



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 2013

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 Room, 799 Pacific Highway Gordon

Shooting through on the Northside

Peter Kahn of the Tramway Museum at Loftus spoke to a room packed to capacity at the June meeting of the Society. The subject was Sydney's trams, with many references to those on the Northside. Peter explained that the popular phrase "shooting through like a Bondi tram" was coined because of the speed of the early steam trams on that line.

The first part of the talk consisted of a portion of a video called "Shooting Through" which had very captivating live footage of trams from the very early days onwards.

Sydney's first tram (horse drawn) ran from the former railway terminus in Devonshire Street to Circular Quay between 1861 and 1866.

This was followed by steam trams from 1879 through the city and nearby suburbs, including the Kogarah to Sans Souci line where steam was not replaced by trolley buses until 1937. The last steam tram was a privately owned one in Parramatta, which closed in 1943.

Trams operated by cables ran from the old Milsons Point Railway Station on the waterfront to Ridge Street, North Sydney and also up the steep incline to Ocean Street, Edgecliff. Cables were used for these lines due to the steepness of the terrain. The cables for the Milsons Point line were operated from a building which is now the Independent Theatre in Miller Street, North Sydney. This line was later extended to Falcon Street.

The first electric tram ran from the railway terminus in Devonshire Street to Circular Quay in 1898, running mainly down George Street. There were very elegantly designed poles down the middle of George Street to hold up the cables until they were removed in 1908.

On the Northside there were tram depots at Neutral Bay and Manly. Each depot had their own breakdown trams or trucks so that trams would not block the roads for too long. Small repairs to trams were done at these depots but major repairs were done at Randwick, which employed thousands of workers. So for major maintenance the Manly trams had to travel to The Spit, cross by punt, travel up Parriwi Road to Neutral Bay, thence to the railway at St Leonards, to Hornsby, down the Northern Line to Redfern, and thence to Randwick.

Of particular interest on the Northside were the special small four wheel tram cars which were run in twos from the harbour and up the steep hills from Balmoral, Neutral Bay and the other wharves. These "bendy" trams came in years before the current day "bendy" buses.

The last tram run on the Northside was in 1958, and the last in Sydney was to La Perouse in 1961. The former tram tracks on the Sydney Harbour Bridge were then converted to roadways, less than 30 years after the first test tram ran across the Bridge.

Bob Gowing

General Meeting

and

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 17 August 2.00 pm

"Three men and the wireless"



Jo Harris discusses the influential roles of Hughes, Marconi and Fisk in the development of early wireless transmissions.

Afternoon Tea will be available.

Visitors welcome.

Family History Meeting

Saturday 3 August

11.00 am "UK House of Commons
Parliamentary Papers"

2.00 pm **General Meeting**

*Highways and
byways of an
interesting life:
an interview with
Bruce McRae.*



Afternoon Tea will be available.

Visitors welcome.

Elections for Officers and Committee

The Society's **Annual General Meeting** will be held after the General Meeting on Saturday 17 August, before the guest speaker.

All positions of Officers and Committee Members are open, and Society Members are invited to nominate.

Nominations must be with the Returning Officer by Saturday 10 August.

Completed nomination forms can be left in the Returning Officer's folder on the table in the Research Centre.

Membership Fees

The Society membership fees fell due on 1 July.

An invoice was sent out last month with amount owed and payment directions, including direct payment from your bank account. Thank you for supporting our Society.

Thank you to all who have renewed during July.

Society 50th Anniversary

On 7 November 2013 it will be 50 years since the first meeting of our Society.

We will mark this occasion with an Anniversary Dinner

to be held at the Roseville Golf Club on **7 November 2013.**

Please mark the date in your diary.

Bookings open soon....

Picasa Workshop

Do you need help to tweak and organise your collection of digital photographs?

You are invited to join **Jill Ball** and **Tony Prince** at a workshop in the Society rooms on **Thursday 8 August at 2.00 pm** to learn about Google's free photo management tool, Picasa.

