

KU-RING-GAI HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.



Including Ku-ring-gai Family History Group
Patron: The Mayor of Ku-ring-gai
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March 2015 Newsletter Vol. 33 No. 2

A Note From the Volunteer Coordinator

One of the many benefits of Ku-ring-gai Historical Society membership is being able to arrive at the Research Centre in Gordon and be greeted by a friendly volunteer who is able to assist researching houses, families or Ku-ring-gai local area history.

The volunteers enjoy being involved and many of their experiences enrich their own learning. It is rewarding helping others and forming bonds through shared research interests.

We would love to have a few more volunteers – please consider joining us!

All new volunteers are given hands-on guidance and practice in locating the various resources, and time to become familiar with how things work. Our volunteers give freely of their time, generally one day per month, from 10am to 2pm.

Volunteers are rostered on in pairs and the work involves answering the phone, talking to KHS members and anyone wanting information, and assisting to run the research centre. During less busy times, volunteers generally pursue their own research or reading from the centre's extensive reference library.

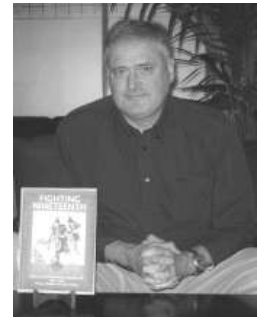
If you are interested in becoming part of the volunteer team at the research centre, please contact a committee or volunteer member. Phone numbers are provided at the back of this newsletter.

Geoff Little

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Saturday 21 March at 2pm

**General Meeting
then
'Unpicking the
Myths of Gallipoli'
Speaker:
David Wilson,
Military Historian**



Local military historian and author, David Wilson, looks at some of the most common misconceptions concerning this failed campaign, in light of recent Australian and Turkish Research.

Venue: Old Gordon School Meeting Room 1
No booking required Afternoon tea provided

Saturday 7 March

**11am Family History Meeting
Venue: Research Centre**

**2pm General Meeting followed by:
'An Ulsterman in Oz – The Mid-60's
and 50 Years Later'
Speaker: Bob Paisley**

Venue: Old Gordon School Meeting Room 1

No booking required
Afternoon tea provided



Bob Paisley, a high school teacher, left Northern Ireland in 1964 to help implement Dr Wyndham's new vision for education in NSW. Fifty years later, Bob is back as a permanent resident of NSW. This talk covers Bob's early life in Northern Ireland, life in NSW in the 1960s, experiences in Ireland during the 'troubles' and retirement in NSW.

February General Meeting Notes

The North Shore at War - The Home Front A Talk by Tony Cunneen, Historian & Author

Tony Cunneen is an historian and a teacher at St Pius X College in Chatswood. Tony's historical interests lie mainly in the social history of the Sydney legal profession, the experiences of young men at war and of the families they left behind. His talk to the society was of this latter interest with the odd legal figure shining through.



Over the two decades before World War I, with the establishment of good transport, the north shore developed as “the place to live” and many prominent families took up residence in its leafy suburbs. There was a strong feeling of Empire, Sydney was becoming the “lynch pin of the Pacific” rather than a colonial outpost, Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson was the Governor General and his wife lady Helen was the inspiration to the north shore ladies in their support of the Empire and of the looming war.

There was a great patriotic movement in support of Britain and the men were encouraged to enlist. There was a feeling that it would all be over in a matter of months and many young men were eager not to miss out, even the north shore MP Ted Larkin enlisted. Our first troops went to Egypt and there was much coverage of their activities in the press - and then they sailed to Gallipoli, where Ted Larkin was killed on the first day. It was then that the full horror of war hit our shores, although the death of Captain Brian Pockley in New Britain six months before had already galvanised the north shore with the slogan “Are we downhearted - No!”.

In a series of vignettes Tony recounted tales of support by the ladies of the north shore for the troops overseas, for the POWs and for the returning wounded. Prominent in this support was

the Cullen family of Mosman (Sir William Cullen was the Chief Justice) aided by Lady Cullen's friend Ethel Turner (married to lawyer Herbert Curlewis). The ladies organised welcoming groups for the returning injured, knitting circles and bandage rolling in their homes. A few stately houses were donated as convalescent homes (Graythwaite in Greenwich was one). Red Cross groups were formed with VADs (Volunteer Aid Detachment nurses, assistants) enrolled and led by Lady Cullen.

