



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 2011

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

On the Battle for Milne Bay

Following the general meeting on 21 May 2011, the Society was treated to a most interesting talk on the World War II Battle for Milne Bay by Dr Brian Boettcher, author of the book *Eleven Bloody Days; The Battle for Milne Bay*.

Brian was born and bred in Sydney and educated at St Aloysius College. His birth at the beginning of the Pacific War was a year before the attack on Pearl Harbour, so he lived through the threatened Japanese invasion of Australia, which he informed us, was an invasion denied by an English historian he has spoken with.

As a small boy he found the times exciting, and with the streets of Sydney full of military uniforms, he wanted to become a soldier. Instead he qualified in psychiatry and then later obtained a Masters in criminology, which led to his becoming a forensic psychiatrist. But it was an interest in military history and the War in the Pacific that created a close interest in the Milne Bay Battle. His realisation of the importance of this battle to the defence of Australia gave rise to his book.

Milne Bay is the principal reason the Battle For Australia is remembered on the first Wednesday of September each year. However, it wasn't until 2008 that sufficient recognition was given to this crucial battle – a battle that saw the first Japanese defeat in the war. And that defeat was almost entirely at the hands of Australian forces (with some aerial assistance from the Americans).

Brian's talk, aided by a PowerPoint presentation with dot points, quotes and interesting wartime photographs, told of the untrained Militia holding off the Japanese for a few days before the 18th Brigade of the 7th Division joined in and turned the tide. The dreadful terrain, the tropical weather, and disease from malaria and dengue fever were all telling on both sides, but it was very much the work of the Australian code breakers that gave the brave Australian soldiers and airmen an edge in anticipating the enemy moves.

The Japanese also underestimated the tenacity of the Australians, who they tried unsuccessfully to scare with their atrocities. Brian spoke most favourably of the Australian commander, Major General Clowes, who was a determined and successful leader ably assisted by the close cooperation between the Army and the Air Force with its two squadrons of Kittyhawks.

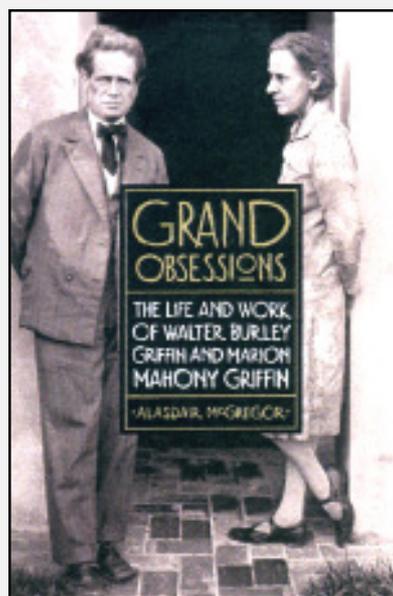
Brian's book (\$27.50 including postage) can be ordered from his website at www.battleformilnebay.com.au

David Wilkins

Coming Meetings

(Gordon Library Meeting Room)

**Saturday 16 July
2 pm General Meeting**



GRAND OBSESSIONS: The life and Work of Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin.

While well known today for their work in Canberra and Castlecrag, the architects were largely under appreciated during their time in Australia.

Our July speaker, architect Alasdair McGregor, spent decades researching the Griffins, culminating in the publication of his authoritative book in 2009.

Afternoon Tea will be available.

Visitors welcome.

Next Family History Meeting

Saturday 2 July

11 am New resources on the Intranet

2 pm **General Meeting**

Gary Luke: "Aliens and New Australians - Records of Non-British Immigrants available locally".

(See further details Page 3)

Afternoon Tea will be available.

Visitors welcome.

Society Tour

Picturesque Picton

Tuesday 26 July

Departing **Bannockburn Oval, Pymble at 8.30 am**, returning approx. 4.30 -5.00 pm.

Escorted by Judith Dunn of Past Times Tours.

