



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.

March 2010

Monthly Newsletter

Vol. 28 No. 2

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

Macquarie's Kingdom

At our January 2010 General Meeting, writer and traveller Almis Simankevicius took us on a tour of NSW growth and development under the leadership of its 5th governor, Lachlan Macquarie, who took up office 200 years ago.

In the persona of Captain Henry Antill, of the 73rd Regiment of Foot, and Macquarie's first aide-de-camp in the colony, Almis began his story when Macquarie's ships, the *Hindustan* and the *Dromedary*, rounded the Heads but were forced to drop anchor at Watson's Bay, there to await favourable weather conditions. Having been visited by Colonel Joseph Foveaux and Lieutenant John Piper, who assured him 'that the authority of the Crown was not under threat', Macquarie landed at Sydney Cove on 1 January, 1810.

'Antill' enlisted the help of three volunteers, Melody, Jenny and Lyn, who read out the report of Macquarie's arrival from a facsimile copy of the Sydney Gazette of the day.

'Macquarie's Kingdom' is well-researched and covers what was accomplished during his 12 years of leadership. It is full of interesting, but not generally known, details of that period.

By means of an audio-visual presentation, 'Antill' guided us through the many places linked with Macquarie's governorship, including:-

- Macquarie Place, the Rum Hospital, Hyde Park Barracks, Cadman's Cottage, Fort Macquarie and St James' Church in Sydney,
- Old Government House, Experiment Farm, and St John's Cathedral in Parramatta,
- Across the Blue Mountains on Cox's 160 kilometre road to Bathurst on the Macquarie River,
- St Matthew's Church and rectory at Windsor, Rose Cottage at Wilberforce and St John's Church at Ebenezer,
- Macquarie Pier joining Nobby's to the mainland at Coal River (now Newcastle) where a church, a hospital and a gaol had been completed in time for his arrival.

The presentation ended with mention of the memorial to the 73rd Regiment of Foot at Watson's Bay. An indication of the esteem in which Governor Lachlan Macquarie was held in the NSW of 1810 to 1822 is the fact that the bells of Sydney tolled for four days after he died in 1824, out of sympathy and respect.

Almis Simankevicius is the author of "Macquarie's Kingdom" - well worth reading for insights into some aspects of Historic Sydney.

Based on notes by Jean Smith

Coming Meetings

(Gordon Library Meeting Room)

Next Society General Meeting

Saturday 20 March at 2 pm

Note: This will be in the downstairs meeting room (past the KHS rooms)

"HEROISM, DUTY OR JUST BAD LUCK"



Neil CHIPPENDALE of Hornsby Library will be speaking about the *War Memorials in NSW* project and telling the story behind some of the names engraved on memorials in the Hornsby Shire

Afternoon Tea will be available.

Visitors welcome.

Next Family History Meeting

Saturday 6 March

11 am Members' Research

2 pm *I'm stuck! I need help!*

Bring along your problems

Afternoon Tea will be available.

Visitors welcome.

Ancestry funding

We would like to thank *Ku-ring-gai Lions* for their donation of \$1500, which was made possible by the participation of the following members at a fund-raising barbeque:

Kevin Callinan
Graham Crawford
Paul van Bergen
Melody van Bergen
Peter Stehn

This donation enabled the Society to purchase our initial Ancestry subscription. Without this, we would not have the opportunity to fully explore this database in 2010.

Ku-ring-gai Citizen of the Year

We congratulate Suzanne Saunders on this award. It is a well-deserved recognition of her long-standing contributions to *Ku-ring-gai* and its community well-being.

Suzanne is an Historical Society Member and Volunteer, regularly helping to fold this Newsletter for postage. Her profile is included in this issue on P. 3, and gives some indication of the “spread” of her volunteering.

Society Workshops

The first three workshops listed are free, thanks to a grant from *Ku-ring-gai Council*:-

- **Thursday 18 March** 10 - 11 am: *familysearch.org - how to use it and some of the recent changes and additions* - **Stella Sutherland**.

- **Friday 26 March** 1.30 - 2.30 pm: *How to use the GSV's name index and SAG's primary record index*. **Graham Lewis** will demonstrate the range of genealogical gems available to local historians and family historians in the unique databases that have been established at the Genealogical Society of Victoria and the Society of Australian Genealogists from their members' transcription projects, researches and other sources.

