

KU-RING-GAI HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

(Including *Ku-ring-gai Family History Group*) • Patron: *The Mayor of Ku-ring-gai*

January/February 2014 **NEWSLETTER** **Vol. 32 No. 1**

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The Aussie-Greek Milk Bar

At our October general meeting Leonard Janiszewski, a researcher from the Greek-Australian Research Project at Macquarie University, told of the emergence of the Greek milk bar in Australia. Although most of us have at some time enjoyed a milk shake, very few would have known that milk bars actually originated right here in Sydney as the brainchild of a Greek emigrant Joachim Tavlaridis, who adopted the name Mick Adams. When his Black & White 4d Milk Bar opened in Martin Place in November 1932 it attracted over 27 000 customers in the first week alone! Adams and other Greeks soon established milk bars throughout Sydney and other Australian cities, even attracting clientele away from the hotels with his cheaper drink prices.

Adams based his milk bar on the American drug store, with their soda fountain, sundaes and other delights, plus the concept that you were served sitting at the bar, with the accent on fast customer turn around. But, although the soda fountain was a part of American drug stores, “milk bars” as such, did not exist at that time; even in America. However the malted drink mixers made by Hamilton Beach were available and Adams adopted these as milk shake mixers.

Whilst Adams’ Martin Place milk bar was the world’s first, within five years there were some four thousand milk bars in Australia, with names such as the *Paragon*, *Olympia* and *Parthenon*, mostly operated by Greek emigrants. By the mid-1930s, Greeks had taken the concept to New Zealand. Great Britain quickly imported the idea and unsuccessful attempts were made to introduce it into the United States of America.

In the 1930s the milk bars, often associated with cinemas, expanded to serve meals – traditional Australian meals – the “mixed grill”, always with chips. Greek food was seen as foreign and sometimes as peasant food. Cafes did not feel safe introducing Greek cuisine to Australia and it wasn’t until the late 1970s with Australians travelling more, becoming exposed to a variety of foods, and with supermarkets stocking products such as tinned dolmades and olive oil, that Greeks were confident enough to serve their traditional dishes.

Today a few Greek milk bars/cafes still exist with their original art-deco style, mainly in country towns. The *Fitzroy Milk Bar* at Tamworth, *The Busy Bee Cafe* at Gunnedah and the *Golden Gate Cafe* at The Entrance are good examples.

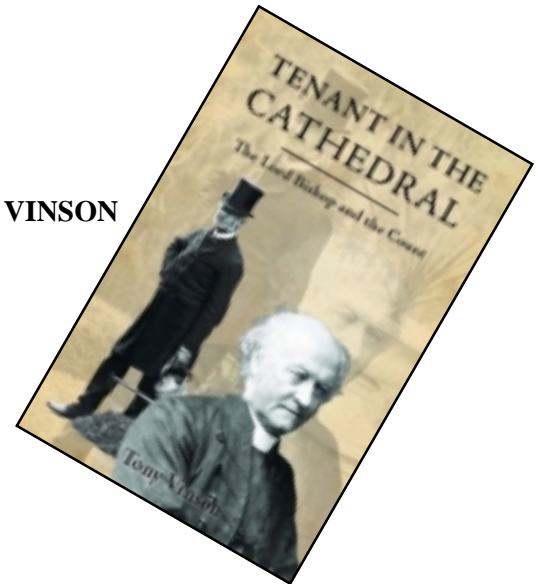
Leonard presented us with a wealth of detail in this highly entertaining talk. Illustrated with many historic photos and others taken by his photographer wife and fellow researcher, Effy Alexakis, this talk certainly evoked memories for many of us.

Doug Milne

General Meeting

Saturday 15 February 2.00 pm

Tony VINSON



Tenant in the Cathedral: The Lord Bishop and the Count. St Saviour’s Cathedral in Goulburn took 20 years to build but a bitter dispute over its management then divided the community.

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

Family History Meeting

Saturday 1 February

11.00 am “Help with my Holiday Brick Walls”

2.00 pm General Meeting followed by:

“Researching the people of the First and Second Fleets”

Speaker **Michael Flynn** has worked as a historical researcher and writer since 1985. He spent four years compiling *The Second Fleet*. Seven of his ancestors were convicts transported to New South Wales prior to 1836.



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

KHS History

All members who attended the Society's 50th Anniversary dinner were presented with a copy of the marvellous *Ku-ring-gai Historical Society – the first 50 years*, written by member **Helen Davies**.

Each membership is entitled to a free copy, which is available from our rooms. If you would like it posted please send a cheque for \$5.



