



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.

August 2012

Newsletter

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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 Room, 799 Pacific Highway Gordon

The Road Hill Murder of 1860

At Road Hill House, Wiltshire, in the summer of 1860, four-year-old Francis Savill Kent was savagely murdered, apparently by some member of the household. The case – headlined in the British press, and discussed in parliament – was investigated by the famed Jack Whicher, an early detective at Scotland Yard. Various members of the upper middle class family were in turn suspect, including Mr Samuel Savill Kent, the victim's father; the live-in nursemaid, Miss Gough, and the victim's half-siblings Constance Emilie and William Savill Kent, 16 and 15 years, perhaps acting together. Constance, a tough-minded young woman ill at ease with her father's second wife, protesting innocence, was tried for the crime. The charge was unproven; the crime unsolved.

Five years later, Constance confessed to carrying out the murder, acting alone. Though sentenced to life imprisonment, she was released in 1885.

Our June speaker, historian and author Dr Noeleen Kyle, published her book about the Road Hill case (*A Greater Guilt...*) in 2009. Dr Kyle came upon Constance Emilie Kent as Ruth Emilie Kaye, a nurse trained at Melbourne's Alfred Hospital, while researching senior members of early Australian female professions. Emilie Kaye worked four years at The Coast Hospital for infectious diseases at Little Bay, NSW, and later at the Parramatta Industrial School for Girls from 1898-1909, as second in charge. From 1911 she conducted a nurses' boarding house in Maitland for over 20 years. Constance Kent had emigrated to Australia in 1886 and enjoyed, under her assumed name, a long and well-respected career in public health.

Constance's brother William (now Savill-Kent) also emigrated to Australia, building a reputation as a government fisheries scientist. Had Constance taken sole blame for the murder so her brother would be entirely exonerated? Three younger members of the Kent 'second family' from Road Hill are known to have also lived in Australia, including in Maitland, and are thought to have been in touch with their half-sister.

Constance Emilie Kent died in 1944 aged 100 years, never having commented further on her confession, or implicated any accomplice.

Bellringers' Footnote: Visitors at our June meeting included church tower bellringers from Turrumurra and Menangle. The 7th bell (cast 1823) in the ring of eight at St James, Menangle NSW, came from Christchurch, Road Hill, which stands close to Road Hill House; it was de-commissioned in 1995.

Helen Davies

General Meeting and Annual General Meeting Saturday 18 August 2.00 pm

*followed by
Captain Thunderbolt and his Lady*

Speaker: **Carol Baxter**

Popular author and genealogist **Carol Baxter** with the true story of New England bushranger Frederick Ward and Mary Ann Bugg, the subjects of her "well-written cracking read".



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

Family History Meeting

Saturday 4 August

11.00 am Exploring more Intranet Resources.

2.00 pm **General Meeting**
Mystery Man will entertain us.
Who is he? What is his story?



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

State Records Workshop “Managing Your Collection”

Wednesday 8 August 2012 10.30 am – 1.30 pm

In the Meeting Room adjacent to our rooms.

The session will include the following topics:

- Compiling and managing databases
- Digitising records and photographs
- Paper collection indexing, housing, storage, and temperature control
- Providing access to records
- Arranging and describing collections
- Accessioning procedures
- Do’s and Don’ts of storage

This is a free workshop. To book, phone: 9499 4568 or email khs@khs.org.au

Society Workshop

“Researching NZ family history” Cost \$5

Thursday 16 August 1.30 – 3.00 pm Graham Lewis

Bookings are essential: by email to khs@khs.org.au, by phoning the room, or dropping in to fill out the sheet with your name and contact telephone number.

Elections for Officers and Committee

The Society’s Annual General Meeting will be held after the General Meeting on Saturday 18 August, before the guest speaker.

All positions of Officers and Committee Members are open, and Society Members are invited to nominate.

Nominations must be with the Returning Officer by Saturday 11 August. Completed nomination forms can be left in the Returning Officer’s folder on the table in the Research Centre.

Items left in our room

A brown jacket with a Qantas badge was left in the meeting room after a General Meeting a few months ago.

Also, a black cardigan was left on the back of a chair a few weeks ago.

If either of these belongs to you please collect soon, before it goes to the Charity Bin!

Annual Subscriptions now due

The 2012–2013 subscriptions are now due.

