



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.

May 2012

Newsletter

Vol. 30 No. 4

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

The New Guinea Goldfields

On 18 March our speaker was Michael Waterhouse, grandson of Les Waterhouse (1886–1945). Les was a mining engineer, born in Sydney, who had early experience with BHP and with Mt Lyell Mining in Queenstown, Tasmania. But by 1928 he was on the board of Canada's Placer Development and became largely responsible for coordinating and guiding exploitation of the company's alluvial gold leases at Bulolo in New Guinea. Michael wrote the Australian Dictionary of Biography article on Les and has now published *Not A Poor Man's Field*, telling the story of the New Guinea goldfields to 1942. Though there have been other books written on New Guinea covering that period, this book stands apart, for its lack of reliance on hearsay.

Gold was discovered in New Guinea in 1926. The nearest significant town to Bulolo was Lae, which is now bigger than Port Moresby, but in WWI it had no residents at all. The Bulolo discovery was extremely rich, but access to it was atrocious. It took 6–8 days of hard slog to travel the 30 km from Lae because one had to climb a total of 30 000 feet to gain a net 3000 feet as various ranges were crossed. There were soon 280 Europeans on site, but they needed 3000 local labourers to keep them supplied, each carrying 50-pound packs. But this was clearly not going to be viable once they started building the dredges to work the alluvial valley and extract the gold.

The solution was to build an airport at Wau. The terrain required it to be built with a grade of 1 in 12, and all the materials to build successive dredges were flown in this way, relying on two Junkers bi-planes. They were named Peter and Paul (as in the nursery rhyme), because no sooner was one unloaded and set to "fly away", the other would land with its next load, and so it went, 6 or 7 times a day if the weather allowed. But with the maximum payload about 3 tons, and each dredge weighing in at 1000 tons or more, the planes were real work-horses, and together they accounted for more air freight than in all the rest of the world combined! Real pioneering stuff! And apparently very safe, for with a maximum speed of about 110 mph crashes tended not to be fatal.

At its peak the goldfields employed 12 000 locals, drawing from the many tribes in the area. Waterhouse remarked that until then most of the local tribes had had no trade with each other. Their only contact had been to fight. He understood that some cannibalism had been practised, with the choice pieces being the left leg and right arm, the muscles of which received most use!

Most of the Europeans at Bulolo had fought in WWI and Waterhouse claimed that formed the basis of an incredible mateship in the valley – mateship that does not seem to have applied in other goldfields.

Graham Lewis

General Meeting

Saturday 19 May 2.00 pm



*Harry Seidler
Transforming
Sydney*

Speaker: *Colin
Griffiths*

Harry Seidler changed the skyline of Sydney's CBD with his innovative tall, high-density buildings affording public spaces and incredible views. An engaging talk by a long-term colleague.

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

Family History Meeting

Saturday 5 May

11.00 am "Getting the most from Google"
with Jenny Joyce

2.00 pm **General Meeting**

"Federation and the
Local Hawkesbury Link"
Speaker: Tom Richmond



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

Society Workshops

- “Picasa” Cost: \$5
Thursday 3 May 1.30 pm Jenny Joyce
Learn how to organise and improve your photos using Picasa.
- Ancestry Library Edition Cost: \$5
Friday 18 May 10.30 am to 12.30 pm Peter Stehn
Recent changes and the improved way Ancestry handles images will also be demonstrated at the workshop.

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

New or updated computer resources

The following resources have been added or updated since January 2012.

