

KU-RING-GAI HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.



May 2015 Newsletter Vol. 33 No. 4

VOLUNTEERS' MONTH

Our volunteers are the cheerful force behind all of our activities as a thriving Society and this month the KHS Committee would like to acknowledge and thank our many, wonderful volunteers.

You have faithfully contributed to the Society during the past year as room volunteers and researchers, collecting and preserving records and generally assisting with the numerous duties required to run our vibrant organisation.

The list of volunteer names overleaf gives an amazing insight into what some of you manage to get up to! If you have been assisting and are unable to find your name listed, please let us know.

To show our appreciation, all KHS volunteers are invited to a 'Thankyou Luncheon' to precede the next General Meeting at 12 noon on Saturday 16 May.

The recent 'Volunteer Roll-Up' days were hands-on and enjoyed by older and newer members who participated in 'real life' enquiries – with mentors – or role-playing how to respond to a variety of questions.

This year a number of you have received community awards for your excellent volunteer work – we are justifiably proud of your outstanding achievements.

Please take the time to attend the 'Thankyou Luncheon' if you are able to and enjoy some well deserved 'time off' in the company of fellow volunteers.

The Research Centre will be closed for the day to enable preparations for the event to be held there.

Your RSVP is requested by Tuesday 12 May to:

Yvette Reeve
email: yreeve@optusnet.com.au
or phone 9987 0904 or 0414 249737

We would also like to thank all of those who have made donations to the Society during the year.

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Including Ku-ring-gai Family History Group
Patron: The Mayor of Ku-ring-gai
Research Centre: 799 Pacific Highway, Gordon, NSW 2072
PO Box 109, Gordon, NSW 2072
Tel: (02) 9499-4568
khs@khs.org.au <http://www.khs.org.au>
<https://www.facebook.com/kuringgaihs>
<http://kuringgaihs.blogspot.com.au/>
<https://twitter.com/kuringgaihs>

Saturday 16 May at 2pm
GENERAL MEETING followed by
Guest Speaker: Tony GRIFFITHS
WWI Australian Volunteers in Britain



Benalla Drill

Retired engineer and military historian, Tony Griffiths, will speak about the little-known story of six thousand men who are the subjects of his book, *An Industrial Invasion: Australian Civilian Volunteers in British Factories, 1916 – 1920*.

Visitors Welcome Old Gordon School Meeting Room 1
No Booking Required Afternoon Tea Available

Saturday 2 May
FAMILY HISTORY MEETING

11am 'Convict Workshop'
Members' Help Session in the Research Centre
2pm **GENERAL MEETING** followed by
'Frederick Meredith – A Steward on the First Fleet ship Scarborough'.

Speaker: Nan Bosler

– President of the Frederick Meredith Descendants' Group.

Frederick Meredith is buried at Liverpool with his wife, Sarah Meredith, nee Mason.

One of two plaques on the tombstone was affixed by descendants to commemorate the 150th anniversary of his death on 23 June 1986. The other was affixed by the Federation of First Fleeters.



Visitors Welcome Old Gordon School Meeting Room 1
No Booking Required Afternoon Tea Available

KU-RING-GAI HISTORICAL SOCIETY VOLUNTEER MEMBERS

Acquisitions

Bruce Robinson
Jennifer Wallin

Afternoon Tea/Supper

Margaret & Ray Holland

Jill Nicholson

Vicki Williams

Thanks also to many other helpers.

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KUPEDIA

Jill Armstrong

Peter Stehn

Lorraine Swalwell

Kate Tytherleigh

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Julia Green – Editor

Thanks also to the proofreaders and the many contributors.

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Jean Lucas

Shirley Luttrell

Lois McEvoy

Diana McKenzie

Shirley Morley

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Tony Prince

Yvette Reeve

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Lorna Watt

Vicki Williams

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Evelyn Wyatt

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Jennifer Thredgold

and all other helpers

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Jill Ball
Jackie van Bergen

Speakers Notes From Meetings

Beth Facer
Graham Lewis
Doug Milne
Jean Smith
Elaine Turnidge

Speaker Program

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

Special Interest Groups

Jill Ball – Technology
Rod Gillespie – Irish
Morrison Hammond – Mac
Peter Stehn – German
Leone Stumbaum – German
Jackie van Bergen – Mac

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Jo Harris
Yvette Reeve

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Heather Davidson - Roster Contact

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Andy Joyce

Welfare Officer

Elaine Turnidge

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Diane Ritchie
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Jackie van Bergen
Pat Webb
David Wilkins
Evelyn Wyatt

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Jennifer Harvey
Jenny Joyce
Jo Harris
Graham Lewis
Kathie Rieth
Peter Stehn
Jackie van Bergen
Lorna Watt

THE BAHIA CASTILLO AFFAIR

Not many sea voyages lead to the establishment of a Royal Commission, but one that did provides an interesting postscript to Tony Griffiths talk on Saturday 16 May.

