



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.

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Monthly Newsletter

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

From St Andrew's to St Ives

On May 20, Society member Bob Ross spoke of the passage of golf from its home at St Andrew's in Scotland to Pymble Golf Club in St Ives.

The first golf course of 9 holes in Australia was a private course at Bothwell in Tasmania, built by a Scot in 1822, which became the basis of a club 80 years later. Scotsmen were prominent in the birth of clubs in most other states, with real interest developing in the late 1890s and early 20th century.

The oldest club in Australia is generally taken to be The Australian at Kensington. The first club on the North Shore was Killara, founded in 1899. Some senior members broke away and formed their own club in Pymble, which became the Avondale Golf Club in 1926. Roseville and Pennant Hills had preceded it by about three years.

Pymble Golf Club was founded under rather unusual circumstances. After WWI there was serious talk of opening a rail link from Gordon to the northern beaches. The route would have been through St Ives with a station at (probably) Cowan Road.

This was the prompt for a number of men to buy land in that area for subdivision as a dormitory suburb. To increase the amenity and therefore the value of the subdivision, they planned a golf course within it.

First of all they acquired all the James Terrey estate that had not already been sold, and many of the lands that Terrey had sold to Samuel Smith. At a later date the Golf Club acquired part of John Britton's orchard, which ran from Cowan Road to Killeaton Street. All of these lands had originally belonged to DD Mathew, and were the site of a very prosperous sawmill.

The leader in this enterprise was Clifford Peacock. The first President of the Golf Club was Dr Percie Chater Charlton, a local dentist and Test cricketer. The course was opened in 1926 (9 holes) and 1928 (18 holes) to a design by Dan Soutar (expatriate Scot!). The clubhouse was built in 1927 and has been extended or renovated many times since.

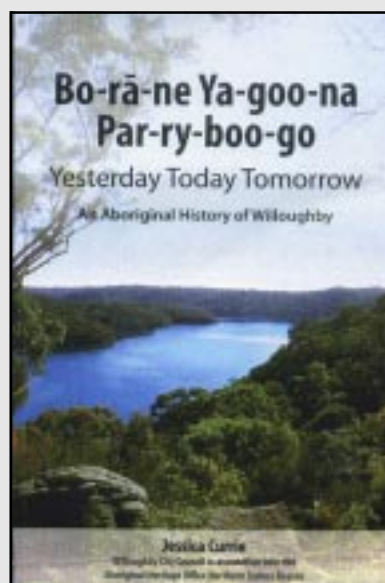
Membership grew quickly. A liquor licence was obtained in 1932 by absorbing the Hunters Hill Golf Club, and modifications were made to the course. When the Club bought Britton's orchard in about 1950, it sold the three 'paddock' holes on the other side of Pentecost Avenue. By this time it had survived both the Depression and WWII.

Based on notes by Bob Ross

Coming Meetings

(Gordon Library Meeting Room)

Next Society General Meeting Saturday 15 August at 2 pm



Our speaker, historian JESSICA CURRIE, spent 12 months reading early settlers' journals, researching in archives and conducting interviews, in order to compile the first written and pictorial record of Aboriginal history in the Willoughby area.

**Afternoon Tea will be available.
Visitors welcome.**

Next Family History Meeting

Sat 1 August 11 am Come and see the new resources
2 pm Madeleine Sweeny and Sue Crawford - "History of Cavalcade of Fashion"

**Afternoon Tea will be available.
Visitors welcome.**

Sydney's Northern Railways

At the Society's Meeting on 20 June, Dr Lesley Muir spoke on the development of the railway systems in NSW, with particular emphasis on the railways to, from, and within Sydney.

To the surprise of no one, the decisions about where lines would be built, and when, were apparently very heavily influenced by politicians currying favour with landowners and businessmen, most of whom sought to have these decisions made for their financial gain. Apparently at that time few politicians, other than Ministers, were paid so were open to influence. Dr Muir's talk was therefore laced with the names of influential politicians, their landed "supporters", and wealthy entrepreneurs. Premiers were not exempt from attracting her attention, including Henry Parkes, John Robertson, and Alexander Stuart. James Farnell, the Secretary for Lands, and John Lackey, the Secretary for Public Works, were among the many mentioned.

