



KU-RING-GAI HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Incorporating the Ku-ring-gai Family History Centre • Patron: The Mayor of Ku-ring-gai

Affiliated with the Royal Australian Historical Society, the National Trust of Australia (NSW),
The Society of Australian Genealogists, and the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc.

April 2008

Monthly Newsletter

Vol 26 • No 3

PO Box 109 Gordon NSW 2072 • Ph: (02) 9499 4568 • www.khs.org.au • email: khs@khs.org.au

Rooms - 799 Pacific Highway, Gordon Meetings held in the Gordon Library Meeting Rooms - 799 Pacific Highway, Gordon

20 February Meeting

Topics covered at the General Meeting included the welcoming of several visitors, the Financial Report, Jo Harris' award for Citizen of the Year for Ku-ring-gai on Australia Day, and thanks to Peter Stehn for all his work in upgrading the computer system. More volunteers were needed to scan photographs, and training for volunteers on the oral history project would be starting shortly. Steven Carruthers then gave a most interesting talk on the Japanese Midget Submarine attack in Sydney Harbour in 1942.

Japanese Submarine Raiders-1942

New interest in the midget submarine raid on Sydney Harbour in May 1942 has been aroused by the recent discovery of the wreck of the third of the three vessels off Broken Bay. Steven Carruthers, who has researched the events surrounding the raid and written about it in his book *Japanese Submarine Raiders 1942- A Maritime History*, summarized the details of the raid and its aftermath in his address.

The three midget submarines, which had been released from a group of larger submarines, attempted to enter the Harbour on the evening of 31 May, where there were around forty warships of various denominations at anchor as well as a number of armed merchantmen. The first to attempt entrance (M27) became entangled in the anti-submarine net and took no further part in the attack. The second (M24) entered safely and fired two torpedoes, one barely missed the USS Chicago, a heavy cruiser and exploded on striking HMAS Kuttabul, anchored at Garden Island which was used as a sailors' dormitory, resulting in the death of twenty one sailors. The second torpedo ran ashore and did not explode. The submarine then escaped from the Harbour.

The third submarine (M22) struck the seabed in its attempt to avoid the net. The consequent damage prevented it from firing torpedoes. The two damaged submarines were eventually recovered and have been on display at various sites over the intervening years. The fate of M24 was a mystery and a number of bogus sightings were reported from time to time. It had been planned that any surviving submarines would rejoin their mother submarines off Port Hacking. But for some reason, possibly related to the weather, M24 went north, until its batteries were exhausted and the two occupants died of suffocation or suicide.

When discovered in 2006, the wreck of the M24 was missing much of its superstructure due to damage by fishing nets. As it has been listed on the National Heritage, the wreck cannot be interfered with further and it is not known to what

Coming Meetings

NEXT SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING (Gordon Library Meeting Room)

Wednesday 16 April 2008 - 7.45 pm

Guest Speaker - Dr David Branigan

Topic: T W Edgeworth David



A celebrated Geologist, Antarctic pioneer, co-founder of the Australian Tunnellers' Corps in World War 1, tireless campaigner for science and a household name in his day, the achievements of Sir Tannatt William Edgeworth David (1858-1934) are not well-known today.

David Branigan's biography, the result of many years' research, was short-listed for the inaugural Prime Minister's History Award in 2007.

Supper will be available
Visitors Welcome

NEXT FAMILY HISTORY MEETING

Saturday 5th April 2008
11 am - Members Research

2 pm Meeting
Annual Election of Officers

Speaker - Dr Ken Knight
Researching pubs and publicans pre 1850

Afternoon Tea will be available
Visitors welcome

extent skeletal remains are still in the hull. However, the scuttling charges are still intact. In the aftermath of the raid, the host submarines engaged in attacks on east coast shipping, sinking three ships. They also briefly shelled Sydney and Newcastle on 8 June.

A symbolic closure to the midget submarine raid was effected following the discovery of the wreck of M24, when surviving relatives of the vessels' crews and Japanese naval representatives as well as Neil Roberts, a survivor of the HMS Kuttabul explosion, attended a remembrance ceremony in Sydney.

Q & A Computer Course

Please note that this course on Friday 21st March was postponed as this was Good Friday. A later date will be advised.

Tulkiyan Open Day - from 10am, Sunday 13 April, 2008

The next public opening of Tulkiyan, Ku-ring-gai's own State-listed heritage house museum, will take place during the 2008 National Trust Heritage Festival. This year's Festival theme is 'Our Place', which aptly describes Tulkiyan, owned by the people of Ku-ring-gai and managed on their behalf by Ku-ring-gai Council. No bookings taken – just come along.