Recent changes to intranet resources

- Updated *The Historian* Index to include 2012 edition of the journal (Volume 41, Number 1).
- Updated our *Newsletter* index – now covers the period from the first issue of the *Newsletter* in January 1983 to the November/December 2013 issue (Volume 31, No 10).
- Added *Ku-ring-gai Council Building Register 1928–1957* and *Building Applications Index 1963–1968*: valuable resources when researching your house.
- Updated *KUPEDIA* – the application now contains over 329 articles. Most articles are from early editions of *The Historian* originally published between June 1972 and March 1999 – 27 years.
- Updated information on the date range of BDM indexes available online, especially the NSW and Queensland indexes.

Peter Stehn

KHS carry bags

These are fantastic bags – very strong, and they hold all you would want to carry.

They are available from our rooms at \$10 per bag.



Assistance needed

During Seniors Week the Society is holding a number of talks, and we need 2 people each day to help with setting up and assistance with morning tea on the following days: Monday 10 March, Wednesday 12 March, Friday 14 March, Monday 17 March, and Tuesday 18 March.

If you are able to assist please call the rooms (9499 4568) and ask that your name be entered into the book.

Probate calendars for Ireland

Were you aware that probate calendars for Ireland are available online? These cover the whole of Ireland from 1858–1920, and the Republic of Ireland from 1923–1982.

Details here: <http://www.willcalendars.nationalarchives.ie/search/cwa/home.jsp>

Special Interest Groups

Mac Users Group: iPad afternoon

Did you get an iPad for Christmas? Do you want to get more out of your iPad?

Do you know how to turn it off? Do the Apple store 'kids' bamboozle you with technical jargon? Then come along and learn some tips and tricks, and see some handy apps.

Our first meeting of 2014 will be held on **Monday 3 February at 1.30 pm** in the Rooms. Please note the earlier starting time for this meeting, as I'm sure we'll have a lot to cover.

If you have any specific questions, please email them in advance so they can be circulated to the group for answers. (jackievb@optusnet.com.au)

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

Advance notice: the meeting on **Monday 3 March at 2.00 pm** will focus on Mac and iPad genealogy programs/apps.

Jackie van Bergen

German Research SIG

The next meeting of the German SIG is planned for **Monday 10 February at 1.30 pm** in our Rooms.

Peter Stehn

Irish Research SIG

On Friday 8 November Irish descendants gathered at the Room to talk about their Irish family history. We discussed a number of searching ideas and looked at various websites. We all learnt a bit, shared stories and had some fun. The meetings are on the second Friday of each month.

There will be no meeting for February.

Our next meeting is **Friday 7 March at 1.30 pm**. All welcome.

Ric Hall

Technology SIG

At our last two Technology SIG meetings members have learnt how to use their Flip-Pal scanners. At our meeting next month, which will be held on the third **Thursday, 20 February at 1.30 pm**, I will be sharing tech tips and online resources I learnt about on the genealogy cruise that I and three other members recently took.

All are welcome to come along with tech questions and problems.

Jill Ball

Raffle

The *KHS* Christmas hamper raffle was won by **John Wilson**.

Unlock the Past is presenting a full day seminar on **Thursday 13 February** at Parramatta with leading international genealogists, Chris Paton (Scotland) and Thomas MacEntee (US). There will be four main presentations with supporting short presentations. **Details:** <http://www.unlockthepast.com.au/events/chris-paton-and-thomas-macentee-downunder/sydney>

KHS Speakers 2014

Sat 18 Jan **Gordon MAR**
One Small Step Out Of the Village. The Australian-Chinese story through the eyes of one family.

Sat 15 Feb **Tony VINSON**
Tenant in the Cathedral: The Lord Bishop and the Count. St Saviour's Cathedral in Goulburn took 20 years to build but a bitter dispute over its management then divided the community.

Sat 15 Mar **Andrew TINK**
Air Disaster Canberra. The story of the 1941 plane crash that destroyed the first Menzies government.

Sat 19 Apr **David DEASEY**
Australia and the Boer War. The history and myths of our first national war, in which 16 000 Australians served.

Sat 17 May **Richard WHITE**
Touring the Past. The beginnings of Australian "historic" tourism and our fascination with notorious figures such as Ned Kelly.

Sat 21 Jun **Doug MILNE**
Exploration Beyond the Nepean. A close examination of the early explorations of Wilson and Barrallier suggests 100 years of speculation on the latter's route may have led us up the wrong creek.

Sat 19 July **Don NAPPER**
James Barnet: Architect of 1000 Public Buildings. At least one of Barnet's classically inspired buildings can be found in most population centres of NSW.

Sat 16 Aug **Michael McKERNAN**
Starting a War in Australia – July–August 1914. A thought-provoking talk from the former Deputy Director of the Australian War Memorial on the occasion of the War's centenary.

Sat 20 Sep **Geoff FORD**
The Original Ku-ring-gai People. Research findings drawn from the earliest historical records show "Ku-ring-gai" was named after Aboriginal people from Broken Bay.

