

DDHS Newsletter MARCH 2024

We recognise the Traditional Owners of our land, the Darug people, and pay respect to their Ancestors and Elders past and present and to their Heritage.

Our February talk

Rod Best kept us enthralled as he told the tale of a very sad double murder in Pennant Hills in 1906 and discussed some of the social aspects that would have influenced these tragic occurrences. He followed with another story of the astounding success of a Beecroft man with a very unpropitious beginning who became a household name. The close to 90 people in the audience had a most interesting and enjoyable afternoon. Rod, a direct descendant of Thomas Best who settled in Middle Dural in 1819, enjoyed catching up with Best relatives.



Best descendants, from left Liz Pelinkoff, Marg Best, Jo Hambrett, Rod Best, Pam Lang, Len Best.

Our next meeting 9 March – Trevor Knight



Typical C. 1600 German farm buildings.

Trevor Knight has lived in Galston all his life and is related or connected to many local families. He knew a fair bit about most of his ancestors except for his mother's paternal grandparents: German-born Laurentius and Swiss-born Elizabeth (Blum) Branz.

When ancestry internet searches seemed to be taking him nowhere, Trevor



Trevor, left, with newfound German cousins Gerhard and Georg.

decided that the only way he could find out more about his great-grandparents was to travel to their home towns in Germany and Switzerland.

This is the story of Trevor's journey of discovery into where Laurentius and Elizabeth came from, why they left, what happened to them after they arrived in Australia and how he eventually met up with European cousins who were totally unaware of his existence. It's another enthralling tale.

Saturday 9 March 2pm Galston Uniting Church, School Road Galston. Free entry, Afternoon tea gold coin donation.

Our speakers for this year

April – Ken Bradley Hellfire Pass on Thai-Burma Railway

May – Judith Dunn Parramatta history followed by

tour of Parramatta 28 May

June – Susan Gray Banana Cabana

July – Mal Johnston Cattai Creek

August – *June Roughley Memorial Lecture*
Dr Grace Karskens Research on people of the Hawkesbury

Sep – Pamela Melocco Family contribution to Sydney architecture

Oct – Show & Tell AGM

Nov – David Jehan Hudson with an 'H'

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Trip to Lithgow in March – Postponed!

Unfortunately we have had to delay this trip due to health issues. Apologies to all.

President's report to local papers

What a wonderful start to the Society's 2024 year with 90 members and friends in attendance at the February meeting. Using an event in Pennant Hills in 1906 lawyer Rod Best presented an outstanding talk that contrasted past and present social attitudes to sections of our population, in that case to the Chinese. In the light of present tensions between different groups within our population, his talk was a timely reminder of the benefits of our multicultural country.

The Society archives are the custodian of a great deal of family and local history. It was therefore a privilege to be given a collection containing photos, certificates and a small diary. This last mentioned opens with the words: "Left Northern Ireland Tuesday 13th November 1894". After recounting the day's events for the journey, it ends with the lines: "December 31st 1894 entered Sydney Harbour at 7.00 o'clock in the morning and cast anchor at half past 7. Charlie came on board at eight. Commenced work in Galston on 1st January 1895". What a priceless record this little book is of the voyage of a young man starting a new life in a strange country. His family name is now quite familiar in our community.

A collection of deeds, for land that forms part of the original George Hall 600 acres grant of 1819, has been kindly lent by the current owners. When copied these will be added to the large collection of maps and land records that is available for approved research. Enquiries to 96531365.

It is through the interest, generosity and concern for local history that members of our community can assist in understanding and preserving the unique community in which we live.

Help please: The Society is in urgent need of members who could help with research, computer entries and other work associated with maintaining our responsibility to our community. Please contact Michael on 96531365 or Judy on 96512034 if you can help.

Michael Bell, President

DDHS Membership - are you financial?

DDHS yearly membership: \$30 single, \$45 household. You can renew or join at the meeting, send a cheque to DDHS PO Box 3218 Dural NSW 2158 or, if you prefer to pay by direct bank transfer, send the appropriate amount to our DDHS **Bendigo Bank Account** BSB 633000 Acc. 116651258. Please put your surname as reference and email our treasurer Rod Taylor to let him know you have renewed. Rod Taylor rodglent@bigpond.net.au.

DDHS Name Badges

If you would like a DDHS name badge or you have misplaced your badge please contact Judy judyhorton949@gmail.com 0419694701

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History Cottage at 412x Galston Road Galston is open by appointment. 96531365

DDHS membership: Household \$45 Single \$30

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