



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.

July 2009

Monthly Newsletter

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

Magnificent Obsession:

The Mitchell Library Story

Emeritus Professor Brian Fletcher was appointed the foundation Bicentennial Professor of History at the University of Sydney in 1987. He held that position until retirement in 1999. He has published widely in the field of Australian history, recently writing *The Place of Anglicanism in Australia*.

He wrote *Magnificent Obsession: the story of the Mitchell Library* to commemorate the centenary of the death of David Scott Mitchell. Next year is the centenary of the opening of the Mitchell Library. Mitchell bequeathed his collection, about 40,000 volumes, to the State Library of NSW on his death in July 1907, with an endowment of £70,000 to fund additions. The library now has almost 600,000 volumes and is a world class repository. Much can be read on the Internet about the Mitchell library and David Scott Mitchell.

The free Public Library was founded in 1869. Justice Edward Wise had promised his collection of Australian history if it was free. HCL Anderson was appointed as principal librarian in 1893, and decided to build the Australian collection, purchasing on a large scale. Funds were scarce and there were problems with wealthy book collectors such as David Scott Mitchell, purchasing on a very extensive scale. Anderson knew that Mitchell had no family, got an introduction to him, visited him weekly to talk books, and persuaded him to bequeath his collection to the library. Mitchell didn't want his collection broken up, but had demands, insisting that his collection be kept separately, be named after him, and that a separate building be built to house the collection. His collection included rare printed works, letters, manuscripts and artefacts. The Minister of Education opposed a separate library, but Anderson warned the Government that the extensive collection would be given elsewhere.

The acting Premier Carruthers stepped in, the present site selected and funds made available. Work started in 1906. Mitchell was too ill to go to the site but could see it from his house at Kings Cross. He died before it was opened. *Who was David Scott Mitchell?*

His father was an entrepreneur and a medical doctor. David had a wealthy landed upbringing with private school and was one of the first to graduate from the University of Sydney. He was once offered the Attorney Generalship but turned it down. His whole life changed and he became a book collector, an interest encouraged by his mother and grandmother, and he seemed to drop everything else such as society gatherings and dinners.

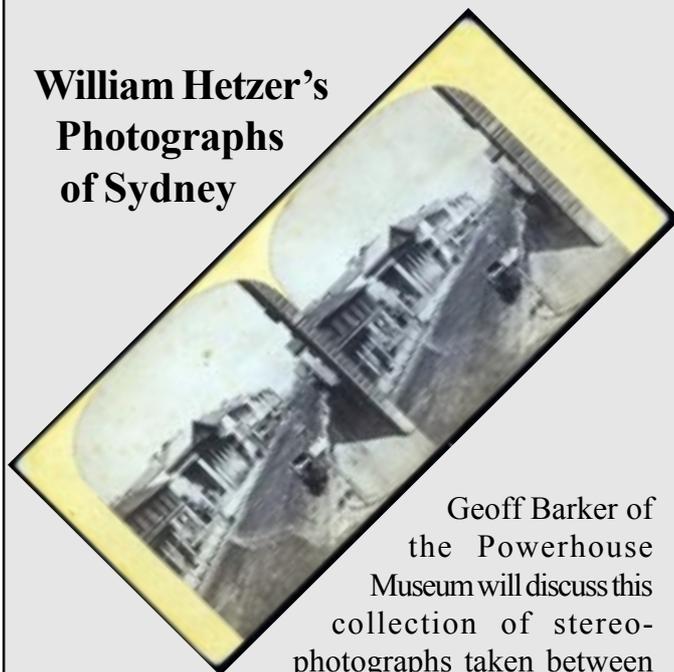
Continued on P. 2

Coming Meetings

(Gordon Library Meeting Room)

Next Society General Meeting Saturday 18 July at 2 pm

William Hetzer's Photographs of Sydney



Geoff Barker of the Powerhouse Museum will discuss this collection of stereo-photographs taken between 1858 and 1863.

Join us to see some of the earliest photographic images of Sydney and its environs.

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

Next Family History Meeting

Sat 4 July 11 am Victorian Resources

2 pm Lorraine McGee-Sippel - "I know who I am - her life story".

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

Congratulations and thanks

The Society's congratulations and thanks go to Jo Harris on the successful completion of another training course.

Many of the new resources listed in the Newsletter recently have come from the course fees.

We are also very grateful to an anonymous member of the class, who noted that the computer "Edwards" needed to be pensioned off, and has given a cheque for a new computer. The new computer will inherit the "Edwards" name.

