



# 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 2012

Newsletter

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

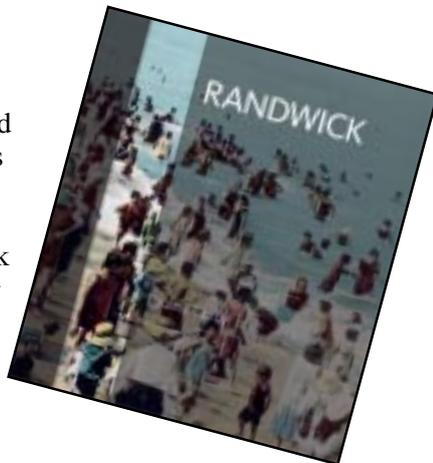
## General Meeting

**Saturday 17 November 2.00 pm**

*followed by*  
**Stories from Randwick**

Speaker: **Pauline Curby.**

Pauline draws on stories of people and place, using images and records researched for her award-winning book on the Municipality of Randwick



*Please bring a plate for our Christmas afternoon Tea.*  
**Visitors welcome.**

## Family History Meeting

**Saturday 3 November**

**11.00 am** Yet More 'Net Resources'  
**2.00 pm** General Meeting

Sydney stockbroker, Ron Hattersley, is a compulsive collector of anything and everything. He will "Show and Tell" some of his collection at the FH meeting.



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

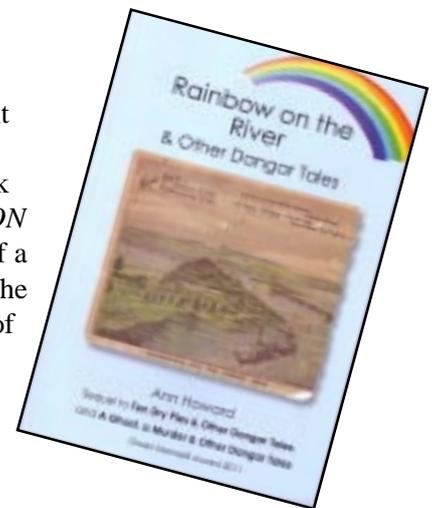
## General Meeting

**Saturday 19 January 2.00 pm**

*followed by*  
**Rainbow on the River**

Speaker: **Ann Howard.**

Long-time resident and author Ann Howard will speak about *RAINBOW ON THE RIVER*, one of a series of books on the surprising history of Dangar Island.



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

## Family History Meeting

**Saturday 1 December**

**11.00 am** NO MORNING MEETING  
**2.00 pm** General Meeting

"SHOW & TELL"

Speakers: Members will tell about their brought items.

**Christmas Party**

*Please bring a plate for Christmas fare.*  
**Visitors welcome.**



*We wish members the very best for Christmas and the New Year.*

*Thank you for your support through 2012*

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## ***KUPEDIA Progress***

Excellent progress has been made adding articles of our Intranet-based Historical Encyclopedia, KUPEDIA (accessed via the prominent link on the home page of our Intranet).

KUPEDIA now has more than 145 separate articles available for browsing or for historical research. Most of these articles are from early editions of our journal, *The Historian* dating from 1973 to the early eighties, but articles from other sources are also included. Eventually we hope to include all locally sourced articles from *The Historian*, *Newsletters*, and other sources such as biographical files.

KUPEDIA has a comprehensive search facility that allows you to quickly locate articles relevant to your research, such as:

- The Lane Cove shark tragedy.
- The first post office in Gordon and what was the connection to J.G Edwards?
- Who was J.G. Edwards?
- The naming of the railway stations on the North Shore railway line.
- Horse racing in Ku-ring-gai.
- Plus many other topics, too numerous to mention.

The search facility will display relevant results in a way very similar to Google, with a clickable link allowing instant access to the article itself. All articles are fully text searchable.

Check-out KUPEDIA the next time you're in the rooms. You will be surprised at the wealth of information it contains already.

*Peter Stehn*

## ***Note from our September Speaker***

Please extend my thanks to the members of the *Ku-ring-gai Historical Society* for having me as a speaker in September and especially for the gift of *Almost Like Home*.

I have now read parts of the book and have enjoyed being introduced to Bradfield Park, of which I was previously unaware despite a long association with the area around Fuller's Road where my father's family lived for many years. With his research, use of quotes and photographs, I think Michael Hogan has succeeded in bringing to life a settlement that was a significant part of the post war era immigration and Housing Commission development.

