



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.

September 2010

Monthly Newsletter

Vol. 28 No. 8

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

“North Shore Aviatrix” Judy Rainsford

At our General Meeting of July 17, Ms Judy Rainsford spoke of four North Shore women who were keen participants in the daring new endeavour of Australian aviation, close to a century ago.

Our speaker herself began flying gliders in the 1970s, graduating to single-engine aircraft and her pilot’s licence. She has flown over all of South-East Australia and in Europe, the US, and Canada. As Education Director of the Australian Aviation Museum at Bankstown, she promotes training possibilities for young pilots, and aviation heritage in general.

Early flying was done ‘in aircraft made of wood, wire and fabric’. Mascot airport then comprised paddock, swamp, animals and birds. Navigation instruments were rudimentary; there was no wireless, radar, or air traffic control, which made interstate and outback flying especially challenging.

Mrs Florence Taylor OBE, CBE was the first Australian woman to fly, in 1909. With her long skirts tucked tight round her legs to prevent any glimpse of bloomers from below, Florence lay along the glider built by her husband George, Lawrence Hargreaves, and others, manoeuvring into the wind for takeoff over Narrabeen sand dunes by moving her body weight. This pioneering lady – also an architect, town planner, engineer, and trade publisher – designed an airport for Sydney (at Newport), and an aeroplane. She died in 1961, having seen great changes in aviation.

Mrs Millicent Maude Bryant was the first Australian female to earn a pilot’s licence, at age 48, in 1927. She was also among the first women to gain a NSW driver’s licence. Mrs Bryant’s flying career was short; she was killed when the ferry *Greycliffe* was sunk by the Royal Mail steamer *Tahiti* in late 1927.

Phyllis Arnott (of the biscuit Arnotts) was the first Australian woman to gain a commercial pilot’s licence (grade ‘B’) in 1931. Her two brothers had an aeroplane, and she would not be left out! She later became an opera singer, and gave up flying.

Mrs Nancy Bird Walton AO, OBE became the youngest female commercial pilot in the British Empire. Her distinguished career began with her ‘A’ licence, gained in 1933, aged 17. In the 1930s she worked with the Far West Children’s Health Scheme NSW, transporting nurses and patients, and did charter and aerial ambulance work in Queensland. In WWII she was involved in the WATC, later the WAAF. The first Qantas Boeing Airbus A380 was named in her honour in 2008. Nancy died the following year.

Helen Davies

Coming Meetings

(Gordon Library Meeting Room)

Society Annual General Meeting followed by General Meeting **Saturday 18 September at 2 pm**



Bob Lasseter

The search for Lasseter’s Reef

Join us for a unique opportunity to hear BOB LASSETER’S illustrated talk on the ill-fated 1930 expedition to re-locate a rich gold reef, discovered by his father in Central Australia 30 years earlier. Bob will also describe his own extensive efforts spent in the search for “Lasseter’s Reef”.

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

Next Family History Meeting

Saturday 7 September

11 am More Overseas Websites.

2 pm General Meeting followed by: Charles Stewart “Finding My Father”. The search for his father’s life story uncovered much more than he had anticipated. Charles has written the book titled “The Rich Man” and will share this story with us.

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

Society Workshops

- “ANCESTRY” Cost: \$5

Thursday 23 September 10.30 – 11.30 Graham Lewis
– Convict Records, Colonial Secretary etc.

Please note that this workshop is strictly limited to one person per computer so everyone gets a chance for hands-on experience.

- “Computer Security” Cost: Free

Monday 13 September 10.30 – 11.30 Peter Stehn

This computer security workshop aims to address the following:

- What are the main threats posed by on-line hackers and cyber-criminals?
- What are their weapons and aims?
- Why are Family Historians especially vulnerable?
- How can you protect yourself from on-line attacks? - Safe surfing practices and tools

Bookings are essential by emailing khsinc@tpg.com.au, phoning the rooms, or dropping in to fill out the sheet with your name and contact telephone number.

If YOU have an idea for a workshop, or could run one, please contact Jackie van Bergen.

