



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 2010

Monthly Newsletter

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PO Box 109 Gordon NSW 2072 • Ph: (02) 9499 4568 • www.khs.org.au • email: khs@khs.org.au

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

Patrols into the Stone Age - Anecdotes from Papua New Guinea

At the May 2010 general meeting, KHS member David Wilkins entertained members and visitors with an interesting talk on his experiences patrolling the wilds of Papua New Guinea during the mid 1960s. At the time he was serving in the Australian Regular Army as a junior officer in his early twenties with the Pacific Islands Regiment. His talk included a PowerPoint presentation showing many fascinating photographs of this rugged land and its primitive people.

David described the dramatic terrain including the vast coastal flood plains of the Western District, the massive Fly River estuary, and the rugged high peaks of the central cordillera with its knife-edge ridges. One anecdote related to the difficulties of the aerial resupplying of patrols in the Star Mountains and the rule that you never fly into the clouds because they are full of rock. He told of his patrol from the remote outpost of Nomad River into a prohibited-access zone, prohibited because of the danger from the aggressive tribes who still practised cannibalism. His patrol's meeting with some of these cannibal warriors revealed a tension-packed adventure. He also described characteristics of the Biami tribe's life and death traditions.

Another fascinating adventure involved his platoon of native soldiers emerging from the jungle in a remote area on the bank of the Fly River, about 200 kms from its estuary, and having to navigate their way about 80 kilometres downriver to an isolated mission station. The river banks were of impenetrable jungle and mangroves and were infested with crocodiles, so the patrol improvised a bamboo raft upon which all 30 of his men floated, paddled and sailed down the river, avoiding the 1,000-metre wide and 3-metre high tidal bore on the incoming tide (a huge, brown-water broken wave, pushing logs and debris in its path) and the deep sucking whirlpools during the ebb tide. This natural phenomenon is created by the narrowing of the river from its vast funnel-like estuary, thereby forcing the incoming tide to become a large wall of water.

Another patrol in early 1965 was from the outstation at Vanimo on the north coast of New Guinea near the border with West Irian, and coincided with Indonesian President Sukarno's policy of *Konfrontasi* (Confrontation), when international tension was high. The patrol was to the tiny village of Sekotchiau, which, unfortunately for it, was located on the borderline between TPNG and Irian Jaya (West Irian). Sekotchiau's handling of both Australian and Indonesian patrols to its village turned out to be lesson in survival by pragmatism.

Coming Meetings

(Gordon Library Meeting Room)

Next Society General Meeting Saturday 17 July at 2 pm

"North Shore Aviatrix"
Judy Rainsford



The surprising and largely unknown history of pioneering women pilots with northern Sydney connections. Women of the Northern Sydney area have had a lengthy involvement in pioneering Aviation from the time that Florence Taylor made the first glider flight by a woman at Narrabeen.

Judy is the past state president of the Australian Women Pilots' Association..

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

Next Family History Meeting Saturday 3 July

11 am Scottish Genealogical Sources.

2 pm "Scots and Australia"

Speaker is Mark Oxbrow, a Scots historian, writer and storyteller, and author of 'Rosslyn and the Grail', 'Halloween' and 'King Arthur and the Holy Grail'.

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

Subscriptions due 1 July

An annual subscription form is enclosed with this newsletter if your subscription is due. Please assist the Treasurer by paying promptly.

Some members have paid in advance, or joined after 1 March 2010 - these members do not owe any further money and will not receive a subscription form.

Member Awards

We are very pleased to report the public recognition of two members of our Society's Committee.

The Rotary Club of St Ives recently presented their Community Service Award to our Vice President Jo Harris, in recognition of her outstanding service and dedication to the community through volunteer work with KHS.

The Rotary Club of Chatswood similarly awarded our Immediate Past President, Kevin Callinan, with their Community Service Award. In accepting the award, Kevin acknowledged the support of the committee and volunteers.

Vale

We are saddened to have recently lost two of our long-term members, who contributed a great deal to the Society over the years.

Barbara Burgess joined the Society in 1984 and worked with the "Tuesday Group" from 1991 until she became ill.

Dorothy Johnson/Mountfort joined the Society in 1980 and served on the Committee from 1983-1994, including 5 years as Secretary, and 3 years as Vice President. In 1994 she and Michael MacCabe shared the role of President.

