



# 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.

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Monthly Newsletter

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

## Ben Hall

Peter Bradley, who has written an account of the career of the bushranger Ben Hall under the title of *The Judas Covenant: the Betrayal and Death of Ben Hall*, discussed the difficulties he encountered in researching the circumstances surrounding Hall's decision to become a bushranger and the subsequent events leading to his death. Much of the information relating to Hall's brief bushranging career is clouded by verbally transmitted stories of his various exploits, perpetuated by published accounts, such as that by Frank Clune, which tended to rely on these stories.

Ben Hall was one of the sons of convict parents, born in 1837 at Maitland. He was brought up on his parents' property and became an experienced stockman, but was illiterate like his parents. He married in 1856 and leased a run at Sandy Creek near Wheogo. Hall was first arrested in 1862 on suspicion of armed robbery, but was released for want of evidence. About this time his wife ran off with another stockman, taking his only son. Hall now took up with bushranger Frank Gardiner's gang and was again arrested following a gold escort robbery, but was not committed for trial. When he returned to his run he found his house razed and his stock destroyed.

Although the police had no evidence against Hall that would stand up in court, they knew that he was involved in robberies and he was a marked man. He became the leader of the remains of Gardiner's gang and committed various robberies in the Goulburn-Forbes area. Although he did not physically harm anyone, members of his gang shot and killed two policemen at different times. A reward of 1000 pounds was placed on Hall's head, which led to him being betrayed by one of his accomplices and he was shot dead by police at Billabong Creek on the Lachlan Plain in April 1865.

Hall's bushranging career was typical of others in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The gold rushes, with the consequent need for gold escorts which could be outnumbered, and the increase in affluence of local towns offered rich pickings for well-armed gangs. Unless like Gardiner, they were able to leave their area of operations permanently, it was almost inevitable that they would be caught or betrayed when a substantial reward was offered.

An interesting aspect of Peter's account was the

## Coming Meetings

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

Wednesday 15th October at 7.45 pm

Guest Speaker - Tony Cuneen  
He will speak on  
"The Upper North Shore in World War 1"



Our October speaker, teacher and writer Tony Cuneen will talk on the impact of the 1914-18 war on local communities, on the home front as well as through the actions of its men overseas. Tony Cuneen's publications include "Suburban Boys as War" (WWII and Korea) and "Beecroft Cheltenham and surrounding districts during World War 1", part of the Centenary publishing program of the Hornsby Council.

Supper will be available  
Visitors welcome

### NEXT FAMILY HISTORY MEETING

Sat 4 Oct Family History Meeting

11am - Members Research  
2 pm - Speaker - Ray Thorburn  
"Genetics in Genealogy"

Afternoon Tea will be available  
Visitors welcome

Thurs 25 Sep 10.30 am - FamilyTreeMaker Course

Fri 17 Oct 10.30 am - New Family History Course - Week 1

methodology he had to adopt to unearth the events of Hall's career. Local maps, the diary of one of the policemen, the Government Gazette, the local press and court proceedings were all consulted to break through the fog of conflicting verbal histories.

- Don Fifer

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## 90th Anniversary - Fisk Memorial



**Monday 22 September** - *Commemorating the 90th anniversary of first direct wireless message from UK to Australia.*

Members manned the monument, on the corner of Cleveland and Stuart Streets, Wahroonga, 9-4.30 on that day. The ceremony was at 11am.

For further information, pick up a leaflet from our Centre.

Volunteers or information: phone Jo Harris 9489 4393.

## FamilyTreeMaker Session

Jo Harris is running another course on FamilyTreeMaker, on **25th September** at 10.30 am. Fees are \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. Please book with Jo on 9489 4393

## St John's Anglican Church Gordon Cemetery Open Day

On 18<sup>th</sup> October a Cemetery Open Day will be held in conjunction with St John's annual church fête. St John's one-acre cemetery behind the church, begun in 1867, provided the last resting place for many early pioneers of the district. As last year's tour commemorated locally prominent men buried in the cemetery, this year women and children resting there will be featured.

