



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.

June 2011

Monthly Newsletter

Vol. 29 No. 5

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

Experiment Farm Cottage

The speaker for our April meeting was Sue Rosen, who spoke on “Australia’s Oldest House”, which she claims should be subtitled “The importance of the broad historical context to understanding the heritage house”. Rosen claimed that Experiment Farm Cottage, the home of Surgeon John Harris, did not date from 1834-5 as commonly stated, but that it actually dated back to 1793/4, making it the oldest existing house in Australia. Ironically, when the house was originally purchased by the National Trust it was believed to date from the 1790s. That dating was changed to 1834-5 when a letter written by Elizabeth Macarthur to her son in 1839 surfaced. In it she mentioned that her neighbours, the Campbells, had built a new cottage, which was taken to be Experiment Farm Cottage.

In constructing her argument Rosen stresses that no piece of evidence is meaningful if taken out of context. As an example, many people have stated that the architectural style of the house, with wide verandahs and french windows, did not exist in the colony at that time, and therefore supports the later construction date. But John Harris had spent 10 years in India before coming to New South Wales, where plenty of buildings of that style did exist in the 18th century. Harris, who often treated wounded or ill officers at his house, would not have wanted to live in a small convict hut built by James Ruse. Instead he would want to live in a house that could show him as the equal of John Macarthur, who was his neighbour. Indeed he did later build himself a house like that close to Sydney, namely Ultimo House, a two storey verandahed house which was located in today’s suburb of Ultimo.

Further evidence she showed us to support her arguments included paintings, maps and surveys, as well as quotations from the time mentioning “verandah conversations”, which she took to indicate that verandahs did exist. Finally, she cited the reshingling of the house in 1839 by the heirs of Harris, and also their repairs of doors, windows and brick ovens – something that would not have been necessary if the house was newly built.

So which was the house Elizabeth Macarthur referred to, occupied by the Campbell family? Rosen claims it is actually Broughton Hall, which Conrad Martens had sketched in a drawing labelled “House of L Campbell Esq., J.P. Parramatta 20 March 1839” and the building it depicts is clearly not Experiment Farm Cottage. The description of the Campbells as neighbours of Elizabeth Macarthur was a relative term in a country so vast and (at that time) sparsely populated. If you consider the phrase in its historical context, it does not necessarily mean next-door-neighbours.

Jenny Joyce

Coming Meetings (Gordon Library Meeting Room)

Saturday 16 June
12 am Volunteer Lunch
(bring a plate)
2 pm General Meeting



Sydney Observatory - Courtesy NSW Bureau of Meteorology

Astronomy in Sydney

From the arrival of Lt. William Dawes in 1788 to the emergence of pioneering radio astronomy out of World War II, the local development of this branch of science had a particularly bumpy ride.

The Society’s Treasurer, Dr Doug Milne, a noted radio astronomer, tells some of the stories behind the politics that plagued Sydney astronomy for 195 years.

Afternoon Tea will be available.
Visitors welcome.

Next Family History Meeting

Saturday 4 June

11 am Let’s talk about Convicts

2 pm General Meeting
Suzanne Voytas: “From Celtic Cross to Southern Cross - The Ladies on the ‘Elizabeth’ 1828”

Afternoon Tea will be available.
Visitors welcome.

2011 KHS Volunteers Luncheon

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

Lunch 12.00 noon.

Rooms open from 10 am, so come along, catch up with other volunteers, and check out the new resources. The Committee will be available to assist.

Talks program

On Tuesday 3 May, we had over 35 people come to hear Kerry Farmer give a talk on getting the most out of pay-per-view sites. It was information overload – so much to find and quite a lot free or at very little cost, and others free to use at SAG. Most of us didn’t realise there were so many sites out there available. Luckily there was a handout so we could go home and try it all out!

On Wednesday 18 May, Carole Riley returned to talk about blogs, why we should use them for our research, and why we should write one. The classic comment of the day was “I think I need to write a blog about what I do each day so I can look at it the next day and remember what I did!” Blogs aren’t just for genealogy, although there are a large number that are. Carole also gave us a quick outline of Twitter, Flickr, YouTube and Facebook. Most of us hadn’t realised there were so many historic images on sites such as Flickr and YouTube, and so many tips on Twitter – you always hear the bad things don’t you!?

The Society thanks Ku-ring-gai Council for subsidising these talks.

We have 2 talks scheduled for June (so far) – **please help us by registering your interest**: phone 9499 4568 or email khs@khs.org.au so we can cater the yummy morning tea for you!

All talks are in the Gordon Library meeting room and cost \$5, payable at the door.

