



KU-RING-GAI HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

(Including *Ku-ring-gai Family History Group*) • Patron: *The Mayor of Ku-ring-gai*

May 2014

NEWSLETTER

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Research Centre: 799 Pacific Highway Gordon

web: www.khs.org.au

Mail: PO Box 109 Gordon NSW 2072 • Ph: (02) 9499 4568

email: khs@khs.org.au

Air crash that changed a government

At our March general meeting Dr Andrew Tink told the story of Australia's worst air disaster, at least in terms of its effect on the government of the day. Andrew Tink, Barrister and former MLA, already well-known to us as the author of books on WC Wentworth and Lord Sydney, has published a book on the 1940 crash of an aircraft carrying four of the most important persons involved in Australia's war effort. The impact on RG Menzies' government was critical.

The RAAF Hudson bomber A16-97 had been converted for use as a VIP transport, and on 13 August 1940 was flying in fine weather from Melbourne to Canberra with three cabinet ministers, the chief of staff of the armed forces, two of their parliamentary staff, and four RAAF crew.

Andrew described how witnesses had seen the aircraft, making its approach to Canberra Airport, bank sharply and then crash into a low wooded hill just east of the aerodrome – there were no survivors. The ensuing fire was intense and the ten charred bodies were difficult to identify, leading to speculation that the Minister of Air, James Fairbairn, may have been at the controls. Fairbairn served in the Air Corps in World War I and was a very experienced licensed pilot – but he had no experience flying Hudsons.

Any suggestion that Fairbairn was flying the aircraft was summarily dismissed at the Court of Inquiry, which found the most likely cause was wing stalling when power was applied to clear the hill on the landing approach – pilot error, sheeted home to the RAAF pilot Flight Lieutenant Robert Edward Hitchcock, a very experienced Hudson pilot. Stalling was a problem familiar to Hudson pilots and the Hudson's wings were later modified to correct this fault. In his book, *Air Disaster Canberra*, Andrew used his training as a lawyer to produce a very creditable analysis of the accident.

Menzies was deeply affected by the crash, both personally and politically. "This was a dreadful calamity," he told the House of Representatives the next day. "For my three colleagues were my close and loyal friends. Each of them had a place not only in the cabinet but in my heart".

With the loss of three senior cabinet ministers, Menzies was forced to reshuffle his ministry. The cabinet was permanently weakened by their loss and this was a factor that undermined Menzies's position in the following months. To avoid three by-elections Menzies called a general election in September, earlier than planned. In this election Menzies' United Australia Party retained two of the three seats but lost the seat of Henty to the independent Arthur Coles, whose vote was instrumental in bringing down the government the following year. In 1953 the RAAF base at Canberra was renamed Fairbairn Airbase in James Fairbairn's honour and a memorial cairn was erected on the site of the crash.

As is his custom Andrew gave us an enjoyable and informative talk on a turning point in Australia's history. I look forward to reading his book.

Doug Milne

General Meeting

Saturday 17 May 2.00 pm

"Touring the Past"

Richard White:

"Touring the Past"
– the beginnings of
Australian "historic"
tourism, and our
fascination with
notorious figures
such as Ned Kelly.



Afternoon Tea will be available.

Visitors welcome.

Family History Meeting

Saturday 3 May

11.00 am Q&A Members' help morning.

2.00 pm General Meeting followed by:

Patrick Dodd: "The
Governor's Travels –
touring the Colony
with Lachlan and
Elizabeth Macquarie",
and the newly formed
"Macquarie Society".
See p. 3 for details.



Afternoon Tea will be available.

Visitors welcome.

