



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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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

Percy Lindsay – Artist and Bohemian

Silas Clifford-Smith spoke to us in October about Percy Lindsay, one of the lesser known but equally interesting members of the Lindsay family.

Silas is a 'gardener' and specialises in historic gardens. While working for the National Trust at Norman Lindsay's house in Springwood he researched each of the well-known Lindsays before 'discovering' Percy. After researching an article on Percy Lindsay for the National Trust Magazine, he continued his research for three years and found he had enough data for a book, which he has now completed.

Using auction catalogues, Silas found that Percy had painted more than 600 oils during his career, a not inconsiderable body of work.

Percy Lindsay was the eldest of Dr Robert Lindsay's ten children, and was born at Creswick in Victoria in 1870. He attended Creswick Grammar School, where he won many awards and was editor of the school magazine. On leaving school he was given a set of paints by his father, and began painting street scenes in Creswick before commencing formal art studies at the age of 20.

He moved to Melbourne, where he became involved in the local bohemian lifestyle, and he was well known on the Victorian art scene. Later he followed his brothers to Sydney. He married, had a son who also became an artist, and settled in Roseville in 1906. Each day, after a cold shower, he would set out, dressed in a dapper way, to paint the scenes he loved around Sydney Harbour, especially Milson's Point and Berry's Bay. His passion was for ordinary buildings, so his pictures are a wonderful record of the Sydney of his day.

Because he was always 'skint' he eked out a living doing cover pictures for Bookstall Books, and had published 2,500 cartoons and illustrations, mainly in the Bulletin.

When Norman Lindsay bought Mark Foy's cottage at Springwood, Percy was a regular visitor and became Norman's closest friend.

His paintings were small and portable, so only one of his works hangs in a national gallery in Australia, that of Victoria. Unlike his brothers who had huge egos and sold themselves, Percy was a humble man, who nevertheless became a Fellow of the Royal Art Society. His work was very fashionable in the 1920s and 1930s, but ceased to be so when Modernism came in. He died in 1952.

Silas Clifford-Smith used many slides to illustrate Percy Lindsay's life and work, and ended with the picture of Percy which will appear on the cover of his soon to be published book.

Jean Smith

Coming Meetings

(Gordon Library Meeting Room)

General Meeting

Saturday 19 February at 2 pm



Wild Ride: The Rise and fall of Cobb & Co

Featuring rarely seen images, "Wild Ride" is the result of ten years' research by author

Sam EVERINGHAM.

It uncovers the truth behind the legendary coaching empire founded in gold rush Victoria, and the once powerful families who ran the firm.

Afternoon Tea will be available.

Visitors welcome.

Next Family History Meeting

Saturday 5 February

11 am

"Questions answered about resources on the Intranet"
– Are you having any problems??"

2 pm General Meeting

"Dispelling Family Myths" – Members will tell how they have researched some of their family stories and discovered the real truth about Italian Counts, English Royalty, and more.

Afternoon Tea will be available.

Visitors welcome.

From the President

Well, 2011 has commenced, with a lot of items on the Society's agenda.

We have tours to the Art Gallery and Powerhouse Discovery Centre in Castle Hill, and a five day program of talks for Seniors Week in March - all thanks to Jackie van Bergen's organising skills.

Jo Harris will run a Q&A session on *Family Tree Maker* (she's also starting another Family History course in April), and Peter Stehn will be running an *Ancestry* workshop.

Since the last Newsletter, the 2010 issue of *The Historian* has been mailed out to Members. The Historian team has excelled again, with a high-quality publication of 186 pages. Thank you Jennifer Harvey, and all who contributed.

Unfortunately, there are some printing errors in the headings of some copies. If you find this a problem in your copy, please bring it to the rooms and we will exchange it for a clean copy.

If you were late paying your subscription, your copy of *The Historian* is ready to be picked up from the rooms.

The index to the 2009 *Historian* is now available on the web and our computers. This indexing is a major work, with more than 6000 entries for 2009. Our thanks are due to Judi Oliver for continuing this laborious work. Our thanks also go to Graham Lewis, who has put many hours into cleaning up our integrated web version.

