

# ASHFIELD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SERIES 5 NO. 1  
MARCH 2021



Image: Suzy Hazelwood from Pexels



Wading through archive boxes a thing of the past with digitisation

Image: Land Registry Services Webpage

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members

I trust you had a relaxing and peaceful Easter Break. In this first edition of the Newsletter for 2021, we provide an update on the AGM held in February 2021 and a look back at some recent successful events. We are very fortunate the Covid infection rates in our community are now close to zero. Consequently, we are also cautiously preparing some new member events which will enable us to share local history stories again.

Our next event is open to members and non-members, so why don't you bring your neighbours along to hear some interesting discussion about heritage management on Sunday 16 May for a Panel Discussion on *Managing Heritage – Applying the Burra Charter*. Further details are in the Events section below.

Also I have some fabulous news. Early this year Amie Zar, the Community History and Heritage Coordinator at Inner West Council agreed to fund the digitisation of the *Ashfield Advertiser*. The Advertiser was a local newspaper that commenced in January 1888 and ran until December 1909. It reported on all manner of local events such as public meetings, sporting events, political rallies, election results, news from all sources, extensive advertising, house lettings and classifieds. The digitisation is wordsearchable.

Another significant resource we have is the Ashfield Council Minutes of Meetings, from the first Council meeting in 1872 all the way through to 2005. This is also fully wordsearchable.

All of these digital resources, and many more, are available to ADHS members, and accessible in our rooms at *Thirning Villa*, Arthur Street, Ashfield. They are a great way to find out what was going on in our neighbourhoods in days of old.

I hope to meet you at our rooms or at one of our events soon.

Regards, Mark

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FEBRUARY 2021

The Society's AGM was held on **Sunday 21 February 2021** at the Pratten Park Community, Sports and Bowling Club, Arthur Street Ashfield.

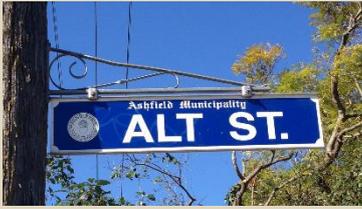


Image: David Morgan

Committee member **David Morgan** presented a wonderful talk: *Augustus Alt - The first Surveyor-General of NSW and aristocrat, soldier, engineer...mercenary!*

**Augustus Alt's** life began in upper-class London in 1734, ended in Parramatta in 1815, and included a period in the Ashfield area. His life had been one of adventure across Europe as an army officer, surveyor, engineer and mercenary. One of the oldest members of the First Fleet, he suffered ill health soon after his arrival and it is unclear just how much surveying was done by him personally. His key role may have been as an advisor to Governor Phillip on land matters. He would describe his life as 'chequered with vicissitudes and oppressed with unmerited calamities.'

Reports on the activities of the Society in 2020 were presented by the President and Treasurer, and are available on <https://ashfieldhistory.org.au/reports/>



The Society's 2021 AGM at Pratten Park was very well attended

Image: Mark Sabolch



Mark Sabolch, David Morgan and Members and the wonderful afternoon tea at the AGM

Images: Colin Webb

We welcome our new Committee for 2021:

<b>President</b>	<b>Mark Sabolch</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Alex Lofts</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Carolyn Carter</b>
<b>Heritage Officer</b>	<b>David Rollinson</b>
<b>Research and Journal Preparation</b>	<b>Ann O'Connell</b>
<b>Rooms Co-ordinator</b>	<b>Clare Herscovitch</b>
<b>Events Co-ordinator/s</b>	<b>Lois Gray, Jan Williams &amp; Paul Williams</b>
<b>Minutes Secretary</b>	<b>Murray Cleaver</b>
<b>Rooms IT Officer</b>	<b>Philip Lingard</b>
<b>Web Manager</b>	<b>Colin Webb</b>
<b>Newsletter Production</b>	<b>Heather Warton</b>
<b>Public Officer</b>	<b>David Rollinson</b>
<b>Communications checkers/editors</b>	<b>David Rollinson, Clare Herscovitch &amp; Bernadette Williamson</b>

## RECENT EVENTS

### Chris Pratten's Tales of Frederick Clissold

On Sunday 21 March, Life Member of the Society and esteemed expert Ashfield's history and architecture, **Chris Pratten** presented *Frederick Clissold – Was he Ashfield's richest man in the Nineteenth Century?*



The Clissold Family  
Image: The collection of ADHS



Chris taking questions after his talk at the Pratten Lectern  
Image: Colin Webb



The Clissold Grave at Rookwood Cemetery  
Source: Find a Grave Website  
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/188440481/frederick-clissold>

**Bernadette Williamson** has provided a lively account of the event:

Members and friends packed into Pratten Park Bowling Club on a wet Sunday afternoon, eager to hear Chris Pratten answer this question in his inimitable style.