Finally, we are very pleased that at least 3 members of the class have since opted to join our great band of volunteers, who help enormously in carrying the Society forward.

Ann Barry

Volunteers get-together lunch 2009

Saturday 20 June saw more than 35 volunteers come together for a bring-a-plate lunch in the meeting room. The Society provided liquid refreshments, and a pleasant time was had by all. While such a lunch is certainly not a reason to become a volunteer, the volunteers appreciate the recognition from the Society, as well as enjoying the camaraderie and interactions with other volunteers.

Magnificent Obsession *Continued from P. 1*

When his engagement to poet Emily Manning was broken, Mitchell had no further romantic entanglements. Mitchell was very attached to his parents and when his father died leaving property to a German adventurer, there was an unpleasant and lengthy legal battle. When his mother died he may have had a breakdown, becoming quite reclusive and moving to 17 Darlinghurst Road. He lived with a housekeeper who 'protected' him and only his cousin Rose Scott would visit. A hansom cab would take him to booksellers where he would haggle and bring his purchases back to his house. He had books from floor to ceiling. This was the focus of his life.

Did David Scott Mitchell read all his collection?

Yes - he probably had a photographic memory - he knew where all the books were, and knew which passages were in which books, although nothing was catalogued.

The Mitchell library today

- The focus for 2010 is necessarily on buildings and refurbishing.
- Many of the senior staff are approaching retirement.
- Many students seem to feel they don't need a library and use the Internet for research.
- Mitchell left £70,000 which has long run out and other sources of funds are now used.
- The National Library in Canberra now has Australia-wide material and the Mitchell library now focuses on NSW.
- Community - the Mitchell Library now stages exhibitions and organises lectures.
- Contributions - a Field Officer will come out to look at people's papers, and value them. They become a tax deduction if the library wants them and they are donated.

Based on notes by Jackie van Bergen

Computer resources added, changed or updated

The following computer resources have been added or updated since the last newsletter:-

- **1827 Hobart Town Government Gazette** - kindly donated by one of our members.
- **Early History of Pymble Golf Club** - Copy of the slides from the presentation to the Society by Bob Ross on Wednesday 20 May 2009.
- **Guidance on the application of Copyright to our photographic collection.**
- **Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG) Journals 1933-2008** - Contains 75 years of SAG Journals and includes reference articles, family histories, photographs, extracts from historical records including many NSW cemetery transcriptions and parish registers, news about SAG and enquiries submitted by researchers.
- The databases of both **Search Ku-ring-gai** and **Perfect Pictures** have been significantly updated.

Peter Stehn

Recent Acquisitions

- *'The Electoral Atlas of New South Wales 1856-2006'* published by The New South Wales Department of Lands 2006 (181 pages).
 - *'OASIS in the West - Strathfield's First Hundred Years'* by Michael Jones published 1985 (175 pages).
 - *'Parramatta - A town caught in time, 1870'* by Shylie & Ken Brown published 1995 (138 pages). Reproduction of 106 glass lantern slides - inside front cover is map locating buildings and views.
 - *'Parramatta...The Early Years with extracts from The Jubilee History of Parramatta 1911'* compiled by Michael Kelson published 1984 (104 pages).
 - *'Migrant Ships for South Australia 1836-1860'* by Ronald Parsons published 1988 (144 pages).
 - *'Faces of the Street - William Street Sydney 1916'* by Max Kelly published 1982 (174 pages). When William Street was widened from 40 feet to 100 feet many of these buildings were demolished.
 - *'Women and Work'* by Patricia Owen published 1989 (48 pages). Emphasis on England.
 - *'Harbord Queenscliff and Curl Curl 1788 - 1978'* by Gwen Gordon published 1978 (116 pages).
 - *'Pictorial Memories Lower North Shore'* by Catherine Warne published 1984 (121 pages).
 - *'A New City: Photographs of Melbourne's Land Boom'* edited by Ian Morrison published 2003 (117 pages).
 - *'The Forgotten War - Australian involvement in the South African Conflict of 1899-1902'* by L.M. Field
- There were a lot of books received this month and I do not have the room to list them all - please check the new acquisitions space on the book shelf for other treasures (hint: biography of war hero Black Jack Callaghan).

Bruce Robinson

Newsletter contributions invited

If you have any short items of general interest to share, please send it to the editor (bob_barry@optusnet.com.au).

