



# 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.

**November/December 2010 Monthly Newsletter Vol. 28 No. 10**

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

## Coming Meetings

### General Meeting

**Saturday 20 November at 2 pm**

- to be followed by a Christmas afternoon tea  
- please bring a plate

### *'The Controversial Major Mitchell'*

Surveyor-General Mitchell's professionally organised explorations were major achievements for the colony between 1828-1855.

The first person to be knighted for his services in Australia, Mitchell also fought the last recorded duel in this country.



Our speaker, surveyor and Mitchell advocate JOHN READ has a fascinating story to tell of the man behind the textbook entries.

**Visitors welcome.**

### Next Family History Meeting

**Saturday 6 November**

**11 am** Exploring Electoral Rolls from the bookshelves & the intranet.

**2 pm** **General Meeting** followed by Babette Smith Her topic will be "*Out of Sight – The Legacy of the Convict Era*". Babette's writings include her thesis and book "*A Cargo of Women*" – the story of Susannah Watson and the convicts of the "Princes Royal" which includes the lives of one hundred convict women and more recently "*Australia's Birthstain*".

**Afternoon Tea will be available.**

**Visitors welcome.**

### *December Family History Meeting*

**Saturday 4 December**

**11 am** No research topic.

**2 pm** **General Meeting** followed by *Show and Tell* - bring an item that is a special family possession and tell members why it is special. If you are able to carry your item in one or two hands, we would like to hear you talk about it.

*Followed by Christmas afternoon tea  
– please bring a plate.*

**N.B. No Family History Meeting in January**

### January 2011

### General Meeting

**Saturday 15 January at 2 pm**

*Come and  
reminisce  
about life in  
Sydney 50  
years ago...*



**Ben Smith** will talk about his latest book "*No time for the Smiths*". Ben is a retired advertising man who spent his first eight productive years working in television, then became an advertising copywriter.

Eventually he retired to write books. Four of his thrillers have been published and a whodunit series is now with an agent in London.

This is a true account, constructed from journals, of the first year of a marriage fifty years ago.

### *Closure of rooms*

**The Society's rooms will be closed  
from Monday 20 December 2010  
to Saturday 8 January 2011.**

---

## ***The search for Lasseter's Reef***

Bob Lasseter was the speaker following the general meeting of 18 September, and what a delight he was. Son of Harry Lasseter, of "Lasseter's Lost Reef" fame, Bob, an 80-year-old retired design engineer, pilot and artist, provided an engaging insight into his father, his life and death, and to Bob's own journey of discovery as he pursued his father's history. We didn't learn the whereabouts of the lost reef, but we did have a rare opportunity to hear at virtual first-hand a story that for most of us was little more than a fable.

Harry was just 17 when he stumbled on his reef of gold. Some months later he returned to the reef with someone with surveying experience. He then sought to raise interest in exploiting his find, but its remoteness brought little interest. Instead, he spent most of the next 30 years in other pursuits. However, in 1930 a company was formed to find the lost reef, equipped with a car, a couple of trucks and a Gypsy Moth. They set up a landing strip at Ilbilba, west of Alice Springs, from where Harry made air reconnaissance flights, surviving one crash. However, the survey proved to have been in error, and landmarks difficult to recognise.

An initial ground expedition by truck came to nought and they switched to camels. However, that too was unsuccessful. They returned to Ilbilba, with Harry making arrangements to meet up with a friend and prospector, Johansen, at Lake Christopher. Johansen, too, had found the reef years before, and they hoped their pooled knowledge would find it again.

However, Johansen didn't turn up and Harry set off alone, rediscovered the reef and recorded his exuberance in his diary. Sadly, returning to Mt Olga, the camels bolted, and he walked on until camping by the Hull River. Befriended by aborigines there, he stayed a month or so and then walked on with them to Mt Olga. Sadly, after just three days he succumbed and was buried by the aborigines. Bob was just five at the time.

Harry's diaries and remains were later recovered, but various attempts over the years to rediscover the reef have been unsuccessful. His remains are in Alice Springs cemetery. A memorial plaque has been erected at the site of his original burial.