Ann Barry

Recognising Service to the Community



Our Vice-President, Jo Harris, was recognised recently in the *North Shore Times 50 years 1960-2010* "50 of our Finest" awards, in "The Community" category. The award was presented on 20 January 2011 at the Council Chambers Chatswood.

Other KHS Members to receive awards were Jan Langley in "The Community" category, and Janine Kitson, Don Brew, Zeny Edwards, and the late Ian Ramage, all in the "Conservation & Environment" category.

Our photo shows Jo Harris with Dinah Warner, Yvette Reeve, and Suzanne Saunders at the Award ceremony.

Quiz Answers (see P. 8 for Questions)

1. c. St John's, now the United church. 2. b. George Allison Holmes, after whom Holmes St is named. 3. d. Eldinhope was at Wahroonga. 4. a. bank. The Australian Joint Stock Bank operated there from 1888 to 1894.

Society Workshops

- "Family Tree Maker" Q & A session. Cost: \$5. Saturday 19 February 10.30 am Jo Harris
- "ANCESTRY Introductory Course" Cost: \$5 Peter Stehn Monday 21 February 10.30 - 12.30

Bookings are essential by email to khsinc@tpg.com.au or by phoning the rooms, or dropping in to fill out the sheet with your name and contract telephone number.

England and Wales Census of 1911 - going onto Ancestry.com

Ancestry will be gradually releasing the 1911 Census, previously only available on FindMyPast or to Platinum members of Genes Reunited.

Ancestry have already released the Census Summary Books for England, Wales, Channel Isles and the Isle of Man. They will be releasing the full household schedules on a county-by-county basis over the coming months.

The Summary Books provide an outline of this information. They tell you the name of the head of each household, plus how many people were recorded in that home. They also reveal the type of property your ancestors were living in (such as a house, flat or shop), provide a description of the enumerator's route (often with a map), and provide an easy way to see the households in the area where your ancestor lived.

Ancestry have also released various military information—Military Campaign Medals and Award Rolls, 1793-1949, Naval Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920, Citations of the Distinguished Conduct Medal 1914-1920.

Ancestry.com is available on all the computers in our Research centre.

Jenny Joyce

Digital Voice Recorders

Many of our members have asked for advice on purchasing Digital Voice Recorders. We have evaluated several units and there was a clear-cut "winner" based on price, ease of use and quality of recording.

That "winner" is the *Zoom H1* recorder. We will be purchasing two of these for the Society, and if any member would like to purchase one themselves, Jenny Joyce will be able to provide training on how to use the recorder. Some of the features are:

- One simple button to start and stop recording
- Easy to see light that indicates when the unit is recording
- Recording direct in .WAV or .MP3 format, therefore no need for complicated PC software to download and translate the recording
- Great quality built-in stereo microphones, meaning that lapel microphones are not essential for a good recording.

The recommended retail price for this unit is \$199, but Turrumurra Music are selling it for \$145, and Mall Music in Brookvale are selling it for \$149.

Jenny Joyce

The controversial Sir Thomas Mitchell

At our November 2010 meeting, John Read told us how Major [later, Sir] Thomas Mitchell, first explorer down the Darling River, was Surveyor General for 27 years. During this time he quarrelled and survived attempts to sack him by five Governors. He fought the last recorded duel in Australia with Stuart Donaldson, the first Premier of NSW.

He lived an excessive lifestyle, and was close to bankruptcy a number of times, but it was essentially excessive, even obsessive, ambition that both made and marred his character.

Although he made much of his forebears, he was a dour Scotsman without privilege or inherited wealth. After his father died when he was 12, his family was destitute, but a step-uncle took him under his wing. He had an insatiable thirst for knowledge and went to the University of Edinburgh at age 13, and received a classical education. At 19, he enlisted in the Army to fight in the Peninsular War.

The Army phase lasted 16 years; his skills were early recognised. He spent much time behind enemy lines surveying and mapping the terrain for Wellington's advancing army, and later advanced to the rank of Major. He was offered and took up the position of Deputy Surveyor General in far off New South Wales.

Mitchell arrived in Sydney in 1827 and quickly energised the Surveyor General's Office. He wanted to explore and expected that he, like John Oxley before him, would be the Government's explorer. However, Governor Darling had other ideas and these commenced Mitchell's stormy relations with successive governors.

