

Margaret's great family find

MILTON Ulladulla Family History Society member Margaret Hope knows why it is so important to attend Family History Conferences.

Margaret found documents relating to a relative which in turn helped her find out more about her family tree.

Next year the conference will be in Nowra, so it will be much easier for local members to attend.

The society's last workshop of the year will be held on Sunday, December 13 from 10am to 5pm.

A special Christmas afternoon tea will be held after the 1pm get together.

For those who can't attend the combined Christmas and Anniversary Party in December, this will be an opportunity to see friends and have some fun.

A very successful additional workshop was held on Sunday, November 22.

Members were fortunate in having guest speakers to entertain all.

Anna Flynn spoke about how to write your Family History, Val Williams spoke on Researching Convicts, Margaret Hope spoke on Colour Coding your Family Research and Lynne Johnston related a marvellous story on the scandal that shocked Otago, New Zealand.

The society's volunteer service at the library will cease on December 16 and resume the first Wednesday in February 2010.

The visits to LDS (Latter Day Saints) have now ceased for the year and will resume in February 2010.

For any further information contact the president Michael McMahon on 4455 2379 or secretary, Beth Venning on 4455 1915.



ABOVE LEFT: Rosina Maud (Webber) Matthews 1875-1927. ABOVE RIGHT: The Title Deed to Rosina's Mascot property, purchased in 1922.

COMMENT: Margaret Hope

AS an obsessed family historian I attended the NSW and ACT Association of Family History Societies Annual State Conference in September 2009 with two other members of our society.

It was hosted by Wyong Family History Group at the Wyong Racecourse and is held annually in September over three days at different venues and by different societies.

On our arrival on Friday we registered our attendance and received a handy bag full of interesting information and freebies.

Saturday was an all day event full of wonderful speakers.

We learnt about the history of Wyong, Turning Dry Facts into Exciting Narrative and about documenting your ancestors as they slip in and out of your records.

The Latter Day Saints told us of their future plans about digitising their records and the National Library of Australia informed us of their future plans.

Sunday's speakers included Michael Flynn the author of first and second fleets of 1788 - 1790.

Terry Ryan from the Maritime Museum enlightened us about family history information we can find at the museum and Kim Phillips told us about the Spirits of Gallipoli.

Of course, there were also

trading tables where many Family History Societies sold their publications as well as the commercial companies selling their valuable resources.

One of my mottos is: "If you don't look, you won't find it".

So, of course the trading area section was a place I spent a great deal of time.

While browsing this area I noticed some people gathered around a cardboard box and fiddling through its contents.

My inquisitive nature sent me to find out what it was.

"Old Title Deeds" they replied, "mainly from the Mascot area".

They noticed my eyes bulge with excitement as I told them my parents grew up in the Mascot/Botany area.

They kindly made room for me to explore the contents.

Within five minutes of looking the name Rosina Maud Matthews jumped out at me like a neon light.

I had just found the title deed to my great grandmother's property in Government Road, Mascot.

My father was born at this home in 1927.

It no longer exists as it was purchased by the Government in 1964 to extend the Sydney domestic airport.

His maternal grandmother, Rosina, died six months before his birth.

The information on this docu-



ment told me that she took out a mortgage with the Equitable Permanent Benefit Building Land and Savings Institution in 1922 and it was discharged in 1923.

By 1928 the property was sold to Mabel Edith Beard who sold it to Charles Harold Mills who sold it to John Ray who sold it to the Commonwealth of Australia.

It also told me that this property was a portion of an original land grant to Mary Lewin, an Irish convict, who is the ancestor of my father's brother in law.

To me, this was like winning the lottery and I would have paid the earth for this original document.

So how much was it? Just two dollars! What a find!

Next year the Shoalhaven Family History Society will be hosting the conference and I have already booked my accommodation and look forward to, well, who knows what?

So if you're into family history research, don't sit at your computer and think that you can find it all there, get out and make use of our libraries and archives, join a family history society where you will find out where and when these conferences are held and make the effort to attend them.

Many of our members have been researching their family tree since the 1970s and they are more than willing to share the expertise.