



# 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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Newsletter

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

## Stories from Randwick

The speaker for November's meeting was Pauline Curby who was talking about her book *Randwick*. It was commissioned by Randwick council to celebrate the Municipality's 150th anniversary and won the NSW Premier's History award in 2010.

She found with Randwick's history a microcosm of Australian history, very different to Ku-ring-gai. There is a mixed population – a lot of poverty, but also affluent people and private schools. It reflected so many aspects of Australia's history, and she had to think through how to tackle those questions and structure the book. When looking at the subject several themes began to emerge.

Long Bay Gaol and the Coast Hospital were important, as was the connection to the underworld (Tilly Devine lived in Maroubra). The gaol was originally designed as a reform prison and for rehabilitation. Women were sent there from 1909, men from 1914. Racing was another important theme, with not only the current racecourse in the area, but also an earlier racecourse located where the University of NSW is now. After the racecourse there closed, the site was used by the military, then as a migrant hostel before finally becoming home to the UNSW.

The aboriginal chapter starts in 1878 because that is the date of the establishment of (as far as we know) the first permanent aboriginal settlement at La Perouse. The Macquarie Watchtower is thought to be the oldest structure in Randwick. The construction date is unknown, but it is thought to date from about the 1820s.

The foundation stone of the Destitute Children's Asylum was laid in 1856. Randwick was just a village at the time, barely known, but every lady bountiful would trek out and inspect the children. The children there were often doing better than on the streets of Sydney, but by the 1870s it was very overcrowded and several of the staff were less than satisfactory and even brutal. Boys and girls were segregated, so brothers and sisters were separated. It was in operation until 1915, when it was made into a place for soldiers returning from the war and later a general hospital.

The beach obviously had to be another important theme. Before WWI women had been involved in all sorts of surf organisations, but from 1921 they were not allowed to be full members of surf clubs. The sand dunes also provided a source of relief work during the depression, digging and shifting sand.

It was an interesting talk about both the process of writing a commissioned history, and the history itself of the Randwick Municipality

*Jenny Joyce*

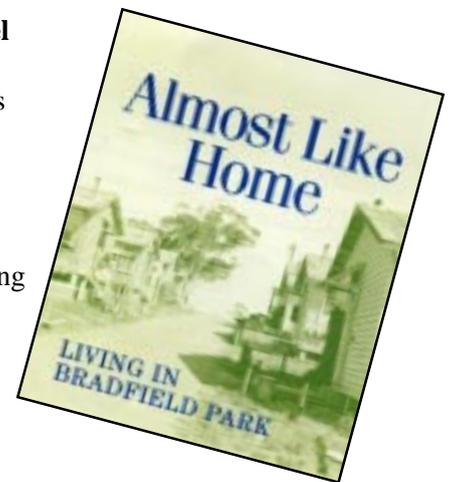
## General Meeting

**Saturday 16 February 2.00 pm**

*followed by*  
***Almost Like Home***  
***Living in Bradfield Park***

Speaker: **Michael Hogan**

Michael Hogan tells the story of the ex-RAAF camp at Bradfield Park that became home to migrants and Housing Commission residents.



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

## Family History Meeting

**Saturday 2 February**

**11.00 am** "BDMs" – tips, tricks, new areas

**2.00 pm** **General Meeting**

"Cooyal to Warrawee and all points in between"

Speaker: **Lester Burgess**

Lester grew up in the Mudgee district, attended a one teacher school at Cooyal, obtained his PhD in Plant Pathology at Sydney Uni, and later became Dean of Agriculture. He has agriculture in his blood, as his forebears settled farms in the Yass and Crookwell districts.



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

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## **Christmas Raffle**

Our Christmas raffle winner was drawn at the Family History meeting on Saturday 1 December. Congratulations to Julie Werner.

And thanks to Helen Davies for putting the fabulous basket of goodies together.

## ***Ku-ring-gai Historical Society Blog reaching a wide audience***

In its first five months there have been fifty posts on our blog at <http://kuringgaihs.blogspot.com>. Our statistics tell us that there have been over three thousand visits.

One of our regular readers is a family historian in Kansas who grew up in Gordon and attended North Sydney Girls' High School.

A number of historians and family historians from Australia and overseas have also subscribed to the blog. By subscribing, one can get an email notification when a new post is published.

It has been gratifying to receive praise for the blog.