After Fromelles the full shock of war hit Sydney, enlistments fell and attention was turned towards encouraging young men to go to war, in which our north shore ladies were once again active. Conscription was proposed and defeated at two referendums in spite of support by the Universal Services League (led by Sir Edgeworth David), the Liberal Party and many of the protestant churches.

Then suddenly the war was over. But the grief continued with the wounded returning, with those who didn't return leaving many “maiden aunts” to spend their days devoted to charitable work. Summing up, Tony's talk was one of Noblesse Oblige and the north shore ladies responded to the call magnificently.

As a member of the Francis Forbes Society for Australian Legal History, Tony has written articles on the social history of lawyers in the Twentieth Century, with a particular focus on the First and Second World Wars. He has published two books, *Suburban Boys at War* and *Becroft and Cheltenham in World War One*.

Doug Milne

February Family History Meeting Report

11AM SESSION

31 members attended the morning session where Jenny Joyce gave a presentation on ‘UK Government Gazettes’ which were published from the 1600s to the present day, in London, Edinburgh, Dublin (until 1922) and Belfast (from 1922).

They cover a huge range of information about UK and the Colonies including Military Appointments, Honours and Awards, Deceased and Intestate Estates, Civil Service, Business Partnerships, Patents, Insolvency and Bankruptcy, Naturalisations and Change of name.

The site is free and searchable and Jenny demonstrated searching for each of the topics listed.

Jo Harris then demonstrated a useful BDM site using the Australian Cemetery Index and showed how to do shortcuts. Both sessions were invaluable.

2 PM SESSION

Jo Harris opened the meeting by welcoming everyone especially Ian Thom, guest speaker, and member, for the afternoon session.

DIARY DATES

- Coach Trip to Joadja Creek Ghost Town on 23 March - cost \$75
- Many activities in Seniors' Week. (See the KMC booklet)
- Exploring Ku-ring-gai Bus Trip 13 April fully booked, next trip 11 May - cost \$35
- Bookings are now open for all these events.

BOOK REPORTS

Great Australian Tales by Paul Taylor; *A Lady in a Thousand – Eliza Davies* by Barbara Ward; *Ronan's Echo* by Joanne Van Os; and *Secrets of the Sea Horse* by Elisabeth Gifford.

CONFERENCES

14th Australasian Congress in Canberra 26-30 March – congratulations to Jenny Joyce who will be giving three presentations.

VOLUNTEERS - training sessions will be offered soon – see newsletter for details.

A member visited Berrima Cemetery recently. Lucky Door Prize - Yvette Reeve chose *A Glimpse of Ghosts* by Valerie and Timothy McKenzie.

Speaker – Ian Thom

'Great-Great-Grandfather, Henry Parkes'

Sir Henry was five times Premier of NSW, and was responsible for the Education Acts for free, compulsory and secular education; efficient running of the Railways; and the settlement of New Italy which developed the silk industry.



One of his residences was 'Kenilworth' in Johnson Street, Annandale.

He wrote both poetry and history books.

Henry was born near Coventry on 27 May, 1815 and was the eighth child of Thomas and Martha

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Parkes. He attended school until he was eight and then worked firstly in a rope factory, then breaking stones for roads, and digging clay in a brick pit before being apprenticed to a bone and ivory turner, learning Latin and the Classics along the way.

At 21 he married Clarinda Varney. After their first two children died they decided to migrate to NSW on the 'Strathfieldsaye', a voyage of 100 days during which Clarinda gave birth to another child.

He landed in Sydney virtually penniless and found work as a labourer before getting a job with a brass turning firm. Being disappointed in Australia it was 12 months before he wrote to his family in England.

After working for Customs and writing poetry which he self-published, he opened a bone turning shop in Hunter Street, where he met like minded people, took up public speaking and started *The Empire* newspaper in opposition to the *SMH*.

He was elected to the Legislative Assembly, but there was no payment of MPs, so he studied Law but returned to parliament when payment for members was introduced. Altogether, he was Premier for 11 years and 10 months.

In 1877 he built a house in Faulconbridge, (his mother's maiden name) and commuted to Sydney, stopping the train by waving his umbrella as there was no platform at Faulconbridge at that stage. He was always short of money, was bankrupt more than once but was knighted for his contribution to government in NSW.