- Date: Sunday 13 April 2008
Venue: Tulkiyan, 707 Pacific Highway, Gordon 2072 (south of Gordon shops)
Access: Interior accessible only by guided tour, conducted by Friends of Tulkiyan volunteers. Tour duration approximately 1 hour.
Note – no wheelchair access; and no disabled access to second storey.
Tour Times: At least hourly. First tour 10am, last tour 3pm
Entry Fee: \$10.00 (adult) includes guided house tour and refreshments
Inquiries: Friends of Tulkiyan volunteers – phone 9498 3754
Ku-ring-gai Council – phone 9424 0888
www.kmc.nsw.gov.au/Art and Recreation/Tulkiyan

Oral History Training Course

This course consists of 2 successive Tuesdays starting on 1st April from 10.30 to 12.30, then 8th April, then a break of 2 weeks, and then another two successive Tuesdays, 29th April and 6th May.

Seniors Week

Seniors Week is being celebrated in the first week of April. The Society is having a stall at the St Ives Shopping Village on Thursday 3rd April from 10am to 3pm. Volunteers are needed to man the stall. Please contact Kevin Callinan on 9983 1525 or 0418 488 742 if you can help.

More Volunteers Needed

More Volunteers are needed for the Rooms, particularly for the days falling in the 5th Week as well as Saturdays.

The Myth of the Sphinx

One of the most out-of-the-way Memorials to the fallen of World War I is the Sphinx Monument, located in the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. It is a 1/8th scale model of the Great Sphinx of Giza and was carved by Private 5756

William Thomas Shirley while he was a patient at the nearby Lady Davidson Hospital. It is about William Shirley himself that most of the myths have evolved.

Most of the existing information says that William Shirley had been severely gassed at Bullecourt and subsequently suffered from pneumonia and pleurisy. They then go on to say that he carved the Sphinx, having seen the original in Egypt during training or leave, in memory of his fallen comrades. Yet by examining original documents – in this case his World War I Service records, Battalion histories and censuses of England – a different picture emerges.

William Shirley, or Sherley as it is sometimes spelt, was born between 1865 and 1867 in Shap in Westmorland to parents who had recent arrived from Ireland. By 1881 William's father had died and the family was living in Liverpool, an area heavily populated by Irish immigrants. By 1891 William was working as a stone mason, probably as part of his five year long apprenticeship to Wm Thornton & Sons in Liverpool.

He appears to have left England some time before 1901 as he does not appear on the census of that year, although no records of his departure from England or arrival in Australia have been found. Nothing further is known of him until he enlists in the A.I.F. at Casula on the 12th January 1916 and is assigned to the 18th Reinforcements, 13th Battalion. At the time of his enlistment he gives his occupation as a stonemason & builder and lists address as 53 Rofe Street, Leichhardt. He names his brother Joseph, also living at Rofe Street Leichhardt, as his next of kin. He embarked on *HMAS Clan McGillivray* at Sydney on 3 May 1916 bound for England, where he was trained until he proceeded to France on the 20th March 1917.

This is where the myths about William Shirley and the Sphinx start. Most records claim that he was heavily gassed at the battle of Bullecourt. While his regiment did take part in the First Battle of Bullecourt on the 11th April 1917, and there is no reason to suppose that Shirley did not take part in that attack, no gas was used in that battle. It had been snowing prior to the battle and it is possible that he caught some sort of upper respiratory tract infection as he was already suffering from tuberculosis and he was transferred to hospital in Rouen on the 14th April, suffering from "debility". His condition was considered serious enough for him to be sent back to England, where he was admitted to Southwark Military Hospital on the 25th, by now also suffering from pleurisy. His service records did have "pneumonia & pleurisy" written in one place, but the "pneumonia" has been unmistakably crossed out and every other reference in his records only lists his condition as debility & pleurisy. The medical opinion was that his condition pre-dated his enlistment but was "accentuated by the strain of war service conditions". He was returned to Australia for home service on 25th August 1917, and was discharged on 29th November 1917, suffering from "senility & debility".

