

Lemon Tree

JOURNAL
ISSN 1321-9685

PORT STEPHENS FAMILY
HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

JULY 2020



The late Walter John Rice

GENEALOGY RESEARCH ROOMS
LEMON TREE PASSAGE OLD SCHOOL CENTRE
14 KENNETH PARADE, LEMON TREE PASSAGE
ABN 39 828 405

Office Bearers 2019/2020

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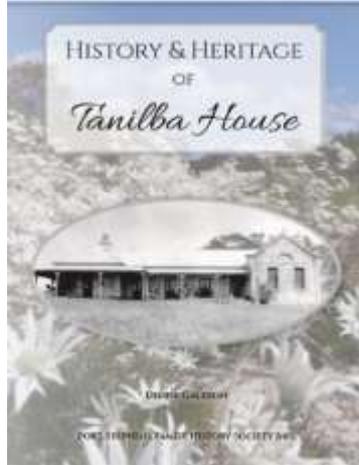
PUBLIC OFFICER

Greg Long

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OUR LATEST PUBLICATION



Price: \$30 + \$13.50 p & h

TANILBA: “Tenilbah” [place of white flowers, near the water]

- *Lt. William Caswell*
- *Caswell & Hoddle families*
- *Tanilba homestead in Port Stephens*
- *Caswell’s 40 assigned convicts*
- *Overseer Charles Stuart’s diaries*
- *Tanilba after the Caswells*
- *Tanilba House: State Heritage Listed*
- *The enduring legacy to our nation*

This story is one of many hardships, tragedies and triumphs for the Caswell family from Deptford, England, who, in 1828, sought to start a new life in the colony of New South Wales. William was initially granted land at the William’s River [Balickera], and Port Stephens [Tanilba], choosing Tanilba, with its magnificent views across the harbor, as the homestead block, to “build a fine brick, elegant mansion” for his family.

We reveal the full naval career of Lt. William Caswell, later made Commander [Retired], and a biographical dictionary of the forty [40] known convicts that were assigned to him, and in addition, the transcriptions of the daily diaries of Caswell’s Overseer, Charles William Stuart.

This fully referenced publication provides an overview, from a heritage perspective, of all the people who, in times past, made such a significant contribution to Tanilba in Port Stephens from 1830. Today, apart from still being a beautiful family residence, Tanilba House, built in 1837, is a culturally significant, convict built, stone building and as such, leaves us with an enduring legacy of not only our local and state history, but also provides our nation with tangible evidence of our colonial past, which must be preserved at any cost.

ORDER FORM FOR THIS PUBLICATION CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE

www.portstephensfamilyhistory.com.au

or by emailing the society: psfhsi@gmail.com

BOOK REVIEW

The Society of Australian Genealogists librarian Lorraine Brothers will be doing a book review of this new publication for their journal DESCENT.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear members and kindred societies,

Welcome back to researching at our centre! It was quite something to see the familiar, smiling faces again. No hugging though!

Although we are currently limited to eight people researching in the main library and two in the fiche/film room, our dedicated committee were there with bells on.

The research for our new publication "UP THE TILLIGERRY CREEK & AROUND THE TRACKS" stalled due to Covid-19 restrictions and not having access to our research documents and reference library. We are now back on track and the research committee will continue the compilation and word processing.

Pre Covid-19, our website was looking pretty old and tired, the member who was looking after the website left, returning to full-time work and no one else had the skills to update it with javascript. It was something that we kept pushing aside until we had funds to create a new website. Now the bad news! We paid our annual subscription to our website and domain host based in the UK in April this year. Four weeks later in May, we were notified that they were closing down and we had one month to transfer the content across to Wordpress (for an additional fee of course). Our annual subscription was going to be consumed, no refunds! This was not good news for our small society!

Acting quickly, we had to engage a website expert who has transferred our old website to Digital Pacific in Australia and she is currently constructing a new look website for us. Our domain name remains the same www.portstephensfamilyhistory.com.au and I am currently on a steep learning curve so that it can be updated and added to regularly.

Things are getting back to normal in Port Stephens, Heritage listed Tanilba House has re-opened for small weddings and their very popular High Teas will start again on 26 July. We have consulted with the Tilligerry Community Association and Port Stephens Council in establishing the Tanilba Bay Walk. There will be a large sign erected near the waterfront with a self-guided walk map and the historical information on each of the thirteen landmarks will be available to download from council's website. More about this in our next journal.

Kerrie, our journal editor, has put together another journal due out at the end of July, she is an absolute wonder, working on the stories about Working Australians: What occupations did they have to support their family.

Stay safe and keep busy,
Denise Gaudion

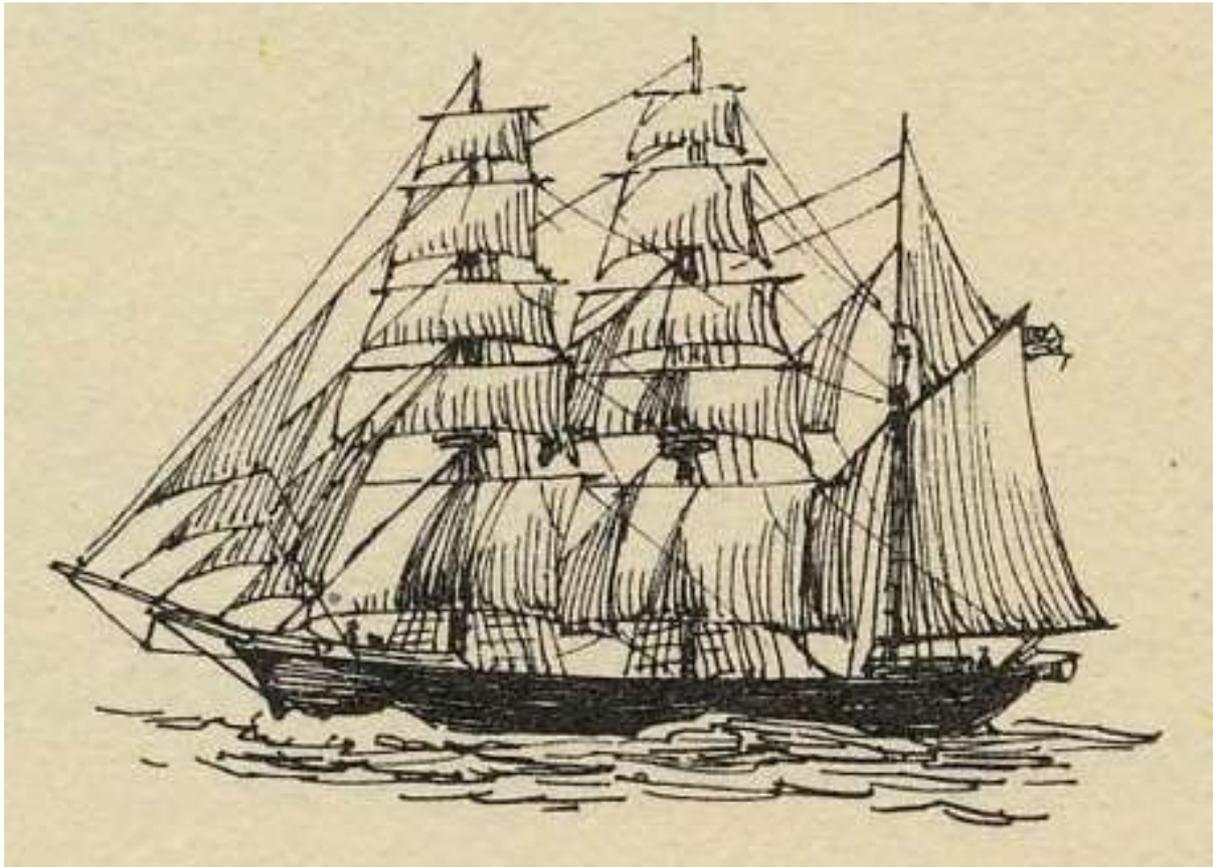
PS. As we go to press, as a precautionary measure for our members and wider community in Port Stephens, our Research Centre will be closed until our local Government area has been declared safe and clear from Covid-19 cases.