From the KHS Newsletter July 1990

"Poor old Gordon Public School hit the front page of Sydney Morning Herald a few days ago, showing the sad deterioration of this beautiful old building in the months of neglect since the Government decided to sell it. The very next day, North Shore Times announced that a Union ban is now supporting the Gordon School Site Committee by an interim embargo on building there. The fight is hotting up."

Extract from "The Kuringian" - May 27 1911

"Cows are not the only animals that are allowed to stray about the Shire roads at night times, Sundays and holidays. There are quite a few big "neddies" in Killara that get more tit bits by nipping hedges and rose bushes when they are out for a look round the neighbourhood, than they do at home. We would advise our Fidden's Wharf Road friends to keep their Suffolk Punches and Clydesdales at home, lest the inspector gets them run into the pound."

Quiz Answers - from last month

1. c. Ku-ring-gai National Park; 2. b. North Turrumurra (Miowera Rd); 3. d. Apps'; 4. b. An Aboriginal word meaning boomerang; 5. d. Pymble (Ryde Rd & Pacific Highway); 6. c. Artist & Author.

Jo Harris

Notice of Annual General Meeting

**The 2010 AGM will be held at
2.00 pm
Saturday 21 AUGUST
in the Gordon Library Meeting
Room.**

**Nominations for Officers and
Committee must be in the hands of the
Returning Officer by 14 August.
Nomination forms are available in the
Rooms.**

Recent Acquisitions

Remembered - The History of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission by Julie Summers, photography by Ian Harris and foreword by Ian Hislop. Published 2007 with 192 pages. This beautifully produced book serves to remind us of the sacrifice made by so many and the enduring relevance of the Commission's work in preserving their memory. Donated by Beverley Dunstan.

Over the years the Cowra Family History Group Inc has published a series of books on monumental inscriptions and other cemetery particulars for their area. The following are recent acquisitions :-

*Cowra Monumental Inscriptions Book 2, 113 pages published 1992

*Carcoar Burials, including Carcoar Cemetery and St Paul's C of E Churchyard, 149 pages published 1995

*Lyndhurst Cemetery, 93 pages published 1996

*Boorowa Cemetery, 193 pages published 1996

*Roll Call at Morongla Creek Cemetery, published 2004

*Neville and District Cemeteries, 56 pages published (revised) 2005

William Thomas Wait - Shire President of Ku-ring-gai 1908, 1909 & 1910, a research project undertaken by the research team of the KHS Society

Marcel Caux - A Life Unravelling, by Lynette Ramsay Silver published 2005 (250 pages). Who was Marcel Caux? - Lynette Silver disproves many of the claims. Donated by Beverley Dunstan.

Your Family History Archives - A Brief Introduction by Shauna Hicks, published 2010 (40 pages). A quick reference book to solve your problems by a suitably qualified person. *Family History on the Cheap* by Shauna Hicks, published 2010 (73 pages). Similar to above - a quick reference book.

Bruce Robinson

Upcoming Events

that may be of interest to our members....

The Governor: Lachlan Macquarie 1810 to 1821 - To celebrate this 200th anniversary and examine Macquarie's contribution to the development of colonial Australia, original letters, journals, watercolours, miniatures and realia from the Library's collections will be displayed.

When: July 5 to Oct 10 with a talk/tour on Wed 11 Aug at 12.30 for \$15, bookings essential.

Where: Galleries, Mitchell Wing, State Library of NSW

The Ones that Got Away: Murray Radcliffe will tell about the escapes, successful, unsuccessful and unthinkable that desperate convicts made from a variety of the colony's penal institutions.

When: Sat 10 July 2pm.

Where: Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt St Sydney. Cost: \$2, no bookings required

From horses to (music) courses: The early years of the Sydney Conservatorium - Diane Collins, author of *Sounds from the stables*, a history of the Sydney Conservatorium, tells the story of the turbulent early years of the music institution and the fascinating people who taught there. The presentation will include a display of rare archival material from the State Library's collections and a live performance by the Conservatorium's *Swan String Quartet*. For more details see www.sl.nsw.gov.au/events

When: Wed 21 Jul, 5.30pm

Where: Friends Room, Mitchell building. Cost: \$20, \$15 (Friends & Conc) incl light refreshments

Bookings: City Recital Hall Box Office ph 1300 797 118

Sydney Hospital, Sydney Eye Hospital & Lucy Osborn-Nightingale Foundation Museum – walk back in time and experience life at Sydney Hospital from 1860 onwards. After this tour we will visit the Lucy Osborn - Nightingale Foundation Museum and hear about a bygone era in medical and nursing care and see many fascinating artifacts and photographs.

