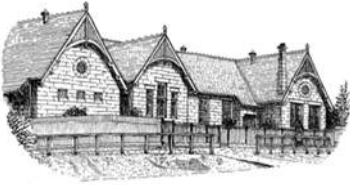


# KU-RING-GAI HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.



(Including Ku-ring-gai Family History Group) • Patron: The Mayor of Ku-ring-gai

**August 2022      Newsletter      Vol. 40      No. 7**

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## General Meeting

2pm Saturday 20th August 2022

### *Pine Gap - the Inside Story of the NSA in Australia*

**David Rosenberg**

My thanks and appreciation to all members for continuing to support the Society by renewing their membership following the issuing of invoices sent out with the last Newsletter.

Late last month I was very pleased to receive a letter from the State member for Ku-ring-gai, The Hon. Alistair Heskens, SC MP. Alistair took the opportunity to thank me and the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society for helping to preserve the history of our local Community.

He also enclosed a copy of his speech delivered in NSW Parliament on 22 June, and recorded in Hansard, in which he acknowledges the importance of the Society and its members.

Alistair has always taken an interest in, and supported our Society, and I was most impressed with his speech. Our Newsletter editor Geoff Little, with Alistair's permission, has kindly featured the speech in this Newsletter. I hope you will take the time to read Alistair's kind words.

*Being told you're appreciated is one of the simplest and most uplifting things you can hear.*

Thanks to the contributors and our editor, I am sure you will enjoy reading the other interesting articles featured in this month's edition of our Newsletter.

Take Care

*Lorna Watt*

In 1966, Australia and the US signed a treaty that allowed the establishment of a jointly-run satellite tracking station, just south of Alice Springs. For more than fifty years it has operated in a shroud of secrecy, and has been the target of much public and political controversy.

The intelligence collection mission at Pine Gap, and the partnership between Australia and the United States, has made Pine Gap the most important satellite ground site in the Intelligence Community.

David Rosenberg – a US high-tech spy who worked at Pine Gap for 18 years – was the first to speak out to give an insider's account of what happens behind those locked gates of the strategically important, and controversial, joint facility in the middle of the Australian desert south of Alice Springs. When he left in 2008, he was the USA's government longest serving technical liaison officer in Australia.



In his book, and in his presentation, David details his career with an American intelligence agency during a tumultuous period in history that covered the terms of three American Presidents, four Australian Prime Ministers, the end of the Cold War, a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan, two wars in Iraq and genocide in Rwanda, as well as the 'War Against Terror' and the emergence of North Korea as a nuclear-armed nation.

*Join us for a top secret presentation!*

## A Trip to Lane Cove in 1881

### Part 2

Willoughby is a pretty little township, about four miles from the shore. Here there are stores, churches, an hotel, and many neat private residences. Russell's Great Northern Hotel is the picture of cleanliness and neatness, inspiring the weary traveller to call in for refreshment. A very substantial, unique stone church is situated close to the hotel, but it is of small dimensions. Once our party jocosely observed that if the clergyman's salary were in proportion to the size of the church, he would barely be very economical. Another line of buses runs as far as this township from North Shore, more frequently during the day than that to Lane Cove.

Passing on, we saw Mr. Murphy's fine orchard - that gentleman being in business in Liverpool Street, Sydney, we were informed - and a pretty new brick cottage, the property and residence of Mr. Bowen, late of Hornsby. This gentleman has retired into private life, having realised a competency. Then came the properties of Mrs. Walsh, Messrs. R. and J. Archibald, and Mrs. Wilson - all beautifully laid out and most valuable. Mrs. Wilson recently parted with hers, some 50 acres, we were informed, 12 acres of which were under fruit, for £370. The son of His Excellency Lord Loftus, is said to have purchased property near here from Mr. Archibald. A large vegetable garden, kept by Chinese, appears to be very productive and, as usually the case with their gardens, is attentively attended to. At this point there is a road branching off to the north, which leads to other properties and Mr. and Mrs. Anderson's industrial school. Further on is *Irish Town*, a short distance off the main road. A large population is said to be located there, having school, churches, business places, &c. which invariably follow the settlement of population.

Then, on the Lane Cove Road, is a fine brick Public School, with master's residence, besides a Post Office and a public-house, the latter kept by Mr. Waterhouse, a very old and respected resident.