*Graham Lewis*

## ***Prior issues of "The Historian" wanted***

Our Research Team would welcome old issues of "The Historian" to aid our research and help with enquiries.

Now is your chance to free up space on your bookshelf. If you can oblige, simply leave them at the KHS Rooms.

## ***Quiz Answers (see P. 8 for Questions)***

1. b. Richard Porter owned "Grandview" on Pymble hill.
2. c. William Henry McIntosh had three streets named after him in Gordon, William St (now eastern end of Cecil St), Henry St, and McIntosh St (western side of railway line, now Ravenswood Ave).
3. d. Thomas Waterhouse owned the Greengate Hotel.
4. c. Harold Cazneau took photographs for Ku-ring-gai Council (and many other people and places).
5. a. Gary was a bushranger in the Gordon-Killara area.

---

## ***Oral History Course 15 November***

Would you like to help us collect Oral Histories about Ku-ring-gai? We have organized a **one day training session** with Trish Levido from the Oral History Association of NSW on **15 November**.

The session will start at 10.30 am and you will learn from Trish, and have the opportunity to practise your questioning techniques. This session is open to both our experienced Oral History takers, as well as new people wanting to get involved. There is no cost for this session, but **bookings are essential**.

For enquiries or bookings, phone Jenny Joyce, 9440 2131.

## ***What workshops or groups would you like the Society to run in the New Year?***

### **We need your input!**

We have been running workshops throughout 2010 but now we need to know what topics you would like to see covered in 2011.

These can range from general computer usage queries to specialist packages for experienced users. We have a great deal of expertise across a wide range of interests, so tell us what you'd like to see offered.

Also, some members may wish to form Special Interest Groups (SIGs). These can be on any subject and are simply an informal group of members with a shared interest and a desire to share knowledge on a particular subject. Some examples of Special Interest Groups are:

- \* Legacy Family Tree genealogy software
- \* Family Tree Maker software
- \* Cornwall ancestors
- \* Churches of Ku-ring-gai

These are only some of the many possible subjects of interest. There are no restrictions on the Special Interest subjects that can be chosen.

SIGs are normally informal and of mutual benefit to all participants. Any member can join any SIG. All that is required is one or more persons to act as a coordinator and any number of like-minded members. Each SIG can set their own agenda, meeting form and schedule (can even be by email, for example).

We do need your input, so please make your suggestions via email or talk to a committee member.

## ***The following new resources have been added to our Intranet:***

- \* First Fleeters of 1788 and their First Titleholder Grants of Land
- \* First Title Holders of Land in the Counties of St Vincent, Argyle, Westmoreland, Roxburgh, Phillip and Brisbane
- \* New South Wales Government Gazettes 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1866, 1867, 1869 and 1870
- \* Historical Records of New South Wales Volumes 1-7 covering the period 1762-1811
- \* 1913 New South Wales Electoral Roll in two sections - Volumes 1-8 and Volumes 9-16, and
- \* Berry General Cemetery Obituaries

*Peter Stehn*

## Ancestry

Recent additions to *Ancestry* that may be of interest to members are:-

\* In addition to the existing “Sands Directories Sydney and New South Wales 1858-1933”, *Ancestry* added “Sydney and New South Wales Sands Street Index 1861-1930” on 25 August 2010, which allows you to locate people in the street index section of Sands and identify their neighbours, house names, multiple occupants, etc. The two views of Sands are complementary.

\* On 13 July 2010 *Ancestry* added:

Australia Marriage Index, 1788-1949

Australia Birth Index, 1788-1922

Australia Death Index, 1787-1985

The start and end years are not the same for all states. For example, the Birth Index covers New South Wales 1788-1909, Northern Territory 1870-1909, Queensland 1829-1909, South Australia 1907-1922, Tasmania 1803-1909, Victoria 1836-1909 and Western Australia 1841-1905.

However, one of the obvious advantages of these integrated indexes is that you can concurrently search across all available indexes for all states to locate those people who moved from state to state.

Previously this could only be achieved by separate searches of different resources.

## Tour Report Tuesday 12 October Painting The Rocks - The Exhibition.

The morning started with coffee and friends at the Museum of Sydney, followed by an enlightening talk by Sydney Harbour Foreshore archaeologist, Dr Wayne Johnson.

