



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.

May 2011

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 Room - 799 Pacific Highway, Gordon

The Rise of Sydney's Department Stores

Michael Lech spoke at the March general meeting about the history of the rise of seven of Sydney's well known department stores, and also the social issues involved in their rise and ongoing operations.

This was the period from the 1870s to 1930s. He recalled the excitement of travelling to the city, where most of the stores were located, for a "day in town". It was an "experience" to go to town dressed in one's best clothes and capes. The day included shopping, theatre, cafes and restaurants.

The department stores of Sydney and Melbourne were some of the largest and most spectacular in the world. One traveller described them as better than the stores anywhere in the world, except for Whitelys in London. During this period, stores were usually only in one city, such as Myer in Melbourne and David Jones in Sydney.

The Sydney stores covered were: Anthony Horderns (1823 to 1973), Farmers (1840 to 1960), David Jones (1838 to present time), F. Lasseter & Co (1820 to 1926), Marcus Clarks (1883 to 1966), Mark Foys (1885 to 1968), and Grace Bros (1885 to 1983).

All were founded by families who remained in the business for at least two generations. Most started off as drapers. They grew to become department stores and often purchased adjoining properties as they grew. They replaced the personal service of the specialty stores with lower prices, higher turnover, plus sales and special deals. Their arrival meant that women had a chance to work somewhere else besides factories. Prices had to be physically marked on the goods. Most stores had London offices for the purchase of good quality merchandise in bulk. Some had their own manufacturing works in Sydney. Anthony Horderns had a furniture factory and a marble works in China Town. These stores took off because Sydney was a transport hub and had grown to have a population that allowed enough goods to fill the various stores.

These stores staged special attractions for customers. Anthony Horderns had Commonwealth Bank and Thomas Cook branches. David Jones had a top floor restaurant seating 1,000. Grace Bros had an auditorium and featured Santa's arrival. Farmers had an art gallery. For the employees there were tennis and other clubs, including company choirs.

The families became well known in society and had large houses, and many were knighted for services to retailing and the community. Henry M Clark's funeral cortege was preceded by 700 male employees, and 300 female employees awaited at the cemetery. In general, these stores added to the community whilst making money for their owners.

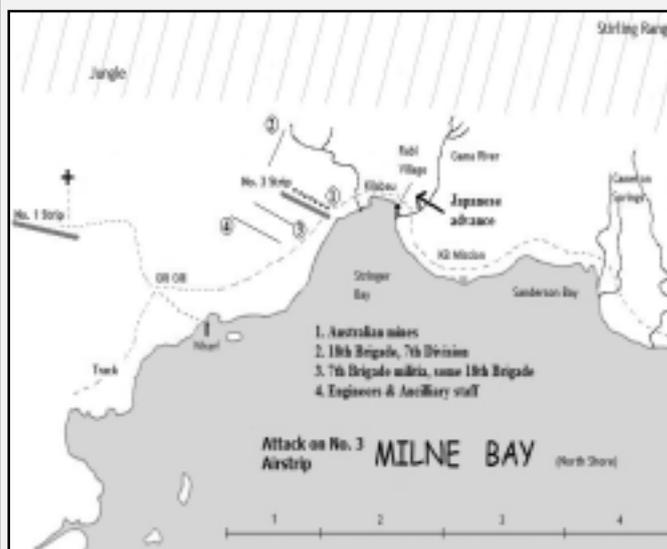
Bob Gowing

Coming Meetings

(Gordon Library Meeting Room)

General Meeting

Saturday 21 May at 2 pm



Author of "Eleven Bloody Days", Brian BOETTCHER, tells the story of the attack on the Australian base at Milne Bay by Japanese marines in 1942, an action whose significance is often overshadowed by the Kokoda campaign.

Our speaker is a forensic psychiatrist with a keen interest in World War II history.

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

Next Family History Meeting

Saturday 7 May

11 am "Let's talk about Victoria".

2 pm **General Meeting**

The research behind the books & CDs:
'The First Title Holders of Land of the
19 Counties of NSW - with reference
to Gordon Parish in Cumberland County'.
Speaker: Geoff Cannon

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

Society Tour

Convict Women's Trail, Parramatta

Tuesday 24 May

Departing Bannockburn Oval, Pymble approx 8.30 am, returning approx 4.30 pm.

Escorted by Judith Dunn of Past Times Tours, we will follow the footsteps of convict women from arrival at Parramatta Wharf to the first and second Female Factories (convict women's gaols). View the orphanages where their children were placed, and the oldest cemetery in Australia, where master and servant lie side by side in their final resting place. Very story-oriented, this tour explores the lives of women noted as "these most licentious women, the very dregs of society". Was this a valid description? What were their choices?

