



# 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.

June 2009

Monthly Newsletter

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

## *John Martyn - Sydney's Natural World*

A history talk with a difference was presented on March 18. John Martyn is a geologist with a passion for photography and the environment. At first the terminology was new and a little daunting, but by using his magnificent photos to demonstrate his explanations, it became increasingly clear how geology and its associated vegetation had played a large part in determining the early settlers' lives.

Most of Sydney is on Hawkesbury sandstone, with some shale caps on the higher ridges. This sandstone tends to be infertile, and so forced the early settlers to spread out to find agricultural land. The sandstone cliffs of the Blue Mountains were a barrier to this. This geology has left Sydney more at risk of bushfires as people have settled on the ridges and plateaus, leaving the deep valleys dense with natural vegetation. Other photos showed the beautiful landforms of Balmoral, North Head and Captain Cook's landing site that are associated with this sandstone.

John had many photos with examples of the layered effect of the sandstone and shale. Photos of the Illawarra escarpment showed steep slopes of Hawkesbury sandstone with lava flows. The dense natural vegetation here was a challenge to early settlers to clear, but they did, and then introduced many new species, some of which are an increasing problem today.

More photos showed the differences between the coal and coalfields of the Illawarra and the Hunter. The Illawarra coal was split into layers, with white bands of volcanic ash. Shoalhaven vegetation is rainforest interspersed with tall eucalypts. The early settlers moved trees around as they cleared, leading to hybrid species. Around Kiama the lava flows are full of igneous crystals. John showed some amazing photos of lava flows mixed with sandstone containing fossils.

One photo that sparked quite a bit of interest was of tessellated pavement in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. This is a natural phenomenon of weathering and erosion, causing shrinkage and amazing patterns.

The Razorback range is a low escarpment of a thin sandstone that sits in shale. It is now almost totally covered in invasive species. Mt Annan has been recolonised with African Olive, and there is now a grant to help clear it.

John showed photos of rivers and told how the inside of river bends were fertile alluvial river flats, and ideal for colonisation by early settlers.

Other photos showed hanging swamps in the Royal National Park. Hanging swamps are like kidneys, and filter river systems. They are the source of nearly all our rivers. These can't easily be found in Sydney anymore, as we've built them all out. There are a few in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, Royal National Park and West Head.

*Based on notes by Jackie van Bergen*

## Coming Meetings

(Gordon Library Meeting Room)

**Next Society General Meeting  
Saturday 20 June at 2 pm**

**Sydney's Northern Railways**



Dr LESLEY MUIR returns to talk about a question that vexed every NSW Minister of Public Works during the expansion of the railway network in the late 19th Century: Which route to take? Which voters to disappoint?

Lesley will describe the politics and decision-making surrounding the extension of rail links between Sydney and the Hunter Valley, and the suburban line from Pearce's Corner to the north shore of the Harbour.

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

## Next Family History Meeting

**Sat 6 June** 11 am More Resources  
2 pm Members' "Show and Tell: This  
??? belonged to my ???"

Dig deep into your treasure trove and find something special – these sessions are always interesting!

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

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## ***Volunteers Get-together Lunch***

All our volunteers are invited to come along to celebrate a year of volunteering at **12 pm on 20 June, before the 2 pm General Meeting.**

Please bring a plate - the committee will organise the drinks.

## ***KHS Rooms Changes***

After a very long period, we have managed to achieve an expansion of our Rooms.

This expansion has improved our ability to work on the days when there are a large number of people researching and doing preservation work.

Another bay in the compactus has also been made available for our use, to help with our storage problems.

We would like to thank the Council for assisting with the rationalisation of this area, and particular thanks go to Graham Crawford and Bruce Robinson, who did most of the physical work involved.

## ***Subscriptions due***

The KHS subscriptions for 2009-2010 are due on 1 July 2009.