Darling loaded Mitchell with responsibility for road and bridge building, Commissioner for Lands and Colonial Architect, and wanted Mitchell to spend more time in the office when Mitchell wanted to be out in the field.

He and his staff surveyed more land in 6½ years than his predecessors had in the previous forty years, and Mitchell produced the "Map of the Nineteen Counties" in 1834 that covered the limits of settlement from Tamworth and Port Macquarie in the north, to Moruya in the south and to Orange and Yass in the west. He used a reconnaissance-type trigonometrical survey method that he developed after the Peninsular War for the rapid mapping of unexplored country. It was compiled from 900 maps and was remarkable for its relative accuracy. By the end of 1830 he had plotted new roads from Sydney to Parramatta and Liverpool, had marked out the Great South Road, and had found a new route and had constructed a road down the Blue Mountains that is still the main road today.

Mitchell ultimately got his chance to explore, and undertook four expeditions in 1831-2, 1835, 1836, and 1845-6, travelling 10,000 km, or three times the distance from Sydney to Darwin. His expeditions opened up large quantities of land for grazing and settlement. He published detailed accounts of these expeditions, which, unlike those of his rivals, involved mapping and scientific study, as well as discovery. His obituary in the "Illustrated London News" referred to Mitchell as the "Cook of the Australian interior". He would have been chuffed about that...

Ku-ring-gai Historical Society Speakers Program – 2011 Saturday – 2.00 pm

- 15 Jan** BEN SMITH:
No Time For The Smiths. An engaging account of life on the northern beaches in the 1950s.
- 19 Feb** SAM EVERINGHAM:
Wild Ride: The Rise & Fall of Cobb & Co. The dramatic story of this iconic company, illustrated with rarely seen images.
- 19 March** MICHAEL LECH:
The rise of Sydney's Department Stores Dynasties. An illustrated talk on 19th Century department stores and the families that created them.
- 16 April** SUE ROSEN:
Australia's Oldest House? Historian Sue Rosen defends her claim that Experiment Farm Cottage dates from the 1790s.
- 21 May** BRIAN BOETTCHER:
The Battle for Milne Bay. What really happened during the Japanese attack in 1942.
- 18 June** MARK DUNN:
Joseph Fowles' Sydney, 1848. Historian Mark Dunn is researching the life and work of this accomplished colonial artist, best known for this 1848 work.
- 16 July** ALASDAIR MCGREGOR:
Grand Obsessions. The life and work of Walter Burley Griffin & Marion Mahony Griffin
- 20 Aug** JIM RUXTON:
Old Sydney Theatres. An illustrated talk on the lost world of old Sydney theatres.
- 17 Sept** GREG BLAXELL:
The River: Sydney Cove to Parramatta. An exploration concentrating on the upper reaches and early settlement of the Parramatta River.
- 15 Oct** DOUG MILNE:
Astronomy in Sydney. Stories of places and personalities from Lt. Dawes to modern radio astronomy.
- 19 Nov** BOB DAVIS:
The Natural Superiority of Left-Handed People Through History. Intrigued? Bob Davis returns for a light-hearted finish to the year.

Extract From "Daily Telegraph Pictorial", Wednesday January 25, 1928, Page 6 "Man in the Street" column

North Shore Electric Trains

"Service" voices a complaint:-

It was announced, per medium of the press, previous to the New Year, that we residents on the North Shore line were to have a complete electric service by the New Year. So we did. But where is the complete service now?

During the New Year holidays electric train services only were running. Since the expiration of the holidays we have been provided with a mixture of electric and steam trains, and, further, no electric trains on Sundays!

Would the Commissioners kindly tell us what has become of the complete service, and when we are to have it?

from Bob Gowing

Society Tours

1. Art Gallery of NSW Exhibition: The First Emperor—China's Entombed Warriors

ONLY 2 tickets left!

Wednesday 16 February 2011

Cost \$25 conc, \$35 non-conc & non-KHS members

Bookings via booking sheet in research rooms, ph 9499 4568.

Payment at time of booking please.