Sat 18 Oct **LCdr Des WOODS**
The Sydney-Emden Engagement. The centenary of the young RAN's first engagement, with the German Indian Ocean raider SMS Emden, is marked on 9 Nov.

Sat 15 Nov **John CANN**
Here Come the Cars. State Records archivist John Cann has some engaging stories of two men – one a Premier, the other a gangster – and their cars.

All general meetings and talks commence at 2.00 pm.
Guests are very welcome.

Thoughts on the first 50 years

In writing to express a few thoughts on the current celebration of the first 50 years of the life of our *Ku-ring-gai Historical Society*, I first express my apologies for non-attendance due to a combination of medical circumstances. And those apologies are tendered with the greatest regret.

An occasion such as this is of course not only to mark the passage of years but to give recognition to the achievements of half-a-century of community effort which have greatly accelerated in the last decade or so.

In the 1960s and 1970s – a period during which I offered some support to the Society – historical information was to a degree fortuitously obtained, or collated from existing sources which were not extensive. But let me say that it was carried out by good people who gave time and personal material resources to the acquisition and publication of local historical knowledge.

The Historian was born, and its first issues were printed in my office at my home in Killara on a Gestetner, with assistance from Marjorie Saddington and the Wane sisters. Photographs of historical significance were gathered and copied and became the nucleus of the Society's collection.

In 2004 I visited the Society which then had its own rooms, for perhaps the first time in many years, because of removal to the North Coast. I was met by humming computers and an extensive body of members with research skills the like of which I had never encountered. And the expertise was matched with a corresponding degree of enthusiasm for work in progress, and for the onward march of the Society into the realms of academic recognition.

Nothing succeeds like success, and in the years following 2004 I became infected with that same concern for the Society's objectives which was being so abundantly displayed by others, and I have made some appropriate research contributions over the ensuing years.

I only mention this because my perception is that I am far from being alone. It seems that a significant number of persons have joined our organisation initially to be informed and perhaps entertained, and have stayed to make useful contributions to the day-to-day work. Some have proceeded to contribute articles with skills learned from a core of members who have become expert in selected areas of research.

To-day, therefore, we offer a salute to those past and present, who in their own time and from their own abilities and resources, have made *Ku-ring-gai Historical Society* the success which it has become.

Finally, I offer my personal appreciation to those who have become good friends over the last ten years and have collectively inspired me to make my own small contribution to a socially successful institution which may well endure into a further 50 years of significant public service.

John RE Brown

Tweed Heads

2 November 2013

Our 50th birthday party!

Our 50th Anniversary Dinner at Roseville Golf Club on 7 November 2013, the *exact anniversary* of the foundation meeting of KHS, was attended by a foundation member, Les Jeckeln, who featured prominently in the events of the evening.

The dinner was attended by the Premier and the other state and federal members from Ku-ring-gai. We also launched our book celebrating the 50 year history of Ku-ring-gai Historical Society, *Ku-ring-gai Historical Society – the first 50 years*, written by member **Helen Davies**. This was formally launched by Paul Fletcher, Federal MP for Bradfield, and all guests received their membership's free copy of the book, beautifully gift-wrapped and labelled.

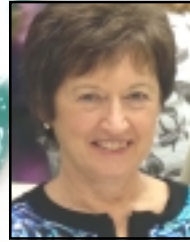
The impressive birthday cake was cut by the Premier, Barry O'Farrell, and we all enjoyed a piece with our tea or coffee.

The evening was most enjoyable, from the pre-dinner drinks and canapes on the verandah overlooking the rolling fairways of this beautiful golf club, to an excellent three-course dinner and wines.

We present a relatively small number of the evening's photos, capturing the pleasure of a memorable event in the Society's history.