- **Thursday 8 April** 10.15 to 11.15 am: *NLA Searches to Fill out the Stories* - How to use the NLA digitised newspapers and the NLA's amazing new search engine *Trove* to learn more about how your ancestors lived and what they got up to, including photos - **Jackie van Bergen**

- **“ANCESTRY” Cost: \$5**

Time: 10.15 to 11.15 am (note new time)

Peter Stehn is running a number of these, so pick a date to suit:

Monday 1 March
Tuesday 9 March
Monday 15 March
Friday 26 March

Please note that all these workshops are strictly limited to one person per computer so everyone gets a chance for hands on experience.

Bookings are essential by emailing khsinc@tpg.com.au, phoning the rooms or dropping in to fill out the sheet with your name and contact number.

If you have expertise in a certain area of history, genealogy, or use of *Ancestry*, we would love to hear from you to help us run more workshops.

Danger To Our Computer Network

Members are reminded of the dangers from malicious software infections that can migrate automatically from an infected computer to other computers, or from an infected memory stick to a computer.

To safeguard our valuable network, no personal computers are to be connected to our computer network in the rooms, and memory sticks are not to be used on any computer without the personal supervision of the System Administrator (Peter Stehn) or one of the Committee members.

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Peter Stehn

“Historian” Index

The 2008 index to the *Historian* is now available on our website. The indexing of our journal involves an extreme investment of time and effort, and we have been fortunate to have Judi Oliver carrying out this work since about 2002.

Many thanks Judi!

The Shed

Did you know that there is now a “SHED” in *Ku-ring-gai*. This is due to a lot of hard work over a long period of time by a number of people, but particularly Kevin Callinan, our Immediate Past President.

The “Shed” has been operating for most of the past year. We mention it here because they have made a number of items for the Society. The latest of these is a beautifully-crafted stand for our new colour printer. Thank you to all those involved.

Society Tour

Thursday 20 May to the Quarantine Station at North Head.

The bus will leave Bannockburn Oval at 9 am SHARP for a 10.30 am tour of the Quarantine Station. The guided tour will take 2 hours, after which we will return by bus to Bannockburn Oval, arriving approximately 1.30 pm.

Food and drinks will not be available.

You **MUST** wear solid comfortable walking shoes with closed in toe, as there is a reasonable amount of walking including uphill and stairs.

Cost will be \$45 each (plus extra \$10 for non-concession or non-seniors cards), and is payable at the time of booking. This cost is refundable only if you find a replacement person. The tour is limited to 24 people.

Booking is by completing the form in the rooms (in the Workshops Folder) and placing your money in the Secretary's folder.

Enquiries to Lyn Done (until 6 March) or Jackie van Bergen.

Room Volunteers

Are you able to assist the Society by becoming a room volunteer? Or if you already volunteer, are you able to do a second day each month?

We especially need volunteers for the “fifth days” of each month.

If you can help please phone Ann Barry, 9144 6480.

Automated Document Scanner

The Society has purchased (thanks to a Federal Gov. grant) an automated document scanner. It can scan a pile of paper documents, and then “read” the writing and convert it to a computer file, such as a Word document.

The Word documents then need to be checked and corrected if the scanner has mis-read any words.

We are looking for volunteers to learn how to operate the machine, and to use it to process some of our many paper-based records (such as our vertical files – it cannot scan anything bound as a book).

If you would be interested in volunteering, please contact Jenny Joyce 9440 2131, or Jackie van Bergen 9403 3044.

Coming events of interest

• Pymble Day – National Trust Members only

Open house viewings of 3 Pymble houses: ‘Alister Brae’ 24 King Edward St, c1904; 2 Taunton St, c1920; and ‘Bridford Manor’ 10 Church St, c1901. **Tuesday 9 Mar, 10.30 am-12.30 pm or 1-3 pm.** Cost: Members \$28. Bookings essential: 9363 2401.

• Family History Software Demo Day

SAG is running presentations aimed at beginners, demonstrating 5 different programs on the big screen. **Saturday 6 Mar, 10 am – 4 pm.** \$50 members, \$60 non-members. Bookings essential: 9247 3953.