*The original public school with the attached teacher's residence, built in 1876 and later to be known as Gordon Public School.*

Then, on the Lane Cove Road, is a fine brick Public School, with master's residence, besides a Post Office and a public-house, the latter kept by Mr. Waterhouse, a very old and respected resident.



*Iolanthe, Gordon*

*Built 1870, and used as Gordon Post Office. Now in the grounds of Ravenswood School.*

The other most noticeable properties along the route were Mr. Jenkins' strawberry garden (he being the largest grower of that choice fruit in the colony), Captain Pockley's, Messrs. Johnston's, J. Brown's, Burke's, Brodie's, Terry's and King's. Mr. John Gould, of George Street, Sydney, owns a very choice block of land here from which the most enchanting scenery can be viewed.

Arrived at the Gardeners' Arms - another well-kept roadside inn - the bus had reached its destination. Here we had a splendid view of Sydney and its suburbs in the distance being over 400 feet above the sea level, while the blue ocean could be seen over the South Head, and the lighthouse was distinctly visible.

As the bus did not return until 3.30 p.m., and we had a couple of hours to spare, we walked on in the direction of Hornsby, another township some three miles and a half beyond Gordon. In doing this we passed '41 Perryville', a very commodious and comfortable brick cottage erected by the late Mr. John Perry, of Mount Victoria, as a winter residence. Next came Mr. J. F. Jones' very fine estate of some 80 acres, consisting of a large orangery and orchard, cultivation paddocks, &c. The Newcastle railway is expected to pass through the property. A short distance from this is the well-known 'Cherry Orchard', which is now in the market, owing to the death of the proprietor, Mr. Cherry, about three months ago.

An idea of the value of property such as this can be judged when we state that it is a matter beyond doubt that the late Mr. Cherry cleared as much as £600 or £700 per year from this orchard.

## Tour Report

It is a beautiful place, situated on a gentle slope, with large frontages to the Lane Cove and Great Northern Roads. From this point the Parramatta River is only about a mile distant, and we cannot help expressing our surprise that a road has not yet been opened to it, to secure water-carriage, roads having been reserved for this purpose. It only requires the inhabitants to move in this matter for it to be attended to.



*Robert Burdett Smith*

Next to the 'Cherry Orchard', which we may state is for sale by auction, at the Exchange, next Friday (Messrs. Perry, Boyce and Co. being the auctioneers), is the property of Mr. Robert Burdett Smith<sup>1</sup> M.P. for Macleay, which is undergoing extensive improvement. Not being good pedestrians, we decided here to retrace

our steps to the omnibus stand. Shortly afterwards we were travelling at a rapid pace towards Sydney, our spirits being at their highest pitch with the beauty of the scenery meeting our gaze at every turn, the climax being reached when we arrived at the top of the hill leading down to the North Shore, and Sydney and its magnificent harbour came in view.

Extract from the *Sydney Daily Telegraph*, 14 May 1881, page 7.

<sup>1</sup> Smith was secretary for the 1879 Cook Celebration

'*Irish Town*', lies mostly in modern North Turramurra, but there is a segment in modern Pymble. It ran from Merrivale Road in the east to Bobbin Head Road in the west, and a short distance south of Pentecost Avenue, including the area around Reely Street to Reynolds Street.

After 1850, the reign of the timber-getters had ended and that of the orchardists began. Johann Henri Reely (Rhule) was the first. He settled in an area of Turramurra which became unofficially known as Irish Town, because it contained so many families of Irish extraction, though Reely was of German.

*Transcribed by Morrison Hammond*

The tour team would like to thank everyone who responded to our urgent email for the *WEST of SYDNEY HARBOUR BRIDGE* cruise scheduled for Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November with the Naval Historical Society of Australia. Within the first 24 hours we received 60 expressions of interest. Within 5 days we had the required number to completely fill the boat. Yvette will email further details to those who registered their expression of interest.

Please contact Yvette at [yreeve@optusnet.com.au](mailto:yreeve@optusnet.com.au) or 0414 249 737 if you are interested in this tour and you will be placed on our waiting list. We managed to place everyone on our waiting list for the June harbour cruise.