Lunch at Rose Hill Bowling Club is included.

Cost \$30 members, \$40 non-members. Booking sheet in KHS rooms, payment with booking.

Due to popular demand, we have increased the size of the bus. ****Only a few places are left, so book soon.****

Mac Users Group

Organise your family history files, photos and sources.

Monday 9 May, 2.30 pm, KHS Research Room

A brief overview by three members, followed by discussion. (*We're not experts but hopefully we can help each other out.*) 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).

If you are thinking about purchasing a Mac, come along and see what all the fuss is about.

There is no charge, and no need to book. Bring your laptop if you have one.

Can you help?

Each month we publish on the front page of this Newsletter a report on the previous month's talk by our Guest Speaker. The task of writing these notes mainly has fallen on Committee Members, who are already heavily committed to the Society's activities.

So we need a couple of extra people to volunteer to take these notes. Each would be required only about twice a year. If you can help, please contact Ann Barry on 9144 6480 or a.barry@optusnet.com.au

Preservation supplies

During Seniors Week we had a talk on Preservation, and a number of people expressed a wish to buy some of the archival quality folders, sleeves and paper.

Unfortunately these supplies are relatively expensive, usually available only in large quantities, and purchasers must pay freight charges.

We would be willing to sell these items to members in small quantities, if there is sufficient member interest.

If you are interested, please email Ann Barry on a.barry@optusnet.com.au or 9144 6480, or leave a message on 9449 4568.

Big Thank You for Seniors Week

From 22 to 26 March we ran a series of talks for Seniors Week. These were attended by about 130 people in all. There were many new faces - both new members, and some longer-term members who just hadn't been for a while.

It was great to see so many people participate, and show support for a program like this.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped during the week, and special thanks to those who were there to help almost every day - Jill Nicholson, Beverley and Bruce Robinson. Running something as big as this would just be impossible without the help of people like you.

Thank you from the KHS Committee. This gives us encouragement to try to run a similar Seniors event next year.

Also, the winner of the raffle held during Seniors Week was Jocelyn Brennan-Horley.

Our website

Have you checked our website lately? Our webmaster Graham Lewis updates the site regularly. He has recently added our book catalogue, and will be adding the Biographical files gradually. We hope to update the catalogue monthly.

Jenny Joyce spent many hours reorganising the book shelves and catalogue to facilitate this. Thank you Jenny and Graham.

Why not take a look: www.khs.org.au

Recent acquisitions

There have been only a few acquisitions this month. When was the last time you dusted your bookshelves? You could make room by donating to KHS (less to dust) and they would be gratefully received.

'Wintona - A Supplement To "From Brecon to Broken Hill; The History of a Wilkins Family"' by David Wilkins and donated by David Wilkins. This book was self published in 2011; it has 46 pages with black and white and colour photographs and diagrams.

'Donald Thomas Esplin - Sydney Architect - His Life and Work' by Robert Irving and Noel Irving. This book was published in 2008 by the authors, and has 204 pages with black and white photographs. It received a National Trust EnergyAustralia Heritage Award 2009. Donald Esplin did some work in Ku-ring-gai. The book was donated by Margaret Middleton.

'The Watermen of Sydney - Memories of a Working Harbour' by Graeme Andrews. The book was reprinted in 2005 and has 109 pages with black and white photographs.

'The Fibro Frontier - a different history of Australian architecture' by Charles Pickett, with a foreword by Barry Humphries. The book was published in 1997 with 128 pages and colour photographs.

'The Discovery of Tasmania - Journal extracts from the expeditions of Abel Janszoon Tasman and Marc-Joseph Marion Dufresne -1642 and 1772' edited by Edward Duyker and translated by Edward, Herman & Maryse Duyker. It was published 1992, with 120 pages and black and white photographs.

Bruce Robinson

Society talks

Venue: Gordon library meeting room 1

Bookings are essential: phone 9499 4568 (10 am-2 pm) or email khs@khs.org.au

This program of talks is subsidised by a grant from Ku-ring-gai Council.

Tuesday 3 May 2011, 10.30 am << **note early date!**

How Pay-to-View Sites can be good value.

Kerry Farmer (*member of SAG Education Committee and online genealogical educator*)

Pay-to-view sites can provide information that might otherwise take you years of searching or incur travel costs to where the records are stored. This session will show how pay-to-view sites can help your research, and how you can get best value from them. Websites discussed include Ancestry.com, Findmypast, Scotlands People, Documents Online, Irish Roots, The Genealogist, My Heritage and more. Cost: \$5 - includes morning tea.