Frederick Clissold did not travel an easy road to riches. Born in Gloucestershire in 1831, at the age of six he emigrated with his parents to Australia. During the voyage, Frederick survived a shipboard measles epidemic which killed 70 other children, including his younger sister.

Frederick attended Grantham House Academy in Glebe while his father, John, worked at Robert Cooper's distillery before setting up as a fellmonger (detaching wool from sheepskins) in nearby Blackwattle Swamp. Tragically, Frederick's mother suicided in 1847 and in 1850 his father was declared bankrupt. After John died in 1857, Frederick carried on the fellmongering business under his own name.

Municipal initiatives to clean up the Blackwattle Swamp area prompted Frederick to move operations to Waterloo, then Botany and finally the Cook's River. Here, Clissold and partner George Hill set up a wool-scouring plant on the southern bank, opposite the



Entry Gate to Mountjoy, Victoria Street Ashfield  
Image: Colin Webb

Australian Sugar Company's mill at Canterbury. This successful operation eventually closed in 1874.

With his profits, Clissold invested in goldmines at Hill End and pastoral stations on the Liverpool Plains. He bought property to subdivide in the Blue Mountains and in Sydney, including the Ashfield district.

He did not move to Ashfield until 1872 when he bought **Mountjoy**, which still stands in Victoria Street. That year he was also elected to the first Ashfield Borough Council as one of six aldermen. He was also a founder and steward of Canterbury Park Racecourse and owned racehorses.

One of his acquisitions was the house Farleigh and a large block of land bounded by present-day Clissold Street, Holden Street, Queen Street and Seaview Street. Clissold subdivided the land into 51 lots in 1881 and moved to Farleigh itself around 1883 while managing his next project on Victoria Street.

**Glentworth**, the biggest house in Ashfield, was completed in 1886-7. Even Clissold's large family could not fill the splendid showpiece which still graces the corner of Victoria and Clissold streets. However, its builder would not enjoy his mansion for long. After returning home from a race meeting at Canterbury Park in 1892, he died of a stroke.

Annie Clissold continued to live at Glentworth for another twenty years before selling the mansion to the Sisters of the Good Shepherd who added the beautiful chapel in 1942. Now part of Cardinal Freeman Retirement Village, the grand façade of Glentworth is again exposed to the admiring gaze of passers-by as its builder would have wished.

Chris Pratten concluded he has no doubt Frederick Clissold was indeed Ashfield's wealthiest citizen of the 19th century.

Thanks to Chris for his enlightening and entertaining talk.

At the event, **Colin Webb** presented the Society with a wonderful bespoke handcrafted lectern, engraved in honour of **Chris Pratten**, for use by the Society at future events. Chris was reportedly thrilled with the gesture.

## The Chris Pratten Lectern



The Chris Pratten Lectern made by Colin Webb  
Image: Heather Warton

## FUTURE EVENTS

**THIS SUNDAY 18 April 2021**

A Guided Walk: Victoria Street, Ashfield Part I

**[NOW FULLY BOOKED]**

The targeted figure for attendance has been reached, but contact

[events@ashfieldhistory.org.au](mailto:events@ashfieldhistory.org.au)

to register your interest for the Victoria Street Part II walk that will be held in September 2021.

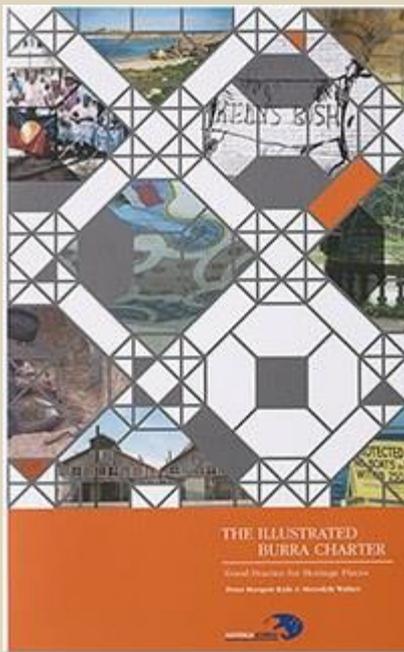


Image: Wikipedia

**Sunday 16 May 2021**

## Managing Local Heritage: Applying the Burra Charter

*The Burra Charter provides guidance for the conservation and management of places of cultural significance (cultural heritage places), and is based on the knowledge and experience of Australia ICOMOS members. Conservation is an integral part of the management of places of cultural significance and is an ongoing responsibility. The Charter sets a standard of practice for those who provide advice, make decisions about, or undertake works to places of cultural significance, including owners, managers and custodians.*

