



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.

August 2008

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

June 2008 Meeting

Under the Canopy

Pauline Curby and Virginia McLeod joint authors of *Under the Canopy: A Centenary History of Ku-ring-gai Council* addressed members on some of the themes in the locality's natural and man-made history. *Under the Canopy* had been a Council sponsored work and the authors expressed their gratitude for assistance offered to them by the Society during the writing of the book

Pauline concentrated on the natural attributes of the area, referring to terms used at various times to describe it, such as 'suburban arcadia', 'beautiful highland suburb' and a place where gardens are the 'greatest joy'. Pauline illustrated these descriptions with images of the unspoiled natural environment and examples of domestic and commercial development in tune with the concept of a 'garden suburb'. She also noted the self help attitude adopted by the middle class families who followed the railway to the North Shore and formed Progress Associations to provide services until it was necessary to apply for government assistance and the establishment of a Shire Council in the 1906.

Expansive development in Ku-ring-gai occurred before WW2, when land was plentiful and most of the 'heritage' homes were built by wealthy families seeking a pristine semi-rural environment. During this period the Council showed little interest in suburban planning, but resisted the introduction of flats which were proliferating in the inner suburbs.

Virginia took up the post-WW2 story, which saw unprecedented expansion of the population in Ku-ring-gai, resulting in continual difficulties between the Council and the State Government over planning. This arose because of the emasculation of the Cumberland Plan, the tendency of the government to release land for development without provision for adequate open space, local resistance to the proliferation of flats and to closer settlement generally.

The increase in population after the mid 1940s had less effect on the ambience of the area than might have been expected, as the images shown by Pauline demonstrated. This has been at least partly due to the great increase in private car ownership, which has allowed domestic development to take place somewhat removed from

Coming Meetings

NEXT SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING
(Gordon Library Meeting Room)

Saturday 16 August 2008

2 pm - GENERAL MEETING

Guest Speaker

PETER BRADLEY

"BEN HALL"



Ben Hall
Forbes Hist.Society

Infamous bushranger or wronged man?

Peter Bradley grew up hearing tales of his distant relative and set out to find the truth in his *Judas Covenant*

Afternoon Tea will be available
Visitors welcome

NEXT FAMILY HISTORY MEETING

Sat 2 Aug

11 am - Members' Research

2 pm - General Meeting

Speaker from State Archives

"What would I find at Globe Street"
and "How to prepare for a trip to Kingswood"

Thurs 21 Aug

Tour to Kingswood State Archives
(see TOURS on page 2)

Afternoon Tea will be available
Visitors welcome

public transport and so retain many of the elements of a garden suburb. It is also noticeable that many houses have been built in a close bush setting, while retirement villages, which have proliferated in the last thirty years, and the current surge in apartment buildings, have generally attempted to preserve the natural environment as much as possible.

The feeling of exclusiveness, which has been a feature of the mainly Protestant middle class inhabitants of Ku-ring-gai since the late 19th century is still apparent and although the ethnic mix is now changing, the municipality still retains many of the trappings of 'suburban arcadia'.

- Don Fifer

Apology

In the first paragraph of the article on page 1 of the July issue of the Newsletter, under the title of *Inter-War Housing in Ku-ring-gai*, Robert Scott is designated as the author of studies on inter-war housing. This is incorrect as the author is Scott Robertson who addressed the May General Meeting on this subject. We apologise for this error.

Our Expanding Collection

Now that our computers have been “networked” and connected to the internet, it is really remarkable just how many resources we have available for researchers. The computer records are just part, but an important part, of our large and expanding Collection. Impressive, too, is the way our Wednesday workers are methodically sorting through our many documents and making them more easily “searched”. Any material in the hands of members which they feel may be a worthwhile addition to our records would be welcome.

A rather steep but exciting learning curve is before us all in order that our volunteers can become familiar with our expanding Collection. We need to put the Collection to its best use, not just for our members, but also to help answer enquiries from the community at large.

It always needs to be borne in mind that, with the exception of rare documents and publications, the items in our Collection have value only if they are used for research. Their purpose is to help in the preparation of publications and documents on local, Australian or family history and biographical information about Ku-ring-gai people. The Collection also holds background information on Ku-ring-gai's homes and heritage.

