



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

Dressed in Their Best

Attendees at our General Meeting on 19 June 2010 heard a lively and informative presentation by guest speaker Ms Pam Liell, historian and author. Ms Liell's subject was "Dressed in their Best", also the title of her 2004 book presenting 500 family and individual portrait photographs from her own collection, arranged by decade from 1860-1960.

Ms Liell spoke of the desire of many "ordinary" people in the nineteenth century to capture their own and their family's likeness, in their best finery, as a testament to their success in life. This idea was not new: portraits of the privileged had been painted over centuries. The process was very expensive, slow, and produced probably one original. The advent of photography made image production faster, more affordable, and several copies could be generated to send to others. Photographic portraiture became accessible to all social levels and was widely embraced.

In early photographs when exposure times were long, portraits were posed, standing or seated. The fixed position was held during exposure, aided by hidden devices such as the head brace, fixed on a stand behind the subject. As people wore their best apparel for their session, old photographs are a rich record of the dress styles of former times. An account of costume through the subject period formed the latter part of the talk.

From the 1870s, small portraits were framed in cardboard as *cartes de visite*, made up by the photo studios. Their ornamentation increased over time (e.g. gilding, rounded edges) and this stylistic evolution assists in dating the attached photograph. In the early twentieth century photographic postcards became very popular.

Prior to development of the personal camera, photographic studios were found in cities, while rural areas were served by travelling photographers. Props such as a chair, curtain or plant stand provided by the photographer, created atmosphere. Most portraits were done indoors where lighting could be controlled. As cameras became advanced and film more sensitive, moving subjects were reliably captured, and city studios attracted customers by taking photos 'on spec' in the streets – office workers and shoppers could later inspect proofs and order prints.

Personal cameras, both film and now digital, have revolutionised image capture, and simultaneously we see in the record a more casual view of subjects' lives – the need to pose, and to impress, via the photograph no longer being paramount.

Helen Davies

Coming Meetings

(Gordon Library Meeting Room)

Society Annual General Meeting followed by General Meeting Saturday 21 August at 2 pm



NOLA BRAMBLE

LEBANESE MIGRATION TO NSW 1880-1920s

Come along to hear the largely hidden history and some unexpected stories of this little known immigrant community. Nola will outline why they came, where they settled, the occupations they followed and their longer term legacy.

KHS member Nola Bramble is an independent scholar who researches the early period of Lebanese migration.

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

Next Family History Meeting Saturday 7 August

11 am More Shipping: Assisted & Bounty Passengers, Emmigrants & Immigrants, Crew & Deserters, and Exiles (if time).

2 pm "Some Australian Weather Disasters".
Speaker Dick Whitaker (more details: p. 6).

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

Society Workshops

- “ANCESTRY” Cost: \$5
Thursday 12 August 10.30 – 11.30 am Jenny Joyce
– “Getting the most out of the UK Censuses”.
- Thursday 26 August 10.30 – 11.30 Graham Lewis
– “Australian Musters, Censuses and Parish Registers”.

Please note that the above workshops are strictly limited to one person per computer so everyone gets a chance for hands on experience.

- “Family Tree Maker” Cost: \$5
Saturday 28 August 10.30 – 12.30 Jo Harris
– “Beginners and Q & A session”.

Bookings for all Workshops are essential by emailing khsinc@tpg.com.au, phoning the rooms, or dropping in to fill out the sheet with your name and contact number.

If you have expertise in a certain area of history, genealogy, or use of *Ancestry*, we would love to hear from you to help us run more workshops.

Recent Acquisitions

‘Old Colonial Architecture in New South Wales and Tasmania’ by W Hardy Wilson, approx. 110 pages, and this edition published 1975 in association with The National Trust. Donated by Evelyn Wyatt.

‘Brought In By The Tide - A Guide To Researching Your Convict Ancestors’ by the Wyong Family History Group Inc., published 2009 (36 pages). I found this book helpful (incidentally the State Records NSW has recently combined six of its convict indexes into a single database).

‘The Story of the Camera in Australia’ by Jack Cato. This third edition published 1979 by the Institute of Australian Photography. 187 pages. Donated by Jo Harris.