The so-called Bahia Castillo saga arose from the actions of both the military authorities responsible for shipping home the men who had volunteered for factory work in Britain and their families at the end of the war, and the more militant labour men amongst the passengers on this particular ship.

Tony will cover this during his talk. He has also written an account which can be found on the Military History and Heritage Victoria website at mhbv.org.au.

1905 Photo donated by Marje Mullaney



125 YEARS NORTH SHORE RAILWAY ANNIVERSARY

This year marks 125 years since the opening of the north shore railway, on 1 January 1890.



Marking the anniversary was this steam train operating in Ku-ring-gai, here coming from Gordon station and approaching Pymble station

North Shore residents in the late 1800s played an important role in securing construction of the new railway, which helped Ku-ring-gai become a series of garden suburbs of exceptional beauty and amenity - truly a new arcady.

Photo and story by Giles Tabuteau

ERRATUM

The April Newsletter Page 1 group photo caption listed Flying Officer Ross Pearson's credentials incorrectly. The correct details are: OAM, RAAF Ret'd.

21 MARCH GENERAL MEETING NOTES

'Unpicking the Myths of Gallipoli'

David Wilson, military historian, author and member of KHS, spoke to our March meeting about some of the common misconceptions concerning the Gallipoli campaign in the light of recent Australian and Turkish research.

These myths and legends are ingrained in Australian society, and he admitted that it will be extremely difficult to change them now but said that it is important to look at the evidence.

He began with the background to the Australian involvement in the Gallipoli campaign, then examined the following myths about Gallipoli:

There were only Anzac forces at Gallipoli.

There were four assaults on the 25th April: a feint by the Royal Naval Division in the Gulf of Saros, a diversionary attack by the French at Kum Kale, the secondary attack by the Anzac forces at Anzac Cove and the main attack by the British 29th Division at Cape Helles. As well as Australians, New Zealanders and British, there were Indian Army units, the French Army, a Canadian Battalion and the Maltese Labour Corps.

There were huge pre-dawn casualties from machine guns.

Most of the casualties, about 2000 in all, occurred in daylight hours during the attack on the Second and Third Ridges (as the photos showed on cameras used by the Anzacs against orders) and the only machine gun fire in Anzac Cove during the landing was from the ships behind them aimed at the Turks on the heights above Gallipoli.

The Australians had bad maps.

Actually, the Australians had very good maps but there were difficulties caused by the broken terrain.

The Bronzed Aussie Hero

Charles Bean created this by downplaying faults and bestowing hero-like qualities on all the Anzacs.

Who started the Myths?

UK Daily Telegraph correspondent, Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett, who did not go ashore until 9.00pm, wrote reports glorifying the fighting and sent them to Australia where they were printed five days before Bean's reports, thus improving recruiting.

The legend was perpetuated by two Australian films, *Hero of the Dardanelles*, shot on Tamarama Beach in 1915, and the 1928 film, *Spirit of Gallipoli*, which used the same footage with a different story-line.

FURTHER MYTHS

That they landed at the wrong place.

Orders stated that the landing could occur anywhere between Gaba Tepe and Fisherman's Hut.

It became a 'congested landing' most likely because the right hand tow shifted left/north because the midshipman in charge thought he was too close to the Turks at Gaba Tepe. He altered course 3 points port (or 40 degrees left/north) without consulting anyone. This caused a piano accordion effect on other boats.

That only John Simpson Kirkpatrick worked with a donkey to rescue the wounded.

There were actually seventeen Field Ambulance men, some with donkeys, working together and the pictures we all know are of a New Zealand soldier. There were up to 3,000 horses, donkeys and mules ashore.

Gallipoli was the Birth of a Nation.

Billy Hughes used this slogan to support conscription.

Bumbling British Generals caused the defeat.

There were poor decisions and bad leaders on both sides.