Jill and Tony, who are enthusiastic users of this product, will show you how to fix, organise and share your photographs. If you have any particular Picasa questions you would like addressed in this session, please email Jill at jillballau@gmail.com.

You can make a booking for this session via the booking sheet in the rooms or to khs@khs.org.au or phone 9499 4568.

Quiz answers (see p. 8 for Questions)

1. (b) Sir John Northcott. (*The Historian* Vol. 1 No. 2 September 1972)
2. (c) William Henry. (*The Historian* Vol. 1 No. 2 September 1972)
3. (a) Joe McMahon. (*The Historian* Vol. 4 No. 1 March 1975)
4. (c) Richard Archbold. (*Les Thorne Papers*)
5. a - f) All are commemorated there (Information from St John church records).
Extra information for questions 1-4 may be found in "Kupedia" on the intranet at the KHS Research Centre.

Special Interest Groups

Mac Users SIG

The next meeting is on **Monday 5 August at 2.00 pm** in the research rooms. This will be an iPhoto session. So, bring along your tips and tricks, and problems, and one of our group will talk about making photo albums from iPhoto.

The following meeting will be on Monday 2 September at 2.00 pm.

I notice we have quite a few new members, so if you want to be added to (or removed from) the email list, please let us know.

If you have any specific questions, please email them in advance so they can be circulated to the group for answers. (jackievb@optusnet.com.au)

No need to book, just turn up. Bring your laptop or iPad if you like.

Jackie van Bergen

German Research SIG

The next meeting of the German SIG is planned for **Monday 12 August at 1.30 pm** in our research rooms.

Holding German SIG get-togethers on a Monday is not set in concrete. If others find another week-day more convenient, please let me know, and we can see what is the general consensus.

Peter Stehn

Irish Research SIG

On Friday 12 July Irish descendants gathered at the rooms to talk about their Irish family history. We discussed a number of searching ideas and looked at various websites.

We all learnt a bit, shared stories, and had some fun. The meetings are on the second Friday of each month.

Our next meeting is **Friday 9 August at 1.30 pm**. All welcome.

Ric Hall

Technology Users SIG

The Mac Users SIG at the Society is a very successful initiative in which Mac users at all levels gather to pass on tips, solve issues, share news of new resources and help each other.

I would like to start up a similar group for those of us who are not Mac devotees, but who would like to meet on a regular basis in collaborative sessions to learn from each other about how to use technology to enhance our research.

If you would be interested in attending such a group, please contact me by email at jillballau@gmail.com. If there is sufficient interest I will organise a date for an initial meeting.

Jill Ball

New Zealand SIG

There is some interest in starting a new SIG for New Zealand possibly in September.

If you are interested please add your name to the sheet in the book.

Family History Month

Scanning Days

Monday 19 August and Friday 23 August from 10.30 am to 1.30 pm in the research rooms.

Bring along your old Ku-ring-gai photos with a focus on “*The people of Ku-ring-gai and where they lived*”.

We'll have a team of volunteers in the rooms to scan them for you.

You'll get your precious photo(s) preserved in a digital format and at the same time make a contribution to the knowledge of the local area and its people.

You never know, the act of sharing might even lead to connections with other family members.

Bring a USB stick to take your high resolution images home with you.

Are you researching a WWI Ku-ring-gai soldier?

Have you talked to the coordinators of our WWI Writer's group about your research?

There are so many soldiers on memorials around Ku-ring-gai that we'd hate to double up on our efforts, i.e. have more than one person write up a particular soldier.

So, if you are researching or writing, or would like to, please contact Kathie Rieth first on frithie@netdata.com.au

We have some great resources, and an eager team to help you.

Writers workshop

Cassie Mercer, editor of *Inside History Magazine* is coming to KHS to talk and workshop ‘Writing family history as short stories’ with a particular focus on our WWI project.

As there are only a small number of places left, you'll have to book soon.