In January 1924 the tuberculosis had progressed to the point that he needed to be admitted to the Lady Davidson Hospital. It was at this point that he began carving the Sphinx

Member Profile – Kevin Callinan

memorial. But here another myth must be debunked. He did not see the Sphinx when he was training in Egypt or on leave in Egypt. By the time he enlisted in the A.I.F. the battles at Gallipoli were over, and the Australian soldiers were being transported to England, where most of them conducted their training at Lark Hill Camp in Wiltshire. From his initial posting to France to the time he was admitted to hospital in Rouen less than a month had passed.

The reason for carving the Sphinx was more prosaic – the Medical Superintendent of Lady Davidson Hospital, Dr Frank Featherstone, had noticed the rocky outcrop in the National Park which “by its stance and rough outline, bore a slight resemblance to the Great Sphinx of Egypt”. As a form of occupational therapy he suggested that Shirley might like to “rough out” a face on it, since he had been a stone mason. Shirley did more than rough it out. With the aid of photographs and a copy of a *Baedekers Guide* (which contained the exact dimensions of the Sphinx) he spent the next two years carving a scale model of the monument. The sandstone was difficult to work. It was soft and friable but had veins of hard ironstone running through it. This resulted in one of the lion’s paws crumbling. His health did not allow him to work more than a few hours at a time, and there were extended periods when he was confined to bed, but he finally finished the Sphinx and two pyramids in 1926.



Shirley did not live to see his memorial unveiled to the public on the 3rd May 1931, as he had died at the Prince of Wales Military Hospital, Randwick, on 27th August 1929. Yet it remains a lasting memorial “to my Glorious Comrades of the A.I.F.”

Jenny Joyce

Recent Acquisitions

The Governor’s Lady - Mrs Philip Gidley King (Marnie Bassett); An Australian Historical Narrative, first published Oxford University Press, London, 1940

The Tocal Story (Edward Alan Hunt, and John Hinde); How an agricultural college was born in the Hunter Valley, published by Wesley Stacey 1972.

Boutell’s Heraldry (revised by J.P. Brooke-Little 1983) One of the standard, basic books on heraldry, published by Frederick Warne & Co. Ltd., 1983.

Pymble - a Biography of Pymble Golf Club (Bob Ross)
Japanese Submarine Raiders 1942 (Steven Carruthers), a history of the midget submarine attacks on Sydney Harbour, published Dennis Jones, 2006



Kevin Callinan attended primary school at Brigidine Convent, Maroubra and later at Marist Brothers, Darlinghurst before transferring to De La Salle, Coogee and then boarding school at St Stanislaus’ College, Bathurst completing the Leaving Certificate in 1959. Kevin has retained his support for and interest in the oldest Catholic boarding college in Australia as a member of the executive of the Old Boy’s Association. He is currently Vice-President.

After a brief sojourn at Sydney University studying Dentistry he joined the Commonwealth Public Service at Garden Island in 1962 working in financial administration. In 1969 he transferred to the newly established Dockyard personnel section later rising to Manager Personnel.

He completed a Bachelor of Business degree majoring in Public Administration with sub-majors in Management of Organisations and Economics in 1983. In 1985 he completed the Industrial Mobilisation Course with the Department of Defence and attended the Industrial Law and Industrial Relations Course through Macquarie University in 1986.

In 1988 Kevin was appointed to a small team responsible for setting up Australian Defence Industries (ADI); Kevin had responsibility for all of the ‘personnel and industrial relations’ issues. He was also responsible for Occupational Health and Safety, Workers Compensation, throughout the company and later Quality and Change Management for the Operations Group. Prior to this Kevin had been Personnel Manager and Head of Dockyard Development at Garden Island Dockyard in Sydney

Kevin retired from business in 1999, and joined the Society shortly after completing the Leisure and Learning course on Family History run by Jo Harris. He is a relative newcomer to Ku-ring-gai having moved here on return from Canberra in 1994. Having established that his maternal forbears were convicts (Second Fleet) he has developed a keen interest in early Australian History.

He has been able to bring to the Society his broad experience and managerial skills enabling the Society to develop its resources through government grants, and obtain a significant donation enabling establishment of the Headmasters Office Museum and, in particular grants which lead a very intense work program preserving and cataloguing the Society collection

Kevin’s other interests and hobbies include miniatures and 1/12 scale dollhouses, however his interests are far broader than this in woodwork and manual crafts. He has been active in establishing a Community Workshop for Ku-ring-gai and Council recently approved this concept for Ku-ring-gai thus enabling his long held wish for ‘The Shed’ to proceed.

