



# 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 2011

Newsletter

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

## Coming Meetings

### Next General Meeting

**Saturday 19 November 2.00 pm**

*Please bring a plate for our Christmas afternoon tea.*

*The natural superiority of left-handed people throughout history*



Speaker **Bob Davis** (remember “*Growing up in Asquith*”?) returns for our last meeting of the year with another entertaining talk.

Visitors welcome.

### Next Family History Meeting

**Saturday 5 November**

**11.00 am** “New Resources: Our Intranet”

**2.00 pm** **General Meeting**

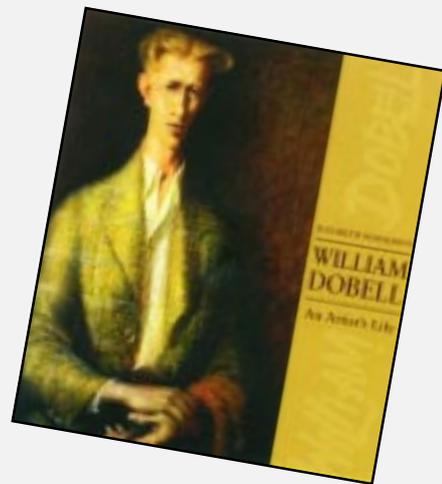
“*The Blaxland Family*” **Wendy Blaxland**, Ku-ring-gai resident, President of the Board of Marian Street Theatre for Young People, and writer, will introduce you to two of the colony’s first free settlers, the brothers John and Gregory Blaxland.

Afternoon Tea will be available.  
Visitors welcome.

### General Meeting

**Saturday 21 January 2.00 pm**

*William Dobell: An Artist’s Life*



Using images and video clips, author **Elizabeth Donaldson** of the Dobell House Museum will talk about the life and work of one of Australia’s greatest artists, a man more at home in the local pub with his friends than on the international art stage.

Afternoon Tea will be available.  
Visitors welcome.

### Family History Meeting

**Saturday 3 December**

No 11.00 am session

**2.00 pm** **General Meeting**

“Show and Tell” — bring along a “family treasure” and tell us all about it.

Please bring a plate for Christmas fare.

Visitors welcome.

## **Workshops etc.**

Sat 26 Nov 10.30 am “*Family Tree Maker*” Q&A session by Jo Harris.

Jenny Joyce and Jackie van Bergen will be in the research rooms on **Thursday 10 November and Friday 9 December** from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm to help people with the new [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) website. This is not a formal workshop, and will be hands-on with your own research. It will build on Vicki Eldridge’s recent presentation.

Jackie van Bergen will provide help with the **Trove** search engine in the research rooms on **Saturday 10 December** from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm.

Come along and learn a bit more about these amazing websites — you can access these free at home when our rooms are closed over Christmas!

## **The Ian Brothers collection**

For a number of years Ian Brothers collected photos, memories, etc. of the Bradfield Park area in Lindfield.

Ian has very kindly given this large collection of material to the Society.

We would like to express our thanks to Ian for his donation of this valuable collection.

## **Society’s Display Cases**

Jocelyn Brennan-Horley will be re-organising our display cases with the topic “*Freemasons in Ku-ring-gai*”.

Do you have any items or information from your family that you are willing to lend to the Society for a few months?

If you can help please contact Jocelyn 9498 3163.

## **Letter to the Editor**

P. 2 of the October 2011 issue of the *Newsletter* stated that “*Lucania* was the name of the ship on which Fisk was the wireless operator for the Marconi Company when he first arrived in Australia”.

This is not so. If you refer to my piece in *The Historian* (Milne, D.K., “Sir Ernest Fisk — Radio Pioneer and Ku-ring-gai Resident” *The Historian*, 28, 1999) you will see that “the Cunard Line *SS Lucania* was the ship that Marconi used between 1901 and 1903 in his experiments on trans-Atlantic wireless telegraphy (*Halifax Herald* (Canada). Dec 12, 1901, p1.)”.

Fisk didn’t join the Marconi Company until some time after June 1906 when he started as a trainee at the Marconi Training School. In 1901 he was a fifteen year old working at an engineering works near London; he was certainly not the wireless operator on the *Lucania*. He actually arrived in Australia for the first time in 1910 as the wireless operator on the Orient liner *Otranto*. He returned to Australia the following year as the resident engineer of the Marconi Company.

