

DICTIONARY *of* SYDNEY



www.dictionaryofsydney.org

First group of volunteers commences

Many people have contacted the Dictionary offering their services for our volunteer program. A lot of you are already volunteering articles and information, but these volunteers are ones who have boldly agreed to go off and undertake random tasks that the Dictionary needs, from checking facts, sizing images, compiling lists - lists of disasters, crimes to well just about anything.

The following are our first intake of volunteers - they are an enthusiastic lot who are already reporting back with results:

Karen Arnold	Emma Baker	Allan Bordow
Norma Breen	Debbie Castle	Lynette Henery
Tony Laffan	Ron Lombardo	Benjamin Lumb
David Morgan	Glenn Radford	Robert Thompson

Meet an Author - John Merriman

I moved to Katoomba from Woolloomooloo in the 1970s and started working at Blue Mountains City Library where I currently job share the Local Studies Librarian position. I enjoy popularising history through magazine articles, history tours of the beautiful Blue Mountains and talking to school kids and community groups.

I'm interested in many aspects of Blue Mountains history and prehistory including angling & archaeology, boot makers and bullockies, caves & charabancs, dairies & diaries, eccentrics, family history, garden design, honour rolls hermits, insects, journeys, knucklebones, lookouts, mountain devils & military, nuts in May (see eccentrics), ornithology, photographs, queer stuff, rhymes & rock art & ratbags, streets & slang, tea rooms & town names, underworld, vehicles, war trophies, walking tracks and waterfalls, (e)xplorers, yowies & yellow dog mountains, zoos and Zane Grey (whew!).

I think the dictionary of Sydney project is going to become a great resource for everyone in the history business and I'm already promoting it to our clients.



Sydney's first take away?

From Tony Laffan, a Dictionary volunteer:

Ann Robinson, neé Inett and Richard Robinson had a large holding in Pitt Row "by his Excellency's command." Later it was numbered 105 Pitt Street. Ann had been the lover of Governor King and had sons, Norfolk and Sydney, to him. When King brought out his wife he arranged for Ann to marry Richard John Robinson, a convict and a lifer, who had arrived on the Scarborough 2 in 1790. Robinson, born in Hull, may have been a protégé of the colony's first Anglican preacher, Richard Johnson as he witnessed many of the early weddings. The Robinson's Pitt Row property was across the road from Richard Johnson's large grant on the banks of the Tank Stream.

Here Ann looked after the shop which included her eatery at their inn, the "Yorkshire Grey." In 1800 their household included two servants. Did they start up the first takeaway shop in Sydney?

From the Sydney Gazette 25th November 1804:

"Eating House Pitt's Row

Richard John Robinson begs leave to inform his friends and the Public in general that he intends opening an Eating House at the Yorkshire Grey, to commence on the 29th inst. As can be only harbinger of success in an undertaking dependent on public affirmation and support, he flatters himself that by uniform endeavor to merit will be to ensure a liberal encouragement. Officers of Vessels, Settlers, and all who may have occasion to make his house that of their occasional resort, that shall find every accommodation that can be hoped. Dinners will be drest at a short notice and sent out if required. Means will be adopted to furnish the labouring orders at a trifling expense."

The Dictionary's comments:

A few notes on language: The terms 'take out' or 'to go' as in 'food to go' have in recent years begun to compete with the older use of the term 'take away'. In the gazettal notice in the above article, the term used is 'sent out' which is possibly the equivalent of 'home delivered.'

According to the Gazette, this outlet was going to open on the 29th inst. In case you are wondering, inst(instant) means this month and ult (ultimo) means last month and prox(proximo) means next month.

More challenging, perhaps, is Richard Robinson's attachment to flowery language. To assist in translation, the bit about uniform endeavour refers to quality control. The claim that patrons will find 'every accommodation that can be hoped' is open to interpretation, but it appears to be referring to staying customers as well as diners, preferably ones of a better class - ships officers and settlers temporarily in town. The final line offers cheap prices for labourers. As to whether they would get the same quality and/or quantity of food is anyone's guess.

