

NEWSLETTER

July – August – September 2009

Volume Ten Number Three



SKETCHLEY COTTAGE

Linking yesterday with tomorrow

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

They Were Here Vol 1	\$ 35
They Were Here Vol 2	\$ 40
War Memorials of the Port Stephens Area	\$ 25
Raymond Terrace History & Heritage	\$ 25
Marriages from the Gloucester Examiner & Raymond Terrace Examiner 1894 – 1926	\$ 15
Clearing Out Sales Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter 1895 – 1930	\$ 15
Soldiers & Memorials of Seaham	\$ 25
Raymond Terrace Pioneer Register	\$ 30
Cemetery Master Index	\$ 25
Landholders & Others	\$ 15
Raymond Terrace Pioneer Cemetery	\$ 5
Obituary Books Vol 1 1893 – 1915	
Vol 2 1916 – 1925	
Vol 3 1926 – 1930, 1951 & 1953	

Buy any two volumes of Obituaries for \$45 or all three publications for \$65. Purchased individually the Obituary Books cost \$25.

We also have available for sale a large selection of publications not produced by the Society but covering the local district among them are:

Seaham School of Arts	\$ 15
Short History of Raymond Terrace	\$ 5
Wades Corn Flour Mill 1878-1902	\$ 10

All prices exclude postage

SKETCHLEY COTTAGE MUSEUM is located opposite Bettles Park, Raymond Terrace and is open to the public on Sundays 10am to 4pm other times by appointment. Bus groups are most welcome, please contact the Secretary to arrange a date and time.

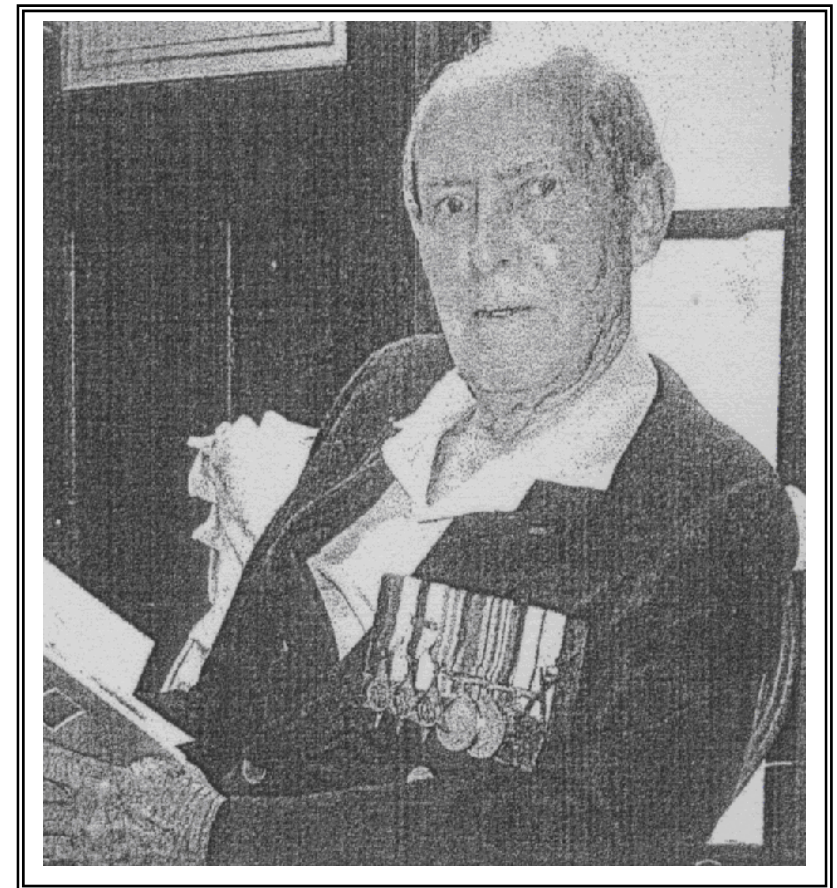
The Society's **RESEARCH ROOMS** are located in the Port Stephens Library, cnr William & Port Stephens Streets, Raymond Terrace

Open Monday 9.30 to 2 pm. and Wednesday
9.30 am to 3 pm - other times by appointment

Membership of the Society is open to everyone with an interest in Local and Family History.

Joining Fee \$2.00 Concession \$12.00 Full Membership \$18.00

Monthly Meetings are held on the third Friday of the month at St Brigids Hall, Raymond Terrace at 7.00 pm.



