



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.

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Monthly Newsletter

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

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

No Time for the Smiths

Ben Smith, speaker at the January General Meeting, launched our new year with a hilarious and whimsical tale of the first year of a marriage of 50 years ago: his own. Ben's talk was based on his recently published *No Time for the Smiths*, written years ago from diary notes made by him and wife Rina as essential communication in an unexpectedly time-deprived life.

A retired advertising copywriter and author of thrillers, Ben Smith was in 1959 a very young studio hand, working in early Australian live television, when he married. Imagining an idyllic life on the northern beaches, the newlyweds settled in Avalon, whence they commuted to work, he at Artarmon, she in the city.

Smith set the scene with many details of Australian life of the time: pre Vietnam War and President Kennedy's assassination, Australia was half its current population. Holden station wagons were under £1000, and Victrola lawn mowers, 7 shillings a week. Coastal steamers still plied between the State capitals, and Aborigines did not yet have the vote.

The (northern beaches) Peninsula was still "dreaming in the sun". It had koalas, ticks, fleas, sandflies and possums, and an express bus to town (one hour). But they had a car (*Biscuit*), and they were living at the beach!

All was charming... for about 3 days. The express bus was frequently full below Palm Beach, and the standard service took two hours – each way. *Biscuit* was unreliable, and making best use of it with one partner on shift work was tricky. Their roof leaked, hot water was doubtful, and there was no sewerage. There was plenty to do at home at weekends, just keeping up. Their days became perpetual motion – one slept while the other got up and went. They 'spoke' via their journal, which arose as a kind of therapy.

"The whole problem was time." One night Smith found Rina trudging home late, carrying a pressure cooker bought that day 'to save time cooking' – having fallen asleep on the bus, and continued on to Palm Beach terminus where she was obliged to alight.

The couple finally accepted that fine dreams and practicality didn't mix, and moved to Mosman, aided by a change in career path for Ben when he became, for some years, ghost writer for his wife in her new copywriting job. She moved up into management, hired him as the new copywriter, and life at last looked up. Their "endearing but searing" memoir then ceased.

Smith's very entertaining delivery no doubt grew from a long perspective on those fraught times.

Helen Davies

Coming Meetings

(Gordon Library Meeting Room)

General Meeting

Saturday 19 March at 2 pm



The Rise of Sydney's Department Stores.

From humble beginnings, a number of local business families would rise to prominence amid the creation of that 19th century phenomenon, the Department Store.

David Jones, Mark Foy's and Anthony Hordern & Sons are just some of the firms that left their physical and cultural mark on Sydney.

Our Speaker, Michael Lech, is a Curator of the Historic Houses Trust's Caroline Simpson Library and Research Collection.

Afternoon Tea will be available.

Visitors welcome.

Next Family History Meeting

Saturday 5 March

11 am "The ins and outs of *GOOGLE*."

2 pm **General Meeting**

"Eliza's Amazing and Interesting Life" – The Biographical Story of Eliza Arbuckle, better known as Eliza Davies, and her lifetime adventures. The speaker will be Nola Bramble, who has studied this indomitable and independent woman.

The Annual Elections for FH Leader and Committee are due at this meeting.

Afternoon Tea will be available.

Visitors welcome.

Society Tours

Hills District Historical Society Museum & Powerhouse Discovery Centre

Wednesday 9 March 2011

Cost: \$40 (\$45 non-KHS members)

Bookings via booking sheet in research rooms, ph 9499 4568.

Payment at time of booking please.

Itinerary:

8.30 am: depart Bannockburn oval, Pymble

10.00 - 11.30 am: morning tea, talk and guided walk at Hills District Historical Society Museum

12.00 - 1.30 pm: lunch at Bull & Bush Hotel

2 - 3.30 pm: Powerhouse Discovery Centre Site Tour and Display Store visit

4.30 pm: arrival back at Bannockburn oval

Includes:

- coach transport and transfers
- morning tea
- entry, talk and guided walk at the Museum & Masonic Schools complex
- lunch at the historic Bull & Bush Hotel – with 3 choices of main meal plus a drink
- 90 minute Site Tour and Display store visit hosted by Discovery Centre guides

Hills District Historical Society Museum

This is a new and much larger location (opened late 2010) for the Museum with very much more on display.