Shauna Hicks, one of Australia's foremost genealogy presenters and writers and co-ordinator of National Family History week in Australia wrote in her blog, Diary of an Australian Genealogist, "Also Ku-ring-gai Historical Society celebrated its 50th blog post and while that probably doesn't sound like a great achievement it's actually quite significant in that Ku-ring-gai is leading where all other historical societies should be going in my opinion."

"Blogs are a great way to tell local stories (same for family history blogs too) without a great deal of effort or expense if you use a free blogger like Google Blogger and then best of all it's searchable by Google and anyone looking for information or events in the Ku-ring-gai area can find it and the Society."

"...I really do think that historical societies and genealogy/family history societies should all be getting more involved with social media outlets...."

Another Sydney family historian, Diane Hewson, nominated in her blog as worth reading fifteen blogs that are mostly Australian and mostly about history or genealogy. Included in this list was our Society blog.

**Jill Ball**

**Sat 23 Feb 10.30 am – 11.30 am**

Library meeting room.

**Cost: \$5**

**DNA for Genealogists**

**Kerry Farmer** is coming back to talk to us....

Learn how genealogists can use DNA testing to enrich their family history research. Kerry will help us understand how the genetic markers in DNA can help us find our ancestors, when genealogy is combined with genetics. She will explain DNA in simple terms and discuss the various tests available, and how to decide which DNA tests and which DNA testing companies best suit what you want to know?

Bookings essential, with payment please.

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## **Special Interest Groups**

### ***Mac Users SIG***

As we have the iPad day on **Friday 15 February**, and with so many other things on, the next meeting is on **Monday 4 March 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](mailto:jackievb@optusnet.com.au))

No need to book, just turn up. Bring your laptop or iPad if you like.

**Jackie van Bergen**

### ***German Research SIG***

The next meeting is on **Monday 11 February 2013 at 1.30 pm**. The main topic for discussion is the wealth of material from the recent SAG German genealogy presentations and how we use the material in our own research.

**Peter Stehn**

### ***Irish Research SIG***

The next meeting is on **Friday 8 February at 1.30pm**. Share your Irish stories, tips and tricks. We all learn a bit and have some fun.

All welcome.

**Ric Hall**

### ***Scottish Research SIG***

Next meeting **Monday 25 February 2013 at 1.30 pm**.

## ***Room Volunteers needed***

Do you have four hours a month you can spare?

You don't have to know everything about everything to do this job.

You just need to have a friendly manner and a desire to help.

We are desperate for room volunteers.

Some of our previous room volunteers are either unable to help out any more or have moved onto other jobs in KHS.

It is likely that you'll be able to spend a reasonable amount of the four hours on your own research.

You can join one of our regular volunteers, or talk a friend into coming with you and volunteer together.

We'll help you get started and there is a volunteer booklet to help you too.

We really want to keep the rooms open five days a week but we do need help to do this. Please contact someone on the Committee if you think you might be able to help.

## ***Transport Coordinator wanted***

We have a number of members who from time to time can't drive to get to meetings. We would love someone to volunteer to help them find a lift.

Could *you* be our new 'transport coordinator'?

If you think you could help, please give anyone on the committee a call or email.

## ***Quiz answers (see p. 8 for Questions)***

All answers listed are correct (reference: 1929 Who's Who in Australia).

## 2012 KHS Historian of the Year



**Allan Rost** was born at Eastwood on 21 September 1928, and attended Epping Public School and Parramatta High. Being hopeless at sports he used to sneak into the city on sports afternoons to indulge his interest in local history in the Mitchell Library. In those years the Mitchell Library was in its original home in the north-west wing of the State Library. His first essay in local history appeared in the school magazine and told of the origin of the four school house names – Marsden, Brisbane, Batman and Fitzroy.

His first employment ended after two weeks when the manager declared he would never make an accountant. He then had the good fortune of obtaining a job as a junior clerk with a firm of chartered accountants whose opinion of his value was ten shillings a week. He enrolled in the accountancy diploma course at Sydney Tech and qualified as a public accountant in 1950. He was admitted to the Chartered Institute two years later. By then he was with another firm where, amongst other interesting clients, he had charge of the audits of the Australian Journalists' Association and the Journalists' Club where he also served on the finance committee.

This happy association ended when he commenced practice in Hunter Street on 1 July 1957. Several years later he was joined in partnership by a close friend Lawrie Kitchener, who had been his immediate supervisor in his second employment. They both retired on 30 June 1978 leaving the firm of Rost and Kitchener in the safe hands of two younger partners.