Writing Interesting Family Histories.

Monday 6 June 2011, 10.30 am

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. With advice ranging from how you can structure a simple family history and begin writing, through to how you can use simple words and sentences to evoke drama and tension. It will challenge you to rethink what “facts” truly are, how to extract “dialogue” from original records, and help release your creative writing spirit. There is no need to fictionalise history to make it interesting!

Cost \$5 – includes morning tea.

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

Thursday 23 June 2011, 11.30 am

Megan Gibson (*Author & Freelance Researcher*)

These days, instead of annoying her Nana with all those family tree questions, Megan gets to annoy celebrities and their families with questions about their family trees, as a Freelance Researcher on some episodes of ‘Who Do You Think You Are?’ (Australia), as well as her equally interesting not so famous research clients. Her Nana would probably laugh!

Megan will let us in on some of the behind-the-scenes research – she worked on series 3: Georgie Parker, and series 2: Christine Anu. She will provide some tips to make the most of our research time, have some fun, and help create a priceless legacy. And we’ll get to learn from her mistakes.

Cost \$5 – includes morning tea.

Jackie van Bergen

findmypast

We have just commenced a trial subscription to **findmypast UK** and **Australian** resources. The trial will run for one month and allows full access to the many excellent resources available on **findmypast**.

Access to both the **Australian** and the **UK** sites is available on the computer called **IBBITSON** (at the table next to our Photocopier). No log-on is required and access is free - however, in fairness to all, **please limit your findmypast session to one hour**.

Please try this first-rate resource soon.

Mac Users Group

We met on Monday 9 May and talked about organising our files and folders, particularly in relation to sources for our genealogy programs (we now have 4 different genealogy programs in use by our group). Morrison Hammond gave a demonstration of *Bento*, a Filemaker product, using templates to organise photos, documents etc. It is really easy to customise, sort and search.

Our next meeting is **Monday 6 June** at about 1.30 pm (after Carol Baxter’s talk in the morning). We will meet in the research rooms and talk about aspects of *iPhoto* including facial recognition and applications in family history.

Meetings are informal and discussion is encouraged. If you have Qs, please email them in advance so they can be circulated to the group (jackievb@optusnet.com.au). Even if you are just thinking about purchasing a Mac, come along and see what all the fuss is about. No need to book, just turn up. Bring your laptop if you like.

Quiz Answers (see P. 6 for Questions)

1. c) Sir William Morris (Billy) Hughes is buried at Northern Suburbs Cemetery (now Macquarie Park).
2. b) Seven Little Australians Park is in Lindfield.
3. d) St David’s (Church). (a. St Anne’s Hospital was in Marian St., Killara 1952-1988. b. Churchill Private Hospital was in Telegraph Rd., Pymble from 1966-1974. c. Braemar Private Hospital was in Braeside St., Wahroonga from 1955-1966).
4. c) Avondale (Golf Club). (a. Audley School for Girls was in Killara Ave., Killara 1930-1946. b. Abertfeldy Preparatory School was in Brentwood Ave., Turramurra 1932-1978. d. Abbotsholme College was in Greengate Rd, Killara c1909-1924).

North Shore Storms

The North Shore has a long history of severe thunderstorm activity, and these storms can produce large hail, destructive winds, flash flooding, and in extreme cases, tornados.

Tornados are violently rotating funnels of air that are generated by particularly severe thunderstorms, and winds in tornados can reach up to 400 kph.

A tornado raged across the North Shore on the afternoon of 27 March 1906, producing widespread damage across the Artarmon, St. Leonards and Naremburn areas, with one death recorded, as well as many injuries.

The "Launceston Examiner" reported on the event the next day:-

Devastating Tornado, Sydney, Tuesday.

A tornado of short duration, but of exceptional violence, was experienced on the North Shore of Sydney Harbour this afternoon. The area covered by the storm was about two miles in length and a quarter to half a mile wide.

The most disastrous effects were at Naremburn Park, where a carter named T.H. Leslie resided, with his wife and children, in a wooden cottage, and when the storm broke, Mrs. Leslie and her daughters Ethel and Ivy, young girls, were occupants of the place.

The cottage stood on brick piers. The wind lifted the house bodily off its supports and hurled it over the garden fence, where it was dashed to splinters. Mrs. Leslie and her children were found among the ruins, and removed to North Shore Hospital. The medical examination proved Mrs. Leslie was suffering from a serious scalp wound and concussion of the brain; her daughter Ivy, the younger girl, from concussion of the brain and other injuries, but that Ethel, who was suffering badly from shock, had escaped with slight injuries.