If you have not paid your subscription, a form will be enclosed with this *Newsletter*.

Prompt payment would be appreciated.

Quiz answers (see p. 8 for Questions)

1. (d) William Dobell.
 2. (c) Orchards.
 3. (a), (b), (c), (d) All convicts.
 4. (c) The quilt gives the names of all pupils of the time.
 5. (c) Architects.
- All questions are based on the Society’s resources. Please take time to visit our Research Centre to learn more about K-u-r-ting-gat!

Special Interest Groups

Mac Users SIG

The last meeting was on Monday 2 July. We talked about antivirus protection options and various other little tips and shortcuts.

The next meeting is on **Monday 20 August at 2.00 pm** in the research rooms.

If you have any specific questions, please email them in advance so they can be circulated to the group for answers (jackievb@optusnet.com.au). No need to book, just turn up. Bring your laptop or iPad if you like.

Jackie van Bergen

Scottish Research SIG

Our last meeting was on 25 June. Jean Smith spoke about “The Scottish Australian Heritage Council”; its website is www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au. Community radio station 2RRR (FM 88.5) presents ‘The Tartan Show’ on Tuesdays from 6.30 to 7.30 pm consisting of interviews, Scottish event news and music; Glasgow & West of Scotland Family History Society, which covers Glasgow and the six adjacent counties, website www.gwfhs.org.uk; and ‘Researching Scottish Family History’ by Chris Paton, which is a step-by-step guide to tracing Scottish ancestors, and contains lists of Scottish family history societies and regional Scottish Archives. Lynne Laurie spoke about the help she had received through clan societies in Australia and by visiting cemeteries in Scotland.

Our next meeting will be held on **Monday 23rd July at 1.30 pm**.

Bev Jach

German Research SIG

Our last meeting on 9 July 2012 included a practical investigation of the 32 German resources available on the Family Search site. This included downloading and browsing the images available on the site.

SAG German Workshop: “Beginning Your German Research” on Saturday 20 October at Richmond Villa, 120 Kent St, Sydney 10.00 am – 1.30 pm. Explore how to start researching your ancestors from Germany. Learn about naturalisation and immigration records, gazetteers, town family books and much, much more. There will be plenty of time for individual problem solving. Presenters: Jenny Paterson, Elizabeth Allum & Martyn Killion. Bookings essential. Cost: \$45.00 non-members, \$30.00 for members.

The next meeting of the KHS German SIG is planned for **Monday 13 August 2012 at 1.30 - 2.30 pm**.

Peter Stehn

Irish Research SIG

The Irish Special Interest group met in July and investigated what was available on the Irish *findmypast* which we have recently made available on one of our computers. This resource is available to all members. Bookings are not necessary, but please be considerate if others are waiting to use the resource. The next meeting will be on **Friday 10 August at 1.30 pm**.

If you are interested please contact Jenny Joyce at jenny.joyce@writeme.com.

Our 50th: Your Society needs you!

We are about to turn 50 and would love to have a big celebration.

BUT... to do this we need helpers.

We are re-running this 'ad' as we had *no* offers of help. The committee can't do this alone. Please consider what you can do to help, no matter how little.

Do you have experience in organising large events, either now or in a previous job?

Do you know what to look for in a venue, how to cost or source catering or guest speakers? Can you design invitations or banners? Can you write a media release or help with marketing/promotion? Do you know how to get sponsorship or other funding?

If you do have some of these skills please contact us. Even if you can only spare a small amount of time – if lots of people have a small amount of time, that adds up to many hours.

Contact Jackie on jackievb@optusnet.com.au.

KHS Blog

Soon, almost certainly during August, we will be starting a *KHS* blog. This will help you keep up to date with all the activities going on, as well as provide extra information and resources. It's worth checking because if a talk or workshop is organised at the last minute, or a vacancy pops up, you will know about it.

A blog is not *facebook* – you don't have to sign up to anything or give any of your personal details – you just look at it like you would look at a website.

When we get it going, we will put a link to it on our own website. So, keep an eye out for it, log into the address every now and then to see if we are up and running. Give us your feedback too.

The address is <http://kuringgaihs.blogspot.com>.

Mystery photo



This photo was found in the St Martin's Church, Killara collection. It was taken in the early 1900s, and Rev. Leo Charlton is in the back row (1st left).