The first land grant in the area, "Jarvisfield," sets the scene in the district. Travel on to the railway and hear of the difficulties of railway construction through the hilly terrain to continue the Great South Line. View the Station Master's residence and the Fur and Feather Factory before continuing to the 1839 George IV Inn, then be amazed by the engineering feat of the Stonequarry Viaduct. Nestled in the surrounding hills, Picton affords pleasing views and a friendly village atmosphere.

Lunch at George IV Inn will be included.

Cost \$50 members, \$60 non-members. Booking sheet in KHS rooms; payment with booking.

Female Factory Society Tour



On Tuesday 24 May the Society organised a tour with Judith Dunn as our guide. Judith is a wonderful guide with lots of snippets and anecdotes. The day was enjoyed by all despite rain toward the end of tour. We visited the "Female Factory" (photo above), the beautiful sandstone structure built for use as the Convict Women's Gaol.

We also visited the site of the Orphan's School (photo below), which later (1888) became the Rydalmere Hospital for the Insane. The hospital continued until the late 1980s, when another change of state government policy meant that mental patients, like the children before them, were 'de-institutionalised'. The school/hospital site is now the Parramatta campus of the University of Western Sydney, and the carefully restored Orphan School hosts conferences, educational tours and art exhibitions.



Society Workshop



Peter Stehn will run an introductory workshop on our new and exciting online resource - *findmypast* - on Friday 15 July at 10:30-12:30. Cost: \$5.

As we only have a single subscription to the UK and Australian *findmypast* sites, the format will consist of a demonstration of the capabilities of both the UK and the Australian *findmypast* resources, plus working through a number of real-world examples (possibly not the Flowerdews, but wait and see).

The maximum number of participants is limited by the comfortable seating capacity of our main research room (24) so bookings are essential: by email (khsinc@tpg.com.au), by phoning the rooms, or by dropping in to fill in the booking sheet with your name and contact telephone number.

Special Interest Groups

There is a suggestion to form a **German research group**. If you are interested in meeting to discuss your German ancestry, including successes and roadblocks in researching, please contact Jackie van Bergen with your email address.

Is anyone interested in forming a special interest group of any other kind? The options are endless. Groups don't have to be started by people who know a lot about a subject – sharing experiences is a really good way to learn. We can help you get started and will probably join in. Email jackievb@optusnet.com.au if you have ideas for a group.

Mac Users Group

Our last meeting was mainly about *iPhoto* and about how we use it, some of the tricks for editing, and reducing file sizes, especially for insertion into family history files. We all admired another iPad2 in the group, this one with the Reunion app that can 'talk' wirelessly to the desktop!

Our next meeting will be on **Monday 18 July at 2 pm** in the research rooms. We will share our favourite Mac tips and tricks, so choose one to bring along to show and share.

Our meetings are informal and discussion is encouraged. If you have any specific questions, please email them in advance so that they can be circulated to the group for answers (jackievb@optusnet.com.au)

Even if you are just thinking about purchasing a Mac, come along and see what all the fuss is about.

No booking, just turn up; bring your laptop if you like.

Bradfield Park History

The Society is currently working on a publication on the WWII RAAF base and subsequent Bradfield Housing Settlement, and the adjacent Migrant Camp, at West Lindfield.

If you have any memories or memorabilia of the core period from the mid 1940s onward, please contact Ann Barry on a.barry@optusnet.com.au, or 9144 6480.

From the Editor

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

Bob Barry

Recent acquisitions

The following is a selection from recent acquisitions:-
‘Which Genealogy Program?’ by Kerry Farmer and Rosemary Kopittke was updated November 2010 and is one of the series of “Unlock the past”. The publication is 84 pages and ISBN: 978 0 9807760 3 4. If you have accumulated an array of information and material and are wondering what to do next in presenting your family history, check out this publication.

‘No Ordinary Man - Sydney’s Quong Tart, citizen, merchant & philanthropist’ has ISBN: 0 646 43586 8 and was published in association with The Migration Heritage Centre at the Powerhouse Museum; has 36 pages with black and white illustrations. Quong Tart had tea rooms in the Queen Victoria Building in 1900 and was prominent in Chinese and Australian relations.