Itinerary:

- 8.00 am: depart Bannockburn oval, Pymble
- 9.15 am: arrive at Art Gallery
- 9.30 am: guided tour of exhibition
- 10.30 am - 2 pm: free time in the Art Gallery
- 2.00 pm: depart Art Gallery
- 3.00 pm: arrival back at Bannockburn oval

Includes:

- Coach transport
- Entry to Art Gallery before normal opening hours
- Entry & guided tour of First Emperor exhibition

Does not include:

- Morning tea or lunch – there are a number of cafes within the gallery
- Entry to other paid exhibitions

2. Hills District Historical Society Museum & Powerhouse Discovery Centre

Wednesday 9 March 2011

Cost: \$40 (\$45 non-KHS members)

Bookings via booking sheet in research rooms, ph 9499 4568.

Payment at time of booking please.

Itinerary:

- 8.30 am: depart Bannockburn oval, Pymble
- 10.00 - 11.30 am: morning tea, talk and guided walk at Hills District Historical Society Museum
- 12.00 - 1.30 pm: lunch at Bull & Bush Hotel
- 2 - 3.30 pm: Powerhouse Discovery Centre Site Tour and Display Store visit
- 4.30 pm: arrival back at Bannockburn oval

Includes:

- coach transport and transfers
- morning tea
- entry, talk and guided walk at the Museum & Masonic Schools complex
- lunch at the historic Bull & Bush Hotel – with 3 choices of main meal plus a drink
- 90 minute Site Tour and Display store visit hosted by Discovery Centre guides

Hills District Historical Society Museum

This is a new and much larger location (opened late 2010) for the Museum with very much more on display.

The museum features farming, woodworking and household equipment donated by Hills District Residents. The research room includes files on Hills District pioneers, over 5000 photos of people, houses, transport, shops, etc.

Powerhouse Discovery Centre

The Powerhouse Discovery Centre is the Museum's off-site storage and collection care facility.

The Museum's unique and diverse collection of 385,000 objects spans history, science, technology, design, industry, decorative arts, music, transport and space exploration. But, like most museums, only a small part of the collection can be exhibited at any one time. The Discovery Centre houses 40% of the collection (by volume), or about 50,000 objects.

State Library News

A range of historical land title records are now available to view free, through a joint initiative between the Land and Property Management Authority (LPMA), the State Library and State Records Authority of NSW.

The following historical land title records will be accessible online via public terminals: Old Form Torrens Title Registers and Charting Maps. These records can now be viewed at the State Library of New South Wales reading rooms at no charge. The Old Form Torrens Title Registers, Charting Maps and Crown Plans can also be accessed at the State Records Authority of New South Wales in the same manner, free of charge.

Historical records like maps and land titles can provide a wealth of information about the changing landscape of a community, original landowners, local landmarks and even property names. You can access this wonderful new resource in the State Library reading rooms.

Getting started

A good starting point for more information on researching land records or property history in NSW is the LPMA searching guides.

There are five searching guides:-

- First Stop Guide
- A Brief History of the Records of the Registrar General
- Torrens Title Information and Search Guide
- Searching the Registrar General's Maps and Plans – amalgamating former guides "The Parish Map and Crown plan in Family History and Genealogical Searching" and "The History of Registrar General's Maps and Plans"
- Old System Information and Search Guide

Note: These guides were in the process of being reviewed and updated, and should be released by now. The guides can be downloaded at no charge from http://www.lpma.nsw.gov.au/land_titles/historical_research

The LPMA records available via these public terminals are for viewing purposes only. No printing, digital photography or screen dumps of any records displayed is permitted

Further Information

http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/about/collections/maps/docs/online_historical_land_title_records.pdf

Jackie van Bergen

From the Editor

A reminder that contributions to the *Newsletter*, large or small, polished or rough, are always welcome.

We have a great collection of regular contributors, but variety adds spice to many products, including this one!

So please think seriously about sending me some text or photos to make this YOUR newsletter in 2011!