- Children in Homes, Reformatories and Industrial Schools NSW – the Forgotten. Contains records of 7620 children.
- Bathurst Gaol Entrance Book 1831–1835 and Day Book HMG Bathurst 1841–1845
- Berrima Gaol Records – comprising Berrima Gaol Entrance Book 1840–1842 and Berrima Gaol Description Book 1842–1847
- Darlinghurst Gaol Entrance Books 1850–1854 – 10 711 records
- Goulburn Gaol Entrance Book 1847–1867 – 4350 records
- Windsor Gaol Entrance Book 26 Mar 1864 to 1899 and Windsor Gaol Weekly Returns 1831 and 1838
- Reports of Ironed Gangs – Contains details of Gangs stationed at Woolloomooloo Stockade, Cockatoo Island and Carters Barracks 1840–1848 plus Scone Lockup Book – persons attached to the road party plus Register of Prisoners employed and of Government Stock at the Government Stock Station Mulgoa
- Kiama Pioneers – Pioneers and settlers in the police district of Kiama prior to 1920
- A problem has been discovered with the search engine for the 1828 Census of New South Wales – see the note on the Australia or New South Wales pages for details
- Wagga Wagga and District Pioneers
- Updated resource – Wives and Children of Convicts – Covering the period 1825 to 1840. Sorted by Name on the Convicts page and by Vessel on the Shipping page

Peter Stehn

Quiz answers (see p.6 for Questions)

1. (d) Gladstone Parade, Lindfield.
2. (b) Henry (Harry) Basil Turner, MP for Ku-ring-gai and Robert Sutherland Turner, Mayor of Ku-ring-gai.
3. (a) Fox Valley Road, Wahroonga.
4. (b) Mr and Mrs Lewis came to Australia from Canada in the 1890s. They built their home “The Eyrte”. In the 1920s part of the property was given to the Council, originally called “Lewis Park”, later it was named “William Lewis Park” as it was mistakenly believed it was named after Premier Tom Lewis.
5. (d) Westbrook Avenue, Wahroonga.

Special Interest Groups

Mac Users SIG

The next meeting is on **Monday 30 April at 2.00 pm** in the research rooms.

If you have any specific questions, please email them in advance so they can be circulated to the group for answers (oswatt@bigpond.com).

No need to book, just turn up. Bring your laptop or iPad if you like.

Scottish Research SIG

The second meeting of the Scottish SIG was held on Monday 26 March at 1.30 pm, and around 20 people turned up for it. We discussed some of our favourite websites and had a further look at Scotland’s People, and reviewed what was there. Some of the websites looked at were Ancestry, <http://keithdash.net/>, <http://www.bayanne.info/Shetland/>, <http://www.maxwellancestry.com/ancestry/>, Scotland’s Places and Maps, and a website that gives details of unwanted births, and marriages and deaths.

The next meeting was held on **Monday 23 April at 1.30 pm** with Jenny leading a discussion on Scottish Maps and Gazeteers.

Subsequent meeting information: bjach@optusnet.com.au

Bev Jach

German Research SIG

The next meeting will be on **Monday 14 May 1.30 pm**. No meeting was held in April due to it being Easter Monday.

Irish Research SIG

The first meeting for the Irish SIG will be on **Friday 11 May at 1.30 pm**. Just come along, all welcome.

If you are interested please contact Jenny Joyce at jenny.joyce@writeme.com.

SIGs don’t have to be started by people who know a lot about a subject – sharing experiences is a really good way to learn, as has been shown by the very active and enthusiastic German Group.

We can help you get started and will probably join in. Email jackievb@optusnet.com.au if you are interested.

Preserve your family history

The next seminar of the *Oral History Association of Australian NSW Inc* is at the State Library on **Saturday May 12: Using Oral History to Preserve your Family History**.

Not only will you hear about *Memory and Remembering* from Dr. Janis Wilton, but three other Oral History Association members will speak about their experience of using oral history as part a family history: Di Ritch, who has played a leading role in intergenerational oral history projects; Michael Clarke, whose family history involved recorded interviews, letters, photos and much more; Laurel Wraight’s work as an oral historian has centered around both recording and videoing family histories.

Where: Dixson Room, Mitchell Library.

Cost: \$40 includes morning tea; OHAA members \$30.

Bookings: ohaansw@hotmail.com or phone 9997 4443.

Medical heroism: Major G.H. Hunt, M.C.