Thank you again.

*Tanya Crothers*

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

1. (b) A telegram boy and wireless operator.
  2. (c) Gave the pulpit to St David's Church in Caberra.
  3. (d) A convict and owner of land on the north side of the Lane Cove River.
  4. (b) "Norwood", Rosebery Rd Killara.
  5. (a) A wharf and a steam boat called "The Nellie".
- All questions are based on early citizens of Ku-ring-gai. Learn more about these people whilst in our Research Centre.

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## ***Special Interest Groups***

### ***Mac Users SIG***

The next meetings are on **Monday 3 December** and **21 January at 2.00 pm** in the research rooms.

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

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

*Jackie van Bergen*

### ***German Research SIG***

There are no meetings of the German SIG planned for December or January. The next meeting is on **Monday 11 February 2013 at 1.30 pm**. The main topic for discussion is the wealth of material from the recent SAG German genealogy presentations and how we use the material in our own research.

*Peter Stehn*

### ***Irish Research SIG***

On Friday 12 October Irish descendants gathered at the rooms to talk about their Irish family history. We discussed tips and tricks (finding "Townlands" etc.) and looked at some web sites (Irish Genealogy, Irish Census, IrelandXO, and others).

We all learnt a bit, shared some stories and had fun.

The next meeting is **Friday 9 November at 1.30 pm**. All welcome.

*Ric Hall*

### ***Scottish Research SIG***

Next meeting **Monday 25 February 2013 at 1.30 pm**.

## ***First-Class Railway Carriages...***

*The Sydney Morning Herald 18 October 1939*

Aldermen of the Kuring-gai Council decided last night to complain to the Railway Commissioner of the treatment of passengers on the North Shore line.

Alderman McIntosh said that the Commissioner was deserving of the severest censure for the way he was conducting the service on this line. "Apparently the Commissioner is developing a technique of irritation tactics which appears to be deliberate", he said.

Reference was made to a number of occasions when it was alleged filthy carriages were put on for both first and second class passengers. Complaint was also made of the labelling of former first class carriages which had the centre marked "second class" and the "dog boxes" at the ends marked "first class".

Alderman McIntosh said that as long as passengers were charged first class fares they should be given comfortable accommodation.

"We are getting worse treatment than passengers on any other line," said Alderman Rutledge.

*Richard Whitaker*

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## ***Kick-start your year...***

Get your research in 2013 off to a great start!

Come along to one or more of our FREE talks and workshops.

The Research Centre is nice and air-conditioned.

Please check the bookings folder, and the blog, as we will try to add more talks and workshops.

So far we have planned:

**Fri 18 Jan 10.30 am:** A virtual tour of blogs for Australian Historians – not just for family historians either. Including State Library, National Archives and many more.

**Thu 31 Jan 10.30 am:** Hands on *Trove* – learn how to fill in the stories of your ancestors through using this wonderful resource of the National Library.

**Tue 5 Feb 10.30 am:** Using the NSW Lands & Property Information website.

**Fri 8 Feb 10.30 am:** Bring Your Own Device and learn about some of the tools that can help your research. Hopefully we can also cover portable scanners.

**Mon 18 Feb 10.30 am:** Using *Ancestry* in our research rooms.

We have lots of requests for workshops, but often struggle to find people to run them for us. If you have a topic you would like to present, or would like help to present, please let us know; we would love to help you.

All of the above are run by our own volunteers, so please come along and support them.

## ***Help Wanted***

We have a number of members who from time to time can't drive to get to meetings. We would love someone to volunteer to help them find a lift.

Could you be our new 'transport coordinator'? If you think you could help, please give anyone on the committee a call or email.

## ***Seniors Week 2013***

Advance notice for your diary...

We are planning three talks again in Seniors Week, on Mon 18, Wed 20 and Thu 21 of March 2013.

Please watch out in the next *Newsletter* for topics and more details.

## ***Display cabinets***

Have you seen the amazing display cabinet set up by Jocelyn Brennan-Horley about the history of the Freemasons?

Thanks Jocelyn!

## ***New Computer Resource***

A new **Local Resource** has been added to our Intranet entitled "1852-1923 Passengers Victoria to New Zealand".

This resource contains a total of 368,481 passenger records and 5,040 ship records covering the years 1852 to 1923.

