



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.

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Monthly Newsletter

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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 Rooms - 799 Pacific Highway, Gordon

Two Sydney Scandals of the 1820s

At the General Meeting on 19 July, Carol Baxter related details of the Jane New scandal and the audacious Bank of Australia robbery, which shocked Sydney in the 1820s and which are the subject of her books *An Irresistible Temptation: the true story of Jane New and a colonial scandal* and *Breaking the Bank: an extraordinary colonial robbery* respectively.

Jane New had been transported for shoplifting and was charged with a similar crime in Sydney. At her trial John Stephen Jr., who occupied the position of Registrar of the Supreme Court and was a son of the NSW Supreme Court Judge, perjured himself on her behalf as he had become infatuated with her. He subsequently assisted her escape from custody. In her book Carol gives an account of the subsequent relations between Stephen and Jane.

While Carol's talk was based on the main subjects of her books, she spent much of the time discussing the relevance of such books, which highlight dramatic events, to the understanding of history in a particular period. The Jane New saga occurred in a time of political turbulence in the colony. Governor Darling had arrived in 1826 and had almost immediately come under attack from the radical press, inspired by Wentworth, for his autocratic behaviour. John Stephen Jr. and his brother Francis were friendly with Wentworth and a number of other disaffected colonists and John Stephen was dismissed from his Supreme Court position because of his association with Jane New. The Jane New trial increased existing tension between the Chief Justice and Darling as the former considered there were irregularities in the trial

Also the question of the status of convicts and ex-convicts arises. The majority of convicts were assigned to settlers for rural work or to government employ if they had trade skills. Most of them completed their sentence and continued in the colony as useful citizens. Some, like Simeon Lord and Samuel Terry became wealthy, raising doubts on the effectiveness of transportation as a punishment. A minority committed further crimes in the colony and were sent to penal settlements such as Newcastle or Moreton Bay.

The case of the bank robbery also created a sensation. Apparently the convict stonemason who lined the bank

Coming Meetings

**NEXT SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING
AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
(Gordon Library Meeting Room)**

Wednesday 17 September at 7.45 pm



Lachlan Macquarie
Internet

**Guest Speaker
ROBIN WOOD
from Macquarie University Library
will speak on
Lachlan Macquarie's Travels
Through Three Empires**

**In 1807, Lachlan Macquarie, an
Army officer serving in India, left Bombay to
return to England, but not by the usual sea route.
An arduous seven month journey would take him
and his travelling companions through the
Ottoman, Persian and Russian Empires at a time
of great political instability.**

**Supper will be available
Visitors welcome**

NEXT FAMILY HISTORY MEETING

Sat 6 Sept 11 am - Members' Research
2 pm - General Meeting
"Bring a Family Document and tell us all about it"

**Afternoon Tea will be available
Visitors welcome**

Thurs 25 Sep 10.30 am - FamilyTree Maker session

vault was also responsible for the construction of a drain closely adjacent to the vault, from which a tunnel was dug to enter the vault and abscond with 14,000 pounds. The Australia Bank had been formed in 1826 and was known as the 'pure merino' bank, having been founded by the elite of colonial society in opposition to the 'convicts' Bank of NSW formed in 1817 with several ex-convicts on its board of directors. There was some jubilation among convicts and ex-convicts when the robbery was reported.

Don Fifer

Tulkiyan Open Day

Where: Tulkiyan heritage house museum, 707 Pacific Hwy, Gordon (south of the shops).

When: Sunday, 14 September 2008, during History Week.

Hours: Open 10am, last tour at 3pm.

Conditions: Can only be viewed by guided tour of approx. 1 hour duration. Tours run continuously through the day. No bookings taken.

No disabled access to second storey; no wheelchairs. Entry: \$10 adult includes refreshments. Concessions available.

Inquiries: Friends of Tulkiyan volunteers - 9498 3754 or friendsoftulkiyan@hotmail.com

Information: www.kmc.nsw.gov.au/tulkiyan.

St John's Cemetery Open Day

On 18th October a Cemetery Open Day will be held in conjunction with St John's annual church fête. As last year's tour commemorated locally prominent men buried in the cemetery, this year women and children resting there will be featured.