When: Tue 13 Jul, 10am

Where: meet outside Sydney Hospital, Macquarie St, Sydney. Cost: \$20. Bookings RAHS: 9247 8001

The Telegraph Revisited: Ann Moyal, author of "Clear across Australia: a history of telecommunications" will speak of the way the telegraph transformed life in Australia by facilitating better business and media contact, improving the way the military and the science communities communicated and providing a more friendly way for families to keep in touch.

When: Tue 27 Jul, 5.30pm.

Where: History House, 133 Macquarie St, Sydney. Cost: \$8, incl light refreshments, Bookings RAHS 9247 8001

"Medical Equipment and Home Remedies from the Past", Illawarra Museum. Showcasing old and outdated home remedies, Medical Practitioners and Hospital equipment. An old operating table and wooden wheelchair once used in Wollongong Hospital along with a foot powered dentist drill c1900.

When: Open Wed/Thu from 12noon-3pm, weekends and public holidays from 1pm -4pm

Where: Illawarra Museum, 11 Market Street, Wollongong NSW Cost: Adults \$4, Conc/Stud \$2, Children 50 cents. Contact: Group bookings phone Margaret on (02) 4228 0158.

Jackie van Bergen

BUILT HERITAGE

Redleaf Chambers, Wahroonga



Redleaf Chambers sits at the junction of Railway and Redleaf Avenues, Wahroonga where the roundabout channels traffic through the shopping village and across the railway line. With its curved façade, ornate brickwork, green-glazed brick trims and smart green and cream striped sunblinds, it is a landmark for all Wahroonga residents.

I really like this building, and am pleased it has survived. It has real style - it has pizzaz! I wonder about the man who commissioned it and what the locals thought when it was built. Did they hate it or love it? And what do people think of it now? Surprisingly Redleaf Chambers is not listed on Council's LEP. It certainly has architectural and municipal significance, two parameters for which buildings are usually nominated.

It was designed in 1937 for local estate agent Malcolm McFadyen by Frank I'Anson Bloomfield, architect for the first crematorium to be built in NSW (Rookwood), and Northern Suburbs Crematorium, and winner with Spencer of the 1950 Sulman Prize for the Top Dog Factory, Brookvale.

McFadyen (1860-1949) was prominent in Wahroonga's business community and served a number of terms on Council. He lived and worked in Wahroonga from about 1905 when he took over the newsagency in Coonanbarra Road. Within three years he had become a house and land agent, his ads stating "save time by consulting the local man", and by 1911 had moved to premises in Railway Avenue. He was a Ku-ring-gai councillor 1911-1913, 1917-1925 and elected Deputy President for 1922 and 1925. In May 1921, along with WS Griffiths and JG Lockley, he was appointed to an advisory town planning committee that examined subdivision plans, regulated setbacks and the like.

In 1929, McFadyen strongly opposed the erection of flats in the municipality, stating "The flat dweller belongs to the floating population of the big cities and is of no value to the community". It seems McFadyen modified his view, because when Redleaf Chambers was completed it was described as "five lock-up shops and flats". Valued at £5500 it was a substantial and ambitious project for the then-small shopping centre.

In January 1938 he was advertising for tenants - "Wahroonga, Redleaf Chambers, overlooking the Park, at station, 3 professional rooms, moderate rental to right person." No mention of flats. Perhaps for a short time people lived there, perhaps McFadyen himself, though by 1943 he was living in 12 Bundarra Avenue with his wife Maggie and elder daughter Sylvia. Eventually the McFadyens moved to Queensland, where their two sons, Roy and Kenneth, and married daughter Millicent had lived for some time.