Bob Barry

Recent Acquisitions

There were a number of acquisitions recently, and the following are a selection:-

- *'County & Parish Maps of N.S.W. with Index'* compiled by Alice Jansen ISBN 0 646 04243 2 reprinted 1999 (including maps - 229 pages). This was compiled from working documents dated 1881 and lists parish names NOT localities.
- *'A Complete Guide to Heraldry'* by A.C. Fox-Davies (Revised by J.P. Brooke-Little) ISBN 0-85613-854-1 (revised May 1969) 513 pages with over 800 illustrations.
- *'Tips for Queensland Research 2008 edition'* by Judy Webster ISBN 978-1-875333-22-6 (40 pages). The emphasis of this book is records held at Qld State Archives.
- *'RAAF Station Bradfield Park The making of a memorial'* produced by Ku-ring-gai Council celebrating 100 years 1906-2006. Emphasis is on the memorial and the opening ceremony.
- *'Saint John Ships and Their Builders'* by Esther Clark Wright published presumably 1975 and 229 pages. This is a Canadian locality and covers the period 1800-1892. Some of the ships were registered in Australia.
- *'Burial Records of St Mark's Anglican Churchyard Picton NSW'* compiled by Ken Williams for the Picton and District Historical and Family History Society Inc. published 2001 ISBN 0-9579925-1-3. Records all persons known to have been buried in the churchyard between 1858 and 1998. In all, 850 persons are listed.
- *'Sofala Days and Turonites'* by John Rule (with metal detecting notes and gold locations) reprinted 1993 (60 pages) ISBN 0-9595902-2-6.

Bruce Robinson

One Hundred Years Ago

- items from "The Kuringian"

Killara 1911

At Killara a stone church has been built, which should meet every requirement for some time to come. There are a plucky lot of folk in the world yet, or big jobs like the building of a 1500 pound church in a sparsely populated centre would not be undertaken. "Nothing ventured" applies just as much to church making as to anything else. Pioneering anything is no easy matter. Still people do it. We wish our church makers the best of good luck.

Roseville 1911

Anyone who has a liking for a few hours by the waterside should make it their business to "discover" Roseville Park, where there are facilities for enjoyment either on land or by pulling boat on the upper reaches of Middle Harbour. The Park is about half an hour's walk from the Roseville Station. On getting out of the train ask the obliging Stationmaster to direct you. He will do it gladly. Take your "billy" and hamper and picnic when you get there. The place is well worth a visit. If you can find Mr. Babbage on the way down, you will enjoy the visit more. Our friend has worked hard for his park, and is still singing its praises. Any district is always the better of a pioneer or two.

from Jo Harris

KHS Seniors Week Program 2011

Tuesday 22 March to Saturday 26 March

Venue: Gordon library meeting rooms

Start time: 10.30 am

Cost: Talks are **free**, thanks to a Seniors Week grant

Includes: Morning tea

Bookings are essential: phone 9499 4568 (10 am - 2 pm), or email khs@khs.org.au

Tuesday 22 March 2011

How to Research your House

Talk by members of the KHS Built Heritage team covering the basics of how to research the history of your house. Followed by a discussion over morning tea, then the opportunity to have hands on experience in the research rooms with volunteers from the team

Wednesday 23 March 2011

How do I take care of my old Photos and Documents?

Talk by members of the KHS preservation team on how best to handle and preserve your old photographs and documents. Followed by a discussion over morning tea, then the opportunity to talk to the team in the research rooms.

Thursday 24 March 2011

How to Research your Family History

Vice-President of the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society and leader of the family history group, Jo Harris will give a highly entertaining presentation on getting started with researching your family history. Followed by a discussion over morning tea, then the opportunity to do some hands on research in the research rooms helped by family history group volunteers.

Friday 25 March 2011

What do we have and how can you find it? (the extensive resources of KHS)

Talk by Committee members outlining and demonstrating the huge array of resources held by the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society. Includes databases and books for local and Australian research, family history research and over 10,000 photos. Followed by a discussion over morning tea and then the opportunity to do some hands on research in the research rooms helped by room volunteers.

Are you a room volunteer or researcher? Is there so much more on the system now than when you started? This is a simple way to update yourself in a social environment.

Saturday 26 March 2011

Facebook – starting out, safety, fun!