Two tours, entitled *Memorials to Mothering*, will be lead by Jill Lyons, author of *Pioneers at Peace, the Story of St John's Cemetery* and Jo Harris, Vice-President of the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society and Ku-ring-gai Citizen of the Year (2008). The tours will start at 9.45am and 11.00am, while help with family history research will be available from 9.00am. Vouchers to join one of the tours can be bought for \$5 each from 9.00am on the day and will also entitle the holder to make a purchase of up to \$5 at any fête stall. Meet at cemetery gate. All welcome.



## Family History Course

Jo Harris is also running a new Family History Course over 8 weeks, starting on Friday 17th October. Fees are \$100 for Members and \$125 for non members. Bookings can be made with Jo on 9489 4393

## Lane Cove Photos

The Lane Cove Historical Society, in conjunction with the Lane Cove Library, has opened a "THEN AND NOW" Exhibition of photographs of the Lane Cove area. It is at Carisbrook House, 334 Burns Bay Rd, between 11am and 4pm each Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday until 12 October. This Exhibition is part of Lane Cove's 2008 Cameraygal Festival.

## RAHS October Conference

The 2008 Conference of the Royal Australian Historical Society is to be in Forbes on 18/19th October. Titled "History in the Heritage Landscape", it offers a wide variety of topics of interest to members of Societies affiliated with the RAHS. Information can be had on 02 9247 8001 or by contacting [outreach@rahs.org.au](mailto:outreach@rahs.org.au).

## Recent Acquisitions

The following are some of the recent additions to our Collection:

*The Atlas History of Australian Shipwrecks* (Jack Loney). Over 500 major shipwrecks are described and listed in alpha order. Published by A H & A Reed (1981). 120 pages.

*Manly Warringah – Stories of the Peninsular* (Charles McDonald). Published by Murray Child & Co (1979). 160 pages with more than 50 tales. From the Manly Daily.

*Randwick – a Social History*. Published by Randwick Municipal Council (1985). 245 indexed pages.

*The Good Old Days along the Manning River and Great Lakes* (Jim Rivett). 1979. 100 pages. Not indexed.

*Beginning With Esther – Jewish Women in Australia from 1788* (Lysabeth Cohen). Published by Ayers & James Heritage Books/The Australian Jewish Times (1987). 60 indexed ages.

## Our display cases

Visitors to our Rooms, and the general public as well, frequently take time out to look at the display cases we have outside our door. The cases have a host of regularly changing material and contain interesting information about Ku-ring-gai's history and its people. Setting up the cases has been a labour of love for volunteers over the years. It has been a joy to see two of our very recent "recruits" take over the task lately and do it so well. Both only joined this year and scarcely had time to get their feet under the table before taking on this job. Thank you Jocelyn Brennan-Horley and Margaret Hoekstra

The Annual General Meeting was held in the Rooms on Wednesday 17th September.

We welcome Ann Barry as the new President, as Kevin Callinan had finished his Term of Office. He remains on the Committee as Immediate Past President. We also welcome Jacquie van Bergen to the Committee in place of Kerrin Cook.

### Quiz

Q 1 Which, if any, Ku-ring-gai suburbs do not fall wholly within Ku-ring-gai?

- (a) St Ives
- (b) Wahroonga
- (c) Lindfield
- (d) Roseville

Q 2 This should be very easy for members who read their Newsletters assiduously as, of course, all members do. What was the origin or meaning of the names of these suburbs?