Following a resolution passed at the 20 May 2009 Society General Meeting, the subscription rates are:-

Single	\$30
Household	\$35
Groups/corporate	\$55
Overseas	\$85

## ***New Display***

Have you seen the wonderful display on the late Nancy Bird-Walton's life? It is in the hall outside our Rooms.

Many thanks to Jocelyn Brennan-Horley and Margaret Hoekstra for the time and work put into researching, collecting, and creating this impressive display.

## ***Books for Sale***

The society has obtained a number of pre-loved copies of "A History of North Shore Sydney from 1788 to Today" by Les G Thorne. The book was last reprinted in 1979, and has been out of print for many years. Copies available to members for \$20 paperback \$25 hardcover each.

## ***QUIZ***

***(Answers on P. 8)***

Q 1. Which is the odd one out?

- (a) The Sawyers Arms
- (b) The Orange Tree
- (c) The Royal Exchange
- (d) The Grey Horse

Q 2. Who was the first architect appointed to design a Government building?

- (a) Daniel Mathew
- (b) Francis Greenway
- (c) Edmund Blackett
- (d) John Verge

## ***Computer resources added, changed or updated***

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

- **Monaro Pioneers** - The histories and family trees of over 970 Eden-Monaro Pioneering Dynasties have been published on this Internet site.
- **Dutch Genealogy** - Find your Dutch forebears from as far back as 1780, both in the Netherlands and overseas from this Internet site.

## ***Internet Explorer Version 8***

Recently Microsoft added *Internet Explorer Version 8* to their High Priority Updates that are installed on your computer if you have "Automatic Updates" (in the Control Panel) set to "Automatic". Trusting that the new version would work as well as, if not better than Version 7, the update was duly installed on all workstations.

Initially *Internet Explorer 8* appeared to be faster and prettier than Version 7. However, a problem when viewing Portable Document Format (PDF) files was then discovered in *Internet Explorer 8*. Whenever any link embedded in a PDF was clicked on, the linked document or file failed to load and display as it did previously in Version 7.

Many of our PDF resources (such as the *NSW Government Gazettes* or the *Picturesque Atlas of Australasia*, for example) have these internal links to other parts of the resource. None of these internal links work in *Internet Explorer 8*.

Therefore there was no choice but to uninstall Version 8, only to discover that Version 7 is reinstalled automatically. Perhaps someone was anticipating a problem? I am now a tiny bit wiser after manually uninstalling version 8 on all eleven of our computers. You may wish to proceed with some caution if you decide to accept Microsoft's kind offer of a free High Priority upgrade to *Internet Explorer 8* on your home computer.

***Peter Stehn***

## ***Volunteers needed***

The Society had a stall at the *Festival on the Green*, and we have taken a table at the **100th Anniversary of the Hornsby & Ku-ring-gai Freemasons**, 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday 27 June.

These days are very good for promoting our Society, and we usually get a few new members. Our problem is that it is usually the Committee members who "man" the stall/table, as well as doing the myriad other things associated with Committee activities.

We need more people prepared to volunteer to assist. Please phone Ann Barry on 9144 6480 if you can help.

## ***Festival on the Green Raffle***

The winner of our "Festival on the Green" raffle was Mrs Gilbert from St Ives.

## Recognising Our Volunteers

The Committee would like to recognise and thank the many volunteers who assisted the Society during the past year as Room Volunteers and researchers, collecting and preserving records, working on Committees, and generally assisting with the many duties required to run a vibrant society. We apologise for any errors or omissions in this listing.