Van Diemens Land LOSS OF THE "ENCHANTRESS".

Commercial Journal and Advertiser No 27 Sydney, Monday, August 3, 1835.
Appearing first in the Colonial Times of July 21, 1835.

"ANOTHER SHIPWRECK

Of the many reports that have been spread, relative to the total and destruction of the 'Enchantress', we believe the following may be relied on as correct as far as it goes:-



At about ten o'clock on Friday night, the 17th instant, the vessel was proceeding up D'Entrecasteaux's Channel with a foul wind. Captain Roxburgh had just descended from the deck to the cabin, and was in the act of looking at his chart; the chief officer was on deck, when the man who was stationed at the head of the vessel called out, stating that they were close to land. The captain went immediately on deck; but before he had reached it the vessel struck upon the rocks, in such a manner as rendered it altogether impossible to save any individual thing except the captain's chronometer, sextant, and the small box containing the manifest. He immediately ordered the two boats, a gig and a molly boat, to be hoisted out, and the passengers assisted each other to them; the sailors were at the same time clearing away the long boat to save their own lies. The Captain and Chief Officer, after seeing the passengers in the boats, with the steward and three boys, one got in each boat, and made their way from the vessel. Mr Anstey, one of the passengers, being on the wreck, after the boats had left it, jumped into the water and was picked up by one of the two boats. When

July Journal

they left, the long boat they believed it was clear, and they expected that when the vessel went down she would have swam with the sailors. Whether it was so or not, appears unknown, as they have not been seen since, and the vessel went down immediately the boats had left her.

These two boats proceeded rowing about till next morning – they made several attempts to land, but were unable so to do. They got the next morning (Saturday) to Partridge Island, where they landed about seven o'clock in the morning, and remained during Saturday.

Towards morning they saw a sloop on the other side of the water, they immediately despatched one of the boats to her, which returning with provisions to the Island, brought the intelligence that she would come to them as soon as they could make the island, the wind being contrary. The sloop 'Friends' made the island during Saturday night, and about six o'clock on Sunday morning the passengers from the wreck embarked on board her, and proceeded towards Hobart Town. Captain Roxburgh, with Mr. Bogle and the boys, proceeded in the gig, and arrived in Hobart Town about nine on Sunday evening and, about eleven, the Governor Arthur Steamer, was despatched with Captain Moriarty to meet the Friends – she fell in with her between seven and eight yesterday morning, and arrived safe in Hobart Town about five o'clock this morning.

From the first striking of the vessel, not more than fifteen minutes had elapsed, before she was a total wreck, and not a vestige of her to be seen. The boats, during the night, were several times near swamping; and had it not been for one of the females, who sat in the stern of one of them, having a shawl on her arms, being spread out, a tremendous surge struck her on the back, which, had it come into the boat, she must have gone down – they were all, during Friday night, and all day Sunday, without any refreshment, save a few muscles, which they cooked in a tureen, one of the passengers had saved. Fortunately, there was plenty of excellent water on the island.

The kindness of Mrs. Moriarty and others, in Hobart Town, who had sent many necessaries, such as cloaks, rugs, &c., proved very acceptable, especially to the ladies on board, who during the whole of the time, from when the ship struck, evinced the utmost fortitude and presence of mind. The lady before mentioned, also had fires and refreshments prepared, during the whole of yesterday, at the Waterloo Tavern.

The cargo of the Enchantress is said to be most valuable that has come out for some time: and Captain Roxburgh is the principal owner of the ship. In our next, we hope to present our readers with the full particulars of this melancholy event.

The following is a list of the passengers saved:

CABIN:- Mr. and Mrs. Butler, Mrs. Yates, Mr. Bogles, Mr. Ansley, Miss Dixon, Miss Smith, Madame Rens, Mr. Rens, and Miss Rens, Mr. McArthur, Mr. Lightfoot, Surgeon, Captain Roxburgh, and Mr. Toby, Chief Officer.

STEERAGE:- MR. ns Mrs. Burns and three sons, and one daughter, Mr. Edwards, the cabin steward, and three boys.

July Journal

The fate of the rest of the crew and one steerage passenger is yet unknown. When the intelligence reached Hobart Town of the wreck of the Convict Ship George the Third, the whole of the Government people were in active motion – a government order issued forthwith, calling upon all persons to go to church, and pray for the lives of the unfortunate soldiers and convicts – when however, the loss of a fine emigrant ship is made known, no prayers are offered up by means of a garrison order! When the George the Third was wrecked, several Government vessels were forthwith despatched with the high influential Government officers' on board to assist in saving the lives of the convicts and soldiers – the fine emigrant ship Enchantress is lost under exactly similar circumstances, and nothing at all of the kind has been done – the only vessel sent down, was the steamboat, and she was only sent to fetch up from down the river, some passengers known to have been saved. We should strongly recommend the agent for Lloyds; to send some small vessel, to cruise about the spot where the Enchantress went down, as it is almost certain her deck will break up, either with the heavy swell, or else by means of the buoyancy of the cargo, and thus many thousand of pounds worth of property be saved – the goods in cask, in all probability, without the least injury.”