**(i) Turramurra**

- (a) distant mountains (b) big hill (c) Aboriginal meeting ground (d) not now known

**(ii) Roseville**

- (a) where roses grow (b) where Rose Archbold was born (c) a town in Kent (d) not now known

**(iii) Lindfield**

- (a) a town in Sussex (b) a place of Chinese market gardens (c) the birthplace of William Cowan, Ku-ring-gai's first Shire President (d) not now known

**(iv) Gordon**

- (a) commemorating the death of General Gordon at Khartoum (b) a reminder of the pioneer Gordon McIntosh (c) after Sir James Willoughby Gordon (d) not now known

**(v) St Ives**

- (a) after Isaac Ives, the MLA for St Leonards (b) after St Ives in Cornwall (c) inspired by Robert Louis Stevenson's book of that name (d) not now known.

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Lyn Done

Lyn's father, George Wagg had lived in Lindfield since 1925 and after marriage, bought a block of land from the Moore Estate subdivision, on the corner of Primula Street and Provincial Road in West Lindfield. Lyn was born in 1939 and moved with her parents into their newly built house in March 1942. She had a very happy childhood with the freedom to roam about in an area that was still mainly open paddocks and virgin bush. Her first school was Killara Infants - a two room bush school, presided over by Miss Burns, a strict teacher of 'the old school'. She attended Lindfield Public School and later Willoughby Girls High.

In 1957 Lyn was selected for the three year Diploma Course at Sydney Teachers College to train as a Physical Education Teacher. While at College she was introduced to the sport of canoeing and it was not long before she began serious training as a racing canoeist. For the next seven years she followed a highly regulated and disciplined regime of training morning and evening and teaching all day. She was selected as reserve for the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome but in those days there was never enough money to send a full team and she would have had to pay her own way. She decided that it would be better to spend the money on a passage to England, where she could get work as a teacher and be well placed to gain international competitive experience. On her return to Australia she was selected in the Australian team for the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo, where she and her partner competed in the 500m kayak pairs.

Lyn has travelled extensively around the world and on an overland journey from London to Bombay in 1966, met her husband, who was at that time in the Royal Navy. They were married at Chichester in England in 1967 and were based in the UK until she returned to Australia in 1982. Lyn taught in some very tough Comprehensive Schools in England before moving into the private sector in Scotland where she was employed in a teaching and pastoral role in a boarding school. On her return to Australia she was appointed to an administrative post at a boarding school in Armidale. After resigning from this post she enrolled at UNE to complete a history degree she had begun at St Andrews University.

After retirement in 2003 she joined KHS and began the absorbing and fascinating research into the history of other Wagg family ancestors, who arrived in Sydney as bounty immigrants in 1837. This research has been converted into a narrative which will soon be ready for printing and distribution to family members.

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# History Notes

## A Lost Eryldene?

*Eryldene* at 17 McIntosh Street, Gordon is well known in Ku-ring-gai. The home was designed for Professor Gowrie Waterhouse in 1913/1914 by the architect W. Hardy Wilson. Professor Waterhouse was Associate Professor and Professor of German at the University of Sydney from 1928 until 1945. *Eryldene* and the Professor are renowned not only for the home but also, particularly, for the wonderful garden that he created around it and which remains prized to this day. Both are much visited.

In what was quite a remarkable coincidence, another Ku-ring-gai garden was being created and nurtured from 1927 by a university contemporary of Gowrie Waterhouse, Professor Arthur Sadler. Professor Sadler was born in England and he came to the University of Sydney in 1922 with his Anglo-Japanese wife as Professor of Oriental Studies. Professor Waterhouse specialised in German, Professor Sadler in things oriental including Japanese. He was appointed companion of the Order of the Rising Sun in 1919 and from 1931 until 1937 was professor of Japanese at the Royal Military College located at the time at Victoria Barracks.

Though of no real consequence, it is interesting that the specialties of these two professors related to our wartime adversaries.

Also a coincidence was that their respective homes were destined to become recognised heritage items in Ku-ring-gai. *Eryldene*, of course, but also Professor Sadler's home, *Rivenhall*, at 59 Hastings Rd, Warrawee. The home was awarded a Ku-ring-gai Certificate of Merit Heritage Award in 1998.