There is a catch. Cassie would like everyone to write an article or story before the workshop, and submit it to her (via Kathie Rieth) so she can offer feedback and help you develop it.

The workshop is on **Saturday 24 August at 1.00 pm** in the meeting room next to the research rooms.

Please contact Kathie Rieth on frithie@netdata.com.au if you are interested in coming along.

Bookings are essential for this.

Blogs to read

The **Ku-ring-gai Historical Society** blog has been named in *Inside History Magazine*'s list of “50 genealogy blogs you need to read in 2013”!

We are thrilled that our blog, that is just 11 months old, has received this accolade. Also included in the list are blogs from two of our members, [Jackie van Bergen](#) and [Jill Ball](#).

The full list of 50 blogs can be reached via the links on the web page: <http://www.insidehistory.com.au/2013/07/50-genealogy-blogs-you-need-to-read/>.

RAHS talk and exhibition

August brings a landmark exhibition to History House. The JW Lindt Photographic collection from the Grafton Regional Gallery will be on display in conjunction with an opening, talk and a viewing of ABC's Australian Story *The Light of Day*.

Opening reception: Thursday **1 August 5.30 pm**.
Speaker: Deputy Lord Mayor of The City of Sydney, Councillor Robyn Kemmis. Exhibition: **1-3 August**.

State Records Open Day

A rare opportunity to see behind the scenes of the State archives.

Tour state-of-the-art storage facilities and their conservation lab. Hear speakers on Transport, Travel and Tourism, and the challenges of our digital future.

See original Treasures of the State Archives.

Plus history and genealogy stalls, souvenirs, a range of food options and display of vintage military vehicles.

When: **10.00 am – 4.00 pm, Friday 30 August 2013**.

Where: Western Sydney Records Centre, 143 O'Connell Street, Kingswood

Enquiries: (02) 9673 1788. Booking form: www.records.nsw.gov.au/open-day#program

RAHS podcasts

In the latest issue of its eNewsletter sent to its members, the Royal Australian Historical Society made this announcement, which may be of interest to KHS members. There are presently four podcasts listed on the site.

“The RAHS is creating podcasts (audio broadcasts) of selected lectures and seminars presented by authors, historians and researchers at the forefront of their fields, making them accessible to the general public. These engaging sessions offer an eclectic mix on a wide variety of topics in Australian history and current historical issues in local history and heritage. If you missed Dr Louise Trott's fascinating talk discussing the role of the Sydney Diocesan Archives, which is a private, ‘in-house’, business, and academic research archive, giving special attention to some of the key documents in the collection, you can listen to it here: <http://www.rahs.org.au/podcasts/2013-day-lecture-series-2/>”

Nomination for Committee

Please think about nominating for the Committee.

New people on a Committee bring fresh ideas and renewal. It is thus important to have new people involved.

The Committee meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7.30 pm.

Nominations must be with the Returning Officer by Saturday 10 August.

Writing Ku-ring-gai History Competition Winners



To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of KHS we held a “Writing Ku-ring-gai History Competition”, for both children and adults. The results were announced and prizes awarded by our Patron, Mayor Elaine Malicki, at a ceremony on 15 July at The Old School, Gordon.



The details of the competition, of the award winners and their entries, along with images of many other entries, have been published in a commemorative booklet – see image of the cover above. This was given to all entrants and distributed to schools in the area. A copy is available to peruse in our Research Centre.

The contents are indicated in a table on our website www.khs.org.au. Apart from the award winners and runners-up, we have also listed many of the other entries – their numbers very pleasing, as is their quality. There is a hyperlink for each entry – clicking this will open a new window displaying the poster or essay entered in the competition – close that window to return to the table and explore other entries!

We thank Ku-ring-gai Council and the Turrumurra and Lindfield community bank branches of Bendigo Bank for their financial sponsorship of the competition; and also the KHS sub-committee which did so much to organise the competition, its judging, and the presentation event.