Kathie Rieth

Crossroads

Time brings us all to crossroads and I feel I should cut back on contributing regular items for the *Newsletter* and “editing” the *History Notes* section. As a parting “article” I thought I’d jot down, briefly, something about the key events and people that, in my mind anyway, have done much to create the Ku-ring-gai we know today.

Some Key Events

* Governor King’s 1805 establishment of the convict-manned Lane Cove Sawing establishment on the Lane Cove River at the foot of Fiddens Wharf Road.

* the fortunate fact that the Lane Cove River was there to be used as the main means of transporting produce and people to and from our district for over 50 years and, along with the Harbour, kept Ku-ring-gai free for a long time of despoliation and pollution.

* the role played by the timber getters, large and small, in clearing land leading to the creation of small farms, market gardens and orchards.

* the advent of our first grantee, the outstanding Daniel Mathew, who with his 1819 Clanville Estate at Roseville and later as a land owner at Pymble/St Ives, laid the groundwork for community life.

* and the influx of residents from the 1880s who mainly came the “long way round” by road and rail west of the Lane Cove River to the northern parts of Ku-ring-gai. Many were seeking a better lifestyle and healthy environment.

* the opening of the main section of the North Shore railway through Ku-ring-gai in 1890 and the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in 1932.

* the increase of population largely because of the above two events and the advent of the motor car.

I am sure others, with justification, could add to this list or remove some of the events in favour of different ones.

People – just some of them

It is invariably people, individually and collectively, who make events happen. These are a few of the people who, again in my mind, helped shape the Ku-ring-gai community. Many of these people are well known even today, others have gone from our memory, some contributed on a broad scale, others worked on a smaller canvas, but all of them and what they did here in their time remain with us. Those listed here could, of course, be multiplied manyfold.

* **Mary Archbold** (1802-1850) was widowed as a result of her well-educated husband Richard Archbold’s death in 1836. She was left at the age of 34 with the responsibility of managing the isolated *Clanville* farm at Roseville and a family of nine children. The Archbolds became one of our most respected families.

* **Eden Herschel Babbage** (1844-1924) happened to be born in Italy but came to South Australia at the age of seven with his family. His grandfather was Charles Babbage, Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge, who invented the calculating machine. Eden Babbage was devoted to the

development of Roseville and earned the name “Father of Roseville”.

* **JJC Bradfield** (1867-1943). Born in Queensland he was the ninth of ten children and was an outstanding mathematician. Frequently described controversially as the “designer” of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, there is no doubt about his heavy involvement in developing the concept and integrating it with visionary plans for the associated electrified underground railway. His career included many achievements in addition to the Bridge.

* **John Brown** (1825-1884) was born in Pennant Hills. The truth about his forebears is stranger than fiction. He became an important timber merchant in the colony with a number of properties including most of Wahroonga to the west of the Highway. He was one of the original trustees of St Johns Church at Gordon.

* **George Cadby** (1790-1864) came to Australia in 1826 as a soldier. In 1831 he took possession of land in Lindfield, from the Highway towards the river. He called it Lane Cove Farm. In 1831-32 he had a liquor licence. He borrowed to go to England with his wife in 1835 to claim, unsuccessfully, a legacy on her behalf. Unfortunately she died on their arrival. He lost his Lindfield land because of non-repayment of the loan and remained in England. Has many descendants in Australia

* **John Campbell** (1835-1907) from the Isle of Skye, became a Sussex Street merchant. He was not related to another merchant, Robert Campbell. John Campbell built his heritage home, *Cromla*, in Roseville Chase. It was however more than a run-of-the mill home. Built on the steep slope overlooking what is now Roseville Bridge it was likened to a fortalice built on the side of a Scottish loch. Happily much of it remains with its original charm.

* **Eccleston du Faur** (1832-1915) was born in England and migrated in 1853. He was a man of letters, a supporter of the arts and largely responsible for initiating the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. He was President of the National Art Gallery from 1892 until 1915. Du Faur successfully urged that the proposed name of “Eastern Road” for the railway station be dropped in favour of the “Turramurra” railway station.

* **George Bertrand Edwards** (1855-1911). Born in Hobart in 1855, he was initially a journalist and came to Sydney as NSW manager of what was to be the IXL Ltd jam manufacturer. He bought land in North Turramurra in 1895 and built his home, Huon Park. He represented South Sydney in the first Federal Parliament and became the Member for North Sydney in 1910. His life was tragically lost in a major explosion when repairing a valve in his home’s acetylene gas lighting system.