‘Dating Family Photos 1850-1920’ by Lenore Frost, reprinted 1996 (128 pages). Covers dating by type of photo, dating by costume (including a glossary of types of clothing) and conservation. Donated by Jo Harris.

‘The Mechanical Eye in Australia Photography 1841-1900’ by Alan Davies & Peter Stanbury, and published 1985 (270 pages). Contains a listing of professional photographers to 1900, and amateur photographers to 1880, so if you have an old photograph with a studio name or photographer’s name on it, this book may assist in putting a date to it. Donated by Jo Harris.

Bruce Robinson

Quiz Answers for July

1. Where in Ku-ring-gai was Irish Town Rd? b. Turramurra.
2. Which is the correct spelling? c. Ku-ring-gai.
3. Who was George Caley? b. A botanist-explorer.
4. Which of these was not a newspaper in our area? c. The Times.
5. Wilson’s Street Directory of 1910 lists how many streets in Roseville? c. 24.
6. What was named after James Riddle? d. Riddles Lane.

Editor’s note: Feedback suggests that readers prefer answers to the Quiz to be in the same issue as the Quiz itself, so that’s what we’ll be doing from now on....

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The **2010 AGM** will be held at
2.00 pm
Saturday 21 AUGUST
in the Gordon Library Meeting
Room.

Nominations for Officers and
Committee must be in the hands of the
Returning Officer by 14 August.
Nomination forms are available in the
Rooms.

Scottish Genealogy

Saturday 14 August 10.00 – 2.00 Mark Oxbrow
(Family History Speaker for July - *see report P. 6*) will be in the KHS rooms to assist with individual Scottish Genealogy.

Quiz Answers for August (see P. 8)

1. c. Robert Pymble 2. a. April 1788 3. d. Bannockburn Rd,
Turramurra 4. a. Wahroonga Station 5. c. Rosedale 6. b.
National Trust of Aust.

Memories of West Pymble - help needed!

West Pymble Public School’s Fair in September will include a display of the history of the area.

As part of this, KHS is organising a display of local, family and school history.

The local area has been covered by a letter-box drop, and some interesting photos have been uncovered.

But we need more!

So, do YOU have any photos/documents/stories about West Pymble?

Any subdivision information? Any old adverts for housing, or the local shops?

Your house - then and now? Your street?

Guides? Scouts? Sporting groups? The swim centre?

Bicentennial Park - the quarry and now?

Churches and community groups?

If you have any materials, we will scan/photocopy them, and return the originals to you. Please contact Ann Barry at a.barry@optusnet.com.au or 9144 6480.

Upcoming Events

that may be of interest to our members....

Meet the Macquaries at Parramatta

Peer into the personal lives of this intriguing First Family. Their relationships, their dreams for shaping Australian society and their profound belief in a "fair go" for all. Curated by Gay Hendriksen, this exhibition explores the Macquaries' unique vision for the new country of Australia and their contributions to the life and landscape that is Parramatta.

From 19 Jun to 7 Nov, 9 am to 5 pm daily, Parramatta Heritage Centre, 346A Church St.

The Governor – Lachlan Macquarie 1810 to 1821

To celebrate the 200th anniversary of Lachlan Macquarie's governorship. On display will be Macquarie's personal letters, journals, maps and paintings, as well as objects such as the intriguing Macquarie Collector's Chest, that tell the story of his contribution to colonial Australia

From 3 Jul to 31 Oct, State Library of NSW.

Guided tour/talks: Wed 11 Aug & Wed 8 Sep, 12.30 pm to 1.30 pm, \$15, bookings 9273 1770.

Out of the Vaults – Art and Governor Macquarie

Governor Macquarie is said to have been a patron of the arts. Why then did he spend more on John Lewin's funeral than on his paintings? What was it like being an artist in the Macquarie era? Did artists think of themselves as artists or tradesmen? Did being a convict artist mean you saw things differently? Richard Neville, Mitchell Librarian and a colonial art expert, will talk about this fascinating period in Australia's cultural history.

Thu 5 Aug, 5.30 pm to 7 pm, Shakespeare Room, Mitchell Library, \$25, bookings 9273 1770.