Book on KHS History

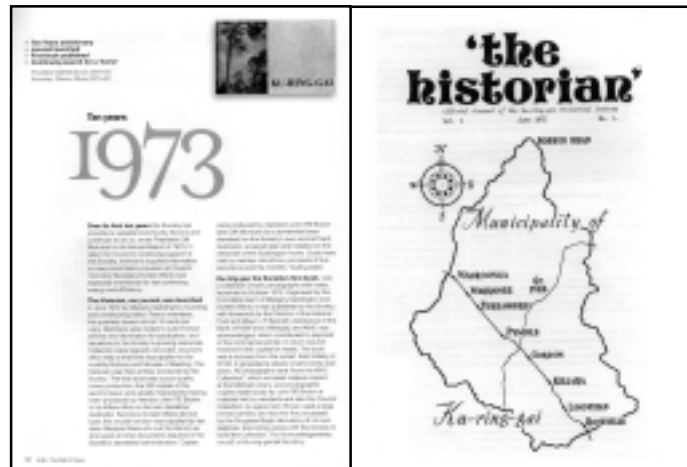
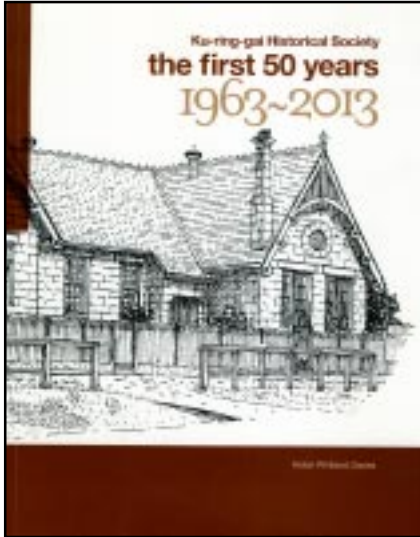
Ku-ring-gai Historical Society – the first 50 years is an interesting account of the beginnings and stages of evolution of our Society, written by our member, **Helen Davies**.

Each membership is entitled to a free copy. To save the Society postage, this is available for collection from the Research Centre.

This free offer must end soon!

Extra copies are available at \$20 each. If you would like it posted please send a cheque for \$5.

Our image below shows a sample opening from the 1973 time-slice, with the cover of the first issue of *The Historian*.



Quiz Answers (see p. 8 for Questions)

All events listed occurred in May:
1. d) Major General Sir William Throsby Bridges wounded, died 19 May. Other events: a) 20 May 1884. b) 31 May 1884. c) 5 May 1796.
2. a) The first women in Australia to vote. All other events occurred 25 May: b) 1816. c) 1815. d) 1901.
3. b) On 11 May 1813 the three explorers set out from Blaxland's farm at South Creek. Other events: a) 1 May 1889. c) 8 May 1891. d) 1 May 1859.
4. c) Amy Johnson was the first woman aviator to achieve this feat. All events occurred 24 May: a) 1851. b) 1841. c) 1916.
5. c) Opened by the Duke of York (later George V) on 9 May 1901. Other events: a) 9 May 1927. b) 22 May 1886. d) 14 May 1855.
6. d) John Joseph William Molesworth Oxley born Kirrkham Abbey, Yorkshire, died at Kirrkham near Camden, NSW. Buried at Devonshire St. cemetery. His tombstone was found years later at Waverley being used as a doorstep. Other events: a) 2 May 1793. b) 27 May 1828. c) 25 May 1870.

Volunteer Luncheon Saturday 17 May 12.30 pm

All KHS volunteers are invited to a thank-you luncheon to be held on the above date.

The Society is extremely grateful for the many hours of work that our volunteers contribute – see our list of volunteer activities on p. 5. We now have some 100 volunteers! It's only through their efforts that we are able to achieve so much.

As we are catering for this event, we need to know the numbers, so please **RSVP by Friday 9 May**, or call into the room and put your name on the list.

We will be catering for the number who respond, so if you forget to respond by 9 May you're still welcome to come, but please bring a plate.

Special Interest Groups Mac Users Group

Our next meeting will be held on **Monday 5 May at 2.00 pm** in the Research Centre. This meeting will focus on tools of the Mac and iPad that are useful for research, e.g. grab, dropbox. If you have a favourite that you would like to share, please come prepared. We'll hook up to the projector to demonstrate some of them.

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

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

Jackie van Bergen

German Research SIG

The next meeting of the German SIG is planned for **Monday 16 June at 1.30 pm** in our Research Centre. See report on opposite page.

Peter Stehn

Irish Research SIG

On Friday 11 April Irish descendants gathered at the Research Centre to talk about their Irish family history. We discussed Irish Administration and Land Divisions and related topics. We all learnt a bit, shared stories and had some fun.

The meetings are on the second Friday of each month. Our next meeting is **Friday 9 May at 1.30 pm**. All welcome.

Ric Hall

Technology SIG

As the co-ordinators are travelling overseas, the Technology SIG is in recess **until June**.

Please watch the *Newsletter* and Society blog for details of our next meeting.

Jill Ball

Story behind Sir Robert Menzies Bust

At the general meeting on Saturday 15 March, Jill Nicholson, as part of her table decoration, included a plaster bust of Sir Robert Menzies. This was designed in 1966 by the late Les Tanner, cartoonist. A short video on <http://www.britishpathe.com/video/sir-robert-menzies-busts-being-made-for-sale-aka/query/Menzies> best explains the background.