Jennifer Wallin



Angela Lind, Margaret Sacks, Les Jeckeln

Beverly & Bruce Robinson, Jan Cook



Kevin Callinan



Committee, MC, and guests of honour



Jennifer Harvey, Barry O'Farrell, Les Jeckeln cutting the cake



Helen Davies, Paul Fletcher

Janice Bevan, Jocelyn Brennan-Horley



Robert Ball, Andrew Tink



Paul and Jackie van Bergen



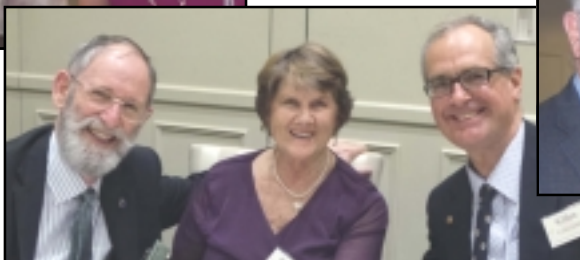
Elizabeth Dokuil, Patricia MacCabe



Paul Fletcher, Jo Harris, Lorna Watt



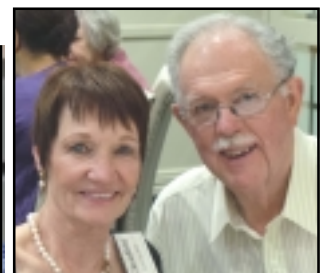
Danny Houseas



Graham Lewis, Dinah Warner, Giles Tabuteau



Graeme and Lorraine Swalwell



Caroline and Chris Radford



Some of our dinner tables

Jennifer Anderson, Mayor



Judy and Peter Bidscope, Carol Field



Christiane Berlioz



Ken Wyatt, Janet Fairlie-Cunninghame



Nola Bramble, Bob Ross

Elaine Ross



Ken and Lesley Meldrum



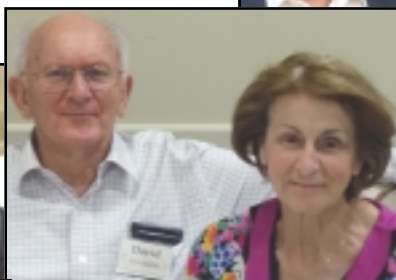
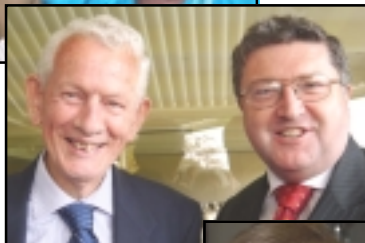
Nan Bosler, Jenny Joyce



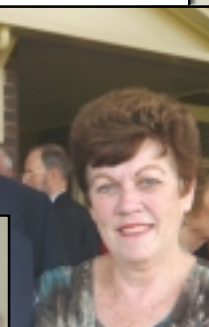
Jonathon O'Dea, Trish Thomson



Os Watt, John Armfield



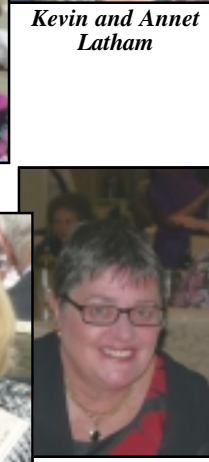
David and Valerie Adamson



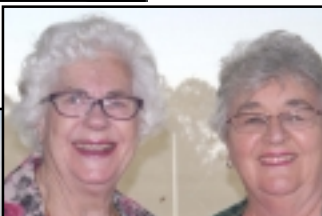
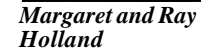
Kevin and Annet Latham



Sue Dunston, David Wilkins



Margaret and Ray Holland



Beverley Dunstan



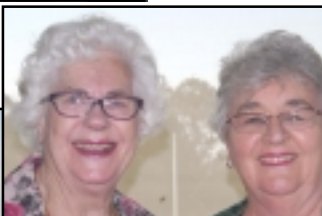
Margaret Cribb, Sue Moore



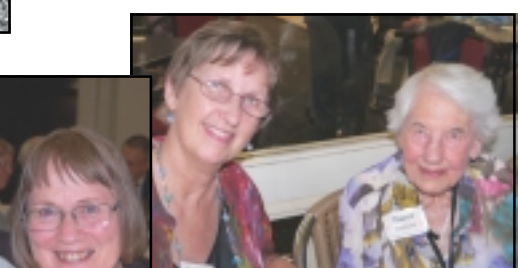
Diane and Brendan Ritchie



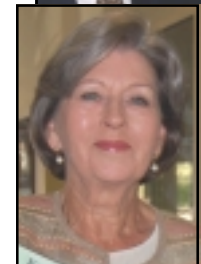
Elaine Turnidge, Yvette Reeve



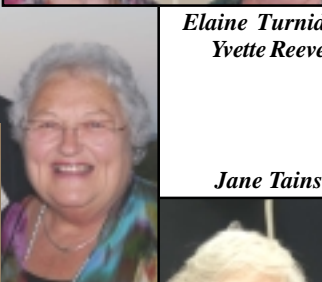
Marie Rumsey



Jennifer Thredgold, Hazel Perdriau



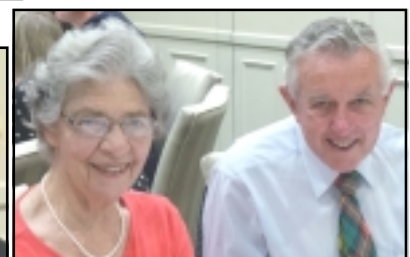
Don and Jill Nicholson



Jane Tainsh, Heather King



Our guest speaker, Anne-Maree Whitaker, President RAHS



Jean and Ross Smith

Kate Tytherleigh

Wes and Lucille Taylor



Extract from Hansard 2013, 31 October

“**Mr JONATHAN O’DEA** (Davidson) [6.46 p.m.], by leave:

Dr Harriet Biffin is not a household name, but thanks to the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society she will never be forgotten. Dr Biffin is just one of the thousands of colourful characters brought to life by the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society, which celebrates its fiftieth birthday in one week’s time. Dr Biffin practised in Lindfield from 1904 to 1928 and was notorious for doing house calls in a dogcart, wearing a straw boater and a suit, while exercising her flair for the Greek language. One can only imagine the impact she would have had on Ku-ring-gai’s rather conservative establishment: a woman dressed as a man offering medical advice peppered with Greek.