A Pleasant Memorial

Ku-ring-gai has always honoured those of its citizens who answered the call by serving in the Wars in which Australia has been involved. There are many War Memorials to be found in our public places and it is comforting to know that the sacrifices made by our forebears remain recognised and valued today.

This thought comes to mind after visiting the Memorial Avenue on the corner of Tryon and Eastern Valley Roads in Lindfield alongside Lindfield oval. In fact there have been several memorials over the years – the 1914-1919 Memorial Gates and flagstaff dedicated on 4 November 1922, an avenue of trees established by the Lindfield Sub-Branch of the RSL on Anzac Sunday 1956, and the Avenue recently redesigned and replanted by Ku-ring-gai Council.



Photos: David Wilkins



A plaque marking the occasion was unveiled by Mayor Malicki on 11 November 2008 – 90 years after the WWI Armistice. It honours the memory of those Service Men and Women who served in both World Wars.

Member Profile - Janine Kitson

I joined the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society when I was 19, in my second year at university, majoring in Australian History and Literature. I wanted to be an English/ History high school teacher, to share my fascination with the past, how it made the present, and who made it happen. I also enjoyed the nurturing power of local history because of its capacity to give one a sense of place and identity.



I was a Committee member from 1979, involved with the publicity arrangements. It was the days before computers and I remember painstakingly hand copying posters in ink. Later I had the job of typing letters backed with carbon paper for articles sent off to the *North Shore Times*. I was privileged to work with the Society's secretary Doreen Wane. Later I worked with Margaret Wyatt coordinating the 1983 Heritage Week festival.

I majored in Australian literature and history at Sydney University. Along with my involvement with the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society in the early 1980s, I was also a volunteer guide for the National Trust and the Chancellor's Committee Guided Tours of Sydney University.

I started teaching English and History in a wide cross section of schools in the Sydney Metropolitan area. I then had the opportunity to teach English in Japan. Returning from Japan I put my energy into postgraduate education studies to continue my professional development as a teacher. I was seconded to work with the NSW Department of Education to write English learning materials and worked with some of the best English curriculum leaders.

In 1996 I was offered a wonderful opportunity to travel to Samoa four times a year, for four years, to work on an Australian aid project writing textbooks for primary students. This also gave me the opportunity to transfer to teach in primary schools, which I really love.

In June 2000 I won my first ever election, as a councillor on Ku-ring-gai Council. The best thing about this time was learning about our environment and reconnecting to my historical roots. I was totally surprised when I discovered how heritage was political. I just thought that if experts, if historians, tell you there's something special about a building, you listen and save it.

Later, with the expertise of the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society again – Jennifer Harvey and Margaret Wyatt, and heritage experts Zeny Edwards and Bruce Edgar - we were able to take a convincing case to the NSW Heritage Office to relocate and redesign the proposed lifts at Gordon Railway Station. It's a joy now, every time I ride those lifts, or take a historical tour to Gordon Railway Station, to see how modern improvements can be sympathetic to heritage.

Since 2004 I have been a Board Director of the National Trust (NSW). This has led me to involve myself in many of its properties and causes. I am currently very active in the National Trust property Warrimbirra Flora & Fauna Sanctuary at Bargo. This is a memorial to David G. Stead and Thistle Y. Harris, two early Australian environmental pioneers and friends to Annie Wyatt, the founder of the National Trust.

That Elusive Tree Wanted – Dead Or Alive

Back in 1968 Les Thorne published the first reasonably comprehensive book on our local history. Titled *A History of the North Shore from 1788 to Today*, it remains an excellent, easy-to-read book for those who want to learn something of how our Ku-ring-gai came to be. He was inspired to write it because of a 1961 proposal to widen Mona Vale Road at St Ives. This would have resulted in the destruction of the landmark “Boundary Tree”. The Department of Main Roads was eventually prevailed upon to redraw its plans.

In our July 2007 Newsletter we mentioned that there had been a question about the true location, or even existence, of Ku-ring-gai’s “Boundary Tree”. The “Boundary Tree” is said to mark the spot where the parish boundaries of Gordon, Manly Cove and Broken Bay met. The “Parishes” were defined areas of land and had no religious connotation. The tree now known as the Boundary Tree is a prominent angophora on the left side of Mona Vale Road coming from Terrey Hills. It is opposite the short section of Richmond Avenue that comes from the Wildflower Garden.

Though this tree has never been recognised officially by surveyors as being precisely where the boundaries joined, it has nevertheless been a local land-



mark - since wild bush covered the area. For everyday purposes, it seems that calling it the “Boundary Tree” was a convenient description adopted by local residents.