Governor Macquarie – Builder of Australia

Phillip Black will look at the legacy of this great man. After his talk, he will lead a walk along Macquarie Street, named for our fifth Governor

When: Sun 15 Aug, 12 - 4.30 pm, History House, 133 Macquarie St, Sydney

Cost: \$29, \$25 members, for soup and damper before the talk. Bookings RAHS 9247 8001.

A Convict's Tour of Hell

A concert of poetry and song with Warren Fahey and *The Larrikins*, celebrating the attributed and anonymous works of the convict Frank 'The poet' MacNamara (a.k.a. Goddard). The performance follows MacNamara's life as a convicted forger transported to Botany Bay, Van Diemen's Land and Norfolk Island. Frank 'The poet' composed several songs, including, possibly, *The bold Jack Donahue*. Be enthralled by a performance of his epic literary gem, *A convict's tour of hell* - a version from the Mitchell collection and published in a 1900 short-run Sydney newspaper.

Thu 26 Aug, 5.30 pm, Friends Room, Mitchell Library, \$40, bookings 9273 1770.

National Family History Week

– 30 July to 8 August

See: www.familyhistoryweek.org.au

Hawkesbury Family History Fair

Opportunities to speak with experts from organisations including State Records, ancestry.com and Society of Australian Genealogists. Displays and sales of publications and resources, and talks held through the day.

Sat 7 Aug, 9 am to 5 pm at Hawkesbury Central Library, Deerubbin Centre, 300 George St, Windsor.

Displays free, \$2 each lecture.

Research, Research, Research

Classes on research of e.g. England, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, static and table displays

Sat 7 Aug, 9.30 am to 3.30 pm.

Baulkham Hills Family History Centre of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 77 Watkins Rd.

Guided Tour of the Macquarie Towns

A guided bus and walking tour of the Macquarie towns including visits to some unique places associated with Governor Macquarie. Tour includes entry fees, morning & afternoon teas, and a basket lunch of Hawkesbury Harvest.

Sat 28 Aug, 9 am to 4.45 pm, \$50 National Trust members, \$60 others.

Bookings 4576 0601, departing from St Matthews Anglican Parish Hall.

Tracing Macquarie's Journey

Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society presents a motor coach trip from Penrith (Jamison's farm) to 'Curry Jong Hill' with stops at the various farms and key locations mentioned in Governor Macquarie's diary.

Mon 30 Aug, 9 am to 3.30 pm, \$20, Bookings 4573 2226.

Central Coast Family History Society Open Day

A smorgasbord of topics of interest for family and local historians, from researching the past, documenting the present, to recording it for future generations. Meet the experts in their Research Centre and have one on one assistance in beginning your search or helping with those brick walls.

Sat 14 Aug, 9.30 am to 3.30 pm, Entry \$5, 8 Russell Drysdale St, East Gosford.

Rookwood Cemetery Open Day

Activities throughout the whole Cemetery, including: Heritage & garden tours, Bus tours, Crematorium and mausoleum tours. Offices open for family enquires. See website for more details: rookwoodcemetery.com.au

Sun 19 Sep, 9 am to 3 pm, no bookings required.

Free entry, parking, shuttle bus from Lidcombe Station.

Unlock the Past Expo, Parramatta

An opportunity to see many societies, libraries and commercial product and service suppliers in one place and to learn from the many expert presenters. Something for researchers at all levels. Special offers and prizes will be available from some of the many exhibitors.

See website for more details: www.unlockthepast.com.au
Fri 22 to Sat 23 Oct, 9.30 am to 4.30 pm, Parramatta RSL, cost to be finalised.

Jackie van Bergen

A Tree with a House



It's strange how one thing leads to another. Several weeks ago I was enjoying my morning walk when I noticed a most interesting tree, one that looked a bit like a Boab. I was wrong however, as it turns out to be a Queensland Bottle Tree (*Brachychiton Rupestris*). I spoke with the current resident of the property, "Eulong", at 22 Northcote Avenue, Killara, Mrs Patricia McKenzie, who gave me some background. She informs me that the tree has reputedly been there from before the house was built. I therefore decided to research the property itself.

