

NEWSLETTER

October – November – December
2010
Volume Eleven Number Four



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

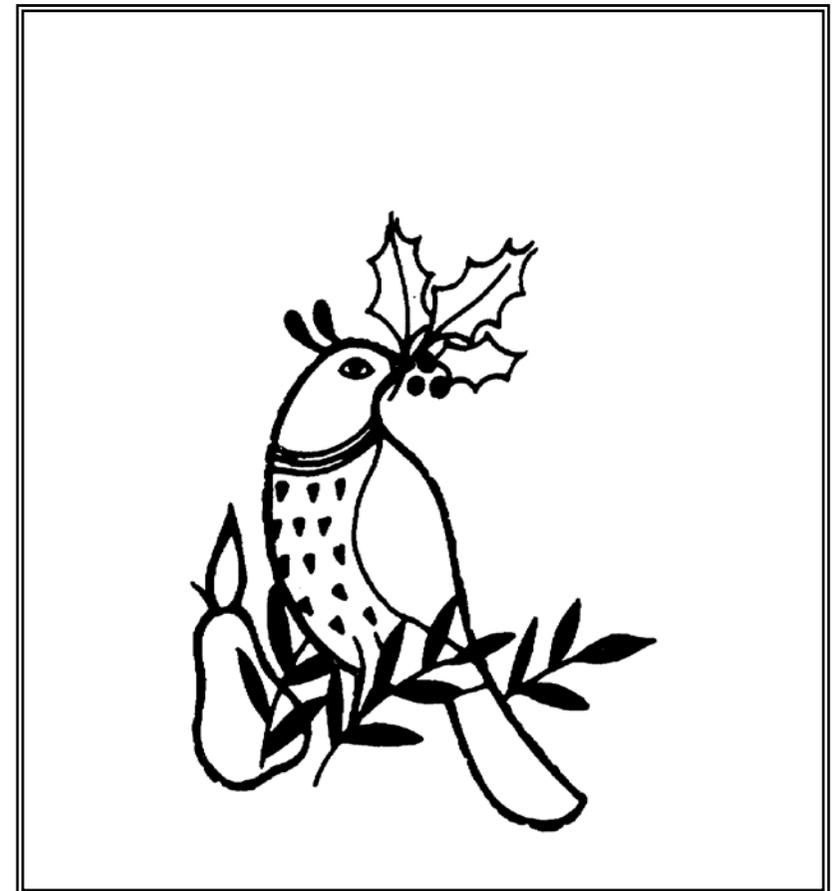
SKETCHLEY COTTAGE MUSEUM is located opposite Bettles Park, Raymond Terrace and is open to the public on Sundays 10am to 3pm other times by appointment. Bus groups are most welcome, please contact the Secretary to arrange a date and time.

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

Open Monday & Wednesday
9.30 am to 2 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 \$15.00 Full Membership \$20.00
Family \$25.00 Monthly Meetings are held on the third Friday of the month at the Senior Citizens Building in Irrawang St, Raymond Terrace at 7.00 pm.



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

Patrons Bob Baldwin - MP
 Craig Baumann - MLA
 Frank Terenzini MLA
 Sharon Grierson MP