The myths continued to be accepted on the home front because the huge casualty lists shocked everyone and the families, who had lost sons, feared their lives had been sacrificed in vain.

There were many positives and negatives in the campaign and the facts need to be re-assessed in the light of new evidence available in both Australian and especially Turkish records.

Jean Smith



4 APRIL FAMILY HISTORY REPORT

The April meeting of the Family History Group took place on a rainy and miserable Easter Saturday and as a result it was a relaxed and informal meeting of a small, keen group of family history devotees.

In fact, it was the first ever family history meeting without an agenda. The morning session was devoted to helping people with their brick walls.

The afternoon session was devoted to getting to know a bit more about our fellow members by people discussing their hobbies.



Noel Blake began by telling us about his interest in churches and church architecture. He described his first love as history, and his second love as 'history through religious artefacts'.

Jan Spargo then showed us one of her landscape paintings of the old Jindabyne bridge, well captured with water based oil paints.

Clynt Sheehy is a member of the Traditional Tools Group, which is devoted to the use, history, maintenance and all aspects of tools. He showed us an example of a lovely little hand tool that can be used as a router.

We were then treated to seeing several examples of Shirley Luttrell's embroidery. She has tackled numerous styles of embroidery: grub roses, freeform, Mountmellick embroidery and so on. She then showed us a colourful memory blanket she had embroidered for her son, with assorted native flowers that had populated the area in which he grew up.

Jenny Joyce showed us several examples of her distinctive folk art painting, followed by Tony Spargo talking about his interests of bird watching and reading. The group found the changes in the bird population over time in this area very interesting.

Sue Holmes described her sewing and needlework projects, which included home furnishings, spinning and weaving, patchwork and smocking.

One of Julia Green's hobbies is leading singing groups and she led us all in a rendition of a memorable WWI tune, *It's a Long Way to Tipperary*, and *Zip-a-dee-doo-dah*, a cheerful 70's Disney movie theme.

Finally, Jo Harris showed us some of her beautiful craftwork, ranging from a knitted teddy bear, to batik, silk painting and fabric painting. She has also done pottery, spinning and dyeing various natural fibres.

Notes by Jenny Joyce

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO A YOUNG ANZAC

Marguerite Lane visited our Research Centre on Friday 10 April and spoke to Jo Harris and the group of 'Roll-Up Volunteers' regarding her need for information and a photo.

Born in the United States, Marguerite has been living and working in Gordon for twenty years, and like many people, she has walked past local war memorials. This year, the Centenary of the Gallipoli Campaign, she has chosen a name from the Memorial Board on Gordon Station, **Alexander Hamilton Lockley**, to honour him personally.

With her husband, David, Marguerite plans to visit his grave and place flowers upon it. After much research, Marguerite was particularly looking for a photograph and when she called back at the Centre, was presented with some of the special red poppies organised by Yvette Reeve via Brendan Nelson, Australian War Memorial Director.

Alexander H Lockley, aged 18, from Ridge Street, Gordon NSW.

Rank on enlistment: 2nd Air Mechanic. Unit: 2nd Australian Flying Squadron, 2nd Reinforcement. The unit embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board HMAT *A20 Hororata* on 23 November 1916.

Sadly, like so many young men who went and served King and Country, Alexander was Killed in Action in France on 5 September 1918, aged 20 years and 11 months. He is buried in Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez. This cemetery is also the final resting place of over 70 Officers of the Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force.

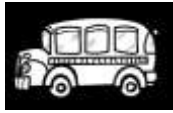
Marguerite and David had visited World War I cemeteries previously when they lived in Germany for several years. All those present to hear this story were moved by Alexander's story and impressed with Marguerite's personal commitment to honour this young, Australian soldier.

Elaine Turnidge



Jack Lockley, Teddy Lockley, ?, Alan Swan 1925Sat

KHS DAY TRIPS



To secure a place, complete booking and signed indemnity forms for each person attending, with cash or cheque payment, placed in the secretary's tray at the KHS Research Centre.

Monday 11 May Exploring Ku-ring-gai

Cost \$35 includes 'Mystery Lunch' – there are several seats available. Please confirm your interest in the Booking Sheet and contact Yvette, Phone 9987 0904, Mobile 0414 249737.