*Your Tour Team*

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### Grace Cossington Smith – a Ku-ring-gai local

*by Dr Reinhard Ronnebeck*

Lovers of history and art had a double treat at the June meeting when psychologist Dr Ronnebeck gave an overview of the life and career of artist Grace Cossington Smith. She was a local resident, living for much of her life in Turramurra. Dr Ronnebeck illustrated his talk with photographs, mainly of her paintings. He demonstrated why he believed that Cossington Smith was a world-class post-impressionist artist. As he argued, she presented everyday subjects in fresh ways. The power of her work was amply illustrated, from her first major painting of her sister knitting a sock during World War I. Questions and comments from the audience, including a niece of Grace Cossington Smith, added to the afternoon's enjoyment.

*Judith Godden*

**Note:** The Cossington Smith Gallery at Abbotsleigh is open to the public.

### *New Members*

We extend a warm welcome to the following members who have recently joined the Society.

Marilyn Gendeck	from Canberra ACT
Jennifer Odgers	from North Turramurra
Stephen Buck	from Roseville
Helen Hill	from Turramurra
Pamela Fijan	from Lindfield
Craig Johnson	from St Ives

We hope you will find your membership rewarding and look forward to your participation in the many activities we have to offer each year.



Mr Henskens' speech to the Legislative Assembly was on the 22 June 2022 and is taken from Hansard and is reprinted with the kind permission of the minister.

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS**

**Ku-ring-gai – Minister for Skills and Training, and  
Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology.**

In the historic old Gordon Public School building adjoining the Gordon Library resides the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society. The society has justifiably drawn praise for its research and publications since its creation and inception in 1963. Made up of volunteers, the society's publications delve into local history, built heritage and family history in Ku-ring-gai. Notable works include *Women of Ku-ring-gai* and *Rallying the Troops*, which are several volumes about the veterans and the response to the First World War from the Ku-ring-gai area.



*Alister Henskens*

Recently I learned of another interesting piece of local history: the foundations of Killara. Had it not been for the hard work of the society, we may never have known the true depth of that suburb's history. I therefore inform the House of the following.

Like many parts of the Ku-ring-gai electorate, Killara is a leafy, historic suburb with an abundance of heritage homes from the Federation to Modernist eras. The heritage comprises a unique blend of fine architecture encircled by a picturesque natural environment and is home to many notable residents, past and present. One such resident was James George Edwards, also known as the "Father of Killara". While Mr Edwards was born in Tasmania, his mother returned to her home in Sydney in 1849 when James was only six years old.

Early on James had an eye for the development and wellbeing of Ku-ring-gai. He was instrumental in the construction of many local facilities – from a post office in the grounds of the now Ravenswood School for Girls to the old Gordon Public School. That school operated from 1876 to 1989 – with distinguished former students including the member for Pittwater, Rob Stokes – and is now the location of the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society. Notably, James Edwards played an important role in having the Government build the North Shore line, which opened in 1890 and continues to be used this day – a great example of the longevity of visionary infrastructure like the infrastructure that this

Government is building. He conceived of the notion of acquiring much of the largely vacant land between Lindfield and Gordon, then subdivided and sold it. Creating Killara was a big task that involved finding the current landowners and conducting negotiations to formalise ownership transfers.

James Edwards negotiated with the railways to have a new station built at Killara, which opened in 1899, and thus began the early foundations of what we know as modern Killara. But his contribution to Killara went much further. James Edwards spearheaded a move to have the land that is now known as Killara Park reserved for public recreation. James was also deeply involved in having land obtained for the building of the absolutely excellent Killara Golf Club and eventually became its second president. The Killara Golf Club and Killara Lawn Tennis Club would not exist today were it not for his efforts.

If that was not enough, James Edwards played a major role in the establishment of the Killara Hall, which eventually became the Soldier's Memorial Hall and is now known to the community as the Marian Street Theatre.



*The Marian Street Theatre in Killara*

James George Edwards' legacy continues to the present day in the organisations and community facilities that adorn the historic suburb of Killara.

Importantly, this story is remembered through the efforts of the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society. The 400 members and volunteers that make up that organisation do an incredible job of archiving and maintaining the history of our community, I hope this private member's statement illustrates the importance of the society not just in remembering the past but in the stories that it is able to continue to tell in the present, whether it be about the Marian Street Theatre, the Killara Golf Club or other parts of our local community.