Today's 22 Northcote Avenue, Killara, was originally part of a 70-acre grant made by Governor Lachlan Macquarie to William Foster on 5 April 1821. It is believed that Foster may have occupied his 70 acres some time before 1814. Over time the grant was subdivided into estates, in this case the neighbouring Brown's and Greengate Estates. To the east was the 1840 Eleanor Oatley Crown grant of 50 acres.

The strip of land that later became the Northcote Avenue roadway was set aside in about 1891 (as shown in CT 1018-156 dated 29 June 1891). This future road is shown in the plan displayed here by the notations "2421" and "Appn 8103".

On 29 June 1891 a Sydney barrister-at-law, Arthur Bruce Smith, became the registered property owner of about 76 acres, including the future Northcote Avenue and the whole of the 50-acre Eleanor Oatley Crown grant, excluding the strip set aside for the roadway itself. This large land holding was described in the typical old-title method of perplexing language, such as: "... bearing South Easterly three chains sixty and three quarters links to other land of the Estate of the late John Brown on the South East by that land bearing South Westerly fifteen chains thirty eight and three quarters links to the Lane ..." (CT 1018-156). Old surveys were usually measured using a Surveyor's Chain. These were literally chains measuring 66 feet in length, each chain comprising 100 links.

On 28 September 1896 Arthur Smith sold two single acre parcels of land to Sarah Elizabeth Roberts, wife of William Roberts, described as a Sydney bank clerk (later described in the 1903 Sands Directories as a bank teller). The westerly lot of the two contained the current 22 Northcote Avenue.

I have not been able to ascertain the exact year the house was built at Number 22, but it was about 1898 during the

early ownership of Sarah Elizabeth Roberts. The electoral roll for 1898-9 recorded William Roberts, bank clerk, living in Gordon, and then the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 7 April 1900 reported that the wife of William Roberts of "Wascoe" Gordon, gave birth to a son named Gordon.

But was this house "Wascoe" located in the future Northcote Avenue? I have ascertained that it was. In addition to Sarah Elizabeth Roberts being recorded living with her husband, William, in "Wascoe" at Gordon in the 1903 electoral roll, the 1906 Sands Directories entry shows William Roberts living at "Wascoe" off Gordon Road (today's Pacific Highway), in Gordon. From 1907 to 1916 the Sands Directories are more specific and show "Wascoe" as being in Northcote Avenue, Gordon. Although the Sands Directories give no other detail to identify the exact location of "Wascoe" within Northcote Avenue, they do provide other relevant information.

In 1908 there were only three residents in Northcote



Avenue, one being the Roberts family in "Wascoe". The other two were JB Carpenter in "Wyoming" and GT Cross in "Grassmere". So which part of Sarah Elizabeth Roberts' land contained "Wascoe"?

The two single acre lots she purchased from Arthur Smith, contained in CTs 1204-229 and 230, were adjoining. The most westerly of these two lots (CT 1204-229) immediately bordered the 1904 Killara Chase Estate (DP 4363).

In 1915 and 1916 Sarah Elizabeth Roberts subdivided her two single acre lots in Northcote Avenue, selling the most easterly with a 100' frontage to Stanley Gorman Beale, and the adjoining lot to its west (with a 118' 2 1/4" frontage) to Ethel Kippax Larke. Mrs Roberts sold the residue of CT1204-230 and all of CT1204-229 to Nellie Bertie, wife of Charles Henry Bertie, a municipal librarian from Cremorne. This last transaction occurred on 29 June 1916 when Mrs Bertie became the owner of a 1 acre 3 perches parcel with a land frontage onto Northcote Avenue of 218' 8 1/2".

The Sands Directories inform us that when the Roberts sold "Wascoe" in 1916 they transported the house name with them to their new home in Greengate Road, Gordon. The residents listed in Northcote Avenue for 1917-18 did not include the names of either Beale or Larke, but do record

Bertie. This establishes that the house owned by the Roberts in Northcote Avenue was part of the land sold to Mrs Bertie and that the property sold to Mr Beale and Mrs Larke were vacant lots (other residents listed in the street were there prior to the land sales to Mr Beale and Mrs Larke, so this eliminates an issue of a tenant in a house owned by either).