The museum features farming, woodworking and household equipment donated by Hills District Residents. The research room includes files on Hills District pioneers, over 5000 photos of people, houses, transport, shops, etc.

Powerhouse Discovery Centre

The Powerhouse Discovery Centre is the Museum's off-site storage and collection care facility.

The Museum's unique and diverse collection of 385,000 objects spans history, science, technology, design, industry, decorative arts, music, transport and space exploration. But, like most museums, only a small part of the collection can be exhibited at any one time. The Discovery Centre houses 40% of the collection (by volume), or about 50,000 objects.

Tour Report: The First Emperor – China's Entombed Warriors

Dictators' attitudes to history/family history may generally fall into two main categories: expunge it totally, or rewrite it. China has experienced, or suffered, at least two examples of the former philosophy – the First Emperor, Qin Shihuang (died 210 BCE), and more recently, the notorious Chairman Mao. Both wished history to start effectively with them, and so went to some trouble to destroy existing records.

The First Emperor was also obsessed with an afterlife; he deployed enormous and literally crippling amounts of state resources, including manpower, in the construction of his tomb, "protected" by an army of some 8000 individual terracotta warriors, who were armed, officered and paraded before it. Covering some 25,000m², discovered only in 1974,

and even now only partially excavated, the bizarre death-related complex has become one of the world's most remarkable tourist attractions.

Sydney has been fortunate in the early involvement of the life-time sinophile Edmund Capon, NSW Art Gallery Director, who arranged the staging of this travelling Exhibition. It includes many artifacts dating from years preceding the First Emperor, as well as those of his era, and highlights some ten figure types of the terracotta army.

These are excellently presented for viewing at or near eye level (unlike those *in situ* which are only seen from above and at a distance. The drama is heightened by the skilful use of mirrors and of life-size filmed imagery.

Our tour on 16 February was organised by Jackie van Bergen and Jenny Joyce, to whom grateful thanks are due. It had the added advantages of knowledgeable guides and access ahead of public opening time. Following completion there was ample time for re-viewing, as well as visiting a parallel exhibition of Chinoiserie.

The Year of the Rabbit was well and truly saluted – Dictators' policies on history were noted but not condoned.

Note: this highly recommended exhibition runs until 13 March 2011.

Peter Done

Facebook - a great way to communicate

I am the geriatric owner of an equally old computer (at least 10 years old) and connected to a typically slow country internet connection. Can't wait for National Broadband and a quicker service.

My computer holds a large number of photographs (all in large format) for my hobbies and my wife's need for source material for her botanical and wildlife paintings. There is often the need to transmit images of paintings to prospective customers and exhibitions. Photos are also submitted for competitions and publication.

Facebook has been invaluable in assisting these interests. Birds Australia (through Photoboca) runs a facebook page for members to assist with identification and information on bird movements.

We have recently moved from inland Victoria to the coast to avoid summer heat and droughts. Several of our friends have moved to coastal North NSW or Queensland for similar reasons. Even though we have some problems, we have been able to share activities through Facebook. We also have grandchildren in Horsham, Adelaide, Ballarat and Sydney.

My facebook was set up by my 15 year old granddaughter (although I have since tightened my security settings). It is interesting to see her page, although probably we don't need to see some of the comments. I haven't had the nerve to connect to 17 year old grandson - best not to know.

I only have 7 friends on my page.

Together with email, internet and facebook we are enjoying the new world of communication and information.

Peter Grenfell

KHS Seniors Week Program 2011

Tuesday 22 March to Saturday 26 March

Venue: Gordon library meeting rooms

Start time: 10.30 am

Cost: Talks are **free**, thanks to a Seniors Week grant

Includes: Morning tea

Bookings are essential: phone 9499 4568 (10 am - 2 pm),
or email khs@khs.org.au

Tuesday 22 March 2011

How to Research your House

Talk by members of the KHS Built Heritage team covering the basics of how to research the history of your house. Followed by a discussion over morning tea, then the opportunity to have hands on experience in the research rooms with volunteers from the team

Wednesday 23 March 2011

How do I take care of my old Photos and Documents?

Talk by members of the KHS preservation team on how best to handle and preserve your old photographs and documents. Followed by a discussion over morning tea, then the opportunity to talk to the team in the research rooms.