Graham Lewis

War memorials to get makeover

The Community War Memorials Fund has allocated \$13,000 to restore and maintain Pymble Soldiers’ Memorial Park on Mona Vale Road and St Ives Showground.

The bulk of the funding will be put towards stonework at the Pymble Soldiers’ Memorial Park.

\$3,000 will be used for an interpretive sign and plaque at St Ives Showground to explain the history of an army relief map and the use of the site in World War II by the 18th Battalion.

“Community war memorials stand as reminders of our great state’s fallen soldiers, and this funding will help to protect the memorials and restore them,” says Davidson MP Jonathan O’Dea.

“Keeping war memorials in good condition is a significant way for communities to pay tribute to lost loved ones and all those who served their country.”

Ku-ring-gai Spellings

Here are some variations that actually exist within documents found in Trove:

- **Ku-ring-gai (the correct one)**
- Kuringgai
- Kuringai
- Ku-ringgai
- Ku-ringai
- Kuring-gai
- Kuring-Gai
- Ku-Ring-Gai
- Kurringgai
- Kurring-gai
- Kurringai

and even

• Kurin-gai (>9000 entries in the digitised newspapers for this last one).

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The **2013 AGM** will be held at
2.00 pm Saturday 17 August
in the Gordon Library Meeting
Room.

Nominations for Officers and Committee
must be in the hands of the
Returning Officer
by 10 August.
Nomination forms
are available in the Rooms.

John Alexander Digby

John Alexander Digby's father, Francis (later Frank) Septimus, was born in London in 1870 and sailed for Sydney on 28 August 1891 aboard *Oroya*. He married Frances Julia Single in Queensland and their first child, John, was born in Mackay in about 1895. The family appears to have been in Sydney when their second son, Francis Dudley Maxted was born in 1897. By 1906, Frances had bought 1½ acres on the northwestern corner of Lucinda Avenue and Fox Valley Road, Wahroonga, where they lived in a house named *Bogandeena*.

About that time John would have been enrolled at Turramurra College. In 1913 Frances sold *Bogandeena*, most likely when Frank took up appointment with the Water Conservation & Irrigation Commission in Leeton.

John gave up his job as a clerk and enlisted at Rosebery Park on 7 September 1914, just a month after the start of the war. He was nineteen and a half. Less than a month later he was promoted Sergeant and sailed on HMAS *Ulysses* on 22 December. Sergeant Digby's unit was the 13th Battalion that, with the next three battalions to be raised, constituted the 4th Brigade under the command of Colonel (later Sir John) Monash who, as Lieutenant-General, would distinguish himself on the Western Front. After further training in Egypt, the 13th Battalion landed at Anzac Cove late in the afternoon of 25 April. Just eight days later Sergeant Digby was killed and was buried in front of the trenches. Very few of those killed at Gallipoli are buried in cemeteries. The Lone Pine memorial commemorates the 3724 Anzacs who have no known graves and the 1212 who died of wounds and were buried at sea.

From July 1917 correspondence between Army Base Records and the Secretary, Water Conservation & Irrigation Commission suggests John's father had been transferred from Leeton to Sydney. He is listed in Sands' in Middle Harbour Road, Lindfield between 1919 and 1921 but without the house name *Pasadena*. By 1919 Frank was manager of the Wheat Board office in Sydney. In 1922 the Digbys built in Ada Avenue, Wahroonga a house later known as *Shrublands*. Frances sold their home in 1925 and by 1930 the couple were living in Leeton again.

John's younger brother, Francis, enlisted on 8 November 1915, serving in several field artillery brigades before being killed in action near Peronne on the Western Front on 28 September 1918.

Allan Rost

Recent acquisitions

The following is a selection of acquisitions. Please check the fireplace shelf. If they have already been sorted into the reference library you will need to use the sort code to locate the book that interests you e.g. CEM/2315 – filed under Cemeteries and then 2315, the postcode of the cemetery. If a locality interests you, then obtain the postcode and search the catalogue e.g. 2031/CUR – in this case it is filed under Sydney Places.