If you are able to identify any of those pictured, or can provide any information on the location or event, please email to khs@khs.org.au.

Ku-ring-gai Council Mace



In the July *Newsletter*, we reproduced the letter from **George Revans Nicol** (Mayor of Ku-ring-gai in 1963), which led to the purchase of the Council's Mace.

GR Nicol was the Founding President of the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society for its first six years. The Mace was presented to Council by Sir John Northcott, former Governor and then Patron of KHS, on 11 November 1963.

We asked "Does anyone have a photo?". One was found in the 1978 book *Ku-ring-gai – Living with trees* by Phillip Mathews. It shows the Mace with former Mayor Richard Lennon and Town Clerk Taylor, and is reproduced above with the kind permission of Phillip Mathews.

Room Volunteers needed

Our thanks to Angela Lind, who has volunteered as a room volunteer on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

We still need second persons on the

- 2nd Saturday and
- 4th Monday of each month.

These volunteers will each join an experienced room volunteer, giving them an opportunity to get to know our members and become familiar with our resources.

If you are able to assist, please phone Ann Barry 9144 6480 or Jo Harris 9489 4393.

Lane Cove Historical Society

Lane Cove Historical Society is celebrating its 50 year Anniversary.

Join them for their Gala Golden Garden Day.

Sunday 26 August 11.00 am to 4.00 pm at Carisbrook House Museum, 334 Burns Bay Road, Lane Cove.

Enquiries 9428 1364.

The Roseville Train Collision

Following our July *Newsletter* report on the 1950 three-train collision near Roseville, **Alan Templeman** kindly sent in an article on the event from *The Australian Railway Historical Society Digest* of December 1950.

THE ROSEVILLE COLLISION New South Wales Railways By C. T. Bliim

There have been many conflicting reports in the daily papers regarding the unusual collision between three electric trains in the section between Roseville and Lindfield on July

28, 1950; therefore as a matter of interest to Members of the Society it is considered that the actual facts as brought out at the public enquiry should be outlined.

The section of double line between the adjacent stations Roseville and Lindfield on the North Shore line works a complete electric suburban service, with a few goods trains at night worked by steam locomotives, and the signalling is controlled by track circuit, being mostly of the colour-light type. The North Shore line has signal-boxes at North Sydney, Chatswood, Lindfield, Gordon and Hornsby, the first and last mentioned being in use continuously, while the others are cut in as required to work local "interlockings." The intermediate signals are normally at "clear", being placed at "stop" by the passage of a train, the latter also holding good at "interlockings" where the normal position of signals is at "stop" when a signalman is on duty. At the time of the accident all signal-boxes were cut in except Chatswood, so the relevant section of control was North Sydney to Lindfield.

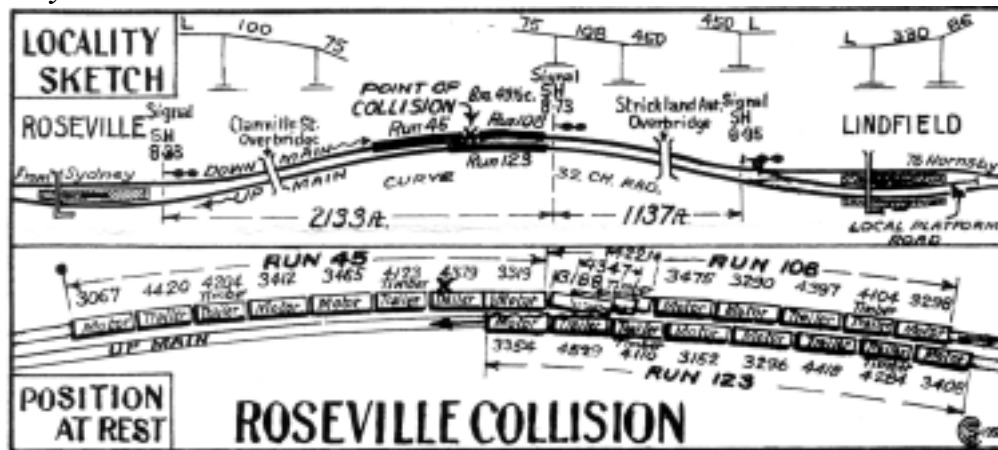
On the morning of July 28, there was a serious dislocation of traffic caused by the overhead power wiring fouling the down and up lines at Auburn, resulting in a complete recast of the whole of the affected electric services having to be arranged by Traffic "Trouble". The defect at Auburn took place at 5.14 am and was not fully rectified until 7.53 am, which resulted in all trains being late into Wynyard High Level from the Main Suburban line. To provide a reasonable service on the North Shore line the Trouble Officer by transposing trains maintained correct timetable order on the Down Shore line, the trains running later than schedule and taking on new "Run" numbers from Central.