Thursday 24 March 2011

How to Research your Family History

Vice-President of the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society and leader of the family history group, Jo Harris will give a highly entertaining presentation on getting started with researching your family history. Followed by a discussion over morning tea, then the opportunity to do some hands on research in the research rooms helped by family history group volunteers.

Friday 25 March 2011

What do we have and how can you find it? (the extensive resources of KHS)

Talk by Committee members outlining and demonstrating the huge array of resources held by the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society. Includes databases and books for local and Australian research, family history research and over 10,000 photos. Followed by a discussion over morning tea and then the opportunity to do some hands on research in the research rooms helped by room volunteers.

Are you a room volunteer or researcher? Is there so much more on the system now than when you started? This is a simple way to update yourself in a social environment.

Saturday 26 March 2011

Facebook – starting out, safety, fun!

Talk by Carole Riley (of SAG) focussing on Facebook but also covering a couple of other social media sites. This talk will cover how to get started, what to look out for, especially safety and privacy. Followed by a discussion over morning tea, then the opportunity to set up your own facebook account in the research rooms – if you bring your email address.

A great way to keep in touch with your grandchildren!
And to share photos!

New Ancestry Resources

The following new data resources were added to Ancestry on 2 February 2011:

- New Zealand, Jury Lists, 1842-1862
- New Zealand, Maori Land Claims, 1858-1980
- New Zealand, Electoral Rolls, 1853-1981
- New Zealand, Maori Voter & Electoral Rolls, 1908, 1919
- Canterbury, New Zealand, Provincial Rolls, 1868-1874
- New Zealand, Naturalisations, 1843-1981
- New Zealand, City & Area Directories, 1866-1955

Peter Stehn

Recent Acquisitions

'The Torch Bearers War Service of Shore Old Boys 1939-1999' editors JR Gorham and CJL Hewett ISBN 0957733909. Published 1999 with 835 pages.

'Celebrating 100 Years of the Mitchell Library' published Focus Publishing Pty. Ltd., 2000 copyright The State Library of New South Wales ISBN 187 535 966. If you missed the exhibition, check out this book.

'Not a Poor Man's Field The New Guinea Goldfields to 1942 – An Australian Colonial History' by Michael Waterhouse foreword by Ross Garnaut published 2010 with 272 pages and ISBN 9781920831837. Appears to be a good source for a little known era of Australian/colonial history.

Bruce Robinson

What about A Fire Station?

When are we to take steps to establish a fire station in the Shire? Something of the sort is very necessary. The recent Hornsby fire has set us all thinking. Our position is none too good. Any house that catches fire must be allowed to burn itself right out, unless the owner and his friends can beat the blaze with buckets and garden hose. The Chatswood brigade is a tied up thing, for use in their part of the electorate only. In the Shire is a lot of property to protect, and many lives worth saving. Bricks and mortar one can put back again, but a life lost never can be replaced. Some day we might be sorely in need of an up-to-date engine and crew to make a rescue or to check the flames. We are tempting Providence now by risking too much. Don't you think it is time that someone took the fire station matter in hand? That Hornsby incident should be a lesson to us all. If we cannot have a well equipped central station, voluntary hose and reel brigades might be established at three or four places along the line. We have numbers of willing young men in the district who would take pleasure in working a reel. Let the Council give the movement their patronage, and it will not be long before the reel crews are ready for any emergency.

from "The Kuringian" April 8 1911

Quiz Answers (see P. 8 for Questions)

4. b. St Ives (19).
1. c. 186 2. a. Roseville & Lindfield (59) 3. d. 128

Where's this park? Answer ***(see P. 5 for Question)***

Allara Ave. North Turramurra

Curran's Gordon Bakery

Further to "Evolution of a Street: St Johns Avenue, Gordon" by Helen Whitsed Davies in the October 2009 edition of *The Historian* (Vol. 38, No. 1), I found the references to Curran's or Gordon Bakery on pages 122 and 123 to be of great interest.

After I became too old to have my hair cut by Mum's hairdresser, who came to the house once a week, and it was deemed that I needed a real man's hairdresser at about the age of eight, my father took me regularly to Davies' on the Pacific Highway at Gordon. Davies' was on the eastern side of the highway opposite the Bakery, about where the Dumaresq street traffic lights are now. Davies' was run by Mr John Davies, who had a row of about six barber's chairs in his shop running from the highway towards the railway line. Mrs Davies used to attend to the counter near the door, taking the money for haircuts and selling cigarettes, chewing gum and hair requisites.

