



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 2008

Monthly Newsletter

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Rooms - 799 Pacific Highway, Gordon Meetings held in the Gordon Library Meeting Rooms - 799 Pacific Highway, Gordon

16 April Meeting

In his address to the General Meeting on 19 March, Peter Lalor spoke of the development of the concept of a harbour bridge and its eventual impact as a Sydney and national icon. The account was based on his book *The Bridge*.

The idea of a bridge across the harbour had been in the public consciousness since the earliest days of settlement. Erasmus Darwin and Francis Greenway had made suggestions for a possible structure and many further proposals were made during the 19th century and the early years of the 20th century. The growing population of Sydney, the increasing congestion of harbour ferry traffic and the pressure from Bradfield and others for an electric train system for Sydney lent some urgency for the construction of a bridge or tunnel to connect Dawes Point and Milsons Point. The acceptance of the Dorman Long & Co. tender in 1924 to build the bridge had been preceded by differing views on whether the bridge should be a suspension, cantilever or arch structure, with Bradfield being strongly supportive of the arch. That the arch was eventually chosen owed much to Bradfield's reputation as an engineer and his ability to influence the politicians.

Since the completion of the bridge, there has been some controversy as to who actually designed it. Dorman Long's consulting engineer, Sir Ralph Freeman, claimed he designed it, a claim rejected by Bradfield. Irrespective of who was actually the designer, Bradfield was responsible for the concept of the arch and the promotion and control of the building of the associated extensive electric train network. Because of his commitment to the bridge/railway concept and his recognized brilliance as an engineer, Bradfield's name has been indelibly associated with the bridge.

From the time the first sod was turned on the electric train project in 1923, public interest in this and the forthcoming bridge was intense. At the opening of the bridge in 1932 the press maintained that most of Sydney's population turned out to join in the celebration. Not only in Australia, but overseas, particularly in England, the bridge was hailed as an engineering masterpiece.

In retrospect many aspects of the project would not be easily tolerated today. For example the workers had virtually no safety gear, resulting in a high accident rate and, there was

Coming Meetings

**NEXT SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING
(Gordon Library Meeting Room)**

Wednesday 21 May, 2008

7.45 pm - GENERAL MEETING

Guest Speaker - Scott Robertson

Topic: Inter-War housing in Ku-ring-gai

Was your house built in the 1920s or 1930s? If you missed Scott Robinson's talk in the very popular "What House is that?" series during the 2007 National Trust Heritage Festival, mark this date in your diary and come along. Speaker Scott Robertson is the author of two major studies on inter-war housing for the National Trust and a respected commentator in Art Deco design in Australia.



"Audley", Bangalla Ave., Warrawee

**Supper will be available
Visitors Welcome**

NEXT FAMILY HISTORY MEETING

Saturday 3 May 2008

**11 am - Members' Overseas Research
2 pm - Forum on Members' Genealogical Problems**

**Afternoon Tea will be available
Visitors welcome**

little consideration given to the owners and occupiers of the large number of dwellings razed to make way for the approaches, particularly on the North Shore.

Over the last seventy five years the 'Bridge' has remained a symbol and an icon, linked with the Opera House and the harbour in giving Sydney a unique reputation among coastal cities. The New Year's fireworks display centered on the bridge has been particularly effective in sustaining this reputation.

Ten Years On

Believe it or not, our Family History Group is ten years old. In February 1998 our then President, Max Farley, tabled a proposal at a committee meeting that a "Family History Research Group" be established. The committee agreed that a circular be sent to Society members in March to assess likely support. The subsequent 23 March committee meeting heard that twelve members had said they would attend an Exploratory meeting. This was held on 16 May. The committee decided that the Group would be set up if the 16 May meeting proved supportive. It was, and the Group's first official meeting was held at 4pm on Saturday 4 July. It becomes, we suppose, a matter for discussion whether the Group's official birthday is 23 March, 16 May or 4 July! Whatever opinions there may be on that point, there is no doubt in anyone's mind that the move has proven an outstanding success.

Seniors' Week St Ives Shopping Centre

The Society had prime position at the Seniors' week display at St Ives Shopping Village held on Thursday 3 April 2008. The display was useful in introducing the community to the activities of the Society and the benefits of membership. In addition to the Family History resources demonstrated by Jo Harris, we also had on display the Society's resources available on our Intranet. The professional image of the Society attracted a number of new members.

Additional Volunteers needed

We are seeking members willing to undertake interesting tasks for the Society. This work can be enjoyable and of benefit to members in broadening their knowledge of the Society, its resources and local history.