*Peter Stehn*

## ***Arthur Wesley Wheen***

Following the Society's General Meeting on **15 September** 2012, Tanya Crothers presented a talk and some videos on the life of Arthur Wesley Wheen (1897 to 1971).

Being the niece of Wheen's wife and the editor of a recent book "*Extracts from Selected Letters of Arthur Wesley Wheen 1915-1970*", Tanya had all the right credentials for the presentation.

Wheen was a remarkably modest man of many talents. He was the son of a Methodist minister, and lived at 4 Kilburn Road Roseville during his growing-up years. He attended Gordon Public School and then Sydney Boys High School. At school it was recognized that he had a remarkable gift for writing. He had been a Sunday School teacher but later rejected all religion.

In October 1915 he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces. On active service on the Western Front he became a Signaller. He bravely repaired broken telephone lines in "no man's land". He won the Military Medal three times, an unusual feat, the last being in the battle at Villers-Bretonneux on 25 April 1918.

Like many men, he suffered from war injuries for the rest of his life, including depression. He won the 1920 Rhodes Scholarship for New South Wales and graduated as a Bachelor of Arts in Modern History in 1923 with third class honours following a health breakdown. In the following year he became the assistant librarian of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, becoming senior librarian in 1945.

Wheen concluded that there was no glory or glamour in war, and detested it immensely. His humility and Calvinistic outlook remained with him all his life. He disliked ambition and personal advancement. He spoke many languages and translated admirably the classic German book "*All Quiet on the Western Front*" into English – a phrase which has become an everyday expression.

He liked the simple things in life: nature, writing, art, poetry, pottery, and dwelt in all of these, but it was his writings that were so wonderful, including his descriptions outlined in the many letters he wrote over his lifetime.

Tanya presented the life of a modest and humane man of great intellect.

*Bob Gowing*

## ***Nametag cabinet***

Following Graham Crawford's excellent carpentry work on the "sixth" drawer, the volunteers on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of last week completed the major dry-docking and refit of our name tag cabinet.

Approximately 45 tags were removed and 75 new or changed tags added, to leave the cabinet in the most up-to-date state it has ever been. We now have 623 validated name tags distributed within the 696 slots available, with spare slots at the end of each row.

Of course, members can now only join and leave in strict alphabetical order, and then only when there is a vacancy!

*Peter Stehn*

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## ***A Woman's War - Dr Barbara Angell***

At our general meeting on Saturday 20 October we heard the story of one woman at war. Nurse Wilma Oram went through the evacuation of Singapore and the atrocities and horrors that followed, although in her talk Dr Barbara Angell spared us a detailed description of these.

Wilma Oram was born at Murtoa in the Wimera District of Victoria in 1916. The middle of five children, she led a balanced life on her parents' prosperous wheat farm. On leaving school she trained as a nurse at Warnambool District Hospital. There she made many friends, including Mona Wilton, who was to join her later as an army nurse.

When WWII started both Wilma and Mona enlisted in the Army Nursing Service, and were sent to Singapore in 1941. These were the halcyon days. The war had not yet reached Singapore, but soon wounded men were being brought in from the retreat down the Malaysian peninsula. In January 1942, Singapore fell to the Japanese. The nurses were amongst the last to be evacuated – on the ill-fated *Vyner Brooke*. In the sinking, Wilma was struck on the head by a life raft, leaving a scar she carried for the rest of her life, and Mona, her best friend, perished. Wilma spent the next three and a half years as a prisoner of war. There she met Vivian Bullwinkel, the lone survivor of the Banka Island Massacre, and they became life-long friends.

After repatriation to Australia, Wilma married another POW, Alan Young, a Gippsland dairy farmer. Together they had four children, but life was difficult with Alan suffering from post traumatic stress, needing psychiatric treatment for the rest of his life. Wilma immersed herself in work for war veterans. She was an advocate for the RSL and president of the Pakenham branch. In 1998 she received an AM for her work with Vietnam War veterans. She died in 2001 aged 84. Over 100 members of the Vietnam War Veterans Motor Cycle Club attended her funeral.

Barbara Angell had been a close friend of Wilma for the last four years of her life, and felt that her story had to be written. Her book "A Woman's War - The Exceptional Life of Wilma Oram Young AM" is the result of this association.