### Accessions

Jennifer Wallin

### Afternoon Tea/Supper

*Thanks to the many people who have assisted over the past year.*

### Audio for Meetings

Peter Bidencope  
Dudley Reynolds

### Auditor

Reg Wallin

### Book Sales

Carol Rodgers

### Catering

Jeanette Rennie

### Committee

Ann Barry - President  
Jo Harris - Vice-president  
Don Fifer - Secretary  
(Sep-Nov)  
Doug Milne - Treasurer  
Kevin Callinan – Immed.  
Past President  
Helen Davies  
Jennifer Harvey  
Jenny Joyce  
Graham Lewis  
Peter Stehn  
Jackie van Bergen -  
Secretary (Nov - Sep)

### Computer System

Peter Stehn

### Databases

Carolyn Darby  
John Harris  
Annet Latham  
Carol Rodgers

### Display Cases

Jocelyn Brennan-Horley  
Margaret Hoekstra

### Family History committee

Jo Harris - Leader  
Lyn Done  
Stella Green  
Jenny Joyce  
Jean Smith (retired)  
Elaine Turnidge  
Trevor Whitehead

### Family History & Training Courses

Jo Harris

### Handyman - Repairs

Peter Bidencope

### Historian Researchers

Jennifer Harvey - Editor  
Carolyn Darby  
Helen Davies  
John King  
Kathie Rieth  
Bob Ross  
Allan Rost  
Tricia Thomson  
Jackie van Bergen

### Indexing

Judi Oliver

### Library Assistant

Susan Ryerson (retired)

### Newsletter

Robert Barry - Editor  
Kerrin Cook – Editor  
(retired)  
Marion Farley  
Max Farley – major  
contributor  
Stella Green  
Elaine Turnidge  
Jackie van Bergen  
*and the many contributors*

### Newsletter printing/ folding

Ann Barry  
Elva Davis  
Elizabeth Hartnell (retired)  
Shirley Luttrell  
Colleen O'Connor  
Suzanne Saunders  
Lucille Taylor

### Oral History

Jenny Joyce - leader  
Don Fifer - leader to Nov  
Carolyn Darby  
Helen Davies  
Lyn Done  
Pat Harper  
Neroli Lock  
Rosemary Pye  
Dinah Warner

### Oral History Transcribing

Lyn Molloy

### Outreach

Kevin Callinan  
Jo Harris

### Photo Program

Jenny Joyce

### Photo Captions

Ann Barry  
Jenny Joyce  
Judi Oliver  
Sue Robinson

### Photos – Special Projects

Graham Crawford  
Kevin Brown

### Preservation

Ann Barry  
Heather Burgess  
Kevin Callinan  
Sue Cooper  
Graham Crawford  
Carolyn Darby  
Lyn Done  
Jennifer Harvey  
Liz Hassall  
Estelle Howell  
Jenny Joyce  
Bruce Robinson  
Lorraine Swalwell  
Jean Taylor  
Elaine Turnidge  
Dinah Warner

### Public Officer

Helen Davies

### Publicity

Sue Dunston

### Research Team

Kevin Callinan  
Lyn Done  
Max Farley  
Jennifer Harvey  
Jo Harris  
Trevor Whitehead

### Room Volunteers

Ann Barry  
Kevin Brown  
Barbara Burgess (retired)  
Kevin Callinan  
Margaret Carrigg  
Helen Cassidy  
Barbara Coleman (retired)  
Kerrin Cook  
Heather Davidson

Helen Davies  
Wendy Ermert  
Judith Fuller  
Jo Harris  
Elizabeth Hartnell (retired)  
Jennifer Harvey  
Estelle Howell  
Jenny Joyce  
Alan King  
Barbara King  
Lynne Laurie  
Shirley Luttrell  
Lois McEvoy  
Glynne McGregor  
Kay Mossie  
Colleen O'Connor  
Annette Perkins (retired)  
Keith Perry  
Marjorie Perry  
Jeanette Rennie  
Beverley Robinson  
Virginia Robison  
Diana Rose  
Marie Rumsey  
Joyce Ryerson  
Betty Sanders (retired)  
Peter Stehn  
Stella Sutherland  
Elaine Turnidge  
Jackie van Bergen  
Joy Walker  
Jennifer Wallin  
Julie Werner (retired)  
David Wilkins  
Evelyn Wyatt

### Scanning

Graham Crawford  
Carolyn Darby  
Ken Knox  
Neroli Lock

### Speaker Program

Beverley Dunstan  
(General Meetings)  
Jo Harris  
(Family History)

### Tours

Jo Harris

### Volunteers Roster

Ann Barry - Roster  
Heather Davidson - Contact

### Website

Ann Barry

## “Old Pymble Town”



*Gaukrodger Butchery, from Halstead The Story of St Ives*

In the early days it was natural that Pymble's village centre should be at the top of the hill – it was close to the influential residents around Telegraph Road and a level walk or sulky ride not only for them but also for those from Turramurra and St Ives. What is more it had a tremendous view.