We were enthralled by his commentary and by the paintings and photos commissioned by the government prior to the demolition and cleanup of some of the houses as a result of the plague.

The ratcatchers were photographed along with their trophies, black rats as well as many indigenous marsupials. The houses left standing were whitewashed as witness to their cleanup.

The paintings were by many unknown and well known artists including Julian Ashton, and photos by our old friend Cazneaux, and John Degotardi, with the inclusion of some cartoons of the time by O’Sullivan for the Bulletin. These brought to life, if only through a peep hole, the lives and times of our early settlers, especially for those of us whose forebears were among the residents of the area.

There was also interesting information about the original aborigines of the area, and also of the growth of Sydney.

All in all, it was an exciting exhibition!

Our thanks to Jackie van Bergen for arranging it. Great value for \$5!!

*Lucille Taylor*

## From the Editor

My special thanks to all those who contributed items to the *Newsletter* during 2010. Contributions, large and small, are always welcome - so make it YOUR newsletter in 2011!

*Bob Barry*

## Mercury flies again!



On a sunny Wednesday 22 September 2010, but with a cool breeze blowing, under the guidance of Jo Harris, Mercury once again flew back to his rightful place at the top of the Monument commemorating the First Direct Wireless Message – UK to Australia – Wales to Wahroonga.

The memorial, at the busy roundabout at the corner of Stuart and Cleveland Streets, was once again decorated with large Welsh and Australian Flags, a Welsh Dragon holding an Aussie Flag and an Aussie Kangaroo holding a Welsh Flag. A framed memento of the Special Message sent all those years ago, on 22 September 1918, by Marconi from the Marconi Transmission Station at Waunfawr outside Carnarvon, North Wales, to Ernest Fisk at his home at this corner in Wahroonga, also takes its place as part of the decoration on this day. The Society appreciates the loan of the memento to us for the day by the owners, as it forms part of the deeds to this house.

Jo was joined early in the day by Margaret and Barry Eastment and Bruce Robinson, and later by Elaine Turnidge. Barry later unscrewed Mercury to spend the night with Jo, before being returned the next day to his home at Ku-ring-gai Council Chambers.

Many brochures were handed out to interested passers by. A special finale to the day was when a Welsh family, a young mother married to an Aussie, with her daughter and son, and their Aussie cousin, stopped after seeing the Welsh flag and came to find out why it was there. To our delight the 9 year old daughter read out to us the words in Welsh that were printed in Jo’s folder. She told us that she is trying to teach Dad the Welsh language!!!



Another kindness during the day was when a nearby resident, Gillian, brought us cappuccino and cake and offered her home for a comfort stop. With that cool breeze blowing this was much appreciated.

*Elaine Turnidge*

---

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- that may be of interest to our members....

### State Library – Lifelong Learning Series

Talks and workshops on a variety of topics such as:

- Uncover and discover – exploring the Library’s website
- Social Networking for beginners
- Google for beginners

For more information go to events section of [www.sl.nsw.gov.au](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au)

Bookings essential, free

### State Library – Out of the Vaults

Powerful World War I Memories talk. The wonderfully diverse material deposited with the Library included diaries, letters, sketches, watercolours and photographs — all reflecting the many facets of Australian experiences in WWI.

Thu 4 Nov, 5.30-7.30 pm, \$25, Bookings essential

### State Library – Mari Nawi – Gallery walk

In conjunction with the Mari Nawi: Aboriginal Odysseys 1790-1850 exhibition.

This exhibition focuses on the Eora and Darug people from the Sydney area, who sailed on English ships through Port Jackson to destinations in Australia and throughout the world during the period 1790 to 1850. Theirs was a canoe culture and they called these ships mari nawi, meaning ‘large canoes’.