*Doug Milne*

## **Research Rooms Closure**

Our rooms will be closed from **Wednesday 21 December 2011**, opening again on **Monday 9 January 2012**.

*We wish members  
the very best  
for Christmas  
and the New Year.  
Thank you for your  
support through 2011.*

## **Special Interest Groups**

### **Mac Users Group**

Our October meeting was an informal problem-solving session including tools useful to family history as well as a variety of other more operational issues.

Our next meeting will be on **Monday 21 November** at 2.00 pm in the research rooms. The format of Q&A with demonstrations was popular, and will be continued at the next meeting.

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](mailto:jackievb@optusnet.com.au))

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

### **German Research Group**

The meeting on Monday 10 October was again well-attended. Each member outlined their own German genealogy interests, progress, successes and brick-walls encountered. Judging by the notes taken, there were quite a number of snippets of useful information captured.

The next meeting is on **Monday 14 November** at 1.00 pm for 1.30 pm start, in the meeting room. The theme of this meeting is “problem solving suggestions”, so bring your stubborn German research problems, and we shall see if the collective wisdom of the group can provide guidance and direction on seeking a solution.

To help cover room hire costs, we are asking for \$2 — this will include a cuppa.

### **Cornish and Scottish Groups**

We have six names for each. If we get a couple more people, we will get things going — a good way to start the new year.

If you are interested in such a group, please contact us.

**Special interest groups** don’t have to be started by people who know a lot about a subject — sharing experiences is a really good way to learn, as has been shown by the very active and enthusiastic German group.

We can help you get started and will probably join in. Email [jackievb@optusnet.com.au](mailto:jackievb@optusnet.com.au) if you are interested. If there are enough people, then we’ll get something going.

*Jackie van Bergen*

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## History in the 21st century

Our speaker on 15 October was Sydney City's Historian, Dr Lisa Murray. Lisa had previously spoken to us on heritage cemeteries, a subject on which she is something of an expert, but it quickly became clear that she is no less passionate and expert on using technology to make history readily accessible to a wide audience. She has also authored books on the planning history of the Capitol Theatre and the Sydney Recital Hall, and a number of brochures covering historical walking tours.

The city's web site ([www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)) also hosts a range of online exhibitions, including a History of Streets and a guide to the derivation of Sydney street names. Work in progress includes a searchable database of over 440 biographies relating to former aldermen and councillors. Other areas of interest are oral history, where the intention is to make good use of the reminiscences of migrants and older residents about growing up in Sydney, including sound bites and transcripts. As if this wasn't already enough, Lisa is also working on a history of the former industrial areas of Redfern, Alexandria and Waterloo!

But perhaps the most interesting aspect of Lisa's talk related to the Dictionary of Sydney, which draws together a very wide range of people and disciplines to provide an extremely interesting picture of Sydney, its places, people and history ([www.dictionaryofsydney.org](http://www.dictionaryofsydney.org)). It features digital articles on Sydney's many features and aspects, all appropriately linked to other articles in the Dictionary. Most of these articles are written by volunteers, drawing upon historians, archaeologists, heritage specialists and historical societies, experts, enthusiasts and amateurs. Some essays and entries are commissioned by the Dictionary of Sydney Trust, but unsolicited content, feedback and suggestions are not only encouraged but flowing in. There are more than 200 volunteer authors, including some of Sydney's best writers and academics, various cultural and collecting institutions, as well as historical societies, local libraries and the Wikipedia community. Contributors retain copyright to their material, and sign a licence with the Trust. All articles show source references and appropriate attribution.

Interestingly, the Dictionary takes a wide definition of Sydney, with a search revealing articles about many North Shore or Ku-ring-gai subjects — e.g., "North Shore" brings up articles on various suburbs, RNS Hospital, the North Shore Ferry Company, various colleges, etc.; while "Killara" brings up 65 articles on various Killara places, its pioneers, architects, etc. Roseville has 79 articles, Gordon 106, Pymble 57, Turramurra 90, Warrawee 35, Wahroonga 74, St Ives 54, and Ku-ring-gai 94. There is some duplication in these numbers, but they warrant member's exploration, for their interesting and sometimes startling links to other articles.