Tours

THURS 21 AUG Tour to Kingswood State Archives, includes morning tea, guided tour of Archives, talk about “Probate Parcels”, lunch, time for research, afternoon tea and home. Leave Bannockburn Oval, Pymble at 8.30am returning as traffic permits. All inclusive cost \$35. A few seats left ring Jo 9489 4393.

SAT-SUN 27-28 SEPT Tour to Sofala, Hill End, Tambaroora, Mudgee (for the night), Gulgong.

Bookings have closed and there is a waiting list. Deposits of \$50 have been taken, could those who have paid a deposit please make full payment soon to confirm their booking. Total cost \$250 all inclusive with a single supplement \$35. Leaving Turramurra 7.30am, Gordon 7.45am. Please state pick-up with final payment. Overnight bag only. Cheques or cash to KHS. Enquiries Jo 9489 4393

Rainbow Johnson (nee Cazneaux)



Rainbow on her 100th birthday with Robert and Sally

Rainbow Johnson was a member of the society for thirty years and on the committee during the 1970s.

Rainbow Winifred Johnson (nee Cazneaux) is the eldest daughter of the famous photographer Harold Cazneaux and his wife Winifred. She was born on 17th May 1908 at North Sydney, and was so named because of a double rainbow in the sky over Sydney Harbour on the morning of her birth. In 1915 the Cazneauxs moved to Roseville where she spent her early life, attending schools in Lindfield, Roseville and Chatswood. She worked as her father's assistant until she married a naval officer in 1934, spending the next five years in Victoria and South Australia.

With the outbreak of WWII in 1939, pregnant with daughter Sally and her husband away on active service, she moved back to Roseville with their young son Robert to a house in the same street as her parents. Rainbow's husband Hugh Johnson was killed on active service in 1943, and she never re-married. She lived in the same house until 1990 when she moved to Mowll Village at Castle Hill.

Details and photo from Cazneaux family

Isabel Harrison

Isabel Harrison, a KHS member who died in May aged 97, was a woman of many parts. Born Isabel McKinney, she was brought up at Roseville. She captained Australia at hockey, was secretary of Sydney University's Manning House Women's College, Vice-President of the Students Representative Council, and President of the University's Women Undergraduates Association. Having been head prefect and dux at Pymble Ladies College she maintained a committed involvement with the College and was a Councillor for 44 years. The PLC Library is named the Isabel McKinney Harrison Library. Isabel was also a founder of the Dunmore Lang residential College at Macquarie.

She married Ken Harrison in 1963 (he died in 1971) and became stepmother to two boys and two girls. Isabel joined the Society in 1988 and is remembered by many as a regular supporter of the tours organised by Mary Christmas.

Volunteers day - Thursday 31 July

A day for all our volunteers

- get up to date with recent changes to resources and computer system.
- receive training on how to operate the computers for the Internet.
- be informed on our progress with updating access to our hardcopy records

The session will commence at 10.30 am and continue until after Lunch.

Bring a plate so we can share a light lunch

New Volunteers much appreciated

We would like to thank the members who have recently volunteered to look after the Display Cases in the hallway, and assist with the folding of the newsletter. The wider sharing of these aspects of the committee's workload is very helpful.

Recent Acquisitions

The following are a few of the items recently added to our Collection:

Street Directories/Road Maps - a random selection of old street directories and road maps from the papers of our recently deceased member, Duncan Miller of Killara.

Pioneering in the Bellinger Valley (Norman Braithwaite & Harold Brand MA). Published by the Bellinger Valley Historical Society (c1980). 140 pages with a brief index. Donated by Shirley Morley.

Family History Course

Another course by Jo Harris will commence on 17th October. It runs for 8 weeks. Seven people, so far, have booked for this worthwhile course.

St John's Cemetery Open Day

There is an Open Day at St John's Cemetery on Saturday 18th October.

Pictures from the Past

The Society has recently been the recipient of a collection of photographs discovered underneath a house being demolished in Turramurra.. The photographs are mostly of individuals or family groups taken in the early years of last century. Efforts are being made to determine the names and association of the subjects, but in the meantime some of the photographs will be placed in one of the display cases for general viewing.