Source: [The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance - ICOMOS Open Archive: EPrints on Cultural Heritage](#)

Members and the Public are invited to join us for an engaging afternoon discussing the process of managing our built heritage. Members of our discussion panel will be:

- **Sue Jackson-Stepowski**, An introduction to the Burra Charter using visual examples
- **Alan Croker**, Design 5 Architects about applying the principles to built heritage
- **Alex Lofts**, personal experiences and lessons learned from the former Ashfield Council.

Sue and Alan have been members of the Australian ICOMOS National Executive After the panel discussion, the meeting will open up to discussion with the audience.

**Time:** 2pm

**Venue:** Pratten Park Community, Sports and Bowling Club, Arthur Street Ashfield

**Cost:** \$5 members; \$10 non – members.

**Registration by 14 May 2021**

**RSVP to:** [events@ashfieldhistory.org.au](mailto:events@ashfieldhistory.org.au) .

*Quong Tart's home Gallop House in Arthur Street and now the Uniting Church Quong Tart Nursing Home*



Image: Lois Gray



Image: The Coast Community News September 29 2020

**Sunday 20 June 2021**

## Talk by Patricia Skehan: *The Other Pandemic: The Spanish Flu in the Inner West*

**Time:** 2pm

**Venue:** Pratten Park Community, Sports and Bowling Club, Arthur Street Ashfield

**Cost:** \$5 members; non-members \$10.

**Patricia Skehan** is the author of *Frontline of the Pandemic Australia 1919*. Her book was reviewed in the December Newsletter.

**RSVP to:** [events@ashfieldhistory.org.au](mailto:events@ashfieldhistory.org.au) .



Ambleside Ashfield  
Image: Heather Warton

*Details of these events will be posted on the Society's webpage [www.ashfieldhistory.org](http://www.ashfieldhistory.org) Please note registration is essential.*

## SAVE THE DATE FOR FUTURE EVENTS IN 2021

- **July 2021 – Weekday Guided Visit to Caroline Simpson Library and Research Collection, The Mint 10 Macquarie St Sydney.**  
This will be a 'Members Only' event and numbers will be limited. Attendees to meet at the Library.
- **22 August 2021 – House Inspection 'Ambleside' – Queen St Ashfield**  
Numbers will be restricted to a maximum of 25, preferably for those who have not visited before. \$5 entry fee
- **19 September 2021 – Victoria St Walk Part 2**  
Registration aimed for those who have not previously attended - \$5 fee.
- **17 October 2021 – Tour - Who's Who at St John the Baptist Anglican Church Cemetery, Alt Street Ashfield.**  
Ann O'Connell to lead with assistance from others. The tour to be followed by afternoon tea in the Church grounds.
- **14 November 2021 - ADHS Book Launch**  
Details to be advised.
- **5 December – Christmas Trivia Quiz function**  
Hosted by Quiz Master, David Morgan. Further details to be advised.

## OTHER EVENTS

### Australian Heritage Festival

The National Trust has information on events for the Festival:  
*Commencing on World Heritage Day and running from 18 April to 19 May 2021, the Australian Heritage Festival is an opportunity for all the community to organise events and exhibitions, gather stories and tell them, celebrate through ceremony and performances, share knowledge through talks, walks and tours, and have fun bringing heritage to life.*  
See the National Trust's website for information on the events:

[Welcome to the Australian Heritage Festival in New South Wales – National Trust](#)

The Society's **Victoria Street Walk Part I** and **Managing Local Heritage – Applying the Burra Charter** listed above are Festival events, consistent with the theme ***Our Heritage, Our Future.***

*The entry gates to Mountjoy, Victoria Street Ashfield a former home of Frederick Clissold*



Image: Colin Webb



Online Talk:  
Tulkiyan, Gordon -  
Historic House and  
Collection

21 Apr 2021, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM  
A major aspect of the HHA's work at Tulkiyan has been the conservation of the interiors of the house and its collections. To give insight into this work and into the extent and richness of the collections, the HHA is presenting a webinar with three of the specialists involved in the project.

