



# 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.

**January/February 2010 Monthly Newsletter Vol. 28 No. 1**

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

## *A nice cup of tea...*

Ian Bersten was our last General Meeting speaker for the year, at the November (Christmas) meeting. His subject was most serious: what are the essentials to consider in making the tastiest possible cup of tea?

Tea is a refreshing drink, a source of healthful antioxidants and the stimulants caffeine and theobromine, and is popular worldwide. Tea was first produced and brewed in China, from leaves of the camellia sinensis plant. From China, it was possibly originally imported to Europe by the Dutch (the "Orange" of orange pekoe tea refers to the Dutch royal house of Orange), and later by the British East India Company. The British established tea growing in their dominions in India and Sri Lanka, the better to control supply of this important trade staple. There are green, black, white and oolong teas, all derived from the same bushes but processed differently.

"A cup of tea" is the product of steeping dried tea leaves in hot water for a period of time, after which the liquid is poured off and consumed neat, or with milk and/or sugar to the consumer's taste. Mr Bersten made the point that while we all "know" how to make a cup of tea, nothing about the process has ever been standardised. Tea leaves may not be fresh, having been in porous packaging in transit for many weeks, and the brew time of "3-5 minutes" traditionally quoted seems to be an average of convenient practice over time, regardless of quality of the result. What we call a good cup of tea is extremely variable, often relying on the addition of sugar and milk for palatability (the sugar trade having also been important to the British).

The speaker has conducted his own experiments as to importance of size of tea leaf, temperature of hot water used for extraction, method of immersion (teabag or not), and most particularly, length of time immersed. In order to assess the outcome, Mr Bersten used as his yardstick his own view: if it tastes like tea, as expected from the description, and you like it, then it is a good cup of tea.

The outcome of the speaker's experimentation is tea brewing by filtration. He employs ground tea leaves, as fresh as possible to retain aromatic oils, in a fine stainless steel filter of his own design through which still-boiling water is poured. Thus leaf surface area is maximised to facilitate flavour extraction; brewing time is kept close to the optimal half minute, and water used is as hot as possible. The resulting brew is free of the bitterness which accompanies longer, cooler immersion, largely doing away with the need to add sugar and milk.

This informative presentation concluded with the audience tasting filter tea produced by Ian, to his optimal specifications.

*Ian Bersten has his own business, Tea-Cha Australia Pty Ltd, established in Hornsby. Further information on specialised teas and his proprietary tea filter brewing system can be found at [www.cuppatino.com.au](http://www.cuppatino.com.au).*

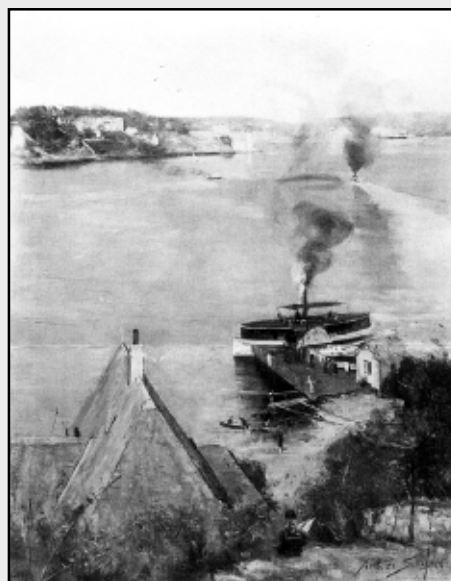
*Based on notes by Helen Davies*

## **Coming Meetings**

**(Gordon Library Meeting Room)**

### **Next Society General Meeting Saturday 20 February at 2 pm**

***As Artists Saw Sydney Harbour  
1890-1914***



*Illustration from Ian's book*

**Dr IAN HOSKINS**, North Sydney Council historian, will speak on Sydney Harbour as seen through the eyes of two artists who celebrated it in images and words - Arthur Streeton and Henry Lawson.

Ian's talk is drawn from his recently published book "Sydney Harbour: a history" (UNSW Press).

**Afternoon Tea will be available.**

**Visitors welcome.**

### **Next Family History Meeting Saturday 6 February**

11 am Victorian Research (bring along your queries and we will try to solve them)

2 pm General Meeting - Speaker - Ron Hicks - "The Unlikely Bushman". Ron, an investigative journalist and author, tells of his discoveries in the bushland of Ku-ring-gai and his later research.

**Afternoon Tea will be available.**

**Visitors welcome.**

## From the President

I'd like to thank members of the Committee who took on extra duties during my absence overseas. It's of great benefit to the Society to have a Committee which works so well.