For more information go to events section of [www.sl.nsw.gov.au](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au)

Wed 10 Nov or Wed 24 Nov, 12.20 pm, \$20/\$10, Bookings essential

### State Library – Free Movies

Thu 11 Nov, 12.10 pm, Monash: The forgotten ANZAC

Thu 25 Nov, 12.10 pm, Who do you think you are? Jack Thompson & Kate Cerebrano

For more information go to events section of [www.sl.nsw.gov.au](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au)

Bookings not required, free

### Painting the Rocks: The Loss of Old Sydney - Exhibition

The exhibition visits The Rocks in a time when countless colonial buildings were being demolished in the name of public health and progress following the outbreak of bubonic plague in Sydney during 1900. In the city’s transition to a modern metropolis a group of artists set out to capture ‘Old Sydney’ before it disappeared.

See this Newsletter P. 3 for a review from the Society’s excursion.

From now until 28 Nov 2010 at the Museum of Sydney Admission: \$10 Adult, \$5 Concession. Further information: [www.hht.net.au](http://www.hht.net.au)

### Sydney Open 2010

Sydney Open is a biennial event presented by Historic Houses Trust that showcases Sydney’s architecture.

From architectural icons to secret and hidden places, award-winning contemporary designs to much-loved heritage buildings, industrial shells to creative adaptations and state-of-the-art sustainable living projects, Sydney Open will open

your eyes to the past, present and future of Sydney’s built environment.

Access over 50 sites around the CBD and Pyrmont in one day. You can visit sites in any order. An accompanying booklet helps you plan the day.

**When:** Sat 6 & Sun 7 Nov, 9.30am – 5pm

Varying prices: City Pass tickets, Focus tour tickets – further information: [www.hht.net.au/sydneyopen](http://www.hht.net.au/sydneyopen)

### Is heritage a dirty word in the 21st century?

What is the future of the past in the 21st century and beyond? Leading figures in heritage management and conservation will discuss the social, economic and cultural roles of heritage in contemporary Australia, and the associated challenges, threats and opportunities.

Speakers are Professor Richard Mackay, Godden Mackay Logan; the Hon Dr Meredith Burgmann MLC; Dr Wayne Johnson, Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority and Dr Caroline Butler- Bowdon, Assistant Director (Learning and Outreach), Historic Houses Trust. The event will be chaired by Kate Clark, Director, Historic Houses Trust.

**When:** Wed 17 Nov 2010, 6.30-8.30pm,

**Where:** The Museum of Sydney,

**Contact:** 8239 2211, [tickets.hht.net.au](http://tickets.hht.net.au),

**Cost:** \$30.00 Adult, \$25.00 Conc & HHT members.

Bookings essential.

**Society of Australian Genealogists:** For more information, see [www.sag.org.au](http://www.sag.org.au)

Topics covered in the next few months include:

- \* Internet weekend at the Mitchell library, Sat 30 & Sun 31 Oct
- \* Irish Focus Day, Sat 4 Dec
- \* Accessing Police, Court & Gaol records with Christine Yeats of State Records, Sat 22 Jan
- \* NSW Lands Dept research, Sat 22 Jan
- \* Researching Tasmanian convicts, Sat 29 Jan
- \* UK Criminal Registers for Convicts, Sat 29 Jan

### Unlock the Past Roadshow, North Ryde

See many societies, libraries, and product and service suppliers, with about 40 different talks, special offers and prizes. For details see: [www.unlockthepast.com.au](http://www.unlockthepast.com.au)

Fri 19 to Sat 20 Nov, 8.30am to 6pm, North Ryde Community RSL.

### Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi 2010

See the spectacular Bondi to Tamarama coastal walk transformed into a giant sculpture park of over 100 sculptures by artists from Australia and across the world.

**When:** 28 October - 14 November 2010.

**Cost:** Free

Further information: [info@sculpturebythesea.com](mailto:info@sculpturebythesea.com) or phone 8399 0233.

### Audaciousville: The Story of Dacey Garden Suburb

More commonly known as Daceyville, this unique suburb was a grand experiment in its day. Once nothing more than sand, it became Australia’s first public housing scheme. In this exhibition you will travel to all corners of its past, from the appalling conditions that inspired it, to the idealistic designers who planned it. Thanks to the generosity of past

residents, you will also get a glimpse of what everyday life was like in this historic suburb.

**When:** 10 am–2 pm until 25 February 2011

**Where:** George Hanna Memorial Museum, Mascot Library, 2 Hatfield Street Mascot.

**Cost:** Free

More information: [museum@botanybay.nsw.gov.au](mailto:museum@botanybay.nsw.gov.au) or 9366 3802.