* **James G “George” Edwards** (1843-1927) was born in Tasmania, the son of a convict David Edwards and Eliza Pymble, the daughter of Robert Pymble. His achievements here were many including his involvement in having the North Shore Railway built, the opening of the Gordon Public School and the development of Clubs for bowls, tennis and golf.

He became known as “The Father of Killara” because he effectively “created” the suburb.

* It takes all sorts to make a community and mention must be made, even though briefly, of **Joseph Fidden** (1778-1856) the charismatic convict boatman. He was renowned for the physical strength he needed to convey goods between Sydney and “Fiddens Wharf”.

* **Eveline Fowler** (1887- 1962) - *The Lavender Lady*. The daughter of Robert Fowler MLC, a Lord Mayor of Sydney, she married Rev Ernest Ferguson. Unhappily Ernest became chronically ill and the family’s finances suffered. The family was living in Bent Street, Lindfield, during the Depression and Eveline converted the croquet lawn into a lavender garden and sold her lavenders in the city. She became known as *The Lavender Lady* and wrote two books about this popular flower. Her contribution to Ku-ring-gai may have been on a small canvas but is a valued one.

* **William Henry** (1778-1862), a convict, was Ku-ring-gai’s first recognised “settler” but was more committed to sea-going activities such as sealing and trading than to agriculture. In 1806 Governor Bligh had promised him 1000 acres in West Lindfield from near Fullers Bridge to Fiddens Wharf. Governor’s Bligh’s sudden departure prevented this from eventuating and brought him into more conflict with the law.

* **Edwin Hickey** (1861-1913). Police Sergeant Hickey of the Pymble Police Station was fatally shot at Thomas Edwin Brown’s orchard on the north side of Mona Vale Road, Pymble. Sergeant Hickey went to collect outstanding fines. An affray developed leading to the shooting. Brown was an eccentric character and after various legalities was admitted to Callan Park as insane. Eighteen months later he was released on condition he leave the country. He did so but returned after 7 months. He bought an orchard on the Hawkesbury where he remained as a saddened man.

* **Frances Johnson** (1780-1837) was born in England. Her husband vanished and she was left destitute but with seven children. She came to Australia as a convict in 1817; later joined the household of emancipist William Foster who had a farm at Killara. This led to her ownership of the land which became the Green Gate Hotel. She went on to own hotels and property throughout Sydney. A rags to riches story lived by a strong and determined woman.

* **The Mackerras Family** – members of the family lived in Turramurra 1933-1965. Parents Alan and Catherine had seven children all of whom distinguished themselves: Sir Charles (musician, conductor); Alistair (Headmaster, Sydney Grammar); Neil (barrister, supporter of Aboriginal rights); Joan (violinist); Elizabeth (ballerina, interior designer); Colin (Professor, Asian languages) and Malcolm (political analyst).

* **Dr William Moore** (1831-1911) was a famous homeopathic surgeon known for his “Moore’s Household Remedy” which was claimed to be “Good for Man and Beast”. Born in Congham, Norfolk, he came to own 800 acres of Lindfield, Gordon and Killara west of the Highway.

* **Susie O’Reilly** (1881-1960). She was a member of the notable O’Reilly family of Telegraph Road. Susie graduated

in medicine in 1905 and her difficulty in finding a residency at Sydney Hospital in face of opposition from the doctors already on the staff became legendary. She went to Adelaide, then Melbourne and the Womens’ Hospital at Paddington. She joined her father’s practice at Pymble and remained in Pymble for 40 years.

* **Philip Richardson** (1837-1901) was born in Ireland and a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin. He came to be a “gentleman farmer” at St Ives and played a major role in developing the area. He became known as “the Squire of Rosedale”. St Ives had earlier been known as Rosedale.

* **Henry Selkirk** (1857-1930) worked for the Lands Department and enjoyed researching records for historians - a role he continued as a Fellow of the RAHS. His 1923 history of Gordon’s St Johns Church is accepted as authoritative. As a hobby he bred daffodils, one of which he named *Killara*. It is recognised internationally as a heritage bloom. Part of the Selkirk property at the Killara Railway Station is now Selkirk Park.