Talk by Carole Riley (of SAG) focussing on Facebook but also covering a couple of other social media sites. This talk will cover how to get started, what to look out for, especially safety and privacy. Followed by a discussion over morning tea, then the opportunity to set up your own facebook account in the research rooms – if you bring your email address.

A great way to keep in touch with your grandchildren! And to share photos!

FAMILY MATTERS

December Family History Meeting

2pm Meeting (there was no morning research session)

Jo Harris chaired the meeting, attended by 35 members. She advised that on this day (Dec. 4) in 1788, the wind was from the south-east and the temperature 21.1C.

Max Farley read from the 50th year issue of the North Shore Times the names of prominent people including Jo (see this issue P.2).

Reports Jenny Joyce attended a meeting on Oral History Day, with 15 present, on research into recorders. She also gave a report on the "Unlock the Past" Roadshow, with a good speaker, Dan Lynch, and Louise St Denis from a Canadian online company, National Institute of Genealogical Studies.

Coming Events Jenny Joyce spoke of a tour to the Art Gallery of NSW on Wednesday 16 February. Jackie van Bergen advised of a tour on Wednesday 9 March to the Powerhouse Discovery Centre in The Hills district.

Book Reports Members reported on "In True Spirit" by Jessica Watson (round-world sailor), and "White Gold" about Cornish slaves. "The Founders of Australia" will be updated in 2011.

Australian Family Tree Connections magazine, December issue. Jo made copies of "40 Things to Ask Your Mum - and Yourself" for distribution.

Cemetery Visits Reports were given on visits to Taiwan and Camperdown (Sydney).

Thanks were given to the behind-the-scenes research team, family history committee, report writers, and to Jill Nicholson.

The "Show and Tell" feature was provided by the following members:-

David Knox - Silver salver presented to Isaac Corry, MP for Newry, Ireland, made in 1758. The Irish Parliament was dissolved, and became part of the UK until 1921.

Suzanne Saunders - Copy of Freedom of City of London document given to James William Gann, outfitter 25 October 1861.

Margaret Holland - Mother born Canada, emigrated 1928 on "Niagara", met future husband, lost touch. Friend in tennis club showed her an ad in paper re whereabouts, met again and married.

Jackie van Bergen - Replica of globe. 4xggrandfather made globes, gimbel compasses, sextants used on early migrant ships. Made globe for Capt. Cook's ship.

Jill Nicholson - grandmother's book "Health and Longevity" written 1909. 15 sections including What Young Wives Should Know, now sold as a curiosity. Kerosene much recommended, applied and consumed. Jill read many entertaining extracts.

Jenny Joyce - grandfather's watch. Born 1896, enlisted 1916. Men began wearing wrist watches in WW1.

Joy Walker - wooden box belonged to aunt, originally contained sewing cottons.

Elaine Turnidge - 1982 went to Edison's Museum in Florida, showed copy of Edison's globe and filament, HMV music box and horn, poster of HMV dog.

Tony Prince - 3 treasured books given by parents, published in Chicago. 12 volumes, folk tales and stories from all over the world.

Robin Anderson - gggrandmother's ivory visiting card box. She married 1854. Also silver cup dated 1772, gift from Lady McIlwrath to Robin's father who was chairman of McIlwraths.

Marjorie Perry - locket with horseshoe, shamrock, rose and thistle, belonged to gggrandmother who emigrated 1838.

Annet Latham - framed sampler by Ann Fraser aged 12. This set Annet on road to genealogy.

Richard Facer - house sign "Moppity" at least 150 years old from 91 Ku-ring-gai Ave, Turramurra, where gggrandmother died. Originally the name of property where ggggrandfather obtained mutton and lamb to sell to miners at Lambing Flat (now Young). Sign moved to Marrickville, then Killara, then Turramurra.

Lynne Gardiner - tatted blouse which belonged to grandmother. Book "1000 Beautiful Things".

Bob Gowing - Old metal button "Military Forces NSW" belonged to gggrandfather who joined Paddington & Surry Hills Rifles in 1868.

Jo Harris - bracelet with oil painting of gggrandfather of 1742, John Shipton, son of Thomas.

The hamper raffle was won by Jackie van Bergen.

A delicious Christmas afternoon tea was then enjoyed by all.