This year all General Meetings of the Society will be on the 3rd Saturday of each month as a trial, to be reviewed for 2011.

Congratulations to the "Historian Team" led by Jennifer Harvey, for another great production in 2009.

Thanks to Jackie van Bergen's efforts, we recently obtained two grants from Council, and one from the Federal Government. These will help our "outreach" activities (see "Help Wanted" on Page 8) and the purchase of a new scanner and furniture for the Rooms.

On a more serious note, Society members are reminded of our objectives, which are to research and promote local and family history matters. Whilst it is recognised that some histories are co-incidental with political issues, this Society is non-political and non-sectarian. Members are requested to uphold these objectives by not engaging in political or sectarian debate within the precincts of the KHS rooms, and by respecting the rights and views of other members and guests at all times.

*Ann Barry*

## Workshops

**1.30-2.30 in KHS room. Booking is essential**  
via [khsinc@tpg.com.au](mailto:khsinc@tpg.com.au) or phone 9499 4568.

**Tuesday 9 Feb Jennifer Harvey** - Using National Library of Australia digitised newspapers for researching houses.

**Monday 15 Feb Kathie Rieth** - A very informal group discussion on setting family history within a context, that is local, state etc. history. What prompted people to move from one location to another, how events fashioned and affected their lives....

## Ancestry Library Edition is coming...

Following a successful trial in November last year, it has been decided to subscribe to Ancestry Library Edition for an initial year. If there is sufficient use, this will be extended.

Ancestry is an extremely powerful tool to help you conduct any historical research involving people including family history. Ancestry boasts over 4 billion names listed in thousands of separate resources integrated under the Ancestry umbrella covering Australia, United Kingdom, USA, Canada and many European countries.

Some examples that may aid your research are:

**Australia:** Convict Registers 1788-1868; Electoral Rolls 1901-1936; Sands Directories 1861-1933.

**United Kingdom:** All UK Census up to 1901; Birth, Death and Marriage indexes, including many parish registers; Incoming passenger lists 1878-1960.

Anticipated launch date is Monday 8 February. Introductory workshops will be on **Monday 15 and 22 February, 10 - 11 am**. Cost: \$5 per head; numbers limited to 9 per session. *Bookings essential:* [khsinc@tpg.com.au](mailto:khsinc@tpg.com.au) or 9499 4568, stating preference for 15 or 22 February.

Additional workshops will be scheduled from March, covering some of the specialist areas of this powerful resource. Details will be published in future newsletters.

## Computer resources added, changed or updated

**Computer tips and shortcuts** - A link to the notes from the computer tips and shortcuts workshop conducted on 12-13 October can be found on the Society page of the Intranet. Links to the following web sites were added:

**Victorian Place Name Abbreviations** - use this web-based list in conjunction with the Victorian BDM databases.

**Dictionary of Sydney website** - a project to produce a new kind of history of Sydney; online, growing and changing, covering every aspect of human life in this place.

**Welsh Wills and Probate Records** - free access to digital images of wills that were proved in the Welsh ecclesiastical courts before the introduction of Civil Probate on 11 January 1858.

**Forbidden Marriage Laws of the United Kingdom** - also known as the Anglican Table of Kindred and Affinity or The Laws of Consanguinity. This web site also includes the changes made in the laws by date.

**1847-1864 Griffith's Valuation of Ireland** - Web site provides free access to the valuation records including original documents and maps of the locations.

**1911 Census of Ireland** - Web site allows free access to the 1911 census of all 32 counties of Ireland including images of the various census documents.

**World Surname Profiler** - Shows the world distribution of a surname including a map of the countries and associated statistics.

*Peter Stehn*

## Society Awards

At the November general meeting, Immediate Past President Kevin Callinan presented two important awards of the Society.

Michael MacCabe was awarded Life Membership of the Society for his many contributions to the Society in past years.

You can find Michael's profile in the October 2009 Newsletter.

Bob Ross was awarded Historian of the Year for his

publication of "Pymble - A Biography of Pymble Golf Club".

Congratulations to Michael and Bob on receiving these tokens of the Society's appreciation.



## ***Historical Society Tour to Tumut Saturday 31 Oct - Monday 2 Nov 2009***

This was a truly historic event – sadly, the last under the very successful Jo Harris and Prymer Tours combination – was blessed by good, often hot, weather, although the previous week had seen cold, snowy conditions in the area visited.