[Tasmanian Seafarers' Memorial to the Enchantress \(1835\)](http://seafarersmemorial.org.au/memorials/vessels/enchantress.php)

<http://seafarersmemorial.org.au/memorials/vessels/enchantress.php>

freepages.rootsweb.com

<http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~garter1/history/collinsdavid.htm>

Shipwrecks

[Assisted Immigrant Ships to Tasmania 1832-1889](https://www.libraries.tas.gov.au/archive-heritage/guides-records/Pages/Immigrant-ships.aspx)

<https://www.libraries.tas.gov.au/archive-heritage/guides-records/Pages/Immigrant-ships.aspx>

[Article from Trove on the Enchantress](https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/12852808)

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/12852808>

Ancestral Occupations

Occupation	Description
Cordwainer/Cordiner/ Corviner/Corvisor	<p>Shoemaker. Originally, a leather worker using high quality Cordovan leather from Spain for such things as harness, gloves and riding boots. By the 19c it had reduced to a shoemaker – distinct from a cobbler, who repaired shoes.</p> <p>http://www.personal.utulsa.edu/~marc-carlson/shoe/bdef.htm for shoemaking terms.</p> <p>http://www.thehcc.org/backgrnd.htm</p>
Banker	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Dug drainage trenches/ditches, banking up the diggings along the edges. 2.General surface worker in coal mining.
Battery Man	<p>The term 'Battery' is derived from the latin 'Battere', meaning to beat (Old French – 'Batteria'). A 'Brass Battery Mill' is therefore a mill adapted for the manufacture of brass products (hollow ware) by the beating of brass slabs (naps) using water-driven hammers.</p> <p>http://www.brassmill.com/saltford_brass_mill_013.htm</p>
Drift Maker	Made fishermen's drift nets.
Guinea Pig	Roving (freelance) person, whose usual fee was a guinea (one pound, one shilling).
Jakes Farmer	Cesspool emptier.
Jerquer	Customs Officer – shipping. issued a "Jerque Note" for clearance of vessel
Inspector of Nuisances	A Person appointed to look into By-Law offences, such as noisy animals, foul smells, maybe fence disputes, things of that nature.
Knock Knobler	Dog catcher
Limner	Illuminator of books or painter or drawer.

July Journal

Lofters	In the Cheshire salt industry, men engaged in storing the salt in the stove house roof space, pushing the dried lumps up into the loft.
Maderer	Garlic seller.
Matua Maker	A specific type of dressmaker.
Milestone Inspector	Vagrant – “gentleman of the road”.
Quarrel Picker	Glazier
Redar	Interpreted dreams.
Saltpetre Man	Collected urine and dung, used in the manufacture of saltpetre.
Vassal	Lowest order of servant.
Wafer Maker	Made the wafers taken in Holy Communion.

[Hall Genealogy Website - Old Occupation Names](http://rmhh.co.uk/occup/w.html)

<http://rmhh.co.uk/occup/w.html>

[Free Dictionary of Old Occupations and Trades](https://www.thoughtco.com/dictionary-of-old-occupations-and-trades-1422235)

<https://www.thoughtco.com/dictionary-of-old-occupations-and-trades-1422235>

A Cordwainer (Shoemaker) at work.



Advertisements from Bygone Days

Some of the advertisements selected were of too poor a quality to reproduce.

Commercial Journal and Advertiser, Sydney,
Monday, August 7th, 1835.

SNUFFS

----OO----

TO CONNOISSEURS IN SNUFF

*An Assorted Collection of Foreign and Colonial SNUFFS, (from 40 to 50 different kinds) of the best quality in New South Wales, selling from 20 to 25 percent. Wholesale and Retail under any other Shop in Sydney. Also Foreign and Colonial TOBACCO and SEGAS. English Pipes and Scotch Snuff Boxes at **R. GREEN'S**, No 18, Sussez street. Market Wharf.*

Commercial Journal and Advertiser, Sydney,
Monday, August 7th, 1835.

FOR SALE

AT

JONE'S LIVERY STABLES

York-street

SECOND HAND PHEATON with Head and Harness both strong and light, intended to be worked with a single horse or pair. An approved negotiable bill at 3 months will be taken. Price 55 pounds.

FOR SALE

EX "WILLIAM BRYAN"

*A HANDSOME and capacious CABRIOLET PHAETON, for one or more Horses, with Colling's Patent Axletrees. Price 140 Guineas. **HENRY G. SMITH***

Commercial Journal and Advertiser, Sydney,
Monday, August 7th, 1835.

WILLIAM MATHER

(FROM LONDON.)

COACH & HARNESS PLATER

AND

CABINET BRASS FOUNDER

-----OO-O-OO-----

BUCKLES OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS.

Harness Furniture in Setts

Brass Cart Hames

Brass Curtain Rods to order

Flat Sliding ditto

****Old Brass work Cleaned and Lacquered equal to new.*

###Lamps of all kinds repaired on the shortest notice and most reasonable terms.

KING STREET,

(Near Castlereagh Street)

Commercial Journal and Advertiser, Sydney,
Monday, August 7th, 1835.

JAMES STEWART

**SAIL MAKER, NO. 12 SUSSEX STREET,
MARKET WHARF, SYDNEY.**

Bags, Sacks, Woolpacks, Dray Covers, Tarpaulins, Cots, Hammocks, and Bed Bottoms, on the shortest notice.

COLONNADE, BRIDGE STREET.

---OO—OO--

TO LET

The entire upper part of a commodious House, furnished, or unfurnished, with other conveniences—For further particulars, apply to Mr. Evans, Bookseller, Bridge-street.

Commercial Journal and Advertiser, Sydney,
Monday, August 7th, 1835.

ON SALE, EX BACHELOR.

LIVERPOOL SALT, in Quantities to suit Purchasers.

E. W. RUDDER

Spring-street, June 1, 1835

Commercial Journal and Advertiser, Sydney,
Monday, August 7th, 1835.