Dr Biffin also joined with Dr Lucy Bullett to found the NSW Association of Registered Women Doctors. The pair then went on to open the New Hospital for Women and Children in Surry Hills, which became the Rachel Forster Hospital for Women and Children in Redfern in 1921, a bastion of women’s health. She was not only a great contributor to women’s health but also a wonderful personality in Ku-ring-gai’s rich and colourful history. That history has been tirelessly documented by the volunteers and members of the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society.

On 7 November the Society turns 50. I am looking forward to joining its members and volunteers on the night for an anniversary celebration dinner at Roseville Golf Club. The Ku-ring-gai Historical Society was formed in 1963 when Ku-ring-gai Council cast a wide net to find a team of local residents willing and experienced enough to document their municipality’s history. It was the remarkable foresight of Mayor George Nicol that brought together representatives from business, schools and service clubs, genealogists and members from the Royal Australian Historical Society to collate Ku-ring-gai’s history.

Councillor Nicol was elected first president and Sir John Northcott, a former New South Wales Governor, was the first patron of the society. One of the society’s first decisions was to invite each newly elected mayor of Ku-ring-gai to be patron of the society, a tradition that is still in force today. Archibald and Nancy Gray, both prominent genealogists, were among the first members. It is because of these dedicated founding members, with their enormous wealth of experience and passion for the past, that the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society has catapulted from strength to strength, offering maps, heritage listings, water board sketches, land titles, an enormous database on local people and places and more than 10 000 local photos.

Today it boasts more than 600 members and 90 volunteers and it is housed in the old Gordon Public School, adjacent to the Gordon library. Volunteers offer their expertise in research to the public every day except Wednesdays and Sunday, when the database is built. Queries from the public range from questions about the origin of their street name to Aboriginal art they glimpsed in the bush. A local resident may be curious about Ku-ring-gai’s famous sphinx, the 110-year-old former Killara post office, or how a gentleman with the name of Eccleston du Faur was responsible for creating

Ku-ring-gai’s much-loved national park.

These days, computers make the job of research so much easier. In the early days of the society its volunteers often travelled to the Mitchell Library in the city to research information. One of the most popular meetings hosted by the society occurs on the first Saturday of every month when the family history group meets. Help is on hand to newcomers who want to explore their family tree but have no idea where to start. The society has also produced publications about Ku-ring-gai’s colourful history, including *Focus on Ku-ring-gai*, *Women of Ku-ring-gai* and its annual research publication *The Historian*, which combines local history, built heritage and family histories.

At the moment society volunteers are scouring local honour boards and war memorials to assist them in writing a World War I compendium which will list and provide the history of all Ku-ring-gai residents who served during the Great War, including nurses and ancillary staff. The Society has inspired thousands of local residents to connect with each other and their pasts. It is a marvellous interest, in particular, for retirees, with their research assisting the whole community to understand a little more about what has shaped Ku-ring-gai. It has been a fabulous and productive 50 years for the society. I hope the next 50 years of recording and documenting the times we live in now prove just as fruitful.”

KHS Display Board

2013 celebrations for KHS’s 50th Anniversary were a great way to mark such a significant event. However, it’s nice to reflect on the achievements with which KHS has been involved over all those years. Our current displays in the glass cases in the corridor show some highlights from the past... but are you interested in what KHS does nowadays?

Take a look at the KHS notice board and you’ll discover that KHS is a really busy place! Presently on display is a variety of posters that show the diversity of present-day KHS activities. Perhaps you are already a participant in some of these activities?

Take a look and read about:

- KHS Committees: Administration, Family History, 50th Anniversary Group
- KHS Volunteers: Research Collection, Preservation Team, Speakers’ Program
- KHS Enquiry Service: Research Team, Built Heritage, Kupedia
- KHS SIGs: Irish, German, Mac Users, Technology
- KHS Digital Communication: Website, Social Media
- KHS Publications: Periodicals: ***Newsletter***, ***The Historian***, Latest Books: First 50 years, WWI Ku-ring-gai Veterans (currently in preparation).

Thank you to all the members who participated in such a united effort by supplying all this information!

Following from our 50th Anniversary Dinner held at Roseville Golf Club on November 7 we have a selection of photos on display, showing everyone joining in to celebrate a very important event for our Society – maybe you can find your photo?