Recording of a panel discussion previously held over Zoom on 21 Oct 2020.

This special presentation for Ku-ring-gai Heritage Festival will be streamed live and FREE to all over our Social Media.

Source: HHA website:

[Upcoming Events | HHA](#)



Amesbury post the December 2020 fire  
Image: Colin Webb

## Tulkiyan Talk

Clare Herscovitch has identified that our members may be interested in a talk hosted by the **Historic Houses Association of Australia** (HHA) about **Tulkiyan**, described as being one of the few remaining Arts and Crafts houses on the North Shore of Sydney, located in Gordon. See [Tulkiyan - Wikipedia](#) for the history of the house, which is connected to the **Mungo Scott** family. **There is a free online talk offered by HHA on April 21 2021** and two open days. Register for the talk at

[Historic Houses Association of Australia - Tulkiyan, Gordon: Historic House and Collection \(wildapricot.org\)](http://wildapricot.org)

## HERITAGE UPDATE

**David Rollinson**, Heritage Officer reports on some recent development applications (DA) lodged with Inner West Council:

- David reviewed a DA to erect a first floor addition on top of the single storey bungalow at **12 Ranger Road, Croydon**. Ranger Road is in a Heritage Conservation Area which extends across into Burwood Council area. It is almost exclusively single storey Californian bungalows and this is the character to be observed in the Council's DCP controls. It would be outrageous to approve the DA. David lodged an objection on ADHS behalf.
- A DA and accompanying Heritage Report has been lodged to rebuild/restore the tower of **Amesbury** with copper sheeting. It appears the brickwork is sound and the terracotta panels near the top require little remedial work. There has been some ceiling panel damage to the top residential level (due to water penetration in putting out the fire) but no other damage to the interiors, it seems. That said, photos show all floor coverings have been stripped out and the interiors (for the most part painted white already) are to be repainted - white.
- Another DA has been lodged to redevelop the Commonwealth Bank building in **Lackey Street, Summer Hill**. The proposed external appearance appears satisfactory, but there are town planning concerns (parking, access, pedestrian safety).
- Last September a resident of Wallace St, Ashfield contacted ADHS on behalf of herself and neighbours about a DA to demolish the existing 2 storey dual occupancy at **5 Bruce St Ashfield**, a site located in a conservation area. The proposal was to erect a 4 storey block of 16 home units.

David made some suggestions regarding areas of concern she might address re impact on the conservation area but noted that the existing building had little of value heritage-wise. However David did advise Council at the time that he did not think there was a legal basis to consider the DA as the use proposed was prohibited under the zoning and he didn't think the site had any existing-use rights. David suggested Council get a legal opinion.

The Applicant provided Council with more substantiation (which included a legal opinion from a barrister and legal argument from its solicitor). The DA was recommended by Council staff for approval on merit/legal grounds to the **Inner West Local Planning Panel** at the meeting held on 16 March 2021.

The Panel decided that there was no legal basis to consider the DA as there was no existing use rights - the DA was refused. Over 30 local residents had objected to the DA, many raising heritage concerns.

# HAPPENINGS AT THE ADHS RESEARCH ROOMS

Clare Herscovitch, Rooms Co-ordinator, advises that:

- The ADHS database has been stripped of virtually all the large images that are in the images folder. The smaller images can now be gradually attached. The database has halved in size since the images have been removed.
- Photographic negatives of photographs of Ashfield events and people donated by **Sean Creer** have been sorted. Clare has spoken to Sean to thank him for the donation and a formal letter of thanks from the Society will follow.
- The ADHS has retained a good collection of images of locally relevant events, places and people for curation. Anni Turnbull (images curator) and Paul Wilson (archivist) from the **Powerhouse Museum** came to look at those set aside as relevant to fashion and technology & design. They are very interested to have them in their collection.
- Clare has donated images in the ADHS Collection not directly relevant to Ashfield and District to the Canterbury & District Historical Society, Strathfield Historical Society, Burwood Historical Society, Gosford Local Studies, Library & Archives Northern Territory and Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Archives, and more will be going to City of Sydney and Canada Bay Councils.



