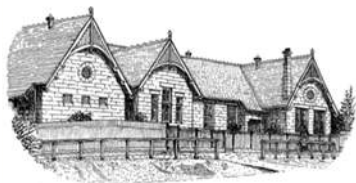


KU-RING-GAI HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.



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

July 2022 Newsletter Vol. 40 No. 6

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the **President's message**

It is that time of year again; the end of the financial year, and so the invoice for your membership renewal is enclosed with this Newsletter.

Have you noticed the increase in the price of most things lately? Well, I have some good news! KHS membership fees, which are extremely low, have not been increased, so please continue to support your Society by renewing your membership.

Do you visit our research centre? It holds a wealth of information on local, property and family history. Peter Stehn and his team of volunteers have been very busy lately updating our intranet resources so that they are supported by a newer browser and operating system that now run our computers. I probably haven't explained that correctly, but I do know that Peter expends a great amount of time and energy keeping our computers working for use by all members and visitors. Thank you, Peter.

My thanks also to Daryl Rickards, a member of Wednesday's preservation group. Daryl has spent many hours and much effort identifying, where possible, the pupils in 426 class photos of Gordon Public School from 1885 to 1989. This has been 'a labour of love' by Daryl over a number of years, and the result of his work is now published on our intranet for all to access. Some pupils have not been identified, so if you attended the school, or you know someone who did, it would be appreciated if you could make contact so names can be added to the data base.

Don't ever question the value of volunteers.

Noah's ark was built by volunteers; the Titanic was built by professionals.

Take care,

Lorna Watt

General Meeting

2pm Saturday 16th July 2022

More Iconic Australian Inventions

Ian Thompson

After graduating in Chemistry in 1969, Ian worked in Sydney as an Industrial Research Chemist in the chemical manufacturing industry for over 20 years.

In these years he worked on the development of products for the control of insect pests on agricultural crops, farm animals and domestic pets.



For the past 25 years, and before retirement in 2008, Ian worked as a Research Scientist in the area of Urban Entomology in the development of products for the control of insect pests and other critters that invade the home and in particular insects that are vectors of disease such as mosquitoes, cockroaches, houseflies and the like.

During the past 10 years of this research, he became involved in the drafting of patents for the urban pest control division of the company and has six patents to his name.

Ian regularly presents to Sydney U3A, Probus and other volunteer organisations. His leisure interests include photography and bush-walking.

Ian's Presentation

An Introduction to some of Australia's Iconic Inventions and Discoveries



A look at the people and science behind some of our classic Australian discoveries as well as inventions from the 19th century colonial era through to our present time. If you missed Ian's first talk, catch up with this one -- there's so much more than the Hills Hoist and the Victa mower.

The Pedal Radio

Roseville Men Lost at Sea

Fathers, sons and brothers.

The Roseville War Memorial commemorates 36 women and 716 men who served in World War II. Forty-six of the men died, five when serving with the Royal Australian Navy: Robert Edward Brown, Leslie North Chadwick, Alan Grosvenor Edenborough, Hugh Malanai Johnson and George William Allen Langford. Behind the narratives of their deaths lies the tragedy of life-long loss borne by their parents, siblings, wives and children.

80 years ago, on 20 July 1942, **HMAS Hobart** was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine west of the Solomon Islands while en route to Vanuatu as part of Task Force 74. The ship was badly damaged. In the explosion thirteen officers and sailors were killed and another seven injured. Two of those killed were Robert Edward Brown of 32 Thomas Avenue and Hugh Malanai Johnson of 24 Dudley Avenue. **Warrant Engineer Robert 'Roy' Edward Brown** died of his injuries and was buried at sea. Born in 1902 in Gillingham, Kent, England, he had joined the Royal Navy on 31 July 1918 as Boy Artificer on the *Fisgard* and *Victory II*. Discharged on 5 April 1923, he migrated to Australia where he enlisted in the RAN in 1925. He married Rosamunde Croll, a teacher, in 1936 and a son, Robert, was born in 1938. A year later Roy bought 32 Thomas Avenue where Rosamunde lived for another 20 years.