Their two gardens, too, were of high standard but little has been recorded in Ku-ring-gai about the one at *Rivenhall*. Its quality however, is featured in a *Sydney's Lost Gardens* Exhibition arranged by the Historic Houses Trust at the Museum of Sydney in Bridge Street. The Exhibition runs until 30 November. It has descriptive material and illustrations about important gardens which no longer exist and include those at the first Government house and the homes *Annandale*, *Drummoyne*, *Elizabeth Bay House*, *Tempe* and *Regentville*. *Purulia* at 16 Fox Valley Road, Wahroonga, is featured too.

Professor Sadler retired in 1948 and returned to England where he died, childless, in 1970. As time passed the garden, though remaining attractive, grew away from its original form and became one of Sydney's "lost gardens".

## Floors of yore

Back in 1967 our member Fred Pymble, then aged 74, reminisced about the early days of Ku-ring-gai. He was a direct descendant of the first Robert Pymble. Fred's father

was William Pymble (b1873) and his mother Ada McIntosh (b1872) of another well known Ku-ring-gai family. As a young child, Fred used to enjoy staying sometimes with his McIntosh grandparents. He described their home as being of *adzed slabs with interstices covered with stringy bark, lined with hessian with paper pasted over it and with a floor made of beaten down ant gravel*.

"Beaten down ant gravel"? Uncovered floors were not uncommon in the substantially rural district of Ku-ring-gai but the mind turns to their practicality.

In 1979 the Newsletter of the Royal Australian Historical Society gave some attention to the construction of earthen floors. It seems that though there were variations according to the availability and nature of the materials available, they tended to follow a reasonably standard formula based upon a simple mud-and-water mixture. The earth was raked and all lumps removed before being watered until soft. It was then let lie for a fortnight before being beaten down smooth with broad pieces of wood. In some cases bullock's blood was added to harden it and to make it polishable. It looked like black marble. Other additions might be pulverised bones, ashes or lime. If the mud was "clayey" it was liable to crack, shrink and powder as it dried. This could be countered by adding sand or cow dung to the mixture – the latter component being readily available.

Though our 21<sup>st</sup> century minds rebel at the having dried cow dung as a permanent feature within our homes, it apparently soon becomes odourless and, as the RAHS put it "was evidently a successful, organic pioneer technique".

## They were not always so

We are pretty familiar with most of the names of the areas around us. We all know the name of our suburb and often why it has that name. However delving into early Ku-ring-gai records throws up place names which today mean nothing to us but certainly did to local people a hundred or more years ago. More often than not they were descriptive of the places themselves though their boundaries were loosely defined. Who, for example would know of these:

*Fox Grounds* – the area at the foot of Fox Valley Road in Wahroonga and so named because flying foxes nested there.  
*Rosedele* – a different spelling of Rosedale, now known as St Ives.

*River* – not surprisingly the address of people living down near the Lane Cove River.

*Chinaman's Hollow* – the low land at the foot of the hill on the highway in Roseville running into Chatswood.

*Orange Grove* – The Essex and Buckingham Streets section of Killara so named because of the orange orchards which were there.

*Forked Ridge* (sometimes *Forked Bridge*) – in Pentecost Avenue near the Pymble Golf Club.

## Our Public Utilities

For many years most of Ku-ring-gai has had easy access to a range of public amenities including electricity, gas, telephones, water and sewerage, postal services, and regular garbage collections. Though the Lane Cove Post Office, renamed Gordon Post Office in 1879, was established in 1860 in what are now the grounds of Ravenswood, most of the other facilities did not begin to appear until the 1890s.

These notes tell in chronological order something of their arrival. They draw significantly on a paper by our member, structural engineer Ken Wyatt, which was published in THE HISTORIAN of June 2001.