In retirement, Allan enrolled at Macquarie University as a mature age student gaining a Graduate Diploma in Geoscience. This led unexpectedly to engagement with a firm of mineral economists where his itchy pen finger wrote analyses of the major mining companies.

Upon a second retirement Allan wrote his family's history and hasn't stopped writing history since. He has been fortunate in having Ken Knight as a close friend, neighbour and mentor. Together they compiled a CD on pubs and publicans from 1788 to 1850 that was published by the Society of Australian Genealogists, and Ken now leads a team extending that study statewide and up to 1900.

Allan and Ken were among the very early members of the City of Sydney Historical Society. In 2008, an article by Allan on WWI Soldier Settlements was published in the journal of the RAHS. Allan has also contributed articles to SAG's 'Descent' and the journal of the Hornsby Historical Society.

Allan Rost joined KHS in 2006. He has been a meticulous

researcher, writer and proofreader with the team of our annual publication, *The Historian*, for the last five years. His research is providing essential background to development in Ku-ring-gai from the time of the original grants, and has entailed many trips to the Lands Titles Office in the city.

In early 2012, Allan assisted in proofreading our Society's latest publication *Almost Like Home*.

Allan is a warm and considerate person, and it is a pleasure to be in his company. He is both a gentle man and a true gentleman. Congratulations and well done.

### ***Kick-start your year...***

Get your research in 2013 off to a great start! It's been so hot and our rooms are nice and air-conditioned.

Come along to one or more of our FREE talks and workshops.

(N.B.: Morning tea and lunch *not* included)

Bookings are essential as some have limited numbers.

**Thu 31 Jan 10.30 am:** Hands on *Trove* – learn how to fill in the stories of your ancestors through using this wonderful resource of the National Library. **SORRY BOOKED OUT**

**Tue 5 Feb 10.30 am:** Using the NSW Lands & Property Information website.

**Fri 8 Feb 10.30 am:** Bring Your Own Device and learn about some of the tools that can help your research. Hopefully we can also cover portable scanners.

**Fri 15 Feb 10.30am:** iPad day – Did you get an iPad for Christmas? Do you want to get more out of your iPad? Do the Apple store 'kids' bamboozle you with technical jargon? Then come along and learn some tips and tricks, and see some handy apps.

**Mon 18 Feb 10.30 am:** Using *Ancestry* in our research rooms.

We have lots of requests for workshops, but often struggle to find people to run them for us. If you have a topic you would like to present, or would like help to present, please let us know; we would love to help you.

All of the above are run by our own volunteers, so please come along and support them.

### ***Seniors Week, March 2013***

All talks will **cost \$5**, including morning tea and are being held in the Meeting room **10.30 - 12.30**.

Morning tea provided.

Please feel welcome to bring a friend or two.

**Please book on 9499 4568 or email [khs@khs.org.au](mailto:khs@khs.org.au).**

**Mon 18 Mar: Stories of early Ku-ring-gai**

Jo Harris will take you on a journey through the development of Ku-ring-gai, from Captain Arthur Phillip's overland expedition, to the timber-getters, then the orchardists; to land grants in 1816 for the first school and church at Gordon, and then agitation by residents resulting in the North Shore railway line, all followed by housing subdivisions.

**Wed 20 Mar: Computer security and backup**

Learn how to browse the web safely, how to keep your computer up to date, and get an overview of security software. This talk will also look at advantages and disadvantages of different types of backup media, and how to protect your backed up data.

**Thu 21 Mar: How to research your family history**

Jo Harris will give a highly entertaining presentation on getting started with researching your family history.

# FAMILY MATTERS

## November Family History Meeting

11.00 am Session

Jo Harris opened the meeting and welcomed the 18 in attendance. Jo and Beverley Robinson conducted a session on *Time lines*. They had spent many 'homework' hours working on a Time Line for William Alexander Balcombe, b.1855 d.1939. This session brought many, many questions from attendees and maybe there will be another session in the future with members bringing Time Lines for discussion. Jo has a challenge finding "why the Christmas Decorations were cancelled one year at Paddington House School", a school attended by WA Balcombe?

Other items mentioned – AIF data base – RAHS has not indexed their journals so add, say, SMH date or other, as a reference – Trove Advanced Search – The Times, England, use your Reader's Ticket for State Library NSW. Thank you Jo and Beverley for a most interesting and informative morning.