* **C Bowes Thistlethwayte** (1874-1954) was an outstanding President of the Ku-ring-gai Shire in the 1925-1927 period. One of his major achievements was the role he played in the establishment of the Lane Cove National Park.

* **Eben Gowrie Waterhouse** (1881-1977) was Professor of German at the University of Sydney and had architect Hardy Wilson design his heritage-listed home, Eryldene at Gordon. He was not related to John Waterhouse the publican, sportsman and horse racing enthusiast.

* **John Waterhouse** (1836-1903) was the publican at the Green Gate Hotel from 1884 having taken over from his father, Thomas Waterhouse, who had it from 1853. With hobbies including boxing and horse racing, it is widely accepted he and today’s bookmaking Waterhouses are descended from Captain Henry Waterhouse of the First Fleet. He was not related to Gowrie Waterhouse of Eryldene.

* **Adolf Wenkart** (1911-1989). Adolf arrived in Australia in 1939 to escape from the Germans. From 1946 he and his wife Juliska were to live at *Mount View*, 102 Grosvenor Road, Wahroonga. The home became the centre of Viennese cultural activities and the venue for many recitals. Visitors included Isaac Stern, Lili Kraus, the Vienna Boys Choir, the Amadeus Quartet and Daniel Barenboim. The Wenkart Foundation was formed in 1976 and many local charities and individuals were supported.

* **Leonora Windsor** (1767-1830) – born in Holland and came to Sydney in c1830 as a widow. She is initially interesting because she appears as the sole female grantee (1843) in early Ku-ring-gai maps with 20 waterfront acres on the Lane Cove River. Bethia Foott tells of Leonora in the Preface to her “Leonora - an Indomitable Woman”. She was induced to open a brickworks and used her bricks to build her home, Windsor Lodge (now demolished), next to St Thomas’s church at North Sydney.

* **Annie Forsyth Wyatt** (1886-1961) was a Founder of the National Trust. She had previously formed the Tree Lovers League in 1927.

These names and events barely scratch the surface of what is already known of our local history. More, they represent but a fraction of what remains to be uncovered. Some time ago I spoke of having been told by a senior member of a Historical Society that the group was no longer active because "there was nothing left to discover". It was truly amongst the most absurd remarks about local history I have ever heard. It lacked both vision and imagination.

Researchers today have sources of information available to them not dreamt of by earlier historians, who frequently had to make lengthy trips to libraries and the like to search through unindexed books and records (if they could locate relevant books and records in the first place), or laboured through microfiche and microfilm information. Today's books are usually indexed. Computer databases and electronically searchable records abound.

What to research? Personally I make no apology for concentrating initially on Ku-ring-gai. Whatever we find about Ku-ring-gai is something we find about Sydney, about New South Wales and about Australia. It is our job to make

it available to the world at large through our publications and web site, and perhaps Google.

We all have topics of special interest to us. Talking only of people, what information has so far been collected and made available about our artists, musicians, sculptors, authors, photographers, jurists, medicos, engineers, scientists, surveyors, politicians, builders, architects, journalists, broadcasters, paramedics, criminals, churchmen of differing persuasions, academics, bootmakers, bakers, sportspersons, poets, potters, teachers, orchardists, nurserymen, dairymen, eccentrics, aviators, businessmen, actors, film makers and many more? Though information on specific topics would be of interest to a limited number of people, it is certain that information on every one of the topics would be of value to many researchers, not only in Ku-ring-gai but further afield.

There is also the added bonus that delving into these facts will often uncover stories and happenings that have so far escaped the records but are worth writing about in their own right.

The *Historian* and *Newsletter* are waiting.

Keeping us on the "straight and narrow"....

"In my humble opinion, an Historical Society should be completely divorced from the Tourist Scene. Most bodies interested in promoting tourism have an axe to grind. Those interested in preserving the history of a district, should belong to a race apart – dedicated to preserving an accurate history for posterity's sake."

from "*Beyond The Early Maps*" by

Veronica G McNamara, 1974.

Memories of West Pymble - help needed!

West Pymble Public School's Fair in September will include a display of the history of the area.

As part of this, KHS is organising a display of local, family and school history.

The local area has been covered by a letter-box drop, and some interesting photos have been uncovered.