The Research Rooms has a large collection of photographs of historic Ashfield

Source: ADHS Collection

## DONATION OF RESOURCES

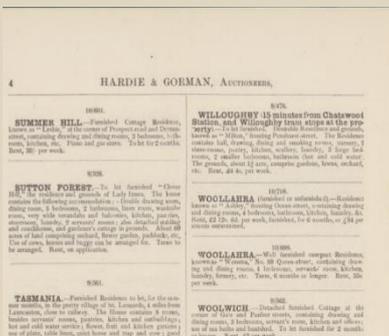
Our esteemed Architectural Historian, **Robert Irving**, OAM, MArch, FRAHS, has kindly given our Society a selection of resource materials drawn from his many years of Heritage work in the Ashfield area.

These CDs are listed here:

- Ashfield Heritage Inventory 2010
- Ashfield Heritage Review, Stages 1 – 3
- Ashfield Heritage Review, Stage 2 – Ashfield North
- Ashfield Heritage Review, Stage 3 – Summer Hill (3 CDs including Inventory Sheets, Conservation Areas & Precincts from 7 April 2003, and the Final Report of May 2003)
- Ashfield Heritage Review, Stage 4 – Croydon (Precinct properties and Conservation Areas, November 2003)
- Ashfield Heritage Review, Stages 4 and 5.
- Trinity Grammar Conservation Area
- Ashfield Town Centre.

Bob has also given our Society two other resources for our Research Rooms:

- a copy of *A History of Cooks River* by the late Lesley Muir, reproduced on a CD by the Canterbury and District Historical Society
- a hardcover book produced by the real estate company Hardie and Gorman Pty Ltd that had its 'Offices and Sale Rooms' in Ocean House in Moore Street Sydney. The book is a facsimile edition limited to 1000 copies, printed in 2000, and includes reproductions of the company's monthly sales booklets from 1 April 1918 through to 1 March 1919.



The book is a gem and shows photographs of properties for sale during the period – grand houses, also commercial premises – and many are long gone or their curtilages eaten away by development.

*land and house buying,  
one the great  
preoccupations of  
Australians...*

This is such an interesting book to browse not just for the pictures but for the text – the sales pitches and attitudes to suburban development. As the Foreword written by Max Kelly explains:

*The wealth of information contained here can tell us much of the life and times of a Sydney that has just lived through a war that some called Great, and more recently, had been subjected to a dramatic outbreak of pneumonic influenza. But good times beckoned. The 'Charleston Age' was on its way, most of 'the boys' were returning with high hopes for a better life, and the metropolitan population was growing rapidly. In the post-war world one of the great problems confronting the capital was an acute accommodation shortage. These were but a few of a number of reasons why land and house buying, one the great preoccupations of Australians, could once again begin in earnest.*

We thank Bob Irving once again for his support of our Society.

## Who officially has the right to use the suffix *Esq'*?

In his recent talk, **Chris Pratten** referred to the prominent Ashfield identify:

*Frederick Clissold was an  
Esquire...but what does  
that mean?*

### **Frederick Clissold Esq.**

This promoted Member **Lesley Lisle**, to wonder what the term *Esquire* means. Lesley has written this article on an interesting question on the history of its use.

From British history it seems to be a polite title appended to a man's name when no other title is used, typically in the address of a letter or other documents. The terms of reference in the meaning of 'Esquire' differs in various countries.

The first known use of 'Esquire' (according to the *American Dictionary ref. Merriam Webster.com*) was in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century when its meaning was defined as

- A member of the English gentry ranking below a knight
- A candidate for knighthood serving as shield bearer and attendant to a knight
- Used as a title of courtesy often by attorneys usually placed in its abbreviated form after the surname John R. Smith, Esq.
- Archaic, a landed proprietor.

From *Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia - Commentaries on the Laws of England*: In the United Kingdom, *Esquire* historically was a title of respect accorded to men of higher social rank, particularly members of the landed gentry above the rank of gentleman and below the rank of knight.

### **William Blackstone**

*William Blackstone – Justice of the Common Pleas (held office from 25 June 1770 until 14 February 1780). In his 1826 edition of 'Commentaries on the Law of England' it reiterated that "the title should be limited to those only who bear an office of trust under the Crown and who are styled esquires by the king in their commissions and appointments; and all, he conceived, who are once honoured by the king with the title of esquire have a right to that distinction for life.*

*By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, it came to be used as a general courtesy title for any man in a formal setting, usually as a suffix to his name, as in "Todd Smith, Esq.", with no precise significance. In the United Kingdom today, it is still occasionally used as a written style of address in formal or professional correspondence. In certain formal contexts, it remains an indication of a social status that is recognised in the order of precedence.*



## Modern definition

Oxford Dictionaries provided for the following definition of 'Esquire':