One does not tend to think of Army Medical Officers in terms of deeds of valour, but military histories tell a different story. Australia's first Victoria Cross was won by Lieut. Neville Howse, in the second Boer War, who treated a wounded trumpeter and carried him back to safety under heavy crossfire. The same Neville Howse – now a Colonel, stepped into the debacle of the ANZAC landings at Gallipoli in 1915, to organise the withdrawal of wounded men in the prevailing chaos, at great personal risk. Howse became a General and had a distinguished post-war career.

In late 2010, Lieut. Col. Robert Likeman, a serving Australian Medical Officer, published *Gallipoli Doctors*, in which the careers of 270 Australian doctors who served in the Dardanelles campaign were detailed. Col. Likeman was assisted by *KHS* in assembling a background history on one of those medical officers.

That medico was Captain (later Major) Gladstone Montague Hunt, who was the grandson of John Brown (1825–1884), a timber-getting pioneer of Ku-ring-gai. Monty was born at North Sydney to Mary Jane (May) Brown and James Hunt, a banker who died comparatively early, leaving Mary Jane to re-establish herself on inherited land in Werona Avenue, Gordon. After graduating in medicine, with a Master's Degree in Surgery, Monty served in several country practices, then enlisted in the AIF as a medico in May 1915, and served in the Gallipoli campaign attached to an artillery unit, with the rank of Captain. He remained at Gallipoli until the evacuation.

In France during the Somme winter of 1916–1917, Hunt did such sterling work with 1 Field Ambulance that he was awarded the Military Cross in April 1917, with the following citation: *He set a splendid example to his stretcher-bearers, working with them over ground swept by heavy fire. He worked for six consecutive weeks in a forward area in charge of an Advanced Dressing Station.*

Later, in October 1917, as part of the Passchendaele campaign, a major offensive was mounted against German-held Broodseinde Ridge, where the enemy was established in concrete pill-boxes. Three Australian and one New Zealand Division were involved, incurring serious casualties, but the objective was taken by the Allied forces, with nine Victoria Crosses being won, two of which were awarded to members of Australian 3 Division. Heavy rain had fallen that day (4 October), and there was constant artillery bombardment from both sides. At some time during that day, in a tableau of mud and carnage, Major Hunt as a member of First Field Ambulance, was killed and his body was never recovered.

Monty Hunt's name is included in the list of 5617 Australian service members of this campaign who have no known grave. Every evening since the early 1930s, traffic is halted at the Menin Gate where Major Hunt's name is inscribed, and the Last Post is sounded at 2000 hours. The practice was cancelled during the German occupation of WWII, but eventually the Menin Gate precinct was retaken by a Polish unit, and on that first night of the re-occupation, even though fighting was still taking place in other parts of

the town, a bugler was installed and the memorial call rang out once again.

The Menin Gate at Midnight is the subject of a famous painting by Will Longstaff, depicting ghostly helmeted figures rising from the cornfields of Ypres, and it has a privileged position on the walls of the National War Memorial, Canberra. The Menin Gate is one of the most frequently visited War Memorials of the Western Front. One of its inscriptions reads: *They shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.*

These words by Rudyard Kipling have handed us the responsibility that the heroism and sacrifice of our forefathers, who fought and died in the horrendous campaigns of World War I, and especially those who lie in unmarked graves, shall never recede from the grateful memory of successive Australian generations.

John R.E. Brown

Note: Lieut. Col. Likeman's Gallipoli Doctors is available from Slouch Hat Publications.

Willoughby Museum in the spotlight – Museums Australia Tour and Talk

Willoughby Museum was an IMAGInE Award winner in 2011. Come along and see the fantastic work being done by the Willoughby District Historical Society's museum



at Boronia. Hear from Paul Storm and Bob McKillop and view the new exhibition, *That's Entertainment: Willoughby in the Spotlight!*, the museum's contribution to the 2012 National Trust Heritage Festival.