But we need more!

So, do YOU have any photos/documents/stories about West Pymble?

Any subdivision information? Any old adverts for housing, or the local shops?

Your house - then and now? Your street?

Guides? Scouts? Sporting groups? The swim centre?

Bicentennial Park - the quarry and now?

Churches and community groups?

If you have any materials, we will scan/photocopy them, and return the originals to you. Please contact Ann Barry at a.barry@optusnet.com.au or 9144 6480.

New on Ancestry.com

Ancestry.com has recently released Non-Conformist registers from the Greater London area for the period 1694-1921. These include records of Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Baptists, Methodists, Lutherans, United Reform Church, The Society of Friends and a few other miscellaneous sources. The entries are all fully indexed and link to original images of the registers.

These records join the Baptisms, Marriages and Burials from the Church of England Parishes in the Greater London Area for 1538-1812, the Marriages and Banns for 1754-1921, the London Births and Baptisms 1813-1906 and the London Deaths and Burials 1813-1980.

These have all be made available as part of the partnership between Ancestry and the London Metropolitan Archives and the Guildhall Manuscripts Section.

Other new records include

- Passenger arriving into Queensland, 1848-1912, from ports in the UK and Europe
- Perthshire, Scotland, School Registers of Admissions and Withdrawals, 1869-1902
- Militia Survey of Perthshire, Scotland, 1806
- Ireland Famine Relief Commission Papers, 1844-1847

Ancestry.com is available for use in our Rooms during normal opening hours.

Jenny Joyce

Conference 17-19 September 2010

Annual State Conference of NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies. Hosted by Shoalhaven Family History Society at Bomaderry Bowling Club, Cnr Meroo & Cambewarra Roads, Bomaderry.

www.shoalhaven.net.au/thconference2010/

FAMILY MATTERS

Family History Meeting

11 am Session

Jo Harris welcomed 35 members to the morning session and distributed a sheet listing Shipping Research resources. Jenny Joyce showed where shipping books are kept on the library shelves.

Jo spoke about microfiche records of Unassisted Migrants, and recommended the 3 volumes of "Log of Logs" which are in the Gordon Library (and she has at home - available for look-ups).

Stella Green spoke apologetically on her lack of progress with the Shipping Arrivals project, and new member Lynne Gardiner kindly offered to take over.

Jo then demonstrated the following Computer Resources:

- *1787-1868 Convict Ships by Charles Bateson
- *1788-1828 Shipping Arrivals Australia from James Donohoe's Paracensus
- *1788-1832 Convict Ships
- *1788-1968 Australian Shipping Arrivals and Departures - off-line version of the old Convictions web site, now renamed the Ozships web site
- *1828-1842 New South Wales Bounty Immigration
- *1839-1890 Passenger Arrivals in Western Australia
- *1842-1856 Unassisted Arrivals index plus Ships and Masters to Sydney index
- *1852-1879 Immigration to Victoria
- *1877-1878 USA to NSW database - Cameron's ships
- *Master Index to Ships Pictures in the Mitchell Library, Sydney

Beverly Robinson demonstrated "Ancestry" and described some of her research. The Library Edition of Ancestry is in the Society rooms.

Jenny Joyce distributed a sheet of notes she took during the meeting.

2 pm Meeting

Jo chaired the meeting attended by about 35 members. On this day in 1788 there were fresh squally SW gales, temperature 57F = 13C. Four cows, one bull and one bull calf strayed from the Governor's farm. (*Australian Family Tree Connections* magazine, June edition)

Jo read the story of a remarkable coincidence when two people contacted the Reading Borough Libraries in England in the same week of Dec 2009, seeking the report on the Breadmore/Giles trial published in the Berkshire Chronicle in March 1825. It transpired that these people lived only two hours apart in Victoria and have since met.

Other names mentioned: Field, Davis, Patterson, Lane, Hill, Madden, Robertson, Sargeant; plus items on DNA testing and changing information on IGI names.

Jenny Joyce spoke about new arrangements of books in the Society library - it's a work in progress and a catalogue will follow.

Book Reports: Angela Lind spoke on "The Family of Mary Pitt" by Janette Cust, also "Olga, A Daughter's Tale" by Marie-Therese Browne.