No. 108 Run, due to depart Central for Lindfield at 7.58 am, did not leave till 8.10 am. On passing Roseville, Automatic signal SH/8.33 was at "caution" (green over red) and the following signal SH/8.73 at "stop" (red over red). SH/8.73 is also Lindfield "Accept" when that box is cut in, so called as it is controlled by the signal-box in advance which "accepts" trains from an automatic to a manually

controlled area or "interlocking". Run 108 was brought to a stand at signal SH/8.73 at 8.39 am, as it could not be accepted by Lindfield to the Terminal Road, that track being occupied by Run 123 being about to start back towards Wynyard.

The driver of No. 108 Run in accordance with the Regulations left his cabin and telephoned the signalman at Lindfield from the post for a direction. He was instructed to wait for the signal to clear. No. 45 Run, 8.01 am Central

to Hornsby running 11 minutes late departed Central at 8.12 am two minutes behind No. 108. On arrival at Roseville the train stopped at the plat-



form and on completion of station duties the driver gave the bell signal notifying his guard that he was moving forward to signal SH/8.33 to trip past that signal in the "stop" position.

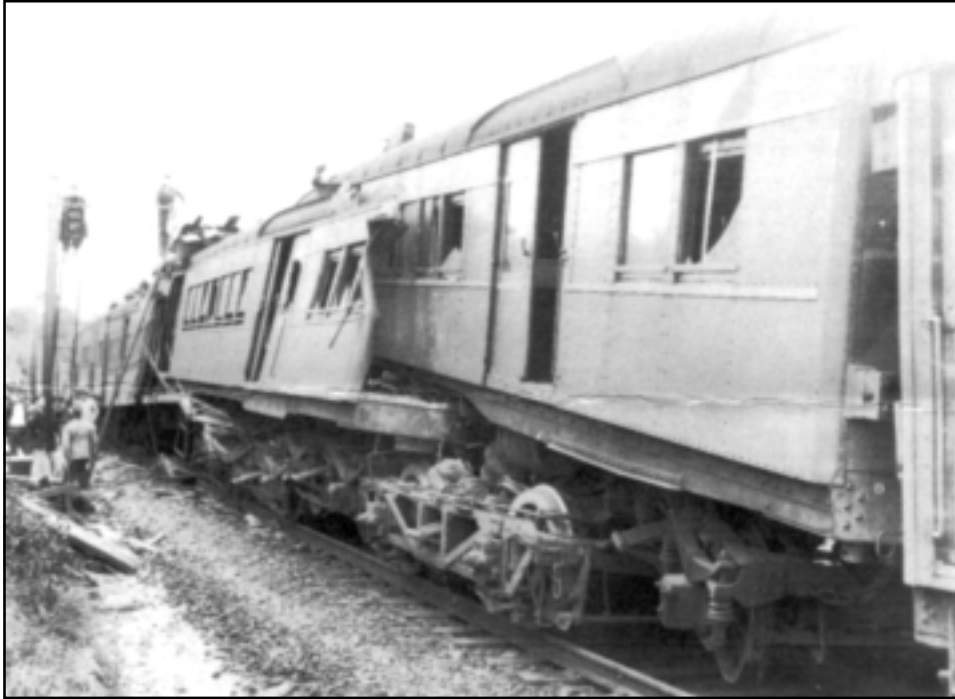
The guard acknowledged the bell and No. 45 Run was eased forward to the signal and after waiting one minute the driver passed the signal in the "stop" position. This movement brought the train again to a stand due to the operation of the trip arm which is elevated by the "stop" position of the signal and stops the train by engaging the trip valve arm on the leading bogie of the front car.