Parramatta Tour

Thu 16 Sep - Coach Tour to Parramatta

Pick up 9.30 am sharp from Bannockburn Oval, Pymble;
Return approx **4-4.30 pm**

Cost \$30 per head; \$20 for NT members (must bring membership card or pay entries on day). Note: Tour is subsidised by a State Govt *Positive Ageing* grant to KHS. Includes • coach transport and transfers between venues • morning tea on arrival • admission and tour of Experiment Farm • lunch special at Parramatta RSL • admission and tour of Old Government House.

Please note that there are stairs involved in one of the tours - if mobility is an issue, please advise in advance so arrangements can be made.

Bookings taken with payment only - booking sheet in the rooms; leave money/cheque in sealed envelope for Jackie van Bergen (enquiries 0412 554 028).

Numbers limited to 28 at this stage, but can be increased if numbers indicate interest.

November Tour

A tour to **Powerhouse Discovery Centre and Hills District Historical Society** is being organised for November - see next Newsletter for details.

Quiz Answers (see P. 8 for Questions)

1. On the corner of Banfield Rd and Moore Street, West Lindfield. The jamboree was held there 29 Dec. 1938 – 9 Jan. 1939.
2. In Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, off Farrer Avenue, North Turramurra.
3. On the corner of Park Avenue and Rosedale Road, Gordon.
4. On the corner of Stuart and Cleveland Streets, Wahroonga.
5. In “Heritage Square” on the corner of St John’s Avenue and Pacific Highway, Gordon.

Recent Acquisitions

- ‘The Kings School Parramatta - Register 1831–1981’ compiled and edited by Peter Yeend, School Archivist, first published 1982 (199 pages). Donated by Jo Harris.
- ‘Historic Picton - A walk through Picton’s past’ by Liz Vincent, photography by John Kooyman, re-printed 1996 (59 pages). The photographs are low on resolution, but the publication lists 5 specialist indexes for local history and family history research in the Picton area.
- ‘COSGROVE Portrait of a Leader’ by Patrick Lindsay, published 2006 (289 pages). Donated by Beverley Dunstan. Reveals his journey to the top as the chief of Australia’s Defence Forces.
- ‘Victorian and Edwardian Fashion - A Photographic Survey with 235 Illustrations’ by Alison Gernsheim, published 1981 (104 pages). A good guide to authenticity for costume historians. Donated by Jo Harris.
- ‘Knox Remembers 1939–1945, A record of the service of Knox Old Boys in World War Two’ edited by Adrian Nisbett, compiled by Josephine Tait, published circa 1995 (76 pages). More Old Boys have been found since this book was published.
- ‘Coonabarabran As Time Goes By - A Pictorial Journey 1860–2010’ by Joy Pickette, published by Coonabarabran DPS Local and Family History Group Inc 2010 (142 pages). If this area interests you, there is a host of black and white photographs.
- ‘The Ballad of Les Darcy’ by Peter Fitzsimmons published 2007 (221 pages). ‘Put Les Darcy in a uniform and the men of Australia will march to hell behind him’ was the message during the debate about conscription in the middle of World War I. Donated by Beverley Dunstan.

Bruce Robinson

“History of West Pymble” - help needed!

West Pymble Public School Fair
Sunday 12 September
10 am - 4 pm

The Fair will include a display of the history of the area.

As part of this, KHS will mount a display of local, family and school history.

If you have any relevant materials, we will scan/ photocopy them, and return the originals to you.

Volunteers are needed to help staff our display.

Please contact Ann Barry at
a.barry@optusnet.com.au or 9144 6480.

KU-RING-GAI HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc **COMMITTEE REPORT for 2009-2010**

Over the past twelve months, the Society continued to move ahead in many areas of its operations. We have been fortunate in having a very active Committee, building on the support of a very large group of Volunteers. Our Collection continues to grow, and its improving organisation provides a well-regarded developing community resource.

Committee membership

The Committee this year remained the same as the previous year, allowing good continuity. The Committee held monthly meetings, and all Committee Members have attended regularly, except when ill or travelling. Their commitment to the Society is outstanding, and should be recognised by the Members. Trevor Whitehead and Helen Davies have decided not to stand for re-election. Trevor has coordinated the Research team, and we thank him for that contribution. Helen has spent more than 10 years on the Committee in a range of roles, and will continue as the Public Officer of the Society. Helen has made an outstanding contribution to the Society, including Editor of the Historian and Newsletter for many years, and we wish her well in her other ventures. Jackie van Bergen is stepping down from her position as Secretary. We appreciate her contributions in that role, and we are pleased that she is prepared to remain on the Committee, covering Grants, Tours and Workshops.