Ancestry - ongoing costs

This very expensive program is up and running. While this year’s cost has been substantially covered by donations, there is still a shortfall. So if we are to continue our subscription, we need to raise funds to cover the balance for this year and have money available for next year.

Under the agreement with Ancestry, we cannot charge for using the program. We could charge a general fee to all using the computers, which is the usual way other Historical Societies and Family History groups raise funds, but the Committee does not favour this method.

It has been decided instead to run Workshops on Ancestry at a nominal fee, charge a modest printing fee, and accept donations.

Note: we cannot allow the use of memory sticks on our system, or the taking of “screen shots” by cameras, due to security and other issues.

Seniors Week – help wanted

Thursday 11 March 9.00 am to 3.00 pm is Seniors Week Information Day at St Ives Village Shopping Centre, outside Woolworths.

We need a number of people to assist on the Society’s table, handing out leaflets etc. Usually there’s time for chatting and seeing what other groups are doing.

A two hour shift would be most helpful. Contact Ann Barry on a.barry@optusnet.com.au or 9144 6480.

Member Profile - Suzanne Saunders

Suzanne was “Made in Australia”, but born in England when her father was headhunted by Pedigree Petfoods in Melton Mowbray.

Her father had worked in Forbes in the abattoir, supplying meat to the armed forces during the Second World War. Her mother flew out of Southampton on a Flying Sunderland and landed on Rose Bay, and they were married here.

Her sister Vivienne was born in Forbes, and Jacquie in Melbourne.

They loved it so much here that every house in England was called Ku-ring-gai!

Suzanne grew up with gum tree pictures on the walls, sheepskin rugs on the floor, Aboriginal dot paintings on the dinner placemats, and ANZAC biscuits. With an Australian passport, she knew she would return.

Suzanne arrived in 1986 with 2 suitcases, 500 pounds, a tennis racket, but not knowing a soul. She started work at the Intercontinental Hotel on Macquarie Street.

Injured one Saturday, she was carried off the tennis court by her future husband. In 1991 baby Stewart arrived, and later in 1994, Michelle. She knew she could not sit at home, so Suzanne joined Easy Care Gardening as a volunteer gardener, and Hillview Community Centre as a volunteer driver, as she could take Stewart with her.

For a while she ran the “Walks and Talks” programme at the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower gardens, as a member of the Australian Plant Society.

She has been active at both the schools her children attended, Knox and PLC, making food and jams for stalls and taking roles in the Parent groups. She is still the Family Care and Support Coordinator for PLC.

Suzanne is a Justice of the Peace at Ku-ring-gai Neighbour Aid when needed, and the garden leader at “Tulkiyan”, our State listed heritage house in Gordon.

She sews quilts for *Wrap with Love*, hosts Pink Ribbon morning teas, holds trading tables of jams and marmalades, quilts, craft and propagated plants for the Hamlin Fistula Trust, Parkinson’s, and the Narara special needs school in Woy Woy.

Suzanne has been on her Church committee for over 13 years, and is part of the committee of *Ignite the Flame* Festival, which is held on the St Ives Village Green every Anzac Day.

When Michelle went to school Suzanne studied horticulture at Ryde TAFE, and she now has her own one-person gardening business, still working for the frail aged of Ku-ring-gai.

Her passions are her children, food, plants, and people.



“Mr Smith” and John Woolcott Forbes

In our last issue we were seeking more information about “Mr Smith”, who in the 1930s regularly “opened” his beautiful *Pittmedden* garden in Edward St, Gordon, in aid of charity. In 1937 it was incorporated into *Burnham Thorpe*, the mansion built by a financier, John Woolcott Forbes, and now the Anglicans’ Lady Gowrie Nursing Home.

We found that “Mr Smith” was Charles Harold Smith, a stockbroker born in Ballarat in 1880. He died in Warrawee in 1970. Also that three sons (known as Peter, Eric and David) were in the family business for a time. Although his wife, Ethel, played an important role in the charity “openings”, we felt that he was the instigator. We also concluded that he was the driving force in developing the garden, because after Ethel died in 1936, he built another home, *Whit-Hame*, at 12 Bangalla St, Warrawee and established an impressive garden.