Extracts and reproductions from “Main Roads” Journal of Department of Main Roads New South Wales:-

Historical Roads of New South Wales: Pacific Highway; Hume Highway; Bell’s Line of Road; Monaro Highway; The Establishment of Direct Road Communication Between Sydney and Newcastle; Miles, Milestones, Tolls & Turnpikes; Old Coaching Days; Bridge Building in New South Wales 1788 – 1938.

‘The Land is a Map - Place names of Indigenous Origin in Australia’ edited by Luise Hercus, Flavia Hodges & Jane Simpson, was published 2002 in association with Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, The Australian National University ISBN: 1 74076 020 4 with 304 pages. Little is known about principles of forming and bestowing indigenous place names, but attempts are being made to ensure that additions of indigenous place names to the system of official place names more accurately reflect the traditions they come from.

Bruce Robinson

July Family History Meeting Speaker

Gary Luke is a committee member of AJHS, member of AJGS & SAG, and a trustee of the Jewish cemetery sections of Rookwood. His ancestry includes a Polish born convict transported in 1851, a Dutch born migrant family who moved to London in the 1820s, Russian Polish migrants who arrived in the mid 1880s after a decade in Glasgow, and a 1938 refugee from the border of Poland & Slovakia.

Many genealogists put their foreign language ancestors into the “too hard” basket. Through his own family & contract research, and in assisting others with non-British immigrant ancestors, Gary has accessed a wide range of record types held by our State & National archives. His talk will focus on these local records, as they can fill the gaps before embarking on overseas research with all its problems of border changes, translations, and unfamiliar administrative practices.

Recent Talks program

Our recent series of talks was very well attended with many new faces. Our thanks are due to Ku-ring-gai Council for subsidising these talks, and to Jackie van Bergen and Jenny Joyce for organising the funding and the functions.

Keep watching for more talks!

Computer Resources - recent additions

The following resources have been added to our Intranet during June 2011:-

- Port Macquarie General Cemetery Transcriptions
- 1803-1829 Notorious Strumpets and Dangerous Girls - Convict women in Van Diemen’s Land
- Index to NSW Colonial Secretary’s Office copies of letters sent to the Sheriff 1828-1850
- Prisoners on board the hulk PHOENIX in four volumes, as follows:
 - Index to Prisoners Received 20 August 1825 to 30 January 1837
 - Index to Transportation Entrance Books 18 January 1833 to 7 September 1848
 - Index to Transportation Books 1 January 1831 to 9 February 1847, and
 - Index to Prisoners Discharged September 1825 to November 1836
- Port Macquarie and Districts Cemeteries, Cremations and Memorials - including all district cemeteries and burial places; 31,212 records
- Taree and District Burials - with all the towns and villages that make up the Manning Valley.

The trial of the UK and Australian editions of *findmypast* has proved both popular and productive. A number of our members have used the resource to uncover family history details not found elsewhere. This is not surprising as *findmypast* is backed by the UK Federation of Family History Societies, and represents a wealth of resources collected over many years.

Access to *findmypast* will continue beyond the trial period with a single-seat annual subscription. The single log-on to both the UK and the Australian versions is available on the computer named IBBITSON, located on the table next to our photocopier. Why not try your luck with the new resource? You never know what family secrets may be revealed.

An introductory workshop on *findmypast* is advertised on Page 2 in this Newsletter.

Peter Stehn

Can you help?

We have a team of 2-3 people who fold and insert this *Newsletter* into envelopes on the fourth Thursday of the month. It often happens that one of these cannot assist on the day. So we are looking for another one or two people who could help. It usually takes us about 3 hours, so come for the day and use the spare time to catch up on some of your own research. It is an easy task with time for chatting.

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

Quiz Answers (see P. 6 for Questions)

1. (c) Sandgate, Queensland.
2. They are all in Ku-ring-gai.
3. (c) Irish town (most of the orchardists had Irish names).
4. (b) Ernest Fisk (Head of AWA).
5. (b) Arterial Rd (between St Ives and Lindfield).
6. (c) North Turramurra.