The tours, entitled *Memorials to Mothering*, will be starting at 9.45am and 11.00am while help with family history research will be available from 9.00am. Vouchers to join one of the tours can be bought for \$5 each from 9.00am on the day and will also entitle the holder to make a purchase of up to \$5 at any fête stall. Meet at cemetery gate. All welcome.

Annual General Meeting

Please note that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held in conjunction with the General Meeting on Wednesday, 17 September at 7.45.

All members are urged to attend, and may nominate for any positions on the Committee. **See notice page 8.**

90th Anniversary

Mon 22 Sep *Commemorating the 90th anniversary of first direct wireless message from UK to Australia.*

Members will be manning the monument, corner of Cleveland and Stuart Streets Wahroonga, 9 - 4.30 on that day. Ceremony 11am.

For further information, pick up a leaflet from our Centre, or come along on the day. Volunteers or information: phone Jo Harris 9489 4393.

Family History Course

Jo Harris is also running a new Family History Course over 8 weeks, starting on Friday 17th October. Fees are \$100 for Members and \$125 for non members. Bookings can be made with Jo on 9489 4393.

Computer Resources

DO YOU KNOW THAT THESE RESOURCES ARE ON OUR COMPUTERS ?????

Births Deaths & Marriages

NSW:	Births 1788-1918 Deaths 1788-1945 Marriages 1788-1945
VIC:	Births 1836-1920 Deaths 1836- 1985 Marriages 1836-1942
QLD:	BDMs 1829-1914
SA:	Births 1842-1928 Deaths 1842-1915 Marriages 1842-1937
WA:	BDMs 1841-1905
TAS:	BDMs 1803-1899

FamilyTree Maker Session

Jo Harris is running another course on FamilyTree Maker, on 25th September at 10.30 am. Fees are \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. Please book with Jo on 9489 4393

Recent Acquisitions

T W Edgeworth David – A Life. By David Branagan and edited by Paul Cliff (2005). 640 pages indexed.

John Watts - Australia's Forgotten Architect (1814-1819): South Australian PMG (1841-1861) By Margaret Alastair Macfarlane (1992). 172 pages indexed.

Log of Logs (Ian Nicholson). Roebuck Publication No 41. A catalogue of ships' logs (1788-1988), shipboard diaries, voyage narratives etc. for Australia and New Zealand.

Poverty to Promise – re Monteagle Emigrants (1838-1858). By Christopher O'Mahony and Valerie Thompson. Published by Crossing Press (1944). 200 pages indexed.

Great Australian Women by Susanna De Vries. Published by Harper Collins. Biographies of fifteen Australian women from Federation. 350 pages indexed.

Quiz

Q1: Apart from having been Prime Ministers and having spent part of their life in Ku-ring-gai when young, what other event of significance did Sir William McMahon and Harold Holt have in common?

Q2: In the first part of the 1800s the Lane Cove River was heavily used to convey timber, produce and people between Sydney and the Ku-ring-gai area. Many of the geographic features then had more striking names than those they now carry. Can you "marry" those old names to the current ones?

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| (a) Murderer's Bay | (1) Lavender Bay |
| (b) Cockle Bay | (2) Burns Bay |
| (c) Hulk Bay | (3) Balls Head Bay |
| (d) Kerosene Bay | (4) Darling Harbour |

Read, read, read!!

Member Profile – Beverley Dunstan

Being a lover of history and reading, I was attracted to the book “A Colonial Woman” by Patricia Clarke, sub-titled “The Life and Times of Mary Braidwood Mowle 1827-1857”. It is based on the diaries of Mary (Braidwood Wilson) who married Stewart Mowle in 1845 and had five surviving children.

Stewart took a position as Collector of Customs at Eden, Twofold Bay, NSW. This resulted in their getting to know some of the sea captains who came into the port. One was John Archer who often brought his vessel into Eden to load livestock for Hobart, and was invited to the Mowle home. Amongst his crew was a young man Fred Miller, described by Mrs Mowle as “a very wild lad and will I fear cause his parents much trouble in after years, still he has some good qualities and kept under proper control, he might turn out well. His Mother spoils him.”

Imagine my amazement and delight when this Fred Miller turned out to be my great-grandfather Frederick Ebenezer Miller, whose sister Elizabeth had been the second wife of Captain Archer.