Near to Leslie's place was a cottage occupied by Patrick Toomey and his wife. Toomey was in the garden, when he was warned of the storm by his wife, who was standing at the back door. Toomey hastened towards the house and had almost reached it when the chimney came crashing down, followed by several sheets of the roof iron. Mrs. Toomey saw her husband fall, struck either by the chimney or a sheet of iron. He had been frightfully cut across the head. Toomey was in a state of collapse, and he speedily succumbed. In all about 100 buildings were wrecked or damaged

In the following weeks, a "Tornado Fund" was established by the North Sydney and Willoughby Councils to provide some financial relief to victims of the storm and on 23 April a "North Sydney Tornado Concert" was held to raise further funds. On Wednesday 25 April 1906., the Sydney Morning Herald reported:-

North Sydney Tornado Concert

In aid of the fund for the relief of the sufferers by the recent tornado at North Sydney, a concert was held on Monday evening at the Masonic Hall, North Sydney. An

excellent programme was carried out, comprising vocal and instrumental items, recitations, and humorous songs. Mr Kilburn-Heron was the musical director and Miss Vera Houghton acted as accompanist. Amongst those who contributed to the evening of entertainment were:- The Misses Lynn Mills, Ethel Liggins, Muriel Foster, and Messrs Kilburn-Heron and F. Brand (songs), Miss V. Houghton (piano), Mr W.J. Grieves (violin), Mr. H.J. Soloway (recitation), and Messrs S. Shipway and E.M. Clark (humorous songs).

Richard Whitaker

Recent acquisitions

The following is a selection from recent acquisitions:-

- 'Australia's Oldest House Surgeon John Harris and Experiment Farm Cottage' by Sue Rosen. The foreword is dated November 2009 and it has ISBN: 9781920831783 (pbk). Sue Rosen insists that Experiment Farm Cottage was built in the 1790s and not the 1830s as proposed by The National Trust (NSW). The book has 143 pages and was the subject of the speaker at the April 2011 monthly meeting.
- 'E.A. and T.M. Scott 1887-1998' by Ian Scott. This book is 32 pages with black and white photographs. It is a brief history of a medium sized architectural firm, which operated for over 110 years. The firm does not appear to have done much work in Ku-ring-gai.
- 'The Australian Post Office. A Brief History: 1809-1969'. This publication has a Foreword dated December 1969 and is 32 pages with black and white photographs. Author unknown.
- 'Genealogy Online' by Elizabeth Powell Crowe. This is the eighth edition of the Ancestry research guide, has 426 pages, and was published 2008. ISBN: 978-0-07-149931-6 (alk. Paper). The internet is rapidly changing but this book is still worth a check.
- 'Municipality of Ku-ring-gai Original Roll of Electors and Ratepayers made in the Year 1956 Gordon Ward.' This poor book has a bad back, so please do not distort under the photocopier.
- 'Supplementary Rolls of Electors For Gordon Ward Ku-ring-gai Municipality Made in the Years 1957 & 1958. Additions and Omissions to Original 1956 Roll'. Like the original roll, it responds better to gentle treatment – make notes from it, not photocopies.
- The speaker at the May 2011 monthly meeting was Geoff Cannon and he spoke on his research behind the books and CDs: "The First Title Holders of Land of the 19 Counties of NSW". Note, this is the first title holders of land and NOT the first settlers, though in some cases they could be the same. The Society purchased the eight books he has published to date, the Counties covered are: Cumberland (2 volumes), Northumberland, Camden, Cook, Durham, Gloucester and Hunter.

Bruce Robinson

Name Tag Cabinet

Graham Crawford has made us a new cabinet with drawers for all name tags. It's beautifully crafted! Once we have the name tags reprinted with all the names at the top, we will have a very functional system. These drawers replace the ungainly cards which we have struggled with for many years. Thank you Graham.

2010/2011 VOLUNTEERS

The committee would like to publicly recognise and thank the many volunteers who assisted the Society during the past year as room volunteers and researchers, collecting and preserving records, and generally assisting with the many duties required to run a vibrant society.

We have listed below 76 volunteers, many involved in more than one activity. Obviously, more members could ease the burden on some of the current volunteers, so come and join our great group!