History Notes

Thoughtless Destruction

How often do we find valuable documents, records and objects destroyed without thought given to their historic value. This came to mind yet again when reading a brief biography of George Collingridge. Collingridge was not a resident of Ku-ring-gai but made many references to our more northern suburbs in his publication, *Progress*. More particularly, he was a wood engraver of distinction and, with his brother, a founder of the Royal Art Society. He had a studio for a time at Gordon. What caught the eye was a statement that few of his “woodcuts have survived. For many years they were stored in an office in Hornsby, only to be destroyed one bitterly cold winter, during the 1930s, when they were used for firewood”. Enough said?

Remember.....

... when everyone stood for the National Anthem (God Save the King) at the beginning of every session at the “pictures” – now more widely known as the “movies”.

“Rossville”

During the building of the North Shore Railway and for the first nine months after its 1890 opening, *Roseville* was called *Rossville*. One wonders if this was an error, created maybe by a Scottish draftsman or engineer. Or was it to honour someone or place with the name *Ross*. Was the change to *Roseville* made to correct the error, if that is what it was, or because *Roseville* was seen as a more attractive name? The suburb was named after the railway station rather than the station after the suburb. The name *Roseville* has not surfaced in the annals of the *Roseville* family, early inhabitants. Nor has it been proven, though it has been frequently written, that it was the name of a cottage on the site of the Station. Nor has *Roseville* been found anywhere relevant before 1890. Maybe a lynx-eyed reader will discover a mention before the naming of the railway station in 1890?

An Era Ends

Most Ku-ring-gai people travelling down Kissing Point Road would have noticed Rast Brothers nursery on the right hand side several hundred metres down from the Highway. Many would have called in to buy garden supplies and would have enjoyed the way in which the nursery was tastefully landscaped around what had clearly been a small creek in bygone years. Perhaps it is only when familiar places disappear into the past that we really come to appreciate their value. That has, inevitably, now come to be the fate of “Rast Bros”.

Were there ever any *Rast* brothers? Most certainly there were – Anton and Xavier but better known as Tony and Ferry. Both were Swiss-born and learnt the nursery business in France. Tony was the first to migrate to Australia and

immediately began searching for land suitable for a nursery and eventually succeeded in finding an ideal, sheltered and sub-tropical valley on the western side of Turramurra which, as we know, has a higher rainfall than surrounding areas. Tony convinced his brother to join him and in 1914 they bought 1 ¼ acres, cleared the land and opened their “*Helvetia*” nursery the following year and were to live there until they died within a few weeks of each other in 1974. They also acquired land where the South Turramurra Shopping centre now is. A house was on this site which was occupied by several hired men, said to be mainly Yugoslavs.

There Rast brothers grew flowers for delivery to homes and shops as far afield as Mosman and for sale at a stall they had at Paddy’s markets. In about 1931 they opened florist shops at Kings Cross, Double Bay and Bondi. They have been credited as pioneering the growth of *Kentia* palms in Australia by bringing seed from Lord Howe Island. At both nurseries they also cultivated grapes to produce about 1000 bottles of wine for their own use and to give away. They lived well.

Neither of the brothers married. They were joined at their home in the “top” nursery by a 14 year old “*Curley*” Pye in 1927 who remained until he went to the Second World War. Ferry did all the cooking until they employed a housekeeper with her daughter.

Of recent years the nursery has been owned and operated by an Englishman, Peter Whitehead, who maintained it at a very high standard. Ku-ring-gai will miss him and the excellent service he gave.

(For more detail see the HISTORIAN published by the Society).

More on Telegraph Road

In our April 2007 issue we posed the question whether it was true that Telegraph Road, Pymble, had once been called Military Road and renamed in 1883 at the insistence of resident Dr W W J O’Reilly. It has been said that the Doctor was not comfortable having his peaceful thoroughfare associated with war and preferred it to “*commemorate the telegraph line from Parramatta to the coast, part of which ran along the road*”.

Though this has been written many times our widespread enquiries seeking supporting evidence bore no fruit. Local military historians, for example, could find us nothing relevant on either the use of “military” or “telegraph”.

Last month, however, we picked up a copy of *The Shaping of Hornsby Shire* by Claire Schofield and published by Hornsby Council in 1988. On page 129 it is recorded that the ... *first telegraph line on the northern shore of Sydney Harbour branched from the main northern telegraph line at Castle Hill, and ran through Pymble*

along Telegraph Road to the coast, at Barrenjoey light house and the Broken Bay customs station, in 1870. Both these lines were constructed to facilitate the receipt of external rather than internal information”.