Payroll Commander Hugh Malanai Johnson was declared missing, presumed lost. Born in 1905 in Hornsey, Middlesex, England to Rose and Matthew Johnson, he migrated to Australia and in April 1921 enlisted in the RAN. In 1934 he married Rainbow Cazneau, a daughter of photographer Harold Cazneau of 24 Dudley Avenue, Roseville. Hugh and Rainbow had two children, Robert and Sally. Two of Rainbow's siblings served in the war: Harold, b.1920 at Roseville, died in September 1941 at Tobruk, May Beryl, b.1911, served with the army from early 1945 to 1946.



Ordinary Seaman Alan Grosvenor Edenborough of 67 Bancroft Avenue enlisted on 30 January 1941.

He died when **HMAS Sydney** sank off the coast of Western Australia after its engagement on 19 November 1941 with the German raider *Kormoran*. None of the 42 officers and 603 men survived. Born in Roseville in 1919 Alan was one of the two sons of Grosvenor Edenborough and Agnes Redshaw. The wrecks of the *Sydney* and *Kormoran* were discovered in March 2008. Both were placed under the protection



Image : NAA

National Heritage List on 14 March 2011.

First Lieutenant George William Allen Langford MID, of 35 Dudley Avenue had entered the RAN College as a midshipman in January 1926. He was the only son of Commander George Francis Langford, RAN who, in 1941, was Master Attendant at Garden Island. Langford had served on **HMAS Parramatta** since it was launched in 1939. On 27 November 1941 the ship was escorting transports supplying the Allied garrison at Tobruk when it was torpedoed by German submarine U-559 and sank with 138 of the 162 aboard. Langford, not yet 30, was declared missing and then presumed lost. He had been due to return to Australia to visit his wife Marjorie and their year-old baby daughter, born while he was serving overseas.



Lieutenant Leslie North Chadwick of 34 Shirley Road enlisted on 25 November 1940. He was assigned to the hospital ship *Centaur* that in November 1941 had rescued survivors of the German auxiliary cruiser *Kormoran*. On 14 May 1943 the *Centaur* was sailing north off the coast of Queensland with 332 persons on board.

Although clearly marked and lit by powerful spotlights to indicate it was a hospital ship, the *Centaur* was torpedoed by Japanese submarine I-177 and sank within minutes. Lieutenant Chadwick was one of the 268 who died. He was 31. The wreck was located on 20 December 2009, about 30 nautical miles off the southern tip of Moreton Island and is protected by the Australian government's Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976.

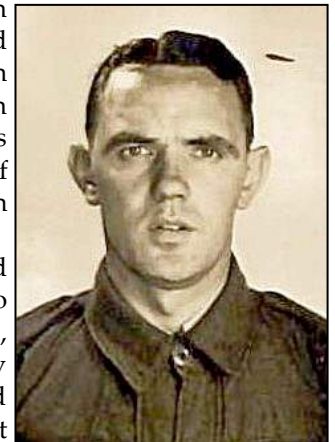


Image : Ancestry

All five men are also commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, UK.

Lest we forget.

Kathie Reith

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AHS Centaur Image : Wikipedia

The 80th anniversary of the Centaur disaster falls on the 20 July 2022.

Tour Report

On 1st June last, we ran a very successful tour commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Japanese Midget Submarine Attack on Sydney Harbour where many of our members and their guests attended - 70 in all. (See page 5 for report) This was the largest number of participants of any of the approximately 70 tours organised by our tour group over the last 7 or so years.

Until the arrival of COVID, our tours were very well attended, often with a waiting list, for example: 46 members and guests attended our tour to Belgenny Farm and Camden Park House in 2015; 40 to ANSTO at Lucas Heights in 2016; 47 on the Port Hacking Christmas cruise in 2018 and so on.

Last month we published our then current schedule: for *Madame Tussauds* in June, and *The Powerhouse Museum - Ultimo* in July. We are very disappointed to report that by the closing date for *Madame Tussauds*, only two members had shown their interest to make a booking. This followed a similar problem in April with a similar number of bookings for the *State Library* where the *Amaze Gallery* was hosting an important new display related to the 90th Anniversary of the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and much more.