He caught a cold in 1896 which turned to pneumonia from which he died. On the personal side he fathered 19 children, two of whom were illegitimate with Eleanor Dixon, was married three times and is buried in the family plot at Faulconbridge with his first wife, Clarinda and some of his children. Always a controversial figure, his portrait was painted by Julian Ashton and his last journey was from the Mortuary Station in Sydney to Faulconbridge.

Ian Thom is descended from Clarinda Sarah, one of Parkes' many daughters, who married William Thom, an Anglican minister. After questions, a vote of thanks was moved by Noel Blake, a former mayor of Maitland, which had greatly benefited from Sir Henry's premiership.

Notes by Jean Smith

Ku-ring-gai Heroes of World War 1

Cecil Lewis HENRY, DCM

Cecil Lewis Henry was born in Sydney on 12 October 1890, the son of greatly respected and admired schoolteacher, headmaster and district schools inspector Lewis Henry of Blenheim Road Lindfield. He followed in his father's footsteps when he gained admission to training college in 1907 and three years later was appointed to the NSW Teaching Service. While teaching at Bathurst High School, he returned to Sydney to enlist in the AIF on 25 June 1915, naming his new wife Annie (née Norman) as his next of kin.

He was initially allotted as a reinforcement for the 2nd Infantry Battalion, with whom he embarked on the Medic on 30 December 1915. In Egypt, he was transferred to the newly formed 2nd Pioneer Battalion, and was promoted to Sergeant prior to its deployment to France in March 1916. Sergeant Henry was involved in the battles around Fleurbaix in northern France before the unit was deployed south to the Somme Valley and the Battle of Pozières, during which on 29 July he was wounded in action. He recovered, and in November was promoted to Temporary Warrant Officer Class I, to become the battalion's Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM), a position he held for three months before reverting to Sergeant.

Lieutenant Cecil Henry, DCM



Photo courtesy of ACT Heritage Library

In May 1917, during attacks on the Hindenburg Line in the Second Battle of Bullecourt, Sergeant Henry displayed exceptionally gallant conduct throughout operations, particularly on 3, 4 and 5 May. He set a splendid example as he moved up and down the parapet of a trench that was being dug on 3 May under heavy enemy shell and machine-gun fire, encouraging and directing his men. On another

occasion, when a stretcher was called for but none was available, he went back through an especially intense enemy artillery barrage and brought one up for the bearers, before continuing on his earlier task. He was wounded a second time on 5 May, but remained on duty. On 16 May he was promoted in the field to Second Lieutenant. In August he was appointed as the Battalion's Assistant Adjutant and further promoted to Lieutenant in October.

He returned to Australia on 8 August 1919 aboard the SS Katoomba - with his wife, who had joined him in England. He returned to his profession of teaching and taught at Orange High School before being appointed the first headmaster of Telopia Park School in Canberra in 1923. He and Annie had three children, John, Robert and Nancy. Cecil Henry died on 14 March 1968 aged 77.

David Wilkins

Snowballs in Old Lane Cove?

The Sydney Snowstorm of 1836

An early riser at Sydney's Bellevue Hill Boarding House and Day School, on the morning of 28 June 1836, was astounded to see a cloud of white particles descending from the sky. He deemed them to be white feathers, but when a Master was summoned to the window, it was pronounced to be - wonder of wonders - snow! It was not known that at 6am on that morning, the thermometer had dropped to 30 degrees Fahrenheit, an extraordinary event, as Sydney temperatures rarely go below 40 degrees. Apparently, from the newspapers of the day, snow fell for an hour or so, roofs were covered and about an inch of snow fell on the metropolis, reaching down to harbourside beaches.

Towards Parramatta, several inches were experienced, and Bathurst had a foot. Snowballs were made in Sydney streets and author T.A. Brown, (Rolf Boldrewood), saw children disporting themselves with snowballs at suburban Enmore. As late as 28 June 1913, a journalist writing in *The Sydney Morning Herald* under the heading: *Progress in the Suburbs - Chatswood to Hornsby* at p18, said,

in the early days the residents had a heavy fall of snow, and for the first and only time local residents indulged in snowballing.

It was a true phenomenon. Natives were totally confused by the event, suggesting that there was no parallel in aboriginal history. It must have been a very cold week because the visitation occurred again on Sunday 3 July, but it was reported to be less abundant than that of the previous Tuesday.