The Research Centre

Our research centre is now a very pleasant place for Members to work. However, on Tuesdays (Built Heritage) and Wednesdays (Preservation) we are often searching for desk space, with so many working. With the re-cataloguing of the book collection, we have managed to achieve extra shelf space by removing duplicates etc. A new photocopier has been purchased, giving us reliability and improved copy speed.

Accessibility

Due to the assistance of our many room volunteers, we have continued to open the Centre on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday.

Computer System

Special thanks are due to Peter Stehn for his dedicated efforts in keeping the computer system running smoothly. We have replaced two of our older computers, meaning that all are now reliable. Disk storage space has been increased to cater for the large numbers of photographs and extra data being processed. During the year we took out a subscription to Ancestry, with the help of a grant from Lions, and this has proved very popular. Although the annual subscription to Ancestry is expensive, money raised by running workshops (on getting the most out of the site), donations, and an increase in copy charges, should allow us to continue this subscription next year.

Our Volunteers

The Society is fortunate to have a large committed group of individuals, who happily give their valuable time. These unnamed volunteers assist, and take responsibility for, many areas of our operation, we thank them. We have been able to achieve so much this year due to their commitment!

Museum and Display Cases

From time to time, former pupils of the school wander around the corridors, and are very pleased to see that we maintain a school Museum. We have managed to increase our collection of school photographs from donations, and by scanning photos from the archive boxes. Our Display Cases in the hallway now have a very professional appearance thanks to Jocelyn Brennan-Horley's skill and hard work.

Groups

Family History: A speakers program has been organised for most months this year. The Family History committee is thanked for their generous assistance. Due to the increasing popularity of the morning sessions, we have organised to hire the meeting room for the full day on the 1st Saturday of the month. This will commence from the September meeting. All sessions are very well attended, with the July morning session having more than 50 people, and most afternoon sessions have had an attendance of 40-50 people.

Built Heritage: Our dedicated Tuesday team attend every week, and mainly work on collecting and maintaining the resources on land and buildings, and researching articles for the Historian.

Preservation: Most members of this group attend each Wednesday, sorting, typing, scanning and cataloguing the collection. The creation of a new catalogue is being organised by Jenny Joyce, starting with the book collection, and the new subject cards have made it easier for members to follow the system; most books have now been relabelled. Our vertical files are being progressively sorted, typed or digitised via our new OCR scanner. Our collection has grown considerably over the year with two large collections – St Ives Progress Association and the Cardew Family collection – plus many smaller donations from members.

Research Team: This group was set up to answer enquiries generated from the website, and during the year they have answered many. The extra research information generated in this process is being added to our Biographical, Built Heritage, and Ku-ring-gai Information files. We have recently introduced a fee for this service. We thank Bruce Robinson for recently taking over the role of Coordinator from Trevor Whitehead.

Training Courses & Workshops

Jo Harris has run two Family History courses, and workshops on Family Tree Maker. A substantial number of workshops on various topics have been run this year by our members. Those on Ancestry are very important to fund our future subscription. The Committee sincerely thanks all those involved in presenting these courses and workshops.

Tours

The Society conducted a three day tour to Tumut. Many thanks to Jo Harris for the amazing tours she has run over the past years. Jackie van Bergen, having stepped down from Secretary, has volunteered to organise tours.

Meetings

General Meetings during 2010 have been run on Saturday afternoons. Beverley Dunstan has continued to organise a program of interesting Speakers for the year, and we thank

Continued

her for this consistent contribution. Meetings have been very well attended with one meeting having over 100 people. We recently purchased a wireless microphone for use at meetings to reduce the problem of cords running around the room, we thank Peter Bidencope for managing this system.

Catering for Meetings

We would like to make a special point of thanking Jill Nicholson, who has taken on organising the provision of afternoon tea, and always does so with a special decorative theme. Glynne McGregor has taken over the supplies from Jeanette Rennie. Thanks to all these, including those who assist these leaders.