### ***Travels in Atomic Sunshine – History in conversation series***

History Council NSW and the City of Sydney Library are proud to present History in Conversation, a series of talks showcasing winners of the 2009 NSW Premier's History Award.

Join us on Remembrance Day 2010 and discover a fascinating chapter of Australia's early post war history.

In February 1946, the Australians of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force moved into western Japan to 'demilitarise and democratise' the atom-bombed backwater of Hiroshima Prefecture.

For over six years, up to 20,000 Australian servicemen, including their wives and children, participated in an historic experiment in nation-rebuilding.

It was a cultural reconnaissance — the first time a large number of Australians were able to explore in depth an Asian society and country.

On the evening of Remembrance Day, historian Robin Gerster will discuss his book *Travels in Atomic Sunshine*, winner of the 2009 NSW Premier's History Award for Australian history with Jake Lynch, a former international reporter and peace journalism expert.

**When:** Thursday 11 November 2010, 6.00 pm for 6.30 pm.

**Where:** Customs House, Circular Quay.

**Cost:** \$10, free for Library members, includes light refreshments.

**Contact:** 9242 8555 or [library@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:library@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au). Bookings essential.

## **FEEDBACK**

Have you been to any of the events we've mentioned in the Newsletter?

Have you been to any other interesting events or exhibitions?

We'd love to hear about them – even a couple of sentences. Submit your paragraph (or more?) to the Editor at [bob\\_barry@optusnet.com.au](mailto:bob_barry@optusnet.com.au)

Lucille Taylor's *Tour Report* on P. 3 of this Newsletter will encourage others to visit that exhibition, which is still open. So share your feedback with other members in your Newsletter!

## **From The Kuringian April 24 1911**

“Ratepayers are reminded that they have no jurisdiction over the footpath. If you have a load of wood or manure, sand or bricks, be careful and not let them be placed on the path, or some of the Councillors may be ringing up the Inspector of Nuisances to come and interview you.”

## **BUILT HERITAGE**

### ***Response to the column on service stations in Ku-ring-gai***



My father Allan Power, an engineer, and his younger brother Edward (Ted) Power, an auto electrician, had their service station and repair garage (photo above) at No 355 Pacific Highway on its corner with Wolseley Street, Lindfield from about 1921.

This happened soon after Dad returned home from WWI in 1919. Their father, Joseph Porter Power, architect, designed it for them on the block of land of 27¾ perches that he purchased in 1916-1920. They sold all brands of fuel and were later very much against one-brand service stations. They had the franchise for Standard cars. In November 1951, Shell purchased the garage for Bert Wakelin, because of his wonderful service over the many years he worked for them.

On the block of land next door was Clark's bakery, and I remember as a child standing on the high outdoor back platform repair area, watching the horses being taken out of their harnesses and fed with their much-awaited nose bags. Next door was Lumby's builders hardware shop.

George Ball had his garage and service station on the Pacific Highway near the Lindfield railway station ramp, next door to the Blue Bird milk bar. Later he built a showroom on a paddock in front of the present library, opposite the three shops south of the post office.

Another early garage and service station belonged to Mr Fulton, on the corner of No 232 Pacific Highway and Beaconsfield Parade, Lindfield. During WWII he converted the high area under the back of the garage into a flat for his wife and himself.

Harold Seymour's Spanish Mission style garage and service station at No 985 Pacific Highway, on its corner with William Street, Roseville, also had a large glass showroom for his franchise cars.

Jack Wagg's garage and service station at No 494 Pacific Highway, Lindfield, on the west side between Provincial and Stanhope roads, was an early garage in the area too.

I remember the Pymble garage on the corner of Telegraph Road and the same gum trees. It was opposite the old substation. It was converted into a restaurant in the 1950s, an all glass building, quite impressive for those days. I remember eating there on several occasions.

**Joy Walker**

# FAMILY MATTERS

## October Family History Meeting

### 11 am Session

Jo Harris led the morning meeting of more than 20 members and demonstrated several NSW Government Gazettes from the period 1832 to 1863, and the 1862 Police Gazette. We also looked at AGSI Nos. 1, 2 and 3 (Australasian Genealogical Computer Index).