The particular bust in question was bought in 1966 by a group of Department of Mines geologists, including Jill's husband, Don. It was not a serious purchase and didn't necessarily reflect the political leanings of the purchasers.

For a time it resided in the recesses of the Department's library in Loftus Street Sydney, in a box framed by candles, which were occasionally lit in mock ceremony. It was long forgotten until recently, when it surfaced in a general clean-up of the Department's offices, now in Maitland. It now resides with Don, awaiting a decision on its fate.



German Research SIG Report

Another enthusiastic meeting of the German Special Interest Group was held on Monday 14 April with 14 members and one visitor attending.

A demonstration of the new resource, *Emigrants from Hamburg to Australasia 1850 to 1879*, opened the meeting. Several of the database interrogations produced positive results, while other queries showed that not all voyages were properly recorded. The 1853 voyage of the *Wilhelmsburg* was a good example, where the vast majority of the passengers were described simply as "... and five hundred and three [passengers] in the intermediate and steerage", with no names or other identification available.

Highlights of the round-the-table discussions were:

Tony had a wonderful "eureka" moment recently when he "discovered" a complete file of research compiled by his Grandfather on ancestors from 1860 onwards. The file had apparently fallen down behind the back of a drawer of a map cabinet. Some people have all the luck!

Gavin reported he found alphabetical lists of emigrants from Hesse-Darnstadt at the web site: <http://www.hadis.hessen.de/scripts/HADIS.DLL/home?SID=E797-C85DC5-C1619&PID=F3DF>

Les reported that he found the BallinStadt museum web site on emigration through the port of Hamburg useful. The link to the web page is http://www.ballinstadt.de/BallinStadt_Auswanderermuseum_Hamburg/Willkommen.html

David recommended two books on German migration: *The Frauenstein Letters: Aspects of Nineteenth Century Emigration from the Duchy of Nassau to Australia* written by Kathrine M. Reynolds (1 August 2009), and *Romanticism, Culture and Migration: Aspects of Nineteenth-Century German Migration to Australia After German Unification*.

As the meeting was closing Leone kindly offered to give a presentation on "The Composition and Pronunciation of German Place Names and Family Names". This offer was gratefully accepted and will be scheduled for the next meeting of the German SIG planned for Monday 16 June at 1.30 pm in the Research Centre.

Peter Stehn

Missing Shipping Folder

A folder containing names of members' ancestors and the ships on which they came has disappeared.

If you know where it is, please return it to the Research Centre.

May Family History Meeting

On 3 May, speaker **Patrick Dodd** will tell us about "The Governor who was constantly on the move – to the Cowpastures, the Illawarra, Lake George, Bathurst, Port Macquarie and Tasmania, as well as innumerable trips between the two Government Houses in Sydney and Parramatta. Come with the Governor on his travels and meet some of the fascinating people who went with him".

Before retiring in 2005 Patrick had five decades of experience in education, training, public relations and tourism with British Airways, the Snowy Mountains Authority, the NSW Education Department, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Outward Bound School and, from 1980, with large and small companies and government departments through his own training consulting company, Mindworks International.

Patrick still wonders when the Governor had time to sleep. He has followed his tours all around NSW and Tasmania.

Nine Week Family History Course

Starting 10.30 am 26 May

This course is the culmination of many years and many attendees. After the nine weeks you are able to start or continue your own family histories. The course covers books, BDMs from all states, how to use the intranet, reading PDF files, many and varied databases, internet resources, Ancestry.com and other aspects of genealogy. Copious notes are provided, allowing full attention during the lecture. Assignments are set for each week so that hands-on experience will be gained. Cost: \$200 for members, \$230 for non-members. Bookings essential, deposit required. For further information contact Jo Harris 9489 4393.

Ku-ring-gai Heroes of World War I

Raymond Newton KERSHAW

Raymond Newton Kershaw was born on 3 May 1898, the younger son of well-known rose specialist George Wilkinson Kershaw of Billyard Avenue, Wahroonga and Matilda Newton Kershaw née Jermain. He received his early schooling at Gordon Public School, completing his secondary schooling at Sydney Boys' High School. In March 1915 Raymond Kershaw entered the University of Sydney, having gained first place at the Leaving Certificate examination in French, and fourth place in English, Latin and history. He completed his first year in Arts in December 1915, gaining high distinction in history and philosophy and first place in English.