Accessions

Jennifer Wallin

Afternoon Tea/

Supper

Jill Nicholson

+ *Thanks to the many people who have assisted over the past year.*

Audio for Meetings

Peter Bidencope

Jill Nicholson

Auditor

Reg Wallin

Assets Register

Bruce Robinson

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Carol Rodgers

Catering

Glynne McGregor

Jill Nicholson

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Family History

committee

Jo Harris - Leader &

Training

Stella Green

Jenny Joyce

Beverly Robinson

Jean Smith

Elaine Turnidge

Grant applications

Jackie van Bergen

Handyman - Repairs

Peter Bidencope

Kevin Callinan

Graham Crawford

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Jennifer Harvey -

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Kathie Rieth - Editor

John Brown

Carolyn Darby

Helen Davies

Glynne McGregor

Carol Rodgers

Bob Ross

Allan Rost

Ian Stutchbury

Trish Thomson

Melody van Bergen

Lorna Watt

Trevor Whitehead

House clippings

Carolyn Darby

Heather Davison

Shirley Morley

Indexing

Judi Oliver

Kupedia

Jill Armstrong

Peter Stehn

Library

Kevin Brown

Jenny Joyce

Name Tags

Kay Mossie

Newsletter

Bob Barry - Editor

Max Farley

Jo Harris

Kathie Rieth

Bruce Robinson

Jackie van Bergen

- and the many

contributors

Newsletter

printing/folding

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Shirley Luttrell

Suzanne Saunders

OCR

Jill Armstrong

Diana McKenzie

May Barber

Oral History

Jenny Joyce - leader

Carolyn Darby

Helen Davies

Janet Denne

Lyn Done

Pat Harper

Rosemary Pye

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Kevin Callinan

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Jenny Joyce

Photo Program

Jenny Joyce

Ann Barry

Preservation

Ann Barry - Leader

Jill Armstrong

Kevin Callinan

Graham Crawford

Carolyn Darby

Lyn Done

Beth Facer

Jenny Joyce

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Elaine Turnidge

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Max Farley

Jo Harris

Jennifer Harvey

Beverly Robinson

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Lynne Laurie

Shirley Luttrell

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Glynne McGregor

Diana McKenzie

Shirley Morley

Kay Mossie

Keith Perry

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Trevor Whitehead

David Wilkins

Evelyn Wyatt

Scanning

Graham Crawford

Carolyn Darby

Dinah Warner

Speaker Program

Beverly Dunstan

(General Meetings)

Jo Harris

(Family History)

Speakers' notes from

meetings

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Beth Facer

Bob Gowing

Stella Green

Jenny Joyce

Graham Lewis

Glynne McGregor

Marie Rumsey

Jean Smith

Elaine Turnidge

Tours

Jackie van Bergen

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Ann Barry - Roster

Heather Davidson -

Roster contact

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Graham Lewis

Workshops

Jennifer Harvey

Jenny Joyce

Jo Harris

Graham Lewis

Kathie Rieth

Peter Stehn

Stella Sutherland

Jackie van Bergen

David Wilkins

FAMILY MATTERS

May Family History Meeting

11 am Session.

This session was attended by 28 members when Jenny Joyce showed how to search the KHS Catalogue including finding books on the shelves, and Jo presented "Let's Talk About Victoria" including information about the history of the Victorian Goldfields.

2.00 pm Session

Jo Harris opened the meeting and welcomed 39 members. There were no visitors.

On this day, 7 May, 1788: Light West to South winds with heavy rain. The temperature was 62°F, equal to approximately 16°C. The Sirius left Sydney after Lieutenant Bradley of that ship came on board, to enquire "if any man had taken the opportunity of our sailing to desert". He said "I requested that a thorough search might be made". This was done; and the lieutenant, not being able to find any, departed.

Elaine Turnidge showed a book, "Women of Parramatta", in which the photos of Elizabeth McArthur and Elizabeth Macquarie had each other's name displayed, so she very expertly photocopied each and swapped them over to their rightful place. Well done Elaine!

Joy Walker visited the Hyde Park Barracks and spoke about convicts being removed in 1899 to Cockatoo Island.

The Speaker for the afternoon session was researcher, Geoff Cannon, who spoke of "The First Title Holders of Land of the 19 Counties of New South Wales." Geoff spoke about the initial research and reason for starting this mammoth project. He showed a powerpoint presentation, several large books, and also CDs of his work, which was obviously an enormous and much loved task. Members participated in many questions, answers, and comments.

The raffle was won by Barbara Shaw, who chose the book "A History of North Shore Sydney" by Les Thorne.

Again, many thanks to Jill Nicholson for her untiring efforts with her afternoon tea presentations.

WEBSITES

FAMILY DEEDS. An English project which provides a large amount of free information, searchable by name or County: <http://www.familydeeds.org/>

FIFE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY - contains many records and resources from the Fife Area, and has over 700 members: <http://fifefamilyhistorysociety.blogspot.com/>

LONDON STREET NAME CHANGES - over 8000 road, street, and place name changes - useful site for researchers of the London area: http://www.maps.thehunthouse.com/streets/Street_Name_Changes.htm

BOUND FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA 1836 - as titled: <http://boundforsouthaustralia.net.au/>

OTHERS including PORTUGUESE SURNAMES - which I am sure will be useful to many.

