

KU-RING-GAI HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.



Including:
Ku-ring-gai Family History Group
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
The NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc.

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July 2016 Newsletter Vol. 34 No. 6

Saturday 2 July

FAMILY HISTORY MEETING

11.00 am Workshop: *Exploring more KHS Intranet Resources.*

2.00pm General Meeting followed by *The Treasures of Sydney Harbour.*

Speaker: Patrick Dodd



Patrick Dodd

Until recent times many wonderful historic places around our magnificent harbour were off limits as they were military bases. With the coming of the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust eight superb areas of waterfront land steeped in history have been returned to the people.

Join Patrick on an illustrated tour of these world renowned treasures, (open to us every day of the year free of charge), and learn how to get there by public transport and enjoy them. Before retiring in 2005, Patrick Dodd had five decades of experience in education, training, public relations and tourism. Patrick is now busier than ever as a Volunteer Guide at the Australian National Maritime Museum on HM Bark Endeavour and a Volunteer guide at the State Library of NSW.

Afternoon Tea will be available.

Visitors welcome

Saturday 16 July*

2.00pm General Meeting followed by

Visiting Mother: Australian Soldiers in London during World War I, a talk given by Elise Edmonds who is a curator at the State Library of New South Wales, Sydney. She received a staff fellowship in 2009 to research the Library's World War I collections. Elise is currently curating an exhibition on the World War I collection of diaries and correspondence; 'Life Interrupted: personal diaries from World War I'.



Elise Edmonds

Diaries from the First World War reveal the horror, loneliness and the adventure of war. They also express the delight of visiting London on leave. This paper will explore London through the eyes of its Australian visitors. A city mobilised, yet offering respite, entertainments and a sense of home, albeit with London fog.

'I went along Victoria Street, where as an Australian I attracted a good deal of attention, some of it very unwelcome too on account of the gazers...' Jim Marshall, November 1916

***Please note that the talk on Monash scheduled for 16 July, has been rescheduled for 2017.**

JUNE FAMILY HISTORY MEETING

11.00am Session

21 members attended the morning session which was called **Research in UK** and was presented by Jean Smith. Having been born in England, of English parents Jean's original research was English based. Three of her grandparents were born in England but one was born in Scotland, so she soon needed to do Scottish research too. For England the main sources of information are Civil Registration on Free BMD, Census Records on Ancestry, and Find My Past and The Genealogist and Parish Registers also on the same three sites. For Scottish research, the main site is Scotland's People although Ancestry has some transcriptions of census records. A very useful magazine is Family Tree Magazine and it is also worthwhile to join a local society in UK where one's ancestors lived, or a Mailing List. To find out details of these latter two, consult the website Genuki covering the whole of UK. It is a treasure trove of information supplied by volunteers. There it is possible to find transcribed parish registers, monumental inscriptions and photos of churches where baptisms, marriages and burials took place. An information sheet of websites was distributed.

2.00p.m. Session

Jo Harris opened the meeting by welcoming everyone especially our speaker, Paul Schiebaan. Jo then read an excerpt from Cobley's book for 4 June, 1788 when the weather was only 15.5 degrees Celsius and there were squally south-west winds with rain.

She then asked Patrick Dodd to read the entry from Phillip's journal detailing how the new settlement celebrated the King's Birthday in style on that day. He also read the very descriptive entry from Worgan's journal. Obviously there was no shortage of either food or drink in the first months of the colony.

Jo reported that the recent Commemorative outing tracing the steps of Phillip's first exploration to Ku-ring-gai was a great success.

Diary Dates

Neil Falconer then listed the events the society is organising in June/July, details of which are in the Newsletter.

Newsletter from other Societies

There is now a folder of all the Newsletters that come into the society. Lorraine Henshaw will update it each month. This will make the newsletters more easily accessible to members. Have a look, you may find useful references.

Visits and Notes

- An autumn festival at Rouse House where an interesting cookbook/history book, 'Eat Your History,' was launched by its author, Jacqui Newling.
- Newspaper clippings about the bronze busts of Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth, being unveiled recently in the towns that bear their names. Sculpted by Terrance Plowright and funded by public subscription, they commemorate the bicentenary of the first crossing of the Blue Mountains, 1813 – 2013.
- Newspaper articles of 'The Hunting Chimney Sweep', William Vizard, who kept hounds for the Duke of Beaufort, and is an ancestor of Jenny Joyce.