These were no doubt the reasons a Catholic Church was built there in 1863. It was on the western side of the Highway and is now the site of Ku-ring-gai Town Hall. The church doubled as a school and was rebuilt in stone in 1883.

The 1863 church was soon followed by Richard Porter's *Gardeners Arms Hotel* which he built immediately below the Church in 1866. In about 1883 Richard's son, Michael, added an imposing home, *Grandview*, on the lower side of the hotel. *Grandview* was later to house The Australian Joint Stock Bank from 1888 until 1894.

The existence of a church, a hotel, a school and a bank were an attraction, and businesses came to be established in their vicinity. These were mainly on the eastern side of the Highway, on the short stretch from the southern corner of Telegraph Road to the northern corner of Bannockburn Road.

One very early business was Martin Blake, a blacksmith, who had his business opposite the Hotel. It is said it was a prime business location because it drew custom from the hotel's patrons, who were happy to spend their time at the hotel while their horses were shod.

A prominent local family, the Adams of Bannockburn Road, had a store on the south-eastern corner of that road and the Highway. On the north-eastern corner Jim and George Gaukrodger lived with their wives, with the family's butcher shop next door.

The coming of the railway in 1890 was to reshape Ku-ring-gai in many ways. Before 1890 there were very few structures at the bottom of Pymble Hill. Robert and James Pymble had homes there, the McIntosh family had Dalcross, and Frederick Hamilton was on the corner of Livingstone Avenue. There was not much more. This was destined to change.

The railway station had to be built at the foot of the hill

for the simple reason that trains would not have been able to cope with the steep gradient to the top. The railway line therefore skirted the western side of the hill. It no longer made commercial sense to have Pymble's "town centre" remain where it had been developing.

The "move down" was not immediate. Existing businesses continued to trade at the top of the hill, and new ones came for a while. This was no doubt caused by inertia coupled with a lack of conviction that a new centre would eventually form at the foot. Another factor was the 1890s economic Depression, which slowed development generally.

Businesses which established at the top of Pymble Hill, even after 1890, included Jim Adams, a hairdresser and tobacconist (who appears to have taken over the site of the family Store), Zaccheus Duckworth, a bootmaker from St Ives, and then McKunes Store on the corner of Telegraph Road. Another addition was the Pymble Community Hall, built by the Pymble family in c1898 at 11 Telegraph Road. The Pymble Reservoir, though not a business venture, was built in 1900.

Perhaps the most important newcomer was a Swedish immigrant, Carl Peterson, who opened a store in 1906 between Reservoir Street and Bannockburn Road. It seems he took over from the McKunes, who moved to Turramurra at that time. Peterson must have been confident the "top" would remain, because he was boldly entering competition with Frederick Hamilton and his sons, who had opened a store in 1893 on the Highway at the bottom of the hill opposite the new railway station. This became Hamilton Bros Limited and traded under that name until 1910.

By 1914, Carl Peterson had clearly recognised that the commercial centre of Pymble had moved down the hill. The Hamilton store had been destroyed by fire, and Peterson bought the land and built his new *C Peterson and Son Ltd* where Hamiltons had been.

What is left of the "old" Pymble village? Virtually nothing. The Catholic Church, having been rebuilt in a Spanish style in 1934, is now the Ku-ring-gai Town Hall, and the Gardeners Arms Hotel (rebuilt and renamed the Pymble Hotel), subsequently moved down nearer the station. Martin Blake moved downhill too. The Pymble Community Hall, having been put to various educational, community, religious and social uses over the years, has been replaced by a residence. Zaccheus Duckworth returned to St Ives in 1907, and the Gaukrodger's shop, having been taken over by WH Pollard from 1904, eventually disappeared altogether as a butchery in 1916.