Based on notes by Stella Green

Coming Events

Tuesday 1 February 2011

RAHS Walking Tour of Camperdown Cemetery

Camperdown cemetery is a hauntingly beautiful graveyard with its hulking Moreton Bay Fig, palms and eucalyptus trees. It is the burial place of several notables and 22 passengers of the ill-fated *Dunbar*.

Meet 9.45 am for a 10.00 am start outside front gates of St Stephen's Anglican Church, 189 Church Street, Newtown (close to Newtown railway station).

Cost: \$12 Members, \$15 Non-members.

Saturday/Sunday 26-27 February 2011

Sydney Vintage Tramway Festival 2011

It is 50 years since the closure of Sydney's Tramways. See veteran trams, cars and fire engines, and a classic miniature railway.

Ride a veteran 1890s tram. Take an antique bus from Sutherland to Loftus.

Cost: adult \$15/child \$10/concession \$10/family \$46. (includes unlimited tram and bus rides)

Sat: 9-9/Sun: 9-5 at The Sydney Tramway Museum, Old Prince's Highway/Pitt Street, Loftus.

<http://www.sydneytramwaymuseum.com.au>

Family History Course

8 weeks starting Monday 11 April
and each Monday till 6 June
(excluding Monday 25 April).

For further information and booking,
contact Jo on 9489 4383.

BUILT HERITAGE

“Sirocco”, 33 Abingdon Road, Roseville

Sirocco is one of the few houses west of the highway in Roseville listed on the NSW Heritage Office website. Built in the Spanish



Mission style in 1938 for Lieut. Noel Albert Clairs Letch, it was designed by SN Rickard and erected by Garetti & Son.

The neighbouring house, No 35, also by Rickard and the Garettis, was built at the same time for Lieut. Commander Edwin A Good. The two houses are considerably different, the style of No 35 best described as English villa. Both were featured in 1940 issues of the Australian Women's Weekly.

No 33, *Sirocco*, was noted for its 'patio garden, a sundeck and loggia on top of the garage, bougainvillea covered pergola, walled terraces, multi-coloured roofing tiles and cream-textured walls ...some of the features that give this house its picturesque charm'.

No 35, a 'Picturesque two-storied ... home, with cream-faced brick walls, high-pitched roof tiled in mottle red, and trimmings of chocolate-coloured bricks over doorways and under gables ...Modern and comfortable, and supplied with latest equipment and services, this house is a good example of one of the domestic designs most popular to-day'.

Both houses appear to be in original, but cherished, condition. Until recently *Sirocco* was owned by an architect and his wife who, although having extended the house at the rear, had carefully retained the particular features for which the Spanish Mission style is known. The name of the house is carried out in black wrought iron, the façade asymmetrical with deep recesses in the portico providing a striking contrast between light and shade, stepped terraces, rough render finish, the roof flat with parapet topped by terracotta Cordova tiles, terracotta tiles inset in the walls for roof drainage, an arched loggia and portico encompassing the entrance, Juliet wrought iron grilles over the sash windows, the front door of wide timber boards with black painted wrought iron hinges and buttressed chimney with blind niche.

Letch and Good were members of the Royal Australian Navy. Letch, born in 1909 in Guildford WA, entered Jervis Bay Naval College aged 13, and at 17 passed into Keyham College, Devonport, England. In 1945 he was awarded a bar to his DSC and in 1956 promoted to Captain.

Edwin Allan Good CBE, born in 1904 in Adelaide, entered the Navy in 1918, was promoted to Captain in 1948, appointed Honorary Aide-de-Camp to the Governor General in 1950 and ADC to the Queen in 1954.

Stanley Noble Rickard was born in New Britain, a son of missionary Richard Heath Rickard, and nephew of Sir Arthur Lancelot Rickard of Arthur Rickard & Co. He studied at the Technical College under Cyril Blacket, and was then articled to George Sydney Jones. In 1904 he began his own practice. He served in the AIF, and after the armistice studied in London, becoming a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Kathie Rieth

More on Service Stations in Ku-ring-gai

Further to the November/December response to "Service Stations in Ku-ring-gai", my (failing!) memory reminds of Waters' Garage that was located at the northern corner of Clanville Road and Pacific Highway at Roseville, with a galvanised iron annex on the opposite corner. A new building was erected some time ago and is now a showroom for second-hand Subarus. The opposite corner is their parking area.