Lucky Door Prizes

These were won by Patrick Dodd who chose 'Lord Sydney', Vicki Williams who chose 'Sydney's Highways of History' and Margaret Holland 'The Suburb of Castlecrag'.

Speaker

Jo then introduced the speaker, Paul Schiebaan, who spoke about his transition from growing up in the Netherlands to becoming President of the Ku-ring-gai Shed at St Ives Showground.

Here in his own words is Paul's story.

HOW DID A BOY FROM ROTTERDAM END UP IN THE KU-RING-GAI SHED

My father was born in 1906 and lived through two World Wars. My Mam was born in 1916; both experienced the Great Depression of 1929 - 39. They lived in Rotterdam. I had two sisters born during the Second World War. During it, there was the hunger winter of 1944. The centre of Rotterdam had been bombed by the Germans

as was Coventry UK to force the Allies into submission. Fortunately, they didn't. My father escaped deportation to work in the German factories.

I was born in 1947, with the post war period signified with shortages, but my industrious Mam made clothes for both my sisters and me from left overs. I had a good youth, as we did not know any better, we made do. My father was a good DIY man, from which I learned a great deal. My brother Cees was born 5 years later.

There was no TV, a two channel Radio, no heating, a coal stove, no warm water. A bath was a tub on Fridays after my sisters had gone first.

My father never had a car. Travel and holidays were by tram and train, and planned long in advance. At 16 I was no longer allowed to come on holidays, but had by that time saved enough to buy a 50cc Moped; the 'world' became my oyster, freedom called. I went to Uni to become an engineer, as did my father, as this was often the tradition, although I longed for the Merchant Navy to see the world.

During the 3rd year of Uni, I did practical work in Bedford, UK. My mother felt this was almost like a migration when I left Rotterdam Airport for Heathrow.

My chance to sail came through the 24 months conscription which after a bit of luck I ended up as a Lieutenant with the Navy and sailed around Europe, the Mediterranean Sea and North Africa for 22 months – a most memorable time. I went on to do my Masters but did not finish as during some holiday work I came across an opportunity to go to Tunisia as a Project Manager to build a factory – which I did.

On one of my return visits to Holland I met Josephine, I was 26 she was 18; love at first sight. Back in Holland after 2 years in Tunisia, we married, got 2 boys and the plan was hatched to look elsewhere -Australia. And so it was. Found a job and in August 82 we landed in Sydney, with few belongings, I worked with Honeywell, lived in Randwick. From there to Turrumurra where we bought our first house, followed the infectious Australia way of extend your house, DIY. Interest rates were 17%! Family came to visit; we travelled to discover Australia and our immediate neighbouring countries.

Both boys were educated, and in 1996 they went to Southern Cross University in Lismore. I was 49 and Josephine 41, and looking for our next opportunity. This was a 40 acre block of land in Wollombi which we developed into an Alpaca Stud over the next 9 years. We sold and moved back to Sydney. Josephine went back to Uni, and

became a Counsellor and worked at Jacaranda Lodge at the SAN. I worked with Otis Elevators and Leighton. Life was good till cancer had a devastating effect on our family when Josephine succumbed to Pancreatic Cancer in 2011.

I retired subsequently with completing the Orange Hospital where I worked as a Project Manager. Started some serious hiking in Australia, the Larapinta Track in the McDonald Ranges, as well as a hike in Mongolia, mixed with trips to Holland. I needed something more purposeful to do, volunteering with Habitat in Sri-Lanka as a start, tried Lifeline, the Fire Brigade but discovered that it was the Shed, which over the next 5 years became my refuge. I am now their President.

My sons have now their careers in the environmental field, partner and family, and I have a new partner. Life is good if it was not for a relapse of a rare lymphoma from 2011. But with optimism we look towards the future.

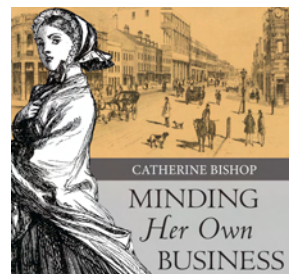


Paul Schiebaan

This is my short story of how a boy from Rotterdam ended up in the St Ives Shed and loving it.

After several questions, a vote of thanks was passed by KHS President, Graham Lewis and Paul was presented with one of the society's publications and one of its distinctive bags.

MAY GENERAL MEETING



Circumstances have caused a report on this meeting to be held over.