FAMILY MATTERS

June Family History Meeting

11.00 am Session

Attendees numbered 27, including 2 visitors, when Jo Harris showed many sites for the "Let's talk about Convicts" session. Several members were extremely appreciative when some exciting 'finds' were found by Jo, and the visitors joined the Society there and then, when they were among those who had pages printed from the resources shown. We welcomed Suzanne Voytas, our afternoon Guest Speaker, who added input to the session. Pages of sites for personal searching were handed out.

2.00 pm Session

Jo Harris opened the meeting and welcomed 39+. The 2 new members who joined that morning enjoyed it and decided to stay for the afternoon as well. FHG meetings are always very friendly and this was among the best.

On this day, 4 June 1788: Squally south-west winds and rain, and the temperature was 60 °F – 15.5 °C.

Phillip recorded the events of the day in his journal. "Being His Majesty's Birthday, the same was observed with every demonstration of joy our situation permitted. His Majesty's ships "Sirius" & "Supply" armed tender fired each 21 guns at sunrise, at noon & at sunset. The garrison fired 3 rounds at noon. I received the compliments of the Day, & the officers dined with me. The soldiers drank their sovereign's health in porter. The convicts for this day were allowed half a pint of rum a man, the women half that quantity. Three convicts who had been condemned to die, & afterwards reprieved for exile now received a full pardon, & all cheerfully joined in singing God Save the King round their bonfires."

These convict pardons were for Henry Lovell, Joseph Hall and Daniel Gordon (for more happenings for this day, read John Cobley's book).

Websites

New Zealand Cemeteries: <http://nzcemetery.kiwicelts.com/>

New Zealand memorials register: www.nzhistory.net.nz/culture/nz-memorials-register

Pastkeys website: includes various index projects: www.pastkeys.com.au

The British Education System includes available records for many aspects of the Education System – first schools, medieval schools etc. etc.: www.genhound.co.uk/school.php

Titanic Facts: www.titanicfacts.net/

Victorian Mining Accident Index: www.ballaratgenealogy.ord.au/miners.htm

New CDs include *The Hulk "Phoenix" at Lavender Bay and Port Macquarie Cemetery*.

Early bookings are recommended for the Annual State Conference of the NSW and ACT Association of Family History Societies to be held at Inverell from Friday 16 to Sunday 18 September – more information at a later meeting. **Members' Activities/Reports etc:**

Jo, Yvette and Jackie joined with over 100 who attended

the Port Macquarie Historical Group Conference where Jo found a copy of "*Chambers Biographical Dictionary*" for \$1.00. An entry about William Barlow (died 1568), Bishop of St Davids, mentioned 'weathercock reformers' (people who were fickle).

Jenny Joyce attended an interesting *Oral History talk* over two days – make sure you check land records for proof – balance of probability.

Susan Ryerson – members of Ryerson family saved from "The Titanic" – in the movie Leo de Caprio wore a Ryerson's coat.

Susan Duncan spoke about "The House at Salvation Creek".

Shirley Morley spoke about the "Unsung Ordinary Man" by Sally Dingo – about a Changi POW from Penguin, North Tasmania.

Susan Ryerson visited China and border with Tibet where on Ancestors' Day families commune with their graves.

Caroline Darby visited Rookwood – Angela Lind visited St John's Anglican Church, Appin – Bicentenary of Appin – also Denham Court, near Campbelltown.

Jo introduced Suzanne Voytas. Suzanne has a diploma of Family History and spoke about her book "From Celtic Cross to Southern Cross – The Ladies on the 'Elizabeth' 1828". This well-indexed book tells the biographies of the 194 Irish convict women from County Cork. These women were the worst and most turbulent female convicts ever embarked at Cork. The Reverend John Vincent, a newly ordained Church of England vicar, made the voyage a 'doom worse than hell' for these Irish women and one, Eliza Robinson, mysteriously fell overboard. After arrival in Port Jackson they were sent to the Female Factory at Parramatta. The ship's log has not been found.

