

KU-RING-GAI HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.



Including:

Ku-ring-gai Family History Group

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Affiliated with:

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The National Trust of Australia (NSW)

The Society of Australian Genealogists

The NSW & ACT Association of

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September 2016 Newsletter Vol. 34 No. 8

Saturday 3 September

FAMILY HISTORY MEETING

11am Workshop. *Deciphering Early Handwriting*, with Gail Davis from State Records.

2.00pm General Meeting followed by: *Three First Fleeters*



Speakers: Three members from the Fellowship of First Fleeters, 'Arthur Phillip Chapter'.

Geoff Lucas will tell us the story of Nathaniel Lucas (c1763-1818), a convict who arrived on board 'Charlotte' and his wife Olive Gascoigne (c1762-1830), also a convict who arrived on board 'Lady Penrhyn'.

Joy Zamiatin will talk about convict James Squires (c1754-1822), who embarked on board 'Charlotte' and his life in New South Wales.

Nan Bosler will relate the story of Frederick Meredith (c.1765-1836), steward on board 'Scarborough', his following years in the new Colony and the various voyages he subsequently made.

Afternoon Tea will be available.

Visitors welcome

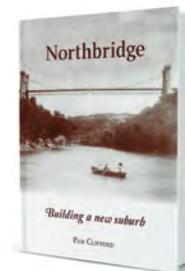
Saturday 17 September

2.00pm General Meeting followed by *Northbridge: Building a New Suburb*, traces the development of the peninsular suburb on Sydney's Lower North Shore. Speaker: Pam Clifford.

Pam Clifford lived in Northbridge until the early 1960s and returned in 1990.



In 1913, Northbridge was just a small village of 24 houses and 112 residents. All that changed on March 1913 when 127 residential blocks were auctioned.



In addition to her book on Northbridge, Pam is the author of stories for the Northbridge Progress Association's newsletter.

Afternoon tea will be available.

Visitors welcome.

Family History Meeting, August 6

11.00am Session

Twenty-two members attended the morning session chaired by Jenny Joyce and Jo Harris which was called My Favourite Family History Sites. Six members had brought along suggestions and there were nineteen valuable websites listed by Jenny during the workshop, and distributed to those present at the end of the session. As each website was suggested, it was displayed on the screen and examples were searched using members' own queries. Some sites were Dusty Docs, BDM sites for states of Australia and UK, Military, Clergy and Cemeteries. Everyone went away better able to further their research.

2.00pm Session

Jo Harris opened the meeting by welcoming everyone especially our speaker, Graham Lewis and his wife, Isabel. Jo then read an excerpt from Cobley's book for 6th August, 1788 when the weather was 'Gales from the South, with steady rain. The temperature was 13.3 degrees Celsius.'

Volunteers

Jo emphasised the need for more volunteers for the Research Centre so that the excellent assistance for researchers can continue at the present level.

Book Reports

Jill Nicholson recommended *Anthony Trollope in Australia*, and Jo recommended *Weston near New-castle*, and also showed a very amusing cartoon about unravelling the complexities of relationships when constructing a family tree. Jenny told us about *Pokémon Go and Genealogy*.

Visits

Jill Nicholson had been on a genealogical tour of NZ; Angela had been to a Service at St John's and a WW1 Exhibition at Bicentennial Park; and Julie to a service remembering Pozieres at Hyde Park.

Tours

Neil Falconer spoke about the upcoming program of tours, details of which are in the Newsletter.

Lucky Door Prizes

These were won by Yvette Reeve – *Australian Memories*; Ray Holland – *Australian Stories of Hope and Joy*; Jean Smith – *They Came to a*

Valley, Wellington, NSW; and Valerie Bray – *North Shore Sydney*.

Speaker

Jo then introduced the speaker, our President, Graham Lewis who *Opened his family closet a little and rattled a few skeletons*. He started off by saying he wished he had listened more carefully to his parents when they had told family stories.

Graham was born in New Zealand of Irish, Welsh and English descent while his wife, Isabel was born in Scotland. They were married in NZ, moved to Sydney, but acquiring the right to work there because of his Welsh ancestry, in the 1970s went to live in UK. He visited his 4xGreat grandfather's birthplace in Berriew, Wales, and found it was a four roomed stone farmhouse occupied by the same family who had moved in when the last Lewis left. In the churchyard nearby he also found his ancestor's rather weathered sandstone headstone.