It has been asked, however, whether there may have been an earlier “Boundary Tree”, different from the one now carrying that name. Though there is still no consensus, this is coming to appear unlikely.

Included in the issues to be weighed are:

- * the boundaries actually met about 175 metres away on the opposite side of Mona Vale Road towards Terrey Hills.
- * surveyors customarily referred to “Corner Trees” which gave bearings and distances to the actual corner. These trees were marked with a broad arrow and situated in close proximity to the corner, but not as far as 175 metres away.
- * no official early records have come to light mentioning a Boundary Tree anywhere in the district.
- * there actually was a “Boundary Trig” established

considerably further along Mona Vale Road, approaching Forest Way, in 1881. However, it marked the “boundary” of what was called the Sydney Population Area, not of the parishes.

* Percy Gledhill, a respected historian, wrote that he obtained information in 1917 about a tree at the converging points which was called the “Boundary Tree”. He went on, however, to say that some distance to the east (towards Terrey Hills) a cairn was built in 1882 and a trig station observed there in 1883. This information is not clear but may refer to the Boundary trig.

* there was a Trig Station established in 1883 on Mona Vale Road just opposite today’s Boundary Tree, but it was some 100 metres even further away from the parish boundaries than is today’s Boundary Tree.

* one of our KHS members accompanied Les Thorne 40 or so years ago to a spot in the vicinity of the Boundary tree, and recalls seeing stones which could have marked the site, officially or unofficially, where the parishes were believed to have met according to the local understanding.

* after making enquiries, the Department of Main Roads accepted that the Boundary Tree was a heritage item and re-aligned plans for the new Mona Vale Road to avoid damaging it.

In the wilderness of the St Ives area in the 1800s, a hundred metres or two would have been insignificant to local people in naming a landmark. They may even have been both unaware and uncaring of parish boundaries.

If it were not for the heritage status of the tree and for the part it played in having Les Thorne research Ku-ring-gai’s history there would be many, even today, of that same opinion.

The Society has no unassailable view on the question, but unless and until proof arises otherwise, will continue to accept that the tree locally known today as the “Boundary Tree” has been known by that name for upwards of a hundred years without question. For that reason alone it is of continuing importance.

Yesteryear’s Kuringians

We are continuing our brief mentions of early Ku-ring-gai people just in case they may not be known to some of our recent new members. More information about them can be found in our *Focus on Ku-ring-gai*, *The HISTORIAN*, and Society records.

Robert McIntosh (note McIntosh St, Gordon, the site of Eryldene) arrived in Australia as a military bandsman in 1814. He became primarily associated with Pittwater, but his children married into local Ku-ring-gai families including the Pymbles, Mudies, Bromleys, Smarts and Wilsons. He died intestate, and there were legal wrangles over inheritance. They make fascinating reading in our book *Bandmaster to Farmer/Settler*. A grandson, William McIntosh, was an original Trustee of St Johns Church, Gordon and owned a landmark two-storey house where the Gordon Arcade is now. William’s brother, Rev George McIntosh (1833-1917), ministered at St Johns (1880-1886).

Forgotten, But Not Forgotten

For many, the name Selkirk will conjure up memories of a fur-clad Alexander Selkirk, otherwise known as Robinson Crusoe, trudging barefoot along water-lapped beach sands on a deserted island. For some Kuringians, however, it may come to mind as the name of a park. *Selkirk Park* lies between the erstwhile Marian Street Theatre and the Killara railway station. The Park faces Marian Street on one side and Culworth Avenue on the other.

Few would know why the park carries the name *Selkirk*. In fact, it commemorates one of our many distinguished citizens of earlier days, a man who contributed much to the recorded history of NSW, and who also earned a high reputation as a botanist. That he is so little recognised today is probably a reflection of his personality. His contemporaries saw him as a man who worked with quiet persistence and remained at all times unobtrusive and modest.