I won't detail subsequent transactions relating to 22 Northcote Avenue except to note that the current situation (since 1972) is that "Eulong" is lot 2 of DP 557387. The first mention of its current house name "Eulong" that I could find was in the 1923 valuation record following the sale of the property from Mrs Bertie to Isabel Wilde Halliday.

Returning to the Queensland Bottle Tree: Unfortunately none of the records available to my scrutiny reveal just when it was planted, so we currently have to rely upon oral history that it has existed there for over 110 years.

Queensland Bottle Trees can grow to 18-20 metres (about 60') in height while its grossly swollen trunk has the primary use of water storage. The characteristics of its remarkable appearance and storage capacity give rise to its name. Clusters of yellowy bell-shaped flowers are hidden within the foliage, and are followed by woody boat-shaped fruits.

As a succulent, drought-resistant deciduous tree, it is tolerant to a range of various soils and temperatures but not to some of man's poisons. Some years ago a previous owner of Number 22 apparently laid a new driveway beside the tree. It seems that some herbicide was used under the brick pavers to restrict growth of weeds and grass, but unfortunately it also infected some of the tree roots causing part of the bulbous trunk to become diseased with Arbo Malaria (see the large dark hole in the tree trunk shown in the photo). The good news is that much of the tree still thrives, although it is not tall.

David Wilkins

Note re Strathmore, No. 51 Lindfield Avenue



It was with great interest that I read Kathie Reith's [Built Heritage](#) article (*Newsletter*, May 2010) on *Strathmore*, 51 Lindfield Ave. Lindfield. My grandmother (Grace Kessell) and one of her sisters (Elsie Hardy Wilson) lived there for a number of years. They moved there about 1958/9 from a house nearby in Tryon Road which the owners wanted to live in. Grace lived there until she died in 1966 and Elsie

until she died in 1972. The girls were brought up in *The Braes*, Ashfield and were the younger daughters of a family of six surviving children of George and Martha McMurtrie.

Grace, widowed in 1945, moved to Lindfield in 1951 to be near the family of her only child, my mother, who had lived at Killara since 1938. Elsie moved from Melbourne in 1955 to be with her sister after she was widowed in 1955. She was the second wife of William Hardy Wilson, an architect well known in Ku-ring-gai for his unique style of houses and wonderful drawings of old (mainly Georgian/Colonial) homes and buildings of early NSW and Tasmania.

Elsie, the older, and Grace had a wonderful time living together in Lindfield in their old age, with large gatherings of their extended family, the descendants of George and Martha – twenty eight in my generation. They were loved by all of them. Elsie felt at home again after living in Melbourne since she married her first husband, Malcolm McLean, in 1903. They loved to party (no alcohol allowed) and had friends and family over all the time. They continued from where they had left off from the formal gatherings they had in the ballroom of *The Braes* as they grew up. Many, many of their early friends in and around Lindfield had moved to Ku-ring-gai over the years from the Ashfield area. I learned to drive taking them to and from their friends on Saturday afternoons. Some were the widows of architects and the early motor car dealerships of Sydney such as Larke, Neave and Hoskins.

The house in Tryon Road is currently the house adjacent to Cromehurst Special School. At *Strathmore* they had the bottom right flat on the south west corner of the building, clearly shown in Kathie's photograph. Grace and Elsie loved the garden and assisted Mr Paige, the owner of the building, with the roses. In those days the gardens were overflowing with them. They said it was the roses, a landmark in the area, that attracted them to the building. My untrained eye always felt the building itself was a work of art. I often go past nowadays and marvel at its beauty and the jacaranda trees in front, but now there are hardly any roses. Life must have been so much less formal in those days, as we often found them having tea and scones with the Paiges in one or another's kitchen.

They first moved to *Strathmore* when the Pacific Highway had only two lanes of traffic. Grace and Elsie used to walk through the underpass under the railway line to the shops on the Pacific Highway, where Coles is now (formerly Kings Theatre). When the highway was widened to four lanes of traffic they still crossed there before the traffic lights were installed. People contacted us from far and wide to let us know that the two sisters walked straight across four lanes of traffic without a care in the world. Whatever anyone said to them, they did not see why they should not continue to cross there.

Bob Gowing

Volunteers....

Volunteers are not paid.