*British: A polite title appended to a man's name when no other title is used, typically in the address of a letter or other documents: J. C. Pearson Esq.*

*North American (chiefly US): A title appended to the surname of a lawyer (of any gender).*

*Historical:*

*A young nobleman who, in training for knighthood, acted as an attendant to a knight. an officer in the service of a king or nobleman.*

*a landed proprietor or country squire: the [lord of the manor](#), Richard Bethell Esquire.*

So, to Lesley, it would seem that Esq. is just an honorific title (in Australia) - used in order to pay an informal compliment to a male recipient by way of implying a high status in society or 'gentle birth' - bearing in mind the respected protocols for identifying those to whom it is thought most proper, that the suffix should be given - especially in very formal or in official circumstances.

## BOOK REVIEWS

### *St David's Haberfield: 150 Years*

by Vincent Crow

**Mark Sabolch** has reviewed **Vincent Crow's** latest Haberfield related publication:

This is a very neatly published book on the history of St David's Church, prepared for its 2019 sesquicentenary history. Vince Crow, a local historian who already has many titles to his name, is to be congratulated in preparing another well-researched local history.

The St David's Church has a prominent place in Haberfield, both physically and culturally. Vince Crow has very successfully interweaved the history of the church with the development of Haberfield the residential suburb, and the involvement of the broader Ramsay family in particular. Just like the Presbyterian church, the Ramsay family were of Scottish descent, and the name for the church, St David, comes from a Scottish King (1124 to 1153AD).

Vince Crow has made strong use of primary sources, such as the Church's own historical committee of management records and delivers an enormous amount of local history facts. One event that surprised this reviewer was the 1887 legal dispute between the Presbyterian Church and the Ramsay family over the land titles of the church site. This eventually led to a Privy Council appeal in London!

If there is a criticism on the book, it is that too many facts impede the flow of the narrative. The book is almost encyclopedic in its documentation of names and events. While this is valuable as an historical record, it makes reading heavy; but isn't the balancing of facts with narrative a perennial challenge for history writers?

The last two chapters, *The foundation of the Ella Community Centre* and *The Uniting Church in Haberfield 1977 to 2019*, touches on the local social history associated with the Church. The welfare and youth support services provided at the Ella Centre could be further researched and explored in much greater detail – possibly for a future publication. This is where a diversity of writers and researchers would be of great value to explore this aspect from multiple interesting viewpoints.

The large number of photographs to support the text is very welcome, although not all are credited. Overall, it is tremendous that our local history is being further documented and released within our community. It is fabulous the way this book links the development of St David's Church with the development of the suburb of Haberfield.

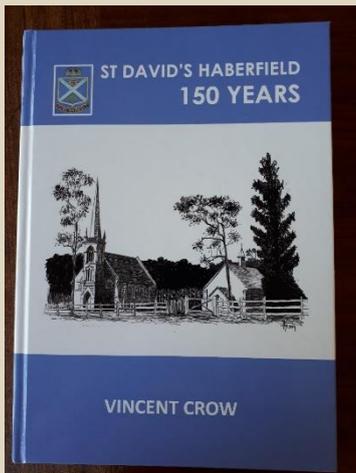


Image: Mark Sabolch

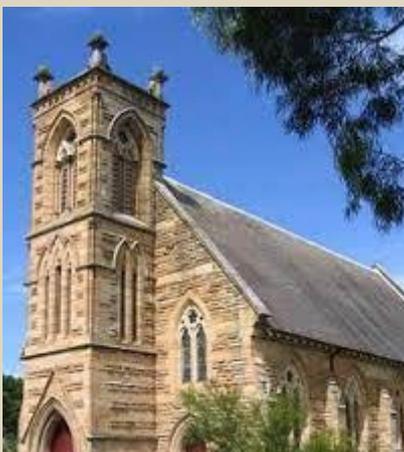


Image: Sydney Presbytery website  
<https://www.sydneypresbytery.org.au>

With each new publication like this, new lines of enquiry emerge for future researchers to follow, picking up the author's footsteps.