*Doug Milne*

## ***findmypast.com.au***

Over 56 million new records are now available! We have just added a huge 56 million new records to our Australia/New Zealand collection. This brings the total number of records available on [findmypast.com.au](http://findmypast.com.au) to a staggering 1.5 billion!

New records in the Australia/New Zealand collection include:

- [Electoral rolls](#) for New Zealand and Australia
- [Births, deaths & marriages](#) for South Australia
- [Government and police gazettes](#)
- [Directories, handbooks and almanacs](#)
- Unique records such as [Radio Call](#) and much more

See the complete list of records now available in the [full list of records](#). Check these out at home then come to KHS to view the actual record.

## ***Recent Acquisitions***

The following is a selection of acquisitions. This month the processed books have already been sorted into the reference library and you will need to use the sort code to locate the book that interests you, e.g. CEM/2315 – filed under Cemeteries, and then 2315, the postcode that interests you.

• "Fly Point Pioneer Burial Ground Nelson Bay" by Denise Gaudian, published by the Port Stephens Family History Society 2010. The book has 58 pages and provides a few facts on each of the selected pioneers. This book joins our already extensive and expanding collection of books dealing with cemeteries. CEM/2315.

• KHS has been lucky in obtaining a comprehensive index to the book "A Cloud of Witnesses at Tryon Road Uniting Church 1896–1996: A church centenary including local and family history of early Lindfield" by Geoffrey Stacy and published 1996 by The Lindfield Tryon Road Uniting Church Centenary Committee. This is a very useful book for the area, and this index magnifies the usefulness. REL/2070.

• "North Coast Run Men and Ships of the N.S.W. North Coast" (Third Edition) by Mike Richards and published by Turton & Armstrong 1996. The book has 175 pages with many black and white photographs of ships on the north coast run. (ISBN: 0 908031 67 X). Appendix 1 is a list of ships that operated on the run; though incomplete, it is comprehensive for the N.C.S.N. Co. SHI/RIC.

• "Who Do You Think You Are? The Essential Guide to Tracing Your Family History" by Angelo Loukakis and published by Pan Macmillan 2008 (200 pages). This is more than a rehash of the TV series, though it covers six Australians (including Ita Buttrose, Geoffrey Robertson, Catherine Freeman). Don't overlook "The Essential Guide...." element. The guide covers many issues you could encounter in your research, including recording and sharing, and who owns what in genealogy. How long does copyright (from the Australian perspective) exist? Photographs taken before 19xx are out of copyright – refer page 187 of the book. HOW/LOU (currently on the fireplace shelf).

*Bruce Robinson*

## ***Last of the Pines; widening of Lane Cove Road*** *The Sydney Morning Herald, 18 December 1929*

The last of the "Stoneholme" pines, which for 40 odd years has occupied a prominent position on the Lane Cove Road at Lindfield within a few yards of the railway station, will be chopped down to-day or to-morrow to make way for another 18-foot addition to the main Kuring-gai highway. And with this fine tree will pass the pittosporums, the privets, and the other green things which have served their purpose, and are now being removed because the Main Roads Board and the municipality of Kuring-gai have decided that the roadway is too narrow, and that Coleman's Corner, a few yards away, should be straightened out as early as possible for safety sake. Piece by piece this work is being done, the section now in hand being one of the most important within the village of Lindfield.

*Continued on P. 5*

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## KHS Speakers Program – 2013

### Saturday – 2.00 pm

**Sat 19 Jan Ann HOWARD**

**Rainbow on the River.** Long-time local resident and author Ann Howard will speak about the third book in a series on the social history of Dangar Island.

**Sat 16 Feb Michael HOGAN**

**Almost Like Home.** Michael Hogan tells the story of the ex-RAAF camp at Bradfield Park that became home to migrants and Housing Commission residents.

**Sat 16 Mar Andrew TINK**

**Lord Sydney: The Life & Times of Tommy Townshend.** Author and former parliamentarian Andrew Tink discusses his biography of the politician instrumental in the decision to found a colony at Botany Bay.

**Sat 20 Apr David ROSENWAX**

**The Japanese Attack on Broome.** The little-known story of the loss of 88 lives and 25 aircraft during a surprise attack on 3 March 1942.

**Sat 18 May Ralph HAWKINS**

**Australia's First Successful Strike.** An illustrated talk based on new research by local historian Ralph Hawkins reveals some surprising northside facts from early colonial times.