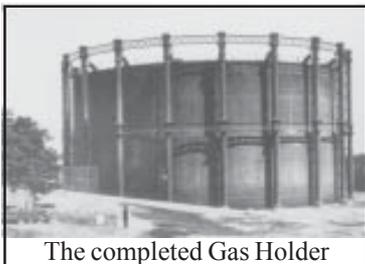
### Water

From the outset, water was from creeks, rain water tanks and wells with creeks sometimes used for doing household washing. In 1896 the Public Works Department installed two large water tanks at Wahroonga which were filled by a pipe-line from Chatswood. A reservoir was built at Pymble in 1900 and this supplied residents between Pymble and Chatswood. A pipe-line from Ryde to Wahroonga was built in 1905. Additional reservoirs came later at Wahroonga (1915); Killara (1930) and St Ives (1975).

### Gas

Lighting at first was mainly by kerosene lamps and candles with cooking being done over open fires or on fuel stoves. "Slush lamps" consisting of fat in a tin with a piece of wick were also used for lighting. At the turn of the century, parishioners attending evening services at St John's at Gordon used to leave their hurricane lanterns in the Church porch. With the building of De Burgh's bridge, 1896 saw the coming of gas from Ryde to Gordon and Wahroonga. It was first used for public lighting of public places. The Pymble News of 25 April, 1901, reproduces a letter from the Railways Commissioners agreeing to a Pymble Progress Association request to have gas lights installed on Pymble Railway Station and level crossing.

Gas for lighting and cooking slowly found its way into private homes and was used for many years until electricity came after 1917. Even today superseded gaslight fittings can still be seen in some of our older homes such as Tulkiyan and many cooks still prefer gas.



The completed Gas Holder

The gasometer on the corner of the Highway and Ryde Road was a feature of our landscape for many years until demolished in the 1960s with the arrival of natural gas.

### Telephones

In addition to the coming of water and gas, 1896 was obviously a year of progress and saw Ku-ring-gai's first

telephone line. It came from Hornsby to Mr Boyne's store at Wahroonga when his wife was appointed as the local postmistress. An exchange was installed there in the following year. The demand for telephones grew rapidly as did the proliferation of unsightly telephone poles. Initially many residents visited their local post office to make calls.

### Sewerage

Cesspits were banned and a nightsoil service begun in 1913. The "sanitary cart" remained a feature of Ku-ring-gai, and most of Sydney, until well after water was piped into homes. Depots were initially at Hampden Avenue in Wahroonga and Koola Avenue in Killara. These depots were understandably the source of much controversy but their sites are now valued recreational assets. Parts of Wahroonga were "on the sewer" by 1915 through the Hornsby Treatment Works. A pipe-line from North Head had to cross Middle Harbour at Clontarf, and the West Middle Harbour sub-main built, before the sewer came to Roseville in 1927. It then connected to Gordon and Pymble in 1929. Even so, by 1951 the sewer lines were only to locations within one or two miles either side of the Highway. By 1971 most of Ku-ring-gai was "connected". As with all these services, new and outlying areas usually had to wait longer.

### Electricity

As with gas, electricity was at first mainly used for street lighting. Sydney's first publicly-owned power station was at Pymont in 1904 but cables did not come to Cammeray until 1916 and spread north to Ku-ring-gai from there in 1917. Transformers were put at Shirley Road (Roseville); Beaconsfield Parade (Lindfield); Stanhope Road (Killara) and Park Avenue (Gordon). Power was available to sites along the Highway. It was not until 1920 that electricity was carried north from Gordon to Wahroonga. In 1925 Ku-ring-gai Council decided to change all street lighting to electricity instead of gas.

### Garbage

Garbage collection by Council began on an experimental and voluntary basis in 1914. The Koola Avenue nightsoil depot was used for this purpose. The charge was sixpence a week. An incinerator designed by Walter Burley Griffin was opened in 1930 where the Bicentennial Park is now in West Pymble.

### Postal

An examination of the development of postal services is beyond the scope of these notes and historical records sketchy. Before the 1850s, residents on the north shore had to collect their mail from the GPO and until the end of the 1850s from the North Sydney Post Office. In 1860 a Post Office opened at Gordon with one mail a week. Individual locations gradually were appointed as de facto post offices. These were shopkeepers, railway stations and individuals. Delivery services did not begin until the 1890s.