What really took us by surprise, however, was that many Society members did not know anything of John Woolcott Forbes, who built the magnificent *Burnham Thorpe*. The spotlight has now turned on him because John Pearman, a Gordon resident, recently produced a book on him and *Burnham Thorpe*. The following notes draw heavily on John’s work.

Seventy years ago the exploits of John Woolcott Forbes gave rise to many millions of words in newspapers from the 1930s to the 1950s and beyond. We cannot here tell the full and true story of Woolcott Forbes, even if it were known. Nevertheless a few “facts” about him will give some indication of the charisma, intrigue and mystery that pervaded everything about this colourful man. *We stress that we make absolutely no claims concerning the accuracy of many of these “facts”.* He attracted rumour, misinformation, informed and uninformed gossip to such an extent that the truth invariably became obscured. What is undoubted, however, is his thoroughly amoral attitude regarding financial probity.

* He was born in South Australia in 1903 and registered as *Benvenuto Louis Brandi*. His father was, perhaps, a French-Italian, and his mother may have been the daughter of a Chinese prospector.

* His mother married Edmund Burt in West Australia. Edmund is said to have had a sister, Adele.

* Adele had married a surveyor – perhaps Lionel Forbes – in Perth. Forbes had died.

* When the young Brandi wanted 10000 pounds to start in business, he borrowed it from his Aunt Adele. Aunt Adele made it a condition that he would have to change his name to that of her late husband.

* As *John Woolcott Forbes* he married Eunice Smith in Sydney in 1933. The marriage records show him with many combinations of John, Woolcott and Forbes. Eunice had multiple combinations of Eunice, Brackett and Smith.

* Forbes was a gambler who dealt in large sums, losing and winning as much as 220,000 pounds over a weekend. He travelled by Rolls Royce.

* On one occasion he invited 200 guests (knights, lawyers,

editors, politicians, doctors and similar high profile persons) to a lavish dinner at the Hotel Australia.

* In 1936 he bought the land in Gordon and in 1938 *Burnham Thorpe* was a reality and his home.

* As a financier who bought and sold shares, he conspired to defraud shareholders and individuals in a multitude of questionable ways, including the forging of share

certificates in the Produce and General Finance Corporation.

* Faced with charges laid in January 1939, he promptly boarded the *Strathnaver* for London, perhaps on business or perhaps to visit his sick wife. Arrested in Bombay, the arm of the law followed him to Paris, Canada, Mexico and New York, before he was sentenced in 1944 to five years gaol in Long Bay.

* He emerged from gaol in 1947 and, undaunted, returned to the business world but much less ostentatiously. His past notoriety apparently did not leave his personality with lasting wounds.

* His first wife, Eunice, died in 1959, and in the following year he married Lesley Huxtable, 32 years his junior.

* He paid a nostalgic visit to *Burnham Thorpe* in 1977, accompanied by his second wife. A photograph taken during the visit showed him as clearly happy, impeccably dressed, obviously prosperous, and, above all, immensely proud of the wonderful building he had created in Gordon.

* He was living at Rose Bay when he died in 1985.

Woolcott Forbes carried out his crimes in style, and free of violence. The life of this short-term Gordon resident is, however, associated with so many myths, mysteries and misconceptions that we fully expect the above few words will almost certainly give rise to other accounts of what *really* happened. Some may be right, but proving them so may be elusive.

Why Not Here?

We recently though belatedly came across a 2006 book review by Ian Jack, President of the Royal Australian Historical Society. The reference was in the Journal of the Australian Garden History Society and the book was *The Forgotten Gardens: The Story of the Last Market Gardens in Willoughby and Northbridge* written by Ian Rannard. The author speaks specifically of ten such Willoughby gardens which survived the Second World War. Ku-ring-gai, too, had many market gardens in its early days. Researching and writing about at least some of those in Ku-ring-gai would not be impossible and would be a worthwhile addition to our store of local knowledge.



Woolcott Forbes Photo: Mitchell Library

Aboriginal House Names

In the course of researching the properties in the Pymble Park precinct, a work still in progress, I was surprised by the frequency with which Aboriginal house names appeared. Of the 23 properties surveyed, eight had Aboriginal names at some time before street numbers began replacing them from 1930: *Borela*, *Bundarra*, *Girrahween*, *Koonindah*, *Uralba*, *Warrawong*, *Woodarra* and *Yallambee*. There was also *Corella* named by Dr D’Ombrain, an ornithologist when he was not practising ophthalmology, and Miss Rosalind Gaden’s *Wallaby Hall*. Further investigation revealed this to be typical of the whole suburb, with almost one quarter of named Pymble residences in 1929 having Aboriginal names.