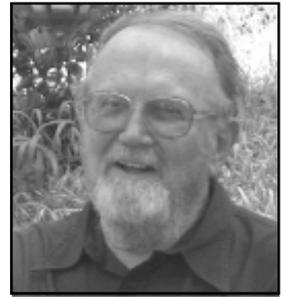
Opportunities exist in the following areas:

- **Library** – maintaining order and covering books.
- **Photos** – Scanning, filing and preserving photos.
- **Oral History** – conducting interviews and documenting results.
- **Newsletter** – contributing short articles, printing and mail out.
- **Room volunteers** – assisting the community and members with research.
- **Built Heritage** – maintaining and researching local history.
- **Catering** - Arranging for afternoon teas and supper at meetings.

Where necessary appropriate training will be provided.
Contact Ann Barry 9144 6480 to discuss opportunities and register your interest.

Member Profile – Max Farley

Max was born in 1931 and spent his early childhood at Hunters Hill. The family moved to Chatswood in 1941. He attended Sydney Grammar School and Sydney University where he studied Economics. While completing his degree as an evening student he worked for the Employers Federation of NSW. He was appointed Industrial Officer of the NSW Printing Employers Association and soon made State Secretary. In these positions he was later in charge, at staff level, for the industrial relations policies of the Printers' Federal body and responsible for the Federation's Australia-wide operations in company with his Victorian counterpart.



In 1970 he set up his own business providing consultant services to business and professional associations. This led to involvement in such diverse fields as direct mail marketing, restaurants and catering, management, consulting, graphic arts services and credit management. His personal activities included general administration, industrial relations, government liaison, media relations, the organisation of local, national and international meetings, public relations and industry representation at all levels. He became the Founding President of the Society of Association Executives of NSW, of which he is a Life Member. He served several years on the Committee of the Stroke Recovery Association and was President of the Rotary Club of South Sydney, which awarded him a Paul Harris Fellowship.

Max sold his business in 1987 and, in addition to catching up on home chores and golf, became active as a committee member and gardening volunteer in Easy Care Gardening Inc. This group assists elderly people maintain their home gardens. He developed an interest in his local area and published a brief history of Roseville's Dudley Avenue where he, his wife Marion and family, lived for 36 years in a heritage-listed house. In recent years they have shared their time between a unit at Gordon and a home in the Yarramalong Valley.

His developing interest in Ku-ring-gai's history caused him to join the Society in 1992 and he was President from 1995 until 1998. This was a difficult period for the Society because Ku-ring-gai Council unilaterally closed its Local History Centre and the Society had to re-establish itself as an independent body. In 1998 he proposed the formation of a Family History Group within the Society and establishing this on a firm footing led to his serving again as Society President in 2001/2002. Max received a Certificate of Achievement from the Royal Australian Historical Society in 2004 and was made a Life Member of our own Society in 2006.

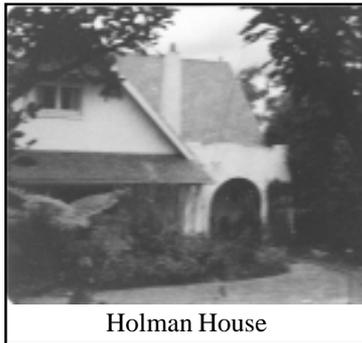
His wife, Marion, is a multi-talented woman with outstanding creative skills which have been recognised by many art awards. He and Marion have three daughters and four grandchildren. Sadly, they lost their son, Peter, in a motor accident in 1976.

History Notes

A Coincidence

Author Peter Lalor, who spoke to our March meeting, mentioned that one-time Labor and Nationalist Party Premier, William Holman, had fulsomely praised JJC Bradfield. He had done so publicly at a “Turning of the Sod” ceremony in 1923 before the construction of the Harbour Bridge. Is it just a coincidence that Holman soon after moved to 35 Rosedale Rd in Gordon? Or was it that Bradfield, who lived on the corner of Park Avenue and Rosedale Road, had convinced Holman of the pleasures of living in Gordon? Their homes were opposite each other and Holman stayed there until his 1934 death.

Incidentally, while checking the above dates, we came across information about his wife, Mrs Ada Holman. She deserves recognition in our local history though her Ku-ring-gai connection was minimal. Born Ada Kidgell in Ballarat in 1869 she was a journalist and early feminist. They married in 1901. She wrote items for the Labor Party but also produced two novels which were serialised in the Sydney Morning Herald. As well, she published a variety of articles on a wide range of topics and wrote children’s plays. She apparently resented the intellectual limitations placed upon her as a politician’s wife. As a reflection of her frustration, she was moved to write in a play that “the leader of the state has no time for his wife and children”.



