

Newsletter

JUNE-JULY 2025 I SERIES 5 I NO. 18

President's message

Dear Members

Welcome to our newsletter packed with reports of the Society's activities and the good things to come.

Firstly, on July 27 we have 'Under the Big Top a History of Circus' by **Dr Mark St Leon**. Like many of us, I have strong memories of the circus coming to town, travel-grimed caravans and trucks arriving in the local park, the Big Top going up, circus kids you wouldn't mess with coming for a few days to our school, tethered elephants, monkeys.

The huge lion endlessly pacing behind bars, whose stride, in memory, is similar to the poet, Ted Hughes images of a caged Jaguar. That 'wilderness of freedom' the animal sees. 'The world 'which 'rolls under the long thrust of his heel' and that 'Over the cage floor horizons come'.

We have rightly changed our attitudes towards animals but there is also a legacy of skill and risk, of romance, so children and others can still laugh and be thrilled.

Next, the much-respected **Peter Kaye**, whose leadership has helped the State Emergency Service evolve into a vital, professionally trained volunteer organization, to which so many have looked in time of danger and need. Peter will help us celebrate fifty years of SES service to the community.

Later, in September, **Hall Greenland**, from Friends of Callan Park, will lead a tour of this historic precinct. In October, the Female Factory Friends will conduct an onsite tour of that institution of our past, and those stories of resilience and change. These tours, organized by the relevant groups, will highlight the importance of those places in our history and the changes in societal attitudes.

President's message

Enjoy reports of our very successful recent events *The Squatters Grab* by **Wal Walker** and *Inviolable but Invisible* by **Dr. Martin Sharpe**.

*And yet there's so much more
Step right up!*

Read about the photographic gems of the State library by **Clare Herscovitch and Kerrie Barlow**; about a home found at last for the Cameo Photograph Collection by **Clare Herscovitch**; and book reviews by **Ann O'Connell**.

Importantly, as detailed in **David Rollinson's** Heritage Report, while public consultation for Council's Our Fairer Future Plan has ended, changes to the LEP to significantly increase residential densities in some areas, are yet to be debated, sometime later this year, at a Council meeting,

Thank you to all our contributors and to Heather Warton for all the work put into compiling this newsletter.

Alex Lofts



Future events

Under the Big Top: Circus in Australia 1847-2025

27 July 2025

2pm - 4pm

Summer Hill Community Centre

A talk by Dr Mark St Leon

Our next event is a look at the history of the circus in Australia by a member of one of the founding families of circus in Australia. **Dr Mark St Leon** is descended from one of Australia's earliest circus families, and is the author of the definitive history of circus in Australia, *Circus: The Australian Story* (Melbourne Books, 2011).

Mark's research for the Australia Council into the overall state of the nation's circus industry led to the Circus Summit, convened in Melbourne in 1991, the first national conference of circus people, which resulted in the establishment of a national circus school, the National Institute of Circus Arts.

He devised and launched the 'AMAG' concept, the Arts Management Advisory Groups. The Sydney branch 'SAMAG' is now in its 34th year of continuous, non-profit operation.

Mark's illustrated talk will be, as usual, followed by some light refreshment.

Register here:

<https://ashfieldhistory.org.au/event/history-of-the-circus-in-australia-a-talk-by-dr-mark-st-leon/>

Coming to Our Rescue: Seventy years of the SES

24 August 2025

2pm - 4pm

Summer Hill Community Centre

Presented by Peter Kaye

Peter Kaye, a retired Commander of the State Emergency Service Ashfield branch has undertaken to address us on the History of the Service in our area. This links well with the State Government History Week in early September - theme Water Stories, recalling the Service's beginnings in the catastrophic Hunter River floods of the 1950s.

He has a wealth of experience in dealing with the results of disasters in our community, and we can expect many anecdotes garnered from his time in the service.



There has been a real flurry of activity in our Rooms recently as research by SES members has uncovered some fascinating local information.

Register here:

<https://ashfieldhistory.org.au/event/coming-to-our-rescue-seventy-years-of-the-ses/>

The History and Drama of Callan Park

28 September 2025

2pm – 4pm

Meeting point:

The Writers Centre -

A tour led by Hall Greenland

Callan Park is one of the largest heritage cultural landscapes in the metropolitan area, increasingly threatened by development plans. We are privileged to have **Hall Greenland**, Friends of Callan Park President, taking our group through significant parts of the site, starting at the c1839 Garry Owen House, the original estate mansion (later renamed Callan Park House - which gave its name to the asylum).

