



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.

October 2012

Newsletter

Vol. 30 No. 9

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

Captain Thunderbolt and his lady

The story of bushrangers Frederick Ward (Captain Thunderbolt) and Mary Ann Bugg is an enthralling one. At the August meeting popular historian, author and genealogist, Carol Baxter, made a very welcome return to KHS to relate vividly her entertaining and thoroughly-researched tale of this very enterprising bushranger and his lady, as related in her latest book.

Having determined to write about a strong female character, Carol discovered the story of the female bushranger. While stories about Mary Ann and Fred abound, Carol's research showed her that many are historically inaccurate, albeit fiercely defended. An example is the claim that Mary Ann helped Fred escape from incarceration on Cockatoo Island, whereas primary source documents reveal that she remained in the Dungog district.

Fred, born in the colony in 1835, was the son of convict Michael Ward and Sophia. His parents became rural dwellers in the Hawkesbury/Windsor area. Fred was brought up with expertise in handling horses, but being the child of a convict, was of a class looked down upon by the Sydney establishment, and frequently discriminated against. As a boy he was known to be responsible and capable. However, at the age of twenty Fred's nephew, and conman, John Garbutt led Fred into horse-stealing. This led to Fred's first term of imprisonment on Cockatoo Island, until granted a ticket-of-leave in 1860.

Mary Ann, born in 1834 in Gloucester, is described by Carol as beautiful, intelligent, educated, part aboriginal, and a truly fascinating woman of her time. Like a chameleon, she could relate to aboriginal and white culture. She met up with Fred at John Garbutt's wedding, near Mudgee in December 1860, and by February was pregnant with their first child. Fred took Mary Ann to be with her family at Monkerai, near Dungog, but in doing so broke the conditions of his ticket-of-leave, and found himself back on Cockatoo Island. This time, conditions were harsher, and Fred finally escaped, thereby becoming an "outlaw".

Adopting the moniker "Captain Thunderbolt", Fred was "the life-of-the-party" type who, for example, liked robbing inns a long way from the nearest police and shouting patrons to drinks with the innkeepers' money. He knew that by the time the police arrived their horses would be tired. He would taunt the police as they tried unsuccessfully to catch up with him. Fred had returned to the Dungog district to meet up again with Mary Ann, and together they embarked on a notorious lifestyle of crime and adventure.

In telling their story, Carol stressed the importance of "getting the history right" and not promoting myths. Her stated aim is to write vivid history and "great stories" based on thorough research of primary sources. Carol mentioned that a docudrama about Fred and Mary Ann is in production for probable release next year.

Beth Facer

General Meeting

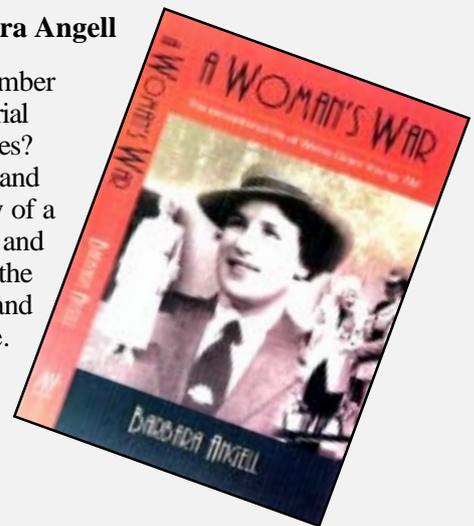
Saturday 20 October 2.00 pm

followed by

***A Woman's War: The Life of
Wilma Oram Young AM***

Speaker: **Barbara Angell**

Do you remember
the radio serial
White Coolies?
Then come and
hear the story of a
POW nurse and
survivor of the
Bangka Island
massacre.



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

Family History Meeting

Saturday 6 October

11.00 am "More Intra/Internet Resources"

2.00 pm General Meeting

Speaker: **Dick Whitaker**

"Darlinghurst Gaol"



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

November/December Newsletter

The next *Newsletter* will be posted on Thursday 1 November, one week later than usual. So please note:

November Family History 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 at 2.00 pm on Saturday 3 November.