**Sat 15 June Peter Kahn**

**Shooting Through on the Northside.** Peter Kahn of the Tramway Museum revisits a time when Sydney was one of the world's great tram cities.

**Sat 20 Jul Murray RADCLIFFE**

**The Ones That Got Away.** Some early attempts by convicts to escape from Sydney Cove were doomed while others were well-planned, ingenious and successful.

**Sat 17 Aug Jo HARRIS**

**Three Men and the Wireless.** Jo discusses the influential role played by Hughes, Marconi and Fisk in the development of early wireless transmissions.

**Sat 21 Sep Richard WHITAKER**

**Storms Across the North Shore.** A meteorologist's insights into extreme weather conditions that have periodically devastated parts of the north shore.

**Sat 19 Oct Leonard JANISZEWSKI**

**Shakin' The World Over: The Greek-Australian Milk Bar.** In 1932 the world's first "American-style" milk bar opened – in Martin Place. Hear much more from the foremost "milk bar" historian.

**Sat 16 Nov Bob DAVIS**

**Old Characters of the Hawkesbury.** Characters old and new, Hawkesbury facts and folklore as told by raconteur Bob Davis at our final meeting for the year.

*Beverley Dunstan*

## *For the Latin Lovers in our midst*



One of my all-time favourite film sequences is in Monty Python's 'Life of Brian' where the centurion, played by John Cleese, catches Brian painting on the city wall 'Romanes eunt domus', believing it to mean 'Romans go home'. Cleese, screamingly irate (as only Basil Fawlty can be) at such excruciating Latin, takes Brian through each step to the 'correct' phrase – 'Romani ite domum' – and orders him to write it out 100 times before sunrise. Which Brian does, only to be sprung by the early morning patrol.

I'm reminded of this scene daily when walking with Alice through our park. Many years ago someone decided to graffiti the west wall of the scout hall with the phrase 'Romanis ex domus', painted over and over – at least 20 times, but not 100. I always meant to take a photo but never got around to it before most was painted over. At least one phrase remains, infinitely more classy than the scratchy hearts, initials and all the other rubbishy graffiti adjacent. It always raises a smile – from me anyway!

*Kathie Rieth*

## *Family recipes and their stories*

I was told ages ago that if you want to write a book that sells, write a recipe book. Recently a family friend produced a recipe book dedicated to her daughter (who was leaving home) and, with the recipes, included brief, illustrated stories of the treasured relatives, close friends and gatherings for which the goodies were produced.

The book has sold like the proverbial hot cakes!

Would any KHS members (female AND male) be interested in contributing to something similar? Recipes – ranging from comfort food to the exotic – with stories of their origins and associations, or the occasions for which they were made, would be welcome.

*Kathie Rieth*

## *Last of the Pines .... Continued from P. 4*

Stoneholme has been made famous by its present owner, Dr. Harriet Biffen, who purchased the property 28 years ago and began as a medical practitioner when Lindfield was in its infancy. Everyone within miles of the now busy centre knew the doctor personally or by sight, and knew of her good work as well. Her pine trees were a feature of the skyline.

*Richard Whitaker*

# FAMILY MATTERS

## October Family History Meeting

### 11.00 am Session

Jo Harris welcomed the 'lucky 13' to the Rooms, who enjoyed presentations with Jo and Jenny Joyce for the morning session on "More Intra/Internet Resources". Jo commenced the session by outlining 'what' and 'how' to find interesting information from the "Early Australian Electoral Rolls" on our Intranet, with a reminder to watch the dates carefully and so adding the meat on the bones for your family history pages.

Then Jenny took those present scrolling through some online resources from the City of Sydney Archives, <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/AboutSydney/HistoryAndArchives/Archives/ServicesforResearchers/SearchTools.asp>. Jenny concentrated on the *Historical Atlas of Sydney*, with its large collection of different maps, etc., then *Archive Pix* with over 50,000 photos, people and events, and *Assessment Books 1845-1948* – many more interesting facts to peruse. Thank you Jo and Jenny. Two double sided sheets were given out.