On 20 March 1916, Private Raymond Newton Kershaw (Service Number 248) enrolled in the 5th Machine Gun Company, 2nd Reinforcements. He was 18 years and 3 months of age. He had been a member of the cadet corps for 4 years and was in the scouting movement for nine months. His father was named as the next of kin. Private Raymond Kershaw embarked on *HMAT Hororata* departing Sydney on 2 May 1916.

Training commenced on 1 August 1916 at Belton Park Training Camp, Grantham, England. Whilst at Belton Park Private Kershaw required treatment in Belton Hospital on two occasions.

On 19 May 1917 Private Kershaw departed Folkestone, for France to reinforce the 22nd Machine Gun Company. He was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant on 19 December 1917 and selected to attend Machine Gun Cadet School, England, to be supernumerary to the establishment of the 22nd Machine Gun Company. On 22 August 1917 he attended the Machine Gun Training Course at Grantham, England. Upon successful completion of the course he was posted to Machine Gun Reinforcements in France.

During an attack on the enemy positions NE of Villers Bretonneux on the morning of 4 July 1918, 2nd Lieut. Raymond Kershaw went forward with two guns on the left sector. Although he and six others were wounded by enemy machine gun fire, he continued to advance and successfully brought his guns into a position from which they were able to do a considerable amount of good work. Unable to remain longer on account of his wound, he handed over to his section Sergeant and proceeded to the Regimental Aid Post.

The action of 2nd Lieut. Raymond Kershaw throughout the whole operation, completing his task although wounded, was a splendid example of coolness to his men. He was admitted to the 3rd London General Hospital on 9 July 1918 to be treated for a gunshot wound to his left arm. The use of his hand being affected, it was recommended that he be repatriated to Australia.

In recognition of his bravery he was awarded the Military Cross. On 12 December 1918 Kershaw embarked on troopship *Nestor* to return to Australia.

Raymond Kershaw was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship for NSW in 1918. He studied at New College, Oxford from January 1920 to 1922 where he gained his BA and BLitt. In

1923 he was a French Government student at the Sorbonne, Paris.

From 1924 to 1929 Raymond Kershaw was a member of the League of Nations Secretariat, Geneva. During this time he met his future wife Hilda Mary Ruegg, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Ruegg of Hampstead, who was working as a translator. On 19 February, 1925 they were married at Lyndhurst Road Church, Hampstead.

He subsequently had a long career in high-level finance, including London Director of The Commercial Banking Co of Sydney Ltd from 1956 to 1966, a Director of the British AMP Society from 1955 to 1970 and a General Commissioner of Income Tax for the City of London from 1956 to 1965.

In the Honours List of 12 June 1947, R.N. Kershaw, adviser to the Bank of England, was appointed Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George.

Raymond and Hilda Kershaw had one daughter and two sons. Raymond Newton Kershaw died peacefully at home in Berkshire, England, on 28 March 1981. He was survived by his wife Hilda, daughter Alison and sons Stephen and Richard.

Marjorie Perry

WWI Researchers and Writers

The WWI researchers and writers group meet every 4th Saturday from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm. The next meeting is on Saturday 24 May 2014.

If you would like to join us researching and/or writing, please contact Kathie Rieth on frithie@netdata.com.au

We have some great resources and an eager team to help you too.

Wahroonga murders 30 years ago

This month we might reflect on a tragedy that occurred 30 years ago in Wahroonga and Lindfield. On 26 April, 1984, in one of the saddest family tragedies to occur in Australia, a Wahroonga businessman Mr John Brandon 42, shot and killed his wife, three children and his mother before turning the gun on himself (*SMH* 27 April 1984).

Mr Brandon was the proprietor of Regency Upholstery of Blacktown. 'As his business grew and his family's lifestyle improved, the Brandons moved from Baulkham Hills to Boundary Road, Wahroonga, just near the Quaker Meeting House. There 'they continued to live a lavish lifestyle'. Then his company started to lose money estimated at 'between \$10,000 and \$20,000 a month' and by April 1984 Brandon had debts of more than half a million dollars.

Those killed were Rosemary Brandon 33, Justin 11, Damon 8 and Sarah 5. Brandon then drove to his mother's flat in Gladstone Parade, Lindfield, where he killed his mother, Mrs Joan Bull 76, and then himself. In his summing up the coroner, Mr Glass, said that 'in his view the evidence had established beyond doubt that the deaths resulted from a decision by Mr Brandon to spare his children, wife and mother from a severely reduced lifestyle and disgrace'.