During what seemed to a small boy to be interminable waits for a haircut, I used to watch the horses and carts coming out of a gate in Dumaresq Street, up the hill, and into the bakery door on the Pacific Highway to be loaded with fresh bread for delivery.

They delivered to our home at Killara every day, leaving the bread in a large bread tin at the front door, which always had the correct amount of money in it. On Fridays we had a large order to last for the weekend. On the rare occasions when half a loaf was required, Mum flirted with danger, as Hudson Chang from next door and I ate the soft fresh middle out of the loaf. We did the same when Hudson's mother ordered a half loaf.

The horse used to walk along the road keeping up with the delivery man, who entered each house, fulfilling their orders from the basket he filled up every now and then from the door in the back of the cart. The man clicked his tongue for the horse to move along a few doors – it must have been well trained. Some of the older children sometimes clicked their tongues when the man was out of hearing and the horse would end up way down the street.

In those days Mr Kearns, the greengrocer, came around once a week with his wares for sale. Hudson and I used to sit up on the boxes of peas and beans balanced on the open tail gate. We amused our parents and older siblings by calling both of those vegetables "peans".

There was also a strawberry man every summer, around Christmas time, who announced his wares by calling out "strawberries" at the top of his voice as he walked around what was then a quiet suburb with few cars.

Mr Burke delivered the mail on his two-wheeler bike and also mended everyone's shoes. Mr Burke called in for a cool drink on really hot days.

In those early 1950s the milkman also had a horse and cart. I was never allowed to make a noise if I awoke early, so to avoid this being a problem, I climbed out of my window and followed the milkman around the streets. It was not difficult to find one as there were three different ones in our area – I assumed they were each allocated certain streets. Most people left a billy can out for their milk, and the milkman ladled it out from a large bucket into each person's billy. Periodically, the bucket was refilled from a tap in the rear of

the cart, where a tank of milk must have been stored. A few people insisted on "gold top" milk. I'm not sure what that was, but it was something special. It was stored in a crate on the top of the cart in bottles with gold tops. There was no refrigeration. The milkman came very early, but if the sunlight did come out it would have hit the gold tops first.

One day in 1955 word went around that the bakery at Gordon was closing down. That caused consternation to many residents, as we were going to be serviced by Sloans at Chatswood, who had motor vans instead of horses and carts.

This event was sad for me, as I could no longer go along with Mum to the bakery at Gordon from time to time to buy bread, and take in lungfulls of the smell of fresh bread. Equally as devastating, I could no longer watch the horses and carts going in and out of the bakery as I sat bored to death waiting for a haircut. However, I was then able to watch the bakery being demolished, and then for years gaze at the vacant block of land, before Farmers department store was built on the site. By this time I was going to school by train and made my own way to the barber's shop.

Mr Davies had expanded due to a massive influx of customers, and opened another shop on the other side of the highway above one of the shops about where Elliotts Butchery was located. The amusement while waiting was to listen to Mrs Davies constantly phoning the other location, and directing customers one way or another across the road, depending on the number in each shop. I never went to the other shop as I was a schoolboy, and it was deemed too dangerous to cross the highway unaccompanied. There were no traffic lights in those days at Gordon. The nearest I am able to recall in 1960 were on the Pacific Highway at Lindfield station.

For some reason Mr Davies gave up his shops at Gordon and opened up on the Pacific Highway right at the station traffic lights at Roseville. A few clientele seemed to follow, but this was a different area and there were only three chairs. The specialty of this shop was to give free head massages before each haircut – the towels being warmed from the hot tap in winter, and taken cold from the frig in summer. By about 1970 or soon thereafter, Mr and Mrs Davies retired, and the shop at Roseville closed.

Meanwhile, at the Gordon bakery site, Farmers opened their department store in 1959. I lived through the excitement of the construction as my uncle, a director of Farmers, updated us weekly on the building. This was exciting as it was one of the first of the big city department stores opening a branch in the suburbs. This store was short-lived, as Grace Bros shortly thereafter opened their Chatswood store nearby, after practicing their art for many years at Broadway, Parramatta, and Bondi Junction in enticing suburban customers into their department stores. Grace Bros was not in the city in those days. At about the same time the St Ives shopping village was opened, and there were more exciting places to go than a smallish isolated department store on the side of a steep hill at Gordon. Even McDowells at Hornsby (on the southern end of the present Westfield) had more appeal. Eventually Farmers was turned into a shopping centre.