The need for rail communications accelerated from the mid 1800s as a result of a number of things – the coal mines being developed in the Hunter and South Coast, the burgeoning wool trade, and the growth of country towns based around the gold rush. Victoria was similarly affected and, somewhat bizarrely, even contemplated building a railway to Deniliquin in the Riverina to attract trade from NSW to Melbourne and its port.

So far as NSW is concerned, there was competition between Sydney and Newcastle to service the coal and wool industries. The possibility of attracting business from the Hunter direct to Sydney via an inland route was seriously canvassed. One proposal was to build a railway line from Sydney to Singleton along a route similar to the Great Northern Road. It would then branch to Newcastle. The building of a line connecting Sydney to Newcastle was initially not high on the priority list, and the Hawkesbury and Nepean Rivers provided natural barriers.

Another driving force towards extending the system was that politicians were always ready to promote the construction of branch lines to country towns in their electorates. Even within the Sydney district, there was a web of conflicting and competitive interests by people keen to have the metropolitan railways routed where the property values of favoured landowners and developers would be boosted.

Our North Shore was just as much affected as any other area and so, too, were our politicians. John Fitzgerald Burns, Robert Burdett Smith, and George Withers, were active in the speculator business in Wahroonga and Hornsby, including the Vancefield Estate. Premier Alexander Stuart had land on the North Shore and promoted the building of the railway to his advantage, as did Minister James Farnell who had land at Ryde. Even our North Shore line was the subject of competition as to where it would meet the harbour. Some wanted Cremorne, others Milson's Point and others Blues Point. The inability to settle these conflicting interests was why, in the first instance, the 1890 line finished at St Leonards – because this left all options open. Eventually Milson's Point was chosen.

Based on notes by Max Farley

Computer resources added, changed or updated

The following computer resources have been added or updated since the last newsletter:

- **Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG) Journals 1933-2008** - Contains 75 years of SAG Journals and includes reference articles, family histories, photographs, extracts from historical records including many NSW cemetery transcriptions and parish registers, news about SAG and enquiries submitted by researchers
- **Ballarat Cemeteries and Crematorium** - Indexed transcripts of memorials in the Old and New Cemeteries and burial and cremation registers
- **Sydney Telephone Directories** for the following years: 1940-1943, 1945-1947, 1949, 1950-1951 and 1952-1953
- **1924 Wilson's Sydney Street Directory**
- **Gregory's Sydney Street Directory circa 1943**
- **Gregory's Road Guide to New South Wales** - There is no date given in this publication but it seems to be about the 1930s, according to the publishers
- **Cemetery Transcriptions Index** - Published by the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies. Available in the Local Resources toolbar on all computers except the laptop
- **1840 Topographical Dictionary of England** by Samuel Lewis. This is the fourth edition of the publication, complementing our existing 1831 edition
- **Historical Records of Australia** - Includes all 26 volumes of the first series and contains dispatches from the Governors to the authorities in England from 1788 to 1848. These dispatches included detailed reports on many subjects. Some items found in the series are: arrivals of ships, convict records, correspondence, promotions, petitions, rations, embarkation and appointments.

Peter Stehn

Can you help?

1. Publications

Our Society's greatest need is to research and publish new books. To realise this, we need people who are able to take on projects, or elements of larger projects, mainly using the resources in our rooms. Commitments can be brief or on-going, according to the time you have available.

We have an outline for a series of publications, but would also welcome your suggestions - and we are ready to start rolling when you are!

Or perhaps you might like to select a "work in progress" from our archives (see examples on P. 3) and polish it up?

2. Room Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to cover the following room shifts: the 4th Thursday, or the 2nd Friday, of each month from 10 am to 2 pm.

If you are able to help with either of the above, or in any other way, please contact Ann Barry 9144 6480 or a.barry@optusnet.com.au

Newsletter contributions invited

If you have any short item of general interest to share, please send it to the editor (bob_barry@optusnet.com.au).

Drafts from the Society's Archives...