President Peter Francis
 Phone: 4987 3970

Vice President Boris Sokoloff
 Phone: 4954 8976

Treasurer Trish Harris
 Phone: 49873486

Secretary Faye Clark
 Phone: 4987 6435

Minutes Secretary Trish Harris

Research Officer Elaine Hall
 Phone: 4987 3477

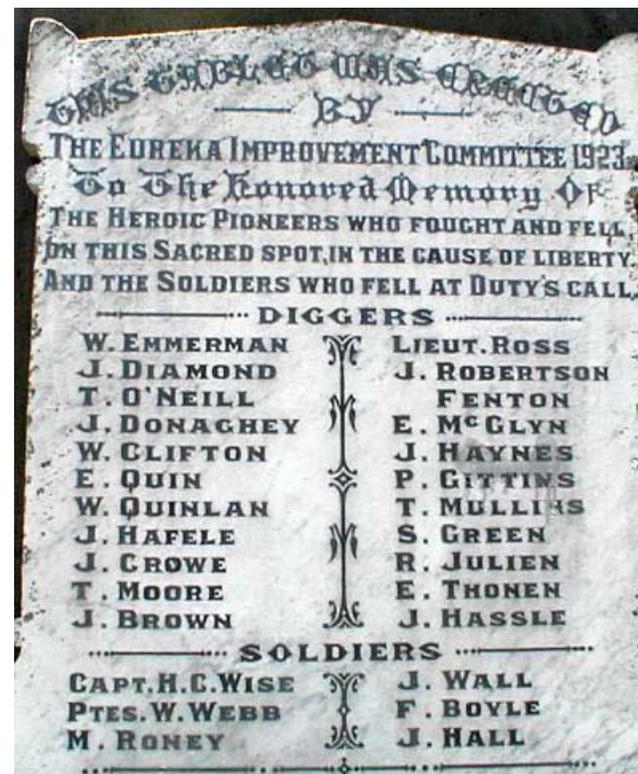
Museum Curator Sue Sokoloff
 Phone: 4954 8976

Newsletter Editor Faye Clark
 Phone: 49876435

COMMITTEE:
David Gunter Laurel Young
Moirsa Sanderson Helen Giggins

DATES FOR THE DIARY

February	7	Committee Meeting
	18	General Meeting – held at Senior Citizens Building
March	1	Committee Meeting
	18	General Meeting
April	4	Committee Meeting
	15	General Meeting
May	2	Committee Meeting
	20	General Meeting
June	6	Committee Meeting
	17	General Meeting



EUREKA STOCKADE MEMORIAL

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*Post World War II - From 1945 through 1996, nearly 5.5 million immigrants settled in Australia.

*Present day - Four out of 10 Australians are migrants or the first-generation children of migrants.

*The average world population density is 117 people per square mile, that of the United States 76 and that of Macao is 69,000. Australia's is only 6.

*Hobart - Australia's second oldest city. The too-frequent visits by French explorers concerned the British authorities and in 1803 it was decided that a colony should be established on the island to secure British territorial claims. Convicts were then sent.

*Long fence - The 'dingo fence' in Australia is the longest fence in the world, and is about twice as long as the Great Wall of China.

*Kangaroo - The name for the Australian marsupial Kangaroo came about when some of the first white settlers saw this strange animal hopping along and they asked the Aborigines what it was called. They replied with '*Kanguru*', which in the native language meant '*I don't know*'.

*The Fierce Snake or Inland Taipan has the most toxic venom of any snake. Maximum yield recorded (for one bite) is 110mg. That would probably be enough to kill over 100 people or 250,000 mice.

* Independence for WA- In April 1933, 68 per cent of West Australians voted in favour of seceding from the Commonwealth of Australia. However, they needed permission from the British Parliament before they could officially become a new country. Meanwhile, Australia's Federal Parliament was arguing that Britain should not interfere in Australian politics. The end result was that Britain never made a decision. Consequently, Western Australian remained part of the Commonwealth.

From the website: www.convictcreations.com/culture/facts.htm

Notes from the Secretary

- It is great to **welcome new members**- Sharon McNamara, Allen Sutton and Moira Young. We look forward to them sharing skills and knowledge.
- The Market Day was a beautiful day, and was successful in raising about \$1,100. Port Stephens Choir gave the event a real atmosphere. There was a small but enthusiastic band of helpers there on the day to ensure its success. There were a couple of our usual helpers who were not well enough to help out – gladly they are well on the mend now. As it is getting harder to ensure we have sufficient helpers, it has been decided not to have a Market Day next year. Instead there will be several smaller “garage sale” type events to replace it. The first one is early in the year, so put aside any items that you think would sell well.
- Sue and Moira have changed around the textiles that are on display. The Society is lucky to have such an extensive range of items in its collection to allow this process to occur. Come to the Cottage and enjoy the new range of items on display.
- The raffle of the print of the Hunter River at the Terrace in 1951 was drawn at the final general meeting for the year – 19 Nov. Darryl Carmody from Medowie was the lucky winner and was very pleased to find a spot for it in his home. Second prize of a colonial print drawn and donated by Monty Wedd was won by Verity De Lyall of Raymond Terrace. Thanks to all who supported the fundraiser. Prints are able to be bought from the Historical Society. If you are interested in purchasing one, please call and place your order.