From the State Heritage Register listing for St David's Haberfield:

*The St. David's Uniting Church site is of state significance as one of a few surviving examples of a church precinct retaining its original church, hall, manse and private burial ground, all of which is an individual item of high significance located within a relatively expansive and attractive landscaped site. The precinct is significant for reflecting the will for reunion of the schismatic Presbyterian churches in the 1860s, the deeply committed philanthropy of its founders, particularly the Ramsay family, and is associated with a succession of notable ministers, kirk sessions and congregational members. The individual components of the precinct - including church, hall, manse and Vault Reserve – each have notable historic, aesthetic and social significance at both state and local levels, the Ramsay vault in particular being an item of rarity and high value. The spacious grounds within the local area are an attractive landmark and open space within a more highly developed, important suburban precinct of state significance.*

Information on St David's listing on the State Heritage Register:

[St. David's Uniting Church | NSW Environment, Energy and Science](#)

## The Picturesque: Southern Wales and New South Wales

Mark Sabolch has been reading *Observations on the River Wye and Several Parts of South Wales*, by William Gilpin:

I begin this article by acknowledging the Google Books Library Project which has made out-of-copyright books freely accessible on the internet.

*Observations on the River Wye and Several Parts of South Wales* by William Gilpin

The full title of William Gilpin's book, *Observations on the River Wye, And Several Parts of South Wales, Relative Chiefly to Picturesque Beauty, Made in the Summer of 1770*, was an incredibly influential book when it was released over two hundred years ago. Its still a good read.

Gilpin's thesis is that views of the River are very pleasing to the eye when certain rules (handy hints for painting landscape scenery) are in play.

Gilpin's work was so influential in England in the 1790s that it started a whole new aesthetic, the "Picturesque" movement, a precursor to the Romantic Period of the nineteenth century.

At a practical level the Picturesque aesthetic led to the development of professional landscape gardening (Humphry Repton 1752-1819 was one of the chief proponents) and ultimately led to the setting for the first Italianate villa in England (*Cronkhill House* built in 1803, with John Nash as the architect).

The most striking architectural aspect of the Picturesque was the emphasis it placed on the siting of a building within its environment. While this did have enormous impact on European architecture of the nineteenth century, the social consequences of the Picturesque aesthetic still has deep political nuances that continue to be explored in academic study today.

The tangible legacy of this aesthetic is the many Victorian Italianate dwellings scattered all through our Inner West Sydney suburbs. A superb example being *Glentworth House*, the grand home of Frederick Clissold, in Victoria Street, Ashfield. There are many, many others, and some, not all are heritage listed.

Who would have thought that Gilpin's observations in South Wales in 1770, would delight audiences in New South Wales, two hundred years after James Cook gave our land that

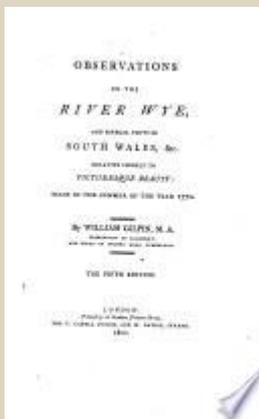
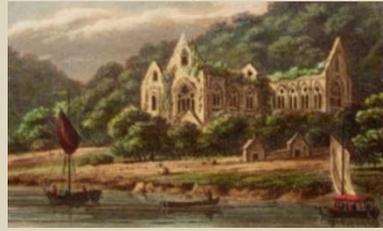


Image: Google books

[https://books.google.com.au/books/about/Observations\\_on\\_the\\_River\\_Wye\\_and\\_Severa.html?id=6kwJAAAAQAAJ&edir\\_esc=y](https://books.google.com.au/books/about/Observations_on_the_River_Wye_and_Severa.html?id=6kwJAAAAQAAJ&edir_esc=y)

name? The original eighteenth century books by William Gilpin (and Humphry Repton and many others) can be read online for free.

Thank you, Google, for making my research come alive!



The Wye Valley, an Area of Outstanding Beauty

Image: Website of the Wye Valley

[Welcome to the Wye Valley](#) | [The Wye Valley AONB](#) (

*Tours in 2020 recreated the 250th anniversary of Gilpin's tour down river from Ross-on-Wye to Chepstow*

## *The Old Hume Highway History begins with a road*

**Murray Cleaver** was reading the newsletter of the RAHS and found an article on the Hume Highway. He contacted his friend **Vince Taranto** who is passionate about transport history – Vince had given a talk to the Society a few years ago about the history of the Gladesville Bridge.

Vince forwarded a link to a presentation of the Hume Highway History, a fabulous HTML web book produced by the **Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) NSW** in 2019, see:

<https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/about/environment/protecting-heritage/old-hume-highway/old-hume-hwy-home.html>

Further material is available at the Transport for NSW's (TfNSW) website:

<https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/about/environment/protecting-heritage/>

Vince advises that we are approaching the 200th anniversary in 2024 of the Hume and Hovell expedition. Something should be done to commemorate it and an option might be to get RAHS to coordinate some events along the route, run by the local history groups (possibly with some TfNSW support).