2.00 pm Session

Jo Harris opened the meeting and welcomed members, new members and two visitors, Ron Thomas and Nick McCallam.

See November edition of "Family Tree Connections" available in the Centre – article about the Wendish – settlers in the Western District of Victoria.

Findmypast has added more wills and cemetery records from England.

**Internet News:** RootsChat [www.rootschat.com](http://www.rootschat.com) – is an easy to use forum, main focus is on Ireland and the British Isles plus others including Australia, New Zealand, Canada and South Africa. All sorts of technical help – many recent topics. Billion Graves <http://billiongraves.com/> download the iPhone / Android camera app, take snaps of headstones and upload them with the transcribed details. Forces War Records [www.forces-war-records.co.uk/](http://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/) a new subscription site containing over 3.5 million British Armed Forces records 1830-1984, free searches for POWs and medieval soldiers are also available. New Zealand War Graves Project [www.nzwargraves.org.nz/project/new-zealand-war-graves-project](http://www.nzwargraves.org.nz/project/new-zealand-war-graves-project) developed with a grant from the Lottery Grants Board; there are already 11,000 photographs on this site. Sands Sydney Directories for Newtown only [www.sydneearchives.info/sands-directories](http://www.sydneearchives.info/sands-directories) – another site (PDF) is Sands Sydney Directory for a complete 1868, 1888 and 1918 [www.photosau.com.au/CoSSands/scripts/home.asp](http://www.photosau.com.au/CoSSands/scripts/home.asp) – War Cemeteries in Australia, a full list of Australian war cemeteries and plots and civil cemeteries with over 100 war dead [www.dva.gov.au/commems\\_oawg/OAWG/remembering\\_war\\_dead/WW1\\_WWII/Pages/cemeteries%20aus.aspx](http://www.dva.gov.au/commems_oawg/OAWG/remembering_war_dead/WW1_WWII/Pages/cemeteries%20aus.aspx)

Many family articles are included in this FTC November issue – the Guest Society this month is The Dutch Australian Genealogical Group who hold regular meetings at Chester Hill. Jo asked for a volunteer to take on the role to add our FHG functions of KHS to 'The What's On This Month' interesting segment in the FTC magazine.

**British History Online** – a digital library containing copies of printed primary and secondary sources of medieval and modern history of the British Isles including the Victoria County Histories.

**Rootsweb** – mailing lists – many people are having great success with these lists <http://lists.rootsweb.com/index/intl/AUS/GENANZ.html>

Jo mentioned "Carved in Stone", William Cox, Into the Golden West (2014) – The McKillops; A Kerry Stokes exhibition of photos at AWM Canberra. Sue Ryerson visited the church in Shepherds Bush, London, where her grandfather was vicar in the 1940s and '50s. Carol Field visited a Normandy church built in 1480.

In closing the meeting, Jo thanked all who make our meetings such a happy group, thanked the members of the FHG Committee, with special thanks to Jill Nicholson for organising the afternoon tea, today with a 'collection of birds' and her helpers

Jo introduced our Guest Speaker, Ron Hattersley, a retired Sydney Stockbroker who is known to some members as he grew up with his family at Lindfield. He was educated at Barker College. Ron is a member of Killara Golf Club, the Veteran Car Club of NSW and the Neutral Bay Lawn Tennis Club. He has a farm at Central Mangrove. His secret ambition is to ride his horse across the Harbour Bridge wearing the suit of armour that currently is in the front hallway of his home at Mosman. Welcome Ron.

Ron, like a magician, brought items one at a time, out of his boxes – there were several pistols of different sizes – walking sticks mostly 100 years old, all with extra meanings such as: a vet's one with a fold out stick to measure the height of horses; umbrellas including one to protect a top hat, cigar, a whisky flask complete with crystal goblet, a camera and another with a telescope – there were corkscrews (he has about 50); his first baby sock and shoe; candle snuffers; pipes of all sizes and lengths; hip flasks (once he sat on one and needed 12 stitches!); cigar box; wax matchbox; a tiny New Testament Bible; photos; ivory ball, carved with several carved balls inside complete with a stand; jewelry box; gold and gold-plated watches; silver items including a hairbrush set; also bones, and not forgetting, some old telephone loo paper, not used of course! The oldest item in his collection is a fossil shell. Cars in his garage include a 1906 overland tourer with lots of brass.