Of the "old" Pymble village, only *Grandview* remains. It does so only because of the protective action taken over the years by Council and by organisations such as the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society.

## Seeing History

"History is strange: most days people step on it, drive by it – and most often ignore it. Yet history is there for all to see".

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## Medicine in the Twenties

This was the heading our HISTORIAN gave 25 years ago to an article it reproduced by courtesy of the Hurstville Historical Society. Back then many of our members would have remembered those days well. Now, for most, the words will either rekindle childhood memories, or merely demonstrate how much daily life has changed. For the better or worse? Perhaps something of both.

The following is a condensed version of the article.

*Professional nurses (who advertised in the local paper) were on call at any hour, as were the doctors. When those years of the 1920s are discussed by those who remember them, the family doctor is invariably remembered. These practitioners were no strangers to long and broken hours, and were regarded with a combination of respect, trust, and in many cases affection. They thought nothing of dropping in at odd hours to check the progress of a patient, and often acted as counsellors on domestic and other matters. Fees were a matter of discretion in most cases, the circumstances of the family almost always considered.*

*Patent medicines were much in evidence - Goanna oil and salve - Doans Pills for backache and many other complaints - Kruschen Salts, with the label featuring an elderly man leaping gaily over an unlikely hurdle, were just a few.*

*The chemists' shops of those days were uncluttered with fancy goods; besides the cases displaying patent medicines, glass fronted shelves held rows of mysteriously labelled bottles holding the materials for prescriptions, while the window display consisted of one or two large pear shaped bottles filled with coloured liquid, and arranged around these, were pestles and mortars of various sizes.*

*For what was thought a minor ailment, many people resorted to home remedies, with varying degrees of success. Cuts and abrasions were swabbed with kerosene, drops of this fluid were also mixed with sugar for sore throats; butter and sugar, when mixed, gave temporary relief to the persistent exhausting whooping cough. Sulphur and molasses as a tonic and the old standby, castor oil, would be remembered by many. The castor oil of those days had a vile taste.*

*Diphtheria was prevalent and throats were painted with a feather dipped in iodine or Friar's Balsam. Blood poisoning caused many deaths; a cut from an oyster shell or a foot punctured by a nail spelt real danger.*

*These home remedies were legion, some of value, others drastic. Most of them would have been a legacy from the days of early settlement.*

Continuing the same theme, our HISTORIAN at the time noted a home remedy quoted (but not necessarily endorsed) by the Royal Australian Historical Society, claiming that garlic mixed with honey is a relief remedy for asthma and bronchial sufferers. Also, that a clove of garlic tied to a corn overnight can be repeated each night until the corn pops out.

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## Yesteryear's Kuringians

The Society has welcomed many new members over the last several years, and it occurs to us that many would not be aware of the people who played an important part in the early development of Ku-ring-gai. With that in mind, we intend including a few words about some of the most influential in occasional Newsletters. The information will be drawn for the most part from the Society's *Focus on Ku-ring-gai* publication. This time we will speak of:-

### **Daniel Dering Mathew (1788-1856)**

Daniel Dering Mathew was the son of Daniel Byam Mathew of Essex and his wife Elizabeth Dering, who came from a highly regarded Kentish family. He had a sister, Elizabeth. The Mathew and Dering families were both "well born", and there is no satisfactory explanation as to why Daniel chose to come to Australia in company with his wife, Mary Booker, and several members of her family. The Booker family was seemingly not of the same social or financial status as the Mathews and Derings.