Frederick was born in Hobart on Christmas Day 1837, the son of Congregational Minister Rev. Frederick Miller and his wife Elizabeth. Fred’s early life had been something of a mystery except that he had received a good education, until he turned up in the Shoalhaven area, south of Sydney, in 1861 living with Mr McArthur, Greenhills Iron Store, where he learned to manage a store. He married Annie Munro in 1863 and moved to the Richmond River area in northern NSW in 1867 with members of the Munro family. He had hoped to open a store there but became a stern and admired school teacher instead.

Captain Archer and Elizabeth Miller were married in Hobart in February 1850 but Elizabeth died of scarlet fever at the end of December 1850, just after the birth of their baby who also died aged 2 days.

Captain Archer (1814-1857) belonged to one of the famous pioneer families of Australia, the Archers of Queensland, and was related to the merchant Walker family, both families being descended from Archibald Walker, merchant of Perth, Scotland. Captain Archer subsequently married Anna Maria Blest of Surry Hills NSW whom he had met at Twofold Bay. In early April 1857 they left Sydney aboard his 150 ton brig RETRIEVER, calling at Newcastle for a cargo of livestock, and sailed for Bluff NZ. Sadly they were never seen again.

This story is an example of how unexpected information can turn up in unlikely books, so we should try to read, read, read as much as possible. “A Colonial Woman” is in our Society library.

- Stella Green

Members may know Beverley as the person who arranges the speakers’ program for the Society’s monthly meetings - a task she took on “temporarily” as a Committee member in 1997/8.



A member since 1996, she is a former Vice-President and President (1999/2000).

Her interest in history is long-standing. Social Studies, and later History were favourite subjects at school, but the emphasis was always on European history. The Chateau Tanunda *Historical Firsts* series (SMH) and later Philip Geeves’ *The Streets of Sydney* (2GB) made her aware that Australia, too, had a history - and an interesting one at that.

Her early childhood was spent at Kilaben Bay, across Lake Macquarie from the RAAF Catalina base at Rathmines, where her father had been stationed for much of the war. The family returned to Sydney in 1957 where she attended schools at Willoughby.

Following a B.A. and Dip. Ed. degree Beverley taught English and History in secondary schools at Moss Vale and Manly Vale before becoming an Education Officer in the overseas aid bureau of the Department of Foreign Affairs (1970s-80s). She later managed staff development and training units in government departments and universities and Macquarie University’s continuing education program. Over the years she undertook further postgraduate history studies and a M. Ed. research degree.

Beverley retired (early) in 2001. Leisure interests, aside from family and domestic responsibilities, include reading (history, biography, the occasional novel), film and travel (mostly in Australia). Beverley is also a member of The Friends of *Tulkiyan*, a volunteer group which arranges tours of this Council-owned house-museum and related public education. Are there any KHS members keen to join their happy band?

As planning for the 2009 speakers’ program is underway, Beverley would like to remind members that she is always scouting for future speakers. For, without members’ suggestions, and of course, the generosity of the speakers who travel to talk to us (gratis), our program would be a meagre one. We aim for a balance of local, regional and national subjects covering people, events and themes. A glance at this year’s programs shows how eclectic the mix can be: from the Japanese midget submarine attacks in Sydney Harbour in 1942, the life work of “locals”, Eccleston de Faur and T W Edgeworth David, Sydney’s inter-war domestic architectural styles to the travels of army officer Lachlan Macquarie through the Ottoman, Persian and Russian empires in 1807.

So, if you have heard someone speak with interest and enthusiasm on an aspect of local or Australian history, Beverley would very much like to hear from you, either at a meeting or by phoning her on 9419 8526. Members undertaking their own research are also very welcome to give her a call.

History Notes

The Legendary Dr Susie O'Reilly

The name *O'Reilly* means a lot in Ku-ring-gai's history. We had Dr Walter William O'Reilly who built a large home in Telegraph Rd, Pymble in 1896. His eldest son, Walter Cresswell O'Reilly, was Ku-ring-gai's Mayor from 1929 until 1933 and became known as the "Tree Mayor" because of his commitment to "greening" the district. Walter Cresswell had a sister, Susannah Hennessy O'Reilly, born in 1881. She was quite a woman, a Ku-ring-gai legend, and we are reproducing an edited version of her story as told in our *HISTORIAN* of September 1980 by Malcolm O'Reilly. He was her nephew and an active member of our Society.

