

Journey of Discovery

Family History Conference : Port Macquarie 11-13 September 2015

NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc.

No. 12

18 September 2015

Thank You to everyone who attended the 2015 *Journey of Discovery* Conference in Port Macquarie

The NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies 2015 Conference was a great success thanks to our speakers, sponsors, exhibitors, volunteers and especially to YOU for being there.



It was great to have the opportunity to meet so many of you face to face and we hope you enjoyed the event as much as we did. Perhaps you have been inspired to continue your research; to find another avenue to knock down that brick wall; to revisit the Musters, the Mitchell Library and the National Archives collections; to cite your sources accurately; or explore the benefits of DNA testing for family historians. Or maybe you have been motivated to write a story of your ancestors that will tug at the heartstrings ... like Heather and Martyn's presentation....sigh!

Feedback: We would value your feedback on any aspect of the Fair and Conference as it will be a guide for future events of our Society and of NSW & ACT AFHS. Below is a link to the online *Journey of Discovery* Conference and Fair survey where you can provide your feedback and comments <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XFSN3TR>. You can also send an email to conference.pmdfhs@gmail.com



Access to the *Journey of Discovery* Conference website: How you access the website has changed slightly. Please go to our Society's website at www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nswpmdfhs/ click on the tab on the left hand side labelled "2015 Conference" and then on the link to the conference webpage. The photo gallery is there too.

Lighthouse Information/Dinner Menu: We have received many requests for a copy of this so we have attached a pdf file for you.

2016 Conference: The Association banner is now in the hands of Camden Area Family History Society Inc - we hope to catch up with you all again for the *Cowpastures and Beyond* Conference on 9th - 11th Sept 2016.

Thank you everyone - we loved hosting the Fair and Conference!

Jennifer Mullin, 2015 Conference Convener

on behalf of the Conference Committee

Clive Smith, Wendy Anson, Gwen Grimmond, Brian Panisset and Trysha Hanly
& Management Committee and members of Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society



Proudly hosted by Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society Inc

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Email: conference.pmdfhs@gmail.com
Website: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nswpmdfhs/

Tacking Point Lighthouse

Latitude 31° 28.7 S. Longitude 152° 56.2 E.

Designed by NSW Colonial Architect James Johnstone Barnet and built by Shephard and Mortley in 1879 at a cost of £4,650.

Original lantern had a two-wick burner of less than 1,000 candlepower with 12 nautical miles visibility.



This little lighthouse is built on a rocky headland about 8 kms south of Port Macquarie and is classified by the National Trust of Australia (NSW). It offers great views along the coast and you can frequently see dolphins and whales out to sea.

It has become an icon of the Port Macquarie community and often features in tourism campaigns highlighting our beautiful coastline.

Tacking Point was named by Matthew Flinders on 23 July 1802 on his voyage to map the coastline of Australia in HMS *Investigator* because it was the point where he was tacking waiting for the slower *Lady Nelson* to catch up.

The lighthouse was critical to improved safety on the sea because in the 1800s the coastline was a dangerous route and there were very few lights in the Tacking Point area. Over 20 ships were wrecked and at low tide off Lighthouse Beach below, you can see a rusty wreck of the steam ship *Watonga* which ran aground on a perfectly calm night. The rock on which it grounded is known as Watonga Rock.

The lighthouse was built of cement-rendered bricks and only needed to be 8 metres high because of the elevation of the site. There were a number of lighthouse keepers who lived in the cottage just below the lighthouse, but the last keeper left in 1919 when the light was converted from wick oil light to automatic acetylene operation. In 1974 the light was converted to mains electricity.

The foundations of the Lighthouse Keepers cottage can still be seen today and there is a scale model of the cottage and the lighthouse at the Maritime Museum.

We are grateful to PMDFHS Society member Richard Grimmond for patiently and painstakingly making the models of the Tacking Point Lighthouse which decorate the tables.

31st Annual Conference Dinner Menu

NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc

Welcome

Drinks available at the Bar (at own cost)

Meals will be served alternately, except for diners with special dietary requirements who will have meals served individually

Entrée

Freshly baked bread rolls

Caramelised onion, Sicilian olive and brie tart w/rocket salad

Pork belly braised in Asian master stock on saffron poached pear puree

Main Course

Char grilled chicken breast with roast chat potato, rocket and garlic cream sauce

Scotch fillet with green beans, potato puree and red wine jus

Dessert

Celebration Cake with vanilla ice cream and berry coulis

Drinks

Freshly brewed coffee and a selection of premium teas

Hosted by Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society Inc

Catered by Rydges in the Bayside Ballroom

12th September 2015