Recent Acquisitions

The following is a selection of recent acquisitions. Processing of acquisitions is still settling down. Normally these items are kept one month on the fireplace shelf for ease of reference and then sorted into the reference library. However, 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. ARC/STO – filed under Architecture and then STO.

• “Modernism in Post-War Sydney: Three Houses by Hugo Stossel” a B.Arch. Dissertation submitted by Paul Georgiades in the School of Architecture University of Technology, Sydney 1992. The residences are the Eisner residence at Warrawee, the Nossal residence at Wahroonga and the Stossel residence at Lindfield. The dissertation includes a list of Hugo Stossel’s built work and transcript of interviews with Hugo Stossel in 1992. The survey drawings are not supplied. ARC/STO

• “Hillview Garages and Historic Precincts, 1334-1340 Pacific Highway, Turramurra, Sydney, NSW Conservation Plan” by Design Architects, prepared October 1997. The plan is approximately 90 pages and assesses the cultural significance and provides a conservation plan. There is an interesting array of photographs but the reproduction could be better. Fortunately the photographs are sourced, should you need a better reproduction. HER/HIL

• “From Nutcote to Elwatan: The Art and Architecture of B.J. Waterhouse”. Prepared for an exhibition in 2004 by the Mosman Art Gallery, this is a colour brochure of 32 pages. There is an inventory of his works in Sydney which includes “Tulkiyan” Gordon (see pages 12/13). ISBN: 0 9751946 2 3. ARC/WAT

• “Where Once We Walked: A Guide to the Jewish Communities Destroyed in the Holocaust” by Gary Mokotoff & Sallyann Amdur Sack, published 1991, ISBN: 0 9626373 1 9 and 514 pages. Lists more than 21,000 towns in Central and Eastern Europe where Jews lived before the Holocaust. SHI/MOK

Bruce Robinson

Quiz answers (see p. 8 for Questions)

1. (b) A convict & landowner.
 2. (c) An engineer & dux of his school.
 3. (d) A photographer whose father was a painter.
 4. (b) Draftsman & conservationist.
 5. (a) “Springdale” Marian St, Killara.
- All questions are based on early citizens of Ku-ring-gai. Learn more about these people whilst in our Research Centre.

Special Interest Groups

Mac Users SIG

The last meeting was on Monday 24 September. Again our discussion was varied and animated – from Mountain Lion to new tips and tricks.

The next meeting is **Monday 29 October at 2.00 pm** in the research rooms.

If you have specific questions, email them in advance so they can be circulated (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

Eight members attended the German SIG meeting held on Monday 13 August 2012. The meeting opened with the usual round-robin of reports and discussion on research successes and brick walls encountered in the previous month.

One particular area of interest that requires further investigation is the origin of German surnames. In particular:

- Are German names derived in a similar way to English surnames (occupational, place names, nicknames, etc.)?
- Is there an on-line reference to look-up the meaning and origin of German surnames?

No definitive solution was voiced at the meeting. Any suggestions would be appreciated. Cindi’s List (<http://www.cyndislist.com/>) may be worth exploring, if time.

Tony Karrasch passed around several books on Germans in Australia that he found of use as research background. Examples were “German Speaking Settlers in Australia” by Josef Vondra 1981 and “Wunderbar Country – Germans Look at Australia 1850-1914” edited by Jurgen Tampke. These books are available from the Gordon Library or via inter-Library loan. Please see Tony for further information.

Jill Ball has sent us a “heads-up” on free web genealogy seminars (webinars). See <http://blog.geneawebinars.com/2012/08/upcoming-issgs-webinars-september-2012.html> for further information. The webinar on October 9 entitled “Jumping Over Hurdles in German Research with Leslie Albrecht Huber” is of particular relevance. Jill has attended previous webinars and found them useful.

Next Meeting: It was decided to hold future meetings at two-monthly intervals, with the next get-together planned for **Monday 8 October at 1.30 pm**. See you there.