In past years I have joined members of the historical society to mark the anniversary of events like the first ever wireless message in Australia, during World War I, and I have frequently attended its meetings in the old Gordon Public School and participated in the magical mystery tour run by

previous Ku-ring-gai Woman of the Year Mrs Jo Harris, OAM. I am pleased that the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society has received many prestigious awards over the years, including the Mander Jones Award. Such praise is a fitting recognition of the hard work of its many members. I thank the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society for supporting our local community.

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**Ku-ring-gai is ridden with hills—and I have now ridden them all!**

Road cycling became an essential activity for me during COVID lockdown when staying within one's LGA became one of Gladys's restrictions. I had heard of 'burbing' from a friend, so one morning in September 2021 I decided to ride on every part of every street in the nearby enclave of East Lindfield.

It was a 30-kilometre ride, taking about one and a half hours – perfect exercise before a day working from home. I had such fun trying to figure out the most efficient route, memorising street names and streetscapes in case I got lost. I learned that spotting 'No Through Road' signs was vital. For an introvert, such mental stimulation made my own company even more exhilarating.



*Geoff Lovell at the end of his rides in Wahroonga.*

On Strava, the fitness tracking app, I logged my ride as 'Solving the East Lindfield Puzzle'. Two days later I solved the similar East Killara 'puzzle', and then two days after that, the East Roseville/Roseville Chase 'puzzle'. All rides were comparable in time, suiting my daily lockdown routine.

What started out as an intriguing one-off outing had become something of a fascination, bordering on an addiction... and I then came up with the

mischievous idea of riding on every street in Ku-ring-gai. 'LGAing', perhaps? Had anyone ever done this?

In truth, this wasn't so mischievous at all, for it would allow me to indulge my affection for Ku-ring-gai – to explore its natural beauty, architecture and cultural history, and the personal associations of this special place where I have lived for most of my 56 years.

I planned my attack. I would knock off suburbs moving northwards: Roseville, Lindfield, Killara, and so on. The eastern side of the Pacific Highway, and the much steeper western side. As I progressed, my rides became longer because I lived at one end of the LGA, so it took longer to get to the next starting point—and back home again at the end.

I tried to avoid the Pacific Highway wherever possible for safety reasons, despite its obvious efficiency as the ridged spine of Ku-ring-gai. Instead, the undulating route from Lindfield to St Ives via Rosedale Road became a familiar artery.

My speed was modest – there were hills, more hills, and yet more of Ku-ring-gai's hills (but hills are good, aren't they?!) There were lots of cul-de-sacs too, which squander one's average speed. And sometimes I had to stop to look at Google Maps, to figure out where I still needed to go to 'fill in the 'burb'.

I visited streets where I lived in my youth: Morona Avenue down the end of Fox Valley Road in Wahroonga, where my parents built their first home when they got married in 1964; Kingsford Avenue among the 'aviator streets' of South Turramurra, where I remember the terror of the 1974-75 summer bushfires when homes burned to the ground; Woonona Avenue in Wahroonga – our home no longer exists, having been replaced with an apartment block. And other streets where my parents and grandparents lived: Maitland Street in Killara, Cherry Street in Warrawee, Knowlman Avenue and Ganmain Road in Pymble, Huon Park and Catalpa Crescent in Turramurra, and Amaroo Avenue and Ada Avenue in Wahroonga.

It was a form of pilgrimage to revisit Browns Field in Wahroonga, where I played my very first game of cricket at the age of eight. Some years later I played First Grade for Gordon and played on Ku-ring-gai's premier cricket ground, Bert Oldfield Oval in Killara, where the outfield has more recently become a casualty of pet dogs (including my own). When I stumbled across Carrington Oval in Wahroonga at the far end of Ku-ring-gai, I was transported back to my earliest games of soccer there for Kissing Point, around 1974. It resembled a swamp that day, after the recent rains. In the process, I renewed my appreciation for the scale of Ku-ring-gai, for its bushland setting so close to the city, and for the



elevated views from escarpments looking out across the Ku-ring-gai Chase, Garigal and Lane Cove National Parks. The number of parks and sporting fields is staggering, the ongoing maintenance of which is a credit to Ku-ring-gai Council.

I found places I didn't know existed - it was fascinating, for instance, to stumble across horses grazing in an isolated pocket of St Ives on Dorset Drive behind Rosedale Road.