Wednesday 18 May 2011, 10.30 am

Blogs & other Social Media that have changed the way we Research.

Carole Riley (*SAG Councillor*)

A blog is a website for letting people know what you're doing and what you've found, and can be an effective way to locate other family researchers. In this session you will learn about blogs – what they are, what they are for, how to find them, how to create your own, and why you would want to. This session will also touch on other tools that can help with research into family in both the past and present, such as Google, Facebook, Twitter and Flickr.

Cost: \$5 - includes morning tea.

Friday 27 May 2011, 10.30 am

Which Genealogy Program?

Kerry Farmer (*member of SAG Education Committee and online genealogical educator*)

So, you have a whole lot of family history information, photos and documents - how do you figure out which program will suit you best? There is no simple answer. Everyone has their own research practices and aims, as well as varying technology skills – all of these, and even individual personality, may influence the best software 'fit'. This presentation introduces the major genealogical programs available and highlights some aspects of each, encouraging users to determine for themselves the program most likely to suit their needs. It will be followed by the opportunity to look at some of the programs helped by current users from KHS.

Cost: \$5 - includes morning tea.

Advance Notice – check our booking book and the next Newsletter for more details of the following talks AND MORE...

Monday 6 June 2011, 10.30 am

Writing Interesting Family Histories.

Carol Baxter (*Author & Professional Genealogist*)

Keen to write an engaging family history but stuck with little more than names and dates? Uncertain how to even begin? This talk will guide you along the pathway from pulling out

your piles of dusty notes to crafting a story that your relatives will actually be keen to read.

Thursday 23 June 2011, 11.30 am

A behind-the-scenes look and research tips from a Who Do You Think You Are? (Australian) researcher.

Megan Gibson (*Author & Freelance Researcher*)

She used to annoy her Nana with all those family tree questions, now she gets to annoy the families of famous Aussies! Megan Gibson from *Family Tree Time* has worked on episodes of the hit genealogy series 'Who Do You Think You Are?' (including the Georgie Parker episode). Megan will let you in on some of the behind-the-scenes research, and maybe, just maybe, some hints about the upcoming series.

Other Society Newsletters & Magazines

Our Society receives Newsletters and larger magazines from many Historical and Family History Societies. These have traditionally been sent in hard copy, but as we now move to the electronic age, they are increasingly received by email.

Peter Stehn has made a folder on our system for these Newsletters.

All hard copies, past and current, are stored in the yellow filing cabinet and shelves behind and next to the compactus.

It takes time for Peter to format and load the electronic copies onto the computer, and the hard copies take up shelf space.

So our question is: how many people are reading these?

Next time you are in the room, please take the time to check these resources, and please make a comment on your perception of their value to a Committee member.

Special Interest Groups

We'd like to get some special interest groups going for people with similar interests. We are looking for people to help co-ordinate these. This is usually just a matter of getting some names, setting up an email list and making a date.

Meetings are informal and discussion-based, with the members contributing as equally as possible.

We will help you set a group up!

The new *Mac Users Group* is a good example. Contact Jackie van Bergen on (jackievb@optusnet.com.au).

Quiz Answers (see P. 8 for Questions)

Warrawee; 5. d) Edmund T Blackett.
1. c) 1879; 2. a) 1901; 3. c) a palindrome; 4. b)

Copy for Newsletter

General copy for publication should be lodged with the Editor, Bob Barry (bob_barry@optusnet.com.au), **as early as possible** but no later than the 7th of the month (except November and December), unless otherwise arranged. Copy lodged before that date **will receive preference**, all things being equal. Copy is to be submitted on the understanding that the Society has editing rights and that readers can reproduce it in whole or part with acknowledgement. Material should preferably be in electronic form.

St Ives Station - A Line Too Far

From quite early in the 20th century, a railway line that connected Gordon Railway Station with the northern beaches had been proposed. The following article, written in 1921, contains information about this, together with the map showing the planned route.

This extended northwards from Gordon Station parallel with Stoney Creek Road (Mona Vale Rd) on the left side as we move towards St. Ives. Then up the big hill (referred to as Pratten Hill in the article) to St. Ives Station (that was to be located near Pentecost Avenue). The line then continued parallel to Pittwater Road (Mona Vale Rd) to Last Rocks (near today's Wildflower Garden) and on to Narrabeen Station.