RAYMOND TERRACE & DISTRICT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.
PO BOX 255
RAYMOND TERRACE NSW 2324

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David Gunter Laurel Young Moira Saunderson

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DATES FOR THE DIARY

NOVEMBER	2	Committee Meeting
	8	Cottage Working Bee
	20	General Meeting
	28	Christmas Get Together

SKETCHLEY COTTAGE ROSTER

OCTOBER	4	Boris and Jack
	11	Peter and Glenys
	18	Faye and Robert
	25	David and Judy
NOVEMBER	1	Laurel and Myrtle
	8	Boris and Sue
	15	Moira and Helen
	22	Vicki and Faye
	29	Boris and Jack
DECEMBER	6	Faye and Steve
	13	David and Judy

Please contact Faye Clark as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements if you are unavailable for your allocated time (49876435 or clarkys@bigpond.net.au)

LIBRARY VISIT REPORT BY David Gunter

TOPIC OF TALK: Researching Convicts Using the Internet

Talk given by Gail Davis from the state library of new south wales

Held at Great Lakes Library Foster Monday 6 July 2009

Naturalization 1834-1903

Railway Employees

Registers of Firms 1903-1922

Railway History Cards

Bill Chifley

Convict Guide

[old baileyonline.org/](http://old.baileyonline.org/)

Convict Indents (Shipping Lists) 1788-1835

Printed Indents 1830-1842

Surgeons journals 1785-1856

Other records relating to the convicts journey

Surveyors Fieldbooks

Mine records

Ships musters and papers 1790-1849 these are also listed in the convict guide.

Certificates of Freedom 1823-1869

Colonial Secretary's papers 1788-1825

Convict Deaths 1828-1879.

David Gunter travelled to the Great Lakes Library in July to attend a seminar given by the Forster Family History Advisory Group where the speaker was Gail Davis, a Senior Archivist from State Records who discusses researching Convicts.

VALE KEN WARD-HARVEY.

Our society was saddened by the sudden death of our stalwart member, Ken Ward-Harvey.

Ken arrived in our midst in 1989, as a consultant engineer following the earthquake in Newcastle.

His career as an Architect took him to many overseas places including South America, and he was semi-retired when he arrived in Raymond Terrace.

During WW2, he enlisted as an Engineer in the 2/7th Field Company, RAE and saw action in the Syria to Egypt and participated in the El Alamein campaign. He later published a book, entitled, 'The Sapper's War', which related his experiences in the war.

Ken's involvement in our society was a committed one with several terms as President and V. President. He was also a member of the Port Stephens Choir, The Australia Day Committee and the Heritage Committee, and of course the local RSL Branch

Though an officer and a true gentleman has left us, we will remember him with appreciation and pride.



Móira Saunderson

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY – *Faye Clark*

- A donation of \$250 from the **Raymond Terrace Lions Club** has helped to boost our accounts. It is greatly welcomed and appreciated and will allow the Society to continue to expand its services to the community by preserving local history.
- The passing of Ken Ward-Harvey and Len Truebridge was a sad time for Society members. The hard work and dedication of these 2 men towards the Society is remembered, and their efforts to maintain local history are acknowledged.
- **Sue and Boris Sokoloff** have returned from their trip to Britain with many stories to share. They have promised to do so at an upcoming meeting
- **Peter and Glenys Francis** have returned refreshed and rejuvenated from their trip to the Continent and have some interesting stories to tell.
- It is great to **welcome new members** to the Society – Moira and Elaine continue to encourage visitors to the research rooms to become active members, and so we have extra people to help out with cottage duty and research work, which is critical to the functioning of the Society. New members are
- It is sad to see that some of our present members are no longer able to continue their membership for health or other reasons. **Oscar Carlson** and **Alf Cazaubon** have not renewed their memberships this year. We thank them for all that they have done in the past, and wish them good health for the future.
- Congratulations to **Helen James**, who has now completed her doctorate after many hard years of study at Newcastle University.

community. She says that the students are really enjoying the project.

The Historical Society is appreciative of Hunter River High School students and staff for providing the link that enabled this project to proceed.



SKETCHLEY COTTAGE WORKING BEE

Sunday 8th November 2009 commencing 9am. If you have an hour or two to spare to help out it would be appreciated. We have plenty of jobs, big and small that need doing in and around the cottage.



SPIT ROAST BBQ

You are all cordially invited to attend a spit roast BBQ to be held at **Sketchley Cottage on Sunday 29th November 2009** to celebrate Raymond Terrace Historical Society's 35th birthday. As it is close to Christmas it will also have a Christmas theme. Time 12.00 for 12.30. **PLEASE RSVP BY WEDNESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER.** RSVPs to Secretary Faye Clarke please.

THEATRETTE PROJECT – *Faye Clark*

The Theatrette project has begun at the Cottage. A group of about 10 students and 2 teachers walk to the Cottage each Monday morning to plan and implement the new exhibit. A small section of the machinery shed has been temporarily cleared and the students are busily working, thinking up ideas, and documenting their progress. A series of tradespeople and professionals will address them, imparting their knowledge and skills to the students. The students are being upskilled in readiness for employment and so have learnt about OH&S issues. They are eager to learn, and show a real excitement towards the project.