Publications

The Historian: The team of researchers working on our flagship publication, led by Jennifer Harvey, has again produced a journal of very high standard. One volume is published each year, and it continues to grow in size and professional appearance. In producing it, many Members are pushed to develop their skills and expertise, benefiting the contributors as well as the broader Society and community. The Historian's index, published on the Society website, has a wide impact and generates many research enquiries. Thanks to Judy Oliver for many, many patient hours of indexing.

Newsletter: Throughout the year we have usually managed to produce eight pages each month, most with two pages of Local History. Max Farley has been the mainstay of the Local History pages over the years, but has decided not to continue. This leaves a substantial gap that requires more Member contributions to fill. Kathie Rieth provides a regular column on Built Heritage, and we receive reports on the Society meetings from a regular team. All these are much appreciated, and the committee would like to thank them and our Editor Bob Barry.

Website: Graham Lewis has maintained and improved our website throughout the year, adding the Newsletter and many other requested changes. The use of the website has increased, as is evidenced by the site's usage statistics and the number of enquiries generated.

Other Publications: Yet again we have failed to publish any books. Although there is no shortage of ideas and material, the lack of a co-ordinator to pull these together is very disappointing. The Committee would welcome any volunteers or suggestions in this regard.

Finances

The Treasurer's Report sets out the detailed accounts of the Society, and in particular our strong financial position. Jackie van Bergen managed to gain 4 grants for the Society during the year, enabling the purchase of Office chairs, Colour printer, Digital Photo Frame, Projector, OCR scanner, Digital voice recorder, and the subsidising of tours. Commendably, many members included a donation with their subscription.

Membership

Our Membership continues to increase, as noted in the Treasurer's Report.

Outreach

Jo Harris has been our main outreach speaker, talking about twice a month to groups such as Probus, RSL, Seniors,

U3A, Computer Pals, Inner Wheel, Legacy – to mention but a few. Kevin Callinan has also spoken to groups. We are currently working with the West Pymble P&C, collecting School archive material for an exhibition at their Fair about the school and West Pymble.

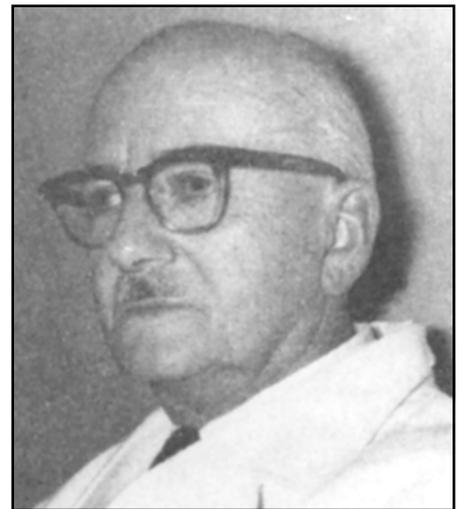
Council Committees

The Society is represented on two Council Committees: The Heritage Reference Committee (Jennifer Harvey) and the Community Reference Committee (Ann Barry). Ann Barry also represents the Society on the Ku-ring-gai Cultural Arts Network (KCAN).

*Ann Barry, President,
on behalf of the Committee, August 2010*

Neil Goldsworthy

This month marks the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Neil Ernest Goldsworthy, a pioneer in medical/dental research and public health, and a Ku-ring-gai resident for nearly 30 years. He graduated in Medicine from the University of Sydney in 1921 and in 1924 travelled to England, where he studied public health in London and Cambridge. Then, in Cambridge, he studied for the PhD degree under Prof. Howard Florey, work that later led Florey to the studies on penicillin. In 1928 Neil Goldsworthy married Bertha Lawler, and they returned to Sydney in 1930, where their three sons were born (Graeme, the youngest, has been an important source of information on the family). The family first lived at "Slaney" (now 25) Chilton Parade, Turramurra, and named after the river near where Bertha had lived in Ireland, then at 65 Roseville Avenue (1943-1956), and finally at 118 Ryde Road, West Pymble.



From 1931 to 1945, Neil Goldsworthy was Senior Lecturer in Bacteriology, University of Sydney, and produced a series of papers on pathogenic bacteria. However, he was developing a major interest in the aetiology of dental caries (tooth decay), about which little was known, and in several articles had written about the need for an interdisciplinary research unit to study "civilised man's most common ailment and our most urgent problem, dental caries." The concept of "*dens sanus in corpore sano*" – "sound teeth in sound bodies" – was a central component of his philosophy, and was reiterated in many of his essays.