A footnote gave the source of this information as “Australian Post Office History – Hornsby, Post Master General’s Department”. Sadly, Australia Post could not locate the document nor could either the Hornsby or Mitchell Libraries. Nevertheless the existence of similar reports for many other districts strongly suggests that such a report did in fact exist. It would be good to sight it but in the meantime it seems highly likely that the origin of the name Telegraph Road is as has been written. Whether or not Dr O’Reilly was involved is open to question but he was a most influential gentleman so it has the ring of truth.

Definite information about “Military Road” remains so far unfound.

“Not without Comfort and Hopes”

Back in 1986 Judith MacLeod chose these words from Francis Bacon as the title for her book about early settlers Richard Porter, Ann and Mary Hutchinson, James Weavers and Robert Wicks. All arrived in Australia as convicts. The first two came with the Second Fleet, James Weavers with the Third and Robert Wicks some ten years later. The quotation makes the point that the adversities of convict life do have their comforts and hopes – a theme developed by Judith. Though these people are part of the early history of Ryde, the Porter family became closely associated with Kuring-gai. The heritage house, *Grandview* on Pymble hill, was built in the 1880s by a son, Richard, or a grandson, Michael, (we won’t canvas which one here). Many would have noted Porters Lane on the left as they left St Ives down Mona Vale Road towards the Highway.

This paragraph is not about the Porters, however, but about Judith and her book. Judith had sent a copy of her book to the Kuring-gai Local History Centre in which the Society was heavily involved, but when Council closed the Centre in the mid 1990s, the book went to the Kuring-gai Library. We did not have a copy and, judging from an enquiry we recently had from a Porter descendant living in Yeppoon in Queensland, they are impossible to come by.

Between the enquirer and ourselves we discovered that Judith is alive and well and living in Kuring-gai. We thought we’d ask her if she minded if we took a photo of the entire book for our library. Before ringing her we checked our membership records to see if she had ever been a member of the Society. It seemed she hadn’t. Imagine **the writer’s** red face when she immediately said she IS a member and has been for a couple of years. She has so far been unable to attend meetings because of a passing health problem. We had committed the elementary error of checking for *MacLeod* whereas she was wrongly recorded in **the writer’s** personal list as Judith *McLeod*.

From there on it was all good news. Judith would be happy if we were to photo her book. Also, she is planning a revision

and reprint. The only thing needed to complete the story is for Judith soon to have her health restored so we can meet her at one of our meetings.

St Philip’s Church or St Phillip’s Church

A brief history of St John’s at Parramatta edited by The Rev. Canon H M Arrowsmith in 1975 records that on 23 July 1802, Governor King “...directed ... that the districts of Sydney, Petersham, Bulanaming, Concord and Liberty Plains, be... a parish ... named Saint Phillip in honour of the first Governor ... and that the districts of Parramatta, Banks’ Town, Prospect Hill, Toongabbie, Seven Hills, Castle Hill, Eastern Farms, Field of Mars, Northern Boundaries, Ponds and Kissing Point be ... a parish ... named St John’s in honour of the late Governor, Captain John J Hunter...”

It may well give rise to some controversy, but it is hard to escape the thought that Governor King took a pragmatic decision by honouring his two predecessors and at the same time recognising the two Saints. It is noted that when faced with the problem that Governor Phillip had two “l’s” in his name and the Saint just one, he just as pragmatically settled for the former. So for many years we officially had the parish of St Phillip and St Phillip’s Church.

Phillip with two “l’s” became generally used (see for example baptismal and marriage records) but Canon Arrowsmith reported “that in 1856 the Church took *St Philip* as its patron Saint” and discreetly dropped the implied reference to the Governor by becoming St Philip’s. Earlier, in 1852, St John’s at Parramatta had declared its saintly connection in another equally discreet manner by becoming “St John the Evangelist”. This declared, without specifically saying so, that their *John* referred to the Saint rather than the Governor.

Governors Phillip and Hunter, though continuing to command respect in our secular world, thus had their connection to the two churches put to one side.

Quiz

Kuring-gai had 35 hospitals in the Municipality, most of which were private maternity or convalescent hospitals.

Do you know in which suburb were the following 10 hospitals

Kuringai	Longford
Lyn Haven	Margaret Reid
Mountview	Patlene
Pinjarra	Poor Sisters of Nazareth
Princess Juliana Hospital	Quinta Private Hospital
Redleaf (2 different suburbs)	

* * * *

Max Farley has found one copy of “The Railway came to Kuring-gai” in Richard’s Old Bookshop, 130a The Entrance Rd., The Entrance, phone 02 4332 2743, if anyone is interested in obtaining a copy. The price is \$22 plus postage.