Wednesday 20 May Wangi Wangi and the Dobell House Museum

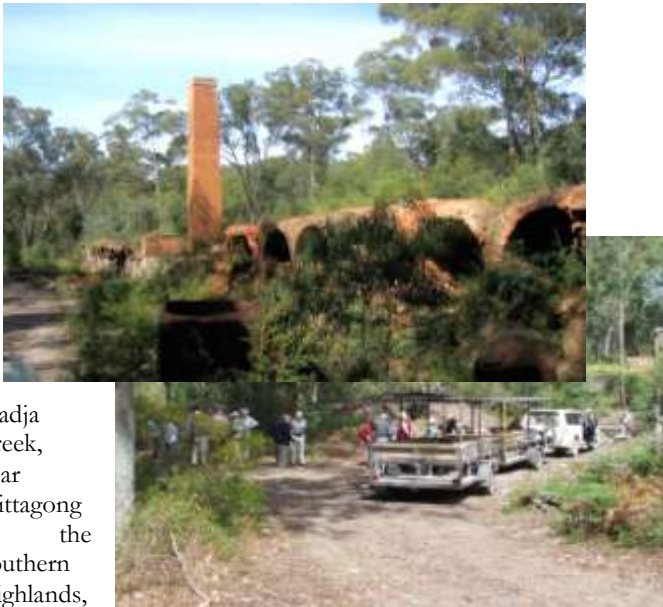
Fully booked.

Thursday 11 June Norman Lindsay Gallery & Museum with Lunch at the Paragon Katoomba

Cost \$45 includes Gallery Tour. Lunch costs not included. Booking Sheet available from 1 May.

MARCH 2015 JOADJA CREEK GHOST TOWN HERITAGE TOUR REPORT

There is something fascinating about a ghost town, in the fallen chimneys, derelict buildings and crumbling gravestones.



Joadja Creek, near Mittagong in the Southern Highlands, is a

decaying reminder of a century ago when this isolated valley housed a thriving community who mined and refined shale, oil and coal. A sideline today is the spawning interest in single malt whisky!

39 coach travellers from KHS were led on this interesting trip by a very good host around the valley in a specially designed train to visit the icons: school house, school of arts that doubled as a Masonic Lodge, stables, hotel and store.

After the shale oil discovery the 'Australian Kerosene Oil & Mineral Company Limited' was approved by the NSW Government and it appears to have thrived from 1870 until 1911.

Notes: Neil Falconer, Photos: Jo Harris and Geoff Little.

HERITAGE WALKS

National Trust Heritage Festival Program

Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment will highlight our local heritage with three walks visiting Gordon, Sheldon Forest and Turramurra as part of the National Trust's 2015 Heritage Festival and the National Trust's 70th Anniversary celebrations.

For all walks bring hat, water, snack and wear good walking shoes. All walks finish at 12 noon and are free.

Annie Wyatt Walk – Sunday 3 May

Meet at Gordon Railway Station Ticket Office
Be there at 9.45am for 10 am start.

Sheldon Forest Walk – Sunday 10 May

Meet at Sheldon Forest entrance, Warragal Road off Pacific Hwy Turramurra. Be there at 9.45am for 10 am start.

Turramurra Heritage Walk – Sunday 17 May

Meet at Turramurra Railway Station Ticket Office.
Be there at 9.45am for 10 am start.

'Planning in the Public Interest'

Wednesday 27 May at 8pm

A talk by award winning architect Philip Thalís at Killara Uniting Church Cnr Arnold and Karranga Avenue.

For more information contact 9416 9007 www.foke.org.au

MISSING PLAQUE

Descendants of three Ku-ring-gai World War I veterans are very keen to locate a missing memorial plaque. It bears the names CD Partridge, JH Partridge and NS Partridge in gold letters cast on a light background.

As young men, the three Partridge boys lived with their family in the area during the early years of last century, and returned at the end of the war to the district.

The plaque was first housed in Chatswood/Roseville and later transferred to a stone in the little park in front of the Roseville RSL Club. The plaque was last seen by family eight years ago and they would very much appreciate anyone able to remember seeing the plaque or who may be aware of its relocation and/or storage contacting:

Dr Barry Partridge, email: barry@workplacemessages.com
Phone 612 9953 3019 Mobile 0414 636494

ANZAC Poppies Knitting Project

The heart-warming Ku-ring-gai ANZAC Poppies Memorial is coming together, in the shape of the first panel ready for St John's Anglican Church Gordon's Anzac Commemorative Service on Sunday 3 May at 11.30am (after the regular service).