Jocelyn Brennan-Horley

January/February 2014

Ku-ring-gai Heroes of World War I

Cecil Arthur Callaghan (1890–1967) CB, CMG, DSO, VD, mentioned in despatches four times, served with distinction in both World Wars.

He and his younger brother, Stanley, were living in their

family home, *Warrawee*, in Lane Cove Road (now 718 Pacific Highway) Gordon when they enlisted. Stanley was killed in action on the Western Front in 1917.

Cecil rose from the rank of gunner (private) in 1910 to Lieutenant whilst in the militia, to be a lieutenant colonel in the AIF during World War I and a major general during World War II. As a member of 1st Field Artillery Brigade he was at the invasion of Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 and then two months later his actions led to his being awarded the Distinguished Service Order for conspicuous gallantry.

As forward artillery observer, he advanced with the first line of infantry and established telephone communications with his battery from the captured Turkish trenches. He continued to advance under heavy fire, sending back accurate reports, valuable for both the guns and Corps staff. He was also mentioned in despatches for his actions in the final weeks before the evacuation from Gallipoli.

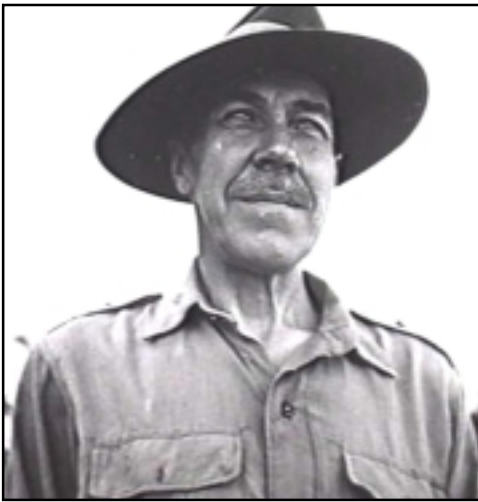
Promoted to major, he was transferred to the 13th Field Artillery Brigade in France as a battery commander. He was mentioned in despatches for his gallantry in November 1917 and then in March 1918 was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel to command 4th Field Artillery Brigade. He excelled in this position with conspicuous ability, tact and gallantry. Between September and November 1918 his brigade rendered excellent support to the attacking infantry.

By personal reconnaissance during the advance, Callaghan kept in close touch with the infantry and regardless of personal safety selected forward gun positions to enable his brigade to advance in close support of the attacking troops. He constantly moved amongst his batteries and the observation posts and by his keenness and energy set a splendid example to the officers and men of his command.

For this he was made a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG). During this final year of the war he was also twice more mentioned in despatches. Further, the French President conferred on him the French Legion of Honour.

In World War II he rose to the rank of major general to command 8th Australian Division but became a prisoner of the Japanese. After the war he was awarded the CB.

David Wilkins



WWI Researchers and Writers

The WWI researchers and writers group meet every **4th Saturday from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm**. At least two of the subcommittee are there each month to help.

The first meeting of 2014 is on **Saturday 25 January 2014**.

If you would like to join us in researching and/or writing, please contact Kathie Rieth on frithie@netdata.com.au

We have some great resources and an eager team to help you too.

KHS Seniors Week Program 2014

*In the Meeting Room. Morning tea provided.
Booking essential. FREE.*

WWI Memories and Mementos

Monday 10 March 10.30 am – 1.00 pm

As we near the centenary of the commencement of WWI, come along and share your family WWI stories. Bring and show photos and other mementos of WWI. Learn where all the memorials are in Ku-ring-gai and how to find out more about your family member's involvement in WWI.

Sharing your story in small bites: write a blog

Wednesday 12 March 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

Learn from one of Australia's foremost bloggers, Geniaus (aka **Jill Ball**), how you can use blogs to preserve your stories, record your travels, share your recipes, or as a journal. Examples of different types of blogs will be provided.

Stories of early Ku-ring-gai

Friday 14 March 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

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.

How to Research your Family History

Monday 17 March 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

Vice-President of Ku-ring-gai Historical Society and leader of the family history group, local identity **Jo Harris** will give a highly entertaining presentation on getting started with researching your family history.

How to Research your House

Tuesday 18 March 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

Talk by members of the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society's Built Heritage team covering the basics of how to research the history of a house. This will be followed by a discussion over morning tea, with the opportunity to seek assistance from volunteers of the team.

Free Websites for Genealogy and History

Wednesday 19 March 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

Interested in delving into the past, locating your ancestors and finding family stories? In this presentation, genealogist **Jill Ball** will share details of her favourite free genealogy websites as well as a few general sites that will help researchers locate their ancestors and organise the information they find about them.