ON SALE

BY THE UNDERSIGNED

LAWSON'S BEEF IN TIERCES

Prime IRISH MESS PORK in Barrels.

ROBERT DUKE, Macquarie Place.

Commercial Journal and Advertiser, Sydney,
Monday, August 7th, 1835.

TO BE LET

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That pleasantly situated COTTAGE at end of Town, with 3 miles of Sydney, at present occupied by Mr..J. T. Graham, containing 2 Rooms, with Kitchen and Servant's Room attached, two-stalled Stable, a Gig-shed and outhouse: together with a Garden in good order. There is a Well on the Premises with a Pump, two large ponds containing a never-failing supply of excellent Water.

Apply to the Tenant, at the Surveyor General Office; or, to the Proprietor,

Mrs. ANNE HOWE

At the Gazette Office.

Entrance may be had immediately, if required.

Commercial Journal and Advertiser,
Thursday, 4th February, 1836.

WANTED

*EIGHT SHEPHERDS and TWO STOCKMEN. Written Characters as to ability will be required. Wages 15 pounds per annum and a Weekly Ration. **Apply to***

J. HOSKIN

Pitt-street, 14th February, 1836.

WANTED

*EIGHT pairs of Sawyers to cut timber on Petersham Estate, they can have 12 months employment, and have the timber drawn to the pit. Also 34 Wood Cutters who may be employed the same period. **Apply to Mr. H Murray Macquarie-street, or Mr Fitzsimmons 19 King-street.***

Commercial Journal and Advertiser,
Monday, 11 January, 1836.

**SPERM CANDLES,
OF SUPERIOR QUALITY,**

Continue to be Sold by the Undersigned, at the Low Price of Eighteen Shillings per dozen poundsOwners of Whaling Ships, Private Families, and others will find considerable advantage in the use of the above Article.

DICKSON & CO.,

Spermacetti Refiners,

Opposite the Talbot Inn, Sydney

And at Mr. Cox's, Tallow Chandler, near the Royal Hotel.

--oo--

N.B. Sperm and Common Oil

Commercial Journal and Advertiser,
Thursday, 4th February, 1836.

WANTED,

In April next, for the Service of the Australian Agricultural Company, A PERSON well skilled in the care of Sheep and capable of classing Rams and Flocks sorting Fleeces for London Market. A Salary will be paid, proportionate to the qualifications of the Individual.

Persons desirous of obtaining the above situation, will address me, and will be pleased to accompany their communications with references to their capabilities.

H. DUMAREESQ,

**Commissioner for the A. A. Company,
Port Stephens, 11th January, 1836.**

Commercial Journal and Advertiser,
Monday, 11 January, 1836.

Ship Biscuit.

Of Superior quality, may be made at the AUSTRALIAN FLOUR COPANY'S STORES, or any quantity made to order on the shortest notice. – Terms moderate.

**J. HARPER – Clerk to the Company
Macquarie-place, George-street.**

Commercial Journal and Advertiser,
Monday, 11 January, 1836.

CAUTION.

--oo--

NEWHAM & TOOTH beg to Caution the Public, against paying Monies to any one on their behalf unless receiving a printed receipt bearing their written Signature.

Kent Brewery, 8th Dec. 1836.

<https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/static/The-old-bailey.jsp#top>

[Advertisements in the Proceedings at the Old Bailey](https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/static/Advertising.jsp)

<https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/static/Advertising.jsp>

Advertisements were an important part of the Proceedings for only a relatively short period. They do not appear until the late 1680s and in the first few decades comprise only a few short paragraphs at the end of each session. In the 1710s there were quite a few pages of advertisements, 1750s a few pages by the beginning of the 1800s they had completely disappeared.

[Glossary - A Guide to unfamiliar judicial and historical terms](https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/static/Glossary.jsp)

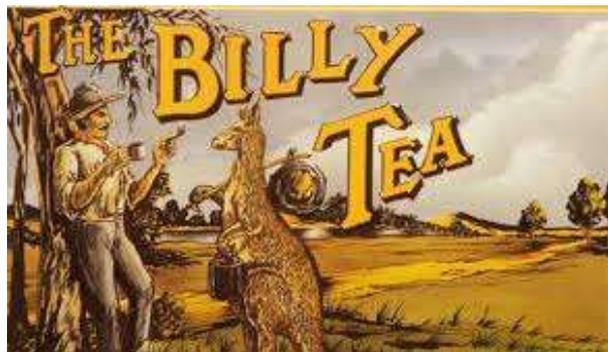
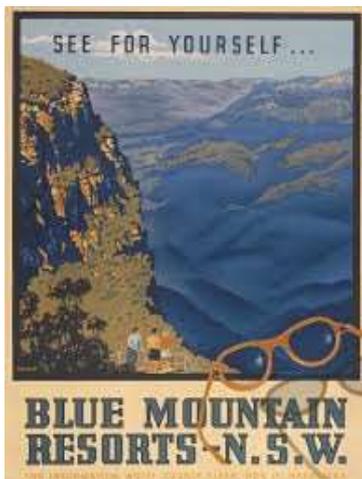
<https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/static/Glossary.jsp>

Historical background to unfamiliar judicial and historical terms used at the Old Bailey – London's Central Criminal Court, 1674-1913.

[Advertisements of the 1800's in Australia](https://www.google.com/search?sa=N&rls=en&source=univ&tbm=isch&q=Advertisements+of+the+1800's+in+Australia&client=safari&ved=2ahUKEwjvo4D1srfqAhUAwTgGHf-xDqQQsAR6BAGKEAE&biw=1213&bih=808) and some American.

<https://www.google.com/search?sa=N&rls=en&source=univ&tbm=isch&q=Advertisements+of+the+1800's+in+Australia&client=safari&ved=2ahUKEwjvo4D1srfqAhUAwTgGHf-xDqQQsAR6BAGKEAE&biw=1213&bih=808>

Warning: Some advertisements may be offensive.



WALTER JOHN RICE

When researching my husband's family, I came across the following article in Trove. The article was taken from a letter that Walter John Rice wrote to his parents describing his experiences on arriving in Australia. He demonstrates the pioneering spirit of an individual pursuing their dreams.

WALTER JOHN RICE

BORN: Circa 1834 Devon, England

DIED: 18th June, 1898, Paddington, Sydney, NSW, Australia

MARRIED: 1859 in Sydney, NSW, Australia to Jane Agnes Spencer

BORN: 1838 Launceston, Tasmania, Australia

DIED: 1914 Moore Park, NSW, Australia

Article Saturday 29th October, 1898 – The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser (NSW: 1871-1912) page 1052 – The Late Mr. Walter Rice.