Edward Clarke Windybank

Edward Clarke Windybank came from Bedfordshire, England by sailing boat in 1853. He worked as a boat builder in boatsheds in Double Bay and Elizabeth Bay. On his way to Newcastle one day, he saw water from the ridge top and walked down through the bush and was so enchanted by the bay that he decided that this was where he would settle. This tough pioneer lived in a cave for some time before bringing building materials by ship from Sydney to the Hawkesbury River, then rowed along Cowan Creek to Waratah Bay.

In the late 1890s Windybank built a boatshed at Waratah Bay, which became the centre of activity for holiday makers, day visitors and fishermen. The enterprising Windybank built and hired houseboats, at one stage there were 11. He owned two steamboats, Wildflower (1895) and Lady Zara (1903) before he owned a motor boat, Lady Alicia, which could carry 110 people, and a lifeboat from the SS Maitland (which had been wrecked off Broken Bay in 1898) with an added motor.

Another purchase was a large paddle steamer, the "General Gordon", which had been used by the Railway Department to transport passengers across the Hawkesbury River before the rail bridge was built. This boat was cut in half by Windybank and hired out as houseboats.

The Windybanks raised a family of seven at Waratah Bay, and the children went to school by horseback. Fresh water was obtained from a permanent spring, which still flows from the hillside on the Berowra side of the boatshed. There was a small orchard behind the house, an aviary and a fernery. Cows and horses were kept. A shop was run at the boatshed, and fresh daily supplies came by packhorse from Berowra, whilst larger items came in later years by monthly trading ship. Church services were held at the home, with Mrs Windybank playing the organ.

Edward Clarke Windybank died in 1927 aged 78.

Addendum:

Gordon Windybank, b. 1910, son of Edward & Alice Windybank, founded Windybank's Bait & Tackle business on the Pacific Highway, Mt Colah in 1950.

The Windybanks Interchange, Pacific Highway, is between Mt Ku-ring-gai and Berowra.

The Hundred of Packerham

Governor Brisbane gave instructions to the Commissioners of Valuation and Survey, dated 23 June 1825, that the territory was to be divided into counties of about 1600 square miles, the counties into hundreds of about 100 square miles, and the hundreds into parishes of about 25 square miles. It is probable that surveying difficulties or the uneven distribution of population led to variations from the intended area of about 100 square miles for a Hundred when maps had been completed, and Governor Bourke made his proclamation on the 16th day of May 1835 fixing the boundaries of the County of Cumberland, and its constituent Hundreds.

"The County of Cumberland is declared to be divided into thirteen distinct and separate Hundreds... "

The core Hundred for our interest is that covering present-day Ku-ring-gai:-

"The Hundred of Packerham shall be bounded as follows:- On the north by Broken Bay, from Barrenjoey Head to Cowan Creek; on the west by Cowan Creek; by a branch of that creek to its head; by a line thence bearing south to the centre of the road from Wollstonecraft's Wharf on the North Shore; and by the centre of that road until opposite the head of Lane Cove; on the south west by a line bearing south from the centre of the road from Wollstonecraft's Wharf to the head of Lane Cove; on the south by Lane Cove and Port Jackson; on the east by Port Jackson to the sea coast; and by the sea coast to Barrenjoey Head including the islands attached to the parishes in this Hundred viz:- Broken Bay, Gordon, Narrabeen, Manly Cove and Willoughby..."

This area was only sparsely settled at the time. The proclamation continues:-

"...which altogether contain a population of 1593 viz:- 899 males, and 694 females. The number of houses in this Hundred is 471."

Based on anonymous hand-written notes

Gordon Public School enrolment database

One of the projects currently being undertaken by the Society is production of a digital *Gordon Public School* enrolment database. This is a major ongoing project, with a number of people involved.

Over the last couple of years, Jo Harris organised a number of trips to the State Records at Kingswood. On each trip Jo requested the Enrolment Books for the school and, with the help of a number of assistants, has photographed each page. This phase has been completed.

Subsequently, these digital images, the source material for the database, must be organised. Kevin Brown worked on this task for some time.