This seems to indicate a growing awareness of a pre-European culture, or perhaps the absence of suitable names in the heritage of families. Increasing enquiries from the public had led W.W. Thorp of the Australian Museum to publish in 1921 a list of 300 names suitable for house names. In response to continuing demand, in 1926 the Public Library of NSW published a list of 100 names ‘culled from the vocabularies in the Mitchell Library’. By 1963 the Australian Museum had published the fourth edition of its list, compiled by F.D. McCarthy, the Curator of Anthropology. It now contained 700 names of places in the State, including pastoral stations, and 600 euphonious words most suitable, it was claimed, for naming not only homes, but streets, reserves, boats, and even commercial products.

But were the names appearing in Pymble truly Aboriginal names? A check in the Public Library list found only *Girrahween*, a place of flowers. The 1963 edition from the Australian Museum, in addition to *Girrawheen*, had *Uralba*, a place of quartz stones, a hollow or a basin; *Yallambee*, to dwell or stay; and *Bundarra*, a cluster of trees at edge of swamp, kangaroo or cold. Four down – but householders were drawing on other sources. I next searched the Geographic Names Board (www.gnb.nsw.gov.au), particularly useful in checking the existence or locations of obscure rural names. There was *Warrawong*, a suburb of Wollongong, but without its meaning, and *Kooindah*, a park at Port Stephens, meaning a water place. How did McCarthy miss those two? Still no *Borela* or *Woodarra*.

Any suggestions from members?

Allan Rost
(9476 6854 arost@bigpond.com)

Newsletter contributions invited

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

What about some great success you’ve had in tracking down that elusive relative? Or interesting information about an early Ku-ring-gai resident or event? Or perhaps an amusing anecdote about Great-Aunt Jane and the baker? Why not share it with members?

Maybe you’d like to comment about the Society or the *Newsletter*, or have found something you’d just like to gripe about. Whether simply pointing out an error or something substantial, just send a *Note to the Editor*. If space permits, it will be printed in the next issue.

Recent acquisitions

‘*Historic Places of Australia, Volume 2*’ produced by Australian Council of National Trusts, published 1979 (304 pages). Includes 29 colour plates and over 250 black and white illustrations. Ku-ring-gai is not featured. Donated by Lyn Done.

‘*Historic Churches of New South Wales*’ text by Alan Nichols, Jill Garland, John Martin with an introduction by Manning Clark, photography Fritz Prenzel and drawings by Cedric Emanuel. Published 1978 (159 pages). Ku-ring-gai is not featured.

‘*The Heart of the College - The Story of the War Memorial Chapel at Pymble Ladies’ College*’ by Margaret Coleman, published 2006 (139 pages). Details of the 18 stained glass windows are highlighted; each has a full page colour photograph. All the marriages and baptisms performed in the chapel from 1956 to the end of 2005 are listed. Donated by Margaret Coleman.

‘*Dorothy Knox Remembered... A woman of faith and determination*’ by Margaret Coleman, published 2009 (328 pages). Aged 33 she was appointed as Principal at the Presbyterian Ladies College in Pymble, a meteoric start to a long and brilliant career. Donated by Margaret Coleman.

Bruce Robinson

The BIG DIG

The Historic Houses Trust recently had an interesting tour of the “Big Dig” site in The Rocks. The Rocks, site of buildings dating from 1795, was the core of Sydney’s early housing. It became a densely-crowded area of small houses and narrow lanes, gradually becoming regarded as a “slum” as Sydney spread to a more-suburban profile in the late 1800s. In 1900, arrival of the bubonic plague led the Government to buy up the area for demolition.



The “Big Dig” site was preserved by subsequent Government inaction, as no big buildings were erected. Instead, concreting of the site as a bus-parking area aided its preservation. It was “discovered” in 1993, and

after substantial excavation of much of the site, revealing the remains of 30 homes and shops, the present *Youth Hostels Australia* building

and an educational centre were erected OVER the site, with minimal impact, and allowing ample airspace above the site for continued access and archeological investigation (top photo).