Not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless!

FAMILY MATTERS

July Family History Meeting

11 am Session

More than 50 members packed the research rooms for the morning session, chaired by Jo Harris. She demonstrated the following, which are available on our computers: Scottish Genealogical Resources, 1846 Topographical Dictionary of Scotland, Macfarlane's Genealogical Collections, Tartans.

Jo introduced Scots historian and writer Mark Oxbrow, guest speaker at the 2 pm meeting, who also attended the morning session. He was born in Scotland, now lives in Sydney, described the differences in weather, area, population size and density between Scotland and Australia. He demonstrated the following on-line resources: Scotland's People; Ancestral Scotland; Searchable passenger lists; Scotland's Rural Past; Scottish Emigration Database; Parish Maps; Statistical Accounts of Scotland; Scotland's Places National Museums of Scotland; SCRAN (Scottish Cultural Resource and Network).

Mark showed photographs of his ancestors, and of Wanlockhead, Dumfriesshire, at over 1400 feet the highest village in Scotland. The Scots have been the greatest emigrants for many generations, and Scotland is full of museums where very useful records of trades, etc. can be found.

2 pm Meeting

More than 50 members attended the afternoon meeting chaired by Jo. She expressed the Society's thanks to Max Farley for all his work on the Newsletters, which was acknowledged with acclamation by the audience.

Australian Family Tree Connections magazine, July Issue, has further letters about misinformation on the internet, and lists of places to visit and events to attend. Names mentioned in articles include Lansell, Crawford, Good, Marston, Fletcher, Byrne children with their convict mothers.

New Books and CDs

Dating Family Photos; The Mechanical Eye in Australia - The Story of the Camera in Australia; Our Forebears - The Dick Family, by Bob Gowing.

CDs - The Voyage of the Royal Admiral; Church of England Cemetery, Milton

Reports on Books, Tours

Sue Ryerson spoke about 'The Ghosts of Toowong Cemetery' and 'Kings in Grass Castles'

Joy Walker recommended 'Breaking of the Bank' by Carol Baxter; also described a recent trip from Perth to Darwin where she found the Darwin Library most helpful.

Elaine Turnidge reported on the Immigration Bridge planned for Canberra, for which family stories are sought.

Jo Harris described a 'Jewish Day' tour organised by the Historic Houses Trust; also recommended the book 'The Singing Line' about the Overland Telegraph.

Angela Lind reported on Scottish Week events and talks on Governor Macquarie.

Guest speaker: Mark Oxbrow entertained us with much useful information, and described his work on the program "Learning and Teaching Scotland" for Scottish schools.

Scotland's People is a good place to start with research. We learnt that his wife's ancestors include Ensign Ewart who was in a charge at Waterloo, and a convict Richard Byrne who was in the 1798 Irish rebellion. There was great emphasis on public schools in Scotland so the comparatively few Scottish convicts were literate and were not put on labouring work. There were Scottish troops here in the early days, the next large group were orphans (though many were Irish), followed by settlers sent by emigration societies.

The Scottish Enlightenment, an intellectual movement across many fields such as philosophy, architecture, engineering, technology, economics, sociology, medicine, inspired a lot of the things Governor Macquarie did in Sydney. Mark showed slides of part of Macquarie's Will and his Mausoleum on Mull.

Mark described some well-known Scots, such as William Arnott, baker, Frank Gardiner, bushranger, the parents of artist Margaret Preston, even AC-DC rock band. The younger sons of families often sought their fortune elsewhere and took their culture with them, particularly music. A Miss Macpherson played what she believed was an early Scottish song, and a listener put other words to the tune which became 'Waltzing Matilda' - the listener being Banjo Paterson.

A vote of thanks was given by Bob Gowing.

The raffle of pre-loved books was won by Angela Lind who chose "Hell and Paradise".

Based on notes by Stella Green

Conference 17-19 September 2010

The Annual State Conference of NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies is hosted by Shoalhaven Family History Society at Bomaderry Bowling Club, Cnr Meroo & Cambewarra Roads, Bomaderry.