He was therefore the obvious choice to be Director of the newly-established Laboratory of Pathology and Bacteriology at the United Dental Hospital in Sydney. He took up the position in January 1946, and within a few months the name was changed at his instigation to "Institute of Dental Research", the first so-named institute in the world. Harold

Sullivan, a dental graduate who had worked with him before the War, was appointed Assistant Director, and many young dental and science graduates were introduced to dental research (including myself in 1950). The Institute grew from a single laboratory in 1946 to purpose-built facilities that occupied the seventh floor of the Hospital in 1957.

Dental caries was rampant at that time and attributed to the excessive intake of refined carbohydrates. The role of diet was reinforced by two important investigations initiated in 1947. The first was in what is now Papua-New Guinea and the second, which ran for 15 years, involved children at Hopewood House, near Bowral, where they had an essentially vegetarian diet, protected from refined carbohydrates. The benefits were apparent, for after 10 years the number of teeth affected by dental decay was only one-tenth of that for a comparable group. This study gained the Institute world-wide recognition.

In acknowledgement of Neil Goldsworthy's pioneering work, the Rockefeller Foundation awarded him a six-months' grant in 1951 to study developments in dental research in the U.S.A. and Canada. By this time he was playing a major role in efforts to achieve water fluoridation. He was Chairman of the state committee established in 1948 to examine fluoridation, and was a key member of committees of the National Health and Medical Research Council that drew up guidelines. These were approved in November, 1953 and then became the responsibility of the individual states.

From 1956 onward, fluoridation of water was gradually introduced, leading to a dramatic drop in the incidence of dental caries. Unfortunately, he did not live to see these improvements in oral health, dying after a short period of illness on 26 September 1960. Harold Sullivan had died suddenly on 14 September, and so the Goldsworthy-Sullivan era at the Institute of Dental Research came to an abrupt end 50 years ago this month.

Ken Knox

World Heritage Convict Sites Listing

Remember we had Patricia Hale, Heritage Officer from the Dept of Planning (State) come to talk to a General meeting earlier in the year? Members might be interested in the outcome...

The World Heritage Committee on 31 July announced the inclusion of eleven Australian convict sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The sites "present the best surviving examples of large-scale convict transportation and the colonial expansion of European powers through the presence and labour of convicts". The sites that together make up Australia's 18th World Heritage listing are:

- Old Government House and Domain Parramatta, Hyde Park Barracks, Cockatoo Island Convict Site, and Old Great North Road in New South Wales;
- Fremantle Prison in Western Australia;
- Brickendon and Woolmers Estates, Darlington Probation Station, Port Arthur Historic Site, Coal Mines Historic Site and the Cascades Female Factory in Tasmania;
- Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area in Norfolk Island.

Sarah Peters, Resident 'Factotum' of Tulkiyan (History Week 2010 Open Day)



Tulkiyan, Ku-ring-gai's State-listed, BJ Waterhouse designed home completed in 1913 for the Donaldson family, was planned for a live-in servant. Her name was Sarah Peters; she died at *Tulkiyan* in 1961 aged 90, having been a regular face in the streets of Gordon for years.

Take a one-hour tour with the Friends of Tulkiyan volunteers during History Week. View this fine example of Arts and Crafts architecture, and discover the story told by remaining family treasures.

Where: *Tulkiyan*, 707 Pacific Highway, Gordon, 2072.

When: Sunday, 12 September

Tours: First tour 10 am, last tour starts 3 pm.

Tours run throughout the day and last an hour.

Entry Fee: \$10.00 includes refreshments. Concessions available. No bookings. No disabled access. On-street parking, or five minutes from Gordon Station.

Information: Friends of Tulkiyan ph: 9498 3754 or www.kmc.nsw.gov.au/tulkiyan

Gordon Station Garden

"Gordon Station garden is being pushed along. We hear that Mr Buck, of Pymble, has been good enough to offer, free of cost, any trees, shrubs, or plants required. The stock will come from the Royal Nurseries at Homebush. Gordon people are very fortunate in having such a liberal neighbour. Mr Buck's gift will be much appreciated. "The Kuringian" would advise those who have the gardens in hand to arrange for ample footpaths, so that the people might be able to get about and see the beauty of the roses, shrubs, or any other stock that may be planted.