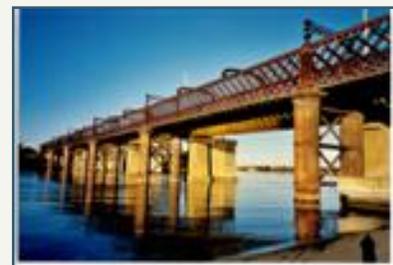
Sydney's Engineering history and heritage

Tunnels, towers, trusses and tracks - the legacy of the engineer is everywhere.

A small working party has met several times in recent months to brainstorm just what kinds of entries the Dictionary needs to cover the history of engineers and engineering in Sydney. Thanks to Ian Bowie, Jon Breen, Michael Clarke and Ian Jack. Between them they wear hats for the Engineering Heritage Committee of the Institution of Engineers, Sydney Division, the Australian Society for History of Engineering and Technology and the Industrial Heritage Committee of the National Trust (NSW) .

Ian Bowie, as it turns out, is not just an engineer, but also a keen photographer with a keen eye for the best light. He has kindly given the Dictionary a set of beautiful images of a number of bridges and other structures, and we will make sure that he is clearly and properly acknowledged as the creator of these mages.

At right - Sunlight on the Meadowbank Railway Bridge, Ian G Bowie, 2005.



Clearing out your photo albums?

... or just can't help yourself when it comes to that digital camera? Images that appear in the Dictionary will come from many

repositories, and the more we use, the more it will cost in reproduction and copyright fees. These are legitimate costs payable to the owners . But if you happen to have appropriate images that you are prepared to donate, then please let us know. Any image we use will be acknowledged.

Seasons Greetings to you all!

It's the end of 2006 - the Dictionary's project site has been on line for six months.... content ideas have been thrashed out in editorial workshops....the technical teams have completed important preliminary work....articles and entries are rolling in. But for the next couple of weeks we intend to slow down a little and enjoy the festive season. We wish all of our supporters a happy Christmas and New Year and a very good 2007.

At right - Christmas Holidays at Manly Beach - Illustrated Sydney News, December 1865.



New entries received

A number of new commissioned entries for suburbs and places of interest have been received since the last newsletter:

- Ambleside, residence of Harold Cazneaux - Zeny Edwards
- Annie Wyatt House - Zeny Edwards
- Auburn Botanic Gardens - Edmund Perrin
- Austral - Joanne Morris
- Badgery's Creek - Joanne Morris
- Berala - Edmund Perrin
- Blue Mountains (various, see below*) - John Merriman & John Low
- Bringelly - Joanne Morris
- Camden - Ian Willis
- Carlingford - John McClymont
- Cecil Hills - Joanne Morris
- Denham Court - Joanne Morris
- Eber Bunker - Duncan Stewart
- Edmondson Park - Joanne Morris
- The Fisk Memorial, Wahroonga - Zeny Edwards
- Gordon - Zeny Edwards
- Greendale - Joanne Morris
- Green Valley - Joanne Morris
- Harold Cazneaux - Zeny Edwards
- Hinchinbrook - Joanne Morris
- Holsworthy - Joanne Morris
- Homebush Bay - Edmund Perrin
- Katoomba - John Merriman
- Killara - Zeny Edwards - Zeny Edwards
- Killarney Castle, Gordon - Zeny Edwards
- Lindfield - Zeny Edwards
- Mount Wilson - Ian Jack
- The National Trust of Australia (NSW) - Zeny Edwards

- Pymble - Zeny Edwards
- Roseville - Zeny Edwards
- Silverwater - Edmund Perrin
- St Ives - Zeny Edwards
- Warrawee - Zeny Edwards

* including Bell, Blackheath, Blaxland, Bullaburra, Echo Point, Euroka, Faulconbridge Glenbrook Hawkesbury Heights Hazelbrook, Jamison Valley Kedumba, Lapstone, Lawson, Linden, Medlow Bath, Megalong, Mount Irvine, Mount Riverview, Mount Tomah, Mount Victoria, Shipley, Springwood, Sun Valley, Valley Heights, Warrimoo, Wentworth Falls, Winmalee, Woodford, Yellow Rock

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