We will circle the original asylum - *Kirkbride*, walk past the Convalescent Cottages (part of James Barnet's original plan), on to Callan Point, then past the 1931 Sydney Harbour Bridge War Memorial designed by **Douglas Grant**. We next visit *Broughton Hall*, the adjacent psychiatric clinic with its glorious horticulture specimens and depression era stonework.

The tour will discuss the site's rich and storied history from Indigenous presence at the site to the most recent changes. The changes are the demolition of veterans' foreshore wards to generate foreshore parkland, and the most recent proposal for the demolition of buildings in the middle of the landscape.

The Friends of Callan Park have published three books on Callan Park, all will be available at the bargain price of \$10 each. Their tour fee is \$25.00 per person, payable directly to The Friends of Callan Park.

Register here:

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

Visit to the Parramatta Female Factory

25 October 2025

10am

Meeting point: Bicentenary Memorial Wall in Greenup Drive

Concurrent with this year's 198th annual Riot Day organised by the **Parramatta Female Factory Friends**.

Riot Day is one of the rare occasions when access to interiors of some of the buildings is possible, so we have arranged to have a special guided tour.

This tour brings to life the extraordinary stories of the women and children who shaped our nation's early history - in a place that echoes with resilience, reform, and change.



The Parramatta Female Factory is one of Australia's significant Historic sites. Dating from 1818, it's a **Francis Greenway** design, commissioned by **Governor Macquarie** to house and employ many of the 25 thousand female convicts transported to Australia, and who feature in the family trees of many Australians. The site is currently threatened by potential unsympathetic development.

Public Transport to the site is straightforward. From Parramatta Rail Station it's 5 minute walk to Parramatta Square Light Rail stop, with a tram every 10 minutes to Ngara stop, where a short walk sees you in the heart of the precinct. Parking on site is not available, and much of the surrounding street parking is limited to 4 hours



Image: <https://femalefactoryonline.org/image-archive/>

There will be a range of activities and speakers throughout the day. The Riot Days have proven very popular, so a dedicated tour is a favourable gain. We expect various catering options will be available on this day, otherwise Havenstone Café or Parramatta Leagues are nearby for those who wish to fully experience the activities on offer.

The Friend's charge for these tours is normally \$20, but we may negotiate a discount. More details in due course, as arrangements are fine-tuned. **Register here:**

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

We need an indication of numbers by the end of September.

Past events

Photographic gems of the State Library

16 April 2025

What a fascinating talk and tour we had at the State Library of New South Wales. Our guide, **Geoff Barker**, is a senior curator of the pictures collection. He has been an images curator for more than 20 years, the last 10 of which have been at the State Library. His knowledge, enthusiasm and affection for the collection is abundant and infectious.

Geoff gave us an overview of the Library's photo collection - there are more than 2 million items, a vast repository to be managed.

What is a photograph? Geoff put this question to us because the word 'photo' is so misused. A photo has physical dimensions; it is something that can be handled. Anything else is an "image", whether it's dots per inch or digital, whether reproduced in a magazine or on the computer screen.



William Bland portrait, the oldest photograph in the State Library collection

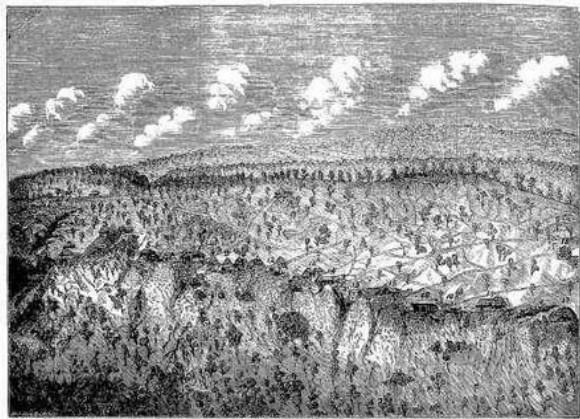
The oldest photograph in the library's collection is a portrait of **William Bland**, after whom Bland Street Ashfield is named. It is a small daguerreotype portrait just 3x2.5 inches (c.7.5x6 cm) in a wooden case. The item arrived at the State Library in 1993, unlabeled and undated. It took quite some research to identify it: by chance, the library uncovered a watercolour portrait of Bland, in the same pose and looking very similar to the photo. Subsequently, the photo was confirmed to be of Dr Bland and taken by **George Baron Goodman** in c.1845. What a wonderful find, and relevant to our own local history.