Bob Gowing

Coming Events

State Library – Lifelong Learning Series

Talks and workshops on a variety of topics such as:

- * Healthy information: explore the State Library's online health guide, **Tue 8 Mar** 10 am, Free
- * Preserving photographs: emphasis on archival storage, **Mon 14 Mar** 9.30 am, \$40
- * Behind the stacks – backroom tour: incl Mitchell library, preservation labs and the Shakespeare Room, **Wed 30 Mar** 2 pm, \$20
- * Uncover & discover – the Library's website: hands on overview, **Tue 5 Apr**, Free
- * Anatomy of a rare book: uncover the elements that make up a rare book from early printing to fine bindings, **Wed 13 Apr** 10.30 am \$20

For more information go to events section of www.sl.nsw.gov.au Bookings essential.

Opera at Golden Vale, Sutton Forest

\$90 VIP tickets, \$60 National Trust or Pacific Opera Members/Concessions, \$65 Non members

Bookings: 9258 0181 or ngross@nationaltrust.com.au

All bookings made by 18 March will receive a National Trust \$50 wine voucher – one voucher per booking.

An Edwardian Summer – Museum of Sydney

Arthur Wigram Allen, a tirelessly enthusiastic photographer, was fascinated by the social and technological changes occurring during his lifetime. He produced extraordinary pictures that offer a fresh insight into the Edwardian years in Sydney - an unrivalled personal pictorial record of these rapidly changing times. Most have never before been published. The exhibition will also include artworks by Rupert Bunny, Ethel Carrick Fox, Arthur Streeton and Grace Cossington Smith, examples of fashion, jewellery and accessories, furniture and decorative embellishments characteristic of the Edwardian era.

Until 26 Apr 2011, Cost: Free with museum entry fee.

World Heritage Exhibition and Tours – Hyde Park Barracks

A new exhibition celebrates the recent World Heritage listing of 11 places of significance from Australia's convict past, including the barracks itself. With both contemporary and historic images, it recognises the global story of convict transportation in the 18th and 19th centuries, including its role in colonial expansion and its transformative impact on modern society. As a whole, the 11 sites reflect the diversity of work sites, settlements, landscapes and administrative frameworks that shaped convict life between 1787 and 1868.

Until 31 Dec 2011, Cost: \$10, Conc \$5

There are also day tours to some of the other 10 sites named in the World Heritage listing.

- Escape of the Goat Island cracksmen, Sun 27 Mar, 10 am, \$45-\$55
- Double distilled villains – convicts and characters of the Old Great North Road, Sun 3 Apr, 8.30 am, \$79-\$89

From Little Things Big Things Grow – Museum of Sydney

Fighting for Indigenous rights 1920-1970 - A travelling exhibition developed and presented by the National Museum of Australia tells the story of a group of Australians,

March 2011

Indigenous and non-Indigenous, who said 'That's not good enough' – and did something about it. This is unknown history to many non-Aboriginal people and even possibly to young Aboriginal Australians. But it's painfully familiar to most Aboriginal people. This is a moment to share our common history and celebrate some courageous Australians.

Until 8 May 2011, Cost: \$5-\$10

Society of Australian Genealogists

For more information, cost & bookings, see www.sag.org.au

Topics covered in the next few months include:

- * Getting to know more about State Records, Wed 9 Mar 10.30 am
- * Irish Interest group – Irish newspapers, Sat 12 Mar 1.30 pm
- * Records of HM Army Soldiers – 19th century to 1913, Sat 2 Apr 10.30 am
- * Taking a lead from Govt/Police Gazettes, Sat 2 Apr 1.30 pm
- * Irish convict women of the Elizabeth 1828, Sat 9 Apr 10.30 am
- * Intro to tracing Scottish ancestry, Sat 9 Apr, 1.30 pm

NSW Seniors week – www.nswseniorsweek.com.au

Theme is *LIVE LIFE* and aims to encourage active participation in some of the 700 events throughout NSW.