Jo reported that plans have been announced for a Biographical Database of Australia to gather all the baptism, marriage, burial and cemetery records, convict, muster/census, land and other colonial records, biographies from contemporary and recent publications, with a view to linking all references to individuals together. A detailed article is published in the September 2010 issue of "Descent", journal of the Society of Australian Genealogists.

### 2 pm Meeting

At least 60 members were present at this meeting chaired by Jo, who reported that on this day in 1788 a warrant for a trial by court martial of James Furzer was signed by the Governor and the Judge Advocate. In 1964 the Gladesville Bridge was officially opened on this day, and 50 years ago this month the Warragamba Dam was opened. 100 years ago the Mitchell Library was opened, Halley's Comet was observed, the Wireless Institute of Australia was founded. The writers of the day were C.E. Bean, Mary Grant Bruce, John Flynn, Mary Gilmore, Henry Lawson and Henry Handel Richardson.

### Publications

Jo reminded members to look at the monthly issue of "Australian Family Tree Connections", and also newsletters sent regularly from other societies. She displayed several books from her collection - Bowenfels - A Register of pre-1961 Deceased Residents; The Children's Friend Society; Exiled; and two CDs of First Fleet Land Grants and Titleholders.

### Reports on Conferences, Visits, Events

Jo spoke on a visit to the monthly meeting of the Lithgow Family History Group.

Jenny Joyce reported on the recent Annual State Conference of the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies hosted by the Shoalhaven Society and held at the Bomaderry Bowling Club. Next year it will be held in Inverell, and in 2012 the Botany Bay Society.

### Cemetery Visit

Jan Cook advised that she will be going to Ypres in Belgium again in November and offered to take photographs.

Jo then introduced our three guest speakers:-

Jonathan O'Dea, State Member for Davidson

Paul Fletcher, Federal Member for Bradfield

Barry O'Farrell, State Member for Ku-ring-gai

It transpired that both the O'Dea and O'Farrell forebears came from the same part of Ireland - County Clare. Jonathan's father and grandfather were partners in the old Sydney law firm, Carroll & O'Dea, and his father was also Mayor of North Sydney. His grandmother was Joy Roach whose family arrived in the 1850s. Uncle Cecil and wife

were farmers in the Richmond area and lived in the former home of the Pitt Family. The eldest O'Dea son was always named John, and seven generations can be traced. The name O'Dea is derived from a 10th century chieftain, and O'Dea Castle is now the centre of Clare Archaeology.

Paul was born in Devizes, Wiltshire in 1965. He described Devizes as an important battle site in 1643 during the English Civil Wars which resulted in the reform from absolute monarchy to parliamentary democracy. Paul's ancestors were farmers, and both sides of his family have lived in Wilshire since historical records began. Mother grew up on a home farm, perhaps connected to Watt Tyler, a leader of the Peasants Revolt. Paul spoke of the importance of emigration in British history and of immigration to Australia, also that education is central to the fortunes of a family. His father did well in exams, went to University, became an aeronautical engineer, and the family went to Adelaide when Paul was 2. His father then worked at the Weapons Research Establishment.

Barry commented that family history gives you a taproot into history. He is a 4th generation Australian, his forebears Patrick Farrell and Mary Silver having arrived in Victoria in 1850 and taking up farming around Benalla. Perhaps a son, first of the family to be born here, added the 'O'. Barry's grandfather William was a Victorian Police Officer for 35 years, spent much time in the country and retired to Ballarat. Barry's father Kevin (1927-1991) spent 27 years in the Army which meant many moves for the family, rose to Warrant Officer 2nd Class, and served in the Occupation Force in Japan.

Votes of thanks were given by Max Farley, Brian Gapes and Carolyn Darby.

The raffles of pre-loved books were won by Janet Webb who chose 'A History of the North Shore Sydney from 1788' and Julie Werner who chose 'The Liberators'.

*Based on notes by Stella Green*

## Recent Aquisitions

*MacMasters Beach - A History*, Beryl Strom.

*The History and Descriptions of Sydney Harbour*, PR Stephensen.