It is plain that the Dictionary is of a very high quality and I believe it deserves our Society's interest and support. In particular, I would be surprised if we could not improve some of the articles relating to Ku-ring-gai, its people and suburbs, for example by the provision of appropriate historic images from our collection.

*Graham Lewis*

## Recent acquisitions

Please note the following books will not be on the shelves until mid-November.

The following is a selection from acquisitions this month: 'Cornwall to the Shoalhaven' a book about the Cornish pioneers who helped make the Shoalhaven what it is today, compiled by Julie Wheeler. The book has approximately 100 pages, was published 2008 or 2009, and has an index divided into names, places, ships and houses. The index is incomplete in some parts.

'The Story of the Callaghan Family Over 200 Years in Peace and War' by John Edwin Sutton with in excess of 300 pages, published in 2009. If your family tree touches the Callaghan family, there is a wealth of information in this book with "treasures" in the black and white photographs. Donated to the Society by John Sutton.

'The History of The University of New South Wales Regiment 1952–2006' by David Deasey and Ken McKay. The book has 377 pages and was published in 2009, ISBN: 978 0 646515 21 2 (hbk).

'The River: Sydney Cove to Parramatta' by Gregory Blaxell. This is a 2009 edition, 294 pages and ISBN: 978 1 920831 73 8. Gregory Blaxell was the speaker at our General Meeting in September 2011, and this was the topic of his talk.

'The Squatters: an illustrated history of Australia's pastoral pioneers' by Geoffrey Dutton; this edition published 1989 – ISBN: 0 670 90226 8. The book has 136 pages and the illustrations seem to capture the mood and hardships of the times.

I look forward to listing some interesting "Irish" references in future *Newsletters*.

*Bruce Robinson*

## Helpful information

### from the German special interest group

Pam Hector provided two web sites for German military graves and memorials <http://www.volksbund.de/graebersuche.html>. The second link is to the German War Memorial website, which is <http://denkmalprojekt.org/en.htm>. This is the English language version.

Peter Stehn has suggested the following:

1. Open **Google** home page <http://www.google.com.au>
2. Type or paste the address of the page you want to translate into the **Google** search box — <http://www.volksbund.de/graebersuche.html> and click *search*
3. The page you want will be at the top of the list on the **Google** results page — click on the embedded link "Translate this page"
4. After a few seconds a rough translation of the editable text on the page will be displayed. Note that the text in photographs and icons will not be translated.

You may notice that the third result on the **Google** results page is an Abstract page from the same web site, which is already in English.

There are also other interesting and potentially useful links on the same **Google** results page.

## **All Saints Air Force Memorial Church, West Lindfield**

Ku-ring-gai Historical Society members are invited to join their **Air Force Memorial Service** attended by RAAF Association and members of WAAF.

**Sunday 13 November 10.00 am.**

### **Find My Past resource**

After attending one of Peter Stehn's seminars on how to use *Find My Past*, I was inspired to try this resource in the rooms. Within 5 minutes I was on my way to discovering my MacMillan family, who had emigrated to New Zealand from Scotland, when they arrived, and the name of the ship they arrived on. From the census I was able to find they settled in the Dunedin area. I found details of their deaths, where and when, and have now ordered transcripts of their death certificates from New Zealand.

Mary Ann MacMillan (nee Graham) was born at Snizort, Isle of Skye, 1867. Her parents were Alexander Graham and Flora MacQueen. She married Donald MacMillan at Kilmuir, Isle of Skye, 1889. The family arrived in New Zealand 1910. Mary Ann had a brother, Murdoch, who had emigrated to New Zealand quite a few years earlier. I also discovered that Mary Ann's unmarried sister, Effie Graham, travelled on the same ship, which was a bonus.

I have found *Find My Past* so easy to use, following Peter's suggestion to do all your research at home on the *Find My Past* site, which is free to use. If you think you have a match, use the resource at the rooms to view your research.

*Joan Massey*

### **Ancestry update**

*Ancestry* has recently added or updated several of its resources that may be of interest to members.