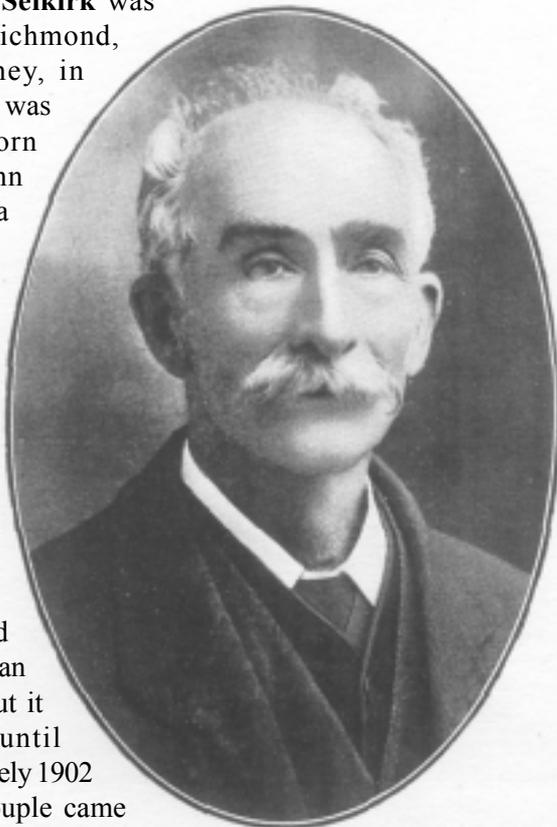
Henry Selkirk was

born in Richmond, near Sydney, in 1857. He was the firstborn son of John Selkirk, a medical doctor of the Royal College of Surgeons, and John's second wife, Emma. Henry married Kate Halligan in 1883, but it was not until approximately 1902 that the couple came

to live in a home, *Geraldine*, they built on the corner of Marian Street and Culworth Avenue in Killara. It was a large, deep block containing a gully between the home and Marian Street. They came to Ku-ring-gai very soon after the 1899 opening of the nearby Killara railway station.

Henry was a draftsman and research officer with the NSW Department of Lands, which meant he had a wealth of information about land records throughout NSW. This exposed him to close contact with the Royal Australian Historical Society, which had frequent need to have these documents researched. These tasks later led him to making his services available to the Mitchell after he retired.

He joined the RAHS in 1914, and became a Councillor in 1918, a Vice-president in 1923, and Research Secretary (a voluntary position) in 1926-27. In 1921 he was honoured by being appointed as a Fellow of the Society. At the time



of his 1930 death, the Society recorded that "his contributions on some of the characters who coloured the early history of the colony are accepted, far and wide, as authoritative". He had articles published in the RAHS Journal including *La Perouse and French Monuments*, *David Lennox - The Bridge Builder*, and details of the old Peat's Ferry Road. He produced many notes on the origins of centres such as Canberra, Orange, Mudgee, Dubbo, Wagga, and a host of others. These remain of historical value. Aboriginal life and customs also attracted his interest.

With regard to Ku-ring-gai, in 1923 he wrote a *History of the Parish of St John the Evangelist - 1829-1923*, which the church published in that year. He was churchwarden for 15 years, and assisted with the choir.

As a botanist he took particular interest in sparaxis bulbs, clivias and daffodils. A hybrid daffodil he developed and named "Killara" is recognised in a list of pre-1940 Historic Daffodils published by the American Daffodil Society.

What, though, of *Selkirk Park*? We have had some difficulty in confirming the precise legal details, but it is believed he gave to the community that part of his land fronting Marian Street and through which the gully runs. The park is therefore a tribute to both his generosity, and his commitment to Ku-ring-gai's history, and the history of Australia.

Hyde Park

Sydney's Hyde Park was put to many uses in the colonial days, one of which was as a cricket ground. We were reminded of this by noticing an item in the Sydney Morning Herald on 24 April, which told how a visiting team from the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) thrashed an "Australian XI" in 1851. Australia scored only 22 in its first innings, and the MCC showed its imperial power with 79. We did somewhat better in our second dig, scoring 71, and leaving the Britishers with 15 to win - which they did easily.

It was not the scores which caught our eye, but the comment by the Herald's correspondent at the time. Though stopping short of claiming "we was robbed" he (it would have been a "he" in 1851) pointed out that the state of Hyde Park was not conducive to good cricket, as it was covered in grass up to 2 feet (60 cm) high, and tall enough for the ball to get lost. He urged that cows and sheep should be grazed in the park to reduce the grass cover.

Macquarie - A Paradox

There would be few who would dispute that Lachlan Macquarie was one of the greatest, if not the greatest, Governors we have had. Similarly, not many would disagree with the belief that he was unsurpassed in giving his name and that of his family to our country's physical features, structures and districts. There would be many blank spots if his name were to be removed from maps. It is a paradox that a man of such vision and competence should, at the same time, display what was clearly an excess of vanity. Until learning of it in an RAHS Journal published in the 1950s, we did not know that we have been spared of at least one reminder of his egotism. If his wish had prevailed, we would have had *Lachlan Cove* rather than *Farm Cove*.