For further information:-

www.shoalhaven.net.au/thconference2010/

Richard (Dick) Whitaker

After graduating from Monash University in Science in 1968, Dick, our Family History speaker in August, was conscripted and served two years in the Army, ending his military career as a Platoon Commander with the 5th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment. He joined the Bureau of Meteorology soon after and began a public service career that would last some thirty-one years. He worked his way through the ranks of the Bureau and was a Senior Forecaster in the NSW office for a nine-year period before becoming NSW Manager of the Bureau's commercial arm, the Special Services Unit in 1993.

Dick left the Bureau in 2002, but never lost the 'weather bug' and came out of retirement to begin his own meteorological consultancy business. Dick is a now Senior Meteorologist with The Weather Channel in Australia and appears regularly on radio and television. He is very interested in meteorological education, particularly through television, radio, and books, and has authored, co-authored and edited seventeen meteorological publications.

Thank You Ryerson Index

In April 2010 a request was received for help from a welfare officer of the Vietnam Veterans' Association in the Campbelltown area. He had the task of finding the rightful home for some found, unclaimed medals. They belonged to an Australian ex-serviceman of both World War II and the Korea War, who had died in 2000.

This task was proving rather difficult, as although he knew the man's name, service numbers and dates of birth and death, Department of Veterans' Affairs and the War Memorial could not supply any information on next of kin. Births, deaths and marriage registers were of little assistance. The man had been a patient in a local hospital in 1998, but had not disclosed the name of any family member.

However, the Ryerson Index came to the rescue. There was but a single funeral notice for the man. This "Telegraph" notice was simple but contained one piece of useful information, the name of the funeral director. Our enquirer found that the company was still in business and was able to provide him with the name of the person who had arranged the funeral some 10 years ago. This proved to be the Veteran's niece who, after appropriate identity checks, was very pleased to accept her uncle's medals.

Delight all round!

Evelyn Wyatt

Snippets

PICTURE THEATRE ORGAN

A new Christie Unit organ has been installed at the Gordon Picture Theatre, and was formally opened this week with a recital by Mr. Idwal Jenkins. His solos included "The Lost Chord," played with dignity and richness of tone, and an effective contrast was furnished in "The Wedding of the Painted Doll" and "Love's Old Sweet Song." Mr. Leslie McCallum sang, with organ accompaniment, "The Lord Is My Life." The picture, "King of Kings" on the screen gave the organist plenty of scope for demonstrating the vivid and colourful effects to be obtained from the organ.

The installation of this organ by Mr. W. F. Wollaston, Australian agent for Wm. Hill and Son, and Norman and Beard, Ltd, was supervised by Mr. Percy Caines.

The Sydney Morning Herald, Friday 18 October 1929

GORDON'S GAYEST GUM.

It transpires that the axemen and sawyers will not be given opportunity of destroying Gordon's gayest gum. The beautiful tree will remain where it is. The rounding off of the corner of Greengate-road and Werona - avenue is to be so carried out that the tree will be retained four feet within the railway property. "If anything had been done to injure that lovely tree I should have felt like moving to another suburb," said the Assistant Commissioner for Railways (Mr. Brain), who lives in Greengate-road, yesterday. The question now is whether the contemplated clearance is adequate. It seems to provide for the flowering branches being much too near the footway for their safety.

The Sydney Morning Herald, Wednesday 10 December 1930

Jo Harris

BUILT HERITAGE

Pymble Hill



Does anyone know when the first purpose-built service station appeared in Ku-ring-gai? I've been searching off and on for the past few years and the earliest mention I can find is late 1927, when architects Ross & Rowe engaged AS Kirton to build a service station and residence on the Pacific Highway, Killara. I think this would be Killara Sales & Service Station at 544 Pacific Highway, listed in Sands from 1928. Killara Garage still operates from this address. But - until then - where did residents go to fill up with petrol? I have heard that some kept a supply at home, one complete with bowser. For how long was this allowed?

By the late 1930s service stations had been built in every suburb of Ku-ring-gai. Most incorporated a residence. Some have survived, others not. For many years Roseville had two: Waters now sells Subarus, the other is a branch of O'Briens Glass.