This was a family tragedy committed by a man who loved his family so much that he didn't want them to suffer the shame and hardship of poverty, a motive that we would find very hard to justify.

Doug Milne

May 2014

Volunteers: The Committee would like to recognise and thank the many volunteers who assisted the Society during the past year as room volunteers and researchers, collecting and preserving records and generally assisting with the many duties required to run a vibrant society.

Accessions

Jennifer Wallin

Afternoon Tea

Jill Nicholson
Margaret & Ray Holland
Thanks to the many people who have assisted over the past year.

Audio for Meetings

Peter Bidencepe
Gerard Esquilant
Jill Nicholson

Auditor

Reg Wallin

Assets Register

Bruce Robinson

Catering

Jill Nicholson

Committee

Jennifer Harvey – President
Jo Harris – Vice-president
Lorna Watt – Vice president
Trish Thomson – Secretary
Peter Stehn – Treasurer
Jackie van Bergen – Immed. Past president
Jill Ball
Ann Barry
Helen Davies
Annet Latham
Graham Lewis

Computer System

Peter Stehn

Databases

Carolyn Darby – maps
Cathy Bruton – *Pymble News*
Lynne Gardiner – Ancestors' ships
John Harris – cemeteries
Annet Latham – Gordon PS
Shirley Luttrell – St Johns' BDM
Daryl Rickards – St Johns' BDM
Anne Reddacliff – Museum
Peter Stehn – Gordon PS

Display Cases

Jocelyn Brennan-Horley

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Jenny Joyce
Yvette Reeve
Beverly Robinson
Jean Smith
Elaine Turnidge

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Peter Bidencepe

Built Heritage & Historian

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Kathie Rieth – Editor
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Carolyn Darby
Bob Ross
Allan Rost
Trish Thomson
Lorna Watt

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Heather Davidson
Carolyn Darby
Lyn Done

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Beth Facer

KUPEDIA

Jill Armstrong
Peter Stehn
Lorraine Swalwell
Kate Tytherleigh

Newsletter

Robert Barry – Editor
Richard Facer (Proofing)
Jo Harris
Doug Milne
Tony Prince (Proofing)
Kathie Rieth
Bruce Robinson
Jackie van Bergen *and the many contributors*

Newsletter Printing/Folding

Ann Barry
Shirley Clarke
Elva Davis
June Greenhalgh
Ray Holland
Shirley Luttrell
Patricia Pitt
Suzanne Saunders

Oral History

Elizabeth Dokulil

Outreach

Jo Harris

Photo Program

Ann Barry
Yvonne Hall
Pat Pitt

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Elizabeth Dokulil
Lyn Done
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Lorraine Swalwell
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Bruce Robinson
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Jennifer Wallin
Lorna Watt
David Wilkins
Evelyn Wyatt

Room Vacuuming

Jenny Thredgold

Social Media

Jill Ball
Jackie van Bergen

Speaker Program

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

Speakers Notes from Meetings

Helen Davies
Beth Facer
Bob Gowing
Graham Lewis
Doug Milne
Jean Smith
Elaine Turnidge

Special Interest Groups

Peter Stehn – German
Ric Hall – Irish
Rod Gillespie – Irish
Jackie van Bergen – Mac
Morrison Hammond – Mac
Jenny Joyce – Scottish
Jill Ball – Tech

Volunteers Roster

Ann Barry – Roster
Heather Davidson – Roster contact

Website

Graham Lewis

WWI Book

Kathie Rieth – Leader

J. Brooker
Ed Carr
Lyn Done
Robyn Dwight
Chris Edye
Judith Ellerington
Beth Facer
Richard Facer
Tracey Fiertl
Bob Grant
Ellen Gredley
Jennifer Harvey
Sue Kelly
Heather King
Ken Knight
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Margaret Pender
Marjorie Perry
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Jo Harris
Jennifer Harvey
Jenny Joyce
Graham Lewis
Kathie Rieth
Peter Stehn
Jackie van Bergen
Lorna Watt

50th Anniversary Committee

Don Nicholson – Leader
Helen Davies – book
Jocelyn Brennan-Horley
Jo Harris
Jennifer Harvey
John Summers
Lorraine Swalwell
Kate Tytherleigh

We currently have 100 volunteers, but more are always welcome!
If you are interested in joining us, please contact Ann Barry on 9144 6480.