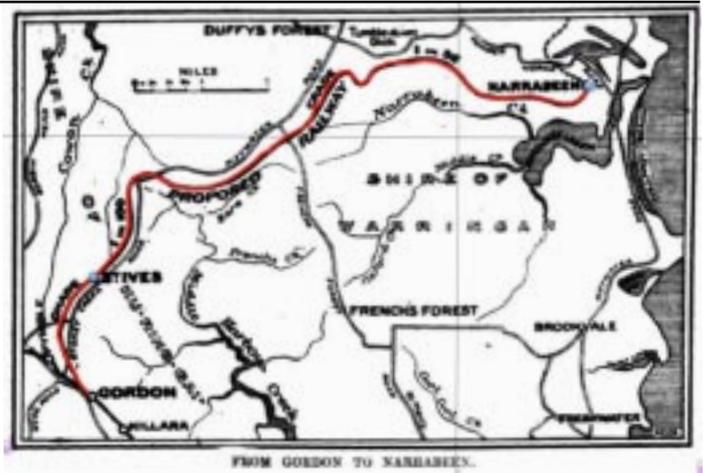
The Sydney Morning Herald Monday 13 June 1921

“On Saturday Mr. J. Estell, Minister for Works, inspected the route of a proposed railway line from Gordon, on the North Shore line, to the coast near Narrabeen. The Minister was accompanied on his tour by Messrs. Bavin and Greig, Ms. L.A., Mr. W. R. Fitzsimons (president of the Ku-ring-gai Shire Council), and councillors, and by Mr. J. Hughes and members of the St. Ives Railway League.

The route suggested, of which an exploration survey has been made by Mr. Scott Griffiths, is 11½ miles in length. From Gordon station it follows the line of Stoney Creek to Pratten Hill, and thence along the west side of High Ridge to St. Ives. After passing Cowan-road the route passes through orchard land of an easy grade to First Rocks, on the boundary of Ku-ring-gai and Warringah shires. From that point it follows closely the ridge traversed by the Pittwater-Ryde road, and by a wide sweep drops down under the declivity of Tumbledown Dick. Then, skirting Sugarloaf Hill, it runs along the valley to Narrabeen. The general grade throughout is 1 in 96.

The tour most effectively demonstrated that an immense district suitable both for fruit-growing and the settlement of a very large suburban population would be available close to the metropolis if the proposed line were constructed. Easy access would be given to the beaches north of Manly, and Ku-ring-gai Chase. 60,000 acres in extent, the great national playground of the people, would be brought close to their doors. From a scenic point of view the line would rival some of the famous sections of the State railways; the views of rugged wooded country, and alluring coastline obtainable from many points being probably unequalled in Australia.

At St. Ives the inspecting party visited the orchards of Messrs. Russel, Hensman, and Symington, and obtained first-hand knowledge of the capabilities of the district. The rows of orange and mandarin trees heavily laden with golden fruit, grown on the rich loam on Mr. Russel's property, and the luscious fruit produced by the heavily fertilised sandy soil on Mr. Symington's holding, deeply impressed the visitors. Though the soils differed, the quality of the fruit was superb in both cases. Mr. Symington informed the party that he had taken 3500 cases of oranges and mandarins off seven acres in one year. The railway route lies through 8000 acres of Crown land, similar to Mr. Symington's.



At a luncheon provided by the St. Ives Railway League, Mr. J. Hughes, the president, stated that the proposed line would traverse about three miles of private property; the rest was Crown land, suitable for fruit-growing. The increase in land values, apart from passenger receipts, would pay for the construction of the line. The land now lay idle.

Mr. Estell pointed out the necessity for decentralisation. There were two lines of railway running north from Sydney, yet there were no connections with the coast ports. Congestion in Sydney should be prevented, and men enabled to go to that district and take up 1½ acres, and establish comfortable homes. In New South Wales there were public works to cost 14 millions still uncompleted. When some were completed he hoped to take new work in hand. He saw one of the finest parts of the country in that district, and he would promise to have a trial survey made from Gordon to the coast. Then he would ask the Commissioners to prepare a report for submission to Parliament. Messrs. Bavin and Greig urged the construction of the line, and emphasised the relief it would give to congested city areas.

Mr. Fitzsimons gave valuable information as to the growth of the district and its potentialities. After lunch the remainder of the route was inspected. On arrival at Mona Vale the visitors were received by Mr. A. G. Parr, president, and councillors of Warringah shire, and a desire was expressed to co-operate with the people of Ku-ring-gai shire in securing the construction of the railway.”

Richard Whitaker

2011 KHS Volunteer Luncheon

All KHS Volunteers are invited to a “bring-a-plate” luncheon on Saturday 18 June, preceding the 2 pm Society General Meeting.