*(Appreciation is expressed to Ken Wyatt for his kindness in casting his eye over an early version of these notes. MF)*

*History Notes by Max Farley*

# Family Matters

## 11am Session

25 members attended the morning session, led by Jo Harris, at which each had opportunities to ask questions. Subjects covered included:

Family Tree Maker computer program

Ireland after potato famine - money to get to emigrant ship

Early Church Records

Use of a numbering system to identify generations

Admission books, NSW government schools

Jo demonstrated the Ryerson Index and BDMs using as an example the search for a member's mother-in-law details.

## 2pm meeting

Chaired by Jo, nearly 40 present. On this day poet C J Dennis was born 1876. In 1933 windscreen wipers were made compulsory.

## 2009 Tours planned

27-29 March 2009 - Cowra

31 Oct-2 Nov.2009 - Tumut

Australia Family Tree Connections magazine, Sept.

Queensland records - warning of 11 weeks delay

Newspaper digitization program progressing - [www.nla.gov.au/ndp](http://www.nla.gov.au/ndp)

## Latest Book Accessions

Good Old Days Along the Manning River and Great Lakes

Australia's Island Shipwrecks

An Atlas History of Australian Shipwrecks

Beginning with Esther - Jewish Women in NSW since 1788

The Judas Covenant - Betrayal and death of Ben Hall

Manly-Warringah, stories of the Peninsula

Royal Australian Navy 1942-45

The Firs Cottage, Roseville

## Visit Reports

Sue Ryerson - Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, part of NSW Masonic Club

Max Farley - 'Lost Gardens of Sydney' at Sydney Museum

Jan Cook - tour to Western Front battlefields in France, circulated two photo albums, distributed copies of poem for Remembrance Day, played CD of song "Christmas in the Trenches"

## Various Reports

Book, The Mayne Inheritance - Mayne family endowed University of Queensland

Gordon Markets, 2nd Sunday of month, near station, several booksellers

Local press report on memorial to Ian Ramage planned for Wahroonga Park.

Main feature of meeting was "Bring a Family Document and tell us about it".

Joy Walker - Grandfather's certificate of acceptance in Royal Institute of British Architects 1881

Kay Carter - Music Book 1822 with name Emily Lucas

Joan McDonald - Letter written 1859 in Calcutta to husband's great-grandfather in Sligo Ireland reporting death of son from sunstroke.

Trevor Whitehead - Family bible presented 1838 to Benjamin Mitchell

Stella Green - gggrandfather's journal of sailing ship voyages Hobart/London and return 1861/62.

Cecilia Inglis - SMH report June 14, 1848, of arrival of ship "Canton".

Shirley Morley - Father's Certificate of Discharge after service with 7th Division in Greece, 4 years as POW.

Janet Denne - description of gggrandfather's ship "James Paterson" and conditions on board

Max Farley - Father's notebook of his job travelling to hospitals in 1919 gathering statistics of deaths from influenza epidemic.

Jill Fisher - Family history accepted for State Library Pandora archive.

Don Paull - Presentation of Support to Gov. Bligh from settlers on Hawkesbury

Jo Harris - Will of 16xgreatgrandfather in Berkshire dated 8 April 1530

Elaine Turnidge - Packet of documents received from solicitor in Ireland after death of Alexander Quigley.

The raffle of preloved books was won by Ruth Brown who chose 'Australian Pioneer Women'.

- Stella Green

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## Ancestry Library Edition

A new genealogy research tool, called Ancestry Library Edition, has recently been added to all Ku-ring-gai Libraries. It provides Library members with access to a wide range of unique resources for genealogical and historical research from a variety of countries. These collections are continuously expanding, with new content added every business day.

