



"Bunk"

"History is more or less bunk"-
HENRY FORD, Chicago Tribune, 1916

Diary Dates 2016

Museum Open
10am to noon
Monday to Friday

Meetings at Museum
22 Alexandra Street
Hunters Hill

Thursday 28 April
10am for 10:30
GENERAL MEETING
and afterwards in the
Council Chamber
Angela Phippen
will speak on
Historic Houses of Ryde

History of the police in New South Wales

During the first year of the convict establishment in Sydney, the Marines were ordered to police the settlement. They guarded the Government Stores and patrolled the town at night. They were found to be negligent, and it was later discovered that some of them had been rob-



bing the stores.

Governor Arthur Phillip appointed a Night Watch in August 1789, consisting of 12 well-behaved convicts under the control of the Judge Advocate. As well as preventing crime, they were also directed to detain military stragglers after the 'tattoo', or return to barracks, was sounded. After Major Ross, the commanding officer of the Marines objected to this 'indignity', the direction was withdrawn.

By 1795 the Night Watch extended to the Hawkesbury, Parramatta and Toongabbie areas, and they did day, as well as night patrols. However, once again, dedication flagged, and in 1796 Governor Hunter divided Sydney into four regions, and had the people elect three respectable men to be watchmen for a year. As before, the commanding officer of the NSW Corps chose his own watchmen over the military. When Governor Macquarie took over the settlement on 1 January 1810, he reorganized the police force on a sound financial basis. Angered at the disregard with which the lower classes treated the Sabbath, he directed in May 1810 that vagrants and idlers found wandering about without good reason during

Divine Service be arrested.

In 1833, Colonel H.C. Wilson, Superintendent of Police, introduced the beat system in Sydney, similar to London. The constables wore plain blue jackets with badges, and the rank of inspector was created. In 1839 Colonel Wilson was suspended from office and then dismissed for using policemen in his private service. As the colony expanded into more remote areas, mounted police and border police forces were formed to handle bushrangers, runaway convicts and hostile

PRESENTATION MADE TO EX-SERGEANT TOMPKINS

At the last meeting of Hunters Hill Council, the Mayor, Ald. H.E. Jessup, made a presentation to ex-Sgt (Paddy) Tompkins, who recently retired from the Police Force. The Mayor said that during the 30 years Mr Tompkins had been in charge of Hunters Hill, he had carried out his duties in a capable and exacting manner. He added that there were many young local men of today who had grown up today to be worthy citizens due to the understanding and wise counsel of the ex-Sgt. Ald. W.J. Thom said ex-Sgt. Tompkins was a very highly respected citizen of Hunters Hill, and that he would be the last of the 'personal' policemen Hunters Hill would be likely to have.

Ex-Sgt Tompkins was presented with a cheque and a letter under seal from the Council.

From The Weekly Times 26 May 1962

APRIL GUEST SPEAKER

Our guest speaker is Angela Phippen, Local Studies and Family History Librarian with the City of Ryde. Prior to this she was Librarian at the Society of Australian Genealogists.

The subject of Angela's talk will be

HISTORIC HOUSES OF RYDE

HUNTERS HILL HISTORICAL
SOCIETY INC

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aborigines. A small corps of native police was formed in 1848 to check clashes between whites and aborigines, mainly in the northern areas that became part of Queensland in December 1859.

During the 1830s and 1840s, it became difficult to find men for the force. The pay was low and the hours long. Though free men and soldiers were preferred, the force still had to employ convicts. Drunkenness was a major problem, and the number of different police forces caused inefficiency and lack of cooperation. In 1862 the NSW police became a statewide cohesive body, setting the structure of the force as it exists today.

During the following years the NSW Police Force was forced to improve, to cope with the period of lawlessness brought about by the gold rush. Their arms, horses, equipment and communications were updated. By the late 1870s bushranging in NSW had been stamped out.

Information for this article and sketch of Hunters Hill Police Station by Bruce C King (1960) from the Society's archives

Shakespeare as you like it?

An Historical Society visit to the State Library in what is the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare (1564-1616) was treated to a viewing of this artistic work, based on the dramatist's famous lines in "As You Like It".

The Shakespeare Room houses hundreds of books related to the Bard of Avon. It is located on the ground floor of the Mitchell Wing, and was built to commemorate the 300th anniversary of his death in 1916. However it was not until 1942 that it finally opened to the public as the Shakespeare Tercentenary Memorial Library.



Two stained glass panels from *The Seven Ages of Man* in the Shakespeare Room

The whole room is a showpiece of craftsmanship. Its design was inspired by the Tudor style of Cardinal Thomas Wolsey's closet at Hampton Court Palace in London. The room is lined with Tasmanian Blackwood but treated to resemble English oak.

The motif of linen folds was a favorite among Tudor woodcarvers and is used throughout the paneling. Other examples of the woodcarver's skill are the two intricately carved pillars just inside the door.

Above the door, inside the room, is Queen Elizabeth I's coat of arms, which is repeated on the wooden cornice, with the coat of arms of the Earl of Southampton, one of Shakespeare's patrons. Above the doorway and on the glass doors is Shakespeare's coat of arms, granted to his father, John Shakespeare, in 1596.

The Shakespeare Room, is just a small part of the rich heritage that makes up the State Library, the oldest public library in Australia. **Chris Schofield**

History of The Hunters Hill Theatre

Lynn Trainor was the guest speaker at the Society's General Meeting on Thursday 25 February. Her subject was The History of The Hunters Hill Theatre. It is the oldest theatre group in mainland Australia, surpassed only by Hobart. Lynn joined the Hunters Hill Theatre group in 1987, is a past president, and is involved in the theatre in a practical manner. She recently directed *Bedroom Farce* by Alan Ayckbourn. The theatre began life in 1930 as the Hunters Hill Play Reading Club. Before long the name was changed to the Hunters Hill Play Reading and Dramatic Club. The first performance took place at the Hunters Hill Congregational Church in 1930.

By the early 1940s Hunters Hill Town Hall was the established venue, although performances were given at other venues, including Ryde and Parramatta Town Halls and around Hunters Hill. In 1938, the sesquicentenary of the First Fleet landing, a *Cavalcade of Australian History* was held, which included local people in various roles. During the war years, it was difficult to find male performers, so women took the roles.

In 1974 the name was changed to the Hunters Hill Dramatic Club, and the search for a permanent home went on. In 1978 agreement was reached to use the St John's church hall in Margaret Street. A further, and last, name change was made in 1991, to the Hunters Hill Theatre Inc. The St John's hall burnt down in 1993, and after much discussion and disagreement, a decision was made to try to acquire the St John's Church building. This was done in September 1994, but not without some heartache. The old committee stood down, and Gaye Shannon formed another, with her as president. A subscription season was established, and the theatre began selling out all twelve performances of almost every play.