FAMILY MATTERS

Family History Meeting 6 June 2009

11 am Session

22 members attended this session, chaired by Jo Harris.

We looked at the following New Resources and Websites:-

- Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness - RAOGK - www.raogk.org/listing.htm - a great avenue for seeking help in specific countries or areas.
- GOONS - Guild of One Name Studies - www.one-name.org
- Immigration into Australia - Online Indexes and Passenger Lists - www.coraweb.com.au/shipindex.htm
- Shipwrecks: Images and Perceptions of 19th Century Maritime Disasters - <http://ehlt.flinders.edu.au/archaeology/department/publications/staniforth/1992a.pdf>
- Hobart Town Government Gazette 1827
- Ozships 1788-1988
- www.news.google.com

2 pm Meeting

30 members were present for this meeting.

Australian Family Tree Connections magazine June issue includes mention of names - Manners, Matthews, Crane, Young, Gibson, Gangell, Lundie/Martin, Wilson/Primrose, Griffiths/Faint, Proud, Bent - watchmaker.

Page 23 has a sad story of the loss of Ken Mival's house in Flowerdale in the Victorian bushfires. Almost all his paper family records were lost, but fortunately he had stored a back-up external hard drive of his electronic files in his Melbourne office.

This magazine is always a good place to look for new NZ websites, e.g. Boer War soldiers with all names and next of kin.

Australian Heritage magazine

The latest issue of this quarterly has articles about Matthew Flinders, Francis de Groot, Solomon Wiseman, Sydney trams, Margaret Catchpole, William Redfern, John McDouall Stuart, Lord Howe Island, Melbourne Zoo, George Ferguson Bowen (1st Queensland Governor), Captain Moonlite (who has a Pymble/St Ives connection).

Other Publications sent regularly to the Society

Newsletters are kept in our Rooms from other Societies including Lane Cove, Sutherland, North Shore, Nepean, Manly Warringah, Ryde, Marrickville. Also Historic Houses Trust, RAHS Journal.

Book Reports from members

Stella Green - *Some Toowoomba & Darling Downs Anzacs*
Sue Ryerson - *Settlers & Seditious* by Michael Flynn (people of convict ship 'Surprize' 1794); *Wild Men of Sydney* by Cyril Pearl; *A Tale of Two Brothers* (about Charles Dickens' sons in Australia)

Elaine Turnidge - *Colonial Ladies, Lovely Lively and Lamentably Loose* by Judith Dunn

Angela Lind - mentioned 2-page article in latest 'North Shore Times' on sinking of 'Montevideo Maru' in 1942; also that the 'Sydney Mail' issue of 3 March 1900 has photos of men in Bushmen's Contingent

Jo Harris - *Born in the English Colony of NSW 1788-1800* by Dr Craig James Smee; *Australian Jewry's Book*

of Honour WWII, edited by Gerald Pynt.

Visits - Jo reported on visit to Jewish Museum, Darlinghurst Cemetery Visits

Several members described visits to cemeteries in Castlemaine, Kilmore, Coburg, Fawkner, Beechworth, (all in Victoria), and St Charles church (Victoria Road, Ryde), Pitt Town near Windsor, and Rookwood.

"Show and Tell: This ??? belonged to my ???"

The following members' items were shown and described

- Stella Green - silver christening mug 1850
- Peter Perry - silver teapot
- Glynne McGregor - black lace cape and memory bracelet
- Beverly Robinson - metal doorstop of figure sitting on a stool, probably Milton
- Sue Bulbrook - photo on glass of Annie Dunn, convict arrived 1831
- Pat White - silver christening mug 1890s
- Julie Werner - father's inscribed watch, presented on training ship
- Elaine Turnidge - music boxes, HMV memorabilia
- Jo Harris - christening gift of gold cutlery set

Two tickets were drawn for the pre-loved book raffle - Elaine Turnidge chose "A Lady in a Thousand" by Eliza Davies, and Joyce Ryerson selected "Change and Challenge - History of Canterbury NSW".

Based on notes by Stella Green

1911 Census of England and Wales

The 1911 Census of England and Wales was not expected to be made available until 2 January, 2012. However, due to a successful appeal based on the Freedom of Information Act, most of its data has been made available early.