I enjoyed surveying the changes in local domestic architecture: from the Federation era to the 'Arts and Craft' homes of the early 20th century, to the California Bungalow and Art Deco styles between the wars, and to the modern and post-modern homes since.

There are some stunning large homes, from Pymble to Wahroonga, built on semi-rural estates in the 19th century before the advent of the North Shore railway line, but nowadays faithfully preserved and tastefully adapted for modern living.

I rode past William Hardy Wilson's houses, 'Eryldene' in McIntosh Street Gordon (where my great grandparents lived next door to the Waterhouses, and where I am now a Board member of the Eryldene Foundation) and 'Purulia' in Fox Valley Road in Wahroonga. Similarly, Harry Seidler's houses in their bushland settings, notably Harry and Penelope Seidler House in Kalang Avenue Killara and the simple yet beautifully sculptural Rose Seidler House in Clissold Road Wahroonga, which is now part of 'Sydney Living Museums'.



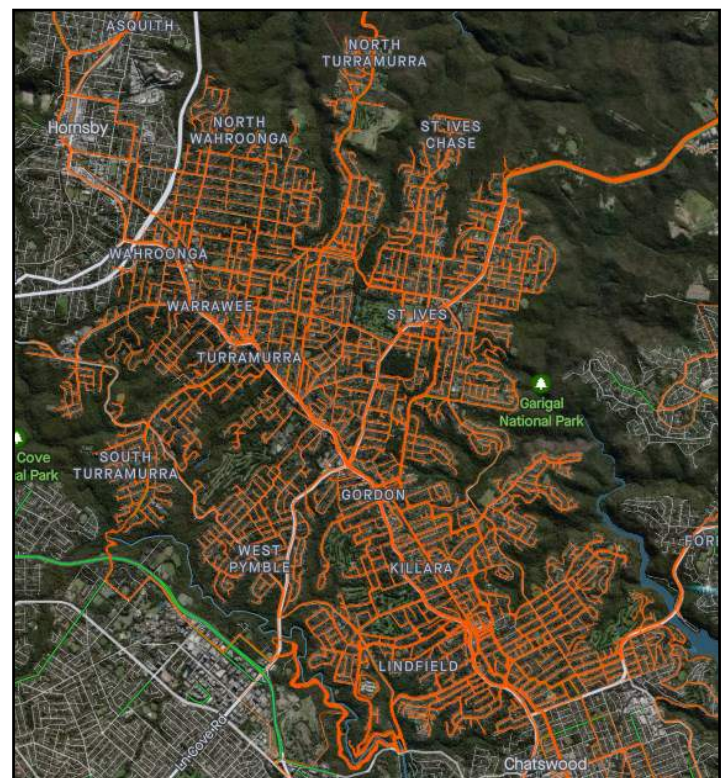
*Eryldene*

West Pymble, developed in the 1950s and 1960s, feels largely intact, retaining its gentle bushland ambience. The rebuilding of homes by 'project builders' in recent decades has sadly compromised the sense of place elsewhere; however heritage conservation zones should now halt this trend in older neighbourhoods.

There is little institutional architecture of note, the Ku-ring-gai College of Advanced Education (now Lindfield Learning Village) and the National Measurement Institute in West Lindfield being obvious exceptions. The former, from the 1950s, is an example of New Brutalism; the latter, built in the 1970s, comes from a school of architecture unknown to me - when riding through the grounds for the first time, it felt like I was trespassing on a site of the gulag. Institutional

architecture extends to hospitals and schools. I was born at Sydney Adventist Hospital in Wahroonga and have been admitted there for procedures since. My wisdom teeth were removed in Dalcross Hospital in Killara, which I have visited several times recently for COVID tests. My schooling began at Fox Valley Preschool, before moving on to Warrawee Public School and then to Turramurra Public School. My children spent their early years at Lady Game Preschool and Lindfield Public School.

Of course, churches are prominent in Ku-ring-gai, architecturally and culturally. Several have hosted weddings and memorial services for members of my family, among them being St John's Anglican Church Gordon, the Uniting Church at 'Five Ways' in Killara, St James Anglican Church Turramurra, St Andrew's Anglican Church Wahroonga, Christ Church St Ives, St Alban's Anglican Church Lindfield (where my family now attends each week), St Andrew's Anglican Church in Roseville and Turramurra Uniting Church.