- [Australian Electoral Rolls](#) now include details of enrolled voters up to 1980 for all Australian States except Tasmania. The Electoral Rolls are a very valuable resource to trace people throughout Australia in the absence of a published census.

The improved *Ancestry* search facility is also particularly helpful in locating hard-to-find people.

- Members with German ancestors will be interested to note that the [Hamburg Passenger List](#) (in German) has been updated with many new records added.
- Also for members with German ancestors — a new resource has been added, also in German, listing German casualties of World War I.
- Several new Dutch resources have been added.
- There are also many brand new resources added covering the United States of America, but these are too numerous to list here

I recommend you visit our rooms and explore the many additions and updates to *Ancestry Library Edition* and the improved search facility.

*Peter Stehn*

### **From the Editor**

Many thanks to all who contributed to the *Newsletter* in 2011. Your material and assistance improved its quality and interest to members, and is much appreciated.

*Bob Barry*

## **New on Ancestry, October 2011**

**Irish BMDs** — new civil registrations and more, some dating back to 1620.

**Ancestry Tips and Tricks** — have you tried these? (from the *ancestry.com* enewsletter)

**1. Diving into the card catalog.** The *Ancestry.com* card catalog is no secret. But its ability to get you exactly where you want to be is pretty amazing. Unless you know the exact name of the database you're looking for, stick with keywords instead — whether they're specific, like SSDI (exactly one result is returned) or broad, like Georgia military (310 results). Narrow down the latter by sifting through the results via the categories on the left.

**2. Searching a single collection.** Sometimes you might not want to search all 7 billion+ records available on *Ancestry.com* — sometimes you just want to see what you can find in a single, specific collection. In those instances, go directly to the collection and search. When you do this in the Historical Newspapers, Birth, Marriage & Death Announcements and input the name "Croasmun," for example, you'll discover a couple who married each other not once but twice—a fact you won't find quickly in a list of census records, passenger lists, military documents, and more.

**3. Searching through the family tree.** Who has time to re-enter every detail? Since it's simpler to remove the details you don't want than it is to type in the ones you do, we oftentimes just search directly from our family trees. Once the search form is populated, you can delete the criteria you don't want included, replace tricky letters in a name with wildcards, add search filters, whatever you like. You can also drill down through the box on the left so you're only searching specific collections, too.

**4. Forever pushing buttons.** You should try clicking on everything you see: try all of the buttons, view every record, advance a few pages, etc., to see what's hiding behind each. You can learn a lot more about your ancestors and about using *Ancestry.com* that way.

**5. Seeing what we did before.** Ever forget where you left your keys? Or which collection you searched in yesterday? Use handy [Recent Collection](#) links — they're on the main Search page and each one takes you right back to the collection you searched most recently and swore you were going to search again.

*Jackie van Bergen*

### **Quiz answers (see p. 8 for Questions)**

1. a) "Kholo" 23 Park Av., Gordon
2. c) "Elderslie" 14 Nelson Rd., Lindfield
3. d) "Pibrac" Hastings Rd., Turramurra (later Pibrac Av., Warravee) and also "Flowton" in Kuring-gai Chase Rd. (later Bobbin Head Rd.), Nth. Turramurra (now Lady Davidson Home)
4. b) "Levenshulme" on the corner of Turramurra Av. & Nulla Nulla St., Turramurra
5. d) Q4 Joseph Maiden, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens from 1896 to 1925
6. b) William Morris Hughes, who was buried at Northern Suburbs (now Macquarie Park).

## ***The Historian on Killara***

Over the next two years *The Historian* crew is planning issues on the part of Killara east of the highway, that were grants to William Foster, Edwin Booker, Eleanor Oatley and JD Lang, and James Bradley.

### Streets include:

Arnold St, Arthur St, Bruce Ave, Cecil St, Elva Ave, Forsyth St, Garnet St, Greengate Rd, Illeroy Ave, Kalang Ave, Kardella Ave, Karranga Ave, Kylie Ave, Locksley St, Lorne Ave, Lynwood Ave, Marian St, Maytone Ave, Montah Ave, Northcote Ave, Nyora St, Powell St, Redgum Ave, Rosebery Rd, Springdale Rd, Stanhope Rd, Wattle St and Weronia Ave

If you have family or local stories, recollections, reminiscences or photographs — or know of anyone who does — we would love to hear from you.