“The Late Mr. Walter Rice.

A PIONEER MUSICIAN



The name of Mr Walter John Rice, who has just died at Paddington, is familiar to every instrumental performer in Australia, and especially to everyone connected with the theatrical profession, with which he had been connected to as conductor or instrumentalist for over 40 years. He was the son of a well-known musician, the late Michael Rice, conductor of the Exeter Orchestral Society, and a member of a family of musicians. His brother Michael played with Patti on her tours, and when he died three or four years ago, Patti gave a concert for his widow and family. Another brother, manager of a Welsh bank, died but the other day; and the death of Mr Walter Rice closes his generation.

Mr Walter Rice was connected with orchestras of the firm of Williamson and Musgrove since its formation, and three of his sons (one of them the champion tennis-player) are in the firm's orchestras now. One of them Mr. W. W. Rice, came up from Melbourne the bearer of a splendid wreath from the Princes Theatre orchestra, arriving just too late for the funeral. Her Majesty's Theatre orchestra, Williamson and Musgrove, their manager (Mr. Goodman), Stage manager (Mr Bracy), opera conductor (M. Caron) all sent wreaths, and the funeral was a quite a professional gathering, at which the Rev. Mr. Gillet was the officiating minister.”

A MUSICIAN IN THE FIFTIES.

In going through the deceased's papers the family found a copy of a letter sent to his father after his arrival here, which we cannot do better than reproduce as a picture of life in the colonies over 40 years ago and the experiences of a musician of those days.

July Journal

This letter proceeds:-

“Being now comparatively settled in Sydney, I think a sketch of my career in the colonies would prove interesting. When we dropped anchor in Hobson’s Bay the first important fact that presented itself to me was that my stock of cash had, from various amusements on board, dwindled down to the enormous sum of 10s, which was all expended in conveying my chest from the ship o the shore, leaving me without a cent. I looked eagerly for some scheme to raise ‘tin’, and after long dubitation I turned auctioneer, got a lot of clothes, boots and shoes, picks and shovels, books, shirts, etc., etc., from my fellow passengers, erected a sort of shed on the roadside, sold off on commission, raised 10 pounds, joined a party of five, and then – hurrah!! For Forest Creek diggings!!

It was a long and fatiguing journey. We used to rise at daybreak, breakfast, then walk on till about 12, or as near that as we could, find the good camping-ground and water; dinner, then walk until sunset; turnout the horses, light our campfire, boil a pot of tea, broil some mutton in the hot embers, smoke our pipes, and yarn till we rolled in our blankets and slept, to dream of finding immense nuggets -- so on for eight days. The roads were in a fearful state, especially through the black forest, being nothing but swamp, thick forest, and mountain. You could not go a mile without seeing a putrid carcase of a bullock or horse, broken down by fatigue and left to the wild dogs and crows.

It rained four days out of the eight; but we arrived at Forest Creek at last, very sore-footed and dirty. At the creek we had very bad luck, and very hard work – up to our middle in water – for a long time; then I and Jarman left the party. Fortune still persecuted us, and we had to eke out our means with odd jobs for storekeepers, till the climax of our ill-luck arrived, and we were reduced to sixpence, with which we bought a sheep’s pluck, and having break fasted on it set out to try our luck once more across a gully. We tried an old hole about 18ft. deep, and half full of water and mud: cleared it out, and struck a tunnel on one side. We worked very hard and the first day’s washing produced 1/2ounce., which put us in spirits; second day, 1 1/2ounce; which put us in spirits; third 3ounce.; fourth, 6ounces. Then we found the ground was worked out, and sank another hole as near as we could get to the old one, and after about a weeks work cleared about 2pounds weight of gold each.”

IMPROVIDENT DIGGERS

“Instead”, the letter continues, “of saving our money for a rainy day, we gave a supper in a large empty store to some of our shipmates and friends – porter 7s a bottle, grog 1 pound – and altogether behaved absurdly. Don’t censure us too severely, but take into consideration the spirit of the times. After our spree we shouldered our blankets and guns and after three days’ walk arrived at Bendigo. We built a comfortable log hut 12ft.x14ft., then struck in at work. We had very bad luck, sometimes plenty, sometimes nothing, and in about four months I had but ten pounds of my money, and not wishing to get to 6d again I determined to start for Mr. Godfrey’s sheep and cattle station. George preferred to try the diggings a little longer, so with my heavy swag over my shoulder and my old green violin case in my hand I started on my long solitary walk. It rained the first day, and I got wet through, but fortunately came up with a man with a horse team about 4 o’clock, who gave me a pot of tea and let me sleep in his dray. The second day it rained harder than ever, and I only got as far as Donald Campbell’s

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public house at Bullock Creek, about 10 miles. There were a lot of diggers weather bound, who seeing me with a fiddle raised a shout, seized me, carried me in the large room, and there I was obliged to fiddle for them and drink with them until about midnight, when, luckily for me, a row began, knives were drawn, deep oaths were sworn, and I the confusion I slipped off to bed very tired. This is the last public house on the road, so for the rest of the journey I had to trust to the hospitality of shepherds and settlers, and found the violin an invaluable friend. After a fine day I stopped with a shepherd on the banks of the Lodon, and next morning crossed the river at Morton's station, and had miserable walk over flooded plains, where I had to swim two or three creeks before reaching Malcom's station. After this the track was a dray track, in places scarcely discernible, and often had great difficulty in keeping it. Next night I slept at an out station belonging to Peter's near Mount Korong. During the day the only things I saw were wild cattle. I expected to reach Mr. Godfrey's this day, but missed the way and at dark found myself among the mountains, and was preparing to pass the night when I found some fresh sheep tracks, and about a quarter of a mile along them found a hut with the flock camped in front. Here I found I had come 30 miles out of my road, and was still 28 miles from Godfrey's – another solitary day's journey. Throughout the journey when I felt lonely I would light my pipe, lean against a gum tree, and fiddle to the parrots, cockatoos, etc., which were evidently astonished at the unaccustomed sound. My food was cold mutton and damper procured from the shepherds with whom I passed the nights, My costume simple, but not unpicturesque – a blue shirt, corduroy pants, a belt with a large knife at the back, and a black sombrero – something after the style of a melodramatic ruffian."