One cannot do any class of plants justice unless they are well displayed. A humble bed can never be a garden in the truest sense."

From The Kuringian, May 27 1911

FAMILY MATTERS

August Family History Meeting

11 am Session

Jo Harris welcomed 32 members to the morning session, when the subject was "More Shipping: Assisted and Bounty Passengers, Crew and Deserters, and Exiles".

Jenny Joyce gave a summary of various migration schemes and organisers, such as Highlands & Islands, Edward Gibbon Wakefield, Caroline Chisholm, John Dunmore Lang. She explained the difference between Assisted and Bounty Passengers: the Government Assisted scheme began in 1828, and Bounty in 1836. Jenny then demonstrated the following websites:

- State Records of NSW - www.records.nsw.gov.au
- Public Records Office of Victoria - www.prov.vic.gov.au/
- Bound for South Australia - www.slsa.sa.gov.au/fh/passengerlists/BoundforSouthAustralia.htm
- Queensland State Archive - www.archives.qld.gov.au/research/indexes.asp
- Highlands & Islands Emigration Scheme - Passenger lists at Scottish Archive Network - www.scan.org.uk
- Mariners and Ships in Australian waters - <http://mariners.records.nsw.gov.au/>
- Ozships (Convictions) - <http://www.blaxland.com/ozships/>
- Passenger ships arriving in Australian Ports - <http://members.iinet.au/~perthdps.shipping/>

Beverley Robinson explained the difference between emigrants and immigrants - emigrants left their old country, immigrants arrived in their new country.

Jo showed the book "Ships Deserters 1852-1900" with 10,000 names, and also told of people who chose to be exiled, e.g. from the Isle of Man.

2 pm Meeting

More than 30 members attended the afternoon meeting chaired by Jo, who told us that on 7 August 1788 there were s-w to s-e winds, with showers. Temperature was 58 F or 14.4 C. Bradley noted that "the Lt-Governor's house built of stone and several feet above the ground gave way with the heavy rains of the previous days. The Sirius "sent 10 fathoms of the cable on shore from order of the Governor".

Jo spoke on following matters:

- Murrin Transcript Service. Reminded members to fill in the yellow forms, write name and phone number on top, place in Jo's pigeon-hole in rooms. Full cost is \$17, payable to Jo on return of order.
- 2010 Janet Reakes Memorial Award with topic "Tracing the Steps of My Most Travelled Ancestor", entries free, close 17 Dec. 2010.
- RAOGK (Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness) - suggests visit to this website.
- Asked meeting to thank Glynne McGregor, purchasing officer for tea supplies, and Jill Nicholson, who organises the afternoon tea and supervises the sound system.
- Australian Family Tree Connections magazine, August issue, is as usual full of interesting information including the

latest fees for BDM certificate applications which include registration number and district - ACT - \$37 commencing 1 Jan 1930; VIC - \$17.50 commencing 1 Jul 1853; NSW - \$28 commencing 1 March 1856; WA - \$31 commencing 1 Sep 1841; NT - \$25 commencing 24 Aug 1870 (1856-1863 NSW, 1863-1870 SA); Qld - \$34 commencing 1 March 1856; SA - \$41 commencing 1 June 1842; Tas - \$37.24 commencing 1 Dec 1838; NZ - \$26 1848-1874, \$20 1875 on (NZ prices are NZ dollars and include postage).

•Jo recommended a visit to the AFTC website, which has many links.

Jo introduced the guest speaker Dick Whitaker, meteorologist, whose subject was "Some Australian Weather Disasters". Dick gave us a gripping account, accompanied by slides, of three well-known events in Australian history caused by weather.

The "Dunbar" was wrecked at 11.15 pm on 20 August 1857 as Capt. Green tried to bring the ship into Sydney Harbour in a full gale, leaving one survivor, AB James Johnson. The weather was undoubtedly an east coast low, which also featured in the grounding of "Sygna" on Stockton Beach in May 1974, and "Pasha Bulker" in June 2007, both at Newcastle NSW.