Please mark clearly, secure and leave any completed poppies underneath the front porch at 46 Forsyth Street Killara as soon as possible.

The entire project is to hold sixteen hundred red knitted poppies, in recognition of the sixteen hundred Ku-ring-gai men and women who served in World War I, and will be installed in the church later in the year in time for the publication launch of *Rallying the Troops* Volume II.

Sue is very grateful to all who have responded to the call to knit so far, but would love to have some more willing hands. Donations towards wool purchased would also be very welcome. For supplies and instructions please contact:

Sue Dunston Phone 9498 8720.

BOOK ACCESSIONS

Exiles at Home Australian Women Writers 1925 – 1945

by Drusilla Modjeska 1981, published by Angus & Robertson Publishers Pty Ltd 1991 edition. ISBN: 0 207 17112 2 softcover 283 pages. This book traces the lives of a generation of Australia's women writers through letters, diaries, notebooks and the memories of their contemporaries.

The Mighty Continent – A View of Europe in the Twentieth Century

by John Terraine 1974, published by the British Broadcasting Corporation ISBN: 0 563 1 26 56 6 and Hutchison & Co (Publishers) Ltd ISBN: 0 09 122260 5 hardcover with 352 pages. This book is complimentary to a BBC television series of the same name and charts the troubled story of Europe from the days of the Habsburgs until the rise of the EEC.

Kill Or Cure - Lotions, Potions, Characters & Quacks of Early Australia

by Peter J Phillips 1978, published by Greenhouse Publications ISBN: 0 7270 0894 3 hardcover with 157 pages. This is the study of decent men who fought for unpopular beliefs; of likeable villains – and a fair number of unmitigated scoundrels; of strange electrical devices and weird diagnostic procedures.

Notes by Lorraine Henshaw

Genealogy Research Directory National and International

by Keith A Johnson and Malcolm Sainty
2002 paperback 1024 pages

This includes maps of country counties and states of France, Germany, Spain, Ireland, Scotland, America, Canada, England, Australia and New Zealand

The Bulletin Australian Almanac and Book of Facts 1991-1993/94 – Databank of Australia and the World

Softcover 472 pages

There are many contributors to this book, covering numerous topics, such as states, territories, events, health and education statistics, solar power, infrastructure, words and history.

Australia 200 – 1770-1970

by historical author Olaf Ruhen
1970 hardcover 424 pages

This book contains many illustrations and photographs. Forward by the then Prime Minister Sir John Gorton. This book takes us from primeval Australia to the 1970's.

The Australian Mosaic 1788 Diary

by Harry Gordon 1987, Sunshine Diaries Pty Ltd
ISBN 0 9587714 4 8 hardcover

The first half of the book traces the history of the time after 1788 through the years and in various locations. The second half is a day to day diary of the colony's first years as extracted from the diary of Captain Arthur Phillip and his men. The last date of the diary is 4 January 1789.

Notes by Jean Lucas

NEW MEMBERS

KHS welcomes our newest members!

We hope you will make yourselves known at meetings and participate, learn and enjoy the activities of interest to you.

Mr W Boyd	North Narrabeen
Ms A Bunce	St Ives
Ms S Craig	Macquarie Park
D and I Hellstrom	Lindfield
Ms S Monsted	Roseville
Ms P Thompson	Wahroonga
Ms L West	Eastwood

ON SALE NOW

Rallying the Troops – Volume I

This is no ordinary WWI reference book and its reach goes well beyond the Ku-ring-gai local area.

The introductory chapters cover topics including:

Recruitment

Rifle Clubs
Overseas War
Memorials

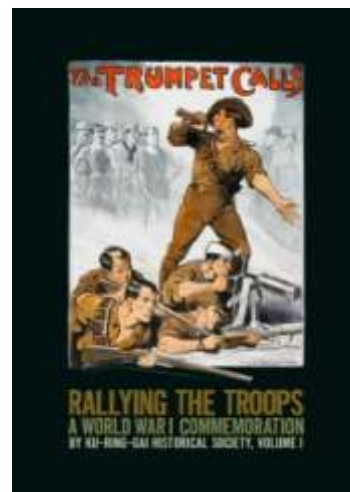
Charles Bean

The
New Guinea
Campaign

and Gallipoli.