The family story said his Irish ancestor had jumped ship in Sydney but Graham discovered that in 1798 his Irish ancestor, Bert Hore, was court martialled for mutiny and was transported to Port Jackson on the *Defiance* and then sent to Norfolk Island to work. However his son, John made good and became a pillar of local society and a very wealthy landowner.

John's son, Andrew Hore, married Babette Schott, who was the daughter of James Arthur Schott. He was descended from Bernhard Schott, who was also a colourful character, being a music publisher, a magazine editor (the first to use lithography in publishing music) and becoming wealthy. (The family company still exists in Germany today.)



Bernhard Schott, 1748-1809
Graham's 4xG grandfather

Founder of B Schott's Sohne, Music Publisher 1770

After an extensive musical education, his youngest son, Adam, went to New York, and

then Canada where he was married to Therese Rose Ziegler in Notre Dame Basilica in Quebec. He joined the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, then the Grenadier Guards and finally the Royal Artillery in India. He later set up his own small orchestra. Adam's son, James Arthur Schott, and his sister, Rosa Antoinette, were born in Fort York near Toronto. James was a musical prodigy and virtuoso performer.

On hearing about the gold rush in Victoria, James set off for Port Phillip and then Ballarat where he led various orchestral groups before becoming the accompanist for a Mr Charles Robert Thatcher who sang patter songs. He was also a tutor in woodwind and piano, and a leader of choral groups.

James fathered nine children before marrying their mother, Amy, in 1869. He then went back to Europe on his own having told his wife he was going to check the sailing arrangements and there he collected an inheritance that made him very wealthy. Supporters of his wife raised the money for her and the children to join relatives in Dunedin. He eventually rejoined his wife there.

Having let his girlfriend in Australia know he was returning to NZ he found she, too, was in Dunedin, and he eloped with her to Christchurch. His wife followed him hoping for a reunion, but returned on her own and so brought up the nine children alone. In the meantime he had married his girlfriend, Caroline, in Hobart. Graham rattled several more skeletons about James Arthur's sister, Rosa, who became 'romantically' involved with Dante Gabriel Rossetti.

After questions, a vote of thanks was passed by Susan Alder.

General Meeting July 16

Visiting Mother: Australian Soldiers in London during WWI, was presented by State Library Senior Curator, Elise Edmonds, who spoke of a topical subject based upon her own work with a special part of the Library's collection.

The NSW State Library began collecting first-hand records of the Great War experience in 1918, through the European War Collecting Project initiated by Head Librarian, William H. Ifould*.



William Ifould

Personal diaries and letters were sought for purchase through advertisements abroad and at home. The resultant material is now part of the UNESCO Memory of the World collection. Much has been digitised, and is available online to be read and searched.

As recipient of a staff fellowship in 2009 to research these materials, Elise has curated the current State Library exhibition, *Life Interrupted: personal diaries from WWI*. Elise's talk expanded on the experiences of Australian troops visiting London during the War, as recorded in their own words.

About 1 in 5 Australian recruits enlisting in 1915 were British born, and commonly Britain was then thought of, and even referred to, as 'Home'.

Australia's WWI soldiers in Europe took leave in Britain, as they were too distant to return to their own homes; many called on extended family still living in the 'Old Country'. The offer of a 'free trip to Britain and Europe - the chance of a lifetime' was used on recruitment material to inspire



fresh troops. This was indeed the opportunity for colonial British descendants to do their own 'Grand Tour' of the significant, and family, sites of London - from St Pauls to Buckingham Palace, the deep escalators in the tube stations and the renowned theatre district. This place, at once familiar through repute, language and custom, would not again become so accessible to ordinary Australians until the jet age.

The *Colonial's Guide to London* of 1916 was available to assist visiting troops unsophisticated in the ways of the wider world to be wary of pickpockets; not to 'talk up' their

own country, considered bad manners; and specifically how to properly wear their own uniform and correctly return salutes.

The War Chest Club in Horseferry Road established by volunteers hosted troops on leave; with music rooms, food service and overnight accommodation. It also served as an information exchange.