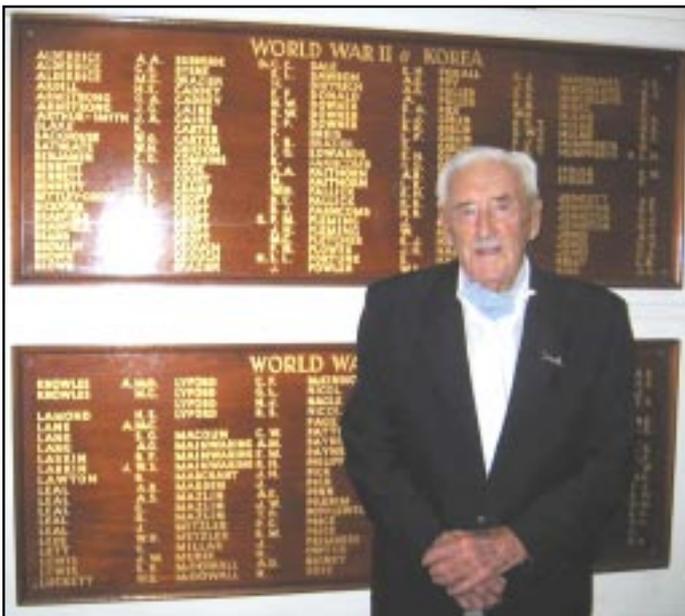
See June *Newsletter* for details.

In Search of “Brendorah”

From SMH 26 March 2011....

Brendorah The pseudonym of Heliodore (dore) Hawthorne, an artist who worked as an inspector of Bren Gun parts at Lithgow's Small Arms factory during WWII. In 1945, she produced 40 perceptive paintings of life in the factory for exhibition in Lithgow and Sydney as her Factory Folk collection. Seeking locations of these paintings, or good photos thereof, for possible display during the factory's centenary celebrations next year. Contact Tony Griffiths, tgriff@bigpond.com or 9450 1693.

Paul George Metzler 1914 - 2010



Paul was born in 1914 to Paul & Beryl (nee Buss) Metzler. The woolbuyer father, and family, had moved to Gordon in the 1920s, settling at "Monte Notte" in Carlotta Avenue. A cul-de-sac named Metzler Place is evidence of where the family lived. Paul and his siblings attended Gordon Public School. I was lucky enough to speak with him in 2006 when researching an RAAF colleague of his, Jack Delarue, who had also attended GPS. Jack did not return from WWII, his name appears on the Honour Boards at the School. Mr Paul Metzler accepted an invitation to visit our Research Centre and Gordon Public School Museum.

Vale Paul, a Gordon identity.

Jo Harris

Snippets

EXTRACT from *The Kuringian* May 27, 1911

"Cows are not the only animals that are allowed to stray about the Shire roads at night times, Sundays and holidays. There are quite a few big "neddies" in Killara that get more tit bits by nipping hedges and rose bushes when they are out for a look round the neighbourhood, than they do at home. We would advise our Fidden's Wharf Road friends to keep their Suffolk Punches and Clydesdales at home, lest the inspector gets them run into the pound."

EXTRACT from *The Canberra Times* Feb. 12, 1936

"TROD ON DEATH ADDER - Man's Lucky Escape in Bush SYDNEY, Wednesday

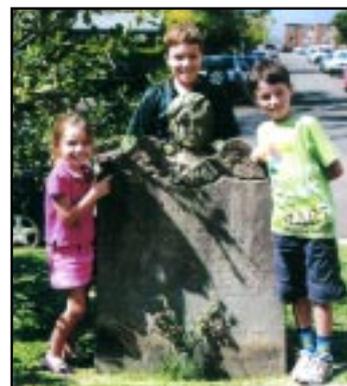
While R.E. Patterson was walking in the bush near St. Ives yesterday, he trod on the head of a death adder 32 inches long. He sprang away, narrowly missing a bite from the reptile.

Referring to the incident, Patterson said that what saved him was that he had practically his full 12 stone weight on the snake's head. The adder was finally killed by a companion of Patterson.

Four young were found in its body. The death adder was stated by the museum authorities to be one of the largest specimens ever."

Someone reads the Newsletter closely!

"The caption under the Newsletter photo of Richard Porter's Ryde headstone says he owned land at Pymble. I am always open to correction, but I think you will find that Richard Porter (1765-1849), and buried at St Annes, Ryde, did not ever own anything in Pymble. It was, again as I understand it, his son Richard (1806-



1889) who came to Pymble. He was buried at the Old Parramatta Cemetery. Obviously I cannot vouch for the number of "greats" which should precede the "Grandfather".

Search Ku-ring-gai, of course, has information and various references. So does Halstead around p.134. There are some minor date discrepancies, as one comes to expect. In passing, I fancy that Jennifer Harvey concluded that it was Richard II's son Michael who built Grandview, not a Richard. I was personally sufficiently convinced of her finding to say so in the June 2009 Newsletter re Old Pymble."