FAMILY MATTERS

November Family History Meeting

11.00 am Session

Jo Harris opened the meeting in the Research Centre for the session "Where will I find ???". Many interesting questions were asked by the 19 attendees and were capably answered by Jo, Jenny Joyce, and also those in attendance. Best wishes to the questioners in their follow up journey to fix their 'brick walls'. Jo gave a handout of several websites and attendees were very interested as these websites were shown to the group with Jenny at the laptop for the Biographical Database of Australia – www.bda-online.org.au (this site costs \$25 for a year's subscription but looks very impressive) and Jo at the laptop for Australian Cemeteries – <http://austcemindex.com/>, Oral Histories – www.sydneyoralhistories.com.au, Australian Women's Register – www.womenaustralia.info, and The Benevolent Society Asylum – www.sydneybenevolentasylum.com. These four sites are free to use.

2.00 pm Session

Jo Harris opened the meeting in the Meeting Room and welcomed members and one visitor

The recently purchased *Atlas of the Great Irish Famine* was shown again. Shirley Morley had read the *Story of Hazel Hawke* written by her daughter Sue Peters-Hawke and indicated it was well worth reading. Jo found an interesting book of short stories *Great Australian Tales*.

Some members have booked accommodation for September 2014 Family History Conference to be held at Fairy Meadow, in the Illawarra area. Our congratulations to Jenny Joyce who has been invited to give two presentations at the International Family History Congress to be held in Canberra in March 2015.

Jo welcomed and introduced Dr Greg de Moore and his story *Tom Wills: an Australian Story*. Greg, a psychiatrist at Sydney's Westmead Hospital, was born in Melbourne of parents who migrated to Australia from Sri Lanka in 1948. Greg has lived in Sydney for over 20 years, is married to Heather and they have a daughter and a son. Greg indicated that his heritage was a blend of Dutch, Portuguese, Tamil, Singhalese and Scottish, and his real name is "Quail".

Greg spent 10 years researching Thomas Wentworth Wills, born in 1835 and died a pauper in 1880 (committing suicide), suffering alcoholism and the DTs. Greg considers Tom to be the *Influential Sports Person in Australia's History*, and took a year off to write the book, which has been short-listed for numerous awards including the National Biography Award. Tom's middle name Wentworth was for a family friend, William Charles Wentworth.

Tom Wills was the eldest of nine children to Horatio and Elizabeth, descended from convicts who had married at St John's Church in Parramatta in 1815. Tom was born at Captain's Flat. Then, from ages 4 to 14 years lived in the Grampians and was schooled with Aborigines. At 14 Tom was sent to England to Rugby School where in the 1850s he drank beer and not water because of fear of cholera. Returned to Melbourne aged 19, and at 21, was the best

cricketer at the Melbourne Cricket Ground and introduced over-arm bowling. Tom with colleagues established the basis of Australian Rules Football. In 1861, aged 26, left Victoria with Horatio for Cullin-la-Ringo Station in Central Queensland with 10 000 sheep. On 17 October 1861, the worst massacre in Australia's history occurred when Aborigines attacked and slaughtered white men, women and children. The few survivors, including Tom, hid or were away from the station at the time.

Based on notes by Elaine Turnidge (and some help from Greg's book).

December Family History Meeting

2.00 pm Session

Jo Harris opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. She reported that James G Bradfield had visited the rooms that morning to install a plaque on the portrait of his father, which hangs in the hall near the Society's rooms. Many people had enquired who the portrait was, so now it is clearly identified as that of an illustrious resident of Ku-ring-gai. She also reported on the Society's 50th Anniversary dinner.

Reports, Visits, etc.

An exhibition of gold jewellery now in Brisbane will be coming to Sydney in March. Visits: to a mining town in Tasmania where there is a monument to those who died in a serious mining accident; to cemeteries in the Cook Islands; guided tour of the Reserve Bank; AGM of Mount Wilson Historical Society (who have no headquarters of their own), and an inspection of Du Faur's rocks there.

Jo reported discovering that her grandchildren and the great-grandchildren of a KHS member are 5th cousins.

Missing – 'Members' Shipping Interests' from the rooms.

'Members Interests' folder will be available at all meetings in future so please come prepared with your families' information so that this folder can be kept up-to-date.

RAHS journal has an interesting article on Australian Museums, available to read in the rooms.

Information about 'Field of Mars Cemetery can be found on the Rookwood site.

Show and Tell

The remainder of the meeting was taken up with items of interest from members' own collections and proved to be a mini Antiques Road Show.

Jenny Joyce – A medal awarded to her grandmother for Highland Dancing, 'lost' and miraculously 'found' again.

Beverly Robinson – Scottish 'spurtle' bought in Scotland nearly 50 years ago.

Elaine Turnidge – silver platter and tankard won by her father at Roseville Golf Club.

Yvette Reeve – report by her father of the bombing of Darwin (he had been on a ship in the Harbour a few days prior to the Japanese bombing of Darwin).