Family Matters

1st March Meeting

The 11am session attracted 18 members when Peter Stehn, with input from President Kevin Callinan, showed the attendees what is available on the computers and bookshelves for researching Irish ancestors. Many questions were included in this informative session. Du Faur computer is now available for general research as Peter has organised a main drive for all computers, this is left on all the time with back-up battery system.

2 pm meeting

KHS President Kevin Callinan opened the meeting in the absence of Jo Harris, welcomed all 36 in attendance with a special welcome to Councillor Jennifer Anderson. Special welcome too, to our Joyce Ryerson with Sue, her daughter – Joyce even checked with President Kevin if we were having a raffle!

Visits, Books & Items of Interest

Joy Walker visited Castle Hill Historical Society – they meet at the ARV, Castle Hill. Guest Speaker was Bill Grenhalgh who spoke about “Life & Times of Dr Thomas Parmenter” 1790-1836 who had been Assistant Surgeon of the Castle Hill Lunatic Asylum.

Sue Ryerson spoke about a visit to Cattai and Thomas Arndell who had arrived on The Lady Penryhn.

Jenny Joyce attended a lecture at the RAHS, the subject was the Lithgow Small Arms Factory, which the society members visited last October.

Shirley Morley - “The Mermaid Tree” about Akaroa, NZ – plans to visit.

Catherine Williams – found book about Lauren Bacall most interesting. Catherine visited Macquarie Park Cemetery – finding a grave is now automated – type the name required into machine – reading the map also interesting. Catherine also advised that there were so many things to do in Heritage Week it should be Heritage Month!

Angela Lind – Annie Henning’s “Sea Journals” – father was sent out to open The Mint, Sydney.

Beverley Dunstan advised that KHS March Meeting Guest Speaker, Peter Lalor’s topic ‘The Sydney Harbour Bridge’.

Kevin Callinan encouraged members to become Oral History Interviewers. Training sessions to commence Tuesday 1st April (no joke) please contact Jenny Joyce, Neroli Lock or Don Fifer.

Kevin was very pleased to receive a never seen before, 1949, 5th class school photo of a now deceased older brother.

West facing graves at the old Sydney Graveyard, now under the Town Hall, were Clergymen.

Max Farley advised that F.O.K.E – Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment will hold an official opening for their exhibition in the Meeting Room on 4th April at 5.00pm - Bookings essential phone 9424 9770. The exhibition can be visited at the Council Chambers and will be open for 2 weeks.

Notes by Elaine Turnidge

Family History Course

There will be a 6 week Introduction to Family History Course starting on Thursday 10th April. Cost \$100 for non members and \$85 for members.

Excerpts from The Pymble News

Accident at Gordon - Children and Explosives

An accident of a somewhat serious character took place at the Gordon Public School on Tuesday, 6th inst., in the infants schoolroom. A cartridge or explosive of some sort had been dropped on the floor, it is thought by one of the pupils. During the course of the lessons one of the children put his foot on it. An explosion at once occurred, two of the pupils, Robert Cooley and Gladys Shrewing, both about seven years old, being seriously injured. Gladys Shrewing, sustained severe injuries to one leg and Cooley had his hand hurt. This is the second accident that has occurred lately in this district through children having explosives in their possession.

The Pymble News, August 15, 1901, p 3

Fire at Gordon - Cottage burnt down

On Thursday, 26th ult., a small weather-board cottage at Gordon, owned by Mr. W.H. McIntosh was burnt down. It was occupied by Mr. Oscar Lofberg, who, with his family, had just left the premises to catch the 5:19pm train for the City. He was on the station when the fire, the cause of which is unknown, broke out. The premises burned fiercely and all attempts at checking the flames were futile. A great amount of the furniture and household necessaries were destroyed. The building was insured in the Mercantile Mutual Fire Insurance Co. for £50. The furniture was also insured for a small amount.

The Pymble News, January 2nd 1902, p 4

Tree Planting at Wahroonga

Through the instrumentality of the Wahroonga Progress Association, ornamental trees are being planted on the borders of Burns Rd. Wahroonga. It will be remembered that the trees were planted in Coonanbarra Rd. , but these were neglected and half of them died, incurring expense in having them replaced. It is hoped the new trees will not share the same fate

The Pymble News and Northern Suburbs Advocate, August 14, 1902, p6

Tours

“Sally down the South Coast” 15 /16 March, 2008”

Few weekends in Australia include dharma and incense, the complex ecology of a tropical rain forest and / or biophysical aspects of genealogy. Yet all these were included in the coach trip to the Shoalhaven area led by Jo Harris.