Judith Fuller, with the help of Estelle Howell, began database entry from these images, working on a fortnightly basis. Then Annet Latham came along and was willing to load the images and the database onto her laptop and carry them around the world, allowing her to work on the project during her many overseas trips.

Kevin Brown carried out the task of renumbering all the scans Jo gave us. Now that this stage is completed, Annet is going through the scans and deleting the duplicate copies. She continues to dedicate herself to completion of the project, and comes to the rooms most Wednesdays when she is in the country. Annet works with Peter Stehn to resolve any difficult-to-read entries.

Peter has now organised the database to show the original image for each entry at the click of a mouse button.

You should check out this database next time you're in the rooms. It's a great example of a cooperative project of great historical value to Ku-ring-gai.

Accessing old books on the Internet

Lots of old out-of-copyright books have been made available on the Internet, and many of them can be downloaded to your computer.

Google Books contains digitised versions of both fiction and non-fiction books, as well as some magazines. To access Google Books, go to the Google home page, click on the arrow next to the word “more” on the top left of the screen, and you will be taken to the Google Books search screen.

Now if you enter “life of captain james cook” (including the inverted commas, but capital letters are not necessary) you will see that a number of books of that title are displayed. Some of them say “Limited Preview” and some say “No Preview Available”, but the ones that say “Full View” are available in full.

If you select one of the full view books by clicking on the title, you will see a copy of the book. You can either scroll through the book, page by page, search within the book for a word or phrase, or download a PDF copy of the book. Another interesting book that can be found is “The Voyage of Governor Phillip to Botany Bay”.

Many of the books that can be found can help with your family history. For example, if you enter the name “Hawkhurst” (which is a town in Kent), the first result is an article in “*Archaeologica Cantiana*” (the journal of the Kent Archaeological Society) entitled “Some Notes from the records of Hawkhurst Church”.

One disadvantage of Google Books is that the downloaded PDF files are not searchable (although many of them have an index at the back).

This problem does not apply to our second site for searching for books, the Internet Archive (<http://www.archive.org>).

Here the search is only in the book titles and brief description (unlike Google Books which searches the title and the contents), so it is most effective when you know the name of the book for which you are looking, however it can still be worthwhile to enter the name of a town or region of interest and see if anything comes up. A search for “governor macquarie” comes up with a book published in 1909 “A Colonial Autocracy: New South Wales under Governor Macquarie 1810-1821”.

Some of the other sites with online books are the Harold B. Lee Library at the Brigham Young University (<http://www.lib.byu.edu/fhc>), Project Gutenberg (<http://www.gutenberg.org>) and Project Gutenberg Australia (<http://gutenberg.net.au/>).

These books are not limited to history or genealogy – for example a search for “Eliza Acton” in the Internet Archive brings up a copy of the influential Victorian cookbook – “Modern Cookery, in All Its Branches: Reduced to a System of Easy Practice For the Use of Private Families”.

Enjoy your searching!

Jenny Joyce

Member Profile - Helen Malcher

It is a somewhat salutatory experience to have to write a profile on one's self, having requested it of so many others!

I came to a love of history quite late in life, and it remains a fascination always – in local history, in larger European and Australian events, and at the more personal level, in the closely allied family history.

My background is in administration and teaching, but my current interests (they have been called obsessions) are literature and history. This is a result of going to university very late.

I was one of the dreadfully-named ‘mature age students’ at Macquarie Uni – in my 40s. This opened many doors and created fascination for me in both these areas, as well as pitch-forking me into history teaching at senior high schools.

The time spent on the KHS Committee, as editor of its publications, and for a brief period as its president, was therefore, though extraordinarily time-consuming, also extremely satisfying.

It was a pleasure to ‘grow’ *The Historian*, in conjunction with Helen Davies, as a forerunner for the excellent production it is today.

It was even more of a pleasure – and this at Max Farley's suggestion! – to team-produce *Focus on Ku-ring-gai* and *Women of Ku-ring-gai*.

It was the experience with those publications which has spurred my current preoccupation – editing and producing publications for the Jane Austen Society of Australia. This dynamic and continuously growing organisation has two major and professional publications annually, as well as books on the subject, to inform the huge and growing Jane Austen community in this country as well as abroad. I enjoy and am challenged by the task.

