury Hospital and Convict Barracks in Windsor, St Albans Conservation Area, Australiana Pioneer Village in Wilberforce, and St James Anglican Church in Pitt Town.

Also featured on the app is Rose Cottage, Australia's oldest surviving timber slab dwelling in Wilberforce.

The Mayor added. "I am a seventh-generation direct descendant of Thomas Rose, an early pioneer from the Wilberforce area (who is) connected to Rose Cottage, and it makes me feel proud to see heritage such as this being made accessible and promoted through new technology."

**The app can be downloaded via iTunes, Android or GooglePlay users or via this link <http://www.discoverthehawkesbury.com.au/heritage/heritage-trails>**



## The Pros and Cons of Fernhill Estate's future

Fernhill was built in the 1840s by Edward Cox, son of William Cox. It commands a panoramic view of the Mulgoa Valley which includes St Thomas Church and the original cottage owned by the Coxes.

Probably one of the last buildings completed in the colonial period in NSW, the estate retains most of its rural landscape character.

Aesthetically it is perhaps the finest rural landscape surviving in the Sydney Basin and historically it is believed to be unique as a designed colonial landscape.

Unfortunately despite its long interesting history, Fernhill has now fallen into the hands of the receivers.

One possible answer to its future has been put forward by the Rookwood Cemetery Trust who have come up with a proposal which could probably preserve the whole property from becoming a housing development.

In order to minimise the impact on the house, the areas the Trust are considering for the cemetery are not visible from the house or the curtilage around it.

The cemetery areas that Rookwood are planning are to be 'sub-lawn' with plaques, not gravestones, and recessed below lawn level and no heritage vegetation destroyed.

The Mulgoa Progress Association (MPA) believes that the Fernhill landscape must be conserved, not compromised or developed, and that the whole introduced infrastructure (signs, roads, lighting, parking areas and administrative and reception buildings etc) and aesthetic of a cemetery would not be compatible, but would be destructive. Others say this proposal would be preferable to a large residential estate.

**So what does the future hold for Edward's house and lands?**



## Convicts at Emu Plains

by Paul Wheeldon

'it is with the entire conviction of the importance of the Agricultural Establishment ...that I have given every possible growth to the station at Emu Plains; have nourished Bathurst as a depot for well-educated convicts; and founded a new settlement on a small scale at Wellington Valley.'

Governor Brisbane's reference to Emu Plains refers in part to his naïve and ill-fated venture in sending 25 female 'volunteers' to that establishment in July 1822 so that they might be employed at field work and might hence become useful farmers' wives. He also appears to have hoped that the male convicts would be improved by the softening influence of female company. The convict women were housed in bark huts built for them next to the gaol near the Nepean River, and about three quarters of a mile from the men and a quarter of a mile from the Western Road.

Peter Murdoch, the superintendent of the station, foresaw an immediate problem of segregation and control, and called on the Colonial Secretary, Major Goulburn, in Sydney to seek guidance on the Governor's policy. The Major was alleged on oath to have replied that the women must not couple with more than seven at any one time. The subsequent tales of the conduct of the Emu Plains station could hardly have improved much on the reality of the situation, and by the following year had excited a powerful sensation in England against the unfortunate Governor's supposed motive and ineffectual supervision.

This episode helped to inhibit further thought of even limited integration of the sexes at convict establishments until the homosexual scandals of the mid 1840s.

Shortly after August 1825 the superintendent of the Wellington Valley settlement in NSW, Percy Simpson, had employed his 'gentlemen convicts' in constructing a brick and shingle barrack for their residence. It was on the same plan as the Emu Plains stockade which Backhouse described in September 1835: 'The huts are but temporary structures ...they form three sides of an area, the fourth side of which is closed by a high stockade ...the prisoners sleep on sheets of bark on large platforms.'



Thomas Makdougall Brisbane (1773-1860), by F. Schenck, c1850 State Library of New South Wales, GPO 2 - 51937.

### Reference:

Kerr, James Semple, Design for Convicts – An account of design for convict establishments in the Australian Colonies during the transportation era. Chapter 7 - Stockades 1822-1842



Carmel Heywood receiving a box of goodies from the Holy Spirit Primary.



### School Stories

Last month our school visits gave us some surprises.

Holy Spirit Primary presented us with a box of goodies as a thank you gift, and one student, Isabel Gribble, from Our Lady of the Way school had a connection with the inn through her grandfather who, for a number of years worked as a volunteer at the inn.

And a group from Bargo Public School sent us a package of a 100 thank you cards, all written by the students.



Our Lady of the Way students enjoying the fruits of their labours and Isabell Gribble walking in her grandfather's footsteps.



THE NEW SOUTH WALES CORPS OF MARINES INC.