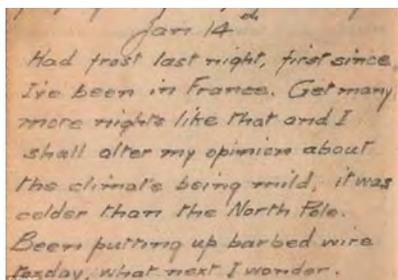
War Chest Club Lounge and Stage

The Anzac Buffet in Victoria Street, Westminster, similarly run by volunteers, was like a home away from home to Australian troops passing through London.



Anzac Buffet

While the Australians felt safe and familiar among the English, they did not feel England was 'home'. The writing in this particular collection is articulate and descriptive, notwithstanding many of the authors were probably not schooled far beyond 14 years.



years. Many included drawings and artwork. Diarists represented all ranks and branches of the services, and included many who would not have been able to travel the world without their war involvement. Some descendants have, over time, shared details

of diarists' postwar lives with the Library, to round out the historical record.

A visit to the Library exhibition is recommended to members, who may also see the collection virtually at www.sl.nsw.gov.au. The vote of thanks was proposed by KHS member David Wilson - soldier, author and military historian.

Notes by Helen W Davies

[* William Ifould died in Turramurra, 1991.]

Annual General Meeting - Election of 2016 - 2017 Committee

With John Richardson as Returning Officer, the election was conducted on August 20th.

The Committee is:

Executive:

President: Jenny Joyce

Vice-Presidents: Morrison Hammond and Jo Harris

Immediate Past-President: Graham Lewis

Secretary: Helen Davies

Treasurer: Annet Latham

Committee:

Susan Adler

Neil Falconer

Lorraine Henshaw

Margaret Holland

Yvette Reeve

Congratulations to the new Committee and good wishes for their year in office.

First Radio Transmission UK to Australia Commemoration, see Page 6



PLAY WITH KILLARA CONNECTIONS

Matilda Fish and the Bushranger, a play by Wendy Blaxland, brings to life the real story of a woman who was held up twice by the same bushranger, William Geary in her house which stood right where Killara train station stands today. See

<http://blaxlandanddaughter.com/productions/matilda-fish-and-the-bushranger/>

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Apple Macintosh Special Interest Group

The session looked at ways in which photos can be arranged and identified in albums.

Next meeting 2.00pm, September 5: Using Windows in Mac OSX.

Because of the public holiday on 3 October, there will not be a meeting in October.

German Special Interest Group

The SIG met on Monday 8 August 2016 with 21 members present. Items discussed included:

An offer by Dr Heidelies Wittig from the Hamburg State Archives (received via Angela Lind) that she was happy to pass on to the relative person / department in Hamburg any research queries that our members may have.

The initiative from Dirk Weissleder, the national chairman of Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft Genealogischer Verbände (DAGV), whereby his organisation wants to get the whole picture and trace back the footsteps of former German emigrants and their offspring today. The DAGV are interested in getting in contact with genealogical societies and interest groups on German genealogy in Australia. Tony Karrasch volunteered to take the lead on this initiative and contact Dirk Weissleder by email to determine how we can participate in the initiative to our mutual advantage.

Leone reported on the steady progress made on the group project *German Ancestors of Ku-ring-gai residents*.

Allan Rost gave an interesting and informative presentation on his experiences researching his German ancestors some 15 years ago. In support of his talk, Allan had forwarded a short history of his family, which he is happy to have included in the *German Ancestors of Ku-ring-gai residents* project. References mentioned by Allan during his presentation are:

Wilhelm Iwan, 'Because of their beliefs: Emigration from Prussia to Australia'; Mitchell Library.

Crosse-Dunleavy Index to the BDM notices in the Brisbane Courier, 1846 -1900.

Journal of RAHS: March 1975 'Some Social and Political Aspects of German Settlement in Australia to 1914.

December 1976 'Australian Nationalism and the Queensland Tariff Debate.'

Frank Crowley, 'A Documentary History of Australia.'

The meeting closed with another great afternoon tea. The next meeting of the German SIG is planned for Monday 10 October 2016 at 1:30 pm.

Irish Special Interest Group

During the August meeting of the Irish SIG we looked and shared some breakthroughs our members had made in their research, and then looked at where to find online Irish newspapers. There will be no meeting in September, so our next meeting will be on 14 October at 1.30, when we will look at ways to present the fruits of our research.