- Rulana has been coming to the Cottage for several months now, to help out. She has shown a real interest in learning about historical matters, and has worked very hard to help keeping the grounds looking their best. Her ideas and efforts were critical in the revamping of the “History of the Hotels in Raymond Terrace “ display. She has been very enthusiastic and shown real commitment to the jobs that I have asked her to do, whether it was painting, weeding, sweeping or dusting. Her efforts have allowed a much greater number of jobs to be completed and the Society is very grateful for her time and skills. Well done and many thanks, Rulana!

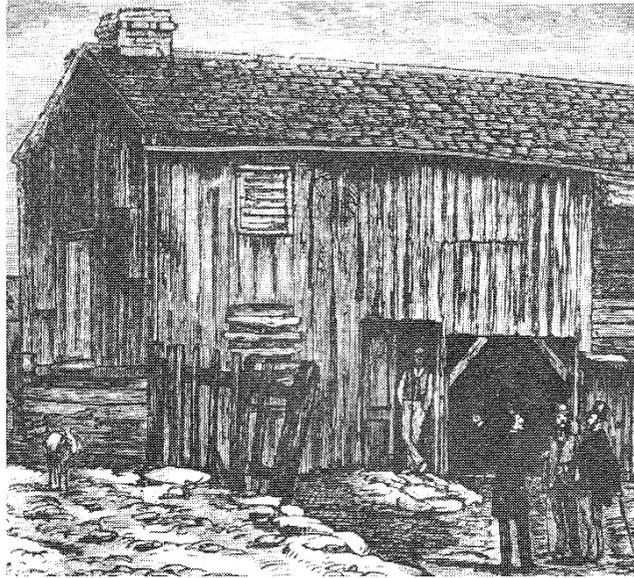


- Another year over – **thanks to all who have supported the Society**, in whatever capacity you are able to. A big vote of thanks goes to those members who are able to spare some of their precious time to help out on Cottage Duty, at the Research rooms, mowing lawns, general maintenance, selling raffle tickets, cooking, donation of goods etc., etc....
- General Meetings in 2011 will be held at the **Senior Citizens Building**, just across the road from St Brigid’s. Thanks to St Brigid’s for allowing the Society to use their hall for so many years.
- The newsletter is later than I had hoped due to problems with the photocopier. Hope all is right now and things are back on track.

FACTS FROM AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

- * Swimming - In 1838 it was declared illegal to swim at public beaches during the day! This law was enforced until 1902.
- * Female vote - Australia was the second country to give women the vote.
- * In 1954, Bob Hawke was immortalised by the *Guinness Book of Records* for sculling 2.5 pints of beer in 11 seconds. Bob later became the Prime Minister of Australia.
- * Australia day - January 26, Australia day, is the anniversary of ships arriving in Sydney carrying Convicts.
- * A census taken in 1828 found that half the population of NSW were Convicts, and that former Convicts made up nearly half of the free population.
- In 2007, it was estimated that 22 per cent of living Australians had a convict ancestor.
- * Convicts were not sent to Australia for serious crimes. Serious crimes, such as murder, rape, or impersonating an Egyptian were given the death sentence in England.
- * Crimes punishable by transportation included recommending that politicians get paid, starting a union, stealing fish from a river or pond, embezzlement, receiving or buying stolen goods, setting fire to underwood, petty theft, or being suspected of supporting Irish terrorism.
- * Australia's first police force was a band of 12 of the most well behaved Convicts.
- * The Tasmanian Aborigine was of a different race to those on the mainland with features more similar to Africans. No full bloods live today.
- * During the Gold rush of the 1850's, Australia received massive waves of migration from China, America, Canada, Germany, Italy, France, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England.