Several questions were asked before Richard Facer thanked Ron, and presented him with a book.

*Based on notes by Elaine Turnidge*

## Society Calendar now on our Blog

You will notice underneath our banner image on the Menu Bar of our blog that between the [Built Heritage](#) and [Contact](#) tabs there is a new tab [Calendar](#). This page, that will be updated regularly, lists upcoming events at the Society.

You can access it directly by typing <http://kuringgaihs.blogspot.com.au/p/calendar.html> into your web browser.

## December Family History Meeting

2.00 pm Session

Jo Harris opened the meeting and welcomed everyone including Angela Lind's cousin, Rosemary, from Scone.

'Family Tree Connections', available in the rooms, has many Christmas articles this month. It also has a list of amusing statements by new researchers. Several new books have been accessioned on Clifton School of Arts; Tocal; Dumaresq River; Manning River; The Worst Country in the World; and Moree.

### Websites

Several internet sites have new additions: Roots Chat with NZ topics; and Trove with many new newspapers. Caribbean Family History site, Irish Famine Memorial and Sands Sydney Directory ([www.photosau.com.au/CoSSands/scripts/home/asp](http://www.photosau.com.au/CoSSands/scripts/home/asp)) are worth a look.

### Exhibitions

'Remember Me' – forgotten soldiers of WWI at the War Memorial Museum in Canberra.

### General Business

'Unlock the Past' will be running an all day seminar at Hornsby RSL on **9 February**.

Fund raising is being organised for a Boer War memorial in ACT.

### Speakers

Jo introduced 12 speakers in a Show and Tell session.

Yvette Reeve – a ruby glass jug from Rockhampton Carnival prized by her grandmother

Margaret Robinson – chain her husband had whittled from a single piece of wood

Nola Bramble – framed Mandarin square embroidered to show a person's rank

Heather King – a green snail shell from Manus Island; a Killara Golf Club trophy and a picture of 'Carry on Cookery Books'

Elaine Turnidge – a music box

Bruce Robinson – old photo of Rohini St, Turramurra for Red Cross Shop

Eleanor Dawson – letter to Norman Shields

Audrey Turkington – photo on glass of her grandmother

Susan Gillespie – Christmas menu from 1918 of post-war dinner in Belgium

Jenny Joyce – grandfather's kit bag

Jackie van Bergen – grandmother's wedding ring, used for Jackie's wedding

Jo Harris – 'Australian Dictionary of Dates and Men of the Times' and convict brick from Windsor Court House.

Afternoon tea followed; the Christmas hamper raffle was won by Julie Werner. *Based on notes by Jean Smith*

## Where there's a will... probate records for family history.

The latest podcast from the National Archives at Kew is entitled "Where there's a will...": probate records for family history at The National Archives and beyond. It is accessible at <http://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/wheres-a-will-probate-records-for-family-history-at-the-national-archives-and-beyond/>.

You can listen to this podcast on your computer, or download it to your tablet or smartphone to hear at leisure.

## 2012 KHS Family Historian of the Year

The inaugural *KHS Family Historian of the Year* award was presented in 2008 to David Wilkins for his research, writing and publication of his own family history book "From Brecon to Broken Hill – the Story of the Wilkins Family."

There have been no presentations for the past three years as it was initially thought that this award should be given for a publication, but there are many other areas within the Society that are deserving of such recognition.

It was decided by the Committee that the 2012 recipient, who has been a member for ten years, is to be honoured this year not for a publication but for many hours of enthusiastically and tirelessly helping people, not only with research but with other more physical tasks.



In presenting this award, Jo Harris said: "Over the years the skills learnt by this member have come to fruition – in all aspects of the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society, with the interaction of members seeking help, the "Yes Moments" enjoyed by all present and the satisfaction of being able to help so many people not only in the Research Centre but also by email from overseas enquirers.

The recipient is part of the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society Research Team, The Family History Group Committee, a regular Centre Volunteer, and a person who steps in when there is a problem in any one of the many facets of the daily running of the Society.

It is therefore my privilege and pleasure to ask **BEVERLY ROBINSON** to come forward to accept the 2012 *KHS Family Historian of the Year Award*."

Congratulations Beverly!

## Scottish Seminar in Hornsby

This is to let you know of an event that is being held in nearby Hornsby, which will be of interest to those of us who have a wee drop or more of Scottish blood.