***Gundagai Railway Station***

After a relatively early start, the first stop was for morning tea at Mittagong. Alpacas and the odd camel were featured on the next leg to a lunch stop at a quiet, attractive tree-shaded park in the now by-passed Jugiong. Then, following the near-mandatory camera opportunity at the ‘Dog on the Tuckerbox’, Catherine Williams, whose family were early settlers and long term residents, gave an informed commentary on a tour of Gundagai which included stops at the Cemetery (Captain Moonlite’s grave), the old Railway Station Museum and Mt Parnassus, which afforded fine views of the Murrumbidgee River. We then went on to Tumut (via the Old Butter Factory, now the Tumut Visitors Information Centre) and an unconventional yet friendly welcome at the Farrington Motel, our home for 2 nights.

On a very hot Sunday, we met Marcia Commins for a tour of the Tumut and District Historical Society Museum (including memorabilia of Miles Franklin, born in Talbingo and raised at Brindabella); she then showed us around the clean, tidy and well-cared-for town before a fine lunch in the Shire Council Rooms. The afternoon in Adelong was given over to tours guided by Mark Lipscombe and Margaret Bentley which included Museum, Cemetery and the Adelong Falls Reserve, once the centre of lucrative gold recovery operations, now being developed as a Heritage site.

On Monday morning we returned to Yass, had morning tea in Coronation Park prior to a tour of the town (guided by Gloria Carlos) before visiting the Yass and District Museum. This presented a full and well structured exhibition; it was unfortunate that time there was a little limited by the need to meet a deadline for lunch put on by the ever-reliable CWA. Not conspicuously undernourished, the party then pushed on; a planned visit to Cooma Cottage, Hamilton Hume’s residence for the later part of his life, could not be effected, so the last stop (comfort, ice cream and alpaca) was made at Berrima.

Once again all participants were most grateful to Ken and Helen of Prymer Tours and, as always, to Jo Harris who had characteristically put much effort into ensuring that the tour was so interesting, varied and enjoyable. Regulars will miss her ingenious and idiosyncratically themed quizzes; the one presented on this trip was a special tour de force.

***Peter Done***

## ***Coming events of interest***

### **The Forgotten Buildings of Macquarie Place**

A walk with Ken Hall in the vicinity of Macquarie Place. Sat 13 Feb, 2.00 pm. Bookings necessary - ring Betty Candy, 9799 9030 (City of Sydney Historical Association).

### **Greenway & Macquarie**

A walking tour exploring the buildings of Francis Greenway with Robert Griffin, HHT curator. Sat 20 Feb, 10.00 am. Bookings essential: General \$30, HHT Members \$25, Concession \$25.

### **The arrest of Governor Bligh – a spontaneous act of rebellion or planned coup d’etat?**

Join military historian Brad Manera as he retraces the steps of the New South Wales Corps to Captain Bligh’s residence in Government House (now the Museum of Sydney). Sundays 21 Feb & 28 Feb, 10am – 12.30pm. Costs: HHT Members \$29, General \$39, includes morning tea.

### **Macquarie 2010 - Lachlan and Elizabeth: power couple of the 1810s**

This talk by Dr Grace Karskens of the Museum of Sydney will explore the Macquarie era from the perspective of the Macquaries as a couple. Thu 25 Feb, 6.30-8.30 pm. Costs: General \$25, HHT Members \$20, Concession \$20

### **Pymble Day – National Trust Members only (KHS is a member)**

Open house viewings of 3 Pymble houses: ‘Alister Brae’ 24 King Edward St, c1904; 2 Taunton St, c1920; and ‘Bridford Manor’ 10 Church St, c1901. Tue 9 Mar, 10.30 am-12.30 pm or 1-3 pm. Cost: Members \$28. Bookings essential: via Ticket Application Sheet, 9363 2401.

### **The David Women: Cara, Margaret and Mary Edgeworth David**

Hornsby Shire Library, 28-44 George St Hornsby. Wed 10 Feb, 7.15pm. Bookings 9847 6614, \$5 (free to Hornsby Family History Group members).

### **Family History Software Demo Day**

SAG is running presentations aimed at beginners, demonstrating 5 different programs on the big screen. Sat 6 Mar, 10 am – 4 pm. Bookings essential: 9247 3953; \$50 members, \$60 non-members.

## ***Room Volunteers***

Are you able to assist the Society by becoming a room volunteer? Or are you able to do a second day each month?

We especially need volunteers for the “fifth days” of each month.

If you can help please phone Ann Barry, 9144 6480.