When: all through March but particularly 20-27 Mar. Many free events

See also Ku-ring-gai Council's website for local events
Don't forget our own Historical Society events too.

Cockatoo Island for Seniors week

- Half price audio tours – a colourful journey through the island's past, \$2.50
- Talk by author Mark Thomson, Fri 25 Mar, free
- Half price camping with million dollar views, bookings essential, \$22 site, \$45 site and tent

When: 20-27 Mar, bookings essential for camping 8898 9774

National Trust: For information, cost and bookings see www.nationaltrust.com.au/events

- * Opera Centre tour – behind the scenes in Surry Hills, Tue 8 Mar, \$30
- * Bus trip to Wisemans Ferry, St Albans, Old North Rd, Sat 12 Mar, \$35
- * Twilight Jazz at Eryldene, Sun 13 Mar 5 pm \$25-\$60
- * Open day at Woodford academy, Sat 19 Mar, \$4-\$6
- * Lindesay, Open Garden scheme, Sat 19 Mar 10 am, \$6
- * Vienna Cottage and surrounds tour, Sun 20 Mar, 1.30 pm, \$30
- * Sydney Heritage Fleet tour, Tue 29 Mar, 10 am, \$44.

Jackie van Bergen

Where's this park? (answer P. 3)



FAMILY MATTERS

February Family History Meeting

11 am Session

This was attended by 21 members and chaired by Jo Harris, who answered questions about resources on the Intranet. These included -

- Marriage in England, or perhaps Canada, of Cowie and Piercy
- Walter McKay, born Carlton Vic. 1880, mother died 1881, perhaps State ward
- Maria Louisa Pearson, born 1871 Surry Hills
- Percival Howard, married in Balmain West Methodist Church
- New book on Nonconformist records
- Be careful to differentiate between Parish names and churches, e.g. St James
- Arian Park, Temora area, Presbyterian ministers roamed countryside, carried their own records
- St Philips Church, Sydney - helpful with early BDMs
- Tilde (~) means "or approximately this" - add after your query word or name when "googling"
- Ivy Salisbury, illegitimate child of eldest daughter treated as youngest in family

During the break Jo showed a DVD about China's Entombed Warriors.

2 pm Meeting

This was chaired by Jo, with 26 present. She advised that this year is being commemorated as the 100th year since the Australian Navy was granted the title of Royal, actual date was 10 July. On this day, 5 February 1788, there was heavy rain with thunder and lightning, wind N-N-West, temperature 74F ~ 23C. Exploration of the Harbour was undertaken by Bradley, hence Bradleys Head.

Coming Events

Fri. 25 - Sun. 27 March, Yass & District Historical Society seminar "Beyond the Limits of Location" to be held at St. Clements Retreat & Conference Centre, Galong NSW, accommodation available at Centre. All inclusive cost \$360, cheque to Society at PO Box 304, Yass NSW 2582. Full details on www.yasshistory.org.au

Sat. 2 April 11 am, session on "Google" with Jenny Joyce
Sat. 9 April, Blue Mountains Family History Society seminar to be held at Baptist Church Hall, 313 Macquarie Street, Springwood. "Boat People 1788-1922, why they came, the passages on the boats, and what they did when they arrived".

Speakers include Christine Yeats, Manager Public Access, State Records NSW (overview), Gay Hendrikson, Curator Parramatta Heritage Centre (women convicts), Ray Thorburn (assisted Scottish passages), Gary Luke of Australian Jewish Hist.Soc. (European and Jewish immigration). Fee \$25 to Society at PO Box 97, Springwood NSW.

Mon. 11 April, 10.30 am, 8-week Family History Course begins.

Fri. 16 - Sun. 18 Sept. Annual State Conference of NSW

& ACT Assoc. of Family History Societies Inc. at Inverell NSW.

Murrin Transcript Service

Jo advised that cost for full transcript is now \$18; can still use old forms, new ones coming. Complete details, put name and phone number at top, place in Jo's pigeonhole.

Australian Family Tree Connections magazine, January and February issues

Suggested reading - Family Search in January issue page 37, and Visitation of God in February issue page 39.