"Susie" attended Methodist Ladies College, Burwood. She enrolled in the Faculty of Science before switching to medicine and on graduating with honours in 1905 applied for appointment as a resident doctor at Sydney Hospital. She was refused because, as the Sydney Morning Herald put it on 4 January 1905, her appointment "*would not be for the general comfort and happiness of the medical staff, and her mingling with the male staff in treatment of certain cases was not conducive to a continuance of that comfort and freedom enjoyed by the doctors*"

Understandably enough, particularly when looked at through today's eyes, this caused a real stir and the *Truth* newspaper, carried the following "poem":

*'Tis in the Sydney Hospital,
Which people speak of highly,
The doctors hate the doctor gal
Whose name is Sue O'Reilly!
They know she is a gifted maid
And truly skilful in the trade,
But sooth to say, they seem afraid
Of Doctor Sue O'Reilly
You clear
From here
My gifted dear!*

*That is the kind of thing she'll hear!
The trousered doctors seem in fear
Of Doctor Sue O'Reilly!*

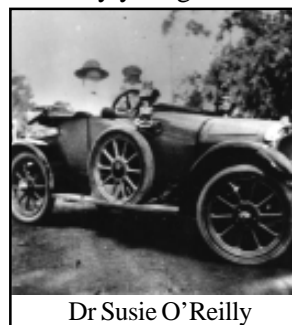
*She is the emblem of the age
Is Doctor Sue O'Reilly!
No use for them to fume and rage
For women's ways are wily!
The Lady Doctor's come to stay,
No matter what they may say,
And who should bar right of way.*

*To Doctor Sue O'Reilly
Too late
To hate
Or contemplate*

*A war against the force of fate!
The Twentieth Century up-to-date
Is Doctor Sue O'Reilly!*

Whatever these words may lack in purity of expression, they certainly did reflect the feelings of many of Sydney's population, both male and female, at the time. The *Truth's* optimism was, however, misplaced and Dr Susie took up a post at the Royal Adelaide Hospital to complete her training. She was later a resident doctor at Queen Victoria Hospital in Melbourne and the Royal Hospital for Women at Paddington. She later practised as a GP at Pymble and had consulting rooms in Macquarie Street. She was also the Medical Officer at PLC, Pymble.

Her personality was just as striking as her medical skills. Malcolm O'Reilly describes her as *short and stout, always in a white but shapeless and waistless dress with a black hat perched on top of her frizzy mop of hair*. She had a keen sense of humour, particularly enjoyed Gilbert and Sullivan, and was seen by her many young relatives as "good fun".



Dr Susie O'Reilly

Pity Castle Hill

The accumulation of tolls motorists have to pay to travel from outlying areas to Sydney has been much in the news. But it is not a new phenomenon.

Back in the 1870s, before Ku-ring-gai existed as a municipality, there were as many as four Councils between Roseville and the city – North Willoughby, St Leonards, East St Leonards and Victoria. The latter gave its name to Victoria Cross at North Sydney. All of them had the Lane Cove Road running through them and what a terrible road it was. It was little better than a rough track and featured tree stumps, ruts, pot holes, washaways, dust and mud with no one keen to take full responsibility for its maintenance. The Government did recognise it as a route to the north but did little maintenance. With the formation of the Councils, the Government took the opportunity to have them erect toll bars to collect revenue to maintain the sections of road passing through their district. North Willoughby (now known as Willoughby), for example, put in a toll bar on the Lane Cove Road (now the Pacific Highway) at the corner of Boundary Street, Roseville.

Travellers from Roseville and all points north had to pay three tolls as well as the cost of the ferry to cross the harbour.

Needless to say, there was widespread anger about the tolls. The toll collector at Willoughby told his Council on 10 April 1873 that James Archbold had refused to pay the toll. Joseph Hammond, the well known North Shore butcher, said there were many disturbances at the toll gate. Hammond had his slaughter yard in Chatswood at the time before relocating it to Pymble. He was obliged to pay to bring his cattle from Flemington, across the Lane Cove River near De Burgh's Bridge and down the highway to Chatswood.

Petitions against tolls abounded with such well known names as Pymble, McIntosh, Archbold voicing opposition as well as people from Mount Colah, Dural and Castle Hill. In 1874 a petition from Richard Seldon, the Mayor of North Willoughby, pointed out that a driver with a cartload of produce had to pay threepence to each of the three Councils plus one shilling and sixpence for the ferry – totalling two shillings and threepence - or 23 cents in today's currency. It may not sound much but compare it with the sixpence (5 cents) motorists paid, bridge toll only, in the 1940s. Wages were much lower then too.