## ***Editorial***

Many thanks to Graham Lewis and Jenny Joyce for standing in while I was overseas. Their effort in preparing the October, November, and December issues is really appreciated.

***Bob Barry***

## *Exploding A Myth?*

Once an incorrect historical “fact” is expressed, particularly in print or in family folklore, it gains a life of its own and becomes virtually impossible ever to dispel.

On page 465 of her excellent *Story of St Ives*, Gay Halstead tells in good faith the belief, accepted it seems by the family, that Elizabeth Gaukrodger “married George Scott, alias Captain Moonlite”. This was in New Zealand in 1865. Most Australians would know of the gallant bushranger, Captain Moonlite. Many Ku-ring-gai people would also remember that the Gaukrodger family had abattoirs and a butchery in the St Ives/Pymble area in the closing days of the 19th century. It was a good story and appeared to be a romantic link between Ku-ring-gai and the gentleman bushranger. Unfortunately the facts do not seem to support it.

The Society’s vice president and leader of our Family History Group, Jo Harris, had her curiosity roused during the Society’s Tumut tour last October/November when a visit was made to the Gundagai cemetery. A plaque mentioning Captain Moonlite was noticed. Once stirred, Jo has a “never-give-up” approach to research. In essence, she discovered:

- \* an Andrew George Scott was born in Ireland in 1842
- \* he went to New Zealand in 1861 with his Anglican clergyman father, Thomas, his mother and siblings. He taught school before joining the Waikato Militia and later the Auckland Volunteer Engineers Corps
- \* there is conjecture that he was in California in 1865 but the Australian Dictionary of Biography makes no mention of this. The ADB gives a birth year of 1842 but sometimes 1845 is written. Neither of these discrepancies affects the outcome
- \* after being refused a senior post with the armed constabulary in New Zealand in 1867 he came to Australia in 1868
- \* in July 1868 he became a lay reader of the Church of Holy Trinity at Bacchus Marsh and in March 1869 was transferred to Egerton in Victoria
- \* on 8 May 1869 his path took a different turn when he held up a Bank at Egerton, near Ballarat.
- \* though acquitted of the Egerton robbery, he pursued lawless ways and, in short, finished at the end of a rope in Darlinghurst Gaol on 20 January 1880. This date is of course undeniable and well documented
- \* *Moonlight* was a widespread family name in New Zealand, and it was during the Egerton affair that he applied the name *Captain Moonlite* to himself. He is thought to have intentionally mis-spelt *Moonlight*. It is speculated that he took a liking to the name when in New Zealand and adopted it.

So why his alleged marriage to the 18 year-old Elizabeth Gaukrodger in New Zealand?

- \* a George Moonlight was born in Scotland in 1832 and joined the Californian goldrush in 1848 before coming to Australia and then to the Otago goldrush in 1861. He became known as George Fairweather Moonlight.
- \* the records show that George Moonlight married Elizabeth

Gaukrodger on 28 February 1865 at Wakefield, New Zealand.

\* George and Elizabeth had children and George became engaged in prospecting and exploring river systems in New Zealand. Moonlight Creek near Atarau is named after him

\* he became a hotelier but bad times came his way after

Elizabeth’s death in 1882. His business failed and he went prospecting, alone, in the Howard River area

\* he died in the bush in July 1884. A monument to George and Elizabeth Moonlight was erected in Nelson, NZ, recognising the role he played in opening up the “back country”.

Captain Moonlite, the bushranger, was hung in 1880. George Moonlight, who married Elizabeth Gaukrodger, died in 1884. There is no doubt about these dates. So Elizabeth Gaukrodger’s husband could not have been Captain Moonlite. Perhaps, just perhaps, these researches by Jo Harris will put paid for all time to what appears to be a myth that our Gaukrodger family had a past connection with Captain Moonlite.

There is a piquant touch to the end of the story. While in gaol, Scott had earlier met James Nesbitt and the two had become close friends. Nesbitt was killed in the shootout which resulted in Moonlite’s capture and had died in his arms. It is said that Moonlite’s final request was to be buried in the same grave as Nesbitt. This was refused and he was buried at Rookwood. One hundred and fifteen years later, in 1995, the authorities relented and re-interred him at Gundagai close to his friend.