FAMILY MATTERS

April Family History Meeting

11.00 am Session

About 30 members attended the morning session, round the table in the Research Centre. Jo Harris and Jenny Joyce gave a most informative session on 'Finding Our World War I Ancestors'.

In response to questions from those present Jenny opened the appropriate websites and showed how to find individuals. Some of the websites visited were: Cyndi's List; National Archives of Australia; Ancestry; Australian War Memorial; Mitchell Library; Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park, Sydney; and Trove for photos.

A comprehensive list of over 20 websites was distributed to all the participants. Jo also said that an invaluable book for finding information about soldiers is *Digging for Diggers*. There was time at the end of the session to look at the many useful books that Jo had spread out on the table.

2.00 pm Session

Jo Harris began the meeting by welcoming everyone. The May speaker will be Patrick Dodd, talking about Lachlan Macquarie. The June Speaker will be Sheila Allan talking about her time in Changi Prison.

The next Family History Course will commence on 26 May. Bookings are required.

Book Reports

A Splendid Coin about the use of the ram on the old one shilling coin.

Seminars, Conferences, etc

Angela Lind reported on an archaeological dig in Bathurst Street, Sydney.

Jenny Joyce gave a follow-up on baby farmers' research she is doing and its mention in *Who Do You Think You Are* magazine.

Jean Smith reported on the three days she spent at the *Who Do You Think You Are* – Live Fair in London in February.

Speakers

Jo introduced the volunteer speakers on the topic of 'My Non-Ku-ring-gai Ancestor(s) in WWI'.

Eleanor Dawson – her father, Norman Lyndhurst Shiels.

Marie Rumsey – her uncle, Harold Lowe.

Ray Holland – his uncle, Frederick Oliver Holland

Shirley Luttrell – her husband's uncle, Resolute Edward Francis Luttrell and her cousin, Percy Talbot Griggs.

Neil Falconer – his ancestor, Andrew Ross Falconer and the book, *The Lost Diggers* with unnamed photos taken in France.

Jeanette Rennie – her maternal uncle married the niece of John Carroll VC.

Jenny Joyce – her great grandfather-in-law, William Henry Bell.

Julie Werner – her uncle, Francis Walter McKay.

Angela Lind – her great-uncle, Alexander Herbert Barber.

David Milanoli – his grandfather, Thomas Percival Barber.

Jo Harris – her grandfather, John Shipton RN; her mother's first husband, David Thomson; her husband's relative, Sir

John Monash.

Bruce Robinson – his father, Roy Robinson.

Peter Bidencepe – his father, Clarence Bidencepe, his mother, uncles and stepfather.

Beth Facer – her grandfather, Martin Luther Dyer.

Richard Facer – his great uncle, Charles S Lecky, and his cousin, Bertie Marina.

Gerry Bruce – his father, Robert Bruce.

Julian Moser – a visitor from Israel, whose ancestors lived in Palestine gave thanks for the Anzacs' assistance there and stated that his family were forever grateful.

Many photos, medals, a prayer book with a bullet hole in it and three 'Dead Men's Pennies' were shown to illustrate the talks.

A vote of thanks was moved by Jo Harris to all the speakers who each had a different story to tell and told it with such passion. These World War I ancestors will never be forgotten.

Afternoon tea was enjoyed by the many people who attended the meeting.

Lucky Door Prize

First prize in the draw was won by Jan Cook who selected *Love and War – Stories of War Brides from the Great War to Vietnam* and second prize by Gerry Bruce who chose *Australia through Time – 125 years of Australian History*.

Jean Smith

Ku-ring-gai Theatre Guild

Ku-ring-gai Theatre Guild flourished in the 30s, 40s and 50s. It held club nights and one-act plays at Gordon, and three-act plays were staged at Killara Soldiers' Memorial Hall.

Are there any theatre lovers out there who can remember those days?

Well, the old-stagers from the Guild meet every six months at the rooms of the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society – and the next get-together is on Sunday 25 May at 11 am.

The *Historical Society* has graciously awarded us this privilege and thanks must go to Jo Harris – herself an old "Guildite".

Naturally we talk old times, and memories come flooding back, but at this meeting (May 25), two stalwarts from the Guild will provide the entertainment.

Elizabeth Stead, noted author of *The Gospel of Gods and Crocodiles*, will recall her times at Manus Island – stationed at the naval depot with her husband – and the subsequent birth of her book.