Peter Stehn

Scottish Research SIG

Our next meeting is to be **Monday 22 October at 1.30 pm**, and it is hoped that members will bring along all their new discoveries for discussion.

Irish Research SIG

The last meeting was held on Friday 14 September. After many apologies only 5 members were able to attend. We discussed a number of items including how best to locate the elusive “Townland”. For those non-Irish, the Townland is important as it is where the Irish call their home address and many records are on this basis. We exchanged some good ideas and had a lot of fun.

The next meeting will be held on **Friday 12 October at 1.30 pm**. All welcome, including non-Irish.

Ric Hall

The Unlikely Bushman

How many of us have heard of Alexander Curry, an eccentric who lived in the bush near Lovers Jump Creek more than 50 years ago? In a delightful little book, Sydney journalist Ron Hicks describes how he came upon the remains of a hut in the bush behind his house in Huon Street Wahroonga. Intrigued as to its history, Ron turned to the literature, where Margaret Wyatt spoke of one 'Alec Curry who lived in an iron shack set well back from the road', one of many who camped in the Ku-ring-gai bush in the depression days.

Ron's curiosity as an investigative reporter was aroused. Was this who lived there and when? Could he date the few artefacts that remained? He tried with little success. There was portion of a Meakin Ironstone plate which he hoped would give him a date, but it could have been produced anytime between 1912 and 1963.

Next Ron talked to locals, but it was not easy finding people who had been resident in northeast Wahroonga more than 70 years ago. But through a little good luck involving his plumber, Ron was able to find people who could help him, people who had grown up in the area in the 1930s. From these discussions Ron gives a fascinating account of life in the Westbrook Avenue–Hampden Rd area in the 1930s and 40s.

Ron Hicks' search took him to the State Records at Kingswood and finally to the Master of Lunacy's court. In this book he has given us a well-written account of the difficulties faced in historical research, and an insight into life in Ku-ring-gai 70 years ago.

The Unlikely Bushman. Ron Hicks. Huon Enterprises, Sydney, 2009. ISBN 978-1-4092-9499-7.

Doug Milne

What's in a name?

"Waroonga is the earliest orthography of this pretty native name. The cumbersome late insertion of the letter h, as in Wahroonga, Wahroongah, and Waroongah, being phonetically incorrect, unwarranted, and in direct opposition to the genius of the native language, I have given the preference to the original orthography. – ALPHA"

Progress Journal and Magazine Vol 1 No 3. published by George Collingridge, 1897.

"Saturated With Filth and Corruption": NSW History?

**2012 State History Conference,
20-21 October 2012**

At Rowers on Cooks River

1 Levey Street Wolli Creek, Sydney

The RAHS conference title is derived from an 1883 New South Wales Legislative Council *Noxious and Offensive Trades Inquiry Commission* referring to any industry that created a stink, especially if it was associated with offensive waste.

The Conference looks at the good, the bad and the ugly of NSW local history.

Visit www.rahs.org.au for further information.

Vale Joyce Ryerson



You will be saddened to hear of the passing recently of our long time member and fellow family historian Joyce Ryerson.

Her archival activities at her old school – SCEGGS Darlinghurst – will be appreciated by generations of students in years to come.

Joyce has left a legacy to many of us in company with the Sydney "Dead Persons' Society" who named the "*Ryerson Index*" after her – because of her huge collection of Sydney Morning Herald Death Notices stashed away in a laundry cupboard.

This *Ryerson Index* is used by family historians world-wide, some daily, some not quite so often, but few have not ever used this index.

Thank you for your interest in our Family History Group, your company, your family history skills, and your friendship.

"MacCabe Corner"

Do you know where "MacCabe Corner" is? Amongst the biographies in our library is a fascinating read: "*Surveyor Francis Peter MacCabe – The Man Behind the Corner*" (ISBN: 978 0 9806211 6 7), written by his grandson, Michael MacCabe. Michael is a life member and former president of this Society.

To quote a member of the Society: this is "an easy read." The biography shows how life was outside the major settlements and some of the problems that had to be overcome.