## *Unravelling The Lofbergs*

Lofberg is a name well known to most Ku-ring-gai people. West Pymble not only has Lofberg Rd but a sports oval too - the latter being in Bicentennial Park. The Park itself embraces what was once Lofberg quarry and various members of the family in the early 1900s were well known in Gordon as bakers, grocers, produce merchants and even as the proprietor of a boot shop. A billiard saloon above the shop is believed to be the site of illegal gambling. There was even a Lofberg Wharf on the Lane Cove River, at one time used to take produce to Sydney’s Cockle Bay. The Lofberg name comes to mind because of an article about the family in the recent HISTORIAN by Bob Ross, our 2009 Historian of Year.

Researching family histories always has its problems, but the Lofbergs would seem be amongst the toughest to crack in Ku-ring-gai. An occasional tendency to spell the name as Loffberg with two ‘f’s, or even Lofburg, presents problems which researchers are used to taking in their stride. When, however, the matriarch’s most commonly accepted birth name of *Adeline Conception Monie Luis* has multiple variations the problems begin. Some of the many are *Adeline/*

*Continued on Page 5*



*Captain Moonlite*

*Continued from Page 4*

Adelaide/Adelina/Adalede, Luis/Lewis/Louis, Mori/Morear/Marien, with of course *Conception* and *Monie* disappearing altogether from time to time, with her family name appearing in some records as Mori instead of one of the Luis group. This is just the beginning. Her father varied from Anthony to Antonio, her husband Jonas was married as Jones, her second husband was sometimes Kendell and sometimes Kendall. Daughter *Helen Cecilia (Cecelia)* could be *Cecilia Ellen* and son *Clive Peter* naturally enough was often *Peter*. The original *Jonas Lofberg* himself presents problems. Was he Swedish or Norwegian? It seems he was born in Sweden and jumped ship in Melbourne from a Norwegian vessel. According to one direct descendant, he came to Melbourne in the 1830s, but Bob Ross believes 1857 is nearer the mark – so much for relying on family information! There remain, however, quite a few mysteries about the early Lofberg days, waiting to be unravelled.

Fortunately one of our long-time members from Nowra, a Lofberg descendant, sent us information some years ago which gave background material but nevertheless Bob Ross deserves a medal for attempting to unravel the early days of a family which was destined to play an important role in our local history.

## ***An Early “Open Garden”***

These days we are familiar with the annual *Open Garden Scheme* organised by the ABC which sees many people invite the public to come, see and admire their private gardens. A proportion of the modest entrance fee finds its way to charity. Long before the Scheme was conceived there was at least one other gardener in Ku-ring-gai who already did just that.

From time to time we read of the gaoled financier, John Woolcott Forbes, who in 1937 had built a magnificent neo-Georgian mansion with Mediterranean embellishments in Gordon between Edward St and Melkin End (then Taylor Street, which at the time extended further). He named his mansion *Burnham Thorpe*. In 1940 the Red Cross used it as a convalescent home for servicemen and it is now the Lady Gowrie Nursing Home and Roden Cutler Lodge.

Those who tell the story of *Burnham Thorpe* sometimes write that Woolcott Forbes bought a large area of the land facing the then Taylor Street from a “Mr Smith”. Forbes demolished the home, *Pittmedden*, which Mr Smith had built on this Taylor Street land in 1927. Mr Smith had taken the name from a home he had earlier owned from 1911 until 1916 on an adjacent block facing Edward Street. This had originally been called *Pitmedden* (with one ‘t’) after a National Trust home near Aberdeen in Scotland. Mr Smith renamed it *Chez-hunt* for reasons unknown. Later owners changed this to *Cheshunt*. In addition to buying and demolishing the new *Pittmedden* on Taylor Street, Woolcott Forbes bought and demolished *Chez-hunt*. It is now part of the Edward Street frontage of Lady Gowrie Home.

When people in the past have spoken or written of *Burnham Thorpe* they often mention this “Mr Smith”. It seems he had a large and attractive garden which he opened

to raise money for charity, and these things obviously made their mark on the community memory. However the identity of



*Burnham Thorpe*

“Mr Smith” is not disclosed in the Society’s records and has tended to be lost in the mists of time.

Who was “Mr Smith”? The tantalising question has come up again because John Pearman, a Gordon resident, has just put together a detailed study of *Burnham Thorpe*. He identifies “Mr Smith” as Charles Harold Smith who sold the “new” *Pittmedden* in Taylor Street to Woolcott Forbes.

Digging more deeply, it is found that Charles was born in Ballarat in 1880 and was one of ten children born to Henry Smith and Lucy Hull. In 1906 he married Ethel Burston in Victoria and they came to Sydney in 1909 where he established Charles H Smith & Co, a stock and share broking firm. It operated for many years at 27 Hunter Street. Charles and Ethel lived in various places in Gordon and elsewhere in Ku-ring-gai before building the Taylor Street *Pittmedden*.