### 2.00 pm Session

#### Internet News

*Trove* – 20 newspapers have been added – 3 in NSW, 1 in QLD, 1 in SA, 3 in TAS, 7 in VIC and 5 in WA: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper>

Braidwood & District Society & Museum – 2,000 images added – [www.braidwoodmuseum.org.au/research.html](http://www.braidwoodmuseum.org.au/research.html).  
British History Online – a digital library containing copies of printed primary and secondary sources of medieval and modern history of the British Isles, including the Victoria County Histories: [www.british-history.ac.uk/Default.aspx](http://www.british-history.ac.uk/Default.aspx).  
Persons Lost and Found 1838-1915 – 6,000 names of ship deserters added to this searchable South Australian website: [www.ach.familyhistorysa.info/deserters.html](http://www.ach.familyhistorysa.info/deserters.html)

Victorian Government Gazettes 1836-1977 – Search and view images of individual gazette pages, or download and print PDFs of entire gazettes. Included volumes: Victoria Gazette (July 1851-1977); Port Phillip Government Gazette (1844-July 1851); Port Phillip Government Notices (January-12 July 1843); New South Wales Government Gazette (1836-1851): <http://gazette.slv.vic.gov.au/>

*Rootsweb*: Mailing List – remember these – many people are having great success with these lists: <http://lists.rootsweb.com/index/intl/AUS/GENANZ.html>

Nine KHS members, including all the FHG committee, attended the Annual State Conference of the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc. held at Gympie, and hosted by the Botany Bay Family History Group. The appropriate theme was "Endeavour Resolution Adventure Discovery". Included in the weekend was an Expo, mostly interesting speakers, dinners etc. En route to the conference with Jo and Yvette Reeve, Elaine Turnidge visited Woronora Cemetery, where she and Jo had success. She spoke about Paul Brunton's talk focusing on Sir Joseph Banks and the Endeavour Voyage with Captain Cook; Paul is Senior Curator, Mitchell Library, SLNSW. Jo indicated the size of Banks'

entourage having to share Cook's cabin area. Jo spoke about Land Records that will be available online in the future and also a moving story from Brad Manera, historian/curator/executive manager of the Anzac War Memorial, Hyde Park, Sydney.

There have been Historic Tours with Judith Dunn to Windsor and Campbelltown; an evening meeting of the Illawarra Family History Society; and a trip to Windsor to the new library with its very helpful staff.

The raffle was won by Carolyn Darby, who chose "The Battle of Vinegar Hill – Australia's Irish Rebellion, 1804" by Lynette Ramsay Silver.

After special thanks to members of the FHG Committee and to Jill Nicholson for organising afternoon tea and her helpers, Jo introduced our Guest Speaker with his topic "Darlinghurst Gaol".

Richard (Dick) Whitaker, Chief Meteorologist with The Weather Channel in Australia, appears regularly on radio and television. He has been author, co-author and consultant editor of seventeen books about the weather, including publications for Time-Life and Reader's Digest. As mentioned before he wrote "Sydney'side", an historical photographic history of Sydney. Welcome Dick.

The design of Darlinghurst Gaol was based on the Eastern State Penitentiary built in Philadelphia in the 1820s. Built during the 1840s, Darlinghurst's first prisoners, 119 men and then 50 women, were marched through the streets from the George Street Gaol on 7 June 1841. Designed with a central building, with separate cell blocks radiating out, building continued on a piecemeal basis over the next 30 years. Buildings and perimeter wall were built from local sandstone, with guard towers in each corner of the wall. A wooden stockade was also built. The Governor's residence was built inside the main Forbes Street entrance. Above the gate the Coat of Arms was carved from sandstone, also with a carving of a lion holding a key in the mouth. A symbol of a gaol, this lion carving has long since vanished. The first Governor was Henry Keck, who was sacked in 1849 for pocketing funds from many illicit dealings, including establishment of a gaol brothel.

At first, executions were held in front of the main gate, until other buildings were erected inside the gaol. The Hangman was Robert "Nosey" Bob Howard. In 1870 a school was established for basic literacy for male prisoners, but not females! Many crafts were established, such as matting, book binding, broom making.

On 14 July 1914, prisoners were transferred to Long Bay Gaol. In 1922 the precinct became Sydney Technical College, and is now the Sydney Art Centre, with a new rooster, made by students, atop the central building. The former Women's "D" wing became the "Cell Block" Theatre. In 2014 celebrations are planned for the centenary of the transfer of prisoners.