The bottom photo shows central corridors of the motel-style double and family room section of the Hostel, overlooking substantial foundation remains. This is



a great development for Sydney!

Bob Barry

FAMILY MATTERS

Family History Meeting 6 February

11 am Session

Jo Harris welcomed 37 people to the morning session when she demonstrated these Victorian records:

Victorian BDMs

1853-1920 Marine births

1839 NSW and Port Phillip Bay GPO Directory index

1852-1879 Immigration to Victoria

Ballarat Cemeteries and Crematorium

Victorian Public Record Office resource access

Also: Founders of Australia and Their Descendants

Trevor Whitehead showed us how to access Victorian Probate on line.

2pm Meeting

56 members and visitors attended the meeting, chaired by Jo. She advised that on this day in 1643 Tasman discovered the Fiji Islands. In 1788 there were frequent thunder squalls in Sydney, temperature 74 degrees F, and "all things were got in order for the landing of the women prisoners".

Coming Events

- Jo advised that she is taking names for a new Family History Course beginning 17 May.
- The next Family History Societies conference will be held at Bomaderry, Shoalhaven area, 17-19 Sept. 2010. Website lists speakers. Early motel booking recommended.
- Jackie Van Bergen described forthcoming Workshops - watch newsletters for details.
- Janet Denne spoke on the history of St Martins, Killara, and plans for centenary celebrations 14 Feb. 2010.

Australian Family Tree Connections magazine, February issue, features:

- More warnings about correctness of information on Internet
- DNA testing
- Army websites
- Digitisation of 'Australian Women's Weekly'
- British India websites - <http://indiafamily.bl.uk> and www.fibis.org/
- New Zealand - new sites
- New CD-ROM - Irish Scribes and Their Legacy
- Family names mentioned in magazine articles - Manners, Chew, Hammett, Scott-Gordon, Morrison, Walk, Boyd.

Accessions

Life on the Australian Goldfields

Heart of the College (Pymble Ladies College)

Historical Places of Australia

The Unlikely Bushman

W C Wentworth

Dorothy Knox Remembered

Nippy Joints - My Time in Gordon 1932-53

Historic Churches of NSW

Book Reports

Jenny Joyce described "Stranger in the House" by Julie

Summers which documents experiences of womenfolk of WWII servicemen.

Angela Lind spoke about "Wild Ride", the Rise and Fall of Cobb & Co., by Sam Everingham.

Visit

Sue Ryerson told of a visit to Queenstown Botanic Gardens in NZ where there is a memorial stone to Robert Falcon Scott which includes Lawrence Oates who, suffering frostbite, walked out into the blizzard so as not to delay the others. Sue may be related.

Precious Medals

Jo told the story of a lady who sought help with finding her father, knowing only that her parents met in Edinburgh during WWI, mother arrived Sydney on 'Beltana', parents were divorced when she was very young, Grandfather in Scotland died, grandmother came to Australia.



Jo's research revealed that father was born 1893, served in WWI in 17th Inf. Btn, married 1921 in Sydney, later divorced. Enlisted again 1940, saying he was born 1900, became Staff Sgt in 2/4 Pioneer Btn, married again 1941, died 1965.

On "googling" his name, it was discovered that someone had found his WWI and WWII medals in a Coogee garbage bin many years ago. Jo eventually contacted a very excited gentleman who had been trying for 20 years to find the family. In due course the lady and her son met this man for the medals handover. She did not know anything about the WWII service or the medals.

The soldier was Rowland Watkin Hines, and Jo introduced the lady, his daughter - Mrs Lyn Love - who spoke to our meeting and proudly showed the medals.

Guest speaker

In his address entitled "The Unlikely Bushman", Ron Hicks described his unusual and intriguing discoveries in the bushland of Ku-ring-gai. Ron, author and journalist, who lives in Wahroonga and often walks in the bush, found beautiful caves and birdlife at Lovers Jump Creek, and the remains of an old house with 16 columns, old steps, artefacts. He tried to find the name of the owner, looked at Council maps, asked nearby residents, was given the name "Bunny Curry". Ron's research continued using resources of News Ltd library and Lands Dept. He found that the land was bought on "conditional purchase" in 1942, finally got documentation from State Records. Owner's name was Alexander Currie, born 1883. Ron's book "The Unlikely Bushman" tells the full story. Ann Barry gave a vote of thanks and gift of the book "Focus on Ku-ring-gai".