The driver after recharging the air pressure moved the train forward but omitted to observe the caution regulations and failed to note the presence of No. 108 Run standing at Signal SH/8.73, with the result that No. 45 Run came violently into collision with the rear of No. 108 Run causing the rear cars to telescope and foul the Up Main line. No. 123 Run had started from the Terminal Platform at Lindfield in the Up direction at 8.43 am with signals in clear position and was almost abreast of No. 108 Run when the collision took place. The driver, noticing by a cloud of dust that something unusual was taking place used the emergency stop but could not avoid a collision with the cars of No. 108 Run which had been forced into the "six-foot" and the two leading cars of No. 123 Run had their sides torn out derailing the leading car.

The guard of No. 108 was thrown from his compartment across the Up Main clear of that track and when he regained his feet No. 123 was passing him and he was practically uninjured. The driver of No. 45 Run escaped with shock and minor injury. Even more extraordinary was the fact that there were no cases of serious injury to passengers, as only ten were taken to hospital where but two were detained for further attention. This is remarkable when one takes into account the tremendous damage done to the vehicles, three of the cars being reduced to little more than a single car-length.

Immediate investigations were made into the cause of

the accident. Signal SH/8.33 was checked and tested and found to be in correct working order in all respects while no defect was found in the mechanical equipment in the trains concerned. This meant that the cause of the accident was the failure of the driver of No. 45 Run to exercise the necessary caution and control. He was found to have been ill at the time of the collision, it being his first shift after a week's sick leave. He stated that he was overcome with a fit of coughing



and as a result took his attention off the track ahead and failed to notice the presence of No. 103 Run standing at Signal SH/8.73 in time to avoid collision.

The action of a driver passing an uncontrolled automatic signal in the "stop" position under caution is a universal practice throughout the world and is perfectly safe provided the regulations are strictly adhered to. The relevant Regulation reads as follows:-

"When a signal is passed at Stop in accordance with the provisions of the following clauses.... the Driver is responsible for stopping the train clear of any obstruction that may exist in the section. The Driver must, therefore, have the train under such control as to enable it to be stopped when required, and must be on the lookout for another train ahead, a train shunting at an Intermediate Siding, or a broken rail, as any one of these may have caused the signal to remain at Stop."

Immediately it was seen that the collision would preclude any possibility of running a train service between Chatswood and Lindfield an emergency bus service was arranged between North Sydney and Gordon and sufficient buses were provided for the conveyance of passengers during the remainder of the morning. With the restoration of power on the affected sections the bus services were later confined to the Chatswood to Lindfield section and emergency train services were run on either side of the gap. When it was found that there was no possibility of clearing the line for the evening business traffic, additional buses were requisitioned from the Road Transport Department, and, with the assistance of Railway, Road Transport and Police officers, the heavy peak hour rush was handled without unreasonable delay. Full service was not resumed till early the following morning.

The Accident Crane had to be worked round via Hornsby as steam locomotives are not suitable for use on the underground sections of the City Railway and Diesel-electric

locomotives are not sufficiently powerful to haul the Breakdown Train onto the Harbour Bridge.

Mr. Hutchinson of Strickland Avenue, Lindfield, saw the

collision and telephoned for ambulances which attended so promptly that they were present at the scene within five minutes of the accident.

The two down trains concerned were carrying very few passengers and the up train did not have its usual complement owing to faulty manipulation of the public indicat-

or by the station staff at Lindfield, a very fortunate error as it turned out.

It must be pointed out that New South Wales Railways have an excellent safety record as since the inception of the electric suburban services in 1926 over 165 million miles have been run carrying almost 3,500 million passengers without the loss of life of a single passenger due to main line collision or accident connected with train running. This is in itself quite a sufficient reply to several charges made at the time as to the inefficiency of the Railways' safe working system.

Pymble Post Office

From *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 10 November 1902.

The residents of Pymble have been concerned at the delay that has occurred in erecting the promised post and telegraph office upon a site close to the railway station.

The site was the gift of a resident, and accepted by the Government upon the condition that a building should be erected for the convenience of residents. Since the promise was given the administration of the Postal Department was transferred to the federal authority, since when much delay has occurred in fulfilling the promise made.

Mr Dugald Thomson, M.P., has consistently urged that the work should be immediately proceeded with, but owing to a multitude of causes nothing has so far, been done. At the opening of the fete in aid of the new North Shore Hospital on Saturday, Mr. Thomson, in referring to the matter, said that he was in receipt of a telegram from the department stating that the Postmaster-General had approved of the work proceeding, and that no further delay would be occasioned in carrying out the erection of this much desired office. The information was received with expressions of satisfaction.