The petition also claimed that “one toll at East St Leonards returns 500 pounds per annum for a little over half a mile of this road”. Willoughby Council was able to collect an average of only about 80 pounds a year but had to maintain four miles of the road. Mayor Seldon stopped short of using the word “exploitation”.

Public outcry led to the Government seeing the light and, in May 1877, decided that all tolls should be removed.

Today's residents of outlying suburbs like Castle Hill should not hold their breath, however, waiting for a similar outcome.

Council Duties in 1911

It seems the lot of Ku-ring-gai Councillors has never been a happy one. The following newspaper report of a Council meeting in April, 1911, shows that Councillors then, as now, were of stoic stock:

Some 57 letters were read and their contents noted before the epistles were handed over to the various committees for report. This Shire of ours must have no end of letter writers. Some of the scribes had a fine turn of sarcasm. Troubles just now are as numerous as mosquitos.

Stories to Uncover

On 15 July 1819, Governor Macquarie granted 400 acres to Daniel Mathew in “Hunter's Hill” – which in those days included Ku-ring-gai. Details of Daniel Mathew and his grant in the area of Roseville and Lindfield are well known. Not the same, however, can be said of many of another nineteen he approved on 5th April 1821.

Les Thorne in his “*History of the North Shore*” lists these other nineteen and the number of acres they received as follows:

Archibald Cole (80); William Wright (100); Richard Wall (60); William Lycett (60); Henry Henry (45); Richard Gilbert (60); Samuel Midgely (60); Joseph Fidden (40); Thomas Wilson (50); James Jenkins (50); William Henry (40); Michael Fitzgerald (40); William Foster (70); Edwin Booker (80); Joseph Smith (40); John Griffiths (100); Daniel McNally (30); Henry Oliver (45) and John Beattie(50).

All of them at one time owned the land on which Ku-ring-gai's many fine homes now are. Something is known of a number of these people such as the Jenkins, Fiddens, Fosters, Olivers and William Henry but in many cases our records have little more than their names. It is hard not to be curious about who they were, why they received their grant and what happened to them and their families, if any, in later years. Some were free settlers, some had a military background, some were convicts, some worked their land and others soon sold it.

Our Tuesday volunteers, led by Jennifer Harvey, have amassed resources and honed techniques which make it easier than before, or at least less hard, to find out more about these people. They would be willing to assist members who would like to accept the challenge of researching one or two of these grantees. Or later grantees, perhaps, because Thorne lists another nineteen through until 20 January, 1857. Those many who remain something of a mystery warrant mini-biographies at the very least.

There are many interesting stories waiting to be unearthed.

Another Snippet from Miss Flora McLeod

Last month we wrote of historical “snippets” put together 30 or more years ago by our then member, Flora McLeod. Her notes have come to light as a result of work being done by our volunteers in re-organising some of the material in our Collection.

Those who know about these things would be aware that the Travellers Rest Hotel was on the Highway opposite Bridge Street in Pymble. It had been renamed the Lane Cove Hotel after being taken over by Tooheys in 1899. It ceased to operate as a hotel in about 1912. If one looks closely part of its southern wall can still be seen projecting just a little behind an added shop front.

Flora McLeod wrote that “the area of Bridge Street, West Street, Ryde Road within half a mile of the old hotel was fully built up last century..... Most of the people living here were unskilled workers – they could all fell, split timber, cut stone, clear land, do some rough building, build fences, handle horses. And they lived where they could hear of work – around at the Hotel”.

No doubt the menfolk saw it as their obligation to call in at the hotel each night after work to ensure they had a continual flow of work. Whether or not that was their purpose, Miss Flora McLeod seems to have seen it that way. Or perhaps she had a kindly sense of humour. - Max Farley

Family Matters

11am Session

20 members attended when Jo Harris demonstrated:

BDMs - Tasmania, Queensland, ACT, NSW

Victoria - Marine births - born at sea 1853-1920

Ryerson Index - death notices from SMH and many other newspapers

Jo said that most researchers enter too much information when looking at BDMs on the internet and emphasised the need to think laterally. If looking for a difficult name, say Flowerdew, put in Floweraaa and anything with Flower will come up. Misspellings of names can often be detected this way.