Susan Gillespie – photo of maternal grandmother, 'Poppy', who ran a 'men only' boarding house in East Sydney where many famous people stayed e.g. Robert Louis Stevenson.

Margaret Holland – grandfather's 'cosh' which he took

to work on pay day 'just in case'.

Nola Bramble – ancestor's medallion of 'Chinese Empire Reform Association' which was set up in 1900 in Sydney to protect the Chinese emperor.

Eleanor Dawson – long baby dress bought at Anthony Horderns and photo showing her husband wearing it in 1923.

Joy Walker – button hook for fastening boots.

Lucille Taylor – trousseau night cap made by her mother, and grandfather's silk top hat from Anthony Horderns.

Noel Blake – 1856 copper fire sign from the Bathurst Wool, Skin and Hide Company

Jo Harris – wanted to bring a rabbit shaped dessert mould used for blancmange, but instead showed her great grandmother's watch.

Gerard Esquilant – gold chain belonging to grandfather and photo of him wearing it.

John Wilson – three circles of paper, found in a pocket watch made by his ancestor, a clock and watchmaker in Tarland, Scotland.

A sumptuous Christmas afternoon tea followed.

Jean Smith

OOPS! The afternoon was so busy and so entertaining that I neglected to thank the FHG committee members for all their help during 2013.

Jo

Recent Acquisitions

The following is a selection of 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 of the cemetery. 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. Also check nearby postcodes in your search as only the postcode most suited to the book is allocated.

Collins Concise German Dictionary Deutsch-Englisch / English – German Seventh Edition 2011 and ISBN 978 0 00 736979 9. Donated by Les Jeckeln. OVS/GER

Parliament of New South Wales Parliamentary Record Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly 1824–2013 May 2013. An alphabetical record of Members of both houses from the first appointed Council on 11 August 1824 up to and including Members of the 55th Parliament. The Parliamentary Record also contains an alphabetical list of electorates of the Legislative Assembly and Members returned for each, together with particulars of Governors, Parliamentary sessions, Ministries, Premiers, Leaders of the Opposition and Parliamentary Officials. Donated by Les Jeckeln. BIO/000

A Supplement to Historic Organs of New South Wales The Instruments, Their Makers and Players, 1791–1940 by Graeme D. Rushworth and published by the Organ Historical Trust of Australia in 2006 (ISBN 0 9588448 1 X). The book has 132 pages and a number of black and white illustrations. This book gives additional and updated information on many of the topics discussed in the 1988 work. Donated by the author. REL/000

Bruce Robinson

BUILT HERITAGE

The Wahroonga War Memorial

A prime mover in the establishment of the Wahroonga War Memorial was Thomas Alfred Stocks, Honorary Secretary of the Wahroonga Progress Association from 1923 to 1926, and President from 1933 to 1946. In August 1924 he advertised in the SMH: 'The Honour Roll at the Wahroonga Station is to be incorporated in the permanent War Memorial now being erected. The Roll contains the names of residents who enlisted and were accepted for service in the Great War. It is desired to make the list as complete as possible. The Committee of the Wahroonga Progress Association invite applications furnishing particulars of possible additions to the names already on the Roll. All such applications to be sent to the undersigned not later than the 31st instant.'



Early in the war the NSW War Council resolved 'that permanent memorials could await the end of the war' and until then, honour boards would do. These had been erected throughout the country even before the invasion of Turkey; they were 'unfinished, interim artefacts' to which names were added, becoming 'huge scoreboards of commitment, intended to encourage other men to follow those named.'

In December 1918 the Governor-General, Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson, visited Wahroonga where he unveiled 'a handsome trachyte honour roll containing 165 names... There were 20 names to be added...' Dr F Antill Pockley mentioned that 'One name on the roll was that of the first soldier to die in the war' no doubt referring to his son, Captain Brian Pockley, killed in Rabaul 11 September 1914.

In 1919 a War Memorials Advisory Board was created, from which approval of design and site was required before any permanent public monument could be erected. John Sulman of Wahroonga was its chairman. Planning for Wahroonga's memorial was underway by June 1922 when local architects Joseland & Gilling called tenders for its erection. Nearly two years later the contract was awarded to builders JG Major & Son of Railway Street, Wahroonga.

On Saturday 29 February 1925 the memorial was unveiled by the Prime Minister, Stanley Melbourne Bruce, a veteran of the war who had been awarded the Military Cross and the Croix de Guerre. The memorial consisted of 'three trachyte tablets on which were inscribed the names of the 208 residents of the district who enlisted... [and] a fourth tablet... added in memory of the 37 residents who gave their lives.'

Mr Bruce, in concluding his address, assured the gathering that such memorials, scattered throughout Australia, 'would stand as an inspiration for all the years to come.' Ninety years later, our Wahroonga memorial still stands, robust, beautifully maintained, and sure to be the focus of commemorations for a long, long time yet.

Kathie Rieth