During the rest of that century and well into the following one, there was periodic newspaper mention of the Sydney snowstorm of 1836; various theories were advanced without any universally accepted explanation. Sir Douglas Mawson postulated that cyclonic disturbances in the Antarctic were not fully understood, and that such an event travelling uncharacteristically so far north could have provided the reason for this extraordinary event. Nothing comparable may ever occur again, particularly with a world that is warming rather than cooling.

However, the Herald of 22 June 1951 reported a fall of "snow" in several suburbs the previous day. But while something was precipitated, (and confirmed by Pymble's Stationmaster as occurring at 11am, no snow formed on the ground. There was no icy magic carpet on which excited children might play, as had been experienced by the youngsters of Lane Cove (and Sydney) on that far off day in 1836.

John. R. E. Brown

SOURCES:

June/July 1836 The Sydney Gazette, The Australian, The Monitor, The Colonist

Special Interest Group Reports

All SIG Meetings are in the KHS Research Centre

GERMAN RESEARCH GROUP

on Monday 9 February was attended by 18 members. The following topics and activities were suggested for this year's meetings:

The Brandenburg Gate icon
Using German records in Ancestry Library Edition and FamilySearch.org
World War I records from a German perspective
Social pressures in 19th century Prussia
Speakers, e.g. Jenny Patterson
Organizing information to write a family history story (Frank Oliver)
Reading and interpreting Gothic script
Pronunciation and meanings of German place and family names (Leone Stumbaum)

Preserving letters, photos and memorabilia (email suggestion from Lowana Chapman).

Next Meeting:

Monday 13 April 2015 at 1.30pm

I have volunteered to give a presentation on Using German Records in Ancestry Library Edition. We should discuss who may wish to sponsor the remaining topics above.

Peter Stehn

IRISH FAMILY RESEARCH GROUP

Next Meeting:

Friday 13 March at 1.30pm

Come to the KHS Research Centre and learn of the latest developments in Irish Research and some success stories from our group. Bring details of your Irish 'brickwalls'. Maybe we can help!

MAC-USERS DISCUSSION GROUP

Next Meeting:

Monday 2 March at 2pm

Bring your iPad, iPhone, questions and things to share with us. We meet monthly to discuss all things Mac, from the basics to photos, to family history programs.

TECHNOLOGY GROUP

Next Meeting:

Thursday 19 March, at 1.30pm

Join one of Australia's foremost bloggers, Geniaus (aka Jill Ball) to learn of the wonderful and varied things to be found in blogs. Learn how to use blogs to keep a journal, preserve your stories, record your travels, share your recipes. Examples of different types of blogs will be provided. Bookings essential. Please phone 9499 4568 between 10am-2pm or email khs@khs.org.au. Afternoon tea provided.

KHS PRESERVATION GROUP

The KHS Research Centre is closed to the public on Wednesdays so the KHS Collection can be maintained and extended.

The workers, led by Ann Barry, form a dedicated and cohesive group. Anyone passing by can clearly see they enjoy their tasks and make the place hum with productivity. The lunchtime chatter is a particularly happy interlude. One member wrote the following:

The 'Woden's Day Warriors' who meet every Wednesday, are serious, industrious, quiet, and so

dedicated that it reminds me of Shakespeare's words in 'Henry V' - "We few, we happy few, we band of brothers"

Whether putting the Births and now Marriages of St Johns Gordon online for easy access, or literally burrowing through the Cardew Boxes, or typing past copies of *The Historian* into KUPEDIA, I have found this fellowship of stalwart KHS volunteers unsurpassed as a small group.

At present there are thirteen members, most of them of some years standing, and they are known for their humility and willingness to readily share information, without regard for personal recognition. There is absolute equality among them (names not mentioned).

What else makes this band so unique?

The ability to help one another and to discuss anything of interest - all realise that History is written to be shared!

When some wonderful document turns up, the group tends to gather to contemplate this part of their heritage. Questions are fielded and answers found if possible, even to the extent of further information being sent to the inquirer at their home.

It is a wonderful web they weave and long may they continue to do so.

Welcome to our New KHS Members

Joan Alexander, Killara Suzette Thomas, Killara
Robin Hedditch, Newtown
Hugh and Hillary Roberts, Turramurra

KHS Day Trips



To secure a place, complete booking and signed indemnity forms for each person attending at KHS Research Centre with cash or cheque payment.