We trust that members whose family have lived in Ku-ring-gai for a long period will take the opportunity to view the displayed pictures, as it is possible that someone may be able to throw light on the people depicted.

Member Profile – Margaret Wyatt

Margaret attended Hornsby Girls' High and then the University of Sydney before teaching in country NSW and later working in the NSW Department of Education Research and Planning Division. She moved with her husband Ken to Turramurra in 1962



Her great interest in local history began in 1975 when she became school librarian at Turramurra North. She absorbed herself in trying to influence the study of local history in the area and wrote a book on the subject. In 1980 she joined the Society.

Margaret undertook a post-graduate course in Librarianship in 1978 and directed her studies to the sourcing, collecting and organizing of local history materials with the hope of setting up a local history collection within Ku-ring-gai Municipal Library. This became possible when she was offered a part-time job as the first Local History Librarian for Ku-ring-gai in 1981.

From the time of her appointment, Margaret became an active member of Ku-ring-gai Historical Society and was invited to become Secretary and manager of the research collection, society administration, archives and library. At about the same time, the Library received a grant to establish a local history collection and Margaret had the luxury of selecting both extensive resources and equipment.

The collection was eventually moved to the Old Gordon Public School and officially opened as the Local Studies Centre by the Mayor in 1988. The Centre took over five classrooms including the room which is now the Society Resource Centre, which then consisted of two classrooms. For a number of years co-operative projects between the Local Studies Centre and the Society such as exhibitions, publications, application for grants and preparation of a 'Tulkiyan' inventory were undertaken. Other Centre initiatives involved her direct association with the Council.

When Margaret resigned from the Library in 1996, the Local Studies Centre was closed and its local studies (history) materials were absorbed into the Ku-ring-gai Library and the Society was allocated part of the area it now occupies.

During her career in local history Margaret was fortunate to obtain two overseas study grants: one relating to the development of historical resources for schools, the other to develop national guidelines for the establishment of local studies collections in libraries. She became the first national President of the Library Association of Australia Local Studies Section. She was also made Municipal Historian for Ku-ring-gai, and has worked for 'Tulkiyan' for 26 years.

During the life of the Local Studies Centre, Margaret performed an invaluable service for the Society in parallel with her important work for the Centre. The co-operative projects in which she was involved did much to realize her passion for spreading knowledge and awareness of local history in Ku-ring-gai.

History Notes

The Twists of Fate

We have all read how fate dealt kindly with convicts who arrived here in the very early days and achieved great wealth. Simeon Lord, Mary Reibey and Samuel Terry come to mind. Fate, however, also looked kindly on many other people who came in later times.

One such was Henry George Smith. To tell his story we have to record that in 1878 the Australian Museum decided that a Technological and Industrial Museum should be established. It was felt that the material being assembled for the 1879 Sydney Exhibition at the Garden Palace within the Botanic Gardens would form a good basis for its Collection. Charles Buckland, Secretary of the Australian Museum, was appointed in 1880 to the additional post of Acting Secretary of the embryonic Technological Museum. Exhibits were sought from far afield and stored at the Garden Palace. Their sheer number led the Museum's Committee to decide in 1881 to appoint "*a Gentleman to undertake for the present the combined duties of Curator, Lecturer, and Secretary*".

Fate now takes a hand. Joseph Maiden, a twenty-two year old with a Science degree from London University, came to Sydney in 1880 for health reasons. He had appropriate letters of introduction and was appointed to the post in 1881. Fate played another hand and Charles Buckland, the Acting Secretary, was dismissed in August 1882 for having "*appropriated to his own use funds of the Museum to the extent of 240 pounds*". The young Maiden was appointed as full-time Curator of the Technological Museum.

Fate's next turn was a painful one for the Museum and its youthful Curator. On 22 September 1882 the Garden Palace and its contents were destroyed by fire. The Museum's Collection went with it. The resourceful Maiden immediately set up office at the Australian Museum and began rebuilding the Collection. Fresh accommodation was sought and in November 1882 "*that portion of the Agricultural Hall not occupied by the Sydney Infirmary*" in the Outer Domain was chosen. Termed "*the Wretched Tin Shed*", Maiden had the job of putting it in order.