When: Wednesday 2 May 2012, 4.00 pm

Where: Willoughby Museum at Boronia, 58 Johnson Street, Chatswood

RSVP: 30 April; pbentley@idx.com.au or 9387 7307

Further information: www.museumsaustralia.org.au/site/nswbranchnews.php

Cost: Adults \$5, Concession \$4, Children \$2, Family \$10.
(Note normal opening hours: Sundays 1.00–4.00 pm)

1981 & 2005 – two interesting years

Interesting Year 1981

1. Prince Charles got married.
2. Liverpool crowned soccer Champions of Europe.
3. Australia lost the Ashes.
4. The Pope died.

Interesting Year 2005

1. Prince Charles got married.
2. Liverpool crowned soccer Champions of Europe.
3. Australia lost the Ashes.
4. The Pope died.

Lesson to be learned

The next time Charles gets married, someone should warn the Pope.

FAMILY MATTERS

April Family History Meeting

11.00 am Session

Jo Harris opened the meeting and welcomed the 25 attendees.

Jo invited Jenny Joyce and Beverley Robinson to show us how to explore and enjoy the National Library of Australia's wonderful site of "TROVE". This really was an adventure through a "Treasure Trove". How to find Home Page, articles, copy, print, to contribute, the source, the issue, the citation, transferring texts, correcting texts – so much to find. "No need to make the beds, make sandwiches" – enjoy and keep looking – new additions are being made all the time.

Thank you Jenny and Beverly for the excellent overall view and various aspects of this brilliant resource available to all on the internet. Many questions were asked by the attendees.

2.00 pm Session

Jo Harris welcomed those who came on this Easter Saturday, some with "Easter Bonnets" and later to share Family Traditions.

On this day Saturday 7th April 1788: Weather was "Fair with sea and land breezes. Temperature 70°F (21°C). Two days ago Mary Spencer, a convict, was buried." This from "Sydney Cove" by John Cobley.

Also advice that Murrin Transcripts are taking longer due to more requests. Concern raised that members are not collecting items in the "To Be Collected Box", some have been there for many months. Come into the Centre and collect or items may be discarded!!!

Internet News

Family Search Index–Bounty Immigrants: www.familysearch.org
Australian Government, Anzac Day: www.dva.gov.au/commems_oawg/commemorations/commemorative_events/anzac_day/Pages/index.aspx

Gallipoli and the Anzacs: www.anzacsite.gov.au/

Family History South Australia: Barry Leadbeater's site includes several databases: www.familyhistorysa.info

Forces War Records: includes 3.5 million British Armed Forces personnel records from before the Crimean War; Boer War, WWI and WWII: www.forces-war-records.co.uk

US 1940 Census: released 2 April: www.archives.gov/research/census/1940

Many new resources on 'findmypast' including: 19th Century Merchant Navy records; Many Hertfordshire Archives to be digitized; Westminster Archive; Welsh Archives (see Page 40 – April Edition of Family Tree Connections).

Books etc.

Elva Davis is enjoying reading "Almost Like Home". Jo showed books "150 years of Royal Agricultural Society of NSW", also "History of Royal Agricultural Society of NSW" and "Ten Pound (Poms) Immigrants" and told us of a memorable day, when she, aged 10, visited Bradfield with her mother, when she witnessed returning servicemen and women brought there for their family reunions, rather than at the wharf. Her mother had been a helper at the Leisure



and Learning Library at Bradfield.

Seminars, Conferences

Jo and Yvette went to the Penrith Family History Fair; Jo purchased "Ironbark", a story of William Lawson, of Blue Mountains fame, and his branches.