TURNED STATION HAND

Here the young musician was in turn but keeper, shepherd, and storekeeper, and saw "savage life in all its nakedness, and a more degraded, treacherous, lazy species of the genus homo it was never my lot to witness."

He found the life horribly monotonous, and at last became dull and discontented. Mr. Godfrey drove him to Bendigo, where, after an absence of six months "I returned perfectly satisfied that the bush was not my forte."

The letter concludes, "Here I joined the musical profession and accepted a position as tenor in the theatre at five pounds per week. All was smooth work for three months, when the theatre closed, and we (the band) started for Melbourne, and directly we arrived were engaged by Winterbottom, who was giving promenade concerts, and had a large casino called the Argyle Rooms in Great Collins street. This lasted for about four months. We had an offer from Sydney for self and band, which we accepted, and here, to close a long and prosy, story, we have been for two years. I had no idea when I began it that it would prove such a long job, and I have been obliged to leave out a great deal of what I intended saying from want of time and space. If I were to relate all my little adventures, narrow escapades in mining from holes falling in, wild cattle, bush fires, bushrangers, it would fill a book, so I have merely given an outline of my travels which will afford you some amusement."

This letter evidently intended as a resume of his life to date, as in it he refers to having sent shorter previous letters. Evidently a musicians' life in the fifties was full of incident.

SOME SYDNEY HAPPENINGS

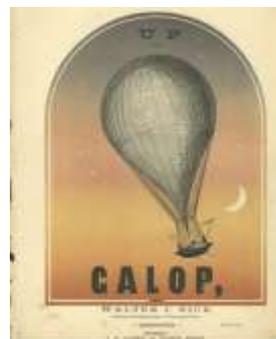
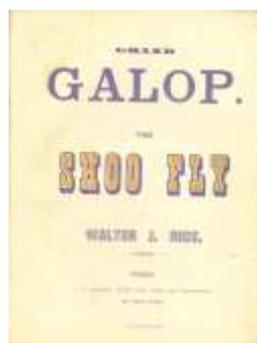
Among Mr. Rice's experiences were 15 years leadership of the Theatre Royal orchestra. The Winterbottom referred to was member of Jullien's celebrated London band, and arrived in Sydney in 1853. He was a bassoon player, and organised promenade concerts here on the Jullien model in the only hall then available – the saloon of the Royal Hotel. Mr Rice was with various Lyster opera companies, and with Charles Matthews, who was wont to tell the performers in the rehearsal scent in 'The Critic' to look up if they wanted to see he gods, but down to 'Watty Rice' if they wanted to see Apollo. He was an expert with the single sticks, and one incident was his getting the best of Carandini, a marquis, and an expert Italian swordsman, who was ever after a good friend. In the old Royal days the sailors used to climb down from the gallery to the stage, insist on Mr. Rice as conductor drinking rum and the orchestra playing while they filled the interludes with songs and step dances. He was burnt out at the old Prince of Wales, and three times at the Royal, where he lost a valuable violin and much music. Mrs Rice (nee Miss Spencer) is left with a grown up family of sons and a married daughter."

After his many adventures in the goldfields and working on sheep and cattle experiences Walter decided he would return to establish himself as a composer and conductor of music. The following are some of his works that he composed and accolades received when he performed with his fellow musicians.

"Shoo! Fly Galop" by Walter J. Rice

"Up in a Balloon Galop" by Walter J. Rice

"Love Among the Roses": Schottische/adapted by Walter J. Rice, from the popular ballad sung by Frank Hussey.



The following excerpts from newspapers reflect his popularity as a musician.

Thursday 6th January – Empire (Sydney, NSW: 1850-1875), page 2 – No title.

"NEW GALOP – Mr. Walter J. Rice, the talented conductor of the orchestra at the Prince of Wales Opera House, has brought out a delightful gallop for the musical public. It is published by Mr. J. R. Ctarko, Hunter-street, and the executant is Sir J. A. Engel, of York-street. The theme may be gathered from a description of the title page, which represents a salon party "Up in a Balloon," sailing roundabout the stars and gentle moon. The engraving is neatly executed, and the colours are well brought out, while the music printing with the best productions of Europe. As a composition, the work is one of considerable merit, and Mr. Rice may be complimented

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upon the manner in which he has handled the popular melody. It is to be hoped that his is only the precursor of similar efforts from the composer."

Saturday, 10th May, 1879 – The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser (NSW: 1871-1912), page 746 – MUSIC AND DRAMA. The following is part of an article that appeared in the abovementioned newspaper.

".....that music one had the pleasure of hearing again on Saturday and Monday evenings, and it was well worth, to those who remember old times, listening to again. Here I must say a word for Mr Rice's little band. They render their music in admirable style, and they possess the ensemble, as musicians term it, which renders them really more effective than if a larger orchestra were employed. Mr Rice makes a judicious selection of his music, and perhaps the best compliment which can be paid to him and his band is that many prefer staying in the theatre during the acts to listen to them instead of following the custom (time honoured in Sydney, but not elsewhere) of going out to drink, or as they express, to stretch their legs."

Saturday 29th October, 1898 – Australian Town and Country Journal (Sydney, NSW: 1870-1907) page 16 – South Grafton – Llangothlin Railway.

"The remains of the late Mr. Walter John Rice, who was in turn musical director of the Princess of Wales, the Victoria, the Royal, the Lyceum, and Her Majesty's Theatres, were interred at Waverley Cemetery on October 19 in the presence of a large number of friends and acquaintances. The deceased gentleman came to the colony in 1854, and for the past forty years led the orchestra at the Easter and Christmas masses at St. Mary's Cathedral."

[The Late Mr. Walter Rice - A Pioneer Muscian](https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/163812541)

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/163812541>

[Forest Creek Historic Gold Diggings](https://www.goldfieldsguide.com.au/explore-location/114/forest-creek-historic-gold-diggings/)

<https://www.goldfieldsguide.com.au/explore-location/114/forest-creek-historic-gold-diggings/>

[Forest Creek Gold Diggings \(Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park\)](https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/sites/forest-creek-gold-diggings)

<https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/sites/forest-creek-gold-diggings>

[Golden Point. Forest Creek](https://cv.vic.gov.au/stories/a-diverse-state/early-photographs-gold/golden-point-forest-creek/)

<https://cv.vic.gov.au/stories/a-diverse-state/early-photographs-gold/golden-point-forest-creek/>

[Donald Campbell 1813-1868 - Bullock Creek](http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/campbell-john-archibald-195Station)

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/campbell-john-archibald-195Station>

Wednesday 27 June, 1906 – Australian Town and Country Journal (Sydney, NSW:1870-1907) page, 39.