- “The Heritage of Australia – The Illustrated Register of the National Estate” published in 1981 by The Macmillan Company of Australia in association with the Australian Heritage Commission, supported by H.C. Sleigh Limited and CRA Limited. This is a large volume, of many pages, well-illustrated with many black and white photographs and some colour – ISBN: 0 333 33750 6. The book has introductory essays on (1) Landform, rock and soil (2) Australia's natural legacy (3) The Aboriginal heritage and (4) Architecture from colonial origins; and then each State is considered. This book was donated by Morrison Hammond. AUST/000

- “The North Sydney Lines of the Sydney Tramway System” by David R. Keenan MCIT and reprinted and published by Transit Press, Sydney Tramway Museum, ISBN 0 909338 05 1. The book has 120 pages with many black and white photographs and a few in colour. TRA/TRA

- “Early Colonial Homes of the Sydney Region 1788-1838” by Daphne Kingston, first published in 1990 by Kangaroo Press, has 96 pages with many drawings of the homes, ISBN 0 86417 352 0. Ku-ring-gai does not appear to be mentioned. ARC/KIN

- “Australian Awards Vietnam 1962 to 1991” compiled by Ross Sutton and first published in 1992, ISBN 0 646 08380 5 with 127 pages. There are no photographs. The book has listings for navy, army and air force. MIL/SUT

- “Their Name Liveth for Evermore – Mosman's Dead in the Great War 1914-1918” by George Franki and printed by Mosman Council (56 pages). The booklet has two sections, those listed on the Mosman War Memorial and not listed. Where available, photographs of the individuals have been included. MIL/FRA

- “Carter of Endau – The Wartime Correspondence of William Akins Carter and Elizabeth Marian Belcher” by Allyson Hecker and published 2013, ISBN 978 0 9874734 0 0. The book deals with the 2/20th Battalion in World War II, and the fall of Singapore. It has 534 pages with a number of black and white photographs. At the end of the book is a “Character Summary” which supplies information on many of the people mentioned in the book. BIO/CAR

Bruce Robinson

RAHS excursion: Nursing and Medical Museum, Old Prince Henry Hospital Little Bay

24 August, 10.30 am to 12.30 pm

Nursing and Medical Museum,
2 Brodie Avenue, Little Bay

Cost: \$5 (donation to museum)

Information: RAHS 9247 8001

history@rahs.org.au

The Cameraygal Festival Bus Trip

Join the Meeting House bus and come on a lively tour to enjoy the history of Lane Cove and its people through the eyes of a tourist.

Two Tours during the Cameraygal Festival

Tour 1 Wednesday **14 August**,

Tour 2 Wednesday **4 September**.

Phone 9427 1841 to book your spot on the bus: \$25 per person, including lunch at Carisbrook House.

Enquiries: Denis 9906 3579.

FAMILY MATTERS

July Family History Meeting

11.00 am Session

Jo Harris opened the meeting, welcomed all in attendance with a special welcome to Pauline Weeks, a NZ Genealogist. Pauline had been our Guest Speaker at our June meeting and kindly returned to join us for this special morning on New Zealand resources on the intranet and internet. There were 20 members present with several sitting at computers, ready for assistance from Pauline, who moved willingly to assist each person with their questions. Some questions were answered and had pages printed. There is a possibility that a NZSIG could commence later in the year. Thank you Pauline for your assistance. Morrison Hammond gave details of interesting NZ CDs which can be purchased if you are a member of the NZ Society of Genealogists.

Jenny Joyce purchased a Phillimore's Atlas for the Society and it was suggested that donations of \$2.00 be made to assist with this special purchase.

2.00 pm Session

Jo Harris opened the meeting, welcomed the 28+ members, new members and visitors. Jill Nicholson was an apology due to a broken bone in her foot after a nasty fall. Jo thanked Margaret and Ray Holland for stepping in and organising the afternoon tea with helpers. Jo advised that the society is looking for volunteers to learn how to use the sound system as backups for emergencies for both General and Family History meetings.