Max Farley

The Kuringian

A Fortnightly Newspaper in the interests of Residents of the Ku-ring-gai Shire.

May 13 1911

FOREWORD

After waiting a full month, during which time we frequently said things we are now sorry for, "The Kuringian" has been passed by the powers that be as a newspaper, and for transmission by post at the newspaper rate. Until this was done we could not be too certain of anything. Now we can go ahead and issue our little journal once every fortnight.

Our present number is only a small one. It is large enough for the news to hand. The next we hope to make double the size. In the meantime you send along your name for enrolment on the subscribers' list. Two "bob" for a year's Shire news won't kill anyone.

ORDER FORM

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Please forward "The Kuringian" for 12 months from date, and acknowledge receipt for the Two Shillings (Stamps or Postal Notes) enclosed.

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Address

Date

FAMILY MATTERS

April Family History Meeting

11.00 am session

24 members were in attendance when many and varied resources were visited on the intranet and internet by Jo, Beverley and Jenny. Questions were asked and many were answered. Suggestions were made and advice was given by attendees. One member received very helpful advice and great information from The Maritime History Archive at the Memorial University of Newfoundland in Canada – website is www.mun.ca/mha - email mha@mun.ca – spend time to search the many subjects available.

Jo has had printing from *JM Executive Printing Service at 846 Pacific Highway, Gordon* and found them extremely helpful. Several others mentioned that they too had printing done at this company and were very happy with the result.

2.00 pm session

Jo Harris opened the meeting and welcomed 35 including two new members, Judy Allen and Margaret Cribbs. Jo apologised that at last month's meeting she had not thanked the outgoing committee members and welcomed Jean Smith back to committee. Stella Green retired from committee – Stella, your notes on the meetings will be missed.

On this day, 2 April 1788: Cloudy with southerly winds, and rain, and temperature was 67°F – 19.4°Celsius. Carpenters from the “Borrowdale” were ordered to work on shore. John Herbert and Deborah Ellam were married in the presence of Mary Gamble and Thomas Acres.

1844: First Hebrew Synagogue opened in York Street, Sydney.

1856: Voting became law in South Australia.

Friday 16 to Sunday 18 September *The Annual State Conference of the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc.* is to be held at Inverell – more information tba – it was suggested to book accommodation soon.

When our new Premier, Mr Barry O'Farrell, visited us last year to tell us about his family history, he asked Jo to tell again the talk that she had given at the Roseville RSL on ANZAC Day in 2007, so with ANZAC Day coming up, Jo told us the very moving story of the Scottish soldier David Thomson (known as Jock) and his war service. He served with the Gordon Highlanders in the Boer War – in India where he got malaria – and later in 1914 in the AIF, 1st Battalion, in 1st Brigade WWI – Gallipoli, Lone Pine, in France – was many times in hospital – received the Military Cross at Fromelles. After the war when in the Military Hospital at Randwick suffering from the aftermath of war injuries, a bedside marriage was held and Jock unfortunately died the next day. Jo showed photos and his medals. Years later his widow married Jo's father. A special story.

Reminders – Murrin Transcript Service now \$18 and are taking longer due to the growing interest in family history. Websites very interesting in “Family Tree Connections” magazine – other publications sent regularly from other Family History Societies

Jenny Joyce gave an interesting account of her recent “Unlock the Past” cruise, some sessions 8.00-10.00 am –

presenters hosted lunch and dinner meetings. Topics included “Breaking Down Brick Walls”; “Start back from the beginning”; “Trove”; “Look at Pictures try Picture Australia”; “Shipping”; “Hospital Records”; “Irish Records on the Internet” – met lots and lots of the 240 interested people. Jenny gave talks on UK & the Census, and Bounty Immigrants; also hosted Q&A and Oral History lunches for tables of 10.

Elaine Turnidge visited the AWM in Canberra. Sue Ryerson visited Gladesville Cemetery, and Jan Cook took a relative to Rookwood.

“Why did your ancestors leave their homeland?” – It is suggested that you “Google” the place they came from – you might find a reason.

Angela Lind spoke about Alexander Johnston, one of 19 Scottish radicals – tried for high treason, sentenced to transportation for 14 years at only 14 years of age

Marie Rumsey spoke about her Great, Great Grandfather, John Hawkin who stole 56 yards of Florentine shoe lining – married Betsy at Coolangatta Village, home of Alexander & David Berry – has the family bible

Sue Ryerson spoke about John Jones, an accountant from Wales, worked for brother David Jones of George & Barrack Streets, married Sarah 1839 – also spoke of Charles Ryerson, her father, who came to Australia in 1936. When asked why he came, his reply was “because I was sent”.