An educated man, Mathew arrived in Sydney in 1812, aged 24. He was an architect and engineer, and became a merchant, magistrate, farmer and timber-getter. In 1814 he began working 400 acres straddling the east sides of Roseville and Lindfield, naming the area *Clanville*, though his diverse interests caused him to live in Castlereagh Street. He disposed of the property to Richard Archbold in c1830, having already taken up 800 acres in Pymble and St Ives. He called this area *Rosedale*, giving its name to Rosedale Road. The road through his property was Stoney Creek Road, now Mona Vale Road. He set up a bullock-driven sawmill, Cowan Sawmill, near the present entrance to Pymble Golf Club. There was a dispute between Mathew and John Ayres about the ownership of this particular area. By the 1850s he and other early settlers were subdividing and selling their land as farms and orchards. He died in 1856 aged 68, and is buried in Gore Hill Cemetery.

*More about Daniel Mathew can be found by looking at the HISTORIAN Index and the Catalogue of the Society's Collection. Both are on [www.khs.org.au](http://www.khs.org.au)*

### **Before "PC"**

Today's political correctness did not always hold sway when describing occupations. In earlier days Charles Rhodes of Bangalla Street, Turramurra was presumably quite happy in 1897 to be termed *Inspector of Sewers*. He was later rebadged and became the *Sanitary Inspector*. John Wright of Essex Street, Killara, answered to the title of *Inspector of Nuisances* in 1903. The former is more or less self explanatory. We understand, though can't vouch for it, that the latter had wide-ranging duties, including being responsible for such diverse activities as rat-catching and stopping deliveries of timber, bricks, sand, manure and the like being dumped on footpaths outside homes.

Meaning no disrespect for the worthy work of Messrs Rhodes and Wright, we somehow feel in these more sensitive days that we would prefer to have been able to describe our great grandfather as having been a *whipmaker* or *bicycle repairer* as, respectively, did HA Tipper of "Gordon Road", Gordon in 1910, and GP Rogers of Provincial Road, Lindfield in 1917. Both genteel occupations.

# FAMILY MATTERS

## **Family History Meeting 2 May 2009**

**11.00 am Session** – Twenty-two members, including several new members, were at the morning session. Members were invited to inspect the newly-gained area behind the cupboard, which had been rearranged during the week. How good it looked.

### **Jo Harris**

- gave an overview of the many records available on our Intranet, with an emphasis on cemetery records, including some from our recent coach trip to Cowra, Young and Pejar.
- She also brought her copies of pioneer registers from Maitland, Cessnock, Williams River and Raymond Terrace.
- Members were advised that BDMs had been transcribed in India, and that transcription certificates were the backbone of family history.
- Early Church Records (ECRs) can be found in the Library, although sometimes not much information is found.
- New items are always listed and highlighted on the opening page of our intranet.
- Convicts from Middlesex were tried at The Old Bailey 1674-1913 and Trial details can now be accessed.
- The Society has ordered a CD copy of the SAG publication "Descents". This will be searchable.
- The database the Society is compiling on enrolments at Gordon Public School (1918-1930) includes some class photos.
- John Harris is working steadily on cemetery database. Thank you John.

**2.00 pm Meeting** – The walls stretched when 64 attended this session chaired by Jo, including 9 new members and 3 visitors.

Gail Davis, our Guest Speaker, is Senior Archivist in Research and Publications at State Records, Kingswood. Gail gave a very comprehensive overview of planning for a visit to Kingswood, and recommended BE PREPARED and advised

- four items can be pre-ordered before 3 pm the day before your visit – must have exact references – if you have a question send an email or phone (9673 1788) – check the website [www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives)
- visit Globe Street for items available there on microfilm
- make the most of a visit to Kingswood by seeking records only available there
- check indexes from time to time as new items may have been added.
- so far as public transport is concerned, catch a Westbus 790 from Stand No 10 at St Marys Railway Station if travelling by train
- keep your own notes and state if information found was satisfactory or not so you do not ask for same item again
- Sample of items at Kingswood included Probate Packets from 1800-1965, Files on Deceased Estates, Inquests, Insolvency, Bankruptcy, Railway History Cards, State School

Records, Surveyor records and jail photos 1870-1930

- sometimes extra time is needed to access information and it is best to bring change for certain costs i.e., photocopying, \$2.00 for locker key (returnable)
- use gloves provided when handling original documents
- only pencils to be used
- digital cameras allowed.