Jenny Joyce, Jill Ball and Jackie van Bergen spent several days in Adelaide at the Family History Congress. Jenny and Jill gave some highlights: some speakers much better than others, including Keynote Speakers, even some international speakers – Colleen Fitzpatrick, a forensic investigator – David Holman on Cornwall, especially with names William and Thomas, both of these names in Jenny's family – think outside the square – save your genealogy – artefacts – photos (do not laminate) turn them over; you may find details and names on the back – digitize and give to someone else, if family members not interested – ORGANISE – place a codicil in your will – record your OWN story – write stories about your parents, grandparents, great aunts, uncles etc. Thank you Jenny and Jill.

New catalogue: available soon from The National Archives at Kew, UK.

Jill Ball attended the Roots Tech Conference in Salt Lake City with 4500 attendees, where she gave two presentations. Congratulations, Jill. www.rootstech.org.

2012 Annual State Conference of the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc. to be held in September at Gympie – hosted by the Botany Bay Family History Group.

Beverley Robinson visited the National Archives in Canberra to see the National Treasures.

At the end of the meeting attendees enjoyed the hats worn by Jo, Yvette, Beverley, the two Jills and Elaine, with Jill Ball chosen to receive an Easter Egg for her 'chook hat'. This was followed by recollections of family traditions with church activities and others such as Easter egg hunts, Show visits, the grand parade, country displays, cakes, sample bags (originally free samples), wood chopping, animals etc.

Aileen Sergel won first choice in the raffle and chose "No Place for a Nervous Lady". Peter Perry was next; he chose "Sydney, The Harbour City" by Jeff Rigby and John Kingsmill.

Thank you to Jill Nicholson for the delightful Hot/Cold Cross Buns Easter afternoon tea, and to those who helped.

Based on notes by Elaine Turnidge

Inbreeding

– really not as bad as you think!

Inbreeding is when cousins and other close relatives have children together. Most cultures have strong taboos against it, primarily because of the increased risk of birth defects. Genetics experts, however, claim that the risk isn't all it's cracked up to be. Of course, there can be some very serious consequences to inbreeding, particularly when it's sustained over multiple generations.

One example is the sad story of Charles II, the last King of Spain from the House of Habsburg, who lived from 1661 to 1700, and reigned from 1665 onwards. From 1550 onward, not a single outsider married into the Spanish royal line. Cousins married cousins, uncles married nieces, and second cousins married second cousins. All of Charles II's ancestors after 1550 were, in one way or another, descendants of Joanna the Mad and Philip I of Castile.

The result of all this was Charles II, quite possibly the most inbred person in history.

Charles was born physically and mentally disabled, and disfigured. Possibly through affliction with mandibular prognathism, he was unable to chew. His tongue was so large that his speech could barely be understood, and he frequently drooled. He didn't learn to speak until the age of four, nor to walk until eight, earning him the nickname El Hechizado, "The Hexed." He never attended school as he appeared to be unable to learn. He became King of Spain at the age of four, although his mother actually ruled in his name for the first ten years.

According to an article in the io9.com web site by Alasdair Wilkins, the fact remains that two cousins with no prior history of inbreeding in the family don't have a much greater risk of birth defects in their children than an unrelated couple, and in fact slightly more distant relatives actually appear to produce healthier offspring than the general population.

You can read more at <http://goo.gl/s6bXg>.

Reproduced with permission from Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, 8 Dec 2011.

Jenny Joyce

Irish Question Day



Terry Eakin helping Elaine Turnidge with her Irish research.

BUILT HERITAGE

Memorials, formal and otherwise...



Alice and I always start our daily walk by going down the hill and through Loyal Henry Park. Here, at its northern end, we pass the memorial to Bruce Mitchell who was born in Bromborough Road and, only 21, died a prisoner of war at Kanburi in 1943. The bronze plaque is set on a bush rock next to the small stream where he and his friends – the Sugar Bag Gang – played as they grew up. He was the only one of the gang who didn't return. Here too, is where my four boys played – paddling in the stream, fishing for tadpoles and rescuing footballs and cricket balls. Passing here always tugs at my heart, at the thought of lives lost or shattered not only in my own family but in so many many others. Alice however, keen to continue on her quest to rouse each and every neighbourhood dog, flush out every cat and brush turkey, pulls me away and up the steps.