GOVERNOR BLIGH'S HOUSE, NEAR BELMORE PARK



The condemnation and demolition of Sydney dwellings unfit for human habitation is being actively proceeded with, and among the number doomed are two so-called houses in Mary Street, Nos. 8 and 6, at the back of Belmore Park. They had the appearance of old wooden stables in the last stage of decay, with the windows all boarded up, and light and ventilation studiously kept out of the interior. When visited by the Mayor and other city officials it was stated by one of the old tenants of one of these wretched sheds that the building was the first house occupied by Governor Bligh, and that in those days it was known as Government House. This old vice-regal establishment was at once condemned, so that another landmark of the Colony's progress could be speedily removed.

October 1881.

"TOMORROW WHEN THE WAR BEGAN"

On the Saturday the 4th of September a group of Historical Society members and their friends, attended a screening of the film "Tomorrow When the War Began" at the Raymond Terrace Cinema.

The movie held you till the end then left you hanging till the next movie.

This movie in parts was shot in King Street, also at Dungog, Maitland, Gloucester Tops and Luskintyre. In the movie the Luskintyre Bridge was blown up. The Producers of the movie made an exact mini replica of this bridge to be destroyed.

Nibbles and punch for members and guests, along with the lucky door prizes. Congratulations to all the winners!





A big THANK YOU goes to Faye and family, Elaine and Moira for all their hard work in putting this afternoon together.

As a result of the screening we have had some very positive feedback from members and friends, even prompting some of them to return to see the movie again.

Because of the success of this movie perhaps the second edition of this story we could have another social event for the Raymond Terrace Historical Society.

Regards Ken Barlow

It's the job that's never started takes longest to finish.

[J. R. R. Tolkien](#)

I've missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.

[Michael Jordan](#)

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Who was John Vane?



John Vane c1902

John Vane will be best remembered for the time he spent with the Hall/Gardiner gang of bushrangers during 1863. It was while in connection with Vane the gang conducted some of their most audacious activities including:

- the first daylight bank holdup in the colony at Carcoar,
- raid the town of Bathurst,
- seize the town of Canowindra with all its residents and travellers,
- disarm and relieve three troopers of their uniforms and tie them to trees,
- attack on gold commissioner HM Keightley at *Dunn's Plains*,
- visit numerous properties such as Loudon's *Grubbenhong Station*, *Icely's Coombing Park*, Edmond's *Demondrille Station*, Rothery's *Chefden* and William Lawson Jnr's *Errowanbang*, and
- bail up coaches, gold buyers, chinamen, store owners and others.

John Vane was the only member of the gang of 1863 to survive. He surrendered to Carcoar's resident priest Father Tim McCarthy in November 1863. The other members of 1863 included Ben Hall, John Gilbert, John O'Meally and Micky Burke who all died by the bullet, either by private citizens or police.

If anyone can add to this information on John Vane,
Please contact Elaine on --- 49873477 or
Email --- elainehall@bigpond.com

A boo is a lot louder than a cheer. If you have 10 people cheering and one person booing, all you hear is the booing.

If you worried about falling off the bike, you'd never get on.

Pain is temporary. Quitting lasts forever.

[Lance Armstrong](#)

Ideas are like rabbits. You get a couple and learn how to handle them, and pretty soon you have a dozen.

[John Steinbeck](#)

The Tree - Queen Victoria's German husband Prince Albert helped to make the Christmas tree as popular in Britain as they were in his native Germany, when he brought one to Windsor Castle in the 1840's.

The Crackers - Invented by Tom Smith, a London sweet maker in 1846. The original idea was to wrap his sweets in a twist of fancy coloured paper, but this developed and sold much better when he added love notes (mottos), paper hats, small toys and made them go off BANG!



From www.historic-uk.com and www.allthingschristmas.com

Not all who wander are lost.