Another twist developed from the arrival in Sydney in 1883, of the 31 year-old Henry George Smith from Kent. Like Maiden, he also migrated on medical advice and came with his wife and three children. He was a plumber, as was his father, and also worked as a painter, signwriter and paperhanger. As fate would have it, Maiden appointed Smith the next year as a painter and ticket writer at the Technological Museum.

Evidently Smith's exposure to the technical and scientific happenings stirred an interest in him to learn more about such matters and was encouraged by Maiden to do so. He

attended evening classes in science and distinguished himself as a prize-winner and was made a laboratory assistant. He co-operated with Maiden in investigating the economic potential of native natural products and published papers on mineralogy. He made his name in phytochemistry working with a colleague, R T Baker. Between 1897 and 1921 he wrote about one hundred scientific publications. In 1899 he was appointed assistant curator of the Museum.

Smith's full worth can be measured from the fact that, apart from his Museum activities he held many other positions. He became President of the Royal Society of NSW and the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (NSW); a foundation member of the Australian National Research Council and a member of the Linnean Society. He was awarded the David Syme research prize and medal by the University of Melbourne in 1922.

If fate had not played a number of cards the way it did, Henry George Smith may well have seen out his days in Kent as a plumber, painter, signwriter and paperhanger.

Sorry, No Ghosts

In our January issue we asked if Ku-ring-gai has any ghosts except the "non-ghost" spoken of at Peppercorn Cottage in Bannockburn Rd. Though there are undoubtedly ghosts in many local cupboards, it is disappointing to report we have not turned up any true ghosts that can be attributed to the supernatural. A member suggests that at any hint of a ghost, property owners go to ground for fear of an adverse effect on real estate values. Could it be so? A pity. Most people like a good ghost story. Provided, perhaps, it is someone else's ghost.

Greenway flogged

The convict architect Francis Greenway arrived in 1814. His artistic skills soon became in demand for many things including, believe it or not, the making and decoration of Masonic aprons. The repetitive nature of this job bored him and he was unreliable. When Captain Edward Sanderson, the Worshipful Master, found his new apron was "in an imperfect state" to be worn at the 1816 ceremonial laying of the foundation stone of Captain Piper's mansion, he was not pleased. He later summoned Greenway to the George St Barracks and, after a brief exchange of words, struck him several times around the legs with his riding whip. This he followed with a "straightforward left" to the face and further blows. Convict Greenway, described by Sanderson as "insulting"



Francis Greenway - Internet

and a “damned rascal”, laid a complaint with Judge-Advocate Wylde about Sanderson’s aggression. This really put the cat amongst the pigeons and most of those in the vicinity of the assault judiciously chose to have seen and heard nothing. Eventually Greenway received 20 pounds damages at the instance of the Criminal Court but the episode did not endear him to many of Sydney’s influential military and legal men nor, no doubt, to the Captain’s Masonic brethren.

“Snippets” from Miss Flora McLeod

A number of members have been meticulously working their way through our records making them easier to search and read. In the process a deal of interesting information has come to light. One file carries “snippets”, as she called them, written by Miss Flora McLeod who was a member from 1971 until her 1984 death. It seems she spent her early life at Ryde Rd, Gordon, and had many recollections of those days. Fortunately she put many on paper. We’d like to share some of them with you but for this month have space for just one.

When Ku-ring-gai people travel from the Highway down Ryde Road they pass Minnamurra Avenue on the left at the foot of the first hill. Few ever notice it, but it is a delightful little avenue with the feel of a rain-forest.

Margaret Wyatt in the June 1984 HISTORIAN tells of a 1934 two-up school run on Friday and Saturday nights on the rocks above Lofberg’s Wharf near De Burgh’s Bridge. Margaret writes that the patrons were tipped off before police raids but “*four of the boys were paid 5 pounds to be caught. The fines were paid by the organiser of the game and everyone was happy*”. Including the authorities.

Miss McLeod, however, remembers what seems to have been a different and more up-market school in a clearing in the bush of what is now Minnamurra Avenue. She said the school flourished for many decades at least until 1939. There was even a canteen serving hot drinks and the organiser provided an excellent service “*of cars and even buses from Gordon Railway Station*”.

It has been said the Minnamurra school was a regular stopping point for a number of Ku-ring-gai’s most respectable residents but anyone who knows their identity, or that of the mysterious “organiser” of the school (or schools), diplomatically chooses to keep their names secret to this day.