Our 3 August meeting at 11.00 am will be "UK House of Commons Parliamentary Papers". Make sure you have your NLA cards – go to home page for application <http://www.nla.gov.au/app/eresources/item/1642>

Murrin transcript service now costs \$20 for a full transcript. "Family Tree Connections" always has many family stories well worth reading.

Websites:

Digitised images of original baptism, birth, marriage, death and burial records held by the Archives Office of Tasmania, covering the period 1803-1933 are available on line free of charge – <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/212529>

Obituaries Australia: A digital repository of obituaries about Australians and those who have made an impact on Australian history, published in newspapers, journals, magazines and bulletins – <http://oa.anu.edu.au/>

Australasia – Births, Deaths and Marriage Exchange: A free resource enables the sharing of certificates with fellow researchers – <http://www.ausbdm.org/>

International Births, Deaths and Marriages Exchanges – Belgium, Canada, Ireland, Luxemburg, Netherlands, United Kingdom

National Library of Australia: as mentioned before... quote "The Library holds the world's greatest collection of material relating to Australia and the Australian people" – <http://www.nla.gov.au/>

National Archives of Australia: Scroll down to The Collection which opens up a cornucopia of research

possibilities – <http://www.naa.gov.au>

Beverly reminded attendees about the Ku-ring-gai WWI write-ups for those killed, died from wounds or were decorated – also names of those who returned.

Lucky Door prizes were won by Jenny Joyce "There Must be a River" by Lorna Ollif; Jan Cooper "North Shore Sydney" by Les Thorne; Joy Walker "The Bulletin – Clotted Rot for Clots & Rotters" and Jan Cook "For The Term of His Natural Life" by Marcus Clarke.

Members Forum – "My Latest Successful or Unsuccessful Research"

Jenny Joyce – her ancestor John Lawrence Gibbons from Limerick, Ireland – Jenny also belongs to Kent, London and Sussex societies.

Rod Gillespie – his grandfather a Boer War veteran 1900-1903, 1914 moved Germans out of Samoa, was 1st Provost Marshall – Rod appreciated assistance from Pauline Weeks during am session.

Jean Smith – started husband Ross' family in 1990, found grandfather's 1939 notebook with 4 NZ addresses to follow, received 13 pages of information from NZ for \$10, also indicated that Katoomba Library is excellent.

Julie Werner – her father shown as orphan in English 1901 Census, belongs to Scottish, Highland and Woolwich Groups, has been visiting UK recently and being an only child and having no family members, met many family members and now "knows where she comes from".

Jo spoke about "Log of Logs": Check all 3 volumes for different information of voyages; also asked her UK cousins to search for a pub with a certain fireplace, the "Spotted Dog", the "Bottle House Pub" near a cemetery – Jo also advised that the Gordon Library is to be closed for 3 months, no family history to be available.

Tony Spargo spoke about The Avery Family – John arrived 1822, sentenced to 7 years for stealing one silver spoon value 3 shillings m. Charlotte Davis in 1830, sentenced to death at the Old Bailey for the theft of £31.13.6 from her employer, but aged only 17 sentence was commuted and transported for life – they had 12 children, first child Charles b. at Windsor m. Ruth Kemp. They had 14 children, Ruth died in 1871 aged 41 – Charles m. Louisa Philp in Grafton in 1874; they had 14 children, Louisa died aged 54 in 1904 – Charles died in 1911 aged 81 – no "one child for yourself, one for your wife and one for the country" in that family!!!

Kate Tytherleigh – spoke of 35 years searching – Trove – found an obituary of a g.grandfather with 33 pages of "snippets" – in 2003 put an item on Rootsweb about "Daniel" and in 2013 had a reply!!

Another friendly and most interesting meeting.