Jo has made a database of 2040 NSW parish record baptisms which are entered on the Pioneer CD (1788-1888). These records date from 1889-1982 and do not appear in the internet BDMs.

2pm meeting

More than 60 were present, with the meeting chaired by Jo. She advised that 1 August was the anniversary of the cessation of convict transportation, and when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima.

Display cases in hall include books for sale. One case is reserved for Services - Army, Navy, Air Force, contributions welcomed.

AFTC magazine August issue has more NZ internet sites, plus Cornish Smugglers.

Book reports

Joyce Ryerson said Carol Baxter's book on the early Sydney bank robbery "*Breaking the Bank: an extraordinary colonial robbery*" was an easy read and provided a lot of history.

Jackie Van Bergen obtained booklets on towns in Gippsland via the Morwell District Association which posted them for a small donation.

Catherine Williams described her new book about the French family.

Jo displayed her recent acquisitions:

100 Lives of Bourke

The Bulloo River Story

Timelines of Wentworth Shire

Shifting Sands to Solid Rock

Tea Gardens - Hawkes Nest and Northern Port Stephens.

Max Farley spoke about an item in a Hobart paper describing a convict woman who married in 1853 but was deemed by British law to be no longer married as she had been a convict. He asked if anyone had come across other examples.

Max encouraged members to look at the Society's website www.khs.org.au

Max also said a team of members was needed to handle any research enquiries received by the Society. Volunteers sought.

The guest speaker, Lindsay Allen, Senior Archivist at State Records, gave the meeting an entertaining talk packed full of information on what is available at State Records and how to access it.

State Records consist of Government Records; there are no private records held. Archives are catalogued under the Agency which created them. Records generally have to be 30 years old before access, some have longer closure periods, e.g. Mental records 110 years, Gaol records 70 years, School punishments 50 years.

Most records are at Kingswood but many are available at Globe St, The Rocks, on microfilm.

Records include:

Colonial Secretary's correspondence

Convict Indents, Marriages, Pardons, Tickets of Leave

Immigration - Bounty 1828-42, Assisted 1844-96, (if passengers paid own way and travelled in steerage, not on shipping lists)

Naturalisations to 1903 - people from Asia, Europe, America, necessary if wished to own property, most gave ship name spelt phonetically, also some confused name of ship with shipping line.

Court and Gaol records

Hotel Licences 1830-1860

Gaol Photo Description Books

Occupations - Police, teachers, firemen

Railway records for people born in 19th century and worked from 1910.

Maps and Plans 1790-1890s

Probate Index and Will Books to 1952

Divorce Index up to 1930

Insolvency and Bankruptcy indexes.

To visit Kingswood

Readers Ticket, order via website.

Pre-order up to 4 items - must have number from website Photo ID.

Important to consider purpose of visit, prepare and pre-order. Can pre-order Probate Packets, listed in Archives Investigator.

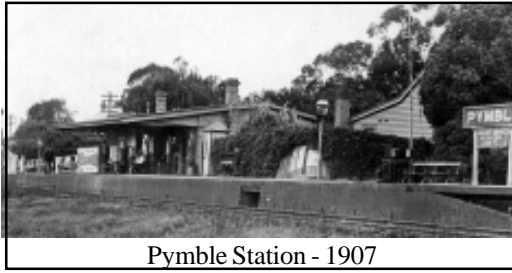
Mr Allen presented the society with a folder containing the "Archive in Brief" for our library.

Max Farley gave a vote of thanks and presented a gift to Lindsay.

The book raffle was won by Marlene Darragh who chose "Parramatta - A Past Revealed".

- Stella Green

Built Heritage



Pymble Station - 1907

The station was opened on 1 January 1890 in conjunction with the opening of the line between Hornsby and St. Leonards. The eight original stations on the line possessed five different styles of platform structures. Moreover, some of the stations received replacement structures in the mid 1890s and again for duplication of the line between 1900 and 1909.

Pymble was one of the stations with a peculiar history of platform buildings. It is popular history to state that the first platform building was formed by the rear part of a house owned by Robert Pymble. The rear was converted into a ticket office and waiting room. One could not have a stronger claim to the name of the station!