*Unlock the Past* is hosting an all day seminar at Hornsby RSL on Saturday 9 February that will feature 4 talks by Paul Milner, a professional genealogist, lecturer and author, specialising in British Isles research for over 30 years.

As well as talks by Paul there will be a few other talks and displays from a range of vendors and societies.

Full details and instructions for booking can be found here: <http://www.unlockthepast.com.au/events/british-isles-genealogy-seminar-tour-paul-milner/sydney>

Bookings before February 5 attract an Early bird rate.

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## ***Safety more important than speed***

We have found that the research room computers can be a bit slower downloading pdfs lately. This is due to upgrading to the latest and cautious antivirus software. So, please don't keep clicking to try to open a pdf, it just might be one of the slower ones. Of course, if you do find a problem, please leave a note for Peter Stehn. Thank you for your patience.

## ***New faces in the rooms***

You may notice a couple of new faces around the research rooms.

Anne Reddacliff from the State Library is helping us catalog the headmaster's museum and Gordon Public School information.

Cathy Bruton will be helping us index the Pymble News and Ku-ring-gai Observer as work experience for her TAFE course in Library and Museum practice.

We are lucky to have people with skills such as these offering their time to us. We know you will all make them feel welcome and help them settle in.

## ***Member News***

### ***From the Peninsula Historian***

***(November/December 2012, p. 4)***

#### ***“Well-deserved recognition***

***Julie Werner***, a former Secretary of our Society, has been recognised by the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust for her ten years of volunteer service with the North Head Sanctuary. At a ceremony held at North Head recently, Julie was one of three volunteers presented with a commemorative pin and a painting by professional artist Nick Hollow, the deputy executive director of the Federation Trust. It is gratifying to see the Trust valuing its volunteers in this way, and we congratulate Julie for her work at the Sanctuary.”

Great to see one of our KHS members valued for her contributions in another arena!

## ***Help Wanted***

Do you have hidden (unknown to most) skills?

We have all sorts of jobs for differing amounts of time that need a volunteer or two.

Even if you only have an hour or two a week available, talk to us and see if you can contribute.

It's our 50th birthday this year, and so we have lots of extra things happening!

Can you help design posters?

Can you help distribute competition packs to schools?

Can you help man a display for an hour or two?

The list goes on, so please talk to a committee member if you would like to help.

## ***Newsletter contributions***

We welcome any short items and photos that might be of interest to members. Email to the Editor, Bob Barry ([bob\\_barry@optusnet.com.au](mailto:bob_barry@optusnet.com.au)) or leave at the rooms.

## ***Recent Acquisitions***

The following is a selection of recent acquisitions. Please check the fireplace shelf. If they have already been sorted into the reference library you will need to use the sort code to locate the book that interests you e.g. CEM/2315 – filed under Cemeteries, and then 2315, the postcode that interests you. If a locality interests you, then obtain the postcode and search the catalogue e.g. 2031/CUR – in this case it is filed under Sydney Places.

“Pioneer Women Graduates of the University of Sydney” by Ursula Bygott and K J Cable and published by The University of Sydney 1986. The book has 61 pages and has a number of black and white photographs of the women graduates and appears to relate to the period 1881 to 1921. Limited details of a number of the graduates are provided. ORG/SYD

“Sea Wolves and Bandits” by L. Norman with a preface by Hon. Robert Cosgrove, Premier of Tasmania and published in 1946. The book has 208 pages and a number of photographs. The title is very misleading as the book deals mainly with Tasmania. The blurb inside the cover indicates the book deals with sealing, whaling, smuggling and piracy, wild men of Van Diemen's Land, bushrangers and bandits, and wrecks and wreckers. There is a chronology of curious and interesting facts relating to old Van Diemen's Land, and (from 1856) to Tasmania. (One of our members found details of a little known bushranger who bailed up an ancestor.) TAS/NOR

“Randwick” by Pauline Curby, commissioned by Randwick City Council and published 2009. The book has 404 pages and is illustrated with mainly black and white photographs. This book was the subject of a talk by the author to a KHS meeting in November 2012. I have not done justice to this book; if you are interested in the Randwick area please check it out. 2031/CUR

“Riverview and the Great War TO GIVE AND NOT TO COUNT THE COST” by James Rodgers, Saint Ignatius' College, Riverview was published by Saint Ignatius' College in 2009 and has 259 pages (ISBN: 978 0 9592758 4 1). 310 of a possible 650 Old Ignatians enlisted for the Great War and, by 1919, 60 of them were dead. This book lists the Honour Roll with details and provides many photographs. This book was donated to the Society by Jon Horan. EDU/2066 RIV

“Riverview and World War II DARE TO DO SO MUCH” by James Rodgers, Saint Ignatius' College, Riverview was published by Saint Ignatius' College in 2012 and has 243 pages (ISBN: 978 0 9592758 7 2). This book lists the Roll of Honour and details of the 54 mentioned. This book was also donated to the Society by Jon Horan. EDU/2066 RIV

***Bruce Robinson***

## ***Freemasonry Display***

Have you seen the amazing display set up in the cabinets in our corridor about the history of the Freemasons?