*Geoff's Cycling Heat Map*

It was at Five Ways that I met the aforementioned WA (Bert) Oldfield, Australia's wicketkeeper from 1920 to 1937, one Sunday morning when I was about nine years old. He lived at 'Poitiers' in Springdale Road Killara and died not long after. My maternal grandparents' ashes are in the columbarium at St Martin's Anglican Church just down the road, so there were sprinklings of holiness and family connections throughout.

On similar themes, my paternal grandparents' former home in Catalpa Crescent stands opposite the grand house at 62 Kissing Point Road, once home (I believe) to Australia's first Test cricket captain, Dave Gregory. It was later owned by Sir John Kerr at the time of the

(non-cricketing) 'Dismissal' of 1975, an event I learned about in the playground at Turramurra Public School in Year 4.

My cycling adventures around Ku-ring-gai finished with my final ride in June 2022, some nine months after I started, through parts of Turramurra, Warrawee and Wahroonga. It was 7 degrees Celsius (and 'felt like' 5 degrees) when I set out from Lindfield. It was the last of 29 rides covering some 1,159 kilometres and 22,691 metres of elevation.

My longest ride was 81.5 kilometres, encompassing large parts of mighty St Ives. The shortest road (I think) was Erola Circle in Lindfield. The steepest was Earls Court in Roseville Chase, with its concrete grooves for traction, which ensured I had to walk my bike up it (the only time that happened anywhere, by the way). Other notable climbs were on The Comenarra Parkway either side of Kissing Point Road, Nicholson Avenue in Barra Brui (up from the bottom of Eastern Arterial Road), from the low points of Warrawee and Wahroonga below Fox Valley Road (up Campbell Drive, Roland Avenue and Blytheswood Avenue), and at the very end of Clissold Road Wahroonga (just past Rose Seidler House).

Luckily, there were no accidents, and there were serendipitous moments: I came across a man lost on Cleveland Street in Wahroonga, who spoke no English. I deduced that he wanted me to call a phone number which turned out to be his daughter's – he had recently arrived from Iran and had no mobile phone connection. Father and daughter were happily reunited shortly after, and I was on my way.

It did occur to me in the final few outings that I should have used the whole exercise to raise money for a local charity. But it was a little late by then and I am not one for fanfare. Nonetheless, I do hope this story is of interest to the good citizens of Ku-ring-gai, and perhaps someone will get in touch with me to say, after all, that people have been doing this for years...

*Geoff Lovell*

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**Letters to the Editor**

Dear Sir

The item 'Fire Balls in Sydney' in the July Newsletter reminded me of my own experience of such a phenomenon, which also occurred in Epping coincidentally. Back in about the early 1950s when my family were living in Epping, we were experiencing a severe thunderstorm one evening. The family were gathered in the living room listening to the radio, as families were wont to do in

those days, when suddenly there was a crack of electricity and a 'fire ball' or ball lightning shot through the closed window beside where I was sitting. My father was on the lounge nearby with his legs crossed, so that one foot was elevated. On the other side of the room, diagonally opposite the window was the console radio. The lightning ball hit Dad's foot and then the radio, causing a dreadful burst of static. Interestingly, no damage was done to either the window glass or the radio, which obviously had a good earth connection, but Dad's foot was the only casualty, causing him some numbness for quite awhile afterwards.

*Tony Spargo*

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**Orana Reserve**

Orana Reserve is a small park in Pymble bounded by Church Street to its south, Orana Avenue to the north and west and Kywong Avenue to the east. It is a parcel of land donated by Albert Reichard, a German wool buyer, who lived with his family in nearby 'Lanosa' a house built by a prominent local citizen, Charles Martin Buck in 1897-98.