Another that has retained its form, but changed its function, is on the corner of the Pacific Highway and Telegraph Road, Pymble: it appears to be in almost original condition with its drive-through intact. Built in late 1931, its owners were Edward McGee of Parkes, dentist and Charles Ramage of Sydney, literary secretary. And yes, I did ask Our Mr Wahroonga, Ian Ramage, whether he was related and he assured me he was not. Charles Ramage was born in Victoria and by the end of 1927 was a teacher at Knox, living at 1 Bundarra Avenue, Wahroonga with his widowed mother Mary and sister Florence. McGee, born in Parkes, lived and practised there until the early 1940s when he moved to Bondi. A third person was involved, Walter Ross of Bannockburn Road, the applicant to council for permission to build. Ross was later associated with McGee in a company called Bricks & Mortar Ltd, registered in 1936, its aim "to acquire a considerable holding of rent producing property and generally deal in real estate". Was the Pymble garage the first of their investments?

A further reference to Ramage can be found in the Sydney Morning Herald in 1953, with a notice of the winding up of The Telegraph Road Syndicate. Ross had died in 1946 and McGee in 1950. Were the three the Syndicate and is this why it was wound up? The Pymble garage certainly produced rent: from 1934 to 1936 it was leased by William Cawte, by Sydney Dwyer (1936-1939) and then James Emerson (1939-1950). A month after McGee's death it was sold to Clement, Owen, Ivo and Bruce Wenborn. No longer a service station, for some years it has housed *House of Cane and Churchill's Flooring*.

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:-

John & Helen Cardy	West Pennant Hills
Alan & Patricia Kernahan	Warrawee
Warren Martin	Wahroonga

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 P. 2)

- Which of these Ku-ring-gai people was NOT a convict?
 - Richard Archbold
 - Joseph Fidden
 - Robert Pymble
 - Thomas Hyndes
- When did Captain Arthur Phillip first set foot in Ku-ring-gai?
 - April 1788
 - April 1789
 - April 1790
 - April 1791
- Where is Peppercorn Cottage?
 - Boundary St. Roseville
 - Bromley Ave. Pymble
 - Boundary Rd Wahroonga
 - Bannockburn Rd, Turramurra
- Noonan's Platform is now known as?
 - Wahroonga Station
 - Warrawee Station
 - Killara Station
 - Roseville Station
- St Ives was formerly called?
 - Roseville
 - Rosewood
 - Rosedale
 - Rosemont
- Annie Wyatt founded?
 - RSPCA of Aust.
 - National Trust of Aust.
 - Royal Art Society of Aust.
 - National Bank of Aust.

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.

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Diary Dates

- Sat 7 Aug Family History Meeting**
11 am More Shipping: Assisted & Bounty Passengers, Emmigrants & Immigrants, Crew & Deserters, and Exiles (if time).
2 pm "Some Australian Weather Disasters" - speaker Richard Whitaker from the Weather Bureau.
- Sat 14 Aug 10 am - 2 pm** Mark Oxbrow will assist re individual Scottish Genealogy - see P. 2.
- Sat 21 Aug 2 pm Society Annual General Meeting followed by General Meeting**
 Speaker: Nola Bramble "Lebanese Migration to NSW, 1880-1920s"
- Sat 4 Sept Family History Meeting**
11 am More Overseas Websites
2 pm "Finding My Father" speaker Charles Stewart
- Sat 18 Sept 2 pm** Bob Lasseter "The Search for Lasseter's Reef". Hear the intriguing story surrounding the legendary lost gold reef.

Administration

President	Ann Barry	9144 6480
Vice Presidents	Jo Harris	9489 4393
	Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
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Immed. Past President	Kevin Callinan	9983 1525
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	Jenny Joyce	9440 2131
	Graham Lewis	9416 5818
	Peter Stehn	9489 9488
	Trevor Whitehead	9449 6426

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Catering Supplies	Glynnie McGregor	9983 1124
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Family History Leader:	Jo Harris	9489 4393
Family History Committee:	Stella Green	9449 4388
	Jenny Joyce	9440 2131
	Beverly Robinson	9988 3775
	Elaine Turnidge	9899 2635
	Trevor Whitehead	9449 6426
Historian Editors	c/- Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390

with Kathie Rieth, John King, Bob Ross

Newsletter - Editor	Bob Barry	9144 6480
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