The Historian Indexed

The Society’s first HISTORIAN was published in 1972, nine years after the Society was established. Over that time it has changed from being a small roneoed quarterly to a large magazine published once or twice a year. From the outset it has been an excellent publication carrying lots of information on the early history of Ku-ring-gai.

The Nellie

A steamship on the Lane Cove River? Yes, indeed, and as far back as 1882.

Thomas Jenkins (1828-1890) lived with his wife, Maria, near Fullers Bridge where the offices of the Lane Cove National Park are now. Their old stone kitchen is one of the Trust’s administrative buildings. Thomas had a big fruit-growing and merchandising business which involved transporting fruit, produce and goods to and from Sydney from his wharf just above Fullers Bridge. He carried passengers too. One of his clients was the company, Chicago Starch Mills, up-river from Fig Tree Bridge at the foot of Mowbray Rd. The Chicago Mills were destined to become part of Clifford Love & Co. The company would be familiar to many as the one-time producer of *Wade’s Cornflower*, *Uncle Toby’s Oats* and *Laundrena Starch*

For Gordon residents, the name “Clifford Love” also brings to mind the family who built the large home, Stoneyhurst, at the foot of Nelson Street and now facing Clifford Street.

Thomas Jenkins’ business was big enough for him to have a 52 ton steamer specially built in 1882 for the job. At least one photo is in existence.

What did happen to the Nellie? Ships have personalities so it is normal to wonder. In her book, *The Corngrinder - A Hundred Years of Corn Milling on the Lane Cove River (2006)*, Beverley Johnson gives some answers.

It seems that the Nellie was bought by Clifford Love & Company in 1911. It was still in good working order and later renamed *Nellie Love*. By 1926, however, only the hull was usable so it was converted and became a barge. Drawn by another boat, it unhappily hit a rock shelf near the North Shore Gas Company and sank. Refloated, it was deemed unseaworthy, dismantled and taken away.

A sad end as often happens to vessels which in their time have served faithfully and won a place in hearts and memory of thousands.

The Killara Golf Club

Did you know that the Killara Golf Club was the first in Australia to own its own land? A meeting of golfers and tennis players met in Archbold’s Paddock near Clanville Road in 1899 and set up the Lindfield Golf and Recreation Club. The paddock was soon needed for subdivision and it is believed the Club actually started playing on land in Killara which it formally bought in 1906. This made it the first Golf Club in Australia to own its own course.

Local History Items?

Would you like to contribute items for inclusion in these HISTORY NOTES? Topics of general interest and relatively concise as befit a Newsletter? If so, please have a word with Max Farley on 9499 7113 or mmff2@bigpond.net.au.

History Notes by Max Farley

Family Matters

11.00am Session

36 members attended the session when Jo Harris gave an overview of the Internet arrangements now on the Society's computers as well as the Intranet. There are many discoveries to be found on the Internet in the rooms and at home. Many questions were asked and one member, not on the internet, was interested to be shown her street and home with Google Maps.

Once again, thank you Peter Stehn for the many hours spent working on the system for the Society and the benefit of the members.

2.00pm Session

There were 35 members at this session, chaired by Jo. Jo opened the meeting with a welcome to all including new member Margaret Boyanton. Jo advised that 186 years ago to-day the Royal Agricultural Society opened on this date 5th July.

FHG meeting on Saturday 2nd August – there will be a talk by an Officer from State Archives – “What would I find at Globe Street” and “How do I prepare for a trip to Kingswood”?

On Thursday 21st August there will be a Tour to Kingswood leaving Bannockburn Oval at 8.30am – Cost is \$35.00 – Priority given to those who have not visited Kingswood before.

On Saturday 18th October there will be a visit to St John's Cemetery.

Murren Transcripts are \$15.00 – any requests without a name to be put in the waste paper basket.

Family Tree Connections Magazine has many new Internet sites including NZ sites.

Recent accessions included,
Tracing Your Family History in Australia by Nick Vine Hall, Colonies of NSW and VDL
Deadly Details – with information to help with medical terms on death certificates

Jo showed several books she had purchased on a recent trip to Queensland, including a well researched book “Maclean: The First Fifty Years 1862-1912”.