We can scan photos and photocopy documents, so precious items can be returned on the spot. Please contact KHS at 9499 4568, Jennifer Harvey 9489 6390, or Kathie Rieth 9416 1587 or [frithie@netdata.com.au](mailto:frithie@netdata.com.au)

## ***Mosman Festival of Sculpture & Installation***

Think local instead of global when you wander the streets at this year's Festival of Mosman to view the inaugural public art event, *In Situ: Mosman Festival of Sculpture & Installation*. Along the Military Road corridor, from Mosman to Spit Junction, 50 artists are showing in selected retail or site-specific locations to celebrate sculpture and installation enhancing public spaces. Whimsical, entertaining, thought-provoking, challenging, *In Situ II* presents an exhibition of multiple concepts and disciplines, committed to a curatorial vision.

**Opening:** *In Situ II* Official Opening and Prize Presentations: Saturday 29 Oct, 3.00 pm at Avenue Road Sculpture Plaza. All welcome.

**Exhibition dates:** 22 October to 11 November on display 24 hours every day for three weeks.

**Where:** M Jewellery, 643 Military Road, Mosman.

**Cost:** Free.

**Further information:** <http://festivalofmosman.net/2011/>

## ***National Trust After Hours Committee Burwood Walk – Sunday 13 November***

A guided walk from *Woodstock*, 22 Church Street, Burwood, at 1.30 pm. See the Appian Way, learn about the famous Hoskin family (Iron and Steel, BHP), including historic *Malvern Estate*. Finish at Croydon PO with afternoon tea at Croydon Cafe in the Strand. **Cost:** \$30 incl. afternoon tea. Enquiries: Tony Bastow 0404 292 208.

## ***Writers at Mosman***

**Nov 4:** Local author **Nan Bosler** with her fascinating family history and archive of the early days in the Pittwater area, *The story of Bob Waterer and his family 1830–2010*.

**Nov 17:** **Lorraine Purcell** recounts her journey of discovery: *Finding Margaret – tracing a family story*.

**Nov 23:** **Peter FitzSimons** with the jaw-dropping events of the great Antarctic explorer, *Douglas Mawson*.

All at Mosman Library, 7.00 pm. Tickets \$8, \$10

Info: 9978 4091 or [www.mosman.nsw.gov.au/events](http://www.mosman.nsw.gov.au/events)

## ***13th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry***

28–31 March 2012 at Adelaide Convention Centre.

[www.congress2012.org.au](http://www.congress2012.org.au)

Speakers include:

Colleen Fitzpatrick, a Forensic Genealogist who worked on the identification of the Unknown Child on the Titanic and the Amelia Earhart Project.

Overseas speakers from:

- the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah
  - Cornwall Family History Society, UK
  - Guild of One-Name Studies
  - National Archives, UK
  - Findmypast

Register your interest so you can receive notices when registrations open. You also should consider booking accommodation to get the best location.

There will be a pre-Congress tour of archival repositories such as:

- SA Genealogy and Heraldry Society Library, Unley
  - State Records of SA, Adelaide
- National Archives of Australia (SA Branch), Adelaide
  - State Library of SA, Adelaide
  - Maritime Museum, Port Adelaide

## ***State Records NSW seminar***

**Monday 5 December 10.00 am–4.00 pm.**

**Location:** State Records seminar room, 2 Globe Street, The Rocks, Sydney.

Provisional program:

10.00 am Chris Paton **Discover Scottish church records**

10.45 am Chris Paton **Irish resources online**

11.30 am **Irish convict or military topic** (to be confirmed)

12.15 pm lunch break

1.15 pm **1942: War comes to Australia: Darwin bombed, Sydney attacked**

1.45 pm Chris Paton **Scottish censuses 1841–1939**

2.30 pm Rosemary Kopittke *Findmypast*

**Admission** \$45 for full day, \$30 for half day 10.00 am–1.00 pm OR 1.00 pm–4.00 pm. Booking form available soon on website.