Dick showed many photographs including some taken at an "Open Day" at the site. Les Jeckeln thanked Dick for his most interesting talk and presented him with a gift. Jo advised that Les had been at the first meeting of the Society, which in 2013 will celebrate its 50th Anniversary, with special activities planned

*Based on notes by Elaine Turnidge*

## BUILT HERITAGE

It must be at least 12 years ago that I started collecting information on Roseville residents listed in the 1903 *Sands'* directory, trying also to find when each house was built, and to identify the builder and architect. An ongoing project with completion date fast disappearing!

One house that I pass frequently is **Gooyong, No. 10 Clanville Road**, listed on the LEP for its historic, cultural, architectural and municipal significance. Only three other houses in the street are listed: numbers 11, 81 and 60a. I really think there should be more – for a start, those immediately east of No. 10, numbers 14, 18 and 22. Of these only No. 14 is recommended by heritage consultants for listing. Each, however, is associated with Ku-ring-gai notables: for nearly 30 years No. 14 was the home of Dr Theo O'Reilly (brother of Dr Susie), No. 18 was designed for Christina Darling by her son TJ Darling (architect for numerous homes in Ku-ring-gai) and No. 22 was home to one of the Smith Greenwell families (of Killara) for nearly 30 years. But... back to No. 10.

'The site, one acre adjacent to EH Babbage's two-acre property *Rawhiti* (since demolished), was bought on 19 September 1899 from AE Archbold by Jane Emma Praed of Lindfield, the widow of banker Charles Tyringham Praed whose antecedent William Praed, with John Eliot the 1st Earl of St Germans, had formed Praed & Co in London in 1802. Already a prominent banking family in the West Country, the Praeds had established the Cornish Bank in 1771. In 1891, experiencing difficulties in maintaining its services, Praed & Co was taken over by Lloyds. Charles T Praed, the principal partner at the time, sat on Lloyds' board until his death in 1895.

Jane had arrived in Sydney on the RMS *Orizaba* on 2 September 1898. Listed as Mrs Tyringham Praed, another passenger was Mr WE Manuel; other records reveal he was her brother. When married to Charles in May 1884 in Chelsea, her father was named as Ralph William Manuel. In November 1899 when William Edward married Lillian, the third daughter of Henry Buckingham of North Sydney he was described as the 'only son of the late RW Manuel of Brighton, England'.

Jane was listed in the 1900 issue of *Sands'* as Mrs T Praed of Gladstone Parade, Lindfield but did not appear there in the census of April 1901. Five months prior, in November 1900, she had sold her Clanville Road property to William and the census there listed 'E Manuel', head of a household of one male and four females – one of these would have been his wife, perhaps the other three were his sister Jane and two servants.

So I know the house was built by April 1901 but by whom – the architect and builder – there is no indication. For whom – probably Jane Praed not William E Manuel – because the house was named *Tyringham*, the middle name of her husband and also the home in Buckinghamshire of his antecedents. She could certainly afford to build a large and comfortable home – her husband's estate in 1895 was valued at £61,296.10s.

Just over one year later, however, the house was sold, its contents advertised for sale in May 1902 by Hugh Duff & Co., who had received instructions 'from Wm E Manuel, Esq., on account of his departure for England'. I've not

found anything further on WE Manuel although his wife Lillian was described in 1911 as a widow. Jane died in Sussex in June 1916, her estate valued at £7,896.12s.6d.

The new owner of No 10 was Anna Schmellitschek, wife of indent merchant Christian Felix Schmellitschek, who named the house *Villa Felix*. He had established The Foreign Agency in 1886 as an importing and indenting firm with premises at 169 Clarence Street, offering buyers 'a most complete list of first-class manufacturing houses in England, America, Germany, Spain, Italy, India, Java, Manila, China and Japan'. They didn't stay long in Roseville: in May 1907, Anna sold *Villa Felix* to mining engineer Edward Tyler who renamed the house *Gooyong*. The name, apparently, means 'camp', but I don't know its significance to Tyler. He was a son of Sir Henry Whatley Tyler MP (1827-1908), Chief Inspector of Railways in England, and, from 1877 to 1895, president of the Grand Trunk Railway in Canada. Did the family lead an itinerant life?