On his honeymoon in 1855, Francis wrote to the Surveyor-General's Office requesting a further month's leave and was told that he could not apply for one month's leave but must apply for 14 days' leave, and then re-apply for a further 14 days (which was approved). Take heart Public Servants! Be pleased that you don't have the problems he had in lodging his monthly returns.

The Preface indicates how Michael started from a virtual blank canvas and with the help of co-incidence, luck, good genealogy sleuthing, and perseverance, brought to light and fleshed it out, the life of a true pioneer of Australia.

If you have a genealogical brick wall, take inspiration from this biography.

Bruce Robinson

More on the Sugarbag Gang...

Dear Editor,

I am the daughter of the late Alan Tarrant, one of the original 'Sugarbag Gang'. We heard many stories about their exploits whilst we were growing up, and of course have copies of 'William Henry's 40 Acres'.

A friend sent me a recent article from the July 2012 issue of the KHS *Newsletter*: '*The Sugarbag Gang Continued*'. I remember Stuart Doyle well; his mother was a great friend to my Grandmother, Peggy Tarrant, as were the mothers of all the other boys mentioned in your article.

Just a couple of corrections – I can understand Stuart's memory becoming a little blurred with the passing of time: Paul Tarrant (RAN) had not 'died in a motor accident in Sydney, early in the war'. Paul served in the Navy throughout the war and died on 18 December 1964, at the age of 41, collapsing in the City from a heart attack.

The Tarrants did not move to No. 18 until 1936, when my father would have been 17 and starting work – therefore their 'Sugarbag' days were spent in their previous home, No. 24 Bromborough Road. Possibly Stuart's only memory is of No. 18, and this detail may not be of much interest to anyone except possibly the current owners.

Just a few other memories of early Ku-ring-gai:

We moved to 155 Ryde Road, West Pymble in 1945, when Ryde Road was a 2 lane road, surrounded by bush, orchards and small farms.

Mr Skinner's dairy farm was opposite us; the camphor-laurel tree on this farm, where we built and played in our treehouse for many years, is still there! His paddocks also provided a wonderful supply of mushrooms in the autumn.

Mr Lofberg's market garden followed all of Lofberg Road, down to behind our house. We spent many a day playing in the old quarry (where the West Pymble Swimming Pool now stands), in the nearby bush, tadpoleing and blackberrying.

There was an a.m. and p.m. bus to and from Gordon station; if you missed it, you walked – as I remember my mother doing, laden with shopping and carrying my baby brother.

I remember gypsies and prisoners of war being transported down Ryde Road in trucks, to an army camp that later became a temporary home for migrants.

There were several families living in fairly squalid accommodation in the bush down the road; I remember the night that fire destroyed one of them, belonging to the West family (Freddie West was a notorious 'motor-bike hoon'!).

Later, an Italian migrant family, the Spessos, moved into a humble home near where Gordon West School now stands. I remember being intrigued at Mrs Spesso, all in black, cooking things we had never before seen, on a wood stove!

My father and some of the neighbours canvassed the whole district, obtaining signatures for a petition to open what is now Gordon West Public School.

A whole new world opened up to me when my parents introduced me to the Council Library. This was housed underneath and at the back of the present old Council Chambers. In addition, they ran films for children each

Saturday morning – a few cartoons, but mainly documentaries – I'm sure this awakened in me the enthusiasm I still have for travel!

We were each given 3d for our bus fare to attend these activities on a Saturday morning – but we used to spend the 3d return fare on hot chips, walking home through the bush (behind St Johns Avenue) and often stopping for a 'skinny dip' in the creek on the way. Those were the days!

Diane Wood

South of the Shire

The 28th Annual Conference of the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies was recently held over three days at the Tradies' Club in Gympie. The Botany Bay Family History Society, hosts for the conference, did a sterling job in organising the event for over 290 delegates from Australia and New Zealand.

The Trade Fair day that preceded the conference was a huge success with an additional 200 visitors calling in to visit the many society and commercial stalls in the exhibition area. A feature of the day was a number of short free talks and well-attended workshops given by Heather Garnsey from The Society of Australian Genealogists, and Jill Ball from our Society.