*Katie Hume on the Darling Downs, A Colonial Marriage*. Edited by Nancy Bonnin. Letters of a Colonial Lady, 1866-1871.

*Fremantle Town Hall 1887-1987*, David Hutchison.

*In step with Sturt*, Keith Swan and Margaret Carneigie. Captain Charles Sturt.

*Aboriginal Place Names and their meanings*, compiled by AW Reed.

## Search Tip

When searching NSW BDMs for Mac..... or Mc.... surnames, it is worth trying your search with a space between the Mac/Mc and the rest of the name.

There are 836 births for Mc(space)..... and 48 for Mac(space).....

There are 1911 deaths for Mc(space)..... and 192 for Mac(space).....

---

## ***Tasmanian Records***

- from the *Joyce Purtscher* talk at the Shoalhaven family history conference

### ***Tasmanian Archives & Heritage Office***

<http://www.archives.tas.gov.au/>

This is now updated so when you click on the convict's name it takes you to that record, not just the book the entry was in. This can often show you when the convict left the 'old' country and their record in Tasmania.

### ***Cascades Female Factory***

<http://www.femalefactory.com.au/>

Female convicts were transferred here.

The parent convict record tells whether there are any children and how many, but not always their names or whether they were on board.

People have submitted their own details of convicts to this site.

### ***Queen's Orphanage***

<http://www.orphanschool.org.au/>

It was set up in 1828 and closed in 1879, and took in:

- true orphans
- children of military pensioners
- children of convict women
- stolen generation children

These children stayed in the orphanage until they were 'given permission' to leave - either:

- their parent got a Ticket of Leave
- old enough to be assigned an apprenticeship

They could be assigned an apprenticeship without parental permission or knowledge. No checks were made on the assigned children and they were often mistreated.

Orphanage records give the child's age (often guessed), name, parent and ship to colony. These are also at the Tasmanian Archives and are in the process of being indexed into books (by the speaker, Joyce Purtscher).

In the orphanage, boys and girls were separated.

There are no headstones in the children's cemetery although the St John's (Anglican) register has some records.

There was a large death rate of about 10%, mostly due to lack of food/poor diet, poor hygiene – often 3 girls/bed, boys in hammocks, and problems with bedwetting.

The Queen's Orphanage buildings are older than Port Arthur and there is a group currently trying to save these.

The website has lots of information and photos, as well as the opportunity for you to add your stories.

The Fostered/Boarded-out system was usually a poorer family wanting extra money who took in child(ren). These children were checked on as regards food, school and basic care.

Industrial Schools treated children better than the orphanages.

### ***National Archives of Australia***

<http://www.naa.gov.au/>

This has immigration records and service records of Tasmanian people.

The Tasmanian population was relatively constant with movements in and out related to:

- convicts working hard to leave as soon as they were able.
- goldrushes in Vic and New Zealand, regular ships to NZ from Launceston.
- 1880s & 1890s depressions in Tasmania, with many people going to jobs in NSW and QLD. This happened again in the 1930s.
- post WWI and WWII, many men stayed on mainland Australia when they returned from war.

### ***University of Tasmania Archives***

<http://www.utas.edu.au/library/info/collec/arch/>

They have a good library where the top floor is all archives with many books of industrial school records covering girls up to 15 yrs.

These schools were taken over by the Salvation Army in 1945 and there are good records.

### ***Tasmanian Family History Society***

<http://www.tasfhs.org/>

When children came to Tasmania with their convict mother, they were usually registered in the Queen's Orphanage with her surname, but may have later married using their original (paternal) surname.

They have a lot of publications, records and books and you are welcome to write to them. They can do research for \$15/hour or \$20 if non-member, and will answer within the month.

There is also a CD Index of Paupers and Invalids – convicts after they were 'free' often came into this category.

The Launceston Benevolent Society now have some records online too.

### ***Founders & Survivors Project***

<http://www.foundersandsurvivors.org/>

This website is following convicts and WWI soldiers from the cradle to the grave, and comparing predominantly health issues. Many researchers have submitted their own information to this site.