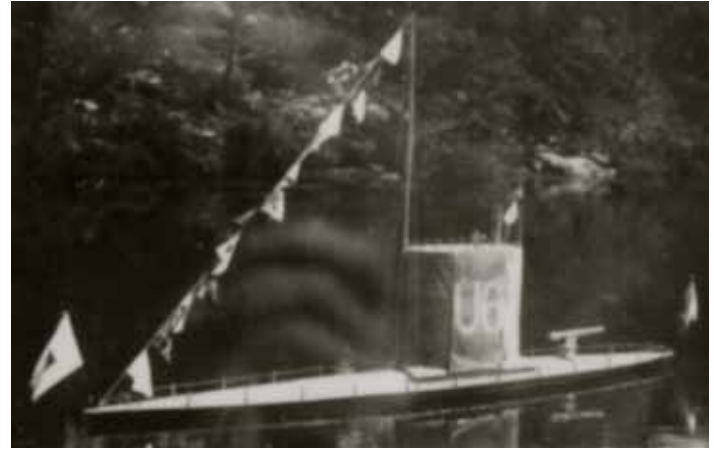
## The 'River Wonderland' of the Berrima German Internment Camp Pt 2 - The Annual Regatta

by John Staats  
President, NSW Corps of Marines

*A hundred years ago German merchant seamen found themselves stranded in Australia and interned as 'enemy aliens' in the sleepy river-side village of Berrima in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales. They were, to the surprise the local community and the world, to transform 'their cage' into a 'River Wonderland'. Their story is inscribed in the landscape, captured in the photographs taken by David Speer, and remembered in the 'Berrima River Walk'.*

### The Annual Regatta

The highlight of the year was the internee's annual river regatta held to honour the Kaiser's Birthday. This was no more sinister than modern-day 'celebrations' of the Queen's Birthday long-weekend. On this occasion the German internees turned out a magnificent flotilla of hand made river craft from simple canoes, to mini-mast-rigged 'sailing' vessels, to pedal-powered contraptions that took on forms of hydroplanes, zeppelins and other marvelled-forms of cutting edge technology of the day.



Regatta Day (L to R) Hydroplane boat, Paddle boat, mini-brig sail boat and a U-boat.

Picnics, races and competitions were held in the idyllic surroundings of a man-made river wonderland. How the visitors and locals were bedazzled; how incongruous the image of peaceful industrious Germans must have seemed compared with the shrill representations of Germans as the 'hun' and 'barbarian' that were prevalent in the popular press and government propaganda of the day.

### Relations with the Locals

Many of the prisoners were on 'half-pay' and drew on a stream of income from their shipping firms for the duration of the war. This they spent in the camp canteen and, to the delight of the locals, in the shops of Berrima town itself. Internees who could not draw wages were employed by the Camp Committee and also had 'disposable income'.

We should not be too surprised that the German internees fitted in so well at Berrima. These were officers and sailors, 'cosmopolitans', many of whom spoke English and had well-established connections with friends and families in English-speaking ports throughout the world. They were polite, respectful, industrious and resourceful; ideal neighbours with a sense of community.

The rescue by the internees of a local horse called 'Prince' who, in 1916, had fallen into a large subterranean cistern, exemplified their sense of community. The German sailors, through a system of improvised planks and ropes (the 'bosun's chair'), managed to save the horse. The internees also rescued Berrima Public School from being engulfed by a bushfire and were known to respond to calls from Berrima housewives to remove snakes from their homes!

### The River Wonderland Destroyed



'River Walk' today - view from walkway near the old compound where the detainees would retreat in times of unrest.

The fate of the German river-paradise was not immune from larger events. The situation regarding German aliens in other internment camps were not so good-natured. The fighting ended in November of 1918, but it was not until after the Treaty of Versailles (June 1919) that the internees could go home. Morale amongst the detainees plummeted. The oppressive terms of the treaty, together with the news that the Memorial to four German internees who had died at Trial Bay had been vandalised, changed the mood. The huts and the canoes were, until this point, going to be gifted to the people of Berrima as a memorial to the internees' time there. The internees now burnt their huts and sunk their boats in protest.



'Villa Marcella' near the compound, left and 'Villa Marcella' today. The bridge is on the right.

The passage of time has done the rest; the dam was undone, floods and nature took their course, and all evidence of the river-wonderland faded from view over the next hundred years. What remained were the records and photographs and faded memories until the National Trust, in 1998, enlisted the help of local volunteers and began to clear the riverbanks. The residues and memories of the remarkable tale of 'the prisoners in Arcady' surfaced.



*'Alsterburg' near the compound and 'Alsterburg' today  
- our walking party in tableau on the surviving stone foundations.*

In 2015 the river walk, with signage, was opened. It is well worth the visit and, with a discerning mind's eye, and the help of signposts featuring photographs of what had once been a hundred years ago, the visitor can take a trip back in time to a remarkable chapter in this history of Berrima Town.

**Photos:** Field Trip, January 6, 2017; historic images used photographed from signposts – originals in Berrima District Historical Society, National Library of Australia and National Archives.

**Further Reading:** John Simons, *Prisoners In Arcady: German mariners at Berrima 1915-1919* (1999) available from Berrima District Historical Society Museum, Berrima & Berrima Court House.