*“The Late Mr. A. W. Heaps,
VIOLIN MAKER.
--OOooOO—
A Sketch of His Career*

Mr. Alfred Walter Heaps, whose death occurred recently at his residence, Oxford-street, Paddington, Sydney, somewhat suddenly, at the age of 53, furnished a rather uncommon example of the talents, of a father being handed down unimpaired to his son. The deceased was a native of Leeds, Yorkshire, and the fifth son of the late Mr. John Knowles Heaps, whose work was a violin, viola, and violoncello maker and restorer is well known wherever players on the “king of instruments” and its kin do congregate.

His father, having decided that his son Alfred should follow in his footsteps, at the age of 16 apprenticed him to Handel Pickard - musical instrument maker and professor of the violoncello – of Leeds, in 1860, and there he remained until the end of 1874. Then the youthful instrument maker went into his father’s workshop, and secured his first public triumph, when, in 1875, in company with his father, he exhibited a quartette of instruments at the Leeds Exhibition. This exhibit secured a prize medal and certificate. During the time the young man was employed by his father he turned out several violins, prized so highly by their purchasers that offers of from thirty pounds to fifty pounds would not bring about a sale.

Shortly after 1875, Mr. Heaps was offered, and accepted a position to manage the musical department of a wholesale house in Sydney. He continued in this employment for some time, during which he found his business as a violin maker and repairer increasing so rapidly as to demand all his time. His experience in restoring old instruments was gained with Pickard in Leeds, where several very valuable violins were entrusted, for repairs and restoration. His success in this branch of the industry gained him the reputation of an expert, and his work in Australia enhanced the golden opinions formed of him in the old land.

During the past 17 or 18 years, Mr. Heaps made many violins and violoncellos. For the former he never received less than twenty five pounds, and for the latter from thirty five pounds to forty two pounds. Among his customers for violoncellos was the late Mr Edgar Strauss, for whom he made one in 1891. This fine artist used the instruments for his solos during the whole of his residence in Sydney. Mr. Strauss, on his arrival from San Francisco in 1889, was introduced to Mr A. W. Heaps, from whom he obtained the loan of a cello made by his father. Mr. Strauss played upon it for twelve months, and was so enamoured of the instrument that he offered 80 guineas for it. The ‘cello was not for sale’, so Mr. Strauss did the next best thing – he ordered one to be made from the same model. This was done, and the maestro never used any others. So that the cellos, made by the Heaps-father and son - were responsible for the sweet music that Edgar Strauss made in Sydney. A second instrument was also made for Mr. Strauss from this model.

Ovide Musin, the celebrated violinist, while in Sydney a few years ago, also entrusted Mr. Heaps, with the repairing of his two violins. One of these was a Gagliano. During this business interview several of his violins were brought under M. Musin’s notice. They pleased him, and he gave the maker an unsolicited testimonial, couched in terms of warmest approbation,

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classing him as "one of the best violin makers he had met in his long artistic career." The secret of Mr Heap's success, which was hailed by Messrs. Rivers Allpress, Straus, **Mr. W. J. Rice**, and Wentzel (of the Orpheus Quartette), Dr. Scheidel, Max Schluter, and others well capable of judging, was the extreme care he took, the excellence of his material, and his fine models. Some of the sycamore which he used had been preserved since about 1828, and another portion, still in tree block, was purchased in 1836. In pine his stock included some that was exhibited as music wood in London in 1851, and purchased from Messrs. Bernhardt and sons; and sycamore presented by the Hon. W. E. Gladstone to Mr. J. K. Heaps, and cut by the Grand Old Man himself off his own estate. Indeed, his stock was so large that he often laughingly stated it, would easily last him his lifetime. He still continued to purchase as opportunity offered, so that at his demise he would be able bequeath to his son (whom he intended to follow then profession) whatever might be used. His valuable stock outlived him. What all violin makers wish to discover what many of whom experiment practically dally to find out is the secret of the varnish used by Stradivarius, Guarnerius, and Amati on their wonderful violins. It is unfortunate that no one has managed to unearth this, though there is no doubt that continuous experiments have improved the varnishes used on the modern violins. Mr. Heaps was an enthusiast on the subject. His varnishes were well known. The fact of his newly made instruments possessing such fine tone, as compared with old instruments speaks for itself, as the fine tone is attributed in violins to the merit of varnish in conjunction with the workmanship. The late Mr. Heaps, was very popular both among professional and amateur musicians, and his advice, often sought, was highly valued, and outside the purely musical circle he had many friends, to whom his sudden death came as a great shock. He leaves a widow and six children. Two of the elder children are sons, (the eldest having; served an apprenticeship with the father), and by them the business, conducted on lines laid down by their grandfather (Mr. J. K. Heaps) and their father, will be carried on in the future."

[The Career of Alfred Walter Heaps, Violin Maker](https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/71531685)
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/71531685>

Article in the Australian Town and Country Journal (Sydney 1870-1907) page 39.

[Alfred Walter Heaps - Maker of Violins](https://collection.maas.museum/object/252684#&gid=1&pid=1)
<https://collection.maas.museum/object/252684#&gid=1&pid=1>



Do you know who we are ?

The following photos were found in an old photo album. Can you put a name to the faces in the photos? If you do please email. Possibly from a deceased estate in Port Stephens.



July Journal

Research – can you help?

The PSFHS has for some time now been gathering research for a new, revised publication about the history of not only the Tilligerry Peninsula but all the surrounding areas of Parading Ground [part of early Williamstown], Salt Ash, Bobs Farm, Majors Flat, Lower Anna Bay and Taylors Beach [formerly Banks Farm]. The additional settlements are all found within the Tilligerry Creek catchment, conservation area.

The original book published by the society in 1996, “A History of the Tilligerry Peninsula”, is now ‘out of print’ and our new book will not only update and correct some of the previously published information, but also present some wonderful new historical data about the earliest land- holders to the Tilligerry Creek catchment areas and also the unique maritime history of the waterways of the southern shores of Port Stephens.

We are asking all readers of our journal ‘Lemon Tree’ and kindred societies if they can help with their family history, photographs or land grants/records regarding the early settlement and the pioneers of these areas. All deposited information will be acknowledged to the submitter in the publication and please quote any records or reference source used. Any oral histories and interesting stories about the families would be a wonderful addition in putting a human face to our pioneering ancestors.