*Part of the heavily wooded Orana Reserve*

Orana Reserve was named by Albert Reichard and his wife Mabel, and is said to be an aboriginal word meaning 'welcome'. Which aboriginal language it purports to belong to, whether to the Guringai people or any other indigenous people in the present-day Ku-ring-gai region is a matter for investigation, suffice to say, that the Reichards were well-meaning. At some stage it was proposed that the original donors of the land should be honoured and that the reserve should be re-named the Reichard Reserve. The Geographical Names Board published the intention to name it the Reichard Reserve and called for public comment. The proposal mentioned its desire to acknowledge the Reichard family who lived nearby and had gifted the land. However, anti-German feeling was so virulent,



that Council was prevailed upon to re-re-name it to the original Orana Reserve. There were accusations that Reichard was an abusive, pro-Nazi who ultimately committed suicide, and was therefore hardly a suitable figure to be honoured by naming the little park after him. Cottee, in his book (see below), mentions in passing, that his mother Margot, middle daughter of Albert, "...had a strict upbringing and plenty of discipline", whatever that means. Albert Reichard was a member of the New Guard, a quasi-fascist organisation, which was fanatically opposed to the then NSW Labour Premier Jack Lang, whom they considered a socialist menace to decent society, and indeed were prepared to depose him and assume the reins of government. Whether Albert was an active Nazi supporter is unclear, although a photograph of him raising his arm in the Nazi salute lends some support to the accusation, since the New Guard modelled itself to some extent on the German Nazi Party. Reichard was undoubtedly an extreme supporter of the New Guard's ideology.

In his book *The Lanosa Property and the Reichard Family* the author J.M. Cottee, grandson of Albert Reichard, makes no mention of his grandfather's political leanings, perhaps out of respect to his grandfather's memory as well as genuine admiration.

In his book, *1932*, Gerald Stone mentions a possible plot by the New Guard to kidnap Lang as he was driven home by his chauffeur from parliament house along the Great Western Highway, but Lang chose, on that day, to drive himself home, had his dinner and went to bed. Whether indeed there was a serious plot to kidnap Lang, it never eventuated.

However, the well-known plot to prevent Lang from cutting the ribbon to open the Sydney Harbour Bridge was more successful, and the man who succeeded was Francis De Groot, riding a horse borrowed from Albert Reichard. In those days, Pymble, where Reichard lived, was a rural area and so there was ample space for riding, which his daughters did. Reichard indeed kept a stable, which is subject to a proposed Heritage order. It seems that the wife of Eric Campbell, the leader of the New Guard, came across Reichard's daughter Margot riding her horse, named Mick (see photo), and negotiations to borrow Mick for the venture were eventually concluded. It is more than likely that Albert Reichard, as a prominent member of the New Guard, thoroughly approved of the scheme.



*Margo Reichard and her horse Mick*

On the day that Mick was to be ridden by DeGroot to carry out the plot, Reichard's daughter, Margot, reported that Mick had cast a shoe. The only farrier they could find happened to be a Labour supporter, so a tale had to be concocted, as to what the horse was to be ridden for.

The house in Pymble, where the Reichard family lived, is still extant, at 62 Mona Vale Road, and is now a pre-school institution.

*Gerry Cohen*



### **Ian Thompson**

#### **'More Iconic Australian Inventions'**

What do the following have in common? The didgeridoo; refrigeration; mechanical sheep shears; rust-resistant wheat; military tanks; feature films; clapper boards; pedal radio; Anthrax vaccine; flu vaccine; therapeutic penicillin; chiko roll; dual-flush toilets; Australia's first and the world's fourth auto computer; polymer banknotes; WiFi; and Google maps.

The lucky people who attended the July general meeting can answer that question. The clue is that they heard research scientist Ian Thompson give a follow-up to his talk some years ago on 'iconic Australian inventions'. He outlined 'more iconic Australian inventions', giving interesting summaries of the men and the technology behind the inventions. Questions and comments from the audience completed the afternoon's enjoyment.

*Judith Godden*





# Ku-ring-gai... Then... and Now

by Dick Whitaker



Looking down Pymble Hill towards the railway bridge, 1939. The Pymble Hotel is on the right.  
Image: RMS Archives

A similar view today, courtesy Google Street View. The coloured dots indicate structures common to both images - 83 years apart.

Do you have any 'Then & Now' photos of Ku-ring-gai? We'd love you to share them with us!

Send them to [editor@khs.org.au](mailto:editor@khs.org.au) along with their descriptions. If possible, please also tell us where the photos came from, so that we can attribute them to the appropriate photographer or source.

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## 'Introduction to Family History' Course.

Thanks to the excellent response to our email to members in July, our upcoming 'Introduction to Family History' course has been fully subscribed - in fact, oversubscribed!

The response has been so gratifying that we have arranged with the course providers, Allan and Joy Murrin, to run a repeat course in February - so if you missed out, stay tuned for more information in a couple of months. The course starts on Thursday 22nd September 2022.