Peter Trebilco – political activist and authority on Mental Health and Illnesses – will discuss the problems of today, and maybe where we stand with any proposed changes to Medicare.

Please come and join us if you remember the Guild's Golden Years. Bring a sandwich – the meeting usually runs from 11 am to 2 pm.

Peter Barclay

Recent Acquisitions

The following is a selection of acquisitions. Please check the fireplace shelf. If they have already been sorted into the reference library you will need to use the sort code to locate the book that interests you e.g. CEM/2315– filed under Cemeteries and then 2315, the postcode of the cemetery. If a locality interests you, then obtain the postcode and search the catalogue e.g. 2031/CUR – in this case it is filed under Sydney Places. It is also wise to check nearby postcodes in your search as only the postcode most suited to the book is allocated.

Ghost Towns of Australia by George Farwell, reprinted 1980, has 245 pages with a number of black and white illustrations and some colour – ISBN: 0 7270 0015 2. If an area interests you, you will need to check the contents as there is no index. The book was donated by Kerrin Cook. AUS/FAR.

Orange and District: A History in Pictures by Robert Bartlett and published in 1994 with the assistance of the Council of the City of Orange. The book has over 100 pages, mainly made up of black and white photographs, and a good index – ISBN: 0 646 19876 9. The book was donated by Kerrin Cook. 2800/BAR.

Old Gold & Mining Towns of Australia paintings by John Darbyshire and text by C.E. Sayers and published for International Limited Editions, 1975 – ISBN: 0 85179 997 3 with 160 pages. The book has four sections: (1) Old Gold Towns of Victoria; (2) Old Mining Towns of South Australia; (3) Old Gold Towns of New South Wales; and (4) Old Gold Towns of Queensland. The text provides a brief history describing the mining in the surrounding area of the paintings. The book was donated by Kerrin Cook. GOLD/DAR.

A History of Australia's First Goldfield FIRST GOLD Ophir N.S.W. by Robert Bartlett and published with the assistance of the Council of the City of Orange in 1999 – ISBN: 0 9577591 0 X. The book has 116 pages with a number of black and white illustrations. In the Appendix there is a listing of residents of Ophir from 1867 to 1903 (women were seldom included before circa 1903.) The index appears reasonable. The book was donated by Kerrin Cook. GOLD/BAR

Bruce Robinson

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.

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 is accepted on the basis that the **Society has editing rights and that readers can reproduce it in whole or in part with acknowledgement.** Material should be in electronic form if possible.

BUILT HERITAGE

Building in Ku-ring-gai during WW I

In January 1919 Shire President WR Fitzsimons submitted his report to the Council focussing on Ku-ring-gai's 'phenomenal progress ... that the war has had little effect in the shire, as the buildings erected from 1913 to 1918, both years included, numbered 1,483 or an average of 247 a year. This alone ... represents an increase in the population of about 7,000 in six years.'

Other figures show the War did have some effect. For the last months of 1914 and early 1915 these corresponded with previous periods, after which building activity slowed. During 1913, 294 buildings had been erected in Ku-ring-gai at a cost of £202,770. In 1914 there were 306 new buildings; 271 in 1915; 216 in 1916. In 1917, 160 new buildings were erected – including alterations to existing – for which the total cost was about £124,900. Activity picked up a little during 1918, when 193 new buildings were erected at a cost of £161,795.

There were a few large projects. When war broke out one was about to start – the main building and two residential blocks of Pymble Ladies College, the contract won by Pymble builder WA Grant. During 1915 projects included Methodist churches in Wahroonga and Killara, a Congregational Church at Roseville, and a picture theatre at Gordon.

In May 1916 it was announced that the Council and the government were planning to build a causeway across Middle Harbour, near Roseville, to provide a shorter route to Manly. This idea was discarded and five years later, Ku-ring-gai and Warringah councils began discussions on building a properly graded road and small bridge across the harbour 'to bring the northern beaches within seven miles of Roseville.' Costing £8,000, the first Roseville bridge was opened in September 1924.

Planning began in October 1917 for the suspension footbridge over Stoney Creek in Rosedale Road to connect Gordon to East Gordon. Designed by the Shire Engineer, TH Kirkpatrick, it was built by Ryan and Bertwistle at a cost of about £2,300. The money was subscribed by residents of the area. The footbridge, 520 feet long and 100 feet above Stoney Creek,



was opened on 21 June 1919 by His Excellency Sir Walter Davidson, Governor of NSW.