Jo displayed the 2010 calendar of the Yaramalong Valley. *Reports of Visits:* Immigration Museum in Melbourne, well recommended.

Talk about findmypast.com.au, subscription payable in Australia dollars

Cemetery Visit: Jean Smith described a visit to the cemetery at Pyalong in Victoria, where some of her husband's family graves lie.

Report of Address: Stella Green spoke about an address "The Recovery of Bodies from the Battle of Fromelles" by Major-General M.P.J. O'Brien CSC, Officer-in-Charge, Australian Fromelles Project, given to members of the Royal United Service Institute. Copy of the transcript from the "United Service" journal of June 2010 will be put in our library.

Coming Event: Angela Lind advised that Scottish Week will take place from 24 June to 4 July with various events around Sydney.

The meeting featured several members describing "My Earliest Ancestor settled at..... in the year....."

* Cecilia Inglis - Honorah & Michael Moran, ship Canton 1848, East Maitland

* Lorna Watt - Thomas Mesling, ship Indefatigable 1815; Thomas Mazlin, son of convict, 1830, Gordon

* Yvette Reeve - William Vidler, ship Maitland 1838, Jamberoo

* Brian Gapes - James Gapes, ship Gilmore 1855, Parramatta Junction

* Angela Lind - Andrew Hume, ship Lady Juliana 1790, Toongabbie

* Shirley Morley - Johann Strohschnitter, ship America 1855, Falmonth Tas.

* Stella Green - William Nottingham Palmer, ship Saracen 1827, The Rocks, Sydney

* Jo Harris - husband's ancestor John Jude, ship Guildford (6), 1824, Armatree near Gulargambone.

Based on notes by Stella Green

Ah! Memories of the way things were....

"Victorian Wins Sydney House in Big Art Union

Mr WR Whitehand of Ballarat, Victoria, won first prize - a 4250 [pounds] house at Pymble - in the Open Road Art Union, drawn last night."

from SMH, 22 March 1951

The new train

"The new train which leaves Turrumurra at 8.34 a.m., is already being well patronised, and so far, every morning this week, the well-filled carriages only serve to show how badly the train was wanted."

from The Pymble News, 8 May 1902

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:

Rosemary Clarke	Wahroonga
Anne Marie Doran	North Gosford
Rhonda Keniston	Pymble
Stephen & Donna Palmer	Lindfield
Jill Peters	Mt Colah
Mary Potter	Hornsby Heights
Ian St Clair	Turrumurra
Betty Stevens	Cherrybrook

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

QUIZ

(answers next month)

- Where in Ku-ring-gai was Irish Town Rd?
a. Roseville b. Turrumurra c. Killara d. Lindfield
- Which is the correct spelling ?
a. Kuring-gai b. Ku-Ring-Gai c. Ku-ring-gai
d. Kur-ring-gai
- Who was George Caley ?
a. An architect-builder b. A botanist-explorer
c. A colonel-drum major d. A dancer-teacher
- Which of these was not a newspaper in our area ?
a. The Pymble News b. The Courier
c. The Times d. The Kuringian
- Wilson's Street Directory of 1910 lists how many streets in Roseville ?
a. 44 b. 34 c. 24 d. 14
- What was named after James Riddle ?
a. The question "why did the chicken cross the road" b. The riddle of the rivers c. The word 'conundrum' d. Riddles Lane.

Research Centre Hours

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

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

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Diary Dates

- Sat 3 July Family History Meeting**
11 am Scottish Genealogical Sources
2 pm "Scots and Australia" Speaker is Mark Oxbrow, a Scots historian, author of 'Rosslyn and the Grail', 'Halloween', and 'King Arthur and the Holy Grail'.
- Sat 17 July 2 pm Society General Meeting**
 Judy Rainsford - North Shore Aviatrix. The surprising and largely unknown history of pioneering women pilots with northern Sydney connections.
- Sat 7 Aug Family History Meeting**
11 am More Shipping: Assisted & Bounty Passengers, Emmigrants & Immigrants, Crew & Deserters and Exiles (if time).
2 pm "Some Australian Weather Disasters" - speaker Richard Whitaker from the Weather Bureau.
- Sat 21 Aug 2 pm Society Annual General Meeting followed by General Meeting**

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