The well researched biographies cover men and women from all parts of Australia, and some from overseas – many appear on Ku-ring-gai war memorials, some were linked to a Ku-ring-gai next of kin, while others had significant local connections. Includes Red Cross and War Chests Commission.

Available from KHS – reasonably priced at \$40!



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please send email copy for publication to editor@khs.org.au as early as possible, but no later than 15th of each month.

Copy is accepted on the basis that Ku-ring-gai Historical Society has editing rights and that readers can reproduce it in whole or part with acknowledgement.

Material should be in electronic form if possible, with as little formatting as possible, e.g. no bullets, indenting or styles.

DIARY DATES

Saturday 2 May

- Family History
11am 'Convict Workshop'
Members' Help Session in the
Research Centre
2pm General Meeting followed by
'Frederick Meredith – A Steward on the
First Fleet ship, *Scarborough*'
Speaker: Nan Bosler, President of the
Frederick Meredith Descendants' Group
Afternoon Tea Visitors Welcome

Saturday 16 May

- 2pm Society General Meeting and Lecture
Tony Griffiths, Retired Engineer
and Military Historian:
'WWI Australian Volunteers in Britain'
Old Gordon School Meeting Room 1
Afternoon Tea Visitors Welcome

Saturday 6 June

- 11am 'Putting your NSW Ancestors on the Map' -
Members Help Session
2pm Society General Meeting followed by
'The Huntingtons of Huntington Street,
Crows Nest and the Connection with The
North Shore Historical Society'. Speaker:
Geoff Huntington, President of the North
Shore Historical Society
Afternoon Tea Visitors Welcome

Saturday 20 June

- 2pm Society General Meeting and Lecture
Speaker: Carol Baxter, Popular Author
'The Peculiar Case of the Electric Constable'
Afternoon Tea Visitors Welcome

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS

in the KHS Research Centre:

Mac-Users Group

Monday 4 May at 2pm

Irish Special Interest Group

Friday 8 May at 1.30pm

German Special Interest Group

Monday 15 June at 1:30pm (no meeting in May)
'Pronunciation and Construction of German Words
and Phrases Relevant to Family History Research,
Part 2', Presenter: Leone Stumbaum

Technology Special Interest Group

Thursday 14 May at 1.30pm

WWI Researchers and Writers Group

Saturday 23 May 2-4pm

ADMINISTRATION

Phone Numbers

President	Graham Lewis	9416 5818
Vice-Presidents	Jo Harris	9489 4393
	Jenny Joyce	9440 2131
Treasurer	Neil Falconer	9488 7293
Secretary	Yvette Reeve	9987 0904
Immediate Past President	Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
COMMITTEE	Ann Barry	9144 6480
	Morrison Hammond	9449 7447
	Margaret Holland	9488 5452
	Joan Stebbing	9489 6476
	Jennifer Thredgold	9144 6320
Family History Group		
Leader	Jo Harris	9489 4393
Committee	Margaret Holland	9488 5452
	Jenny Joyce	9440 2131
	Yvette Reeve	9987 0904
	Beverly Robinson	9988 3775
	Jean Smith	9498 4468
	Elaine Turnidge	9899 2635
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	Margaret Holland	9488 5452
Catering	Vicki Williams	9415 8833
	Margaret Holland	9488 5452
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Curators	Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
	Ann Barry	9144 6480
The Historian Editors	Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
	Kathie Rieth	9416 1587
Indexing	Beth Facer	9988 0823
Newsletter Editor	Julia Green	9440 4742
Publicity	Sue Dunston	9498 8720
Public Officer	Helen Davies	9416 5825
Research Team Leader	Joan Stebbing	9489 6476
Social Media	Jill Ball	9653 1888
Speakers Program	Beverley Dunstan	9419 8526
Volunteer Roster	Heather Davidson	9144 1844
Volunteer Coordinator	Geoff Little	9449 3131
Webmaster	Andy Joyce	9440 2131
Welfare Officer	Elaine Turnidge	9899 2635
WWI Writers & Researchers Group Coordinators	Kathie Rieth frithie@netdata.com.au	
	David Wilkins	0411 186752

KHS RESEARCH CENTRE HOURS

The Ku-ring-gai Historical Society Research Centre is located at 799 Pacific Highway Gordon, next door to Gordon Library. **Open 10am – 2pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturdays**, except 1st Saturday of each month. Closed Wednesdays, Sundays and Public Holidays. **Closed Saturday 16 May for Volunteers' Lunch.**