Website for early names of reasons for death - www.antiquusmorbus.com

Book Reports

Jim and Annie by Colleen Hines (about Overland Telegraph)

Lindfield within Living Memory by Gwyne Mansfield & Cynthia Gaukroger

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, the official biography, by William Shawcross

Road from Coorain by Jill Ker Conway

Demons at Dusk, about the Myall Creek Massacre

Cemetery Visits

Quarantine Station at North Head now open

The "Dispelling Family Myths" feature was introduced by Jo, who spoke about the Captain Moonlite/Gaukroger myth, which was written up by Max Farley in the January/February 2010 newsletter. Jo also told of a myth about her 9th ggrandfather.

Helen Davies - Devenish Meares family stories, perhaps seaman from Spanish Armada

Suzanne Saunders - family saying, did uncle die because May (flower) was brought into the house

Jean Smith - has proved her name should be McIndoe

Max Farley - many and varied stories of Bumble, the Aborigine

Jackie van Bergen - Tasmanian ancestors weren't quite as the story handed down

Stella Green - Stuart family story about living in "Governor's country residence"

Yvette Reeve - name changes within her family.

Members greatly appreciated Jill Nicholson distributing glasses of iced water during the meeting on the record hot day (around 40C).

The raffle was won by Stella Green, who chose the CD "Government Gazette NSW 1857".

Based on notes by Stella Green

Australian House Style

Members might be interested to learn that 'Australian House Style' by Maisy and Ian Stapleton is again available - not in bookshops at this date but from the publishers, Flannel Flower Press, PO Box 591, Mullumbimby 2482, ianeans@oldhouses.com.au.

Allan Rost

BUILT HERITAGE

Lynwood, 63 Shirley Road, Roseville



While researching properties in Telegraph Road for the 2010 *Historian*, I came across a familiar name – George Lynne Weaver. In 1921 he and James Henry Mulligan were the developers of Pymble Heights Estate at the eastern end of the road. At the time, Weaver was living at *Lynwood*, 63 Shirley Road, Roseville.

Lynwood is one of 57 Roseville items listed on the NSW Heritage Office website. On the western side of the railway these number only 12, and include the cinema and the former Commonwealth Bank, and Nos 5 and 36 Findlay Avenue - the latter two are within Willoughby's LGA, not Ku-ring-gai's. This leaves only 8 residential items in this particular area, somewhat of an imbalance when compared with the 40-odd on the eastern side of the railway line.

Inexplicably, *Lynwood* is the only house in Shirley Road listed on the website, a dire shortcoming considering the many beautifully-maintained houses in the street, and the well-documented significance of the Percy Lindsay home at No 6. To some degree this has been remedied: Schedule 5 of the Ku-ring-gai Town Centres LEP now includes Nos 6, 12, 16 and 33.

Lynwood was built in 1914 for Weaver on land he had purchased in October 1913. This measured nearly 3 acres, being Lot 3 of the First Subdivision of the Jenkins Estate, auctioned in early October 1912. Shirley Road had been dedicated in March 1911. The land was owned previously by Maria Elizabeth Jenkins, widow of Thomas Jenkins, and granddaughter of William Henry, and was on part of the 1000 acres Henry claimed had been granted to him by Governor Bligh c.1806.

Weaver, with his wife Kathleen and children Doris, Lyall, Theo, Colin, Hazel and Nancy, were in residence by the end of 1915, having moved from their former home *Gowan Brae*, No 4 Bancroft Avenue. A photograph of the family taken on their tennis court is held by Gordon Library.

Weaver later purchased more land in Shirley Road: in 1914, three lots totalling nearly 5 acres, and in 1921, another two totalling 6½ acres, all five towards the end of Shirley Road. By the early 1920s Mulligan owned most of the western side of Glen Road that ran off Shirley Road opposite *Lynwood*. It seems the two men were planning further residential subdivisions. Indeed two further auctions were

held of land in Shirley Road, Glen Road and Alison Street, named the *Lynwood Estate*: in 1920, and of the lots remaining, in 1921.

It has not been possible to identify the architect and builder of *Lynwood*; records for the period are incomplete or non-existent. Could it have been Roseville architect and builder Sam Woodford, who had recently completed *Bromborough*, No 54 Shirley Road, for Raphael T Hough? Or James T Chambers, who is said to have built 16 houses in Shirley Road - not all have been identified. Builder Harry Snudden was also active in the area.