Richard Whitaker

FAMILY MATTERS

July Family History Meeting

11.00 am Session

18 members attended the morning session, and members spoke about their latest discoveries. A visitor spoke about his ancestor who came out on the 2nd Fleet and Jenny Joyce read out the details from the computer. Other topics were: using documents online; identifying old photos; names of convicts who crossed the Blue Mountains with Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth; Alexander Kyle from Roxbrough; Maitland research; Boer War records; a flight to UK in 1946 with many stops on the way; South Australian Lands Department records; Audrey Collins from the National Archives as a house guest; visiting houses where ancestors lived; using Trove for obituaries; and finding a fourth cousin in UK through an enquiry to the local family history society.

Everyone agreed it was an interesting and worthwhile session.

2.00 pm Session

Jo Harris opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, especially those from the 'Ku-ring-gai Theatre Guild'.

Acquisitions

A considerable number of books etc. have been added to the Library so please look for them when you are next in the rooms.

Book Reports, Visits and Seminars

- 'The Genealogist's Internet' by Peter Christian.
- 'Convict Connections' from Queensland Family History Society.
- 'Journal of Philip Gidley King'.
- 'Journal of Lieutenant William Bradley on the Sirius' plus charts.
- A Family Bible dated 1881 for the name Bowen.
- A visit to Ballarat Cemetery to find a great aunt's grave.

Jo introduced the guest speakers, members of the Ku-ring-gai Theatre Guild which began in 1944 and continued until 1956. Twelve former members were present and each spoke of the highlights of the Guild in their lives. They had joined for many reasons: to meet people especially the opposite sex, to act in plays, to work backstage, to produce plays, to stage manage, but mostly to have fun and to join in social activities such as tennis and dances. Activities began on Friday nights and took up the whole weekend. Some members had met their future partners there, and moved away once they married. Many famous actors began their careers with the Guild e.g. Peter Finch, Michael Pate and Dinah Shearing. Four plays were put on each year and were enjoyed by the audiences but usually ran at a loss. Meetings were held in a weatherboard hall belonging to the Gordon Congregational Church which was where Gregory and Carr are now. Plays were performed at the Soldiers' Memorial Hall in Marian Street, Killara and sometimes even in the city. Eventually the rent of the hall became too expensive so the guild had to fold up. The members were so thrilled to see each other again (some after 60 years) that a reunion has been organised to be held in the KHS

Research Centre at 11 am on 10 November 2012.

A vote of thanks was moved by Jo Harris, and afternoon tea was enjoyed by the 34 people who attended the meeting. The raffle was won by Jean Gale (now Brierley), one of the Guild, who chose 'A History of North Shore Sydney from 1788 to Today' by Les Thorne as her prize.

Based on notes by Jean Smith

Recent Acquisitions

The following is a selection of acquisitions. There has been a slight delay in processing acquisitions and I have had a larger than normal group of books to select from. These items are kept one month on the fireplace shelf for ease of reference and then sorted into the reference library.

Late last year the Society had a very successful Irish day and the funds raised have been used to purchase Irish resources. The following Irish books are a result of that day. Thank you to all who participated.

"A New Genealogy Atlas of Ireland" 2nd Edition by Brian Mitchell published 2003 and 176 pages. Has maps of the counties, the dioceses and the probate districts. Each county has maps of the parishes, the baronies, the poor law unions, the Roman Catholic parishes and the Presbyterian Congregations. ISBN: 0 8063 1684 5 OVS/IRL

"General Alphabetical Index to the Townlands and Towns, Parishes and Baronies of Ireland. Based on the Census of Ireland for the Year 1851" Volume 1 ISBN: 978 0 8063 1820 2 and Volume 2. ISBN; 978 0 8063 1052 7. 968 pages in total.