SIG Meetings are held in the KHS Research Centre. General Meetings are held in the Library's meeting room. Please check group e-mails or contact the group leader or Research Centre before attending if uncertain of any group going ahead. Room volunteers endeavour to update or correct the schedule on the Research Centre entry door with the most up-to-date information.

TOUR DESK

Tour bookings can only be made by visiting the Research Centre rooms and completing a booking and indemnity forms. This includes an opportunity to identify dietary requirements.

There are now two separate **GREEN BOOKING FOLDERS**: one for Exploring Ku-ring-gai Tours, and one for General Tours. The Booking system is the same for each type of Tour.

When making your tour bookings please bring the correct amount or a cheque to cover the planned cost. Change is not always available.

Sydney Observatory and the Rocks Discovery Museum

Thursday 29 September.



Meet at: Bannockburn Oval at 1.45pm for a 2.00pm departure.

Return: About 9.00 pm

The plan is to be dropped off at the Cumberland Street entrance to The Big Dig where we will observe the results of the archaeological dig carried out between 1994

and 2009. From there we will take a short walk down to the Rocks Discovery Museum, housed in a restored 1850s sandstone warehouse and containing exhibitions covering four periods: Warrane (pre 1788), Colony (1788-1820), Port (1820-1900) and Transformations (1900-present). After an early dinner at a local café, our bus will take us to the Sydney Observatory for our guided two hour tour.

Cost: \$45 plus dinner at own expense.

Bookings open Monday 29 August.

Exploring Ku-ring-gai Tour

Monday 10 October, 8.30am.

Monday 7 November, 8.30am

Bookings are now open.

Many long term Ku-ring-gai residents have enjoyed this tour, led by Jo Harris, discovering places and buildings that they did not know exist. The bus tour covers 98 kilometres around the district and includes a mystery lunch.

Cost: \$40.

Forthcoming Tours

The Tour Planning Group have confirmed arrangements for great outings in the next two months. Save the dates !

Garden Island, Thursday 20 October

This visit will include a guided tour to the Navy Workshops on Garden Island. Security checks will be needed. It will be followed by lunch in the Garden Island Museum and a tour of the Museum. Great harbour views assured. (Have you ever looked through a periscope at traffic on Sydney Harbour?)

Rouse Hill Historic House and the Hawkesbury Regional Museum at Windsor, Thursday 17 November.

Details next month.

First Direct Wireless Message UK to Australia, Thursday 22 September.

The first direct wireless message from the UK to Australia was sent under the direction of the Marchese Marconi from the Marconi Wireless Station, Carnarvon, Wales, and was received by E. T. Fisk, Esq., F. Inst. RE, AMIE (Aust.), in the experimental wireless station attached to his residence, 'Lucania' on 22 September 1918.

Come along to view the monument outside 'Lucania' cnr Stuart and Cleveland Streets,

Wahroonga, and chat to Jo and other KHS members, any time from 8.00am.

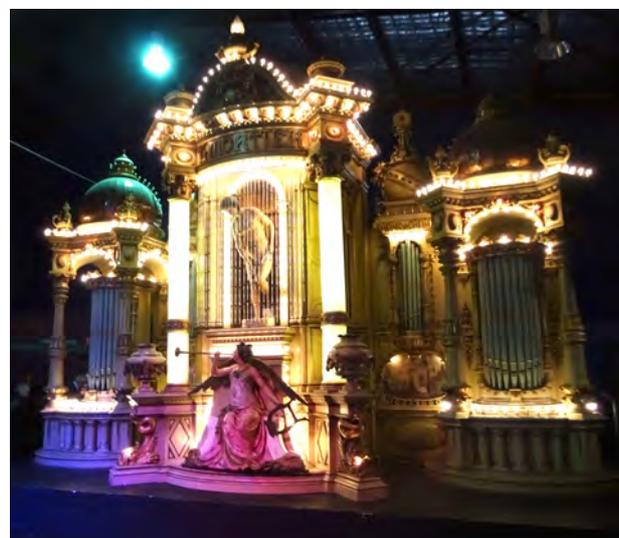
Tour Review

Craig Robson's Fairground Follies

On 16th August, a tour group went back in time when it visited Fairground Follies at the Antique Mechanical Music Museum in St Peters. It features a most exciting and unique collection of fairground and mechanical music.