Holman House

Collingridge Cottage

George Collingridge is famous as an artist and, together with his brother, a founder of the Art Society of New South Wales; although a resident of Hornsby Shire he maintained a studio in Gordon. The following narrative will be of interest to members and is based upon research notes prepared in 1971 by Margery Saddington, a former President of the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society.

“Collingridge Cottage – March 1971

This lovely old cottage standing in the grounds of Hornsby District Hospital is part of the history of Hornsby and is one of the oldest buildings on the East side of the railway line. It is built of sandstone blocks quarried on the land and its walls are 2 feet thick. The cottage has a lounge, a studio with skylights, four bedrooms, kitchen and bathroom. It was built in the year 1900 by George Collingridge, internationally known as an artist and wood engraver.

He came to Australia in 1879 to work for the Illustrated Sydney News & Picturesque Atlas. From notes supplied

by his son, Mr Joe Collingridge, the first home he built in Australia was in 1882 on Berowra Creek, and part of this property is now called “Collingridge Point”. In the early nineties he built a two-storied stone building on a 3 acre block he had purchased in Hornsby – the top storey was his studio.

Some years later the building was removed and the house now standing in the hospital grounds was erected. The house was named “Jave-la-Grande”, an early name for Australia. The stone used was selected for its beautiful colouring and grain and the tiles were brought from Marseilles, France.

The estate was laid out in lawns, paddocks and an orchard and a large number of the bush trees were preserved. One in particular, a magnificent Red Gum, was quite a landmark. Lionel Lindsay, the well known painter and etcher, when he was studying wood engraving under George Collingridge, made an etching of this tree. The copperplate original was purchased by Lord Northcliff while on a visit to Australia and it is now in England. A black and white sketch of the same tree drawn by Mons Chayet, the then Consul-General for France, was among 2 souvenirs he took with him when he was transferred to Guatemala.

In the first years of the century when the houses on the east side of Hornsby numbered less than a dozen a silver bugle was used at this home to send messages to members of the family in the surrounding bush. The bugle could be heard through the trees as far away as Normanhurst.

The cottage and the land was sold in 1936 to Mr Murdo Murray. After his death his widow sold the property to the Hornsby Hospital in 1954 with the proviso that she continue to live there during her lifetime. Upon Mrs Murray’s death in 1960 the cottage had been used by the medical superintendent and was recently converted into a residence for senior nursing staff.

Interesting evidence of the occupation by George Collingridge ... remains in paintings on internal windows between the kitchen and lounge room and skylights. On the left of the house a 3 storied hospital block, the George Lumby Unit is now in the course of erection. The old stone cottage is to be preserved and funds are being collected for its conversion into a chapel for the hospital.



Lumby Cottage - HDH - Internet

When the work is completed it is proposed that the chapel will be for the use of hospital staff and the patients, who would not only wish to attend church services there but other functions as well, in addition to retiring to its calm atmosphere of quiet contemplation and devotion...”

Family Matters

5th April Meeting

The 11am research session was attended by 21 people and chaired by Jo Harris who showed the following CD computer records:

Aldine Centenary History of Australia
1889 Australian Men of Mark
1891 English Men of Mark
Sands Directory for Ku-ring-gai 1929-32. Most streets had numbers by 1929.
1913 Sands Directory - Sydney
Greville's Post Office Directory for 1872, put together by country postmasters.
Palmdale Cemetery, at Ourimbah, Central Coast
Rookwood - Jewish Cemetery
Old Sydney Burial Ground
London Visitation Pedigrees 1664
Pubs and Publicans in the County of Cumberland , NSW to 1850

2.00 pm meeting

About 40 were present at the 2pm meeting, again chaired by Jo. She spoke about new computer resources, encouraged members to come in and look, and expressed thanks to Peter Stehn for the tremendous work he had done.

New Acquisitions

Kogarah to Sans Souci Tramway. Gordon Police Station opening. Kelly Hunters. Sydney Social Atlas. James Cook. First Fleet. Value of Gold. Max Dupain. Books on Kiama, Hornsby, Glenfield. Vineyards of Sydney.
Observations on the Colonies of NSW and Van Diemens Land.

Reports by Members

Books - *View from Castle Rock* by Alice Munro (family moved from Scotland to Canada).

Lion in the Bedroom

A new book by member Catherine Williams
Parables of Sydney Harbour Bridge by Rev. Cash
SOG UK journal
Land Grants 1788-1801

Maps

3 early maps of Sydney, Original Land Grants, 1803-1810, 1844-1848 (members ordered copies).