From its beginning, the State Library has been keenly collecting photographs of all kinds, including by amateurs, well before other institutions. It really was the first institution to do so, as it was the earliest colonial library and the main one until Federation. Repositories such as the National Museum of Australia and the War Memorial were not established for another 130 years or so. Many of the old photographs were acquired incidentally via manuscripts and books in which the photos had been embedded. These were albumen prints individually cut out and pasted into each printed book. The library's earliest example is Watson and Kaye's book, *The people of India*, first printed in 1868.

Before photographs could be reproduced in newspapers, other techniques were used. Geoff's striking example was printed in *The Town and Country Journal* in 1872. This woodcut image showing the gold diggings at Hawkins Hill, near Hill End, was created for the newspaper from a glass plate negative, likely taken by **Beaufoy Merlin**.

Until the 21st century, the photographic image from that glass negative had never been printed. It was seen for the first time, in all its extraordinary detail, more than 150 years after its creation.

Photographic gems of the State Library



The woodcut image published in *The Australian Town and Country Journal*, 18 May 1872, page 16



The Beaufoy Merlin photo of Hawkins Hill, not seen by the public until the 21st century

Later, halftone printing allowed photographs to be reproduced in publications. The State Library's earliest example of halftone printing was a newspaper image on the cover of the *Illustrated Sydney News* in 1890. This "dots per inch" technique is still in use in digital photography.



PICTURESQUE PEEPS IN NEW SOUTH WALES—DOWN THE SOUTH COAST.
1. BARRIO RIBE. 2. THE BEACH AT THE BAY OF WHARF. 3. SOUTH COAST, THE BARRIO RIBE.
(See Magazine on page 15, 16 and 17.)

DOWN THE COAST.

Early example of half-tone printing in *The Illustrated Sydney News*, 19 July 1890, page 1

Harold Cazneaux was one of Australia's best-known photographers of the early 20th century. He was a pioneer who raised perceptions and the appreciation of photography as an art form.

However, it was not until 1967 that a photographic department was established at an Australian cultural institution, the National Gallery of Victoria. The first full-time curator of photography was appointed there in 1972.

Geoff presented examples of work by another Australian photographer, **Robert Donaldson**, who (like many) experimented with effects to enhance his photos.

He was a contributor to *PIX* magazine, amongst other publications, and some of his photos are reproduced at the current exhibition at the State Library of New South Wales:

PIX: The magazine that changed everything (1938–1972).

Photographic gems of the State Library



Robert Donaldson experimenting with halo lighting effects for a magazine photo shoot in his studio, 1953

Effects such as enhancements, colouring, additions and deletions have been in practice since photography's beginnings. When developing negatives, the State Library attempts to follow photographers' instructions where given. Some of the negatives have quite complex instructions, producing striking moods and effects.

Geoff took us down to the photographic collection itself, on the fifth of seven levels below street level. It is an enormous area with row upon row of cabinets and huge compactus filled with photographs, negatives, and photographic transparencies. This is a researcher's paradise!

Some of its well-known and prize collections are the glass plates of the Holtermann Collection, the Freeman Studio Collection of 100,000 glass negatives, and **Hurley's** photographs from the Mawson Antarctic expedition.

There are also many less famous but nevertheless historically important collections, photos by amateurs, and family albums. The State Library collects original works for their historical significance - it does not focus on photographic 'art'.

Geoff gave an interesting and rather tragic aside - and a lesson on the importance of retaining original material! It is well known that cellulose nitrate, used for early film and negatives, is highly combustible. There have been numerous destructive fires, some of which were catastrophic, causing injuries and deaths. Many institutions with these legitimate safety concerns made the decision to copy their cellulose nitrate film collections onto 'safety' film, then destroy the originals. However, it is now known that the risk of combustion, and the deterioration of the cellulose nitrate film, is markedly reduced when stored under the right conditions.