## ***Writers at Stanton***

**Nov 2:** **Robert Holden** introduces his illustrated biography, *May Gibbs: more than a fairy tale*.

**Nov 8:** **Peter Hartcher** speaks about his new book, *The Sweet Spot: how Australia made its own luck and could now throw it all away*.

**Nov 10:** **Peter FitzSimons** discusses *Mawson*, the story of Australia's greatest Antarctic explorer.

**Nov 17:** **Thomas Keneally** presents the companion volume of his history of the Australian people, *Australians Volume 2: Eureka to the Diggers*.

All at Stanton Library, North Sydney, 1.00 pm. Free, bookings essential.

Info: 9936 8400 or [www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/stanton](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/stanton)

# FAMILY MATTERS

## October Family History Meeting

### 11.00 am Session

Jo Harris ran a Q&A Session on Problem Sorting which was attended by 15 members.

### 2.00 pm Session

Jo Harris welcomed all in attendance and a visitor Barbara Groves. Special welcome to Mr Don Davis and Jill, his wife. Don spoke later in the meeting about “*Freemasonry in Ku-ring-gai*”.

Today in the year 1211 construction began on the Notre Dame Cathedral and the oldest recorded example of double-entry bookkeeping dates from this time.

Major Ross issued a list of officers and marines wishing to remain in the colony. These were Captain-Lieutenant Watkin Tench, 1st Lieuts. George Johnston, J Johnston, James Maitland Shairp, 2nd Lieut. William Dawes, Sergeant William Baker and Privates George Flemming, Isaac (sic) Farr and James Manning. Ross continued: “With regard to myself, I have only to observe that this country is by no means a place that I wish to continue in, nor do I think that any constitution can stand long against the scorbutick attacks natural to a salt diet, and I see not the most distant prospect of our being able to get any other. Yet nevertheless, should their Lordships think it necessary to continue me in the command for a year or two longer than their first intention, I shall be happy in obeying their commands”.

This information from John Cobley’s Book “Sydney Cove” 1788.

### Websites:

Irish Church Records: <http://churchrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/>

Find a Grave in Scotland: <http://findagraveinScotland.com/>  
Free Settler or Felon in the Newcastle/Hunter Valley:

[www.jenwilletts.com/](http://www.jenwilletts.com/)

Lost Medals: [www.lostmedalsaustralia.com](http://www.lostmedalsaustralia.com)

Medals Gone Missing: [www.medalsgonemissing.com/index.html](http://www.medalsgonemissing.com/index.html)

Perpetual Calendar: [www.infoplease.com/calendar.php](http://www.infoplease.com/calendar.php)

**Book Reports.** Angela Lind reported on “World of its Own”, Inverell’s Early Years (3 in the series), “Perry” family (Thomas Augustus) and “Captain Thunderbolt and his Lady”. Jenny Joyce: “Lark Rise to Candleford by Flora Thompson. Jo’s books: “Cemetery Transcripts” bought at Inverell; “Tips for Queensland Research” by Judy Webster; “Women Transported”, Life in Australia’s Convict Female Factories by Gay Hendricksen; Griffith & District Pioneers L-Z; New series called “Inside History”, first 6 in series, publisher Cassie Mozart; “That Land of Exiles”, Scots in Australia, National Library of Scotland.

Annual State Conference of the NSW and ACT Association of Family History Societies held in September at Inverell had a good balance of speakers and visitors were made very welcome.

**Thursday November 17** the Blue Mountains Group will be visiting our Research Centre. Some members offered to be present and bring a plate.

A reminder to ask if transport is needed to or from any meeting.

The pre-loved book raffle was won by Lucille Taylor who chose “Australian Album: the way we were” by the Fairfax Library, Australia in Photographs 1860–1920.

Jo thanked the Family History Group Committee, Jill Nicholson and helpers for the preparation of afternoon tea, and all those who help make this Group such a happy one.

All present enjoyed the historical and informative talk given by Mr. Donald Davis, a Freemasonry Historian, Right Worshipful Brother, Past Assistant Grand Master, who has been a resident of Ku-ring-gai for the past 57 years.