The stimulus for the project was the ticket box that the society has, which was once part of the Fiesta theatre. Part of the project will be to collect stories from people in the community of their memories of the Fiesta. If you would like to contribute your story please email info@sketchleycottage.org.au or ring Faye Clark on 49876435 to arrange a time for an interview.

Some of the thoughts of the students and staff working on the project are:-

Warren, Beau, Aaron, Emily and Ricky all think that doing the project has been a lot of fun.

Lyall says it will be a good work experience for the group.

Kayla and Shai agree that it has been really good walking down from the school each Monday to take part.

Mrs Robyn Cox believes that this project provides a great resource for student learning and connections to the

- The “**Club Funds Available to Community Groups**” grant has been successful and the Historical Society has received \$5,000 to work with Life Skills students from Hunter River High School to develop a theatrette at the Cottage complex, using the Ticket box that came from the Fiesta theatre as the starting piece. Part of the project involves collecting stories from people that have lived in the area and have interesting stories to recall of their memories of the days of the theatre, and other movie theatres that were present in the town. If you would like to participate in this project by sharing your memories, please contact a Society member, and we will arrange for an interview.
- Christmas in July was a fun night, with plenty of laughter and frivolity. Thanks to Helen James for organising the trivia – it provided a real focus, and was very competitive. The winning team consisted of Bob Baldwin, Vicki Saunderson and Robert Clark. The decoration of the “Christmas trees” demonstrated the variety of creative skills that are held by members of the Society. Well done!
- **Market Day** was a success, bringing in many supporters. Port Stephens Community Choir supplied music on the day, and their melodious tones brought a real atmosphere to the day. Jeff S. a visiting blacksmith from Nundle was a great attraction, with the local ABC radio station doing an interview with him, and with Peter Francis. This provided great promotion of the day with many people travelling to the Terrace to visit the Market Day, as a result. The Society really appreciates the support of local businesses- **Commonwealth Bank, Heatherbrae Pies, Domino’s Pizza and McDonalds** – who provided prizes for the children’s games and the colouring competition. A big thank you to everyone who donated goods to sell, and to all the volunteers who helped out on the day.

- **Prize winners of the colouring competition are:-**
5-6 year olds – Tyler Saville of R.T.P.S.
7-8 years olds- Jesse Hawkins of
Grahamstown P.S. and Emilee Pedder of
Wirreanda P.S.
9-10 year olds- Rohan Moroney of Fern
Bay P.S. and Ryan Davis of R.T.P.S
11-12 year olds- Jaymie French of Fern
Bay P.S. and Chloe Date of R.T.P.S -
encouragement award to Caleb Bailey of
R.T.P.S

- **On Monday 7 September McDonalds Restaurant at Raymond Terrace** put on a fundraising night for the Society. We received a percentage of their takings between 5.30 – 7pm. Thanks to all those members who invited along your family and friends to help raise some much needed funds for the Society. Thanks to McDonalds for their support.

- **A bus trip to Wollombi** is being planned for sometime in early Autumn next yea. The bus will leave from Sketchley Cottage and while in Wollombi we will visit the Museum, Cemetery, a local winery, the Lavender farm, and have lunch at the pub. Cost will be around \$20 per person – this covers the cost of the bus only. Please let a committee member know if you would like to attend. The bus is able to hold 20 people. Hope to see you there.



Women and at the Women’s Christian Temperance Union Convention in Toronto.

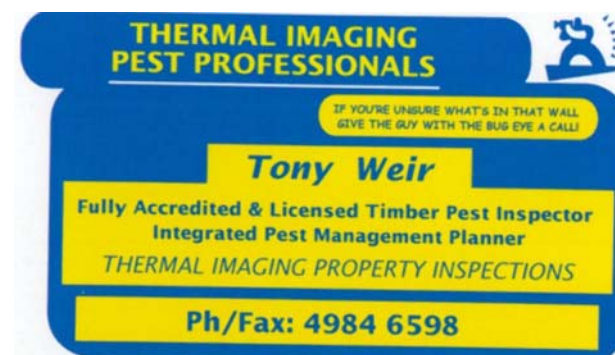
There were also interest and involvement in the free kindergarten movement details of which she had also brought back from America, in the establishment of children’s libraries, and in book clubs for those not in the cities.

She – and her mother – were in fact early feminists but it was not simply a concern for the rights of women it was a belief that society as a whole would benefit from their being more fully a part of it.”