Tyler's tenure was also short. In April 1909 he sold to grazier William Henry Capel (b.1857), one of seven sons of Anne and Daniel Capel, who in 1846 had purchased *Piedmont* near Cobbadah in the Warialda Stock District. William and his brothers John, Charles, Richard, Daniel, Albert and George – as Capel Bros, Graziers – were part owners of the stations *Gorian*, *Campo-Santo*, *Memedebri*, *Gournarna*, *Derra Derra* in NSW, and *Gnoolooma* in Queensland. The partnership was dissolved by mutual consent in February 1908. Just over a year later William bought *Gooyong*.

The house had been advertised for sale in early 1909 described as a 'very attractive and artistically designed bungalow residence, substantially built of brick, tiled roof, wide verandah nearly all round, and contains wide tiled hall, and lounge or vestibule, drawing-room and dining-room (18 x 20 each), breakfast-room, 5 bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom (tiled floor), porcelain bath, tiled walls, water-heater, pantry and all usual offices. Weatherboard Lodge, near gates, 3 rooms, now used as a motor garage, stables, aviary, fernery, lawns, etc., ornamental trees, and small orchard, and paddock.'

Unlike former owners of *Gooyong* – who occupied the house briefly – members of the Capel family lived there for over 70 years. William died in 1940, his wife Eva in 1946, daughters Bertha in 1966, Annie 'Trixie' in 1977 and Eva Nellie in 1980 – all still 'of Clanville Road'.

When William purchased the one acre that contained *Gooyong* in 1909 he also purchased a triangular-shaped block to its west, nearly doubling the size of his holding. Over the years the site has been re-subdivided and the triangular piece now holds part of 1A and 3 Rawhiti Street, however *Gooyong's* original 150 feet frontage to Clanville Road remains. To all appearances, it is a fine and relatively intact example of early Federation Queen Anne architecture.

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

## New Members

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

Jean Sommer St Ives

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

## November Quiz (answers p.2)

*Based on the names of KHS Computers in the Research Centre (continued)*

- Ernest FISK was?
  - A pilot and Qantas founder.
  - A telegram boy and wireless operator.
  - A pirate and Quizmaster.
  - A teacher and wine taster.
- The GILLESPIE Family from Wahroonga gave?
  - The peacock enclosure to Taronga Park Zoo.
  - The pathway from Governor Road Wahroonga to Bobbin Head.
  - The pulpit to St David's Church in Canberra.
  - The picture of the Queen to the Ku-ring-gai Council Chambers.
- William HENRY was?
  - A Knight and refrigeration engineer.
  - A conservative writer and oarsman.
  - A King parrot feeder and regeneration advocate.
  - A convict and owner of land on the north side of the Lane Cove River.
- Joseph Hartley IBBITSON lived in which house and street?
  - "Northwest", Roseville Ave Roseville.
  - "Norwood", Rosebery Rd Killara.
  - "Nevertir", Ridge St Gordon.
  - "Nevana", Russell Ave Lindfield.
- James JENKINS owned?
  - A wharf and a steam boat called "The Nellie".
  - A waterfall and a sheep called "Natalie".
  - A warehouse and a shop called "Nothing Over 2 shillings".
  - A winery and a sherry called "Nostalgia".

*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 3 Nov Family History Meeting**  
**11.00 am** "Time Lines" + Q & A Session  
**2.00 pm General Meeting**  
 "Some of My Unusual Collections"  
 Speaker: Ron Hattersley
- Sat 17 Nov 2.00 pm Society General Meeting**  
**Stories from Randwick**  
 Speaker: Pauline Curby.  
 Pauline draws on stories of people and places researched for her award-winning book on Randwick.  
**Christmas afternoon tea.**
- Sat 1 Dec Family History Meeting**  
**11.00 am NO MORNING MEETING**  
**2.00 pm General Meeting**  
 "SHOW & TELL"  
 Speakers: Members will tell about their brought items. **Christmas Party.**
- Sat 19 Jan 2.00 pm Society General Meeting**  
**Rainbow on the River**  
 Speaker: Ann Howard.  
 Ann Howard will speak about the third book in a series on the social history of Dangar Island.
- Sat 2 Feb Family History Meeting**  
**11.00 am** More intra/internet resources  
**2.00 pm General Meeting**  
 "Cooyal to Warrawee and all points in between". Speaker: Lester Burgess.

## Administration

President	Jackie van Bergen	9403 3044
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	Graham Lewis	9416 5818
Treasurer	Peter Stehn	9489 9488
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Family History Leader	Jo Harris	9489 4393
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	Jenny Joyce	9440 2131
	Beverly Robinson	9988 3775
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