By 1920, building was back in full swing. For the financial year ending June 1920, 282 new buildings had been erected in the shire. The cost of these plus additions to existing, amounted to £272,376. One construction journal commented, rather tartly: 'The figures [released by various Councils] are particularly interesting as showing that the most expensive houses are in Kuring-gai Shire ... whilst the cheapest house is at Canterbury ... where it might be pointed out 90 percent of the residents own their own homes.'

Kathie Rieth

New Members

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

Julie Boyle	Lindfield
Lorna Buining	Turrumurra
David Castle	Lindfield
Audrey Dixon	Killara
Bruce Farnsworth	Nth Wahroonga
Barry & Jennifer Hetherington	Roseville
Keith Jones	Turrumurra
Alison & Bob Lamond	St Ives
Alan & Lorraine Love	St Ives
Adele May	Wahroonga
Gavin & Edie McDonald	St Ives
James Milson	Killara
Jane Silvester	Clifton Grove
Lorna Stephens	West Pymble
Sheila Warby	Turrumurra
Margaret Wilson	West Pymble

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

“May” Quiz (answers p. 2)

- 15 May 1915 – which event occurred?
a) The first cargo of frozen meat was sent from Brisbane to London? b) Dr John Harvey Kellogg patented “flaked cereal”? c) Merino sheep were introduced to Australia? d) General Sir William Bridges was mortally wounded at Gallipoli?
- On 25 May 1896?
a) South Australian women exercised their right to vote? b) Rev. Father Therry died? c) Evans discovered the Lachlan River? d) Allan Cunningham’s remains were moved from Devonshire Street Cemetery to the Botanic Gardens in Sydney?
- 11 May 1813 is remembered as the day when?
a) The Hawkesbury railway bridge was completed? b) Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson set out on their expedition over the Blue Mountains? c) Sir John Robertson died? d) The submarine cable from Victoria to Tasmania was first used?
- 24 May 1930 was the day when?
a) Richard Roe was issued with the first licence to dig gold? b) Sydney was first lighted with gas? c) Amy Johnson landed in Darwin after her flight from England to Australia? d) Arthur Roden Cutler was born?
- 9 May 1901 marks the opening of?
a) Parliament House in Canberra? b) The North Sydney cable tram service? c) The first Australian Commonwealth Parliament in Melbourne? d) The Sydney Mint?
- On 26 May 1828?
a) Mary Bryant was granted an unconditional pardon in England after intercession of James Boswell? b) Thomas L Mitchell became Surveyor-General of NSW? c) Captain Thunderbolt (Frederick Ward) was shot dead? d) John Oxley died?

Jo Harris

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Diary Dates

- Sat 3 May Family History Meeting**
11.00 am Q&A Members’ help morning.
2.00 pm General Meeting followed by Patrick Dodd: “The Governor’s Travels – touring the Colony with Lachlan and Elizabeth Macquarie” and the newly formed “Macquarie Society”.
- Sat 17 May 2.00 pm Society General Meeting**
Richard White: “Touring the Past”. The beginnings of Australian “historic” tourism and our fascination with notorious figures such as Ned Kelly.
- Sat 7 June Family History Meeting**
11.00 am TBA.
2.00 pm General Meeting followed by Sheila Allan “A girl in Changi Prison”
- Sat 21 June 2.00 pm Society General Meeting**
Doug Milne: A close examination of the early explorations of Wilson and Barrallier suggests 100 years of speculation on the latter’s route may have led us up the wrong creek.

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Vice Presidents	Jo Harris	9489 4393
	Lorna Watt	9440 8010
Treasurer	Peter Stehn	9489 9488
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Immed. Past President	Jackie van Bergen	9403 3044
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	Ann Barry	9144 6480
	Helen Davies	9416 5825
	Annet Latham	9440 3998
	Graham Lewis	9416 5818

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Catering Supplies	Jill Nicholson	9144 6948
Computer Systems Manager	Peter Stehn	9489 9488
Curators	Jennifer Harvey, Ann Barry	
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The Historian

Editors: Jennifer Harvey, Kathie Rieth
 Indexing: Beth Facer

Newsletter Editor	Bob Barry	9144 6480
Publicity	Sue Dunston	9498 8720
Public Officer	Helen Davies	9416 5825
Research Team	Jo Harris, Jennifer Harvey, Beverly and Bruce Robinson, Trish Thomson	
Speakers Programme	Beverly Dunstan	9419 8526
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