Many Photo cards and several Memorial Cards have been discovered under a now demolished house - Memorial cards included Daniel Downing, December 1898, Margaret

Downing, 10th January 1913, Alice O'Brien, 1907 and Michael Frances Murphy, September (?). Graham Crawford has compiled a list of photos, with Photographers' names as shown on the back of cards – it is planned to have this list circulated at the local libraries in the hope that photos may be identified by family members.

Catherine Williams told about an interesting Walking Tour around Millers Point.

The Raffle of pre loved books was won by Jan Mathews who chose “Pioneers of Hornsby Shire”.

Elaine Turnidge

THE MURDER OF JANE ELLEN BROCKBANK

Some of you might remember that at one of the family history meetings a few months ago, I mentioned Jane Ellen Brockbank, the sister of my great-great-grandfather, who was murdered in 1872. Now further details of the murder have emerged.

For those of you who weren't at that meeting, here is a quick recap of the story. I knew that my ancestor had a sister, Jane Ellen, who died aged 17. I also knew that every one of her brothers and sisters had named one of their daughters Jane Ellen. I had wondered why this was, and thought that Jane Ellen's death might hold the clue.

I sent off for her death certificate and under the cause of death it said “Murdered by having her throat cut with a Razor. 9 hours elapsed before Death”. I had checked the Times Digital Archive and found a brief report of the murder, which said that her fiancé, Edward Ward, had cut her throat and then cut his own. Jane Ellen had managed to call for help and was taken back to her home, where the wound was stitched up. She seemed to be doing well, but further haemorrhaging set in and she died early the next morning. Before she died she managed to say “Ned Ward has done it”.

Well, thanks to the State Library of NSW, I could access not only the Times Digital Archive, but also a large number of 19th century newspapers from home. I found reports of the murder in the *Birmingham Daily Post*, *The Glasgow Herald*, the *Leeds Mercury* and *Freeman's Journal and Daily Commercial Advertiser*. These included much more information about the attack which had emerged at the inquest. They described Edward Ward, who was aged 24, as “a steady, inoffensive, kind-hearted young man” and said that he had not been given to drink, but had been on a “spreed”

Built Heritage

for the last week and was under the influence of alcohol when the attack took place. He had been engaged to Jane Ellen for about 18 months. She had worked in a local shop for about four or five years and had become friendly with a young man named Taylor who also worked there. Ward obviously discovered this, and became very jealous and is reported to have threatened Jane Ellen with violence on several occasions, saying that if he couldn't have her, no one else could.

On the Saturday evening of the murder, Ward waited outside the shop where Jane Ellen was working. She became aware of this and left by a back door, but Ward spotted her and followed. She started to run away, but he caught up with her and they walked together for a distance, and she then ran off again – perhaps as the result of a threat to her life. But he once again caught up with her, this time only about 200 yards from her home, and took out a razor and cut her throat and then cut his own, although he still managed to run off. She had obviously struggled, because there were cuts over her left hand where she had apparently tried to grab the weapon. Ward had collapsed after running off and was found about three hours later. He died on the Sunday evening without having made any comment. A letter to his brother was found in his pocket, which read:

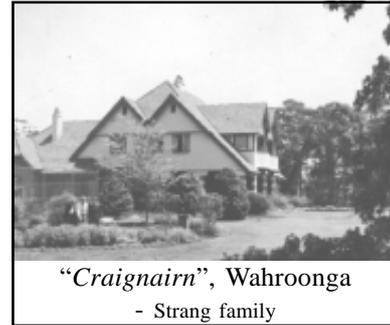
“Dear Brother, you must not be Surprised when you hear of my death. I have loved Jane Brockbank with all my Harts (heart). Now she has deceived me hearthley (heartlessly) wrong (wronged) me. She is in the fmaley way (family way) to hear her shopmate Richard Tyler (Taylor). May Haven (heaven) bles (bless) you George now for you are the only one left. May Hevin (heaven) blis (bless) all of my mats (mates) and hope they will not think to much of a Lass. I give my best Love to all the Brockbanks, hoping they will forgive me for what I have done. May the Lord Blis me and forgive me. Anan (amen).”

The jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against Ward, and also that he had cut his own throat with a razor, but concluded there was no evidence as to his state of mind at the time of the occurrence.