The raffle of pre-loved books was won by Janet Denne who chose "Legendary Australians".

From notes by Stella Green

Notes from the Wyong Conference

Recently Max Farley, Jenny Joyce and Jackie van Bergen attended the State Conference of the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies at Wyong. It was a very worthwhile weekend, with a number of fascinating speakers, and we include information about some of the talks below. Next year's conference will be held on 17-19 September at Bomaderry on the South Coast. It is highly recommended that our members attend that conference.

Terry Ryan from the National Maritime Museum spoke about the resources available for Family History research at the Vaughan Evans Library. The library holds information to help you find

- someone who may have been a mariner (like Lloyds Captains Register and the Registers of Certificates of Competency);
- information about the ship on which your ancestors arrived (like Lloyds Register, Shipping arrivals and departures, and numerous newspapers with information about shipping arrivals); and
- pictures of ships.

Some of this information,, including pictures of some ships, is available on their web site. The easiest way to access this is to go to the National Maritime Museum Website at <http://www.anmm.gov.au> and select the "Collections and Research" tab at the top of the screen. From there you can select links to the Image Collection, Research Guide or the Museum Library.

If you want to visit the library in person, which is a necessity to see many of these resources, it is located at Wharf 7 Maritime Heritage Centre, Cnr Murray Street & Pirrama Rd, Pyrmont. To use the library you must make an appointment by phoning 9298 3731 or emailing library@anmm.gov.au.

The Wyong Conference also included a fantastic talk from Ancestry.com.au about some of the challenges in digitising old records, and also included details on some of the things that will be coming soon to Ancestry.com.au:-

- More Electoral Rolls
- Queensland & Victorian Immigration
- West Australian and Tasmanian Immigration
- Convict Certificates of Freedom
- NSW Police Gazettes
- General Muster & Pay Lists
- Returns of Payment of Army & Other Pensions
- Medical Journals of Convict Ships
- Prison Hulks

Family History Course - 8 weeks

Starting 10.30 Monday 17 May. Each week you will learn "how to use" various resources.

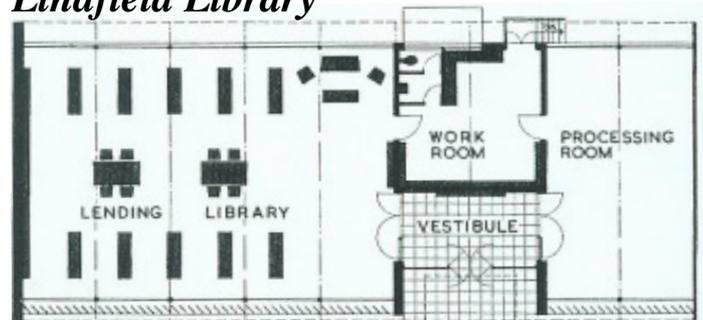
There will be a talk, printed notes and assignments weekly. Come along and learn so much more about the resources at our "Research Centre", on the intranet and the internet.

Society Members \$125 - non-members \$150.

Anyone interested in doing this 8 week course should contact Jo on 9489 4393.

BUILT HERITAGE

Lindfield Library



I spend a lot of time in libraries and archives. My all-time favourite of the large ones is the Mitchell; full of light and very, very quiet, its robust and lofty construction inspires serious research. My all-time favourite of the small ones, however, is our local library at Lindfield that I've been visiting since first moving to Roseville in 1969. Set back from the busy highway (showing great forethought by its designers), this too is full of light and mostly quiet, depending (of course) on how many little children are around. The building itself speaks well of the 1950s in which it was built: simple, sensible but sensitive, lightweight construction and what, I suppose, we would now tag 'retro'. As a community library, I believe it works well.

It was built in 1954 and is classed by the Institute of Architects as a significant building in their 20thC register. The library was featured in the January-March 1955 edition of *Architecture*, its architects Davey & Brindley. A photograph of the façade labelled "The West front, showing the sun-screen to the glass wall" reveals little has changed externally. The floor-plan shows the present children's section was originally the "Processing Room".