CONTACT: Denise Gaudion EMAIL: psfhsi@gmail.com PHONE: 0422 303 171

RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

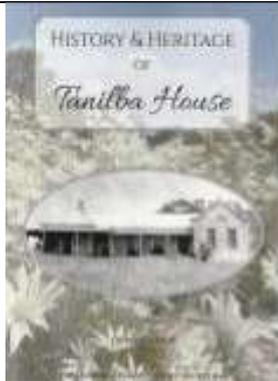
Download request form from website: www.portstephensfamilyhistory.com.au

Please include and attach as much relevant information that you have regarding any brick walls. EFT payments on application re bank account details

- Please send all research enquiries to PO Box 32, Tanilba Bay NSW 2319
- Email enquiries: psfhsi@gmail.com - advice only given, research officer will quote for research fee
- Initial Research Fee is \$30 (limit of 10 resource documents printed or copied) and further detailed research will incur additional \$10 per hour fee.

All enquiries are welcome, and we do endeavour to answer paid requests as soon as possible, however, if at times we have numerous requests, please be patient.

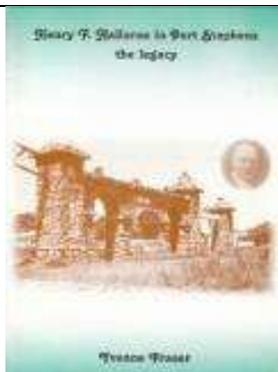
Society Publications for sale



History and Heritage of Tanilba House

A full history of the Caswell family, and complete history and heritage of Tanilba House and its subsequent ownership. We reveal the full naval career of Lt. William Caswell and biographies of the forty [40] known convicts that were assigned to him, and in addition, the daily diaries of Caswell's Overseer, Charles William Stuart.

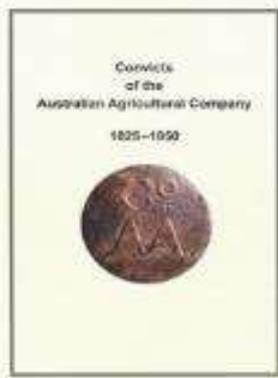
Soft cover, pages, \$30 + \$13.50 p & p



Henry Halloran, the Legacy

Realtor, surveyor, town planner, engineer with a penchant for history and poetry. His versatility, energy and tenacity helped shape Port Stephens and other areas of New South Wales.

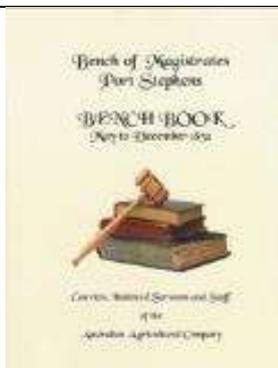
Soft cover, 44 pages, \$15 + \$8.50 p & p.



Convicts of the Australian Agricultural Company, 1825-1850

Biographical index of the 1,329 convicts who served with the A.A.Co. Includes birth & death, trial and sentence, shipping, assignments, tickets of leave and pardons.

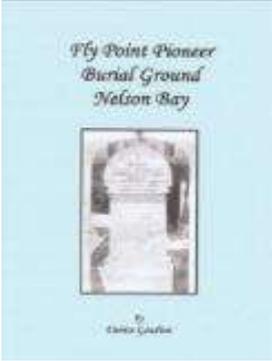
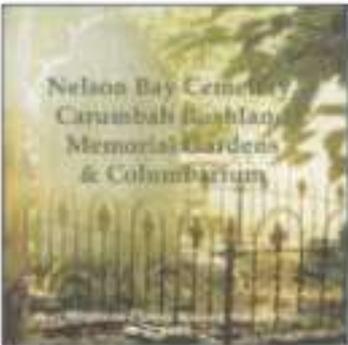
Soft cover, 206 pages, \$30 + \$13.50 p & p

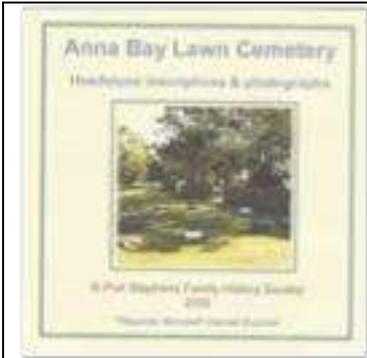


Bench of Magistrates, Port Stephens May to Dec.1832

Complete transcriptions of court proceedings. Includes staff, convicts & indented servants of the A.A.Co. The areas covered are Port Stephens, Booral and Stroud.

Soft cover, 87 pages, \$25 + \$8.50 p & p

	<p>Fly Point Pioneer Burial Ground, Nelson Bay</p> <p>Biographical information on the early settlers buried at Fly Point, the first cemetery at Nelson Bay, Port Stephens. Includes chapters on the first settlement at early Teramby Village.</p> <p>Soft cover, 58 pages, \$20 + \$8.50 p & p</p>
	<p>Bob's Farm Cadre Camp: Refugees from Timor in Port Stephens during W W 11</p> <p>This book rediscovers a piece of our fascinating history in Port Stephens. It brings to life a time when Bob's Farm, a sparsely settled area, played an important role in the international relations between Australia, Portugal and Timor. The story also uncovers the extensive military operations to evacuate the 600 refugees from Portuguese Timor and bring them to Australia.</p> <p>Soft cover, 68 pages, \$25 + \$8.50 p & p</p>
	<p>Nelson Bay Cemetery, Carumbah Bushland Memorial Gardens & Columbarium</p> <p>Includes colour photos and inscriptions of the three sections of burials and cremations at the Nelson Bay Cemetery. Full index with content listing. CD is an e-book and will self install.</p> <p>CD Rom, SPECIAL \$10 + \$5 p&p</p>
	<p>Port Stephens Pilot, Jul 1926- Feb 1930 Index of Domestic & Other Notices</p> <p>The CD contains all entries from the Domestic Notices in the newspaper; covers a wide area of Port Stephens and the Hunter Valley.</p> <p>CD Rom, SPECIAL \$10 + \$5 p&p</p>



Anna Bay Lawn Cemetery, Headstone Inscriptions & Photographs

The CD includes photos and transcriptions for burials and cremation in the Anna Bay Lawn Cemetery. Burial index Included.. CD requires Internet Explorer to run.

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