It was when Ethel died in 1936 that Charles sold *Pittmedden* to Woolcott Forbes and moved to a new home in Warrawee. The records suggest he married Ethel’s sister, Doris, in 1938. He died at Warrawee in 1970 where he had built a substantial home, *Whit-Hame*, at 12 Bangalla Street. It, too, was to have an impressive garden.

Though these are the basic facts, some parts of the mystery remain, particularly what motivated Charles to develop such an impressive garden. Did he have some inherited or acquired love of gardening? The belief is that it was he rather than his wife who was the prime motivator – a belief borne out by his development of the garden at Warrawee. And what led the family to open their garden as a service to the community? Was Charles involved in any other community activities?

We now know more of “Mr Smith” but someone, a family member or one of our older residents perhaps, can add something which will fill out our knowledge of both Charles and Ethel. They remain shadowy figures in the story of Ku-ring-gai despite their long term residency, their creation of a wonderful garden and their willingness to display its charms for the benefit of charity.

## ***Kids Were Always Kids***

A note in a book, *Women of Parramatta*, adds a quaint touch to the serious business of arresting Governor Bligh in 1808. It tells how a locally born 12 year old girl, Jane Watsford, “was one of the children who marched behind the Regiment as it went to Government House on 26 January 1808 to arrest Governor Bligh”. A mildly treasonable chuckle at the imagined sight would be forgivable. The curiosity of children was clearly just as strong 200 years ago as it is today.

# FAMILY MATTERS

## Family History Meeting 7 November

2009

### 11 am Session

Jo Harris welcomed 23 members and demonstrated resources for Early Sydney.

### 2 pm Meeting

40 members attended the meeting, chaired by Jo.

Guest speaker Lee Shrubbs entertained and informed us about her life "From Vienna to the North Shore". Her family was originally from Eastern Poland, very close to the Russian border, and were quite well off. They moved to Vienna where their house had belonged to Prince Esterhazy. It had thick walls with a Madonna on the outside, and was in the street where Beethoven composed his 9th Symphony. It had a carriage entrance, stone courtyard, long corridor where one could ride a tricycle up and down. Lee was taken to school by Nanny, remembers walks in the snow, horses with nose-bags.

By 1936 when Lee was 8, her father decided to go to Australia. His sisters from Poland came to say goodbye. Lee remembers swastikas for sale in the street. They left on 11 March, the day the Brown Shirts marched in. Many were leaving by train, and it was such a relief to cross the Italian border. Their ship "Otranto" left from Toulon in France, largely full of children going back to India. When Lee and her family went ashore in Fremantle, they were amazed to see roads, footpaths, cakeshops, as they didn't know what to expect in Australia. Then on to Sydney, where they first lived in a Bondi flat, and Lee thought life a great improvement playing with Bondi school children rather than paying to sit in a Vienna park.

Lee then went to Sydney High school, Frensham as a boarder, then on to University. Her father sold his jewellery shop in Bondi, trained to be an accountant, was called up in WWII, given a commission, then put into the Labour Corps.

Her mother met a Polish engineer, which led to a second marriage and a big house rented in Pymble. Lee attended concerts in Wahroonga and said the North Shore had a lot of musical foreigners. Her mother was a great bridge player and she and Rose Seidler were great friends. Lee met her future husband from Gordon and had a huge engagement party. Lee became a perfect North Shore person, living in the same Wahroonga house for 58 years. Her children now live in Turrumurra and Gordon.

Angela Lind gave a vote of thanks, and presented a gift of the book "Women of Ku-ring-gai".

The raffle of pre-loved books was won by Wendy Ermert who chose "A Cargo of Women".

*From notes by Stella Green*

## 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).

What about some great success you've had in tracking down that elusive relative? Or a great frustration - the one who seems to have multiple birthdates in different sources? Or perhaps an amusing anecdote about Great-Aunt Jane and the baker? Why not share it with members?

## Family History Meeting 5 December

2009

### 2 pm Session – (There was no 11 am Session)

Jo welcomed about 50+ members with a special welcome to Gretel Perlstone, Marcia Collens' sister. There were several apologies including Catherine Williams who is moving to Cairns later in December – she will be missed.

Jo advised that Stella Green was recognised in Family Tree Connections with the Letter of the Month. Stella won a CD valued at \$100, which she will donate to the group. Thank you Stella.