I would like to take the opportunity of warmly congratulating the current team leading the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society. The Society has become dynamic, grown hugely, and has a great deal of member involvement. The training programme instituted by Jo Harris has produced informed and committed volunteers, and the business of the organisation is being superbly run. I am delighted for all its members.



The Forgotten Francis Foy

In the first years of the 1900s, Francis Foy loomed large as a Killara resident but today his name would mean little to most Kuring-gai people. Mention *Mark Foy's*, however, and the memories of many would be stirred.

For the very young we should mention that *Mark Foy's* was a leading department store on the corner of Elizabeth, Liverpool and Castlereagh Streets. It opened in 1908 after having traded in Oxford Street since 1885. Its Liverpool Street architecture was based on the famous Bon Marche in Paris and was famous for its piazza, marble, chandeliers, sumptuous ballroom and for Australia's first escalator. The building now houses law courts.



It was Francis Foy who was the driving force in establishing and running the business. The name "*Mark Foy's*" was chosen not only because Mark was a family name but also in honour of *Marc Foy*, the French grandfather of Francis. The French *Marc* had left his native country for Ireland to escape the turmoil of the French Revolution.

Francis was born in Kingston, near Dublin, in about 1855 and came to Australia in 1860 with his mother. They came to join his father, another "Mark" Foy who had arrived in Melbourne in 1858. By the time his family arrived he had gravitated to the gold fields at Bendigo.

The young Francis took to Australian life with relish. Even as a boy, he showed a readiness to accept responsibilities more suited to men many years his senior. Then, aged 18, his impetuous nature caused him to run away back to Ireland. He joined a draper's firm in Dublin and learnt the skills of that business. By the time he returned three years later, his father had set up a drapery shop in Collingwood. Francis joined him. The business did very well and in 1882 father Mark passed ownership to his son. Soon after, however, Francis decided to set up a new business in Sydney. He opened *Mark Foy's* in Oxford Street in 1885 in company with his young brother, who was yet another Mark Foy. This young Mark retired from the business in 1908 when the energetic Francis opened the big new Liverpool St Store. Mark followed other interests including sailing and the building of the Hydro Majestic at Medlow Bath.

Francis was a popular, flamboyant fellow, gregarious and generous but with outstanding commercial ability. A major passion later in life was horse breeding and racing. He went to the Melbourne Cup each year where he entertained friends at champagne luncheons.

In 1883, he married Mary Flanagan in Heidelberg, Victoria. They had eight children of whom three sons were to serve in WW1. Their names are on the Honour Board outside the old Soldiers Memorial Hall in Marian Street, Killara. Francis frequently travelled to England on business and Mary died in London on 9th December, 1900. He remained unmarried until 1912 when he married Mary Ann Clark at St Patricks, Church Hill, in Sydney.

When Francis first came to Sydney he is listed as having lived at Bellevue Hill and Surry Hills - the latter would have been near his store. Then, in 1906, he is shown as being at Marian Street, Killara, in a home he called *Auteuil*. This name reflects his French background because *Auteuil* is an area near Paris. By 1910 the address had become Lorne Avenue, Killara, but this does not suggest a change of location. Lorne Avenue and Marian Street back on to each other and his property originally had frontage to both.

Something of his personality may be gauged by a comment made to a Society meeting in October 1978 by a KHS member, May Willis, who recalled "*Near the Killara Station Mr Francis Foy built a long, low, two-storied house, and it was said that the builders forgot to put up the staircase so it was put on the outside. Also Mr Foy liked the sound of rain on his roof so he had a water-sprinkler, which he could turn on and off*".

A betting man to the end, he said to a bookmaker at the 1918 Melbourne Cup that he would bet three to one he would not return to Sydney alive. He didn't - he died on the train at Goulburn.