Max Farley thanked Gail for her informative overview and presented her with a gift.

The raffle of pre-loved books was won by Joan Wellens, a new member.

*Based on notes by Elaine Turnidge*

## **Founders and Survivors Project**

This is a national project funded by the Australian Research Council. It is a partnership between historians, genealogists, demographers and population health researchers. The aim is to record and study the founding population of 73,000 men, women and children who were transported to Tasmania.

Australia's convict records have been placed on the UNESCO Memory of the World.

The records kept about them in the convict system were very detailed, but very little is known about these people after they were freed.

The project seeks to follow descendants of these convicts, looking at life span, health, families, occupations and where they settled. Then it will connect them with those who served in WWI and compare the service records of the male descendants of male convicts to investigate changes in height, childhood diet and health, and resilience under stress.

This project only covers Tasmanian convicts because the Tasmanian records are better and more detailed than those of NSW. Also, medical records and recording of births, deaths and marriages was better in Tasmania. There could be future projects involving the convicts of NSW and WA.

The researchers are looking for family historians to contribute 'their convicts', and also looking for volunteer researchers to follow public records to find the deaths of convicts who did not establish families or whose families died out.

You can read more about the project at the website [www.foundersandsurvivors.org](http://www.foundersandsurvivors.org)

To submit information you click on 'Submissions' at the top or on the right hand side of the website. You will need to register, and your information will be checked at each stage. This is a huge project, and will probably take many years, but worth participating in.

*Jackie van Bergen*

## **Recent Acquisitions**

- 'This Mad Folly' *The History of Australia's Pioneer Women Doctors* by M Hutton Neve 1980 (174 pages). Prior to 1900 there were 37 women doctors practising in Australia. Contains biographical notes to cover registrations to

approximately 1910.

- *'Colonial Ladies'* compiled and edited by Maggie Weidenhofer 1985 (120 pages). Chapters include "Life in the Bush", "Courtship and Marriage", "Childbirth and Bringing Up Children", "Sickness and Death" and provide an impression of life in the pioneering days. Who was it that wanted her body to be taken to England for burial... the only way was to put her in a cask of pickle!
- *'Frognore And Hovell's Creek Burials Including Small Cemeteries And Isolated Burials'* published by Cowra Family History Group Inc 1995. Contains a map of the area and general location of the cemeteries and isolated graves.
- *'Humanity in Motion'* February 2009. A magazine that covers 66 Rotary clubs from North Sydney to the Central Coast and tells something about Rotary and what Rotarians do. (128 pages)
- *'Pictorial History - Hornsby Shire'* by Mari Metzke 2004 (139 pages). See what Pearce's Corner looked like in 1934 - refer page 88.
- *'Pymble Avenue Pymble'* Ku-ring-gai Local History Series published by Ku-ring-gai Municipal Library 2nd Edition (with updates March 2009). (97 pages)

**Bruce Robinson**

## ***Photo identification - help needed***

This house is probably in Pymble. But where?



We have a number of photos in the Society's Photo Collection that have not yet been identified.

These include people, houses, and location photos. Above is an example - where is it?

If you can identify this house, please contact Ann Barry on 9144 6480, or email [a.barry@optusnet.com.au](mailto:a.barry@optusnet.com.au)

## ***BUILT HERITAGE***

### ***Take a stroll around... Lindfield***

The Lindfield streets of Eton, Grosvenor, Westbourne, Bayswater, and Ortona, all lie within the 50 acre grant made in 1821 to James Jenkins.