Thank you Jocelyn Brennan-Horley for yet another wonderful display.

# BUILT HERITAGE

## *No 3 Killara Avenue, Killara – later Audley School for Girls*



Steadfast in the unrelenting advance of five-storey apartments is No 3 Killara Avenue, Killara, saved by its listing on Ku-ring-gai's LEP for its architectural and municipal significance. A robust, two-storey Arts & Crafts style home, it was designed for Henry Thomas Mandly Williams by James Peddle who, in April 1908, awarded the contract to Mosman builder J Bryant.

I'm always curious how people arrive at a particular point in their lives. In this case: a postmaster, who had spent the past thirty years working in rural NSW. In the 1880s and 1890s he had worked in East Maitland where, as postmaster, he had become 'one of the best-known and popular men'. In 1900 he was sent to Narrabri, then in 1905 to Bourke, in 1906 to Tamworth, and to Orange in 1907. By then, it seems, his financial position was such that he was not only able to buy land in an area that was fast becoming exclusive, but could also commission one of Sydney's top architects to design a large two-storey house that, as far as I can see, was to house only three people – himself (at this point he wasn't married), his mother (widowed in 1860) and his sister (apparently separated from her husband).

Williams finalised his purchase of the land, unencumbered, in September 1907. In April 1908, the same month Peddle let the contract, Williams took out a mortgage. On completion the house, named *Wisteria*, was occupied by said sister, Helen Adele Hyde and their mother Helen Catherine Williams. It appears that Williams did not move into *Wisteria* until 1912 when he was appointed a postal inspector in the Sydney metropolitan area.

Peddle's drawings clearly state "Residence at Killara for HTM Williams Esqr" but was he helped financially by an inheritance, his mother or his sister? Henry (his father) had died in 1860 aged 41 'at his residence *Mount Pleasant*, Pennant Hills, Parramatta River' an 18-acre orangery about three miles from Parramatta. Did the sale of this property sustain the family and later fund *Wisteria*?

The death notice of their mother states she died on 9 March 1909 'at her daughter's residence, Killara-avenue'. In 1886 Helen Adele had married George Hyde, promoter

of the Burwood Coal Mining Co. and by 1908 managing director of North Bulli Colliery Ltd. Obviously not short of a pound or two.

Helen Adele died in January 1916. Later that year Williams married Ruby Victoria Lewis. In May 1926 James Lawson, auctioneers, advertised the contents of *Wisteria* for sale 'in consequence of [Mr HTM Williams] relinquishing housekeeping'. Although the house was not sold, the Williams family moved to Palm Beach.

In 1930 Kathleen Gale opened Audley School for Girls at *Wisteria*. Information on this, illustrated with photographs of the Gales and their pupils, can be found in *The railway came to Ku-ring-gai*. In September 1938, Williams' mortgagee sold to Julian Richards of Roseville, Audley School moved up the road to 26 Killara Avenue, and *Wisteria* once more became a private residence.

*Kathie Rieth*

## *At a loose end on Australia Day?*

On Australia Day drop in and visit the Victorian-era townhouse, *History House*, at 133 Macquarie St, Sydney, the home of the Royal Australian Historical Society, for a real experience of history. There will be '*Pot Luck with History*' talks of ten-minutes duration every half hour between noon and 3.00 pm.

Grab a chance to hear one of the historians speak about events, people and places that contributed to Australia's history. Entry to *History House* and lectures are free, but you might spend some money at the book sale.