The copies that were made, even at the highest quality possible at the time, are inferior to the quality of reproduction achievable with today's technology, and the technologies continue to develop. The destruction of those original films has destroyed all future opportunities to reproduce the original images at the highest quality. Unfortunately, it is too late for all the cellulose nitrate film which was destroyed after being copied to the 'safe' cellulose acetate (which itself deteriorates with time).

We thank Geoff Barker for a fascinating and very informative guided tour of the pictures collection.

As an addendum, it is with great delight that we can let our members know that the State Library has accepted a large donation of photographic negatives from our Society - see **The Cameo Photographic Collection** article in this newsletter.

Clare Herscovitch and Kerry Barlow

The Squatters' Grab

18 May 2025

Wal Walker addressed the assembled audience of 30 members and guests and spoke about the failure of settlers to honour the directions of the British Government in relation to the Indigenous occupants of the Colony.

Wal's passion for his research was obvious, and he gave sometimes surprising examples of the actions of past generations.

He explained the tension between Government intention and the reality of what occurred in relation to interaction of European and Indigenous groups.

It certainly generated a lot of discussion with him over afternoon tea. We don't often get to see this sort of analysis.

Wal's book *The Squatters Grab* is available for sale for those who missed the event.



Paul Williams
Images: Lois Gray

Inviolable but Invisible: Women at Ashfield, Summer Hill and Croydon Stations

15 June 2025

A gathering of over 30 of the ADHS members and guests were entertained by a talk by **Dr Stuart Sharp**, a historian with a significant railway focus. Stuart discussed the development of Croydon, Ashfield and Summer Hill stations with reference to design and architecture, and the effect on the accessibility and convenience to the travelling public.



Stuart is a well published writer with a particular interest on the inner west rail lines and a broader coverage of rail lines in NSW and south eastern Australia. These include *The Railway Stations of NSW 1855-1980*, 1982; *A Guide to the Railways of N.S.W.*, 1979; *A survey of railway structures*, 1989; *The Railway Heritage of Goulburn*, 2016; and *A guide to interpreting Redfern Railway Station*, 2013.

Stuart gave a good presentation and had a lot of experiential material and anecdotes regarding demolitions, construction and decision-making relevant to rail transport infrastructure planning in NSW and particularly the inner west of Sydney in the most recent forty years.



He entertained those gathered for quite a period of time. Stuart pointed out two common factors that were prominent in his career as a heritage officer in the NSW rail transport system: Politics and money.

His talk was well-received with some lively questions, answers and audience discussion.

Murray Cleaver thanked Dr Sharp for his informative and entertaining talk.



Murray Cleaver
Images Murray Cleaver and Paul Williams

The Cameo Photographics Collection

A home at last

In the ADHS newsletter of September 2021, I described a large collection of photographic negatives which had been donated to the Society in late 2020. After more than 4 ½ years, this collection has at last found a home at the State Library of NSW. This is wonderful news for us at ADHS and for the SLNSW, and by extension will provide a rich resource for anyone with an interest in 1960s fashion, and the social history of Sydney.

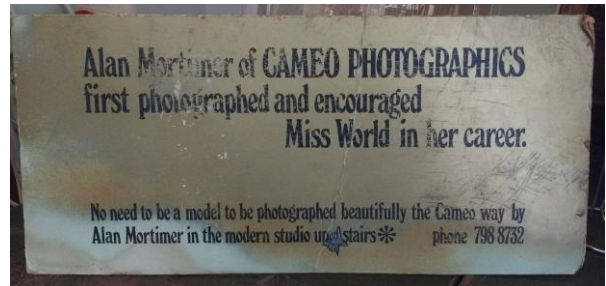
Alan Mortimer was the proprietor of **Cameo Photographics**, which first operated from his home in Chandos Street, Ashfield, from c.1957. The business later moved to 32 Hercules Street, where it remained until c.1983.

This cardboard advertisement, 40 cm long, is in the ADHS collection. Very likely it was displayed in the front window of the Hercules Street address.