[J. R. R. Tolkien](#)

Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself.

[Leo Tolstoy](#)

Internet tips and websites

Today, how to convert pictures into desired shapes:

Go to google.com.au

Click on Images in the top left hand corner

Type desired image in menu bar for example, red balloons press enter.

Click on hyperlink to access image. Right click on image click copy.

Open Microsoft Word Click on paste icon

Click on image so resize handles appear around the edge of image.

Click on insert on the ribbon, Next click on Picture Tools.

Click picture shape

Under the basic shape heading click on heart shape or other shapes.

When finished click on reset picture, if you want to keep the image save to my documents.

Useful websites

www.coraweb.com.au/local.htm

<http://www.booksgalore.com.au/australia-books-australian-books-australian-history-books-australian-pioneer-women-eve-pownall-hardcover.html>

www.godo.com.au

<http://www.taste.com.au/recipes/collections/quiche+recipes>

Compiled by David Gunter.

WHERE DID I COME FROM?

Two family lines on my father's side, but only one line on my mother's side – where did my mother's father's line start (my maternal grandfather)? Didn't we all come from Scotland and Ireland? As an only child, I have been lucky to inherit some precious family relics, in particular a handwritten, yellowish, torn document that has travelled half way around the world and which has given me the answers regarding my grandfather – GEORGE ARRINDELL DOUGALL.

Briefly, after the British, Spanish and French early sea-faring explorers settled some of the islands in Caribbean Sea, now known as the West Indies, and after the abolishment of slave labour in the 1780s, a young man, William Dougall of Glasgow, Scotland, took up the challenge from his government to taste adventure and be in a warmer climate, and so travelled to the island of Antigua (a British protectorate) in the West Indies to help with the labour shortage. He met and married a French girl ELLEN ARINDELL from St Kitts (a French protectorate island) and bore a child in 1877 – GEORGE ARRINDELL DOUGALL. This old torn document, complete with 3 physical Duty Stamps, titled 'Leeward Islands- Presidency of Antigua' takes up the story. Mother dies young, father cannot cope, so sends his two children home to Scotland, to be raised by a maiden aunt, and the handwritten document stating their birth details etc., goes with them in 1909.

GEORGE grows up, doesn't like the Scottish climate any better than his father did, so takes off to New Zealand to work and, of course, takes the old document with him. First World War breaks out, and he must go home to Scotland to help, taking his new wife, child and document with him. In 1920, Scotland still cold, wet and windy, George leaves for the warm, sunny Australia with all his worldly belongings, including THE document. GEORGE'S only child, my mother, has handed it over to me for safe-keeping – this much travelled, grubby, torn document and how it has sparked a passion in me for more answers about my family. MORAL of the story: read and re-read your family papers, there is always something else therein to learn.

By LARAIN BROWN, Raymond Terrace, NSW, Australia

THE HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

The Candy Cane



It was not long after Europeans began using Christmas trees that special decorations were used to adorn them. Food items, such as candies and cookies, were used predominately and straight white candy sticks were one of the confections used as ornamentation. Legend has it that during the 17th century, craftsmen created the white sticks of candy in the shape of shepherds' crooks at the suggestion of the choirmaster at the Cologne Cathedral in Germany.

The candy treats were given to children to keep them quiet during ceremonies at the living crèche, or Nativity scene, and the custom of passing out the candy crooks at such ceremonies soon spread throughout Europe.

In England, the wealth and technologies generated by the industrial revolution of the Victorian era changed the face of Christmas forever. Writers like Charles Dickens wrote books like "Christmas Carol", published in 1843, which actually encouraged rich Victorians to redistribute their wealth by giving money and gifts to the poor - Humbug! These radical middle class ideals eventually spread to the not-quite-so-poor as well.

The Scots have always preferred to postpone the celebrations for a few days to welcome in the New Year, in the style that is Hogmanay. Christmas Day itself did not become a holiday in Scotland until many years after Victoria's reign and it has only been within the last 20-30 years that this has been extended to include Boxing Day.