## *The State Library of NSW Exhibition*

The Greatest Wonder of the World An exhibition of photographs from the famed Holtermann Collection, with its unrivalled visual record of goldfields life in Australia. For the past four years, the SLNSW has been digitally scanning the collection and it is now on show for the first time in 140 years. **From 23 February - 12 May 2013.**

## *Hyde Park Barracks Museum Convict Sydney Exhibition*

The Hyde Park Barracks is one of Australia's most important convict sites. This new exhibition explores the convict experience, from transportation to forging a new life in the colony of New South Wales. It reveals the extraordinary contribution convict workers made to the building of early Sydney. Learn about the everyday lives of convicts who passed through the doors of the barracks between 1819 and 1848. **Exhibition ends 31 May 2013.**

## *Francis Bacon five decades*

Francis Bacon is a towering figure of 20th-century art. His paintings are gutsy, controversial and unforgettable. With painful beauty, Bacon lays bare the struggles of the human condition. Don't miss out, on now at the Art Gallery of NSW, until **Sunday 24 February 2013.**

Where: Art Gallery of NSW, Art Gallery Road, The Domain NSW 2000. More: [www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au](http://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au)

## Copy for Newsletter

General copy for publication should be lodged with the Editor, Bob Barry ([bob\\_barry@optusnet.com.au](mailto: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 is accepted on the basis that the Society has editing rights and that readers can reproduce it in whole or part with acknowledgement. Material should be in electronic form if possible.

## New Members

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

Lyn Fergusson	Killara
Jennifer Fielding	Pymble
Susan & Rod Gillespie	Pymble
Gordon Joseph	St Ives
Peter & Helen Mury	Nth Wahroonga
Barry Nock	Turramurra
Heather Papallo	Chatswood
Philip Stanley	Turramurra
Mary Warner	Pymble

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

## Quiz (answers p.2)

### "B" Citizens of Ku-ring-gai

#### 1. ROY GRIFFIN BARTLETT

a) Was born Redfern, son of James Herbert Bartlett? b) Was a member of Kuring-gai Operatic Society? c) Lived at "Sunniholm" Archbold Rd, Roseville? d) Was Proprietor of Cardboard Box Manufacturers and Printers?

#### 2. MONTAGUE BUTLER BEAN

a) Was born Bathurst, son of Rev. Edwin Bean? b) Was a member of Killara Golf Club? c) Lived at "Wattle Trees" Arnold St, Killara? d) Was an Electrical Engineer?

#### 3. CHARLES BINNIE

a) Was born Sydney, son of Richard Binnie? b) Was the first in NSW to introduce share farming system? c) Lived at "Woorra", Burns Rd, Wahroonga? d) Was a Pastoralist and Agriculturist?

#### 4. HENRY EBENEZER BUDDEN

a) Was born Rockley, NSW, son of Arthur Budden? b) Was Life Governor of Prince Alfred Hospital? c) Lived at "Kingsbury", Powell St, Killara? d) Was an Architect?

#### 5. FREDERICK RICHARD BURLEY

a) Was born Hamilton, Vic, son of Joseph Walter Burley? b) Was Founder and first President of Australian Made Preference League? c) Lived at "Trenayr", Nelson St, Gordon? d) Was the founder of Berlei Ltd. First corset manufacturers in Australia?

*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

<b>Sat 2 Feb</b>	<b>Family History Meeting</b> <b>11.00 am</b> "BDMs"– tips, tricks, new areas <b>2.00 pm General Meeting</b> "Cooyal to Warrawee and all points in between". Speaker: Lester Burgess.
<b>Sat 16 Feb</b>	<b>2.00 pm Society General Meeting</b> <i>Almost Like Home</i> Speaker: Michael Hogan Michael tells the story of the ex-RAAF camp at Bradfield Park that became home to migrants and Housing Commission residents.
<b>Sat 2 Mar</b>	<b>Family History Meeting</b> <b>11.00 am</b> "More Intra/Internet Resources" <b>2.00 pm General Meeting</b> "Dating Early Photos" Members to bring a photo for discussion and identification.
<b>Sat 16 Mar</b>	<b>1.30 pm Society General Meeting</b> <b>Lord Sydney: The Life &amp; Times of Tommy Townshend</b> Speaker: Andrew Tink, author and former parliamentarian, discusses his biography of the politician instrumental in the decision to found a colony at Botany Bay. (NB: Starts early at 1.30 pm with speaker first, then Society Meeting.)

## Administration

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	Graham Lewis	9416 5818
Treasurer	Peter Stehn	9489 9488
Secretary	Trish Thomson	9499 8659
Immed. Past President	Ann Barry	9144 6480
Committee Members	Jill Ball	9653 1888
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	Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
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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
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