When Mortimer left his Hercules Street business premises he left his negatives behind. Happily for us, the next tenant, Sean Creer, did not discard them, so they remained there undisturbed for over 35 years. In October 2020, Sean brought two tea chest sized cartons of negatives to the society's rooms. He rightfully believed the collection would contain material relevant to our local history, and we are grateful that he saw fit to bring it to us.

We sorted as best we could, as there was no accompanying documentation of any kind. A significant amount of material was discarded - this comprised overwhelmingly of wedding photos, most of which did not record dates or locations.

A number of negatives were donated to other institutions, such as the historical societies or local studies of Marrickville, Burwood, Strathfield, City of Canada Bay, Gosford, Bankstown, and Parramatta. Material was also donated to the Library and Archives of the Northern Territory, the Australian Railway Historical Society, Thermoline Scientific Equipment, and the archives of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney.



Many of the negatives in the collection are of aspiring models, some photographed in parks or in the streets, and some indoors. Mortimer did a significant amount of work for **June Dally-Watkins**.



Model and friend

The Cameo Photographics Collection

A good portion of the collection is for advertising products such as furniture, chemicals, filing systems, electronics, photographic equipment, projectors, suitcases, and carpets, to name a few. He also took photographs for the local newspaper, *The Aeroplane Press*.

It is clear that Mortimer was a photographer for *Ashfield 1871-1971*, published by Ashfield Council for the municipality's centenary. However, he was not credited in the book.



Performance of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, presented by Peek Freans, undated

The donation to the State Library is in two parts. The first part is material not relevant to the Ashfield district.

The second part is a smaller collection of negatives that are clearly Ashfield related - park and street scenes from the municipality, local businesses, Liverpool Road parades, Ashfield Bowling Club, mayors and Mayoral Balls, photos related to Peek Freans, Keith Lord, Bank of New South Wales, Chubb, and others.

We plan to produce high quality scans of these negatives before giving them to the State Library

We recognise that the library will not digitise these for possibly many years. All of these local scenes will be a great source of information for our local history.

We have little information about Alan James Mortimer or his wife Shirley, either personally or professionally. It appears that they married in 1956, and that Alan Mortimer died at Swan Hill in 2008, aged 76. The wording of the death notice suggests that he had no living children.



Shop on the corner of Hobbs and Victoria Street, Lewisham, undated

Our many thanks to **Geoff Barker** of the State Library of NSW. He took an interest in our offer, came to the Society's rooms to inspect the collection, supported our offer, and collected the negatives from us.

Alan Mortimer's collection has found a worthy home

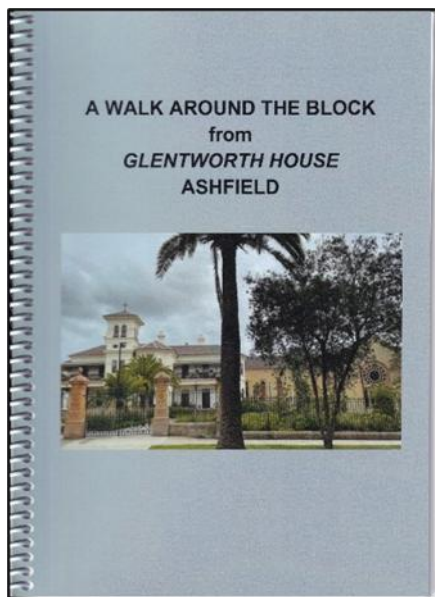
If any of our readers have any information or personal memories they would like to share about the Mortimers or their business, we would be very happy to hear!

Clare Herscovitch

New publications

From Daf Hewson:

A Walk Around the Block from Glentworth House Ashfield



A Walk around the Block from Glentworth House, Ashfield is a guidebook for walkers, which was compiled and written by **Daf Hewson**, a resident of Cardinal Freeman Village, and published in February 2025.

This 34-page book is more than just instructions for a walk as it provides information about *Glentworth's* history which dates back to 1887 when it was built for **Frederick Clissold**.