Forthcoming Tour

27/28 Sept. 2008 - Golden Getaway - \$50 deposit required with booking. Sofala - Hillend - Mudgee.

Family Tree Maker Program

April issue of *Australian Family Tree Connections* magazine features Anzacs and Soldiering, mentions reports of problems with Family Tree Maker program.

Jo advised that there will be a Question and Answer session on Monday 28 April at 10.30am on computers and FTM program. \$5 members.

Annual Meeting

VOTING - meeting agreed that the current Committee be re-elected:

Leader: Jo Harris

Committee: Lyn Done, Stella Green, Jean Smith, Peter Stehn, Elaine Turnidge,

The guest speaker Dr Ken Knight gave an entertaining talk on researching Pubs and Publicans in the County of Cumberland up to 1850. He talked about records rather than people, (as we had looked at the CD during the morning session) he said it is often difficult to find location of early pubs in Sydney - no records kept, street names and pub names were changed.

Governor Hunter was charged with the distribution and sale of liquor, issued 10 licences in 1796, further 10 in 1797, first complete list was in 1798 with 31 names in Sydney, Parramatta, Hawkesbury and Concord. Early pubs were cottages, and were purpose-built from 1870s.

Ken's hand-out sheet listed sources of licensees, such as Judge Advocate's Papers, Colonial Secretary's Papers, Sydney Gazettes, newspapers, Bigge Report Appendix. But main source is Treasury Butts and Certificates of Publican's Licences 1830-60, although 1849-1852 is missing.

Sources dealing specifically with pubs and publicans included books such as *The Push from the Bush*, *Australian Pub Crawl*, *Brown Family Chronicles*, and books on pubs in Balmain, Hunter Valley, Penrith.

Significant amounts of information about publicans are available in ABGR, *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, books about the First and Second Fleets, articles in 'Truth' newspaper, *Early Hawkesbury Settlers*, *The Rocks*, *Jewish Lives in Australia*, *Insolvency Index NSW 1842-87*.

Establishing locations can be helped by books about the streets of Sydney and early Directories. *Pioneer Registers* can be useful but be cautious about the information submitted. Early RAHS journals feature "walks" of streets or areas, recollections of members of 50 years before. 1828 Census and Musters are good for identifying early settlers and ships of arrival.

Ken planned to do the State's pubs up to 1850 but State Records are putting together 1830-1860 on a website (fee

\$25), so he is thinking of doing 1860-1890.

Noel Blake gave an appreciative vote of thanks with offer of book of Ken's choice.

Raffle was won by Beverley Dunstan who chose Fowles' Sydney 1848, and Virginia Robison who selected Cradle City of Australia.

Roses from the Heart

Have you a female convict forebear? If so, you may know that over 25,000 women convicts were transported to Australia in the nineteenth century, many for minor or false convictions. To help redress the wrongs they suffered, Hobart conceptual artist, Christina Henri, created her project *Roses from the Heart*, feeling that most convict women deserved pity rather than punishment. Now needle-workers from all over Australia and beyond are lovingly stitching bonnets which bear the name, ship and date of arrival of their female convict forebears and decorating them with roses to honour these women who helped settle Australia.

On Thursday, 10th April, a special *Blessing of the Bonnets* ceremony was held at St John's Cathedral in Parramatta near the old Female Factory. Attendees in the packed church included Ku-ring-gai Historical Society members with convict forebears. The Lord Mayor of Parramatta gave the opening address and a performance was given by the 'Signing' Choir of the Royal NSW Institute of the Deaf and Blind. This was a tribute both to the first deaf convict women transported in the Second Fleet and to those who communicated by signing gestures when speaking was forbidden. The convict bonnets brought by visitors were laid in a 'boat' for blessing at the altar. After a sermon and Bible readings, Christina Henri gave an uplifting talk on her project.



Jill Lyons with her bonnet

To date some 8,000 bonnets have been made. They represent the spirit and courage of these women. *Blessing of the Bonnets* ceremonies are being held around Australia and overseas before the bonnets return in 2011 to a final resting place in Hobart.

KHS member Jill Lyons contributed a bonnet made for her Irish great-great-grandmother, Margaret Ward, transported for stealing a handkerchief. She arrived in Sydney in 1833 aboard the *Caroline* and was sent to the Female Factory at Parramatta.

If you would like more information on this project or a pattern to make a bonnet, visit Christina's website, <http://www.christinahenri.com.au> If you haven't a convict forebear, you can 'adopt' one and make a bonnet for her!