The text reads: *This is the first part of a much larger scheme. Construction consists of boxed steel columns, exposed open web beams and self-supporting steel decking welded to the beams. Roof covering consists of 1" insulating board laid on the deck, bituminous felt and aluminium foil. Builders: McLennan Construction Co. Pty. Ltd.*

Wilfred Allan Davey was registered with the Board of Architects in 1937; John Millard Brindley in 1936. From May 1937 until he enlisted to serve in WWII, Davey (rising to the rank of Major in the 2/1 Field Company) ran his practice at 60 Hunter Street. In February 1946, Brindley, a returned POW (captured while serving as a Lieutenant in the 2/19 Aust. Infantry Battalion) was running his practice in Bondi. By the beginning of 1947 the joint practice, Davey & Brindley, had been established at 13 Blich Street, moving later to offices in Hunter and then Elizabeth Street.

Another of their designs is listed on the AIA 20thC register: *Stirling*, at 29-33 Lawson Street, Paddington. Although Davey died in 1988 and Brindley in 1999, I believe their practice continues as Davey, Brindley & Vickery Pty Ltd, with offices in Neutral Bay. Recent projects include work at the Cumberland College of Health Sciences, Lidcombe and at the Richmond Ex-Servicemen's Club.

Kathie Rieth

Copy for Newsletter

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

New Members

We are very pleased to welcome to membership:

Graham McIntosh	Pymble
Janet Webb	Gordon
Paul & Manuela Fletcher	Lindfield
Audrey Whittard	Alambie Heights
Barbara Ellis	Lindfield
Margaret & Raymond Holland	Turramurra

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

Ordering catering supplies

Glynn McGregor has kindly taken over the ordering of supplies for everyday use and functions.

There is an order sheet on the side of the filing cabinet. If you are having a meeting or you notice supplies are low, please indicate on the list, preferably well in advance.

We wish to thank Jeanette Rennie for her long-standing contribution in this role.

Did you go to school in Ku-ring-gai?

This year's National Trust Heritage Festival theme is "Building the Nation", and we are doing a Focus on Education. We would love to borrow any interesting school memorabilia to put in our display cabinets in April.

Please leave a message in the rooms if you can help.

Have you visited our rooms lately?

On one of these hot summer days why not call into our cool air-conditioned rooms and spend some time looking through our book collection and computer programs.

We are open Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri and Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm.

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 Mar	Family History Meeting 11 am Members' Research 2 pm I'm stuck! I need help!
Sat 20 Mar	2 pm Society General Meeting Neil Chippendale, the War Memorials in NSW project.
Sat 3 Apr	Family History Meeting 11 am War Service Research - especially your Gallipoli relatives. 2 pm Kim Phillips "Spirits of Gallipoli"
Sat 17 Apr	2.00 pm Society General Meeting Stuart Braga, "Maj. Gen. 'Tubby' Allen" - Architect of Victory on the Kokoda Trail.
Late March	Society visit to 2/17th Battalion, Suakin Depot, Pymble - Cancelled. (Sorry, they seem unable to finalise a date.)

Administration

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

Appointees

Accessions	Jennifer Wallin	9983 1871
Book Sales	Carol Rodgers	9488 8789
Catering Supplies	Glynn McGregor	9983 1124
Computer Systems Manager	Peter Stehn	9489 9488
Curator	Jennifer Harvey, Ann Barry	
Family History Leader:	Jo Harris	9489 4393
Family History Committee:	Lyn Done	9449 7715
	Stella Green	9449 4388
	Jenny Joyce	9440 2131
	Elaine Turnidge	9899 2635
	Trevor Whitehead	9449 6426
Historian Editors	c/- Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390

with Kathie Rieth, John King, Bob Ross

Newsletter - Editor	Bob Barry	9144 6480
Newsletter - Local History	Max Farley	9499 7113
Publicity	Sue Dunston	9498 8720
Public Officer	Helen Davies	9498 3754
Research Team	Kevin Callinan, Lyn Done, Max Farley, Jo Harris, Jennifer Harvey, Trish Thomson, Trevor Whitehead	
Speakers Programme	Beverley Dunstan	9419 8526
Volunteers Roster	Heather Davidson	9144 1844

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