Suzanne's interest commenced when her family hosted Edmund Duggan, an Irish athlete from near Mitchelltown, County Cork, and his family for the 2000 Olympics. On a return visit to Edmund's family, Suzanne learnt about the Cork City Gaol and a riot by the women, including Mary O'Brien and Mary Kinneally.

Cork City Gaol had fallen into ruins but a dedicated community has restored it to its former condition and it has become a historical precinct. This has inspired Suzanne to become a member of the Parramatta Female Factory Action Group which has been developed from community response to the tenuous future of Parramatta Female Factory Precinct. Parramatta was one of 14 Female Factories in Australia and is the only remaining relic left. Governor Lachlan Macquarie laid the Foundation Stone in 1818. This precinct is comprised of two sites: The Parramatta Female Factory site and the Roman Catholic Orphanage site.

A KHS group visited the site with Judith Dunn from Past Time Tours in May – an excellent tour. Judith had shown and asked the members to sign a Petition to *Save the Parramatta Female Factory Precinct and give it to All Australians*. Suzanne also brought the Petition, which was signed by members, and copies are left in the Society's Rooms for members and visitors to sign. The Petition is only to be signed **ONCE** by each person. 10,000 signatures are needed

and it shall then be forwarded to the Premier.

Barbara Hogan thanked Suzanne for her most interesting story and presented her with a gift. Thank you Suzanne for joining us for the morning session too.

Based on notes by Elaine Turnidge

Severe North Shore thunderstorm 1914

Severe thunderstorms are officially defined by the Bureau of Meteorology as those producing any or all of the following: Hailstones with a diameter of 2 cm or more (that is the size of a \$2 coin), wind gusts of 90 kph or greater, flash flooding, tornadoes.

The events across the North Shore on Wednesday 25 November 1914 would surely point to a particularly severe thunderstorm that struck the Lindfield area that afternoon.

The event was reported in the Sydney Morning Herald the next day.

THUNDERSTORM. DAMAGE IN THE SUBURBS. HEAVY DOWNPOUR. STRUCK BY LIGHTNING MAN INJURED AT NEUTRAL BAY.

Severe damage was done to a number of houses and business premises in the neighbourhood of Lindfield, Chatswood, and Neutral Bay. A man named Percy Draper, a carter in the employ of Harding, carrier, was struck by lightning at Neutral Bay. At the time of the occurrence Draper was placing a tarpaulin sheet on his cart. He was admitted at North Shore Hospital. Late last night he was not out of danger. Telephonic troubles followed the storm on account of falling trees which crossed the lines.

The roofs of the premises occupied by E. Duval, boot-maker, and H.J. Dale, grocer, which form part of a terrace facing Lindfield Railway station, were blown completely away; the debris was carried across the roadway and on to land adjoining. Mr. Duval had a large plate-glass window smashed. The damage at the premises of Mr. Duval and Mr. Dale was estimated at about £350. The roof of the premises of Mr. Gordon, newsagent, was damaged, and W.G. Miller and Co., grocers, lost a portion of their verandah, and had their brick parapet damaged.

At the rear of the premises occupied by Mr. Edwards, cab proprietor, and Mr. Dykes, estate agent, sheds were blown to pieces, but the business premises escaped damage. Lindfield post-office, which immediately adjoins Mr. Duval's shop, suffered slight damage to the roof, whilst telephone and telegraph lines were blown down. At Roseville a house occupied by Mr. Lord was partly unroofed. A portion of the verandah of Sharland's Hotel at Chatswood was destroyed.

The thunderstorm may well have also produced a tornado as the article went on to note:

WHIRLWIND AT WATSON'S BAY.

At Watson's Bay, the storm was accompanied by a particularly strong whirlwind which did much damage, flattening down trees and tents on South Head, and striking Middle Head where similar damage occurred.

Richard Whitaker

BUILT HERITAGE

St Aubyn's, 9 Westbourne Rd, Roseville



St Aubyn's is an elegant, Federation style house on the high side of Westbourne Road, one of the streets that served the Gracey Estate of June 1904. These included Ortona, Grosvenor, Eton and Bayswater Roads, and part of the highway. Lindfield Public School sits at the NE corner of the estate.