Mr. Davis cited many Freemasons who assisted in the development of the municipality. Many served as Mayors of Ku-ring-gai, and many were ministers of religion.

There are too many to list here but the following may be of interest.

- Harry Jago, MLA, Minister of Health, State Govt.
- Prominent sportsman, test cricketer, W.A. (Bert) Oldfield. The oval at Killara bears his name.
- Radio Pioneer, Sir Ernest Fisk, who picked up the first direct wireless transmission from UK to Australia.
- John Job Crew Bradfield, who resided at the corner of Park Street and Rosedale Road, and was the designer of our Harbour Bridge; died in 1943, aged 76, and is buried in St. John’s Churchyard.

Following his talk, Mr. Davis responded to a number of Freemasonry questions from several of our members. We then adjourned for afternoon tea.

*Based on notes by Margaret Holland*

## Another Ancestry addition

Amongst the latest resources added to *Ancestry* are the Returns of the Colony (Blue Books) of NSW 1822–1857.

This is a fantastic collection which contains all sorts of information, including land transactions, details of schools and their headmasters, and lists of people employed by the government.

As Victoria and Queensland were part of New South Wales during some of this period, records of those colonies can also be found in this resource.

*Jenny Joyce*

## Terry Eakin Resources

Terry has very kindly left a large number of books and CD/DVD records with the Society for the next few weeks.

These records are only available by appointment with Jo Harris or Jenny Joyce.

## More about Wendy Blaxland, our November FH speaker

Wendy’s great-great-great-great-grandfather explored the Blue Mountains and exported NSW’s first wine. Then meet Audrey Blaxland, Wendy’s mother and Ku-ring-gai drama teacher/theatre director extraordinaire, and her aunt Elizabeth Blaxland, a sculptor who worked on the amazing figures at the Hyde Park War Memorial.

## Irish Day with Terry Eakin

To say that Terry Eakin was well prepared for the Irish Research Day he conducted for our Family History Group on Saturday 8 October would be an understatement. Terry, who has undertaken 21 research trips to Ireland and has published a number of works on genealogy and Ireland, has a great depth of knowledge on this topic.



Attendees came away with a greater understanding of Counties, Parishes, Townlands and Poor Law Unions, many online databases to check, and more than 30 pages of handouts Terry had prepared.

In the first of his three sessions, Terry gave us an in-depth explanation of Irish administrative divisions, information about will abstracts and transcripts, parish church registers of baptisms, marriages and burials and records of property. Terry emphasised the value of Grenham's *Irish Record Finder* that is available on the Society's intranet.

Fortified by a scrumptious lunch prepared by the ladies of the Turramurra Uniting Church, we returned for the second session, during which Terry discussed a number of online and print resources valuable for Irish research. He highlighted Griffiths Valuation records, Irish records in the LDS Family History Centres, and Familysearch, records from the National Archives of Ireland and the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI). In the final



two sessions Terry demonstrated the use of the major online resources. Terry's extensive notes included links to all of the websites he had discussed.

Terry brought with him an array of resources in print and CD format that he is generously lending to the Society for members' use over the next six weeks. These are available by appointment (with Jo or Jenny) in the Society's rooms.

Thanks to Jo Harris and the team who organised this event, Terry Eakin for informative sessions, and the ladies of the Turramurra Uniting Church for the splendid catering.

*Jill Ball*

## BUILT HERITAGE

### *Moorcroft, 675 Pacific Highway, Gordon*

Can anyone help with photographs of, or information on, the previous owners of this house? It's one of the buildings within an area I'm researching for the 2012 *Historian*.



Others nearby include 8, 12 and 14 Cecil Street, *Fane Edge* 663 Pacific Highway, and *Lenaker* 49 Werona Avenue.

*Moorcroft*, a sturdy, two-storey house, stands on the corner of Cecil Street and the highway, part of the Ravenswood complex. It was designed by Nixon & Adam and built by TE Quiggin in 1906 for Dr Edgar Herbert Thane and his wife Lynette, nee Stopps.

William Nixon and Joseph Shedden Adam had become partners in 1901; projects included work at St Andrew's College, the Savings Bank, Presbyterian Ladies' College and 'many fine residences in the suburbs and country'. In 1906 Quiggin built Warrawee Public School.