In keeping with the Conference theme "Endeavour, Resolution, Adventure, Discovery", Botany Bay members in period costume greeted delegates as they arrived for the welcome reception on Friday evening.

Saturday was an early start for the first day of formal presentations. Dr Carol Liston gave the Vincent John Crowe Memorial address "Discover Online Land Records", in which she related news of the new Torrens Purchasers Index that has been compiled by Land and Property Information (the old NSW Lands Department). Presently available in the Department's Office, this index will soon be made available free online. The index will enable you to locate manual Torrens Title folios from a surname search; it will be a wonderful resource for all historians with an interest in NSW properties.

The other pre-lunch sessions were "Things found along the way: discoveries of a sporting historian" by Ian Heads, and "Valuing Memories: your spoken family history legacy" with Trish Levido. After lunch there were two sessions with two streams each; the focus of these being technology and DNA. Carol Riley put forward a strong argument for societies to embrace social media, Patricia Fearnley demonstrated how to build a website painlessly and easily, Caitlin Hickie discussed the issues around preserving your family history amidst the challenges of technology, and Kerry Farmer explored and demystified the topic of DNA and family history.

The Saturday night formal dinner provided an opportunity for delegates to mix and mingle. Networking at events gives family historians opportunities to discuss common issues with individuals and members of other societies; it was evident from the noise level that lots of networking was in progress at the dinner.

In his Sunday presentation, Brad Manera from the Hyde

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Can you help?

Can anyone identify these people and this house? The photos were donated to SAG some time ago, the donor now unknown. The women's clothes look to be of the late 1910s, and there are four photos of 'Peace Day' in the city, so they were probably taken in 1918 or so.

Captions are under some of the photos – e.g. 'Some friends of mine', 'a clever girl' – but none give the names of people. The dog, a fox terrier, is named 'Admiral Paty', and the cat is 'Mr Darkie'.



There are also some photographs of Turrumurra – the railway station, Ku-ring-gai Chase Avenue and views of Lovers Leap, and of Austinmer – the railway station, Main Street, the beach and 'The Outlook' (a boarding house).

There is one photo of boys sitting with legs dangling over a timber verandah along the edge of a pool with caption 'S.C.E.G.S. Carnival'; photos of a biplane with men in uniform, of a rather large pig in a rural setting, and of a sprawling bungalow alongside a long two-storey building that looks to be part of an institution.

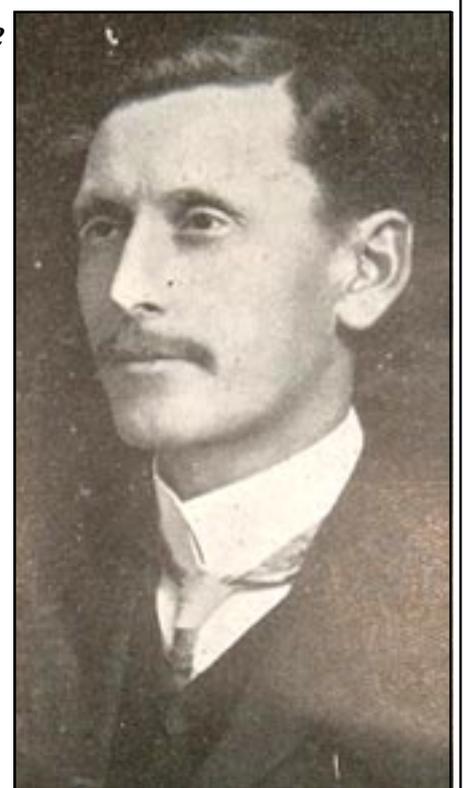
So it seems they were taken in the late 1910s and are of a family that lived in Ku-ring-gai Chase Avenue, Turrumurra, that took its holidays in Austinmer, and also had a rural property, a son who attended Shore and whose father or older son was in the Australian Flying Corps (the fledgling RAAF) and worked in a large institution somewhere in Sydney.

If you can help please contact Kathie Rieth frithie@netdata.com.au or 9416 1587.