Kerrin Cook, in *The Railway Came to Ku-ring-gai*, includes a photograph of *St Aubyn's*, noting in the caption "Florence Anderson ran a 9 bed general hospital at 9 Westbourne Road, from 28 October 1929 until 19 May 1930."

Not only a remarkably precise period but a very short one. Can anyone tell me whether it was a private hospital in later years?

St Aubyn's was built c.1914, first listed as *Tokalon* in the 1915 Sands, occupied by AJ Shewcroft. It was owned by builder Joseph Alfred Smith, who had bought a huge part of the estate from WJ Gracey in 1908. In January 1917, Smith sold *Tokalon* to architect Frederick Bruce Reid of the prominent Sydney firm John Reid & Son. Had it been designed by Reid for Smith some years prior, or was it one of Smith's 'spec' homes? Records indicate that he built at least three houses in Westbourne Road in 1913/1914.

It appears that Reid, newly married, lived in the house for only a year; it was close to *Kanimbla*, on the corner of Bayswater Road and the highway, the family home of his wife Pearl Mahood.

From 1919 *St Aubyn's* was occupied by broker Sydney T Muir and his wife Frances. Sydney died in January 1928. Six months later Frances advertised the house for sale: the property consisted of the four lots originally bought by Reid, as well as vacant land fronting Ortona Road. The house "was very substantially built", of brick with slate roof, had four bedrooms, large kitchen and large verandahs front and back. The ad stated "The above home with its beautiful grounds and adjoining land, would be eminently suitable for private hospital or similar institution."

St Aubyn's was not sold. Frances owned it until at least 1940, but moved out after Sydney's death. In early 1929 work began on her new house *Dunolly*, 9 Ortona Road. For a time she had shared *St Aubyn's* with her mother, Margaret Ballow Best, and unmarried sister Minnie. Only Minnie moved with her into *Dunolly*. Was it then that *St Aubyn's* became a private hospital? But who was Florence Anderson? And, bearing in mind the use proposed by the 1928 ad, was Frances involved in its running?

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

Jill Ball	Galston
T Brooker	Wahroonga
Rosemary Coucouvinis	Gordon
Margaret Gribbin	Turrumurra
John Martin	St Ives
Graham & Kay Sparks	Berowra
Rob & Michelle Tillotson	Castle Hill
Ivan Withers	Killara

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

Quiz (answers P. 3)

- Where was John Job Crew Bradfield born?
a) NSW b) England c) Queensland d) Scotland
- Which of these creeks is not situated in Ku-ring-gai?
a) Stoney Creek b) Lovers' Jump Creek
c) Shot Machine Creek d) Little Blue Gum Creek
- The northern area of Bannockburn Rd was known as?
a) Scotstown b) Germantown
c) Irishtown d) Chinatown
- Who is credited with receiving the first direct wireless message from the United Kingdom in 1918?
a) Eccleston du Faur b) Ernest Fisk
c) Edmund Barton d) Edward Hargrave
- Relief Rd became?
a) Archbold Rd b) Adelaide Ave
c) Arterial Rd d) Arthur St
- Where in Ku-ring-gai would I find signposts with Browning, Dryden, Keats & Shelley?
a) West Lindfield b) East Killara
c) North Turrumurra d) South Turrumurra

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 2 July** **Family History Meeting**
11 am New resources on the Intranet.
2 pm General Meeting
Gary Luke: "Aliens and New Australians - Records of Non-British Immigrants available locally".
- Sat 16 July** **2 pm Society General Meeting**
Alasdair McGregor - "Grand Obsessions - The life and work of Walter Burley Griffin & Marion Mahony Griffin".
- Sat 6 Aug** **Family History Meeting**
11 am Let's talk about Cemeteries.
2 pm General Meeting
Keith McGrath: "Now and Then Photography".
- Sat 20 Aug** **2 pm Society General Meeting**
Jim Ruxton - Old Sydney Theatres.
An Illustrated talk on the lost world of old Sydney Theatres.

Administration

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	Lorraine Swalwell	9449 9254
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	Beverly Robinson	9988 3775
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