The story doesn't quite end there, as I was recently looking again at the marriage certificate of my great-great-grandfather, which took place two months before the murder. I had obtained it back in 1996 when I knew nothing about the affair. There, under the names of the witnesses were Edward Ward and Jane Ellen Brockbank.

The 19th century newspaper collection is available at the State Library web site and can be accessed if you have a state library card. If you do not have a card you can phone the library and one will be sent out to you provided you live in NSW. The web address for the collection is <http://www2.sl.nsw.gov.au/databases/athome.cfm>.

- Jenny Joyce



Craignair, 37 Burns Road, Wahroonga is a substantial two-storey house in the Federation Arts and Crafts style. It is an easily recognisable and dominant landmark due to its visual prominence and corner location. Its aesthetic appeal arises from its architectural qualities combined with the siting of the house.

Architect Howard Joseland who designed *Craignair* for Walter Symington Strang in 1909 was a neighbour and friend. Previously on 8 February 1899 Joseland and Strang had purchased adjoining lots in Burns Road. A few days later Joseland began preparing plans for both *Coolabah* at No 39 for Strang and his own house *Malvern* at No 41 Burns Road, Wahroonga.

When Strang decided to build a new residence he chose the adjoining lots of land on the corner of two main roads, Burns Road and Cleveland Street. The architectural firm Joseland and Vernon designed the house and were also commissioned to design the garden, trellis-work and pergola. This group of three adjoining residences *Craignair*, *Coolabah* and *Malvern* designed by Joseland is unique.

Strang (1857-1914), a Scottish-born textile merchant, named his property *Craignair* after a house in Glasgow. He was a strong supporter of the Wahroonga Presbyterian Church and along with Joseland was a member of the Wahroonga Progress Association.

Craignair, constructed of brick and stone with timbered gables, was described in the 1921 Valuations as, a brick on brick double fronted cottage (part 2 storey) of 10 rooms, kitchen and out-offices with a shingle roof. There was a brick and weatherboard garage with a shingle roof and a tennis court. The house was sited on Lots 15 and 16 which contained almost 2 ½ acres.

In December 1936 the oak shingle roof caught fire and the house was burnt down. In 1937 the builder, Benbow Munkham under the supervision of architect Geoffrey D Loveridge faithfully reconstructed it. The roof originally covered with shingles was replaced with terracotta tiles. Other minor alterations included the modernisation of the kitchen, and the addition of three more bedrooms by converting the schoolroom into a bedroom and the box storeroom into two bedrooms.

Craignair, one of the principal landmarks of Wahroonga, has been under threat of development on a number of occasions.

- Jennifer Harvey

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:

Ken & Elizabeth Swan - Cooranbong
Ann Ronfeldt - Gordon
Mrs J Yarrow - Lindfield
Jeanette Bond - Turramurra
Miss Margaret Boyanton - Berowra

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

From last month - location of photo: Arthur St., Killara



Kwik Kwiz

Q: Which is the odd one out?

Alexander; Borrowdale; Charlotte; Endeavour; Fishburn; Golden Grove; Lady Penrhyn; Friendship; Prince of Wales; Scarborough Sirius; Supply.

A:

Cook's *Endeavour* visited Botany Bay in 1770. The others were the ships of Phillip's First Fleet which arrived at Botany Bay in 1788.

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 2 Aug	Family History Meeting 11 am – Members Reasearch 2 pm – General Meeting Speaker from State Archives “What would I find at Globe Street” & “How to prepare for a trip to Kingswood”
Sat 16 Aug	2 pm - KHS General Meeting Speaker - Peter Bradley Topic - <i>Ben Hall</i>
Thurs 21 Aug	Tour to Kingswood State Archives (see TOURS on page 2)
Sat 6 Sept	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 Speaker - Robin Walsh Topic - <i>Lachlan Macquarie's Eastern Travels to Ottoman, Persian and Russian Empires</i>

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Vice Presidents	Ann Barry	9144 6480
	Jo Harris	9489 4393
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Book Sales/Asst Curator	Ann Barry	9144 6480
Computer Systems Manager	Peter Stehn	9489 9488
Curator	Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
Family History		
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Volunteers Roster	Heather Davidson	9144 1844

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