The result of the "Dunbar" loss was the construction of the Hornby Light in 1858, also forecasts and maritime warnings. The first weather map, by Govt. Astronomer Henry Chamberlain Russell, was published in the Sydney Morning Herald on 5 Feb. 1877.

The second tragedy was the loss of the aircraft "Southern Cloud" on 21 March 1931, a Fokker FV11 carrying 2 pilots and 8 passengers, one of five aircraft operated by Australian National Airways, a company established by Charles Kingsford Smith and Charles Ulm. The aircraft took off from Mascot at 8.30 am for Melbourne, with a refueling stop at Wangaratta.

As was the custom, the forecast was taken from the previous day's newspaper weather map. She did not arrive at Wangaratta, and wreckage was not found until 1958 by a worker on the Snowy Mountains Scheme.

The aircraft had travelled for about 300 km against a tremendous headwind of 90 kmh. Capt. Shortridge was the pilot, and the memorial at Cooma includes parts of the aircraft. The result was more frequent weather updates and 2-way radio.

The third event was the loss on 25 October 1938 of the "Kyeema", a DC2, one of the first all-metal aircraft. She flew from Melbourne to Adelaide without any problems, but on the return flight with 14 new passengers, found cloud on the descent into Melbourne. Capt. Webb apparently mistook Sunbury for Daylesford, overflew Essendon airport, and crashed into a mountain in the Dandenongs. There is a memorial close to the crash site, listing the names of all lost.

David Wilkins gave a vote of thanks to Dick, commenting that they had both served in the same Army unit, but at different times.

Based on notes by Stella Green

Irish records online

The Irish Department of Tourism, Culture and Sport has recently made over 2 million pre-1900 church records available online free of charge. These are comprised of Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland records from Counties Carlow, Cork, Kerry and Dublin City. These records can be accessed at <http://www.irishgenealogy.ie/>

Jenny Joyce

OCTOBER Family History Course

By popular demand,
another 8 week **Family History Course**
will begin at 10.30 am on Thursday 6 October.
Contact Jo on 9489 4393 for details

September Family History speaker

Charles Stewart grew up in Perth in the 1950s, believing his father had died from a heart attack. Charles, a TV current affairs reporter, went in search of his father's life story, only to uncover a tale of a bigamist, con man and international fugitive, who had been written about in newspapers all around the world.

Come and hear this intriguing story, and see the book that Charles has written called "The Rich Man".

Upcoming Events

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

City People, Sydney Stories (Presented by the City of Sydney History Program and City of Sydney Library)

City of Sydney curators, archivists and historians showcase the City's diverse collections in an exciting day of illustrated talks about Sydney's history.

When: Saturday 4 September 2010, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Where: Customs House Library; Barnet Long Room

• **11.30 am** Faces & Places: Remembering City aldermen - Margaret Betteridge, Sydney Town Hall Curator

• **12.30 pm** Faces in the Street - the demolition photographs in the City of Sydney Archives - Jill Farish, Archivist

• **1.30 pm** Sydney Stories - oral histories online - Margo Beasley, Oral Historian

• **2.30 pm** Colourful characters of South Sydney - Lisa Murray, City Historian

Contact: 9242 8555, library@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Cost: Free. Bookings are not required.

• **Exhibition** from 23 Aug to 12 Sep at Customs House Library: A display of photographs drawn from the demolition books 1900s-1940s; curated by the City of Sydney archivists.

Faces in the Street (Presented by the Historic Houses Trust of NSW and the Government Architect's Office)

What are the stories behind the carved faces on Sydney's sandstone buildings? Who are they and what do they represent? NSW Government Architect Peter Mould will present an illustrated talk focusing on the sculptures that adorn many of the city's nineteenth century public buildings.

A 1 hour walking tour led by Heritage Architect Joy Singh is available before and after the talk.

When: Sat 4 Sep 2010, 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Where: The Museum of Sydney

Contact: 8239 2211, tickets.hht.net.au

Cost: \$25.00 Adult, \$20.00 HCNSW & HHT members. Bookings essential.