At this point Trevor Whitehead, on behalf of KHS, presented Jo Harris with a Certificate of Achievement awarded by the Royal Australian Historical Society. With words penned by Max Farley and



added to by Trevor – Jo joined the Society in 1999 and was VP in 2001, a position she has held continuously since then – was reluctant to accept the Presidency formally but performed the duties one year – bridged the divide between early families and the role they played in local history – major force in expanding the Society's resources and raising funds – regularly arranged historical tours to country districts – FHG leader since 2001 and arranged stimulating speakers and activities – has given talks to many external groups – conducted training courses on family history and this has increased membership numbers. In conclusion, Trevor added energy, enthusiasm, generosity, reaches out to others, intelligent and sharp as a tack. Congratulations Jo, a worthy recipient of this RAHS Certificate.

Then came the fun part. Our busy beaver, Jenny Joyce, had been arranging a photo competition, setting out 31 photographs of members taken "several" years ago placed with a number beside it. Each person was given a list of names and had to put a number against that name. With certainty each person would have had one correct, their own – with possibly a second one – Percy Bergan in his butcher's apron, if you had known Percy had been a butcher. Three members tied with "6" out of 31 – Heather Davidson won on the second round – FUN!!

The KHS Raffle of a Food Hamper was won by Ruth McKim. A Lucky Door prize was won by Betty Eaton.

Before closing the meeting Jo recognised Hazel Perdriau, a Life Member of the Society. Hazel had advised Jo of a book "The Hidden Thread" about the Huguenots with her family featured on the cover.

Jo thanked the members of the committee for their assistance and all for making the Family History Group such a happy group, wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and closed the meeting. All enjoyed the delightful festive afternoon tea brought by members.

*From notes by Elaine Turnidge*

## Recent acquisitions

*'Migrant Ships to Australia and New Zealand 1900 to 1939'* by Peter Plowman published 2009 (192 pages). Includes a good coverage of ship photographs and the history of the ships. Donated by Stella Green.

*'Australian Migrant Ships 1946–1977'* by Peter Plowman published 2006 (144 pages). Includes a good coverage of ship photographs and the history of the ships. Donated by Stella Green.

*'Home was Here'* by Mary Lang published 1987 (227 pages). A good read for those interested in pioneering life and the times of their descendants in NSW until WW I. Is a well documented work for those engaged in historical research. Families include Lang, Redmond, Cape, Scarvell.

*'Moore or less related – The family of John and Ann Moore in England and Australia'* compiled by Jenny Hawkins published 2007 (319 pages). Index includes 21 pages of names! Some names featured in the contents:- Moore, Talmage, Palmer, Miller, Stanfield, Yeend, Ross, Kelsey – these people had a family history with “pubs”.

*'Hawkesbury Settlement Revealed - A new look at Australia's third mainland settlement 1793–1802'* by Jan Barkley-Jack published 2009 (488 pages). Includes the “fluid” period of early European settlement when law and order and total anarchy was finely balanced – the fear of rebellion and the officer class “losing control”.

*'Irish Holdings of the Society of Australian Genealogists'* compiled by Heather Garnsey, Perry McIntyre and Angela Phippen published 1996 (199 pages).

*'Extracts from 'The Maher Family Australia 1837-1997' The story of the descendants of William and Honora Maher.*

*'Domestic Architecture in New South Wales Australia Illustrating the Work of F. Glynn Gilling, F.R.I.B.A.-F.R.A.I.A.'* edited by E. Lindsay Thompson and published by The Shakespeare Head Press Sydney – publication date not shown (127 pages with many plans and illustrations, few comments). Donated by Helen Cassidy.

*'Men of Yesterday - A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890'* by Margaret Kiddle published 1961 (reprinted 1980) (573 pages). The book recreates the life of the squatters, the women and children of the district, the station hands and the ‘nomad tribe’ of pastoral workers.

*'Small Cemeteries and Isolated Graves of the Tumut District'* edited by Val Wilkinson and Martha Pebesma, published 1999 (203 pages).

*'The Story of Swallowfield - A short history of the Bigg family in West Sussex and Australia'* by Tony Turner, published 2001 (183 pages). They settled near Armidale NSW.

*Bruce Robinson*

## Family History Course

Jo Harris will be commencing another Family History Course on Monday 17 May 2010.

Anyone interested in doing this 8 week course should contact Jo on 9489 4393.