Speaking of Roseville, although Seymour's on the corner of William Street and Pacific Highway, and the service station at the southern corner of Boundary Street, are in the postal district of Roseville, they are actually in the Willoughby LGA.

There was also another in Roseville, diagonally opposite the Memorial Club at 69-71 Pacific Highway. This is now O'Brien's Glass.

I confine some further comment to sites in the vicinity of the rail line between Boundary Street and Ryde Road/Mona Vale Road, the latter being formerly named Stoney Creek Road, then Pittwater Road.

There is still a service station in Lindfield Avenue adjacent to Lindfield shops.

The reference to Bert Wakelin's service station, corner Wolseley Road, Lindfield, reminds that he was the son-in-law of Roy and Rene Gowing, who lived almost opposite and above the Tudor milk bar. Roy was a Charter Member and stalwart of the Roseville RSL Sub-branch and Club. Mrs Gowing was a Foundation Member of the RSL Ladies Auxiliary. Their daughter Hilda still resides in Lindfield.

There was a service station on the Pacific Highway at Gordon, at the corner of McIntyre Street, and another on the Highway at the corner of Merriwa Street, and yet another near Ryde Road on the recent Ikea site.

Jack Wagg's (AJ Wagg) service station at Lindfield, mentioned in the article, housed his buses. These ran from Bradfield RAAF Station to Lindfield, carrying airmen at three pence each. Mr Wagg found this very advantageous, as Wagg's thereby received a liberal petrol allowance. But the good folk of West Lindfield/West Killara weren't happy sharing their bus with young fly-boys, particularly when there was an outbreak of hepatitis in the Camp. They petitioned my father, who was then the CO, asking that RAAF passengers be banned. This was rejected, but the problem was solved when, one day, my friend Stan threw himself from his seat, lay on the floor grasping his throat, while I ran to the back of the bus shouting "The Doc thinks he is getting hepatitis". We had the buses to ourselves for a long time afterwards!

Stuart Doyle

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 extend a warm welcome to members who have recently joined the Society:-

Frank Robinson	Lindfield
Ros Dyson	Turrumurra
Betty Brown	North Turrumurra
Yvonne Ashfield	Artarmon
Agnes Barber	Waitara
Susan & Bruce Meppem	Roseville
Alayne Harrison-Thorpe	Chatswood
Julie Cheetham	Cambridge Park

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

Quiz (answers P. 2)

- Which church in Wahroonga was originally an "amusement hall"? a. St Andrew's; b. St Paul's; c. St John's; d. The Methodist.
- The land where Coles Supermarket is in Ray St, Turrumurra was once the land on which stood the home of? a. Roy Rene; b. George Allison Holmes; c. Cresswell O'Reilly; d. Walter Windeyer Traill.
- Which of these was not an early Pymble School? a. Lisleen; b. Batonga; c. Dalcross; d. Eldinhope.
- "Grandview" was built on Pymble Hill in the early 1800s. It has been used as a? a. bank; b. school; c. church; d. post office.

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 5 Feb** **Family History Meeting**
11 am "Questions answered about resources on the Intranet" – Are you having any problems??
2 pm General Meeting
 "Dispelling Family Myths"
- Sat 19 Feb** **2 pm Society General Meeting**
 "Wild Ride: The Rise & Fall of Cobb & Co." The dramatic story of this iconic company, illustrated with rarely seen images. Speaker: Sam Everingham
- Sat 5 Mar** **Family History Meeting**
11 am To be advised
2 pm General Meeting
 To be advised
- Sat 19 Mar** **2 pm Society General Meeting**
 "The rise of Sydney's Department Stores Dynasties." An illustrated talk on 19th Century department stores and the families that created them.
 Speaker: Michael Lech

Administration

President	Ann Barry	9144 6480
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	Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
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Minute Secretary	Yvette Reeve	9987 0904
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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

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	Indexing: Judi Oliver	
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Speakers Programme	Beverly Dunstan	9419 8526
Volunteers Roster	Heather Davidson	9144 1844