When the line was extended from St. Leonards to Milsons Point, the intensity of use and the role of the railway line changed greatly. Five months after the extension was opened, the Engineer-in-Chief for Existing Lines, Thos. Firth, approved plans for new buildings of the same design at Lindfield and Pymble. The building design was the most unusual structure to have been planned since the first railway in the Colony in 1855. Perhaps this was done to mark the 50th anniversary of the first railway?

From 1855, the NSW railways had used a simple design for a single room waiting shed. It was of timber construction with a mono-pitched roof sloping towards the rear of the platform. It was this design that was erected at Lindfield and possibly at Roseville and Wahroonga in 1890. These three stations and Pymble received new stations in the middle of the 1890s. This was prior to the construction of the present platform buildings.

The building proposed for Pymble was of the same design as the existing waiting shed at Gordon No. 1 platform, which was built also in the mid 1890s. After 1890, the NSW Railways

reversed the direction of the single-pitched roof on waiting sheds and was able to construct an attached awning as the roof now sloped towards the edge of the platform. Pymble station was planned to be of this more modern pattern. What is amazing is that the mono-pitched buildings at Lindfield and Pymble were to be brick construction. This was unheard of. No mono-pitched building had ever been planned to be brick and none were built until 1948. Of the 420 examples of the same design as the 1895 Pymble building, evidence indicates that only one was built and that was in 1948 (a one room waiting shed at Waverton after a train crashed into the existing timber waiting shed).

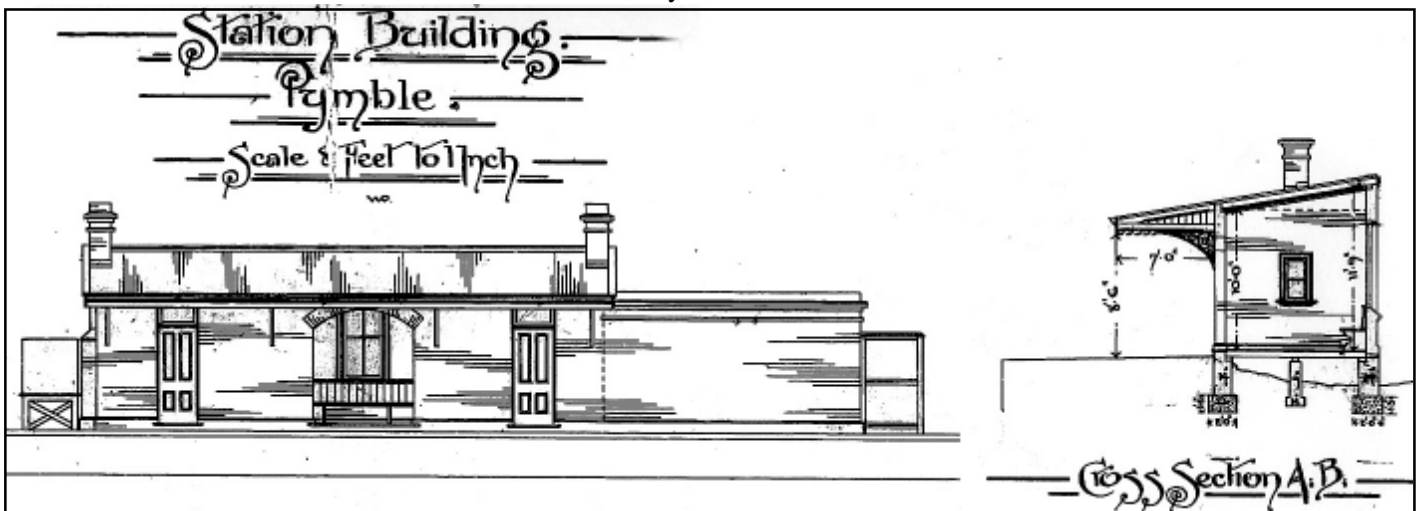
In 1895, the brick, three room station building seems to have been built at Pymble. The documentary evidence aligns with a photograph of the structure after 1900 when the platform awning was extended. The wider awning was supported on what is known as “standard brackets”, whereas the 1895 awning was supported by smaller, ornamental brackets attached to the external wall.

Now comes the tricky bit. The photographic evidence shows that the building was not erected in accordance with the 1895 plan. The gents/ladies toilets seemed to have been relocated to the rear of the structure.