"A Table of Church of Ireland Parochial Records and Copies" published 1994 by Irish Family History Society, Kildare and 108 pages. Lists existing and destroyed registers. Note the Addendum included. OVS/IRL

"The Hawkesbury Pioneer Register" 2nd Edition published by The Hawkesbury Family History Group 1994 and has 280 pages. ISBN: 0 646 21937 5. PIO/2756

"The Hawkesbury Pioneer Register" Volume 2 published by The Hawkesbury Family History Group 2001 and has 396 pages. ISBN: 0 9580088 0 9. PIO/2756

"Early Pioneers of Dubbo pre-1882" published 2004 by the Dubbo & District Family History Society Inc. and 203 pages. ISBN: 1 876527 06 4. PIO/2830

"Where Once We Walked A Guide to the Jewish Communities Destroyed in the Holocaust" by Gary Mokotoff & Sallyann Amdur Sack published 1991, ISBN: 0 9626373 1 9 and 514 pages. Lists more than 21,000 towns in Central and Eastern Europe where Jews lived before the Holocaust. SHI/MOK

Bruce Robinson

PACIFIC HIGHWAY suggested

From *The Sydney Morning Herald* 28 April 1931

The Main Roads Board has suggested to various northern municipal and shire councils that the name of the road from Sydney to Brisbane shall be known as the Pacific Highway.

The Hornsby Council does not approve the suggestion and has informed the board that it would prefer the name "Northern Highway."

Richard Whitaker

Danish State Archives

<http://www.sa.dk/ao/English/default.aspx>

The Danish State Archives Filming Centre digitises parish registers and population censuses in order to make them accessible via the internet. The digitisation project is primarily accomplished through scanning of microfiches and microfilms. There is no fixed timetable for the launch of each parish register and population census on the internet, as this is a successive process.

The parish registers and population censuses will be displayed as pictures of the original records. The pictures show that many records are marked by poor storage conditions, poor ink quality and general wear and tear – a state of affairs that is irremediable. No registers have been compiled in which to search for personal names, occupations, addresses etc.

Jackie van Bergen

What's ON

To October 28: *Now and Then*

Now and Then is a historical photography project with a twist – an old photo is reframed within a new one to tell a story of past moments and how times have changed.

Launched as an online project by ABC Open in October 2010, *Now And Then* invites people across Australia to share their stories about local people and places.

Regional Australians have contributed images reframing historical photos from a mix of collections including family albums, libraries, historical societies and museums, and the archives of schools, companies and charitable organisations.

This exhibition celebrates the legacy of both private and public photograph collections cared for in regional towns. The images demonstrate the rich tapestry of history, landscapes and cultures found across Australia.

Museum of Sydney; Entry \$10-\$15.

Info: 9251 5988 or www.hht.net.au/whats_on

August 26: *50s Fair*



Photo: Jody Pachniuk

A celebration of all things 1950s including live music, rockabilly dancers, vintage styled mannequins and vehicle displays.

Free shuttle. Rose Seidler House, 71 Clissold Road, Wahroonga, 10.00 am–4.00 pm. Tickets \$25-\$30.

Info: 8239 2211 or www.hht.net.au/whats_on

BUILT HERITAGE

Robin S Dods (1868-1920)

Elizabeth Farrelly's articles on the Opinion page of the *Herald* are always a thought-provoking, informative



17 Pibrac Avenue, Warrawee

read. The topic of her latest – 'They went their own way to late acclaim' – was on architects 'hugely celebrated for decades, then hugely ignored', some now being re-appreciated. One of these, Robin S Dods, is the subject of a recent book by Robert Riddel. Dods was born in Dunedin, New Zealand and from 1886 served his articles in Edinburgh with Hay & Henderson. He moved to London in 1890 and worked for (Sir) Aston Webb. In Brisbane by 1896, he went into partnership with Francis Hall. Clients included the NZ Insurance Co, the AMP Society and the Bank of NSW. His finest work is said to be St Brigid's Catholic Church at Red Hill. In 1913 he moved to Sydney and joined Spain & Cosh; projects included the South British Insurance Co building in Hunter Street and the Newcastle Club.

Farrelly wrote of Dods 'He produced some of the finest, most gracious and sophisticated buildings this country has seen ...' – what, then, does Ku-ring-gai have of Dods' work?