We are aware of the many difficulties facing us all regarding reluctance to be 'out and about' due to the continuation of the COVID epidemic. Notwithstanding the wonderful response to the Naval Historical Society's cruise on Sydney Harbour recognizing the 80th Anniversary of the Japanese Midget Submarine Attack on Sydney Harbour (see report in this newsletter), we have taken the decision to defer our tour program until late spring. We will use this time to carefully plan for new and interesting venues.

With Best Wishes to all.

Your Tour Team

Upcoming Event

The Church of St John the Evangelist at Gordon celebrates its sesquicentenary this year and has invited Sue Holmes to repeat the talk she gave on behalf of KHS on the History of St John's Cemetery at the Heritage Month Celebration in 2021. Members of the KHS and their friends are warmly invited to hear the talk on Saturday 23 July at 2.00pm in the Upstairs Room of the St John's Hall followed by Afternoon Tea.

Lying for the Admiralty

by Margaret Cameron-Ash

At the May general meeting, lawyer-historian Margaret Cameron-Ash outlined her research detailed in her book of the same name, which showed how and why some of Cook's discoveries had been hidden from the public. She extended the talk by drawing on her more recent book, *Beating France to Botany Bay: The Race to Found Australia*, which details the exciting international race between the UK and France to claim New Holland as part of their empire. Needless to say, the New Holland locals were not consulted! The questions that followed showed appreciation of her extensive research and how our understanding of history is always under challenge as new evidence emerges.

Judith Godden

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Family History Success !

After many years looking for details of her family's arrival in Australia in the early twentieth century, Margaret Holland has recently had success. She found a shipping record showing her uncle, a shipwright and who was travelling with his wife, had travelled from Columbo to Melbourne.

Wondering why they were registered in the shipping list leaving Colombo as their point of embarkation, Margaret checked the route of the ship and found that the ship had in fact departed the UK for Colombo and after 2 days continued on to Australia.

This led her to search her mother's arrival in the same manner. She knew her mother and her family had arrived in Wellington NZ from Vancouver on the RNS Niagara as it was on this voyage she first met Margaret's father, but could not find any record of the ship's voyage. She then searched the Niagara's voyage from Vancouver to Wellington and there they were. Looking further, she traced the arrival in Sydney by researching the ship's other voyage, Wellington to Sydney.



RMS NIAGARA

The previous searches were UK to Australia and Vancouver to Sydney but if you try breaking up the voyages, you may have the same success.

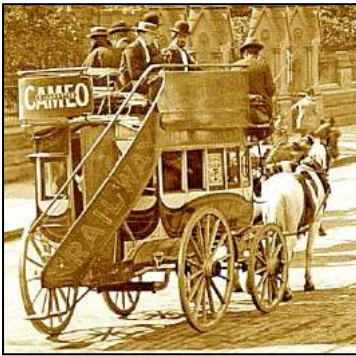
Sue Holmes

A Trip to Lane Cove in 1881

Part 1

Starting from the Circular Quay, in one of the North Shore ferry steamers, we had a very pleasant trip across the Harbour, the water being perfectly smooth and dotted here and there by boats and steamers at anchor and underway. At the Quay lay the P & O Company's *Khedive*, a very fine vessel, while in Johnston's Bay, at anchor, was the San Francisco magnificent mail boat *SS Australia*.

Arriving at Milson's Point we found the Lane Cove omnibus in waiting, which quickly filled up with passengers and left for its destination at 10.30 a.m., Mr. Watson, the proprietor, handling the ribbons and proving himself a first-class Jehu. Some of the Sydney bus drivers could take a lesson or two from Mr. Watson with advantage to themselves and their passengers. Having secured seats on the top of the bus we, I say we because there were three of us, started on our journey.



The omnibus

The horses had rather a stiff pull for some distance, as the road from the Point through the township of St. Leonards is very steep in places, and for over a mile continues to ascend. Many fine business and private premises were passed as we proceeded through the town,

generally giving the idea that the North Shore was not the most backward of our very progressive suburbs. From the top of the hill we had a delightful view of the harbour, of the city and its environs, and the Parramatta River. We then began to pass through timbered country, the Barry Estate being the first brought under our notice. This is a large and very valuable property, which is apparently not being improved to any great extent. The Lane Cove Road, which is a well metalled highway, runs through the property. We may here remark that the timber along the road, where left standing, for the part is light but close together, with a slight mixture of heavier trees.