THE TOUR DESK

A REVIEW: The Conservatorium of Music (University of Sydney)

On Wednesday 1 June, the tour to the Conservatorium of Music and the Royal Australian Historical Society was another informative and enjoyable experience.

After a train trip to Martin Place and a short walk to the Conservatorium, we met our guide Elise who told us of the four uses of the site - firstly as a gathering and corroboree site of the original inhabitants, the Eora people. The early settlers used the site for a bakery supplied with water by one of four windmills in Sydney.



The Happy Trippers

The original Conservatorium building was designed by Francis Greenway as stables for the planned Government House and is a fine example of old colonial Gothic Architecture. It has been said that the general design approach was influenced by Mrs Macquarie. It was designed as a castellated circular fort with squat towers and four large arched entrances on the northern and southern sides. The stables were arranged around the perimeter of the building with a large grassy exercise yard in the centre.

The buildings fell into disrepair through lack of use during the late 1800s. In 1913 it was decided to convert the building into a Conservatorium, and over the next few years the central area was filled with a wooden building and roof to allow musical concerts. This was the beginning of the amazing Verbrugghen Hall whose acoustics were greatly improved with the erection of concrete walls and roof to keep the sound in.

The hall, named for the first Director of the Conservatorium, seats 500, and has a stage

large enough for a full symphony orchestra and a spectacular Pogson organ (1973).

Four levels were added to the building between 1964 and 1972 to incorporate a high school and more classrooms. In 2001 additions to the building's basement on the northern and eastern side led to the formation of a world class Conservatorium.

The group was fascinated by the way architects had merged the old with the new, leaving archeological evidence of old roads, gutters, drains on display and a storage cistern from the 1790's in situ. Clever architecture allows light to penetrate into the underground classrooms, lecture rooms and recital areas. As we walked through the building, beautiful music being played by students wafted down the corridors.

After a lunch in Con's cafe, we were treated to a magnificent concert, hearing performances by students about to embark on travel to a Summer School in Verona. The quality of the voices in the vocal duets and quartets was stunning, as were the string and woodwind quartets.

For many in the tour group, the afternoon visit to the **Royal Australian Historical Society's** rooms was a new adventure into the world of Australian history. We were informed that, as members of an affiliated organisation we are welcome to use the facilities, including the library, and listen to guest speakers, etc.. The group was shown the rare book section, and were amazed to be able to take these books off the shelves and read them (no need for gloves here). The library is on-line, and the librarian is very happy to point anyone in the right direction to find the desired information.

Even the cold wet afternoon could not dampen our enthusiasm for a great day as we returned home.

Sue Holmes

TOURS

Tour bookings can only be made by visiting the Ku-ring-gai Research Centre rooms and completing a booking and indemnity forms. This includes an opportunity to identify any dietary requirements.

There are now two separate **GREEN BOOKING FOLDERS** one for Exploring Ku-ring-gai Tours, and one for General

Tours. The Booking system is the same for each type of Tour, but the Exploring Ku-ring-gai Tour folder allows you to lodge your interest (Expressions of Interest Form) for future Exploring Ku-ring-gai Tours.

When making your tour bookings please bring the correct amount or a cheque to cover the planned cost. Change is not always available.

Exploring Ku-ring-gai

Monday July 11th, 8.30am

Bookings now open.

Many long term Ku-ring-gai residents have enjoyed this tour, led by Jo Harris, discovering places and buildings that they did not know exist. The bus tour covers 98 kilometres around the district and includes a mystery lunch. Cost: \$35.

Sydney Town Hall

Thursday July 14th.

Bookings now open.

Guided Tour of the Sydney Town Hall and architectural features of some iconic Sydney buildings.

Paul Storm, President of the Willoughby District Historical and Museum Society will be our guide.

Travel will be by train, leaving Turramurra at 9.09 am for a 10 am start at the Town Hall.

Our tour will take in the many interesting aspects and the history of the Sydney Town Hall. Lunch will be at the 99 York Street Club.(\$ 22 buffet) Following lunch, we will walk to the Strand Arcade, and then down to the Commonwealth Bank and the Colonial Mutual Building in Martin Place. The focus of these visits will be the interesting use of stained glass – some with a French influence - in these Sydney Icons. We will be travelling home via Martin Place or Wynyard Station.

There will be a \$5.00 administration fee collected en route.

Fairground Follies Tour

Tuesday 16th August

Bookings open 4 July

This Tour will take us to “ Happiest Music on Earth. ”

You will be able to interact and reminisce amongst the greatest collection of self-playing instruments in the Southern

Hemisphere. The collection includes a 100 year old Steam Merry-go-round.