Christmas Cards - The "Penny Post" was first introduced in Britain in 1840 by Rowland Hill. The idea was simple, a penny stamp paid for the postage of a letter or card to anywhere in Britain. This simple idea paved the way for the sending of the first Christmas cards. Sir Henry Cole tested the water in 1843 by printing a thousand cards for sale in his art shop in London at one shilling each. The popularity of sending cards was helped along when in 1870 a halfpenny postage rate was introduced as a result of the efficiencies brought about by those new fangled railways.

DIGGING UP THE POTTERY PAST **– from the Newcastle Morning Herald July 1971**

James King's old pottery works near Raymond Terrace, abandoned 120 years ago, will come to life again next month. Archaeological students from the University of Sydney will arrive with spades, hair brushes and plastic bags for the latest excavations in their 10-year project to uncover and document the site. Directed by the University's senior lecturer in archaeology, Miss Judy Birmingham, the students will probe deep into the past. Working only in their vacations, the students have uncovered part of the extensive pottery works established in Irrawang by King in 1834. Much remains to be done. Students have uncovered a kiln, two clay mills, a drying floor, a claypit and a workshop. Only one third of the site has been excavated and Miss Birmingham says the best remains. "We've located King's storehouse" she said. "It has a cellar which has been filled in and should be full of fascinating stuff. These digs are incredibly valuable experience for students. There is nothing quite like it in Australia. The only comparable site is the 1885 Lithgow pottery works. Irrawang is much earlier and with a bigger range of items." Miss Birmingham spends part of each year digging on the Greek island of Andros at the site of an 8th century BC settlement. But she prefers Irrawang. It's Australian and it involves pottery, her great love. And it's new. Very little is known about 19th century pottery making, and the Irrawang dig will eventually add a chapter to Australia's industrial archaeology. Not to mention a fascinating footnote to the story of winegrowing in the Hunter



REPORT ON AUSTRALIAN DRESS REGISTER AND PHOTOGRAPHING OBJECTS WORKSHOPS HELD FRIDAY 3 DECEMBER AT RAYMOND TERRACE

M.A(NSW) Hunter Chapter members from throughout the Hunter and Central Coast, together with workshop presenters, gathered at Port Stephens Council Chambers at 10.30am. Following a delicious morning tea President Peter Francis welcomed everyone to Raymond Terrace, wishing them an enjoyable and productive day. A short Hunter Chapter meeting was followed by the Australian Dress Register workshop, presented by Kate Chidlow, a conservation officer from the Powerhouse Museum, Sydney. Thanks to the use of Council technology Kate was able to display the site on a large screen enabling her to take us through the program and ex-lain various aspects using already entered material. We then gathered around a large table on which an item from our collection, Mrs Windeyer's day dress, was displayed. An informative and interesting hour followed during which we examined the dress and proceeded through the process of actually entering the data onto the Register. There was not enough time to complete the entry, but everyone found the experience helpful and worthwhile. Kate was impressed by the dressmaking knowledge of some of our participants. I learned a lot about the construction of the dress. We then adjourned to Sketchley Cottage for a delicious BBQ lunch prepared by the RTHS Committee members. This was also the Hunter Chapter Christmas function. The afternoon was spent in the main room of Sketchley Cottage learning from Nitsa (from the Powerhouse Museum photographic department) simple techniques for obtaining the necessary high resolution photographs of the dress to enter onto the Register website. After putting the dress on one of our mannequins she hung a large dark grey cloth across the bedroom doorway. This was the backdrop against which photographs of the dress were taken from all angles. The beauty of using digital photography was that results could be seen instantly. Use of flash and light enhancing reflections was also demonstrated. Nitsa made what seemed like a daunting process look easy, although she emphasized the need to follow the camera instruction book suggestions. Everyone who attended the both workshops found them enjoyable and informative. We were all very grateful to the Powerhouse Museum for providing this opportunity for people from outside Sydney to participate in the program and gain knowledge from presenters with the skill Kate and Nitsa offered. They both complemented our Society on the presentation of the Cottage, Museum and grounds, saying its appearance and quality of displays is a credit to us. Coming from professionals who have visited many small volunteer run Museums during the course of their work this was gratifying to hear. Due to late notification of numbers from Hunter Chapter I did not have time to organize professional caterers which had been the intention. My sincere thanks to Moira, Faye, Boris, Glenys and Peter for helping at short notice. Thanks also to Glenys for arranging the use of the Council Chambers and organizing morning tea.