***9 Grosvenor Rd, Lindfield***

By 1904 it was owned by William James Gracey, who subdivided the land into residential blocks; most were bought in March 1908 by Erskineville builder Joseph Alfred Smith, a speculative builder with developments in Abbotsford and Artarmon. It is believed he was the builder of many early houses in the Gracey Estate. It has not been possible to identify Smith's architect with any certainty - it could have been R Albert Shaw, who in 1912 purchased land at No 6 Ortona Road where he built his home *Canberra*. In 1913 Shaw was associated with the construction of Smith's £45,000 four-storey, speculative *Ortona Building* in Wentworth Avenue, City. One of Shaw's last architectural commissions before leaving the profession, to become musical director of 2UE in 1931, was St James Flats, No 6 Stanley Street, E. Sydney, said to be Sydney's oldest high-rise apartment building.

The Gracey Estate developed quickly. Grosvenor Rd is listed in *Sands'* of 1909, its only occupant JA Smith in *Ethelstan*. By 1911 there were seven houses in Grosvenor Rd - Smith had sold to Mills, Tuttlebee and Shipway in 1909, and to McDonald and Busby in 1910. Smith retained ownership of *Ethelstan*, but moved to *Cranbook* on the highway (later Marshall Mount School). Bayswater Rd is listed in 1910, its only occupant LV Webb, tailor - Smith had sold to Webb in September 1908. By 1913 there were 12 houses in Bayswater Rd. Ortona Rd is listed in 1911 with one occupant, HJ Hardie - Smith had sold to Hardie in June 1910. By 1912, there were four houses in Ortona Rd. Westbourne Rd is listed in 1913, with four houses. Eton Rd is listed in 1921 with six houses.

Ten of the houses in this area are noted on the NSW Heritage Office website for their architectural group value and municipal significance. These include Nos 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 11 and 15 Grosvenor, No 17 Bayswater, and Nos 2 and 5 Ortona. This last was the first Lindfield home of CEW Bean, the author of the official histories of World War I - his second home was No 17 Eton Rd, designed in 1936 by Edwin Evan Smith, former Government Architect of NSW. Two houses on the north side of Eton Rd are particularly interesting: No 9, designed in 1941 by Thomas J Darling, and the international style No 11, designed by Dr Henry Epstein in 1959. Throughout the estate there is infill development where larger blocks have been subdivided, so we can see easily the changing fashions in home building within a relatively small neighbourhood. The area is hilly but well worth a stroll on a sunny Sunday afternoon.

***Kathie Rieth***

## Copy for Newsletter

General copy for publication should be lodged with the Editor, Bob Barry (at 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:

Julie Sanders	Roseville
Anthony & Patricia Prince	Berowra
Christine Macdonald	Hornsby Heights
Elizabeth Hamilton	Glenorie

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

## 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.

## Answers to Quiz (see P. 2)

1. (c). The other three were the names of hotels for which publicans licences were issued in the 1800s in the old "Lane Cove" district in which Ku-ring-gai is now located. The publicans' names were (a) John Johnson (b) William Pymble and (d) Owen McMahon.  
2. (a). Daniel Mathew was appointed by Governor Macquarie to design a combined town hall and law courts. He also designed offices and living quarters for the Colonial Secretary. Macquarie was not impressed with the result and subsequently appointed Greenway. Daniel Mathew is well known in Ku-ring-gai. His original Clamville grant became part of Roseville and his later Rosedale grant embraced parts of Pymble and St Ives.

## 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 6 June** 11 am New Resources  
2 pm Members' "Show and Tell - This ??? belonged to my ???"
- Sat 20 Jun** 12 noon Volunteer get-together.  
2 pm General Meeting - Dr Lesley Muir - "Northern Sydney's Railways".
- Sat 4 Jul** 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."

## Administration

President	Ann Barry	9144 6480
Vice Presidents	Jo Harris	9489 4393
	Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
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Committee members	Helen Davies	9498 3754
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### Appointees

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	Jenny Joyce	9440 2131
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	with Kathie Rieth, John King, Bob Ross	
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Speakers Programme	Beverley Dunstan	9419 8526
Volunteers Roster	Heather Davidson	9144 1844

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