Hidden amongst these treasures you may be surprised to find an “African Queen” Steam launch. Our tour will take two hours. Morning tea is included. Lunch will be at your own expense at a nearby club, and transport by Community Transport bus. Cost including Fairground Follies entry fee will be \$ 65.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our income for this month amounted to \$1,675. Our operating expenses amounted to \$1,637 leaving us with a small surplus of \$38. We also purchased 4 new computers to replace the old room computers which are used for research. So currently our deficit for the year is \$258. Annet Latham

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Irish SIG

Our last meeting was very interesting, where we helped a new member of our group try to find his Irish ancestors. We also had a quick look at Griffith's Valuation. Next month we will have a history lesson and will learn about the various plantations of Ireland.

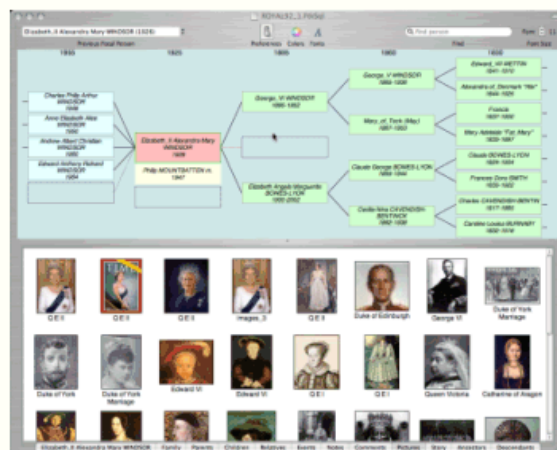
Next meeting: **1.30pm, Friday 8 July.**

Apple Macintosh Group

The June meeting looked at two genealogy programs:

(1) **iFamily for Mac**, an Australian developed programme. which is a richly featured genealogy application, with a healthy community of users.

A free demo is available; <http://www.ifamilyformac.com/>



(2) **Reunion.** Reunion helps you to document, store, and display information about your family, your ancestors, descendants, cousins, etc. It records names, dates, places, facts, plenty of notes, sources of information etc. It has good built-in tutorials.

It is particularly useful as it can be used on the Powerbook, iPad and iPhone so you always have family material with you.



For a demo: www.leisterpro.com/
 Next meeting: **2.00pm 4 July.** Bring your questions and solutions.

THE HISTORIAN

Many comments of praise for the recent issue of *The Historian* have been received. Generous thanks to Jennifer Harvey and the team which prepares and mails this valuable part of the work of the Society.

Look for the cumulative index to previous volumes *The Historian*
http://www.khs.org.au/historian_database/tz.html

CLIMBING IN A SKIRT

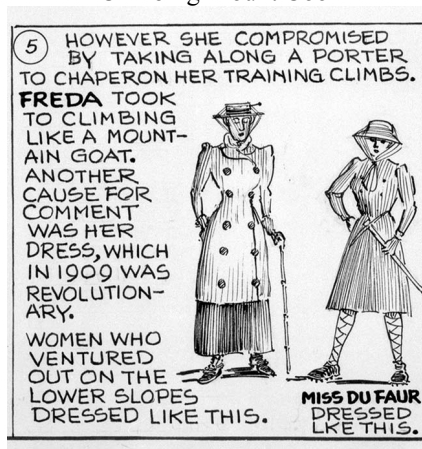
On 3 December 1910, Freda du Faur became the first single woman to climb Mount Cook, New Zealand's highest peak (12,350ft). In the custom of the day, she wore a skirt.



Freda du Faur 1882-1935



Climbing Mount Cook



Emmeline Freda du Faur was born in Croydon, Sydney, and was the daughter of Frederick Eccleston du Faur,* a stock, station and land agent, a patron of the arts (President of the NSW National Art Gallery). He was involved with the fitting out of a private expedition in 1874 to search for the remains of Leichhardt, for which he was made a Fellow of the Royal Geographic Society.

Freda probably developed her passion for mountaineering when she lived at Warrawee with her family. Being near Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, it was there that she explored the area and taught herself rock-climbing.

Due to the interest of her parents and an inheritance from an aunt, Emmeline Woolley**, she had an independent income that enabled her to travel and climb.

"I was the first unmarried woman to climb in New Zealand, and in consequence I received all the hard knocks until one day when I awoke more or less famous in the mountaineering world, after which I could and did do exactly as seemed to me best."