Janet Denne spoke about James Bean, a carpenter who came in 1799 to help build the colony including the Rum Hospital – also George Waddy, who came in 1817 with convicts and went to Sarah Island.

Julie Werner spoke about Charles Hawker, an orphan, who was on The Exmouth in the Thames for 2 years – failed eyesight – an engineer on SS Orrissa, jumped ship.

Joy Walker spoke about Grandfather, Henry John Hawkins, apprentice cabinet maker: had a good voice, came to Australia 1856, jumped ship in Adelaide

Leo Sawicki: on his mother's side were storekeepers in Castlemaine, in Germany were grain merchants – Chaim, his Polish father, a Jew, left Europe when a landsman from the same village loaned him £50 to land in Australia – father's brother walked out through Siberia to Japan.

Yvette Reeve mentioned her son-in-law's father, Tibor Rosenbaum from Hungary, changed name to Rose then Revell.

Jenny Joyce's Grandfather was Protestant Irish; went to Melbourne.

Jo Harris spoke about her aunt, Dr Eva Shipton, not being an only child, but had 2 siblings born in England, Jo's mother and an uncle, after their father returned to England after being here with the Royal Navy for a three year stint before the RAN had been established.

Barbara Hogan won the Raffle and chose the “Historical Dictionary of Australia” by James C Docherty.

Jo also advised that if anyone finds difficulty in getting to a meeting, there could be drivers willing to assist – please ask – otherwise the need is not known.

Based on notes by Elaine Turnidge

Unlock the Past *Genealogy Cruise*

The first Australian Genealogy cruise run by *Unlock the Past* took place in March. Two hundred and forty delegates (some of whom were spouses and not actually interested in genealogy) were among the 2050 passengers who joined the Pacific Dawn in Brisbane for a 7 night cruise around the South Pacific.

Each of the days during which we were at sea there were talks in various locations on the ship. Some of the speakers were well-known ones, like Shauna Hicks, Jeremy Palmer, Cora Num & Carol Baxter, while others were new to me. Amongst the many subjects that were discussed (not all of which I attended) were:

- Breaking down brick walls
- Researching in country newspapers
- Internet resources for German research
- Using military unit histories
- Death certificates & archaic medical terms
- DNA for the genealogist
- Irish Research on the Internet
- Locating shipping and immigration records
- Getting organised
- Healthcare for our ancestors
- Military topics like the British Army and Boer War research

and a number of topics that were historical, rather than genealogical:-

- 1920s fashions as a reflection of the changes in the status of women
- Social history in the 16th-19th centuries
- Victorians and contraception
- Preservation of documents

There were also some lunches and dinners which had hosted tables in the Palm Court restaurant, where someone either led a discussion or Question & Answer session about a particular topic. If that didn't appeal, people could choose to eat in the restaurant without the other family historians, at the Bistro, or at the upmarket "Salt Grill" restaurant set up and owned by celebrity chef Luke Mangen. We ate there twice and it was excellent.

I gave three talks during the cruise, on "Getting the most out of the UK censuses", "Assisted and Bounty Immigration", and "Medieval Genealogy". I also hosted two lunch tables, one on New South Wales Research and one on Oral History.

As a break from all the family history, there were shore tours at Noumea, Lifou and Port Vila, though the latter two places were very hot and humid. Nonetheless, we enjoyed our chosen tours and the glimpse of Melanesian life that they gave us.

Unlock the Past will be running another genealogy cruise in November. This time it will be a 14 night cruise from Auckland to Sydney, with a Scottish and Irish theme. The key-note presenters will include Chris Paton, Perry McIntyre and Richard Reid. As it is a much longer cruise, it will cost more, but should be worthwhile if you want to combine Family History with a holiday.

Jenny Joyce

BUILT HERITAGE

Taiping, 1 Longford Street, Roseville

This is a compact two-storey house, listed for its architectural and municipal significance, and for its rarity value. A pretty house, of rendered and



and painted brick, and with steeply pitched bellcast roof, it has a somewhat Mediterranean feel. Our photo is from the 1980s.

Taiping was built in 1938 for Jack Spencer Whalley and his wife Sophie Myers. Jack was a printer, Sophie a maths coach. The couple had married in 1935 in Nyngan, northwest NSW; Jack's parents ran a grazing property at Pilcabutta near Coolah. It appears they had known each other for some years, for in 1932 they were present at the *Wentworth* when the Younger Set of the Little Citizens' Kindergarten held a dance, Sophie's sister Zara, being its president.