Our first stop was for morning tea at Stanwell Park, a location of varied history including early experiments in aviation. After a short walk upon the impressively designed Sea Cliff Bridge, which is an elevated carriageway above the rocks we left for the Kiama Research Centre where Ray Thornburn gave a most interesting talk. The Centre, unlike KHS, is not a Society as such, as it acts as a focus for varied genealogical research including the links between genetic tracing and genealogy.

A drive through pleasantly green dairy country took us to Jamberoo for a lunch provided by the local CWA and a wander around the well kept village and parklands, before driving to Minnamurra rainforest where a board walk, including a suspension bridge (see photo), protects both the ground and the flora and took us through some utterly different ecology. Back to Kiama (where the blowhole did not perform for us) and then on to our overnight stop at Nowra, where two notable features were our welcome by the Manager’s young daughter and an excellent dinner provided by the chef.



Group at Minnamurra - Jo Harris

Sunday started with an informative tour of Meroogal House. Occupied almost exclusively by women of a family from Scotland, it proved a veritable time capsule with its furniture and fittings intact. Next a photo stop for a panoramic view over the Shoalhaven River. On to the Lady Denman Complex at Huskisson, where we were given a graphic account of the necessarily very determined but equally difficult efforts involved in bringing the Edwardian era Harbour Ferry back to the site where it was built and then building a Museum around it. Following a seashore alfresco lunch, our last visit was to the Nan Tien Buddhist Temple - quite a contrast - where warnings about the unsuitability of sandals, consequent on a distaste for the exhibition of toes, happily proved unfounded. We were fortunate to witness the sonorous, vibrant operation of a huge ritual drum and an associated Bell of Gratitude.

After dinner at the Master Builders’ Club in Wollongong, the party headed back to Sydney and were entertained with the now regular and hilarious routine of marking the quiz sheet. Sincere thanks were expressed to the professionals, Ken and Helen of Prymer Tours, and to the indefatigable organiser and quiz master extraordinaire, Jo Harris.

notes by Peter Done

Built Heritage



Rippon Grange 35-45 Water Street Wahrenonga

The heritage listed *Rippon Grange* (*John Williams Hospital*) is once again under threat from an inappropriate development. The developer Waterbrook has lodged a new proposal with Ku-ring-gai Council for the site, despite a resounding rejection in the Land and Environment Court last year. If this new multi storey proposal is allowed to go ahead it will impact on the “Blue Gum High Forest Critically Endangered Ecological Community”, the heritage curtilage of *Rippon Grange* and the adjacent Residential Precinct.

Rippon Grange is a grand Federation Queen Anne two-storey house designed by eminent architect John Sulman for Frederick George Sargood in 1898. Sargood was the son of prominent businessman Sir Frederick Thomas Sargood who built *Rippon Lea* in Melbourne. In 1905 the well-known architectural firm of Joseland and Vernon completed alterations and additions to *Rippon Grange*. This firm also designed the Sargood building in Sydney. In 1922 Sargood subdivided part of the property fronting Billyard Avenue and to the west of the existing title. It was at this time that the gatehouse with surrounding land was separated from the main house (29 Water Street). Marion Sarah Braddock wife of merchant Walter Ray Braddock bought *Rippon Grange* on its reduced curtilage.

In 1935 the property was sold to Ernest Robert Williams, founding director and later managing director of Woolworths Australia. In 1951 he gave the property to the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children for treating children with poliomyelitis. The hospital was named in memory of his son John Robert Williams, a warrant officer in the RAAF who died in Germany in 1944. Cobden Parkes, Government Architect, designed the 1954 alterations and additions. *Rippon Grange* is set in large mature grounds which contain much of their original layout of paths and driveways and include early garden features such as rock retaining walls, croquet lawn and mature gum trees. The gardens are a rare example of Federation landscape design and garden architecture and have been assessed as being of State heritage significance. At one time the property contained over 12 acres with frontages to Water Street, Billyard Avenue and Young Street.

Rippon Grange is described in the 1921 valuations as a brick and shingle on brick two storey house of 19 rooms, kitchen and out-offices with a tile roof. The property also contained a brick garage, hot-house, tool sheds etc. The residence still retains much of its original fabric and integrity.