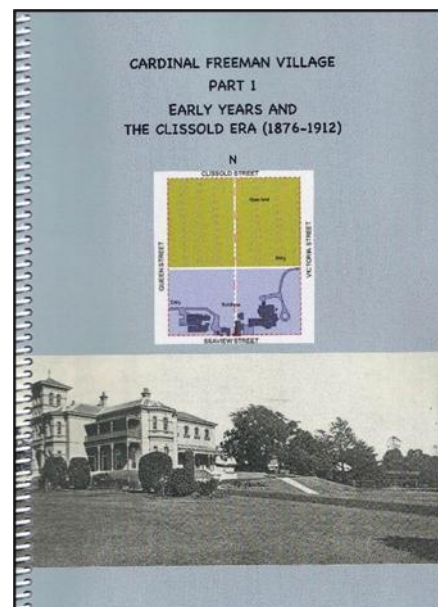
The telling of history continues along the walking path past the many grand houses of *Northridge*, *Coniston*, *Inveran*, *Mountjoy* and of course *Ambleside* (Ashfield Castle) and tells of those now demolished such as *Fernlea*, *Kenilworth*, *Bellevue* and *Holwood*.

The many other features to be seen along this walk are explained including the Harland Estate Heritage Conservation Area, Yeo Park and its bandstand.

The guidebook is well laid out, easy to read and beautifully illustrated with wonderful old and new photographs that bring the walk to life, even if the reader is at home in a comfy chair. Great work Daf!

Daf has been a resident of the 'Village' since 2017, has also been further delving into its interesting history in her retirement and has published another work of history:

Cardinal Freeman Village Part 1 Early Years and the Clissold Era (1876-1912)



She decided to break the history into four parts as each 'era' is complex and rich with construction, additions and alterations to buildings on the site and of course the human stories.

Cardinal Freeman Village Part 1 by Daf Hewson

The four parts of CFV's story will be:

- Part 1: Early Years and the Clissold Era (1876-1912)
- Part 2: The Good Shepherd Era (1913-1977)
- Part 3: The Hibernian/Aevum Era (1977-2010)
- Part 4: The Stockland Era (2010-2022)

The history of the Levande Era (2022- ?) is still in the making.

Daf published Part 1 of the CFV story in February 2025, and she commenced with what is known of the original owners, the Wangal people of the Eora Nation, and how the arrival of the First Fleet caused their displacement from the land.

The early Land Grants (where the CFV would later be built) and successive owners subdivided until **Robert Campbell** sold the land to **Frederick Clissold** and **George Hill** in 1876.

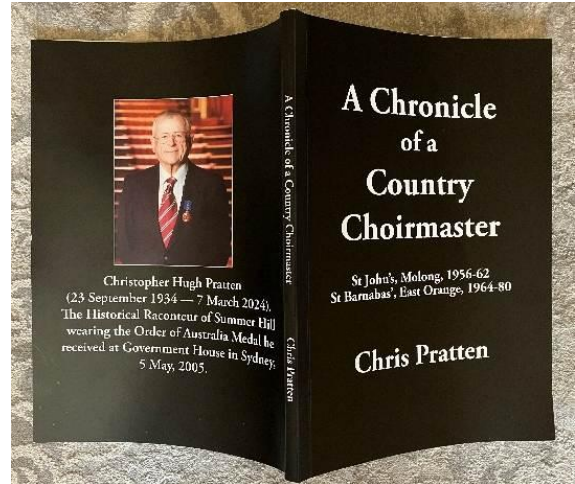
The story develops as a well - referenced tale of the 'Clissold Era' including that of the complicated Clissold family relationships and the mansion, *Glentworth*, that was built in 1887.

There are many wonderful photographs of the interior and exterior of this beautiful old home which reached a turning point when **Annie Clissold** (now a widow) sold *Glentworth* in 1912 – the end of the 'Era'.

This is an interesting and fast-paced book which will appeal to local history enthusiasts as well as the residents of CFV. We look forward to Part 2 when we will learn more about *Glentworth* during the Sisters of the Good Shepherd Era.

Ann O'Connell

A Chronicle of a Country Choirmaster by Chris Pratten



Last year on 7 March, the Society lost a long-time member.

Chris Pratten originally joined in 1986 when he moved to Summer Hill and remained a member until his death – a total of 38 years. Chris threw himself into developing the Society by example: he researched local history, wrote journal articles, enthused new members, lobbied Council on heritage matters and organised many walks, talks and other activities.