A hero of the Dardanelles

See if you can recognise the WWI hero in this photo.

If not, see Kathy Reith's *Built Heritage* story on P. 7.



FAMILY MATTERS

September Family History Meeting

11.00 am Session

16 members attended the morning session. Jo Harris reported the sad news that Joyce Ryerson had died on Thursday, 30 August. Joyce was a long time active member of KFHG, as well as conducting archival activities at her old school, SCEGGS Darlinghurst and providing the Sydney Morning Herald Death Notices that formed the basis of the Ryerson Index, set up by the Sydney Dead Persons' Society and named in her honour. Her interest in KFHG, her company and her family history skills will be missed by all members of the group.

A general discussion then followed on 'My Brick Walls'. Each member present told of a brick wall and various suggestions were made on climbing it. Jenny Joyce and Beverly Robinson made computer searches. Other solutions were to use: 'A Genealogical History of Pioneer Families of Australia' by L.M.Mowle; 'Trove' which goes up to 1954 with one paper going as far as 1980; 'SMH' at the State Library (available online if you have a reader's card; Electoral Rolls on ancestry; and Sydney Telephone Directories on our intranet. It proved to be a worthwhile sharing of resources and experience.

2.00 pm Session

Internet News

Useful Resources:-

"Find My Past" – Royal Air Force Muster Roll 1918

"Familysearch" – Free guide to London Ancestors

"Tracing your ancestors in Birmingham, Warwickshire and Worcestershire" – <http://bmsggh.org/>

"1851 Census of Cornwall" – <http://werhome.idirect.com/~djttrounce/index%293.html>

"Adoption Search Reunion" – <http://www.adoptionsearchreunion.org.uk/default.htm>

"UK Census Online" – www.freecen.org.uk

"Historical Directories" – www.historicaldirectories.org/hd/

"Rootsweb Mailing Lists" – <http://lists.rootsweb.com/index/intl/AUS/GENANZ>

Book Reports

"Louisa Atkinson – friend of Mrs John Selkirk"

"The Lehmann Family Story 1848 – 1984"

"Times Past in Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and the Hunter"

"Dr Dick and the Lacemakers"

Speaker

Jo introduced the guest speaker, Mr Geoff Hammond, who, with assistance from his daughter Jenny, spoke about the Hammond family of butchers. Joseph Hammond settled on the North Shore in 1863 and started the first butcher's shop north of the Harbour. In 1867 he married Emily and lived in Willoughby, where he slaughtered sheep and cattle on his 17 acre property. At first the meat had to be salted or smoked, which was done on the property, but with the introduction of gas, ice was able to be made, so fresh meat became readily available. In 1870 he opened his first shop in Chatswood, and in 1890 moved to Pymble, where he had 18 acres behind where 3M is today. In 1932 new Abattoir

Acts ordered the closure of all private abattoirs, and in 1970 the last Hammond butcher's shop closed. It was on Pacific Highway Gordon, between St John's Avenue and Moree Street. Unlike the rest of his family, Geoff did not go into the family butchery. Instead he joined the Police Cadets in 1941, had a short spell in the RAAF during the war, and returned to the Police when war ended. He became a detective, was stationed at Pymble Police Station, and spent 30 years in the Drug Squad. He was very involved with the St Ives Show, being in charge of the poultry section.

A vote of thanks was moved by Don Davis, and afternoon tea was enjoyed by the 27 people who attended the meeting.

Based on notes by Jean Smith

Next FH Meeting on Saturday 6 October

Richard Whitaker: "Darlinghurst Gaol"

The main Forbes Street gates, Darlinghurst Gaol, c. 1880. The coat of arms is there today, but the carving immediately above the gates, showing a lion holding a key in its



mouth, has long vanished. This 19th Century symbol of a gaol was probably removed when the Gaol was rebuilt as East Sydney Technical College in 1922.

Richard (Dick) Whitaker is Chief Meteorologist with The Weather Channel in Australia and 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. He also wrote an historical coffee table publication on the photographic history of Sydney called "Sydney'side".