Thane was born in London in 1862, 5th son of Dr George Dancer Thane. Two of his brothers, George and Philip, were also doctors: Sir George Thane was Professor of Anatomy, University College, London for 42 years; Philip, in Australia from 1881, practised medicine at Yass, moving to 6 Waimea Road, Roseville about 1915. Edgar visited Australia in 1889, returned in 1891 and settled at Wagga Wagga, where he practised for 13 years, moving then to Gordon.

After he died in March 1930, *Moorcroft* was sold to Dr Thomas Gordon Ross, newly arrived with his wife Florence from Townsville.

Ross was born in Chewton, Victoria in 1878 and became a qualified medical practitioner in 1903; during his studies he played football for the Fitzroy and Carlton clubs. By 1907 he was resident surgeon at Townsville Hospital and had married. In August 1914, at the outbreak of war, he embarked with the Kennedy Regiment for Thursday Island. Returning to Townsville he enlisted in the AIF and in 1917 was awarded the DSO for courage and leadership under fire. In 1925 he was appointed Government Medical Officer in Townsville and Medical Officer to the State Childrens' Department. He and Florence were keen golfers and for many years he was president of the Townsville Golf Club.

Ross commenced practice at Gordon in April 1930. Both took part in golf competitions, at Killara and Avondale where in 1931 Ross won the AIF Cup. During WWII he commanded 104 Australian General Hospital at Bathurst. Ross died in August 1952, Florence in July 1956.

*Moorcroft* was sold to Kathleen Hughes who, in 1964, sold 'subject to the provisions of the Methodist Model Deed' to HC Price, W Burrows, HJ Hynes, RA Whereat, CN Andrews and GH Slade, and the house became part of Ravenswood.

*Kathie Rieth*

## Copy for Newsletter

General copy for publication should be lodged with the Editor, Bob Barry ([bob\\_barry@optusnet.com.au](mailto: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.

## New Members

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

Michael Bendon	West Pymble
Barbara and David Groves	Terrey Hills
Jill Harrison	Turrumurra
Mary and Tony Karrasch	St Ives
John Lewis	Wahroonga
Vicki Williams	Killara

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

## Quiz (answers p. 4)

- John Job Crew Bradfield lived in?  
a) Gordon b) Killara c) Lindfield d) Roseville
- William Morris Hughes lived in?  
a) Killara b) St Ives c) Lindfield d) Pymble
- Eccleston du Faur lived in?  
a) Lindfield / East Lindfield b) Killara / East Killara  
c) Pymble / West Pymble d) Turrumurra / Warrawee
- Joseph Maiden lived in?  
a) Wahroonga b) Turrumurra c) Pymble d) Gordon
- Which of the men mentioned above was the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney?  
a) Q1 b) Q2 c) Q3 d) Q4
- Which of these men is NOT buried at St John's Gordon?  
a) John Job Crew Bradfield b) William Morris Hughes  
c) Eccleston du Faur d) Joseph Maiden

**Jo Harris**

## Research Centre Hours

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

The Centre is open to the public from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday (except the 1st Saturday of each month when members have a meeting). It is closed over the Christmas period and on public holidays.

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## Diary Dates

- Sat 5 Nov Family History Meeting**  
11.00 am "New Resources: Our Intranet"  
2.00 pm **General Meeting**  
"The Blaxland Family" Wendy Blaxland
- Sat 19 Nov 2.00 pm Society General Meeting**  
*The natural superiority of left-handed people throughout history.*  
Speaker Bob Davis returns for our last meeting of the year with another entertaining talk.
- Sat 3 Dec Family History Meeting**  
**NO** 11.00 am session  
2.00 pm **General Meeting**  
"Show and Tell" bring along a "family treasure" and tell us all about it.  
Please bring a plate for **Christmas fare**.
- Sat 21 Jan 2.00 pm Society General Meeting**  
*William Dobell: An Artist's Life*  
Speaker: Elizabeth Donaldson
- Sat 4 Feb Family History Meeting**  
TBA
- Sat 18 Feb 2.00 pm Society General Meeting**  
*Joseph Fowles' Sydney*  
Speaker: Mark Dunn

## Administration

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