Duplication of the railway line occurred through Pymble in 1909. It is known that the platform structures at Turramurra and Wahroonga were built years before duplication made it necessary. No plan exists for the present platform building at Pymble. Is it possible that the 1895 brick platform building with its mono-pitched roof and rear toilet was converted into the present platform building?

The original 1890 platform building at Gordon was sent to Wollstonecraft in 1909. The 1890 building at Turramurra went to Warrawee in 1900. The building at Artarmon came second hand from Glenbrook in 1916. Given the unusual activity on the North Shore line, it may well be possible for a conversion to have taken place at Pymble. Such a conversion was undertaken at Oatley in 1905, though that involved a timber building. Has Pymble had three different platform buildings or just two? Does the colour or pattern of existing brickwork provide any clue? If there were three buildings at Pymble – 1890, 1895 and 1909 – does not this suggest a substantial allocation of public funds? Responses are invited.

Stuart Sharp - RailCorp Heritage Officer



Copy for Newsletter

General copy for publication should be lodged with the Editor, Kerrin Cook at lindsaykerrin@bigpond.com as **early as possible** but no later than 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 readers can reproduce it in whole or part with acknowledgement. Material should preferably be in electronic form.

New Members

We are very pleased to welcome to membership:

Mrs Janet Denne - Lindfield
Mrs Melissa Pilling - Pymble
John & Susan Dailey - Turramurra

We know they will enjoy their time with the Society and that membership will open the door to many friends and activities of interest.

Quiz Answers

A1: they were born in 1908 and would have celebrated their 100th birthday this year.

A2: (a-2); (b-4); (c-1); (d-3).

Murderer's was sometimes *Murdering*. *Kerosene* was earlier *Sugar Works*.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

To be held

Wednesday 17th September 2008

Immediately following the monthly meeting which is scheduled to commence at 7.45pm.

Elections will be held for Office Bearers and members of the Committee.

Nominations for Office Bearers and Committee close on Wednesday 10th September and must be made in writing and be received by the Secretary before 7.00pm that day.
Nomination forms may be obtained from the Secretary.

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 from 10am to 2pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday (except the first Saturday of each month when members have a meeting). It is closed over the Christmas period and on public holidays.

Diary Dates

Sat 6 Sep	Family History Meeting 11 am - Members Research 2 pm - General Meeting "Bring a family document and tell us all about it"
Wed 17 Sep	7.45 pm - KHS General Meeting <i>followed by Annual General Meeting</i> Speaker - Robin Walsh Topic - <i>Lachlan Macquarie's Eastern Travels to Ottoman, Persian and Russian Empires</i>
Thurs 25 Sep	10.30 am - FamilyTree Maker session
Mon 22 Sep	<i>90th anniversary of first direct wireless message UK to Australia..</i>
Sat-Sun 27-28 Sep	Sofala-Hillend-Tambaroora-Mudgee and Gulgong.
Sat 4 Oct	Family History Meeting 11 am - Members Research 2 pm - Speaker - Ray Thorburn "Genetics in Genealogy"
Fri 17 Oct	New Family History Course - week 1

Administration

President	Kevin Callinan	9983 1525
Vice Presidents	Ann Barry	9144 6480
	Jo Harris	9489 4393
Treasurer	Doug Milne	9487 2853
Secretary	Don Fifer	9482 4613
Immed. Past President	Max Farley	9499 7113
Committee members	Kerrin Cook	9416 2586
	Helen Davies	9498 3754
	Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
	Jenny Joyce	9440 2131
	Peter Stehn	9489 9488
Appointees		
Accessions	Jennifer Wallin	9983 1871
Book Sales/Asst Curator	Ann Barry	9144 6480
Computer Systems Manager	Peter Stehn	9489 9488
Curator	Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
Family History		
Leader:	Jo Harris	9489 4393
Committee:	Lyn Done	9449 7715
	Stella Green	9449 4388
	Jean Smith	9498 4468
	Peter Stehn	9489 9488
	Elaine Turnidge	9899 2635
Historian Editors	c/- Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
	with Kathie Rieth, John King, Bob Ross	
Newsletter - Editor/Layout	Kerrin Cook	9416 2586
Publicity	Sue Dunston	9498 8720
Public Officer	Helen Davies	9498 3754
"SNAP" Co-ordinator	Helen Davies	9498 3754
Speakers Programme	Beverley Dunstan	9419 8526
Volunteers Roster	Heather Davidson	9144 1844

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