Continued from P. 4

Park War Memorial, touched our emotions as he shared stories and showed artifacts of Australian military from all campaigns. Dr Lisa Murray, City of Sydney Historian, highlighted technology and social media as tools for societies in her presentation "Community Connections: technology and the renaissance of local & family history". Paul Parton, from Familysearch, shared some of the most exciting news heard at the conference. He told us about the new Familysearch product "Family Tree" that will replace the present Familysearch product in the near future. As someone who is fortunate to have early access to this site, I am excited at the opportunities offered by this new initiative from Familysearch.

In the final session of the Conference, Paul Brunton from the State Library discussed The Endeavour voyage and the charting of the East coast of Australia. The concluding act was a call from the enthusiastic team from Canberra who are hosting the 2013 conference "Limestone Hills to Marble Halls" to join them in Canberra from 20-22 September 2013.

The 2012 Conference organisers have generously made the 2012 speakers' notes and papers available on the Conference website, <http://www.conference2012.org.au/>.

Based on notes by Jill Ball

BUILT HERITAGE

George Arthur Roberts, architect for Dalcross, Stanhope Road, Killara

A request recently came in to the KHS research team for information on Dalcross, now part of the Sydney Adventist Hospital. The team located an article and drawings in *Building* magazine of 12 March 1913, the subheading reading: 'A private hospital calls for expert design in various important particulars. Comfort, the chief essential, has to be blended with appropriate convenience, and in the following example Architect George Roberts, of Sydney, has admirably risen to the occasion. To make the property saleable his design covered the purposes of a hospital, boarding-house, or residence.' The team asked what I knew of Roberts and his work.

He was an interesting fellow, multi-talented, skilled and, as well as a competent architect, an educator and (as stated in *Building*) 'A Hero of the Dardanelles'. He was born in Linton, Victoria in July 1874, the fourth son of Mary Ann and John Hartley Roberts, a schoolteacher who, in 1881, accepted the position of Director of Education for the Government of Tonga, was founder of the Tongan free and compulsory educational system, and for 17 years the principal of the Royal Tongan College. The story of his father, written in 1924 by his brother Samuel, a Methodist minister, was published by the Methodist Book Depot. Other siblings were John Hartley, Ralph Ernest, Frederick William, Thomas Victor, Joseph, Mary Ellen, and Victoria Lucy.

Roberts served his articles under JH Buckeridge, Diocesan Architect of Brisbane, and graduated in 1899 from Sydney Technical College with a Diploma in Architecture (Hons.) and Architectural Sanitation. By 1901 he had established an office at 18 Bridge Street working as an architect and sanitary engineer – a specialist qualification that equipped him well to design a hospital like Dalcross. Most of his projects were residential. Two exceptions were a factory in Harbour Street Darling Harbour in 1905 and a theological institute in Fiji in 1908. It appears that his first project in Ku-ring-gai was a cottage in Roseville in 1904; later work was in Lindfield, Killara, Gordon and Pymble. Unfortunately, apart from Dalcross, most contemporary records do not reveal the client or street, thus making it near impossible to identify each building.

His qualifications and awards were numerous: in 1906 he became a Fellow of the Institute of Architects NSW (IANSW); in 1909 elected secretary to the IANSW; in 1911 made a Licentiate of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA); in 1913 member of the Society of Architects, London. He taught at the Technical College from 1900 onwards, instructing students in architectural drawing, trades drawing and building construction, and was the Honorary Secretary for the Board of Examiners for the IANSW and the RIBA. In 1914 he was elected an alderman of the North Sydney Council and stood for re-election in 1917. Roberts and his siblings had been residents of the area since at least 1903 – that year at Abiofa, 101 Miller Street – moving to Eirie on the corner of Blue and Alma Streets by 1905.



Roberts' military career was equally impressive. Prior to WWI his home service included the National Guard, the Australian Rifle Regiment, the 16th (Newcastle) Regiment, the 18th (North Sydney) Infantry and the 20th (Parramatta) Infantry. He summarised his active service in WWI: "Commission as Major in the AIF (Temporary in the Regular Forces of the British Army) 1914; Commission in the Australian Military Forces with the rank of Major; also ... Temporary Lieutenant-Colonel." He was present at the landing at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 and wounded in late May. His brother Bert was also at Gallipoli and later Quartermaster to General Allenby during the Palestine campaign. Another brother, Thomas, served with the New Zealand forces.