A short distance out of town is the residence of Colonel Robetts, in a commanding position and having a most picturesque view. The Willoughby reserve of 24 acres is in this neighbourhood. It is neatly fenced in but has only been very slightly improved at present. When laid out it will doubtless be a charming place and a favourite rendezvous.

As we proceeded along the road to Gordon (the modern name for Lane Cove), numerous beautiful spots burst upon our vision. Where the timber had been cleared off, the land dug up, and laid out in

orchards and orangeries, trigonometrical land survey marks (odd looking objects erected on tripods) are to be seen at intervals on the way out.



The countryside on the trip to Lane Cove

Long distances away are observable paths which have been made through the forest and Pennant Hills, near Parramatta. We trotted along in fine style, with some ladies the top of the bus adding to the gaiety of our party and passed in succession orange groves and orchards in great numbers - all looking exceedingly healthy and well cared for.

We had no idea that there was such a charming spot embracing all that can be termed countrified, with purest of air within such easy access of Sydney. A large brick residence is being erected by Mr. S..... on the roadside, which will be an ornament to the neighbourhood. As Mr. Cochranes's brickyard is within sight of this, there is every facility for building.



Farming on the lower North Shore

It was stated to us that land at this spot had recently changed hands at a very high figure, not, however, at more than it was worth. One hundred and two acres, with some houses and other improvements were disposed of by Mr. S for the sum of £12 while Mr. K. Green, the ex-oarsman, sold his 100 acres adjoining but not so much improved, for the same amount, viz. £12. These properties are on the North Shore of Willoughby. At Gordon (better known as Lane Cove,) which is some four miles past Willoughby, property has increased in value fully 400 per cent, during the past few years.

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

Morrison Hammond

Harbour cruise commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Japanese Midget Submarine Attack on Sydney Harbour conducted by The Naval Historical Society of Australia.

On Wednesday 1st June, this tour commenced from King Street Wharf No.3, Darling Harbour on a sunny but very windy and cold day. Access to this wharf in Barangaroo was by a very easy walk from Wynyard Station or by ferry from Circular Quay. Seventy attendees (members and guests) boarded the Bennelong for this tour hosted by excellent speakers, members of the Naval Historical Society. The cruise boat Bennelong was comfortable and very well equipped for such a tour. As a bonus to such a great tour, we were served a lovely morning tea.

The Japanese had large 'mother' submarines that could launch both planes and midget submarines which provided the advantage of stealth and a surprise attack. No other navy had this capability. Three midget submarines were launched late afternoon on Sunday 31st May 1942. Their main target was the heavy cruiser USS CHICAGO, moored near Garden Island along with 29 other naval ships from Australia, the USA and one from India. Sydney was celebrating the success of the battle of the Coral Sea where the Japanese invasion fleet for Port Moresby was turned back. The Japanese were very much aware of these ships as there had been three reconnaissance flights over Sydney to identify the ships in the harbour. Sydney was very lucky in many ways as two of the three midget submarines that entered to conduct their attacks were unsuccessful and destroyed. The third, M-24, reached the inner harbour and fired two torpedoes at *USS Chicago*. Both missed the target, the first exploding on the sea wall at Garden Island underneath *HMAS Kuttabul* resulting in the sad death of 21 sailors, the second failing to explode. This submarine was able to escape the harbour and found off Sydney's Northern Beaches in 2006.

Rear Admiral Gerard Muirhead-Gould, the officer in charge of the harbour ordered the cremation and full military funeral for the four brave Japanese sailors whose bodies were recovered from their submarines. Their ashes were returned to Japan in August 1942 where they were treated as heroes.

The above barely covers the detail of this event and how it was handled at the time and Sydney Harbour's difficulties in terms of protection, boom gates etc. Sydney was not fully aware of the Japanese bombing attacks on Darwin and other parts of Northern Australia in February 1942.