Auteuil remained his home until his 1918 death and his widow, Mary remained there. It was not, however, the only property which had a Foy occupant. A brother, Hugh, and son, Maximillian, also came to Kuring-gai. Hugh, incidentally, was later to build a home at Camp Cove. Its proposed 2009 demolition gave rise to heritage issues. Francis himself was associated for a time with homes in Middle Harbour Road, Lindfield and *Garches* in Clanville Road, Roseville. *Garches*, like *Auteuil*, is a suburb of Paris.

One of Francis's most flamboyant projects within Kuring-gai throws more light on his personality but is surprisingly now altogether forgotten.

A quotation from *The Romance of the House of Foy 1855 -1935*, published by the Company, is an appropriate way to conclude this brief story about this outstanding man who was so briefly in our midst:

"His consideration for his employees and friends prompted him, when living at Killara, to purchase an extensive property that he formed into delightful picnic grounds replete with an artificial lake, cricket pitch, dancing floor and swings etc. There he delighted to have his friends enjoy themselves with simple pleasures. It was thronged on Sundays and, at the annual staff picnic, was a scene of rare festivities"

These grounds covered many acres on Fiddens Wharf Road and stretched all the way from what is now Golf Links Avenue to Lady Game Drive. The area is now part of the Killara Golf Club.

FAMILY MATTERS

Family History Meeting 4 July 2009

11.00 am Session

31 members and 3 visitors attended the morning session, chaired by Jo Harris. Jo had brought 12 of her books relating to Victoria. We looked at Victoria and New Resources, including Historical Records of Australia Volumes 1-26 1788-1848, Indexes of Victorian Deaths 1921, Marine Births 1823-1920, Immigration 1852-1879, Unassisted Inward Passenger Lists to Victoria 1852-1923, Men of the Time in Australia 1882, Melbourne Directory 1893 Sands McDougall, Ballarat Cemetery, Commercial & Squatters Directory. Recommended was NZ Shadows of Time – <http://shadowsoftime.co.nz>. Also, new from Microsoft: a new search engine called “Bing”.

2.00 pm Meeting

The Historical Society obtains **Other Publications** for members to read. These are available during opening hours at the centre, and are kept on the small white bookcase for a months before filing – these include: Lane Cove Historical Society, National Trust Heritage Week Programme (handout), Sutherland Shire Historical Society Bulletin, Federation of Australian Historical Societies, Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales, North Shore Historical Society, St Ives Shopping Centre Newspaper, ARMS Chronicle Nepean District, Manly Warringah, Ryde Recorder, Marrickville Newsletter, RAHS Journal.

Elva Davis recommended “The Blessing of the Bonnets” on Sunday 2 August – See Elva for details.

Max Farley recommended and left pamphlets for the Family History Groups Conference to be held at Wyong on Friday 18 to Sunday 20 September.

Jo thanked all who help in so many ways to make this Group such a happy one, thanked the afternoon tea volunteers, closed the meeting and introduced our Guest Speaker, Lorraine McGee-Sippel.

Lorraine McGee-Sippel is a Yorta Yorta Anglo-Celtic woman who was taken from her Aboriginal mother at birth and reunited with her biological family in 1981. Lorraine has written her autobiography, “*Hey Mum, What’s a Half-Caste*”. Lorraine began her talk by recognising the traditional owners of the land. She is a co-founder of Lane Cove Residents for Reconciliation, and has had several book launches including Glee Books, Lane Cove Council, and the National Library in Canberra. First called names at school, at aged 9 years, she asked her adoptive mother “Hey Mum, what’s a Half-Caste?” In 1968 her adoptive father had something to tell her and spoke about “throwbacks”. For 13 years she had believed her mother was “white” and her father “Negro”. Falling apart over many years and wondering if she would make it to her next birthday, she discovered Vera and “Adoption Triangles” based at Werrington. Life changed for Lorraine. In 1981 travelling with adoptive father, Allan, she travelled by train to Wyee to meet Vera and to meet her mother, Hazel.

This lady coming towards her was dark skinned, like the Maori women she had known in New Zealand. For 13 years

she had been told lies. But this was her mother, Hazel. Hazel and Lorraine fell into one another’s arms, too afraid to let go. She learnt that there were brothers, sisters and that her grandparents were still alive. Her father had come from Cambridge. Her Mother’s first cousin was Jimmy Little. So much to learn and understand, now knowing the truth.