Sue Sokoloff.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE RESEARCH ROOM.

The Research Team would like to wish all members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a bright and healthy New Year.

Stay safe, love and best wishes from Elaine and the Team.
See you all in 2011.

The Research Rooms will be closed for a Christmas break from :-
2pm on Wednesday 15th December 2010 till
9.30 on Monday 10th January 2011.

Can You Help?

I am looking for information on the Knight family.
Vera Knight married 1915 in Newcastle, Frank Ralston who was born 1894 and died 1945 at Mayfield.
Frank and Vera ran Ralston's Garage which was next to the Junction Inn where the Bottle Shop is now.

If anyone has any information that might help, can they please be in touch with Elaine on 49873477 or email to elainehall@bigpond.com

FROM THE MAITLAND MERCURY

3 MARCH 1866

A girl named Mary Ryan appeared before the bench at West Maitland on Thursday charged with stealing watermelons from the garden of E.P.Capper, in Free Church Street. It was proved that the girl was helped over the fence by another named Kate Staunton and that she took the melon, which Staunton received, and it was divided amongst eight or nine children. The defendant was cautioned, fined one shilling (the value of the melon) and a penalty of 5 shillings: in default of payment, one week's imprisonment

NATION'S FIRST POTTER

James King, the man who founded Australia's oldest pottery near Raymond Terrace, arrived in Australia from Scotland, in March 1837. He set up as a general merchant in King Street, Sydney and sold glassware he had brought with him from his home land.

A year later he was granted about 760 hectares eight kilometres north of Raymond Terrace. He called the property Irrawang and grew grain and raised cattle. Four years later he planted a few hectares with grapevines from Spain, France and Portugal. And in 1836 produced his first wine. The annual output was confined to about 9000 litres. His wines received high praise both in NSW and Europe.

He won first prize and a gold medal for dry white wine and a gold medal for light sparkling wine at the Horticultural Society's autumn show in Sydney. King also won a silver medal first call for his wines at the Natural Exhibition of Industrial Products of NSW in Sydney, and a medal at the Paris Exhibition. He was a man of many industrial and commercial interests, but wine making always remained his first love. By 1834 King had given up his offices in Sydney and taken up residence at Irrawang to devote more attention to his vineyards and pottery.

His pottery was simply a commercial venture. A practical man, King wrote "I intend to manufacture only such coarse bulky articles that the mere price of the freight from England hitherto excluded them from the colony." He brought potters from England and because Irrawang pottery was so good that orders exceeded production. In a tale so often told in Australia's history, the gold rushes of the 1850s enticed workers, and the resulting high price of labour made production unprofitable and the pottery stopped production. In 1854, 30 pieces of Irrawang pottery was exhibited in Sydney, with other products sent to the Paris Exhibition. King exhibited a water filter, two carafes with covers, four porous blue coolers, a candlestick, jugs of various patterns, stone baking dishes, a fruit bottle and a liquor. He was awarded a bronze medal.

James King, by now in ill-health, returned to England in 1855 in the hope of effecting a cure. He died in London two years later. He had four children, of whom only Edward James King survived to adulthood, married Alice Eliza Rosalia Bransby in Sydney in 1874 and they had 2 sons and 2 daughters. All married, but one son died childless. The other son, William Gordon King married and had two children, William and Elizabeth. Both married and have families in Sydney. The two daughters also married in Sydney, and each had 2 daughters and a son. One of these sons and his family are living on part of the Irrawang estate.

Article written by Malcolm McFarlane, a direct descendant of James King
Port Stephens Examiner - 1978