### ***Other useful websites***

#### ***Cornelian Bay Cemetery Hobart***

<http://www.millingtons.com.au/records-search>

#### ***Carr Villa Cemetery Launceston***

<http://www.launceston.tas.gov.au/lcc/index.php?c=30>

### ***Note on the speaker, Joyce Purtscher***

*Joyce Purtscher was born and bred in Tasmania of parents descended from many convicts, and free but poor people. She has indexed children in the Queen's Orphanage and other orphanages and pauper institutions in Tasmania.*

*The orphans are of particular interest for family researchers, as hundreds of children accompanied their convict parents to VDL and ended up in the Queen's Orphanage. These children were free children, but were not listed as free settlers – hence the difficulty tracing their origins.*

***Jackie van Bergen***

## 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.

## Season's Greetings!

*The Committee hopes that all Members of the Society have a safe and enjoyable Festive Season, and wishes them all the best for 2011.*

## New Members

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

Sharon Connolly	St Ives
Tony & Margaret Coulter	West Pymble
Timothy and Brenda Hurst	West Pymble

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

## Quiz (answers P. 2)

- Richard Porter owned?  
a. The Ku-ring-gai Town Hall b. "Grandview" on Pymble hill c. A house at Fuller's Bridge d. The Reservoir at Killara.
- William Henry McIntosh had three streets named after him, where are or were they?  
a. St Ives b. Pymble c. Gordon d. Killara.
- Thomas Waterhouse owned?  
a. The Gordon Public School b. The Pymble Hotel c. The Roseville Theatre d. The Greengate Hotel.
- Harold Cazneau took?  
a. messages for the post office b. historic balloon rides c. photographs for Ku-ring-gai Council d. a walk around the block every day.
- Geary was a?  
a. bushranger b. photographer c. chess champion d. cricketer.

## 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.

© Copyright is vested in the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society Inc. and the authors.

The content may be reproduced as sourced from this Newsletter and with acknowledgment to named authors.

## Diary Dates

- Sat 6 Nov Family History Meeting**  
**11 am** Exploring Electoral Rolls from the bookshelves & the intranet.  
**2 pm General Meeting** followed by: Babette Smith speaking to us about "Convict Women"
- Sat 20 Nov 2 pm General Meeting**  
"The Controversial Major Mitchell"  
Speaker: John Read.  
*Followed by a "bring a plate" Christmas afternoon tea.*
- Sat 4 Dec Family History Meeting**  
**11 am** No research  
**2 pm General Meeting** followed by: Show and Tell.  
*Followed by a "bring a plate" Christmas afternoon tea.*
- N.B. KHS rooms closed from 20/12/2010 to 8/1/2011*
- Sat 15 Jan 2 pm General Meeting** followed by: Ben Smith "No time for the Smiths"

## Administration

President	Ann Barry	9144 6480
Vice Presidents	Jo Harris	9489 4393
	Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
Treasurer	Doug Milne	9487 2853
Minute Secretary	Yvette Reeve	9987 0904
Immed. Past President	Kevin Callinan	9983 1525
Committee members	Jenny Joyce	9440 2131
	Graham Lewis	9416 5818
	Peter Stehn	9489 9488
	Lorraine Swalwell	9449 9254
	Jackie van Bergen	9403 3044

### Appointees

Accessions	Jennifer Wallin	9983 1871
Book Sales	Carol Rodgers	9488 8789
Catering Supplies	Glynnie McGregor	9983 1124
Computer Systems Manager	Peter Stehn	9489 9488
Curator	Jennifer Harvey, Ann Barry	
Family History Leader:	Jo Harris	9489 4393
Family History Committee:	Stella Green	9449 4388
	Jenny Joyce	9440 2131
	Beverly Robinson	9988 3775
	Elaine Turnidge	9899 2635
Historian Editors	c/- Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
	with Kathie Rieth, John King, Bob Ross	
Newsletter Editor	Bob Barry	9144 6480
Publicity	Sue Dunston	9498 8720
Public Officer	Helen Davies	9498 3754
Research Team	Max Farley, Jo Harris, Jennifer Harvey, Beverly & Bruce Robinson, Trish Thomson, Trevor Whitehead	
Speakers Programme	Beverly Dunstan	9419 8526
Volunteers Roster	Heather Davidson	9144 1844