**References:**

<http://www.australien.diplo.de/contentblob/4473974/Daten/5213275/BerrimaRiverWalkFlyer.pdf>

<http://www.migrationheritage.nsw.gov.au/exhibition/enemyathome/berrima-internmentcamp/>

Sign-posts, The Berrima River Walk

## Chair-making roundup



*Steven Wong trying his hand at chair-making using a drawknife woodworking tool widely used in colonial times.*

A very successful day was held for the National Trust's Australian Heritage Festival last month when members of the Rope Pulley Association joined us for a day of learning about the Jimmy Possum chair-making tradition.



**Quilt for Raffle to be drawn on the Open Day on Sunday July 16th.**

*The Caring Hearts Quilters have very kindly donated this beautiful quilt for our Open Day raffle.*

## Pansy Line Tour



Join the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society as they take the *Pansy Line Tour* on Saturday 17 June 1027, *WALK ALONG* as they explore the remnants of the Richmond to Kurrajong Railway 1926-1952.

With the railway gone for so long, it is getting difficult to find many remnants but their experienced local guides will show you what there is, much of which is on private property and not normally accessible. Coaches depart from Richmond and the tour includes lunch in Kurrajong.

Some walking will be involved.

Bookings are essential. Details and bookings are to be found on their website, [www.kurrajonghistory.org.au](http://www.kurrajonghistory.org.au)

Or contact David on 02 4567 7993.

**Costs are:** Adults \$35, Seniors \$30 and children \$25.

Order a copy of their *Pansy* book for the tour, only \$10 (normally \$12).



### PENRITH DOLLS, BEARS, CRAFT & COLLECTABLES SHOW

**ONE DAY SHOW**  
**SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017**  
**10AM – 4PM**

Sponsored by  
**PANTHERS WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT**  
 Convention Centre – Mulgoa Road, Penrith





<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doll &amp; Bear Competition</li> <li>Refreshments available</li> <li>Porcelain Dolls, Doll repairs,</li> <li>Dolls Furniture and Accessories</li> <li>Lace, Ribbons and Beads</li> <li>Teddy Bears</li> <li>Scrapbooking Supplies</li> <li>Doll Houses and Miniatures</li> <li>Card making</li> <li>Hand Weavers and Spinners from Sydney and Blue Mountains</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trading Tables</li> <li>Candles and Soaps</li> <li>Lucky Door Prizes</li> <li>Jewellery</li> <li>Wigs and Millinery</li> <li>Arts and Craft Supplies</li> <li>Handmade gifts</li> <li>Miniature Display</li> <li>Identifications &amp; Valuations</li> </ul>
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Ample parking for cars & coaches  
 Adults \$6:00      Children \$2:00

**TRADER ENQUIRIES**  
 gaillad@optusnet.com.au  
 Gail Ladner 9am-7pm M. 0407498021

**DOLL COMPETITION ENQUIRIES**  
 Val Newman (including bear competition)  
 (02) 9602 2242 (Trader Enquiries: after 5.00pm)

Daytime Enquiries Lily Cowen 0247 395696 Jan Hartley 0247 352515

## Our Mower has finally arrived...



After ten months, the grant for our mower arrived. Vince Fedele gets the first ride.



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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The 'Elizabeth' on display at Emu Plains.

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

## SUNDAY ROSTER

### June

Sunday 4 Craig & Bob F  
 Sunday 18 Richard & Harry

### July

Sunday 2 Jan & Joan  
 Sunday 16 Open Day

### August

Sunday 6 Craig & Richard  
 Sunday 20 Tony & Paul

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

## Dates for your diary

- **Tench Luncheon** Saturday - 17 June
- **Open Day** Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Victoria Bridge and railway line - July 16th

### 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

### Bateman Battersby

L A W Y E R S

19 Lawson Street, Penrith NSW 2750

PO Box 981 Penrith NSW DX 8040 Penrith

Telephone (02) 4731 5899 Facsimile (02) 4721 4008

Email: johnbateman@batemanbattersby.com.au

Web: www.batemanbattersby.com.au



### John Bateman

BA, LL.B., CD.L.E., M.Com. Notary Public, AAPT(Econ)

Mobile: 0419 315 876

## NOTICE BOARD

### Thursday June 1

Northcott Care Tour

### Friday June 2, 3

Book Stall Lennox

### Wednesday June 7

Church Seniors Tour,  
 Epping

### Thursday June 8

Blue Mountains Home  
 School Tour

### Thursday June 15

Chisholm Primary School

### Saturday June 17

Tench Luncheon

### Wednesday June 21

ACTIVUS Tour plus D'Ts/  
 355 Committee Meeting

### Saturday June 24

NDHS Meeting and  
 Management meeting

### Monday June 26

St George Community  
 Transport Social Group

### Wednesday June 28

Activus Tour plus D'Ts

### Friday June 30

Lantern Tour 1st Erskine  
 Park Cub Scouts

## Contact details

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	<a href="mailto:craigj10@bigpond.com">craigj10@bigpond.com</a>	
<b>Heritage Advisory Representative, Vice President</b>	Beth Moore	02 4735 1734
<b>Speakers</b>	Richard Nutt	0407 014 157
<b>Books &amp; Trips</b>	Anthony Grainge	02 4731 2303
<b>Catering</b>	Elsa Speechley	02 4721 4993

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