In order to avoid the disaster that occurred when the 1901 census was released and the computers making it available crashed, the 1911 census has been released in stages. The first stages that were made available were the counties surrounding London, and the releases gradually spread out from there. Now all English and Welsh counties are available, along with the Channel Islands, Isle of Man, Royal Naval Ships at sea at the time of the Census, and Military Establishments Overseas. Note that, due to different Freedom of Information Legislation, the returns for Scotland will not be available until 2012.

The 1911 census, known as the 'Fertility Census' is a very important one as for the first time it asks how many children (living and dead) have been born to a woman in her current marriage. This can help identify previously unknown children who died young.

Currently, the census is only available from <http://www.1911census.co.uk>. It is free to do an index search, but costs 10 credits to see a transcription of the page (which does not contain the information about the number of children born to a woman), or 30 credits to see an image of the original page. This is the actual page filled in by the householder, so it will show his handwriting and signature.

Jenny Joyce

Problem with NSW Birth, Death & Marriage Certificates

When you receive a birth certificate from NSW BMD (at substantial expense), it contains the following statement: “I hereby certify that this is a true copy of particulars recorded in a Register in the State of New South Wales, in the Commonwealth of Australia” and it will be signed by the Registrar.

The problem is that this may not be true if the child was born outside marriage.

The NSW Births, Marriages and Deaths Act (1995) Section 49 (3) reads as follows: “If the word ‘illegitimate’, or any other word or expression referring to the fact that a child was born outside marriage, appears in an entry in the Register, that word or expression is not to be included in any certificate issued by the Registrar.”

Aghast at the idea that historical documents might be altered to suit our current sensibilities, I emailed them. My email resulted in the following confirmation that this section does indeed apply to Family History birth certificates:-

“In 1976 legislation was passed in NSW that concerned the removal of legal disabilities to illegitimate children. This included the removal of any words or expressions on a person’s birth certificate that identified them as illegitimate. All certificates that the Registry issues must comply, including family history certificates. There will be no indication that this information has been excluded from the certificate.”

What else might be removed? I suggest that everyone who cares about these principles bombard the Attorney-General’s office (office@hatzistergos.minister.nsw.gov.au) with demands that this be changed.

Another interesting idea is to request copies of the original register entries under Freedom of Information, but that hasn’t been tested yet.

Mick Reed, Armidale

Photo identification - help needed

Thanks to those who responded with suggestions on last month’s mystery house. With these leads we are hopeful of resolving its location soon.

This month’s photo shows a school group - but which school? When?



If you can help identify this photo, please contact Ann Barry on 9144 6480, or email a.barry@optusnet.com.au

BUILT HERITAGE

Roadhouse & boathouse at Bobbin Head

Every now and again I come across an article that really intrigues



me. “Modern Roadhouse, New Feature at Bobbin Head” is one. Published in *The Sydney Morning Herald* of 29 December 1936, and illustrated with a perspective sketch of the proposed building, it begins: “The trustees of Kuring-gai Chase have erected a road-house at Bobbin Head, which is distinguished by many of the most modern features associated with this class of building.” A detailed description of the building is provided: the refreshment room was 50ft by 30ft, the log fireplace had a 9ft long stone lintel, the upper floor was of tallow-wood “specially provided for dancing”, kitchens were on both levels, and accommodation provided for the family of the lessee. The entrance is described as “imposing” with “flanking stone flower boxes and lantern brackets”, and a “flagpole fixed to the top of the doorway by bronze stirrups”.

Searching a little further in the same newspaper I found another article titled “Large Boatshed”. Completed in November 1936, of Australian mahogany with tiled roof, this measured 274 ft by 35 ft and was “claimed to be the largest and most complete in equipment in Australia”. It was in two sections, one for boats for hire, the other for private boats and launches. Accommodation was provided for employees, with a residence for the caretaker. A boat slip ran the entire length, and at its southern end was a 120 ft long slip.

Both buildings were designed by architect Colin Henry Smith; the roadhouse was built by LJ Whittal. At the time, Smith was living in Punchbowl, but within two years had built a home at No 23 Glen Road, Roseville, where he lived and ran his practice until at least the mid 1950s.

Although I’ve lived in Ku-ring-gai for forty years, I’ve only visited Bobbin Head once, and have no memory of these buildings. So, determined to find whether or not they had survived, I collected a friend and we drove down the steep and windy road to the river below. Not a pleasant day for a drive – it was pelting rain and quite chilly – but I was delighted to find the roadhouse still standing, looking just like the original illustration, and in superb condition. It still provides refreshments for the public, but also houses the information centre for the National Parks & Wildlife. The boathouse we only viewed from afar – a long walk from the carpark in the rain did not appeal. But I will go back one sunny day, sit on its deck with an iced tea, and enjoy the view across the marina. Or maybe I’ll go back on another chilly day and hope the magnificent log fireplace in the roadhouse is blazing and I can wrap my fingers around a hot chocolate and gaze over the beautiful parkland to the steep slopes of the Chase.