Additional information can be found at www.Wahrenonga.org.

Jennifer Harvey

Copy for Newsletter

General copy for publication should be lodged with the Editor, Kerrin Cook at lindsaykerrin@bigpond.com **as early as possible** but no later than 7th of the month (except November and December) unless otherwise arranged. Copy lodged before that date **will receive preference** all things being equal. Copy is to be submitted on the understanding that the Society has editing rights and readers can reproduce it in whole or part with acknowledgement. Material should preferably be in electronic form.

New Members

We are very pleased to welcome to membership:

Corona Adams - Castle Hill
Warwick Sharpe - Turramurra
John and Nancy Fogarty - Waitara
Peter and Irene Ferrier - St Ives
Margaret Pender - Turramurra
Bronywn Bryce - Waitara
Ray and Robyn Chapman - Killara
Robyn McGregor - Pymble

We know they will enjoy their time with the Society and that membership will open the door to many friends and activities of interest.

Quiz Answers

Kuringai Convalescent Hospital - Mona Vale Rd., St Ives
Longford Private Hospital - Treatts Rd., Lindfield
Lyn Haven Private Hospital - Bent St., Lindfield
Margaret Reid Orthopaedic Hospital - Mona Vale Rd., St Ives
Ives
Mountview Convalescent/Nursing Home - Pacific Highway, Pymble
Patene Convalescent/Nursing Home - Greengate Ave., Killara
Pinfarra Convalescent/Nursing Home - St John's Ave., Gordon
Poor Sisters of Nazareth - Bobbin Head Rd., Turramurra
Princess Juliana Hospital - Bobbin Head Rd., Turramurra
Quinta Private Hospital - Trafalgar Ave., Lindfield
Redleaf Convalescent Hospital - Redleaf Ave., Wahroonga
Redleaf Convalescent Hospital - Taunton St., Pymble

Research Centre Hours

The Society's Research Centre is at 799 Pacific Highway, Gordon, adjacent to the Ku-ring-gai Library. The Centre is open from 10am to 2pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday (except the first Saturday of each month when members have a meeting). It is closed over the Christmas period and on public holidays.

Diary Dates

Sat 5 Apr	Family History Meeting
	11 am - Members Research
	2 pm - General Meeting
	Election of Office Bearers
	Speaker - Dr Ken Knight
	<i>Researching pubs and publicans pre 1850</i>
Thurs 10 Apr	10.30 am 6 week Family History Course
Sun 13 Apr	Tulkiyan Open Day 10am-3pm
Wed 16 Apr	7.45 pm - KHS General Meeting
	Speaker - Dr David Branigan
	<i>Sir Tannatt William Edgeworth David</i>
Sat 3rd May	Family History Meeting
	11 am - Members Research
	2 pm - General Meeting
Wed. 21 May	7.45 pm - General Meeting
	Speaker - Scott Robinson
	<i>Inter-War housing in Ku-ring-gai</i>

Administration

President	Kevin Callinan	9983 1525
Vice Presidents	Ann Barry	9144 6480
	Jo Harris	9489 4393
Treasurer	Doug Milne	9487 2853
Secretary	Don Fifer	9482 4613
Immed. Past President	Max Farley	9499 7113
Committee members	Kerrin Cook	9416 2586
	Helen Davies	9498 3754
	Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
	Jenny Joyce	9440 2131
	Peter Stehn	9489 9488
Appointees		
Accessions	Jennifer Wallin	9983 1871
Book Sales/Asst Curator	Ann Barry	9144 6480
Curator	Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
Family History		
Leader:	Jo Harris	9489 4393
Committee:	Lyn Done	9449 7715
	Stella Green	9449 4388
	Jean Smith	9498 4468
	Peter Stehn	9489 9488
	Elaine Turnidge	9899 2635
Historian Editors	c/- Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
	with Kathie Rieth, John King, Bob Ross	
Newsletter - Editor/Layout	Kerrin Cook	9416 2586
Publicity	Sue Dunston	9498 8720
Public Officer	Helen Davies	9498 3754
"SNAP" Co-ordinator	Helen Davies	9498 3754
Speakers Programme	Beverley Dunstan	9419 8526
Volunteers Roster	Heather Davidson	9144 1844

© Copyright is vested in the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society Inc. and the authors. The content may be reproduced as sourced from this Newsletter and with acknowledgment to the author if named.