From notes by Elaine Turnidge

Photo identification - help needed

Member responses to previous calls for help have identified the house photo in the June issue as being of 6 Beechworth Road, Pymble (with some subsequent changes).

We now think that the distinctive rock face shown in the May issue is in Lane Cove National Park, and we are seeking confirmation...

Your assistance is still needed with the July school group.

If you can help identify the occasion and the people in this month’s photos below, please contact Ann Barry on 9144 6480, or email a.barry@optusnet.com.au



Family History State Conference

The annual State conference of the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies is being held at Wyong from Friday 28 September to Sunday 20 September.

Full Registration is \$150 (Conference Dinner extra), but bookings can be made for partial attendance. A \$10 Early Bird discount applies for Full Registration booked by 31 July.

Topics with Speakers include the First and Second Fleets; State Records; National Library; National Maritime Museum; The Spirits of Gallipoli; Historic Houses Trust; Victoria Barracks, and more. There will be a number of Trading Tables offering publications, information and services of value to Family Historians. Contact Kerrie Metcalfe 4351 5430, or the Wyong Family History Group on 4351 7373 (limited opening hours); alternatively the WFHG website www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nswwfhg/

Old Style Calendars in Great Britain

Did you know that the New Year did not always start on January the First?

Until 1752, Britain used the Julian Calendar, and the New Year started on 25 March (known as Lady Day). This means that if you find a marriage in a parish register on 26 March 1581, and the couple have their first child baptised on the 20 March 1581, that child was not born before its parents marriage, but 359 days after it.

The 24th of March 1581 would be followed on the next day by 25 March 1582. Similarly, if a baptism is found for a John Smith on 20 September 1600, and a burial is found for John Smith, infant, on 2 February 1600, it would be wrong to assume they relate to separate children.

In order to avoid such confusion, some people convert historic dates to our modern dates. So the execution of Charles I, which was recorded at the time as taking place on 30 January 1648, in most modern texts is recorded as 30 January 1649.

To clarify which system is being used, historians prefer to either record the date as 30 January 1648(OS), 30 January 1649(NS) or 30 January 1648/49. OS and NS in those examples refer to Old Style and New Style dates. There is, of course, no confusion for dates that fall between 26 March and 31 December. It is very important to bear this in mind when consulting pre-1752 parish records or other documents.

Things finally changed in Britain in 1752, when the Gregorian Calendar was adopted. This calendar had been developed by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582, and the main changes concerned leap years. The need for the changes was because earlier estimates of the length of a year (which is not an exact number of days) had resulted in the equinoxes not falling on the date accepted by the Church.

The new Calendar was quickly adopted by many European countries, but the Protestant England refused to accept it.

By 1752 there was an eleven day gap between the Julian and Gregorian Calendars, so an adjustment needed to be made to correct this. So the day after 2 September 1752 became 14 September, and 1753 started on 1 January, not 25 March following the change. Some labourers were so concerned that they had been deprived of eleven days pay by this that there were riots in some parts of England.

This change of Calendar explains why October, which sounds like it should be our eighth month, is actually our tenth month. Before the change to the Gregorian Calendar it actually *was* the eighth month. The same applies to September, November and December.

Russia did not adopt the Gregorian Calendar until after the Bolshevik Revolution of 1918, and the last European country to accept the change was Greece, where Wednesday 15 February 1923 was followed by Thursday 1 March 1923.

Jenny Joyce

BUILT HERITAGE

Geraldine, 10 Culworth Ave Killara

I was pleased to see the article on Henry Selkirk in our July newsletter drawing attention to his contribution to our community



and to local history statewide. Selkirk Park, his donation to Ku-ring-gai, is a beautiful and peaceful glen and a fitting memorial to his life's work. I was not so pleased when I went back today to see *Geraldine*, the Selkirk family home in Culworth Avenue. This still stands, a charming example of the Arts & Crafts style of architecture of the early 1900s. Immediately to its south, however, is a massive excavation for a multi-storey block of apartments.