Construction magazine of July 1915 reported: 'Major George A Roberts, the well-known Sydney architect, has evidently discovered the secret of "how to be cheery though wounded"'. He writes the Editor a breezy note in which he casually remarks that he has "stopped another". This was unfortunate, as Major Roberts had only been a week in the firing line after recovering from his first wound. "Two wounds and two operations sound a lot" he adds "but it is really not so bad. I am happy and comfortable and well looked after".' Assessed as 'Unfit for Active service, fit for Home Service', he was returned to Australia.

In 1908 George A Roberts had married Amy Annie Irving; a daughter, Lillian, was born the following year. When he left for overseas in 1915 they were living at 38 Burton Street Milsons Point. By 1917, after he was invalided home, they were in Durnford, Lord Street Roseville. In 1919 he bought Lurnea, No 7 Corona Avenue Roseville from builder Harry Snudden. Whether this was built to Roberts' design is unknown; Snudden did do a fair amount of 'spec' work around Roseville, at least two of which were built in 1918 in Corona Avenue Lurnea. This was the Roberts' family home until at least 1930. Although it remained in his possession until 1947, George, Amy and Lillian – by then a music teacher – lived elsewhere.

Roberts was still registered with the Board of Architects in 1944, but the only mention of a project after 1930 that I could find was in 1936 for flats at Manly. These may or may not have been built. He died at Wollstonecraft in August 1958 aged 83; Amy died in 1963. Both were interred in the Lawn Cemetery, Northern Suburbs (now Macquarie).

Kathie Rieth

Copy for Newsletter

General copy for publication should be lodged with the Editor, Bob Barry (bob_barry@optusnet.com.au), as **early as possible** but no later than the 15th of the month (except November and December), unless otherwise arranged. Copy 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.

Peter Fish	Gordon
Lorraine Henshaw	Lane Cove
Heather King	Annandale
Kathie & Adrian Walshe	Artarmon

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

Quiz – based on the names of computers in the KHS Research Centre (answers p.2)

- Richard Archbold was?
 - A butcher & slaughterman
 - A convict & landowner
 - A policeman & motor cyclist
 - A schoolteacher & author.
- John Job Crew Bradfield was?
 - An elephant breeder & zoologist
 - An electrician & endive grower
 - An engineer & dux of his school
 - An architect & artist.
- Harold Pierce Cazneau was?
 - A publican whose father was a poet
 - A politician whose father was a preacher
 - A pathfinder whose father was a philosopher
 - A photographer whose father was a painter.
- Frederick Eccleston Du Faur was?
 - Dairyman & cream bottler
 - Draftsman & conservationist
 - Doctor & camera fanatic
 - Dietician & calorie counter.
- James George Edwards lived in a house named?
 - “Springdale”
 - “The Highlands”
 - “Huon Park”
 - “Rosedale”.

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 6 Oct** **Family History Meeting**
11.00 am “More Intra/Internet Resources”
2.00 pm General Meeting
 “Darlinghurst Gaol”
 Speaker: Richard Whitaker
- Sat 20 Oct** **2.00 pm Society General Meeting**
A Woman’s War: The Life of Wilma Oram Young AM.
 Speaker: Barbara Angell
 Do you remember the radio serial White Coolies? Hear the story of a POW nurse, survivor of the Bangka Island massacre.
- Sat 3 Nov** **Family History Meeting**
11.00 am “Yet More ‘Net Resources”
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, using images and records researched for her award-winning book on the Municipality of Randwick.

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Editors: Jennifer Harvey, Kathie Rieth
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Newsletter Editor	Bob Barry	9144 6480
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Research Team	Max Farley, Jo Harris, Jennifer Harvey, Beverly and Bruce Robinson, Trish Thomson	
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