You can only access Ancestry Library Edition at the Library. Ask the Librarian at the information desk of one of the Ku-ring-gai Libraries (Gordon, Turramurra, St Ives or Lindfield) for details. You will need to log-on using your Library Identity (membership) number (on your library card) and PIN. Once you have logged on you will be able to access Ancestry. You can log-on in either the e-zone or at one of the On-line Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) terminals. If you do not have a PIN it can be allocated to you at the enquiry desk. Don't forget to logout when you have finished.

## Trip to the State Archives - Kingswood

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August a group of us headed off to the State Records office at Kingswood. After a quick morning tea we all listened to a talk about Probate Packets and then divided into two groups. While one group went on a behind-the-scenes tour of the Archives, the other group started their research in the reading rooms. Later the two groups swapped roles. The tour showed us the six stages of building at Kingswood. Stage 1 was built during the Cold War, and featured doors that could close off and isolate any section of the building in case of an attack. It also contained tall compactuses for record storage, requiring ladders to access the top shelves. The design features gradually changed, so that by the time Stage 6 was built, the shelves were much shorter (to make it easier to safely access the records) with fixed shelves instead of compactuses. In addition, each box was barcoded to enable electronic inventory control. Fire control measures also evolved as the stages were built.

One of the highlights of the tour was a visit to the conservation section. Due to the large number of records kept at the site it is impossible to conserve every document that is held at the Archives, so records are chosen for conservation according to one of two criteria. First priority goes to records that have been requested but are not fit for handling. Second priority goes to specific collections that are chosen as being important to preserve and are in need of work. We saw examples of maps being worked on in the first category, and gaol photographs and their associated glass negatives in the second.

In the Reading Room the helpful and friendly staff assisted us with our pre-ordered Probate Packets or other items we had ordered or hoped to see, answered our questions, arranged expert photocopying (modest cost), and generally made us feel very welcome. We could also help ourselves to a large series of "Archives in Brief" leaflets on subjects such as Shipping, Immigration, Land, Military, Photographs, Education, Convicts, and many more.

After lunch we all continued with our own private research. Another trip to the Archives will take place on the 6<sup>th</sup> November. Contact Jo Harris for bookings.

To sum up - impressive resources, great staff, good facilities for research.

- Jenny Joyce and Stella Green



The group listening to the talk - Jo Harris

# Built Heritage

## Heritage Hit

**The proposed increase of medium density housing development within the expanded town centre area will have an adverse affect on many important historic areas in Ku-ring-gai. Of great concern is the inclusion of parts of Ku-ring-gai Avenue, Turramurra and Grandview Street, Pymble. Both these areas contain a large number of heritage listed houses.**

The Ku-ring-gai Avenue Urban Conservation Area (UCA) was classified by The National Trust. Reasons for its listing included: *This UCA contained the finest collection of Federation period houses on the upper north shore. Many of the original owners were important members of Sydney's public, commercial and professional life at the turn-of-the-century. The architecture is complemented by fine gardens, some original fences and gates and excellent street trees which combine to produce a rich mature streetscape not significantly marred by later subdivision.*

At least six of the houses in the area were designed by architects as their own homes: John Sheddon Adam, *Ferguslie*, Thomas Cosh, *Creighton* (No 31) and *The Terricks*, (No 60). Thomas Cosh also designed many other houses in the street including those for his parents at No 54 and No 56. Arthur Stanton Cook, *Chasecote* (No 75) and *Talagow*, (No 77). John Spencer Stansfeld, *Cheppywood* (No 61) and *Cheppywood*, (No 28). John Sulman, *Ingleholme* and Charles Slatyer, *Mildura* (No 8). Other architects to design houses in Ku-ring-gai Avenue were: Budden & Greenwell, Nixon & Allen, F Glynn Gilling and Robertson & Marks.