Freda suicided in Dee Why on 11 September 1935 using carbon monoxide, and was privately buried in the Church of England cemetery at Manly. Du Faur's unmarked grave in the Manly cemetery was finally recognised during a ceremony on 3 December 2006 when a group of New Zealanders placed a memorial stone, of NZ greywacke, and a plaque to recognise her alpine achievements.

Her book, *[The Conquest of Mount Cook and Other Climbs: An Account of Four Seasons Mountaineering on the Southern Alps of New Zealand](#)*: London: Allen and Unwin: 1915, ran to several editions.

* The Historian, 38, p 79, p 81.

** The Historian, 34.1, p 58

Morrison Hammond

SOLVE A STORAGE PROBLEM?

Attention: Would you like old metal shelves for your garage?

The rearrangement of KHS shelving is now complete, and two sets of shelves are surplus to requirements. They await inspection in the hall outside the KHS research rooms at Gordon. Free of charge.

Enquiries Jennifer 0439 643 848.

WHERE IS?

Last month's answer: This Bicentennial plaque, is on the outside wall of Roseville Theatre, Pacific Highway, Roseville.

This month's question: Where would you find this park?



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POSITIONS VACANT

SECRETARY

Do you have any experience as a secretary to an association like KHS, or would like to learn about being one in the short term, or perhaps as a candidate for the 2016-17 Committee?

The Management Committee meets at 2.15pm on the first Thursday each month.

If you are interested, please contact our President - Graham Lewis on 9416 5818.

VOLUNTEERS

Room

You have probably been to the Research Centre and been assisted by a helpful volunteer to find information or to use the resources for family history.

The Society needs more volunteers to assist our members.

If you are interested, and want information about training, give Geoff Little a call on Phone 9449 3131.

WWI WRITING GROUP

Do you enjoy undertaking some research and then writing a report ? This group has two more volumes of the story of World War I to write, and it is looking for new members. The task is rewarding. Guidance is given on how to undertake the tasks.

Not only is this a way to help in a big project, but it will help you gain skills that will assist you if you plan to write your family's history.

If you want more information email to frithie@netdata.com.au or call David Wilkins on mobile 0411 186 752.

SIG Meetings are held in the KHS Research Centre. General Meetings are held in the Library's meeting room. Please check group e-mails or contact the group leader or Research Centre before attending if uncertain of any group going ahead. Room volunteers endeavour to update or correct the schedule on the Research Centre entry door with the most up-to-date information.

DIARY DATES

July

Saturday 2, 11.00am **Family History**

Workshop: *Exploring more KHS Intranet Resources*

Saturday 2, 2.00pm **Family History Meeting** followed by *The Treasures of Sydney Harbour*, Speaker: Patrick Dodd

Monday 4, 2.00pm Apple Macintosh SIG

Tuesday 5, 8.30am Tour: NSW Mounted Police

Friday 8, 1.30pm Irish SIG

Monday 11, 8.30am **Tour:** Exploring Ku-ring-gai

Thursday 14, **Tour:** Sydney Town Hall

Saturday 16, 2.00pm **General meeting** followed by *Australian soldiers in London during WWI*, Speaker: Elise Edmonds

August

Monday 1, 2.00pm Apple Macintosh SIG

Saturday 6, 11.00am **Family History**

Workshop: *Your Favourite Family Website.*

Saturday 6, 2.00pm **Family History Meeting**, followed by *Skeletons out of the Closet*, Speaker Graham Lewis.

Monday 8, 1.30pm German SIG

Saturday 20, 2.00pm **General Meeting** followed by *The Votes That Split the Nation*, Speaker David Wilson

September

Saturday 3, 11.00am **Family History**

Workshop: *Deciphering Early Handwriting* with Gail Davis.

Saturday 3, 2.00pm **Family History**

Meeting, followed by *Three First Fleet Families*, Speakers Three members from the Fellowship of First Fleeters, Arthur Phillip Chapter.

Saturday 17, 2.00pm **General Meeting** followed by *Northbridge: Building a New Suburb*, Speaker Pam Clifford

Newsletter Deadline

Please send email copy for publication to editor@khs.org.au as early as possible, but no later than 15th of each month.

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Material should be in electronic form if possible, with as little formatting as possible, e.g. no bullets, coloured type, indenting or styles.

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	Lorraine Henshaw	9988 0522
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	John Wilson	8086 1720
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	David Wilkins	0411 186752

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).