In the meantime, did you know that the Society has paid a subscription to Ancestry's 'Library Edition' and also to Family Search, which are both freely available for members to use on the computers in our research room in Gordon?

If you need any assistance with using these websites, or even if you would just like to start your family history journey sooner, you are most welcome to pop into our research room on a Friday morning between 10am and 12noon, when volunteers experienced in family history research would be most pleased to help you.



## Have you visited our great website recently ?

You can search our collection, it's mobile-friendly for smartphones and tablets, and it's colourful and easy to use, with handy online forms for ordering books, research services and becoming a member.

The Events page will keep you up to date with upcoming meetings, speakers, and KHS activities.

Go online and find out all about the excellent features that our website provides.

Check it out today at [www.khs.org.au](http://www.khs.org.au)

## DIARY DATES

### AUGUST 2022

Saturday 20 : **2pm - General Meeting**  
*Pine Gap*  
**Presenter : David Rosenberg**

### SEPTEMBER 2022

Saturday 17 : **2pm - General Meeting**  
*The Tasman Map*  
**Presenter : Ian Burnet**

Thursday 22 : *The Family History course begins*

### OCTOBER 2022

Saturday 15 : **2pm - General Meeting**  
*The Holtermann Collection*  
**Presenter : Patrick Dodd**

### NOVEMBER 2022

Saturday 19 : **2pm - General Meeting**  
*Girt Nation*  
**Presenter : David Hunt**

Thursday 24 : **Tour - West of the Sydney Harbour**  
**Bridge cruise**

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**Every Tuesday** : The research rooms are open from  
10am to 12 noon for built heritage and  
general enquiries.

**Every Friday** : The research rooms are open from  
10am to 12 noon for family history  
research.

**The KHS committee meets on the first  
Thursday of every month in the  
research room.**

### Treasurer's Report

The result for June 2022 was positive thanks to a surplus from the '80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Japan Sub Attack in Sydney Harbour' tour together with book sales and donations. Expenses included leasing of the photocopier, newsletter printing and postage. Many membership renewals for the 2023 year were also received during the month. The Society ends the year in a strong financial position.

Bank account details are:-  
BSB: 032-083  
A/c No: 248971

Until next month.

*Ken Bromley*

## ADMINISTRATION

|                |                  |              |
|----------------|------------------|--------------|
| President      | Lorna Watt       | 0402 028 034 |
| Vice President | Annet Latham     | 0431 479 987 |
| Treasurer      | Ken Bromley      | 0414 419 456 |
| Secretary      | Judith Godden    | 0408 967 937 |
| Past President | Jenny Joyce      | 0404 473 767 |
| Committee      | Ralph Davis      |              |
|                | Neil Falconer    | 9488 7293    |
|                | Morrison Hammond | 0425 303 525 |
|                | Geoff Little     | 0411 885 870 |
|                | Yvette Reeve     | 0414 249 737 |

### Appointees

|                      |                   |                      |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Accessions           | Jennifer Wallin   | 9983 1871            |
| Book Sales           | Margaret Holland  | 9488 5452            |
| Catering             | Vicki Williams    | 0401 914 524         |
| Computer Systems     | Peter Stehn       | 9489 9488            |
| Curator              | Ann Barry         | 9144 6480            |
| Built Heritage Group | Lorna Watt        | 0402 028 034         |
|                      | Trish Thomson     | 9499 8659            |
| Historian Editor     | Lorna Watt        | 0402 028 034         |
| Indexing             | Beth Facer        | 9988 0823            |
| Newsletter Editor    | Geoff Little      | editor@khs.org.au    |
| Public Officer       | Marilyn van Eerde | 0418 269 126         |
| Research (Fam Hist.) | Joan Stebbing     | 9489 6476            |
| Tour Contact         | Yvette Reeve      | 0414 249 737         |
| Speakers' Programme  | Beverley Dunstan  | 9419 8526            |
| Web Masters          | Peter Stehn       | 9489 9488            |
|                      | Ralph Davis       | webmaster@khs.org.au |
| Welfare Officer      | Jill Nicholson    | 9144 6948            |

### Newsletter Details

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For correspondence :-

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| Treasurer   | ~ | <a href="mailto:treasurer@khs.org.au">treasurer@khs.org.au</a>   |