**Ku-ring-gai Ave has been identified as having State Significance both aesthetically and historically. It contains the finest collection of Federation period houses and the largest number of heritage listed houses in Ku-ring-gai: Nos 8, 12, 26, 28, 34, 44, 54, 60, 70, 1, 17, 31, 37, 43, 51, 55, 61, 73 and 77.**

Extending the Town Centre boundary will also have an adverse effect on a group of six significant heritage properties which run along Grandview Street between Station Street and Wellesley Road; *Willendon* (No 45), *Wanganui* (No 43), *Dahinda* (No 41), *Corinda* (No 39), *Ku-ring-gai* (No 35) and *Aldboro* On the corner of Wellesley Road and Grandview Street.

**Godden Mackay Logan have stated that:***The area as a whole has heritage value for its many significant residences, including many large estates and representative housing, dated from the late Victorian period, to fine examples of Federation period dwellings and the various styles of the inter-war period, in established garden settings. The housing north of the railway line contains a number of visually and historically distinct areas, such as the area around Pymble Park and from Fern to Station Streets*

Sited along Grandview Street these houses are aesthetically and historically significant. They represent an exceptionally significant set of intact properties that mark the transition from Victorian to Federation architecture. There is no known comparable example in Ku-ring-gai.

Jennifer Harvey

## Copy for Newsletter

General copy for publication should be lodged with the Editor, Kerrin Cook at [lindsaykerrin@bigpond.com](mailto:lindsaykerrin@bigpond.com) as early as possible but no later than 7<sup>th</sup> 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:

Scott Robertson	Naremburn
Es Hines	Pennant Hills
Diana McKenzie	Waitara

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

## Quiz Answers

A 2 Turramurra (b); Roseville (d); Lindfield (a); Gordon (b); St Ives (a) or (c) but with a half mark for (d)

A 1 (b) and (d). A part of each suburb is in an adjoining local government area.



Seal in State Archives - Jo Harris

## Research Centre Hours

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

<b>Thurs 25 Sep</b>	<b>10.30 am - FamilyTreeMaker course</b>
<b>Sat 4 Oct</b>	<b>Family History Meeting</b> <b>11am - Members Research</b> <b>2pm - Speaker - Ray Thorburn</b> <b>“Genetics in Genealogy”</b>
<b>Wed 15 Oct</b>	<b>7.45pm - Society General Meeting</b>  <b>Speaker - Tony Cuneen</b> <b>“The Upper North Shore in World War 1”</b>
<b>Fri 17 Oct</b>	<b>10.30 am - New Family History Course</b>
<b>Sat 18 Oct</b>	<b>9.45 - 11 am</b> <b>St John's Cemetery Open Day</b>
<b>Thurs 6 Nov</b>	<b>Trip to Kingswood State Archives (bookings with Jo)</b>

## Administration

President	Ann Barry	9144 6480
Vice Presidents	Jo Harris	9489 4393
Treasurer	Doug Milne	9487 2853
Secretary	Don Fifer	9482 4613
Immed. Past President	Kevin Callinan	9983 1525
Committee members	Helen Davies	9498 3754
	Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
	Jenny Joyce	9440 2131
	Peter Stehn	9489 9488
	Jackie Van Bergen	9403 3044

### Appointees

Accessions	Jennifer Wallin	9983 1871
Book Sales/Asst Curator	Ann Barry	9144 6480
Computer Systems Manager	Peter Stehn	9489 9488
Curator	Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
Family History		
Leader:	Jo Harris	9489 4393
Committee:	Lyn Done	9449 7715
	Stella Green	9449 4388
	Jean Smith	9498 4468
	Elaine Turnidge	9899 2635
Historian Editors	c/- Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
	with Kathie Rieth, John King, Bob Ross	
Newsletter - Editor/Layout	Kerrin Cook	9416 2586
Publicity	Sue Dunstan	9498 8720
Public Officer	Helen Davies	9498 3754
“SNAP” Co-ordinator	Helen Davies	9498 3754
Speakers Programme	Beverley Dunstan	9419 8526
Volunteers Roster	Heather Davidson	9144 1844

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