Kathie Rieth

Copy for Newsletter

General copy for publication should be lodged with the Editor, Bob Barry (bob_barry@optusnet.com.au), **as early as possible** but no later than the 7th of the month (except November and December), unless otherwise arranged. Copy lodged before that date **will receive preference**, all things being equal. Copy is to be submitted on the understanding that the Society has editing rights and that readers can reproduce it in whole or part with acknowledgement. Material should preferably be in electronic form.

New Members

We are very pleased to welcome to membership:

Jill Armstrong	Wahroonga
Irina Tierney	Turrumurra
Angela Williamson	Roseville
Gordon McLean	Turrumurra
Anne Thompson	St Ives

We know they will enjoy their time with the Society, and that membership will open the door to many friends and activities of interest.

Is History "History"?

"Owners of capital will stimulate the working class to buy more and more expensive goods, houses and technology, pushing them to take more and more expensive credits until their debt becomes unbearable. Their unpaid debt will lead to the bankruptcy of banks which will have to be nationalised."

Karl Marx (1867, quoted at the National Press Club luncheon, Canberra, 10 June 2009).

COMING TOUR

October 31 to November 2

Adelong, Gundagai, Tumut (2 nights),
Yass, and places in between.

Deposits are starting to come in.
To secure a place \$50 deposit is required.
Final cost will be worked out as soon as possible.

Phone Jo Harris 9489 4393.

Wanted - Australia's missing newspapers

The National Library is seeking that old pile of newspapers under your bed, in your shed or under the floorboards.

If you can help, visit your library or go to www.nla.gov.au/anplan for a list of the "Wanted" newspapers.

Research Centre Hours

The Society's Research Centre is at 799 Pacific Highway, Gordon, adjacent to the Ku-ring-gai Library.

The Centre is open to the public from 10 am to 2 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday (except the first Saturday of each month when members have a meeting). It is closed over the Christmas period and on public holidays.

Diary Dates

Sat 4 July	11 am Victorian Resources 2 pm Lorraine McGee-Sippel - "I know who I am - her life story".
Sat 18 Jul	2 pm General Meeting - Geoff Barker - "William Hetzer's Photographs of Sydney 1858 -1863."
Sat 1 Aug	11 am Come and look at the new resources 2 pm Madeleine Sweeny and Sue Crawford - "History of Cavalcade of Fashion"
Sat 15 Aug	2 pm General Meeting - Jessica Currie, researcher of Aboriginal History. "Bo-ra-ne Ya-goo-na Par-ry-boo-go" "Yesterday Today Tomorrow"

Administration

President	Ann Barry	9144 6480
Vice Presidents	Jo Harris	9489 4393
	Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
Treasurer	Doug Milne	9487 2853
Secretary	Jackie van Bergen	9403 3044
Immed. Past President	Kevin Callinan	9983 1525
Committee members	Helen Davies	9498 3754
	Jenny Joyce	9440 2131
	Graham Lewis	9416 5818
	Peter Stehn	9489 9488
	Trevor Whitehead	9449 6426

Appointees

Accessions	Jennifer Wallin	9983 1871
Book Sales	Carol Rodgers	9488 8789
Computer Systems Manager	Peter Stehn	9489 9488
Curator	Jennifer Harvey, Ann Barry	
Family History Leader:	Jo Harris	9489 4393
Family History Committee:	Lyn Done	9449 7715
	Stella Green	9449 4388
	Jenny Joyce	9440 2131
	Elaine Turnidge	9899 2635
	Trevor Whitehead	9449 6426
Historian Editors	c/- Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
	with Kathie Rieth, John King, Bob Ross	
Newsletter - Editor	Bob Barry	9144 6480
Newsletter - Local History	Max Farley	9499 7113
Publicity	Sue Dunston	9498 8720
Public Officer	Helen Davies	9498 3754
Research Team	Kevin Callinan, Lyn Done, Max Farley, Jo Harris, Jennifer Harvey, Trevor Whitehead	
"SNAP" Co-ordinator	Helen Davies	9498 3754
Speakers Programme	Beverley Dunstan	9419 8526
Volunteers Roster	Heather Davidson	9144 1844

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