Based on notes by Elaine Turnidge

Family History Conference

29th Annual Conference of NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies will be in Canberra on **21 and 22 September 2013**, with a Family History Fair on **September 20**. <http://www.conference2013.org.au/>

The Lane Cove road

Charles Whitham *Sydney Morning Herald* 4 February 1928

“How does the Lane Cove road, the main thoroughfare of the North Shore districts, get its name? It never comes within sight of Lane Cove waters, and except for a brief incursion, it scarcely enters the municipality of that name. Indeed, some people who live along its northern end call it the Gordon road, which seems more appropriate, for it does go through Gordon.

It is the oldest white man’s road in the district, for it follows the track that was cut by Lieutenant Henry Lidgbird Ball, of HMS Supply, in 1789, from Blue’s Point, along the ridge which affords the easiest route for the penetration of the North Shore region. Quite possibly, Ball followed up an aboriginal trail, of which there were many between Port Jackson and Broken Bay. The present North Shore railway to Hornsby follows nearly the same route, as the Lane Cove road and the rails are seldom far apart. Like the Military road of Mosman, its course is tortuous, and for the same reason – the makers of these old trails avoided as far as possible the primal curse of man, and went round a big tree rather than undertake the labour of removing it.

For at least seventy years the road was a very rough one, not much more than a dray track through the big timber. When William McKeon, whose descendants are well known in Sydney to this day, went to Gordon (then known as Lane Cove Settlement) in 1815 there were only a few bark huts, occupied by timber-getters, along the track. In 1861, some money was appropriated by Parliament for improving the road, for we are told by the “Sydney Morning Herald” of May 4 that a meeting was held at the Old School, Lane Cove (where St. John’s Church, Gordon, now stands), to elect trustees to supervise the expenditure of the vote. Mr. Burgess was in the chair, and the trustees elected were Messrs. Geering, John Duffy, McKeon, R. Porter, Richard Hill, and H. Whittingham, all well-known names in the chronicles of Lane Cove, using the name in its earlier sense, as referring to all the country lying between St. Leonards and Wahroonga.”

Richard Whitaker

Joshua Taylor

Lead Genealogist for Findmypast

When: **Saturday 10 August**

Where: **Parramatta RSL**, Corner Macquarie and O’Connell Streets, Parramatta NSW

Session One: 9:00 am – Registration

9.30 am – Successful Online Searching: Making the Most of Your Time Online

10.45 am – Break

11.00 am – Beyond the Names and Dates: Records to Expand Your Family Tree

12.30 pm – End

Session Two: Appears to repeat Session One

1.00 pm – Registration

4.00 pm – End

Free. Reservations 1800 904 447

BUILT HERITAGE

Turrumurra Masonic Hall

The display cabinets that Jocelyn Brennan-Horley assembles are amazing, informative and eye-catching. I’m sure they’re a drawcard to passers-by, encouraging them to see what else can be found in the KHS rooms. The recent display on Masons was particularly interesting.



One of their temples was at Turrumurra. This was recommended for listing as a result of the 1987 Ku-ring-gai Heritage Study, which cited its cultural, architectural, rarity and landmark value, and its municipal significance. A two-storeyed, rectangular brick structure, in an austere Neo-Classical design, it was designed in 1922 by architects AL McCredie & Anderson and built by Hector K Mackenzie of Pittwater Road, Pymble. Standing on the eastern corner of the highway and Turrumurra Avenue, it was completed by the end of 1923. Supper rooms were added in 1930. Its architectural significance cannot be disputed: it was designed by one of Sydney’s leading firms of architects.

In 1884 Arthur and George McCredie had taken Arthur William Anderson into the firm AL & G McCredie, architects and consulting engineers, where Anderson served his articles, becoming a partner in 1903 when George died. A 1908 project was the new building for Mark Foy’s in Liverpool Street. Other city buildings were for Burns Philp in Bridge St, and John Sands in Druitt St; and Ocean House in Martin Place. In 1913 they designed Presbyterian Ladies College, Pymble, built by WA Grant of Telegraph Road.