Thanks to all of those members who did so much work to make the night a success with their cooking, donation of goods and help in setting up, and work in the kitchen, that often goes unnoticed, but without this effort, the night could not have happened.

Faye Clark.

The Society would like to thank **Tony Weir** for recently undertaking a free termite inspection on the cottage and surrounding buildings. We encourage members to contact Tony if they require any pest inspections in their own home or business.



SOUP AND STORIES OF SUFFRAGETTES..... WITH JIM WINDEYER

A cold, wet night did not deter the group of dedicated history buffs from attending this most electrifying evening. Quite a number of the Windeyer family were in attendance, including Nancy Windeyer, to hear Jim speak of the book that he had written about his great aunt, Margaret.

The stories he had to tell were both funny and inspiring. She was certainly a woman ahead of her time – I would love to have known her. Modern day women have much to thank her for.

After a filling meal of soup and crusty bread, the audience was enthralled by the story that Jim had to tell. He had travelled from Canberra to give his talk and we thank him very much for that. From Jim's own words... "Margaret became a founding member of the Womanhood Suffrage League and went as a commissioner to the Columbian Exposition –world fair- in America in 1893. There she became aware of their National Council of Women and on her return initiated the establishment of the National Council of Women of NSW. Her interest in these causes did not disappear but she returned to America and studied at the library school run by Melvil Dewey of the Dewey cataloguing system. That led via the public service exam to a position in the NSW public library and in due course in the Mitchell Library.

In America she presented a paper on the novels of George Meredith, spoke at the New York Federation for

VISIT BY GRAHAMSTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOL

Tuesday 12 and Thursday 14 May the Cottage was filled with 120 very excited and enthusiastic students from Grahamstown Public School, with many intelligent questions to ask. They were learning about the way of life in the early years of Settlement. Moira, Jean, Judy Ken and Faye guided them through the Cottage, Museum and Machinery Shed.



Some of the comments the students made were:-

“There are lots of interesting things”*Jacob*

“The Cottage is very good, showing how things work”*William and Will*

“I liked pretending I was cooking”*Blake*

“Baths and stoves are very different to mine”
....*Maddison*

“The fridge is different to the one at home”*Jack*

“Laundry is hard work, and they used to do different stuff”....*Jenna*
 “Yummy food back then, and not much money”....*Sarina*
 “I like the fire in the stove”.... *Josh*
 “Beautiful!”....*Breanna*
 “Cool stuff”....*Tahlia*
 “I liked the pots in the kitchen”....*Brittany*
 “The iron is very heavy”....*Eric*
 “The meat safe is cool”....*Lachlan*
 “I liked the stove”....*Ruby*
 “I liked the fireplace”....*Raabi*
 “It has really old stuff. We couldn’t survive if we had to use this stuff. I liked that we could try things”....*Kiara*.

It is wonderful to be able to share our knowledge and watch the amazement on the faces of the students as they learn how different life used to be.

Some students said that they would like to return to the Cottage with their parents to show them the display of historical items.

Faye Clark

OFFICIAL OPENING OF SKETCHLEY COTTAGE

Saturday 11th August 1979

A crowd of approximately 200 people attended the opening ceremony which was performed by our Patron Leon Punch M.L.A., Member for Gloucester, and leader of the Country Party

in the New South Wales Parliament. Also in attendance were the Honourable Virginia Chadwick, M.L.C. for Newcastle, Councillor Bob Freeman, Presidents of Port Stephens Shire Council; and representatives from our sister Hunter Valley Historical Societies.

Before unveiling a small plaque, set over the doorway to the cottage, Mr Punch, in his address stated that “hard work and the dedication of the community had made re-establishment of the cottage a reality”, and he urged local residents to maintain the strongest support for the project in future years. He added “Projects like this reflect the real pride in the community, and real effort”.

A number of descendants of the Sketchley Family, which had donated the building to the Society, were present at the opening. These included Society members Renee Bambach, Irene Watson and Clive Sketchley, as well as Charles Sketchley from Wingham.

A highlight of the opening was the unveiling, in the cottage grounds, of the famous memorial stone to James King, of Irrawang, prominent early vigneron, potter, and the first man to discover, in the colony, sand which was suitable for making high quality glass. The stone, originally erected in the Raymond Terrace cemetery by King’s widow after his death in London on 29th November 1857, had been subjected to some vandalism, fortunately without any permanent damage, and with the permission of descendants of the family, it was moved to the cottage, and then re-set by member Lionel Edstein, the local Monumental mason.

The unveiling of the stone was performed by popular member Malcolm MacFarlane, a great grandson of James King. Other great-grandchildren of James King, in attendance, were Mrs Ilma Piggott, of Lane Cove and Mrs Thyra Kyle, of Northbridge.

Unfortunately someone had removed the plaque from the Cottage door which was unveiled on that day.