The Whalleys purchased the land in early 1938; it backed onto bushland reserve and was part of the Roseville Recreation Park Estate, a subdivision of 117 lots with frontage to Shirley Road, Longford Street, Abingdon Road, Kimo Road and part of Eton Road. Plans, prepared by architects Wright & Apperly of Bond Street, Sydney were submitted to council in June 1938. Stewart & O'Donnell built the six-room house, estimated to cost just over £1,000.

Wright & Apperly, a partnership between Eric Apperly and Arthur Henry Wright, had been going for nearly 17 years. Apperly, the son of the General Manager of the AMP, had qualified as an architect in 1910 and joined the firm of Power & Adam. In 1920 he and Wright entered a partnership which soon grew into a thriving practice. In 1937 John Sheddon Adam, the sole remaining partner of Power, Adam & Munnings joined, and it became Adam, Wright & Apperly.

Much of the firm's work was for the AMP Society: the Newcastle, Armidale, Goulburn, Taree and Narrandera buildings are listed on the AIA Register of 20th Century Buildings of Significance. Buildings listed by the Heritage Office include St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Wollongong, the Telford Trust Building, 261 George Street Sydney, and Pioneer House, in Broadway, Chippendale.

Both Apperly and Wright were keen golfers and long term members of Manly Golf Club. Apperly was a particularly outstanding player. While a member of Killara Golf Club he won five NSW Amateur Championships. The pair designed numerous golf clubs; in some cases Apperly also designed the courses. These include Avondale at Pymble, Manly, Camden, The Lakes, Newcastle, Pymble, Cromer, Bonnie Doon, La Perouse and Castle Hill.

A photograph of the Whalley family standing happily by what appears to be a brand new sports car parked outside *Taiping* can be seen on ancestry.com. They lived in *Taiping* for nearly 50 years. In March 1988, nearly two years after Jack's death, Sophie sold the house to the Edes.

Kathie Rieth

New Members

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

Janice Bellette	Sth Turramurra
Barbara Cameron-Smith	Kirribilli
Brian Conway	Gordon
Margaret Cribb	St Ives
Helen Gulson	Northbridge
Alan Fredericks	Pymble
Heather Holloway	Neutral Bay
Jeanette Holmes	Killara
Kathy Kemeny	Paddington
Ann Marvell	Manly
Alan & Mary Mewett	Killara
Pamela Park	West Pymble
Celeste & Murray Radcliffe	Collaroy
Ray White Real Estate	Turramurra
Julie Williams	Westleigh
Alan Winterbotham	St Ives
Christopher & Margot Wood	Wahroonga
David Wood	Lindfield

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

Quiz (answers P. 3)

- Postal services began on a weekly basis in 1860 from the Lane Cove Post Office. It was started by Miss Eliza Edwards from her cottage "Glen Alyn" on Lane Cove Rd (the cottage still stands in the grounds of "Ravenswood"). The name was changed to Gordon Post Office in ?
a) 1869 b) 1875 c) 1879 d) 1885
- The old De Burgh's Bridge at Pymble opened in ?
a) 1901 b) 1921 c) 1941 d) 1961
- "Was it a car or a cat I saw". This sentence is an example of ?
a) hyperbole b) an anagram c) a palindrome d) a stanza
- On which station in Ku-ring-gai was a Post Office opened from 1937 to 1938?
a) Killara b) Warrawee c) Gordon d) Roseville
- The original St John The Evangelist Church at Gordon was designed by?
a) Francis Greenaway b) Harry Seidler c) John Brogan d) Edmund T Blacket

Research Centre Hours

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

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

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Diary Dates

- Sat 7 May** **Family History Meeting**
11 am "Let's talk about Victoria".
2 pm General Meeting
 The research behind the books & CDs: 'The First Title Holders of Land of the 19 Counties of NSW'. Speaker: Geoff Cannon.
- Sat 21 May** **2 pm Society General Meeting**
 Brian Boettcher: **The Battle for Milne Bay**. What really happened during the Japanese attack in 1942?
- Sat 4 June** **Family History Meeting**
11 am New Resources on the intranet
2 pm General Meeting
 "From Celtic Cross to Southern Cross - The Ladies on the 'Elizabeth' 1828".
 Speaker: Suzanne Voytas - author.
- Sat 18 June** **12 am Volunteer Luncheon**
 - see June Newsletter for details
2 pm Society General Meeting
 The Society's Treasurer Dr Doug Milne, a noted radio astronomer, talks of the politics that plagued Sydney astronomy for 195 years.

Administration

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	Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
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	Lorraine Swalwell	9449 9254
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Family History Leader	Jo Harris	9489 4393
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