Anderson was founder and first president of the Federal Council of the Australasian Institute of Architects, a president and vice-president of the NSW Institute of Architects, and a member of the Board of Architects. He was on the council of Newington and Ravenswood schools (for which he designed a number of buildings) and on the executive committee of the Methodist Church. He lived with his family in Park Avenue, Gordon, moving in the late 1920s to Roseville Avenue, Roseville. One of his two sons, Cyril, served in France during WWI.

Mackenzie moved to Pymble about 1914. His first projects in Ku-ring-gai were in 1912. When the North Shore branch of the Master Builders’ Association had its inaugural meeting in July 1921 at the Lindfield Chess Club rooms, he was acting secretary, and later served as its president. In 1927 he joined forces with Jack W Adams and, as Mackenzie Adams Ltd, a major project was the Ku-ring-gai Shire Council Chambers.

As far as heritage listing goes, the Turrumurra Masonic Temple ticks all the boxes. Cultural – its Lodge certainly served the community well. Rarity – it’s only one of two in the area. Landmark – it occupies a prominent, elevated site on the highway within the village of Turrumurra. And municipal – its builder and one of its architects were both prominent residents of Ku-ring-gai, the first an alderman from 1935 to 1937.

Kathie Rieth

Copy for Newsletter

General copy for publication should be lodged with the Editor, Bob Barry (bob_barry@optusnet.com.au), as early as possible but no later than the 15th of the month (except November and December), unless otherwise arranged. Copy is accepted on the basis that the **Society has editing rights and that readers can reproduce it in whole or in part with acknowledgement**. Material should be in electronic form if possible.

New Members

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

Amanda & Lara Turnock-Small Killara

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

August Ku-ring-gai QUIZ (answers p. 2)

- In 1963, who was the first Patron of the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society?
a) Sir John Monash? b) Sir John Northcott? c) Sir John Kerr? d) Sir John Robertson?
- The first white settler on the northside was ?
a) William Blue? b) William Wentworth? c) William Henry? d) William Baker?
- An early settler of the area, whose ancestors had the Travellers' Rest Hotel – later called Lane Cove Hotel – and who recalled cock-fighting, bare-fist fighting, two-up and more, was?
a) Joe McMahon? b) Joe Bromley? c) Joe Fidden? d) Joe Lyons?
- In May 1814, a young Irishman of twenty-three arrived in Sydney Cove on board the ship *The Three Bees*. His name was?
a) Richard Lennon? b) Richard Shinfield?
c) Richard Archbold? d) Richard Porter?
- To be found in the churchyard of St John the Evangelist at Gordon is?
a) Henry Baker? b) Henry Cornwell? c) Henry Hinder? d) Henry Lego? e) Henry Loveday?
f) Henry Scougall?

Jo Harris

Research Centre Hours

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

The Centre is open to the public from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday (except the 1st Saturday of each month when members have a meeting). It is closed over the Christmas period and on public holidays.

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Diary Dates

- Sat 3 Aug Family History**
11.00 am *UK House of Commons Parliamentary Papers*
2.00 pm General Meeting followed by
Highways and byways of an interesting life: an interview with Bruce McRae.
- Sat 17 Aug 2.00 pm Society General Meeting followed by Annual General Meeting**
Three men and the wireless.
Jo Harris discusses the influential role played by Hughes, Marconi and Fisk in the early development of wireless.
- Sat 7 Sept Family History**
11.00 am *More intranet and internet resources.*
2.00 pm General Meeting followed by
Three speakers from The Arthur Phillip Chapter of The Fellowship of First Fleeters.
- Sat 21 Sept 2.00 pm Society General Meeting**
Storms across the North Shore
A meteorologist's insights into extreme weather conditions that have periodically devastated parts of the north shore.
Speaker: **Richard Whitaker**

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Vice Presidents	Jo Harris	9489 4393
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