Lynwood could be the site of Ku-ring-gai's first private swimming pool. In April 1925 a fete in aid of the Children's Hospital was held in the grounds. Opened by the former Prime Minister WM Hughes, accompanied by his wife Dame Mary Hughes, there were swimming races in the new pool and tennis matches on the court; stalls were stocked and staffed by volunteers, and a grand total of £100 was raised.

A large, two-storey villa, *Lynwood*, along with *Bromborough*, and the EA Jenkins' home at No 60 Shirley Road, was featured in *Building* magazine of May 1928, an article prompted by its appeal to the 'many people [who] admired Mrs Weaver's home... [for its] many fine architectural points which one seeks in home design, such as well-balanced composition and nicely proportioned details.'

When the Weavers sold *Lynwood* in the early 1930s, ads for the auction of its contents – furnishings, carpets, silverware and china, as well as an 8 cylinder Cadillac – claimed it was 'the finest home in the northern suburbs... Mrs Weaver's magnificent residence is known throughout the metropolitan area as one of the most artistic furnished homes'. Kathleen Weaver was a member of the Society of Women Painters, an organisation begun in the late 1910s. By 1933 the Weavers were living in Kyogle, moving later to Scone in the Upper Hunter. Some of the Weaver children married locally: Hazel in 1930 to Laurence Benjamin (of AJ Benjamin & Co, Chatswood), Colin in 1933 to Ida Warby (of 58 Shirley Road), and Theo in 1934 to Olga de Plater (of 61 Shirley Road).

Later owners of *Lynwood* include The Estate of the late Dr HS Lloyd, Ralph Humphrey Corke, the Kaldor family and the Tyree family. The curtilage of *Lynwood* has been reduced over the years. In 1952 part was resumed for the extension of Bromborough Road; in 1961 Nos 47 and 49 Bromborough Road were built, and in the mid 1980s Nos 46 and 48 Bromborough Road; a wall of *Lynwood's* 25 metre, four-lane pool forms part of the garage of No 48.

A comparison with the 1928 photograph indicates that the house has not been altered significantly, if at all: its pebbledash and timber-shingled walls are now painted a distinctive grey-blue, and the window and door frames in white; French doors lead onto the lawn tennis court that lies behind the low stone wall running along its Shirley Road frontage, and a large old deodar spreads its branches over the front lawn. *Lynwood* retains its stately and elegant appearance, a landmark building – probably the finest – in Shirley Road.

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.

Family History Course

Starts Monday 11 April with 8 sessions over 10 weeks, teaching how to use the resources on our computers. Each week a different type of resource is investigated. There will be copious notes included. For further information and booking, contact Jo on 9489 4393.

Total cost including course notes: \$120 and \$150 for non-members.

New Members

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

Wendy McCready Pymble
Sue Aird Gordon

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

Quiz (answers P. 3)

- In 1948 there were how many medical doctors living in Ku-ring-gai?
a) 153 b) 207 c) 186 d) 98
- In 1948 more medical doctors were living in which suburbs?
a) Roseville & Lindfield b) Killara & Gordon
c) Pymble & Turramurra d) Warrawee & Wahroonga
- In 1968 there were how many medical doctors living in Ku-ring-gai?
a) 428 b) 328 c) 228 d) 128
- In 1968 more medical doctors were living in which suburb ?
a) Roseville b) St Ives c) Wahroonga
d) Lindfield

Research Centre Hours

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

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

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Diary Dates

- Sat 5 Mar** **Family History Meeting**
11 am "The ins and outs of *GOOGLE*."
2 pm General Meeting
Eliza's Amazing and Interesting Life"
Speaker: Nola Bramble.
Annual Election FH Leader & Committee.
- Sat 19 Mar** **2 pm Society General Meeting**
"The rise of Sydney's Department Stores." An illustrated talk on 19th Century department stores and the families that created them.
Speaker: Michael Lech
- Sat 2 Apr** **Family History Meeting**
11 am "New resources on the intranet"
2 pm General Meeting
"Why did your ancestors leave their homeland?"
- Sat 16 Apr** **2 pm Society General Meeting**
"Australia's Oldest House?"
Historian Sue Rosen defends her claim that Experiment Farm Cottage dates from the 1790s.

Administration

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	Beverly Robinson	9988 3775
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