Contributed by Jill Lyons

Built Heritage

The former Bank of New South Wales at No. 65 Hill Street, Roseville



The building on the northern corner of Hill Street and Roseville Avenue, Roseville was, until a few years ago, the Roseville branch of Westpac Banking Corporation. The two-storey bank was built in 1936 for the Bank of New South Wales (later known as Westpac) and opened for business in early 1937. It replaced the single storey, Federation style house of Dr Frank S Brierley, who had run his medical practice from these premises since about 1913.

From 1929 the Bank had run its Roseville agency in rented accommodation but sought permanent premises. Dr Brierley's house occupied a convenient and prominent location. The Bank purchased this and agreed to build its branch on the southern part of the block and a new house and surgery for Dr Brierley on the northern part. In early 1936 architects SH Buchanan, Cowper & Morgan were commissioned to design the new buildings. In April Gordon builder JG Pettigrew won the contract to erect Dr Brierley's new house and surgery, and in September Pettigrew also won the contract to erect the new bank.

An illustrated article appeared in *The Sydney Morning Herald* of 24 November 1936:

"Premises for the Bank of New South Wales now being erected opposite the railway station, Roseville, will be an attractive architectural feature at one of the main business corners in that suburb. The front of the new building, facing the station, will be of mottled red textured bricks, with synthetic stone Doric columns. The roof will be covered with Marseilles mottled pattern tiles, blended to match the brickwork.

The building will be Georgian in character. Shutters have been placed on the upper windows to shelter the rooms from strong sunlight. A lofty banking chamber will be provided on the ground floor. The fittings and desks will be of polished Queensland maple. In addition to the commodious banking chamber and teller's office, there will be a separate office for the manager and a luncheon-room for the staff.

Entrance to the manager's residence on the upper floor will be from Roseville Avenue. A garage, laundry, and other accommodation will be built underneath the ground floor. The slope of the land allows this to be done without interference with the street level to the banking chamber."

Dr Brierley's house and surgery still serve as a medical practice, however for some years the bank has been occupied by private businesses. Although changes have been made to the bank, both internally and externally, both buildings are substantially the same as they were erected in 1936-37. Both are Roseville landmarks.

- Kathy Reith

Copy for Newsletter

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

New Members

We are very pleased to welcome to membership:

Noelle & Mr M Allerding -Gordon
Jocelyn Brennan-Horley - Gordon
Michael Byrnes - West Pymble
Valerie Craig - Wahroonga
Graham Crawford - Turramurra
Marlene Darragh - Turramurra
Peter Done - Turramurra
Derek Hallam - St Ives
Margaret Hoekstra - Pymble
Joseph Janacek - Chartres Towers
Judith Killen - Dural
Gil & Joan Massey - St Ives
Kim & Jan Mathews - Brooklyn
Keith & Marjorie Perry - St Ives
Yvette Reeve - Waitara
Suzanne Saunders - St Ives
Hazel Scott - Chatswood
Alison Smith - Pymble
Jackie van Bergen - Gordon
Armand Whitehead - St Ives
Kimbal Wilcox - Killara

We know they will enjoy their time with the Society and that membership will open the door to many friends and activities of interest.

Request from member

Kerrin Cook is the author of "The Glint of Gold" and desperately needs storage for 3 pallets of these books in someone's unused garage. Any member who could oblige will make her eternally grateful. Please ring 9416 2586.

Research Centre Hours

The Society's Research Centre is at 799 Pacific Highway, Gordon, adjacent to the Ku-ring-gai Library. The Centre is open from 10am to 2pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday (except the first Saturday of each month when members have a meeting). It is closed over the Christmas period and on public holidays.

Diary Dates

Sat 3 May	Family History Meeting 11 am - Members' Overseas Research 2 pm - General Meeting Forum on members' Genealogical Research Problems
Wed 21 May	7.45 pm - General Meeting Speaker - Scott Robinson <i>Inter-War Housing in Ku-ring-gai</i>
Sat 7 Jun	11am & 2pm Family History Meeting
Sat 21 Jun	2 pm - General Meeting Speakers - Pauline Curby & Virginia MacLeod <i>Under the Canopy - Ku-ring-gai 1906-2006</i>
August	10.30 Saturdays Date to be advised Introduction to Family History Course <i>- how to use resources</i>

Administration

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	Jo Harris	9489 4393
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	Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
	Jenny Joyce	9440 2131
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	Stella Green	9449 4388
	Jean Smith	9498 4468
	Peter Stehn	9489 9488
	Elaine Turnidge	9899 2635
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