### **Section 1 Southbound**

Ashfield to Carnes Hill



The Hume Highway begins at Ashfield  
Extract from *The Old Hume Highway*  
Source: Online book website, RMS 2019



## Family History at the State Library

# Starting Family History Research

LIFELONG LEARNING

Wednesday 12 May 2021, 10.30-11.30

Online via Zoom

Cost: \$10

Family history can reveal surprising and sometimes moving lost stories that enhance an individual's understanding of who they are. In this session we will introduce you to the State Library's diverse family history collections, both online and onsite.

Participants will receive a PDF handout of the key elements covered in the session.

Presented by Renee McGann & Durgesh Soni, Information & Access Librarians.

*From the April 2021 newsletter of the State Library New South Wales: a course is running in May on Family History Research.*

## Powerhouse Museum Alliance

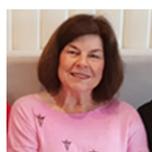
**Grace Cochrane** from the **Powerhouse Museum Alliance** (PMA) visited the ADHS Rooms in February 2021 and provided an update on future of the Powerhouse Museum and the move to Parramatta. The news page for recent events and issues to do with plans for both Parramatta and Ultimo sites of the Powerhouse Museum. For an update, see:

<https://powerhousemuseumalliance.com/>

Go to News Chronology 2020 to now; and the Facebook link, on the PMA home page.

## Inner West Council honours Lois Gray

The Inner West Council celebrated International Women's Day 2021 with an on-line Honour Board. Among those honoured was long-standing Society Committee Member, **Lois Gray**:



**Lois Gray**

Celebrating Lois Gray for her volunteer work, leadership, guidance and passion with the Ashfield Community Garden and Historical Society.

Source: Inner West Council Website: [Womens Honour Roll - Inner West Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/womens-honour-roll)

*In 2021 we celebrated local First Nations women and girls who bring over 60,000 years of resilience and survival to this community as well as 150+ individual women and girls. This year's focus is on the contributions of all women and girls. Connecting, supporting and inspiring each other, creating a sisterhood of strength.*

## Call for Community Members of the Inner West Local Planning Panel

The Inner West Council is seeking applications for residents to become a member of the Inner West Planning Panel. For the application form and further details see Council's website. Applications close on 2 May 2021.

<https://ejrf.fa.ap1.oraclecloud.com/hcmUI/CandidateExperience/en/sites/CX/requisitions/preview/1000240>



March 8 2021

*The Society has a new logo!*



PO Box 20 ASHFIELD 1800

Email: [adhs@ashfieldhistory.org.au](mailto:adhs@ashfieldhistory.org.au)

Website: <https://ashfieldhistory.org.au>

Committee members **Carolyn Carter, Colin Webb & Bernadette Williamson** have worked on updating the branding of the Society, including the design of a new logo.

After reviewing seven quotes, **Lisa Lonsdale**, from Cinch Creative who designed *Preserving Their Names* for ADHS was selected to prepare some concepts leading to the design of the logo. We are lucky that Lisa is a fan of Ashfield, having grown up here, attended Bethlehem College, her parents now at Cardinal Freeman, other relatives living in Federation houses in the district.

## RESEARCH ROOMS

The Society's Rooms at Thirning Villa, Pratten Park in Arthur Street Ashfield are open to visit for research purposes.

The Rooms are open twice a month on the second and last Saturday. We have hand sanitiser and we limit visitor numbers to maintain social distancing

**The next Rooms Open Day will be on Saturday 24 April 2021**

*At the March 2021 Committee Meeting a policy on fees for research and other services assisted by the volunteers using the resources at the Society's Rooms was adopted:*

## ADHS Research Fee Policy

### NON-MEMBERS

- Access to the Society's resources: \$20 per hour or part hour.

### PROFESSIONAL RESEARCHERS (consultants, architects, advisors etc)

- The professional purpose of the researcher must be clear to the Society. An understanding of the conditions of providing items from the ADHS collections must be agreed to and the researcher will sign the undertaking. The researcher will provide a copy of their outcomes to the Society.
- Access to the Society's resources: \$30 per hour or part hour

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2021 IS NOW DUE

Please visit our website to renew your membership for 2021:

<https://ashfieldhistory.org.au/membership-application/>

## CONTACT THE SOCIETY

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*Edited by*

*Heather Warton*

Thank you to the contributors to this Newsletter

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