Monday 23 March Joadja Creek Ghost Town Heritage Tour

This coach trip to the historic shale mining village includes a guided tour, morning tea and lunch. Bookings close Saturday 14 March, unless already booked out, \$75. Places are filling quickly! Departs Bannockburn Oval Pymble 8.15 sharp, please allow for traffic and be on the bus by 8am.

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Monday 11 May Exploring Ku-ring-gai

Cost \$35 includes 'Mystery Lunch' - this tour has just opened for booking, April's Tour sold out.

Thursday 16 April Little Bay & La Perouse

Minibus visit to **The Coast Hospital at Little Bay** and Tour of the memorial of the first public hospital in Australia, followed by a visit to LA PEROUSE and a special tour of the local museum - fascinating! Cost for transport & tours is \$35. Lunch available in the La Perouse Village. HURRY!

Recent Acquisitions

Please check the fireplace shelf for these. If they have already been sorted into the reference library, use the sort code to locate them, e.g. CEM/2315 means the resource is filed under 'Cemeteries', and 2315 is the postcode of the cemetery. If a locality interests you, then obtain the postcode and search the catalogue e.g. 2031/CUR is filed under 'Sydney Places'. Also check nearby postcodes as only the postcode most suited to the book is allocated.

Shellharbour's Forgotten Cemetery and Selected Pioneers. Biographies of those buried on the Shellharbour headland 1820's - 1897 by Wendy and Terry Nunan, published Nov 2014 by Tongarra Heritage Society Inc. The ISBN is 9780958518437 (hardback) with 506 pages. The contents include shipping at Shellharbour 1845-1888 and there is an appendix - Shellharbour Council aldermen 1859-1896. CEM/2529

Barefoot and Pregnant? Irish Famine Orphans in Australia by Trevor McClaughlin, published by Genealogical Society of Victoria Inc., 1991 (reprinted 1999) ISBN: 0 949672 25 4. It has 434 pages, only a few illustrations. Between Oct 1848 and Aug 1850 over 4,000 female orphans arrived in Australia from Irish workhouses as part of Earl Grey's pauper immigration scheme. This book documents the scheme. A Register details (1) Sydney arrivals, (2) Port Phillip arrivals and (3) Adelaide arrivals by a vessel's date of arrival, in the most part alphabetically within each ship. Donated by J A Oliver. OVS/IRL

A Dictionary of British Surnames by P. H. Reaney, first published 1958, 425 pages, aims to explain the meaning of names rather than to relate to family history. OVS/BRI

Hunter's River - A history of early families and the homes they built in the Lower Hunter Valley between 1830 and 1860, by Cecily Joan

Mitchell ISBN: 0 9590772 0 0. This edition published 1984, 233 pages with illustrations of many of the homes. Donated by J A Oliver. 2321/MIT

Camden General Cemetery, published by the Illawarra Family History Group Inc., 1995, ISBN: 1 875246 23 1 with 92 pages. An alphabetical index provides a link to where the details are recorded. The earliest record I found was 1913, but most relate to the latter part of that century. Donated by Jo Harris. CEM/2570

Local Government ...Local History A guide to N.S.W. Local Government Minute Books and Rate Records edited by Joy N Hughes, published by the Royal Australian Historical Society in 1990 with 127 pages ISBN: 0 909954 34 8. The content is largely self-explanatory, indicating what is held and where. An Appendix lists Valuer General's Department valuations held by the Archives Office of NSW, Kingswood. Donated by J A Oliver. HOW/HUG

Gordon Greenwood The Early Years 1913 – 1931 edited & annotated by Helen Derrick, 2013, ca 200 pages, and a good range of coloured and black and white illustrations, reflecting Greenwood's perspective of life and events on the North Shore. Sections on his early years at Hornsby, Chatswood, Turramurra, including attending Turramurra College and Knox Grammar School. Donated by Helen Derrick. BIO/GRE

Many thanks to the wonderful donors.

Bruce Robinson

Help Wanted

BOOK ACCESSIONS

We need someone who is able to access resources as they are purchased for or donated to the Historical Society. If you are able to help with this, could you please contact Secretary, Yvette Reeve.