Mechanically produced music dates from the sixteenth century with the use of church bells. Growth continued with the interest of the Tsars in Russia enjoying musical table decorations. Most of the growth of mechanical organs came from Belgium in the period 1850-1950. They were in town halls and entertainment halls, but many were mobile being pulled by families around the countryside to make money, with the families frequently living in gypsy wagons.

On entering the warehouse, perhaps the most impressive piece is the 101 key Taj Mahal, which is regarded as the grandest piece of mechanical music in the world. It was built by Mortier in Antwerp about 1919 and ownership moved to Germany in 1936, then the USA, and back to Switzerland, from where it was rescued from a casino by Craig. It is about 15m long and 5m high.



Fortunately, like other such devices it can be dismantled into pieces for transporting.

The group was first introduced to the Carl Frei 56 key "De Klok" Dutch street organ which was built in Amsterdam in the early 1920s, and played outside the Stock Exchange until acquired by KLM. It then became the most travelled street organ in the world as it was used as a promotional tool all over the world where the airline operated.



Neil Falconer and Jenny Joyce tried their hand (and muscle) as organ grinders.

The organs are controlled by books of music which are like pianola rolls but made of strong board and hinged by canvas.



Music Books and Reader for the Taj Mahal

Other items of intrigue were:

The Gavioli 89 key No 2, dating from the early 1900s, with its 350 organ pipes, bass drum, two bellingers, xylophone and cymbals, all operated by folding cardboard music. It came to Luna Park in 1950 but by 1980 was derelict, and after several ownerships was acquired by the Follies in 1994.



The De Cap Robot Orchestra, a 105 key organ built in the early 1950s. The onstage life size robots have different facial expressions and play saxophone, percussion and accordion. Their automation consists of at least 20 movements, including eyes, fingers, feet, hands and head, and is accompanied by a synchronised light show. Its original location was Scotland.

A range of pianolas with the most interesting being the Hupfield Phonolist Violina Orchestration – Model B which plays violins



along with piano accompaniment. The strings are pushed against a circular horsehair bow giving an accurate reproduction of violin playing.

Dozens of other items, ranging from domestic to hall sized were shown and played.

To complete the visit tour members were transported back to childhood with a ride in a European Carousel that was built about 1900 and has 15 wooden horses and four chariots. It revolves anti-clockwise, unlike the English which revolve clockwise.



Text Morrison Hammond, Photos Morrison and Jo

Mystery Pictures: Where is It?

Where in Ku-ring-gai would you find this bust?



There was no identification of the building in last month's *Newsletter*.

Ships, Clocks & Stars

This exhibition from the National Maritime Museum, London, is on at the Australian National Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour until 30 October. Some items have Australian links.

DIARY DATES

September

Saturday 3, 11.00am **Family History Workshop: *Deciphering Early Handwriting*** with Gail Davis.
 Saturday 3, 2.00pm **Family History Meeting**, followed by *Three First Fleet Families*, Speakers Three members from the Fellowship of First Fleeters, Arthur Phillip Chapter.
 Monday 5, 2.00pm Apple Macintosh SIG
 Saturday 17, 2.00pm **General Meeting** followed by *Northbridge: Building a New Suburb*, Speaker Pam Clifford.
 Thursday 22, Marconi Wireless Transmission.
 Thursday 29, Tour: Sydney Observatory

October

Saturday 1, 11.00am **Family History Workshop: TBA**
 Saturday 1, 2.00pm **Family History Meeting**, followed by *Land Records*, Speaker Carol Liston
 Monday 3, Public Holiday
 Monday 10, Tour: Exploring Ku-ring-gai
 Monday 10, 1.30pm German SIG
 Saturday 15, 2.00pm **General Meeting**, followed by *The Price of a Wife*, Speaker Anne Cunningham.
 Thursday 29, Tour: Garden Island.

November

Saturday 5, 11.00am **Family History Workshop: TBA**
 Saturday 5, 2.00pm **Family History Meeting**, followed by: TBA
 Monday 7, Tour: Exploring Ku-ring-gai.
 Monday 7, 2.00pm Apple Macintosh SIG.
 Thursday 17, Tour: Rouse Hill and the Hawkesbury Regional Museum, Windsor.
 Saturday 19, 2.00pm **General Meeting**,

Newsletter Deadline

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	Neil Falconer	9488 7293
	Lorraine Henshaw	9988 0522
	Margaret Holland	9488 5452
	Yvette Reeve	9987 0904

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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).