For two or three years, Chris' life was winding down as he fought old age and illness. However, he thought it necessary to write of his experiences as a country choirmaster at St John's Molong and St Barnabas' East Orange – a time in his life he remembered with fondness. Sadly, the manuscript for his last 'tome' was unfinished at the time of his sudden passing, but it seemed unanimous among family and friends that it should be published.

After searching in vain for a final copy, **Noel Irving** pulled the various draft copies together and finally the 'Chronicle' was put to press.

A Chronicle of a Country Choirmaster by Chris Pratten

Noel is to be congratulated and sincerely thanked for all his time and effort.

Jenny Pratten financed a limited print run but saw to it that both Chris' country and city friends received copies. Thank you, Jenny.

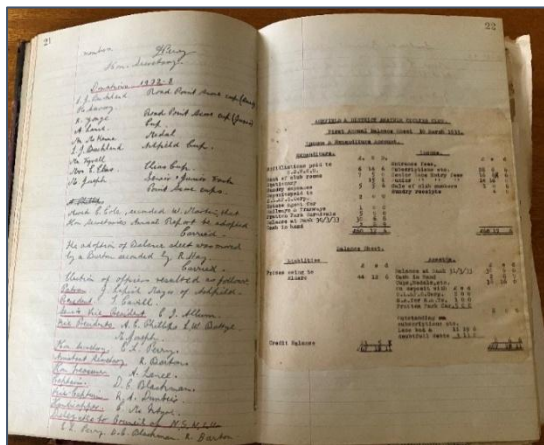
For those wishing to read Chris's book, Inner West Council, RAHS, State and National libraries have copies in their collections and our Society has a copy at our research rooms.

Ann O'Connell

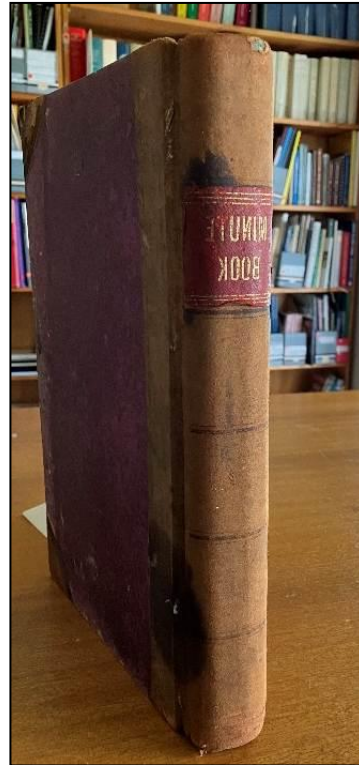
Recent acquisition

Ashfield District Amateur Cycling Club Records

The Society is most fortunate in receiving the donation of the **Minute Book of the Ashfield District Amateur Cycling Club** for the years 1930 - 1942. Champion cyclist **Don Blackman** of Ashfield was a committee man for the Club and had a bicycle shop, which he later extended to become Blackman's *Toyland*, at 186 Liverpool Road Ashfield. ADACC ceased to operate in 1942, having lost so many young riders who had enlisted in WWII and who returned home with the task of re-building their lives.



Don Blackman's son Alan and his partner both passed away and Jennifer W. inherited their old terrace house on Elizabeth Street. She discovered the Club Minute Book among the house's contents and knew it should be kept and lodged within a collection where it would be valued. She contacted our Society and donated it to us in March this year.



The book contains details of riders, competitions, rivalries and finances as well as some loose documents such as membership forms and letters, making it a valuable source of original historical material.

The Ashfield Club was hugely successful in the decade that it was competitive due to its 'residency' at Pratten Park Ashfield which was the envy of other clubs. The 1930s was the heyday of cycling in NSW and Don Blackman was well-known for his 'Blackbird' racing bikes which he manufactured himself at his shop.

Blackman's story is told in ADHS Journal No. 19, *Pratten Park, 100 Years*.

Ann O'Connell

Heritage Report

On behalf of the Society, I have lodged an objection to the major two-storey rear additions proposed for **12 Federal Avenue Ashfield**, a Federation dwelling that is a heritage item and located in the Federal-Fyle HCA.