## BUILT HERITAGE

### St Martin's and its architect Oliver Harley

In her recent column about St Martin's centenary, Janet Denne asked for stories on those involved in its history. Here is a little on its honorary architect, Oliver Harley, who in



2 Stanhope Rd

March 1910 accepted JA Bailey's tender to build the new Anglican Church at Killara. Harley lived in Killara from c.1907 until his death in 1921 at his residence Llanberis, 20 Marian Street.

He was born in 1854 in Moseley, a suburb of Birmingham, England, the third son of Sarah and Roger Harley. His father, a builder, in 1861 had fifty men in his employ. By 1871 Harley senior had died and Oliver was employed as an architects' clerk. He migrated to Australia c.1877 and found work as a building contractor. When he married Alice Shinner in 1887 he was living in Surry Hills. From 1888 onwards the couple purchased properties in Marrickville, North Annandale, Redfern, Rookwood, Waverley, Petersham, Leura, Faulconbridge and Ku-ring-gai. By 1889 Harley's occupation was listed as architect and the couple had settled in Bon Accord Avenue, Waverley. Drawings for “Competitive Design for Masonic Hall, Shops, &c., Broken Hill” by “Oliver Harley, Esq. Architect, Sydney” in *The Builders & Contractors' News* of April 1890 show a large, ornate two-storeyed building with attic rooms and ground floor loggia shaded by full-length verandahs. I have not yet discovered whether his design was selected.

Harley's first project in Ku-ring-gai was a cottage at Gordon in 1902, and his first purchase was 3 Stanhope Road in 1903. Later purchases were 11 Locksley St (1912) their home from 1909 to 1913, 69 Arnold St (1911), 3 Karranga Ave (1914), 15 Blenheim Rd (1914) and 20 Marian St (1918). I believe he designed all of these houses. The present owner of 15 Arnold St confirms that it was designed by Harley in 1915. When he died in March 1921, 2 Stanhope Rd (for Mrs Harriet Scarr) was under construction. This was completed under the architects Carlyle Greenwell and Henry Budden, who in 1924 designed the lychgate for St Martin's, given in Harley's memory by his widow Alice. Between 1902 and 1921 Harley designed houses in Turrumurra, Gordon, Wahroonga, Roseville and Lindfield, as well as our first Council chambers at Gordon, shops in Killara, additions to the Killara Hall, renovations to St John's Gordon and additions to the Anglican Church at Lindfield. Harley also had projects outside Ku-ring-gai: the new Presbyterian Church at Drummoyne, a hide store in Melbourne, a woolshed in the Kanimbla Valley, the Chatswood School of Arts, a school in Paddington for the Kilburn Sisters and numerous projects in the eastern suburbs - Waverley, Bondi, Bellevue Hill and Woollahra – a body of work that was extensive and diverse.

*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:

Barbara Merefield	Carindale Qld
Evelyn Lavendar	Gordon
John Summers	Wahroonga
Richard & Jan Whitaker	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.

## Help Wanted

Are you a current or ex-teacher or educator? A recent Council grant has given us money to put together resource kits for schools, both primary and secondary.

We really need your help. We have 2 members who have offered assistance, but still need more. Please leave a message in the rooms or phone Jackie van Bergen.

## Did you go to school in Ku-ring-gai?

This year's National Trust Heritage Festival theme is "Building the Nation", and we are doing a Focus on Education. We would love to borrow any interesting school memorabilia to put in our display cabinets in April.

Please leave a message in the rooms if you can help.

## Have you visited our rooms lately?

On one of these hot summer days why not call into our cool air-conditioned rooms and spend some time looking through our book collection and computer programs.

We are open Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri and Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm.

## Christmas Raffle Winner

Winner of our Christmas raffle was Ruth McKim.

## 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 6 Feb** 11 am Victorian Research  
2 pm Guest Speaker - Ron Hicks - "The Unlikely Bushman".
- Sat 20 Feb** 2 pm General Meeting - Dr Ian Hoskins, "As Artists saw Sydney Harbour 1890-1914."
- Sat 6 Mar** 11 am Members' Research  
2 pm I'm stuck! I need help!
- Sat 20 Mar** 7.30 pm General Meeting  
Speaker - Stuart Braga, "Maj. Gen. 'Tubby' Allen - Architect of Victory on the Kokoda Trail."
- Late March** (a Tuesday night) Society visit to 2/17th Battalion, Suakin Depot, Pymble

## Administration

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	Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
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Family History Leader:	Jo Harris	9489 4393
Family History Committee:	Lyn Done	9449 7715
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	Elaine Turnidge	9899 2635
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Speakers Programme	Beverley Dunstan	9419 8526
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