Sometimes we reach a place that, perhaps to most passers-by, would have no significance – a high, painted brick retaining wall on the corner of Ortona and Eton roads that used to contain the tennis court for 5 Ortona Road but is now the front garden of No 7.

This wall was laid by no ordinary brickie. It was built by Charles EW Bean and his brother-in-law Norman Young soon after the Beans moved into Clifton, 5 Ortona Road in 1929. It was here, in this house, that Bean continued to write and edit the official history of the First World War. Soon after they moved into Clifton he and Norman 'added a tennis court... garage and other improvements. The court proved a constant enjoyment, though... we made the retaining wall too thin and have ever since had to have it anchored back by means of iron rods to blocks of cement buried in the court. But we have had tennis most Sundays and many Saturdays.' There is no plaque, no memorial that reveals to passers-by that Bean lived here. Nor is there one marking their second home around the corner at 17 Eton Road.

The iron rods, however, are still there, the plates and bolts holding them in place rusted but sound. I can place my palm flat on the cold bricks and run my fingers along the joints, feeling the indentations and scratches made by this 'brickie' and set forever in the hardening mortar. I can picture this tall rather thin man pausing in his work, straightening his back and turning to gaze over what was then bush beyond. I wonder though, as he mixed the mud and set each brick carefully in place, what he was really seeing.

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 15th of the month (except November and December), unless otherwise arranged. Copy lodged before that date **will receive preference**, all things being equal. Copy is to be submitted on the understanding that the **Society has editing rights and that readers can reproduce it in whole or part with acknowledgement**. Material should preferably be in electronic form.

New Members

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

Recarda Barker	Wahroonga
Rita Bishop	Springwood
Dawn and Ron Bradner	Pymble
Margaret Burgmann	Turrumurra
Neil Falconer	Nth Turrumurra
Yvonne Giddy	St Ives
Jon Horan	Turrumurra
Josie Kennedy	Berowra Heights
Jean Lucas	St Ives
Mary McAleer	Pymble
Jane Miura	Scone
Sandra Stevenson	St Ives
Jennifer Wilson	Lindfield

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

Quiz (answers p.2)

- Where is "Two Turners Reserve"?
a) Gladstone Ave, Turrumurra. b) Gloucester Ave, West Pymble. c) Greengate Rd, Killara. d) Gladstone Pde, Lindfield.
- Who were the Two Turners from question 1?
a) Ethel and Lillian Turner. b) HB Turner and RS Turner. c) Turner Brothers washing machine manufacturers. d) Gina and Tina Turner.
- Where is "William Lewis Park"?
a) Fox Valley Rd, Wahroonga. b) Fitzroy St, Killara. c) Forwood Ave, Turrumurra. d) Florey Ave, Pymble.
- What was the name of William Lewis' house in Q 3?
a) "The Den". b) "The Eyrie". c) "The Lair". d) "The Nest".
- Where is "Claude Cameron Grove"?
a) Wandella Ave, Roseville. b) Whitehaven St, St Ives. c) Wentworth Ave, Killara. d) Westbrook Ave, Wahroonga.

Jo Harris

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 10.00 am to 2.00 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday (except the 1st 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 May Family History Meeting**
11.00 am "Getting the most from Google" with Jenny Joyce
2.00 pm General Meeting
 "Federation and the Local Hawkesbury Link". Speaker: Tom Richmond
- Sat 19 May 2.00 pm Society General Meeting**
 Harry Seidler: Transforming Sydney
 Speaker: Colin Griffiths
- Sat 2 Jun Family History Meeting**
11.00 am "Cemetery Transcripts"
2.00 pm General Meeting
 "Huguenots". Speaker: Robert Nash
- Sat 16 Jun 2.00 pm Society General Meeting**
 "A Greater Guilt: Constance Emily Kent and the Road Murder."
 Speaker: Noeline Kyle

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