The land was purchased by Henry Selkirk on 19 February 1902 and on 19 March 1902 architect Maurice Halligan awarded the contract for a "cottage residence" in Killara to builder AE Boroughs.

I'm convinced that Halligan was the architect for *Geraldine*. Not only was he a younger brother of Selkirk's wife Kate, but the style of the house is consistent with his work of the same period: two storey with the upper floor contained within a steeply pitched roof, gables clad in timber shingles, and the lower floor with verandah set within the body of the house and behind wide brick arches. In fact Halligan's work is very similar to that of Waterhouse & Lake, the architects for our state-listed *Tulkiyan*. So much so that in one case, *Yeomerry* at Darling Point, Halligan's work has been incorrectly attributed to Waterhouse & Lake.

Kate Selkirk (1854-1935) and Maurice Halligan (1863-1926) were children of Mary and Gerald Halligan, a prominent civil servant. Maurice was articled to GA Morell, working with the firm Morell & Kemp (architects for the large Angel Place building for WH Paling) until 1888 when he went into what became a flourishing private practice. In 1893 Halligan designed 69 Hastings Road, Warrawee for the Traill family. In 1907 he entered a partnership with FHB Wilton. Tooth & Co were important clients: projects included hotels, breweries, a large barley store at Mittagong and a malt-house at Thornleigh. They designed homes, flats, warehouses and factories throughout the Sydney area. Royal Sydney Golf Club, Rose Bay and *Kingsclere Apartments*, Potts Point were significant projects.

The Selkirk family lived in *Geraldine* until their deaths, Henry in 1930 and Kate in 1935. On 30 December 1920 Henry Selkirk had purchased the adjoining vacant land: the northernmost part of his holdings is now Selkirk Park.

Geraldine is not protected by heritage listing, surprising given the importance of its first owner, and that it is one of the few examples of Halligan's work in Ku-ring-gai.

Kathie Rieth

Copy for Newsletter

General copy for publication should be lodged with the Editor, Bob Barry (bob_barry@optusnet.com.au), **as early as possible** but no later than the 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 that 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:

Margaret Bell	Pymble
Ian Brakell	Wahroonga
Ted & Eleanor Dawson	Pymble
Betty & Janet Turner	St Ives

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

COMING TOUR

October 31 to November 2

Adelong, Gundagai, Tumut (2 nights),
Yass, and places in between.

All inclusive: Luxury Coach travel, morning and afternoon teas, lunches, dinners, overnight accommodation 2 nights, cooked breakfasts, all admission fees to museums etc. etc.

There will be an own-expense coffee break on the way home.

Full cost \$430.00 plus single supplement of \$48.00 per night – 4 places available.

Phone Jo Harris 9489 4393.

Easy Care Gardening

Celebrating 21 years of service to the Community!

Come to a Garden and Market Day, Saturday 8 August, 10 am to 3 pm at **Claremont**, 40 Telegraph Rd, Pymble.

Guest Speakers: Silas Clifford-Smith, Tim Entwisle, Judy Horton, Meredith Kirton, Virginia Macleod, Angus Stewart, and Helen Young.

There will be Plants and Gardening Tools for sale.

Coffee, cakes, Gourmet Sausage Sizzle.

Entry \$5 (includes raffle ticket)

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 to the public from 10 am to 2 pm 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 1 Aug** 11 am Come and see the new resources
2 pm Madeleine Sweeny and Sue Crawford - "History of Cavalcade of Fashion"
- Sat 15 Aug** 2 pm General Meeting - Jessica Currie, researcher of Aboriginal History: "Bo-râ-ne Ya-goo-na Par-ry-boo-go" (*Yesterday Today Tomorrow*)
- Sat 5 Sep** 11 am Members' Research
2 pm "The first ancestor I have found came from ????"
- Wed 16 Sep** 7.30 pm AGM and General Meeting
Speaker - John Vaughan, "Flags and communication in Australian History"

Administration

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	Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
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	Peter Stehn	9489 9488
	Trevor Whitehead	9449 6426

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	with Kathie Rieth, John King, Bob Ross	
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Speakers Programme	Beverley Dunstan	9419 8526
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