On a positive note, a DA has been lodged to repair the above awning brickwork, re-instate windows and do other structural work to **7-7A Lackey Street Summer Hill**, the *Woodhill & Murray/Peter Mathieson* building with the long-established Summer Hill Wine Shop. It is also proposed to restore the painted Penfolds Wine signage.

Examining the Council's ***Our Fairer Future*** housing LEP proposals for Ashfield and Croydon, I did comparisons between the existing LEP Heritage Maps and those now proposed.

This yielded over 120 instances where heritage items were incorrectly depicted on the proposed Heritage Maps including some cases where they had been missed entirely. There are also some heritage properties that have been deleted, following recommendations from GML Heritage on a short list of items sent by Council to GML for a so-called 'heritage health check'.

On behalf of the Society, I lodged a submission pointing out these errors and objecting to the deletion of certain properties. I was then contacted by a Council planner who stated that there had been transpositional mistakes going from the existing LEP digital heritage maps (supplied by Dept of Planning) to the proposed Heritage Maps, which were prepared by Council. I was assured that these errors would be corrected in the final maps!!

However I was told the Society's objections to the deletion of certain properties (as GML recommended) would be taken as a 'submission for Council's consideration' – I am not hopeful!!

David Rollinson

Events of interest

Sydney Open Symposium

The inaugural **Sydney Open Symposium** on **Saturday 23 August 2025 from 10am to 2pm**, at 1 Elizabeth Street Sydney.

You'll hear from leading industry experts and take a deep dive into key themes relating to architecture, design, history.

See the MoS website for ticket bookings: <https://mhnsww.au/whats-on/events/sydney-open-symposium/>

Family History Month

The **Inner West Council Library** is holding a number of events to celebrate **Family History Month**:

Family History Film Workshop

Capture the life story of someone you love in a short film using just your smartphone. Bring a parent or adult child and share in the storytelling together. All experience levels welcome. Presented by Big Stories Little Films.

Marrickville Library Pavilion
Sunday 17 August, 2pm-4pm.

Crying in the Archives

Author Daniela Torsh shares her deeply personal memoir, uncovering family truths rooted in survival, migration, and identity. A moving talk about the ways history shapes families.

Marrickville Library Pavilion
Tuesday 12 August, 6.30pm-7.30pm

Family History Month

Family History and Artificial Intelligence

Learn how AI is being used to uncover family connections in new and practical ways, with Genealogist and tech expert Andrew Redfern.

Balmain Library

Wednesday 6 August, 2pm-4pm.

To register, see:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/family-history-film-workshop-tickets-1411447420229?aff=edm>

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/family-history-month-crying-in-the-archives-tickets-1416091691369?aff=edm>

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/family-history-and-artificial-intelligence-tickets-1414424013299?aff=edm>

Research Rooms

The Society's Research Rooms at Thirning Villa, Pratten Park, Arthur Street Ashfield are open to visitors for research. The Rooms are open on the **second and last Saturday** of each month from 11am until 4pm.

Membership matters

- \$40 for standard household membership - no postage
- \$30 concessional membership (DVA, Centrelink, fulltime student) - no postage
- \$50 for standard household membership - with postage
- \$40 Concessional membership (DVA, Centrelink, fulltime student) - with postage.

Household membership entitles all members of your household to participate in Society events as members.

We try to hand deliver to local members, but this is not always possible. As you would be well aware, \$10 for the postage of newsletters and journals is a bargain!

➤ **EFT payments:**

BSB: 062257

Account No: 00900855

Ashfield & District Historical Society

Ref: [Your name, initials] subs

➤ **Cheque payable to:**

Ashfield & District Historical Society

PO Box 20 Ashfield NSW 1800

- **Cash payments** can be made at our Rooms on the second and last Saturday of the month.

To join or renew please complete the online form and submit it to:

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

Contact the Society

- Postal address:
PO Box 20 ASHFIELD NSW 1800
- Email: admin@ashfieldhistory.org.au
- Website: <https://ashfieldhistory.org.au/>

Newsletter contributors

Thank you to:

- Kerry Barlow
- Murray Cleaver
- Lois Gray
- Clare Herscovitch
- Alex Lofts
- Ann O'Connell
- David Rollinson
- Jan Williams
- Paul Williams

for their contributions to this newsletter.

Heather Warton, 21 July 2025