Jackie van Bergen

BUILT HERITAGE



This year's *Historian* will include, amongst other items, information on heritage-listed houses in Telegraph Road, Pymble. Two of these were designed by Walter Burley Griffin, one at No 29 for Eric Pratten and the other, on the northern corner of Telegraph and Mona Vale Roads, for Eric's brother David. Both were built in 1935. The Prattens are said to have chosen Griffin because they admired his design for No 33 Marian Street, Killara (photo above), erected in 1933 for Allan Cumming Cameron and his wife Eunice by Roseville builder SC Molineaux.

An article on the Killara house was published in January 1934, illustrated with a photograph of the dining-room fireplace "designed for a special purpose". With its tile surround, "Mr Griffin, the architect, points out that it was designed to comply with the requirements of the owner... The chimney piece is only a frame for a smokeless open fire, an almost ancient device. Yet this is a modern design, as the frame is essentially part and parcel of a room and of a house... In the room tiles are disposed for the support of appropriate decorative objects which may be changed often with times and seasons."

Why this focus on the tiled fireplace and the ornamental tiling around the room, with little about the house itself? It did, however, make sense when I looked into the background of the Camerons. Allan was an accountant and later governing director of Sydney Cash Orders Pty Ltd with no apparent connection to architects or builders. Eunice, however, was a daughter of John Edward Allibone, who, having arrived in Australia in the 1880s, had worked as a builder until he became manager of the Bankstown Brick & Tile Company in the early 1920s, a position he held until his death in March 1933. Were the company's products used in the Cameron house, and was the fireplace designed to feature the very best of its products? Were the tiles specially commissioned? Were the bricks used also produced at Bankstown? I wonder too what connection there may have been between Griffin and Allibone.

Perhaps our readers can answer these questions and others on the Pratten houses in Telegraph Road. BA records show that David Pratten's house was built by Neil McIntosh of Merrivale Road, but I've not yet found who built Eric's state heritage-listed house at No 29. James Weirick in *Beyond Architecture*, published by the Powerhouse Museum in 1998, wrote: "The [Eric] Pratten house was the largest domestic commission Griffin received in Australia and was one of a series of works which he and his partner Eric Nicholls carried out in the 1930s for the Pratten family..."

Ku-ring-gai is very fortunate to have three extant examples of their work. We should guard these accordingly.

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 7th of the month (except November and December), unless otherwise arranged. Copy lodged before that date **will receive preference**, all things being equal. Copy is to be submitted on the understanding that the Society has editing rights and that readers can reproduce it in whole or part with acknowledgement. Material should preferably be in electronic form.

New Members

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

John Clarke	Lindfield
Eva Glover	Belrose
Richard Hall	Turrumurra
Bev Jach	Turrumurra
Rhondda Maltby	West Pymble
Patricia Oliver	Wagga Wagga
Lyn Payne	St Kilda

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

Quiz (answers P. 2)

1. Where is the sandstone obelisk commemorating a Boy Scout Jamboree?
2. Where is the sandstone replica of the Sphinx of Gizeh?
3. Where is the garden with a plaque dedicated to John Job Crew Bradfield?
4. Where is the substantial monument commemorating the first direct wireless message from the United Kingdom to Australia?
5. Where is the memorial made from bricks retrieved from Capt. Arthur Phillip's farmhouse at Lyndhurst in Hampshire?

Research Centre Hours

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

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

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Diary Dates

- Sat 4 Sept Family History Meeting**
11 am More Overseas Websites.
2 pm General Meeting followed by: Charles Stewart "Finding My Father". His search of his father's life story uncovered much more than anticipated - see P. 7.
- Sat 18 Sept 2 pm General Meeting**
 Speaker: Bob Lasseter "The Search for Lasseter's Reef". Hear the intriguing story surrounding the legendary lost gold reef.
- Wed 22 Sept Wahroonga Wireless Memorial**
 Commemorating the anniversary of the first direct wireless message from the UK to Australia in 1918. Mercury will return to top the monument for the day, and members will hand out informative leaflets.
- Sat 2 Oct Family History Meeting**
11 am Research: To be announced
2 pm General Meeting followed by: Paul Fletcher MP, Jonathan O'Dea MP & Barry O'Farrell MP: their family histories.
- Sat 16 Oct 2 pm "Percy Lindsay - Artist and Bohemian"** - Speaker: Silas Clifford-Smith

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