It seems all were under the partnership Spain, Cosh & Dods and range from 1913 to 1918. The lack of specific information for this period (as anyone who has researched buildings in Ku-ring-gai well knows) makes it difficult to identify particular projects. There are exceptions. At *Hillview* Turramurra, in 1913 they designed the garage and additional bedrooms. This long and narrow, two-storey building (garages under and bedrooms above) can be seen from the highway just to the right of the driveway and next to the former Commonwealth Bank. Under the architects' direction in 1915 repairs were carried out at *Blytheswood* (Turramurra) and *Willesden* (Killara). In 1916 they designed a villa in Pibrac Avenue that I believe is *Morland* No 17, built for Emily and John Crawford, produce merchant. Two years later dentist CG Moxham commissioned the firm to design a large residence in Powell Street, Killara [No 30]. Built by Kell & Rigby, a firm that endured until recently, a history of this house and its occupants is being compiled by Jennifer Harvey for this year's *The Historian*. So we do have some examples of his residential work, albeit under the umbrella of Spain, Cosh & Dods.

In 1919 Dods was one of several prominent architects who produced the book *Domestic architecture in Australia*. Said to be charming, with impeccable taste and passionate about his work, he was also a foundation member of the Sydney Arts & Crafts Society. Having suffered ill-health for some time, he died at his Edgecliff home in July 1920, leaving a wife and two children, one of whom was (Sir) Lorimer Fenton Dods who in the late 1950s helped establish the Children's Medical Research Foundation.

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 15th 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 extend a warm welcome to members who have recently joined the Society.

Mark Dixon	East Brisbane
Stephen O'Donnell	Belrose
John O'Neill	Lindfield
Val Packham	Wentworth Point
Ian Turner	Cherrybrook

We hope you find your membership rewarding, and look forward to your participation in our activities.

August Quiz (answers p.2)

- Which of these artists did not live in Ku-ring-gai?
 - Byram Mansell
 - Grace Cossington-Smith
 - Frank Hinder
 - William Dobell.
- Gaukrodger, Mazlin, Rehle and Sainty were all?
 - Politicians
 - Policemen
 - Orchardists
 - Bus drivers.
- Which of these early residents was a convict?
 - Richard Archbold
 - Joseph Fidden
 - Thomas Hyndes
 - Richard Porter.
- The quilt hanging in Meeting Room 1 at the Old Gordon Public School was made by?
 - Patients from Lady Gowrie Home
 - Librarians from Ku-ring-gai Library
 - Mothers & Pupils attending at the School closure
 - Members of the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society.
- Brogan, Murcutt, Power and Vernon were all Ku-ring-gai?
 - Engineers
 - Station masters
 - Architects
 - Publicans

All questions are based on the Society's resources. Please take time to visit our Research Centre to learn more about Ku-ring-gai.

Jo Harris

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 10.00 am to 2.00 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday (except the 1st 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 4 Aug Family History Meeting**
11.00 am Exploring more Intranet Resources.
2.00 pm General Meeting
Mystery Man will entertain us.
- Sat 18 Aug 2.00 pm Annual General Meeting followed by Society General Meeting**
 Popular author and genealogist **Carol Baxter** with the true story of New England bushranger Frederick Ward and Mary Ann Bugg, the subjects of her "well-written cracking read".
- Sat 1 Sep Family History Meeting**
11.00 am Forum "My Brick-walls"
2.00 pm General Meeting
 A History of the Family Butchers on the North Shore. Speaker Geoff Hammond
- Sat 15 Sep 2.00 pm Society General Meeting**
Tanya Crothers will speak on the life of Arthur Wesley Wheen, little-known World War I hero, linguist, artist, writer.

Administration

President	Ann Barry	9144 6480
Vice Presidents	Jo Harris	9489 4393
	Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
Treasurer	Doug Milne	9487 2853
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Immed. Past President	Kevin Callinan	9983 1525
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	Graham Lewis	9416 5818
	Peter Stehn	9489 9488
	Jackie van Bergen	9403 3044
	Lorna Watt	9440 8010

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Book Sales	Carol Rodgers	9488 8789
Catering Supplies	Glynnie McGregor	9983 1124
	Jill Nicholson	9144 6948
Computer Systems Manager	Peter Stehn	9489 9488
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Family History Leader	Jo Harris	9489 4393
Family History Committee	Jean Smith	9498 4468
	Jenny Joyce	9440 2131
	Beverly Robinson	9988 3775
	Elaine Turnidge	9899 2635
	Yvette Reeve	9987 0904

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with Kathie Rieth, Bob Ross

Indexing: Beth Facer

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