Newsletter Deadline

Please send email copy for publication to editor@khs.org.au as early as possible, but no later than 15th of each month. Copy is accepted on the basis that Ku-ring-gai Historical Society has editing rights and that readers can reproduce it in whole or part with acknowledgement. Material should be in electronic form if possible, with as little formatting as possible, e.g. no bullets, underlining, indenting or styles etc.

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KHS Research Centre Hours

The Ku-ring-gai Historical Society Research Centre is located at 799 Pacific Highway, Gordon, next door to Gordon Library. **Open 10am – 2pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturdays**, except 1st Saturday of each month. Closed Wednesdays, Sundays and Public Holidays.

Diary Dates

Mac-Users' Discussion Group

Monday 2 March at 2pm

Family History Workshop, Qs&As

Saturday 7 March at 11am

and at 2pm followed by Afternoon Tea

An Ulsterman in Oz - Mid-60's and 50 Years Later

Old Gordon School Meeting Room 1

Irish Special Interest Group

Friday 13 March at 1.30pm

Introduction to your Family History

Monday 16 March at 10.30am

Old Gordon School Meeting Room 2

Entertaining presentation by Jo Harris on getting started on your family history.

Bookings essential Phone 9499 4568 10am-2pm or email khs@khs.org.au.

Morning tea provided

How to Research your House

Tuesday 17 March at 10.30am

KHS Research Centre

Talk by KHS Built Heritage team on basics of how to research your house's history. Discussion over morning tea and a chance for hands on experience.

Bookings essential Phone 9499 4568 10am-2pm or email khs@khs.org.au

WWI Memories and Mementos

Wednesday 18 March, at 10.30am

Old Gordon School Room 2

As we celebrate the ANZAC centenary, share your family WWI stories and memories with our WWI Research Team. Bring photos and mementos of WWI. Learn how to find out more about your family member's involvement in WWI. Bookings essential Phone 9499 4568 10am-2pm or email khs@khs.org.au Morning tea provided

What are these things called Blogs?

Thursday 19 March at 1.30pm

Old Gordon School Meeting Room 1

Bookings phone 94994568 or email khs@khs.org.au

Afternoon tea provided

Early Ku-ring-gai

Friday 20 March, 10.30am

Old Gordon School Meeting Room 1

KHS Vice-President, Jo Harris will take you on a journey through the development of Ku-ring-gai, from Captain Arthur Phillip's overland expedition to the timber-getters, orchardists, first school and

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church at Gordon, and agitation by residents resulting in the north shore railway line.

Bookings essential Please phone 9499 4568 or email khs@khs.org.au Morning tea provided

General Meeting and Lecture

Saturday 21 March, 2pm

'Unpicking the Myths of Gallipoli'

Old Gordon School Meeting Room 1

Afternoon tea provided

Joadja Creek Ghost Town Heritage Tour

Monday 23 March

A guided day trip by coach, see inside for details

14th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry CANBERRA

26-30 March www.congress2015.org.au

German Special Interest Group

Monday 13th April 2015 at 1:30

ON SALE NOW

Rallying the Troops – Volume I

This is no ordinary WWI reference book and its reach goes well beyond the Ku-ring-gai local area.

The introductory chapters cover topics including:

Recruitment

Rifle Clubs

Overseas

War

Memorials

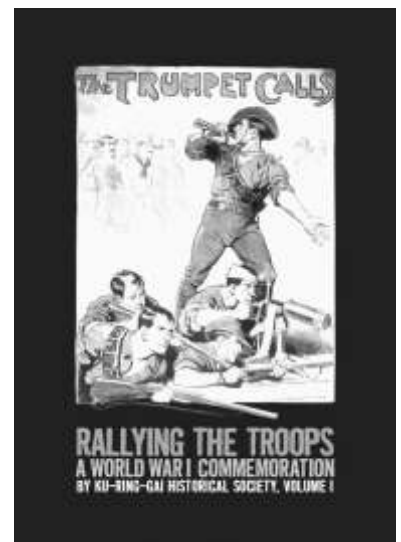
Charles Bean

The New

Guinea

Campaign

and Gallipoli.



The well researched biographies cover men and women from all parts of Australia, and some from overseas – their connection with Ku-ring-gai is sometimes limited to a local next-of-kin address although all appear on Ku-ring-gai war memorials.

The experiences depicted reflect those of many who served.

Available from KHS – reasonably priced at \$40!