COMING ON LINE SOON - 75 YEARS OF THE AUCKLAND STAR - 1870-1991:

<http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/>

Marie Rumsey

BUILT HERITAGE

2 Warrangi Street, Turramurra

This two storey house sits on the western corner of Warrangi Street and the highway. Not listed on Ku-ring-gai's LEP it may soon be demolished and 5-storey apartments built. It does, however, have architectural merit, if not its own, certainly by association, for Council records indicate it was designed by Albert HA Hanson, who won the 1948 Sulman Award for his own house at 55 Illeroy Avenue, Killara.



Photo: Sue Kelly

No 2 Warrangi Street was built in 1949 for Doris and Alexander James Smith. Doris had bought the land in 1943 when the couple were living in Rushcutters Bay. The war may have encouraged them to move out of the city but war-time restrictions must have delayed the build. BA records of January 1949 show the house was to cost £5,000 – a considerable amount that probably included the high stone wall that surrounds the house today. The Smiths were certainly in residence by 1954.

In February 1955 Doris sold to company manager Ernest Blakeney Carr, his wife Doris Dargan (nee Tate), both of Turramurra, and their daughter Judith Blakeney Thompson of Chelsea, London. Prior to this move, the Carrs had lived at 31 Stanhope Road, Killara from about 1937, moving then to 39 Fiddens Wharf Road.

Doris died in 1960 and her interest in No 2 was transferred to Ernest and Judith, who sold in October that year to Hubert Benham. Later owners were the McGregors (1966), the Clarkes (1973), and again the McGregors (1977).

Albert HA Hanson graduated from the University of Sydney Architecture Faculty in 1938. Fellow students included EB Mowbray (later of Lindfield), Margaret Morris (of Killara) and Eleanor Grant (daughter of JB Grant of Wahroonga, later married Grandison Cullis-Hill). Hanson practised first in Canberra, then Victoria. In 1944, in association with LW Jackson, he won first prize of £250 for the housing section in the competition conducted by the NSW Housing Commission. He moved back to Sydney, and over the next two years a significant portion of his work was for the Commission, and also the Ryde Council Housing Scheme. In September 1949 the 1948 Sulman Prize was announced, Hanson winning for his own home "designed while living in a small Coogee flat two years ago". Overlooking a bush-covered valley "the plan ... evolved from his views on outdoor living and the reaction to living in a flat in a built-up suburban area". Facing north, each room received sunlight all day. This house is listed on the LEP and will be preserved.

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 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.

New Members

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

Robert Clifton-Steele	Chatswood
Joan Eustace	Wahroonga
Jenny Jones	Roseville

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

Quiz (answers P. 2)

- Which of these people is NOT buried at St John's Churchyard at Gordon?
 - Sir Alfred Livingstone Parker, Lord Mayor of Sydney 1934-35 (d.1935).
 - Frank Hinder, pioneer of modernism and abstract art (d.1992).
 - Sir William Morris (Billy) Hughes, Prime Minister of Australia (d.1952).
 - Joseph Henry Maiden, Government Botanist 1896-1924, director of Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens (d.1925).
- Which of these parks or reserves is NOT in Killara?
 - Abbotsholme Glen.
 - Seven Little Australians Park.
 - Bert Oldfield Oval.
 - Koola Park.
- Which of these is/was NOT a hospital in Ku-ring-gai?
 - St Anne's
 - Churchill
 - Braemar
 - St David's.
- Which of these was NOT a school in Ku-ring-gai?
 - Audley
 - Aberfeldy
 - Avondale
 - Abbotsholme.

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 4 June Family History Meeting**
11 am Let's talk about convicts.
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 details page 2.
- Sat 18 June 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.
- Sat 2 July Family History Meeting**
11 am New resources on the Intranet
2 pm General Meeting
 Gary Luke: "Aliens and New Australians - Records of Non-British Immigrants available locally".
- Sat 16 July 2 pm Society General Meeting**
 Alasdair McGregor - "Grand Obsessions - The life and work of Walter Burley Griffin & Marion Mahony Griffin".

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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	Jenny Joyce	9440 2131
	Beverly Robinson	9988 3775
	Elaine Turnidge	9899 2635
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	Indexing: Judi Oliver	
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Public Officer	Helen Davies	9498 3754
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Speakers Programme	Beverly Dunstan	9419 8526
Volunteers Roster	Heather Davidson	9144 1844