We are aware of at least two books that cover this most interesting event. *Japanese Submarine Raiders 1942 A Maritime Mystery* by Steven L. Carruthers and *A Very Rude Awakening* by Peter Grose.

The Tour Team has received very positive feedback congratulating the Naval History team for such a thoughtful and illuminating tour. The books mentioned above will explain the background to the following feedback received from one of our members - "I am digesting the fact of the incompetence and disinterest by the upper echelons of the armed forces. What a dreadful situation and how much damage could have been done if the Japanese had done what they set out to do".

POSTSCRIPT

Neil Falconer



On the 1st January 1943, in memory of the event, the Naval Base at Garden Island, then known as HMAS Penguin, underwent a name change to HMAS Kuttabul.

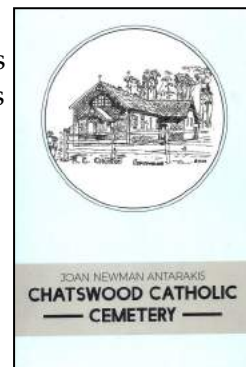


Every year since, a memorial service is held at the site. It is attended by representatives of Great Britain, Japan, the Netherlands and Australia.

Chatswood Catholic Cemetery

If you have received a Death Certificate or Transcript for a relative's burial in a cemetery at Chatswood you may be puzzled as to the whereabouts of the cemetery listed.

Joan Newman Antarakis in her well researched book 'Chatswood Catholic Cemetery' gives details of this Cemetery's name changes which she has ascertained from Death Certificates after 1864:



1. *North Shore Catholic Burial Ground – 1865*
2. *Roman Catholic St. Leonards – 1869*
3. *Lane Cove R.C. Cemetery / Burial Ground – 1871-1893*
4. *North Willoughby Catholic Cemetery – c.1876-1882*
5. *Cooper's Flat, Catholic Cemetery, Chatswood – c.1899-1911*

'The Catholic Cemetery in Anderson Street, Chatswood, was closed for burials in 1917 by order of the Council. A large portion was redeveloped in the late 1940s. To the hundreds of residents and visitors who pass by each day there is no visible evidence that a cemetery ever occupied the site. A portion of St. Pius X College is situated on the old burial ground'.

Biographical details (including end notes) for one hundred and sixty-nine of the known people buried in this cemetery and researched by the author are available in her book in the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society Research Centre Library.

Entry example:

Jonas Peter Lofberg

Born: Carlskrona, Sweden c.1835

Died: 31 July 1880, Ryde Road, Lane Cove NSW

Buried: 2 September 1880, R.C. Cemetery, Lane Cove

Father: Jonas Lofberg

Mother: Christina

Spouse: Adeline C. M. Luis, married 16 November 1863

Children: Helene, Cecilia (Blake), Jonas, Andrew P,

George born 1871 died 1872, Oscar, Francis

Remarks: Deceased arrived in the colony from Sweden per *Cornelius Edward* in 1857. Jonas was naturalised in September 1869. Jonas Lofberg's estate was valued at 350 pounds. His son George was buried at St Charles, Ryde, on 25 June 1872.

His name is on the list of 57 burials compiled by Christian Brothers, Chatswood.

Jo Harris OAM

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Tales from the Past

•••• Fire Balls in Sydney ••••

The Canberra Times, 3rd December 1935

The remarkable phenomenon of a fire-ball apparently attached to an overhead railway wire was witnessed during a thunderstorm at Epping to-day. The fire-ball melted the thick wire which fell to the platform sending the waiting train passengers scattering in panic. Lightning damaged the electric installations in several suburbs.

A second fire-ball struck the wires about a quarter of a mile away. The wires were broken and the insulators fused by the intense heat. Several people were temporarily blinded by a flash of light.

Harry Sharp, 37, of Chatswood, was partially paralysed when lightning struck the switchboard of the pottery works at Chatswood. The lightning hurled him several feet. He recovered after hospital treatment.

Notice to all Members

The invoice for your membership renewal is included with this month's Newsletter, and is payable by 31 July. To help us finalise the accounts for this financial year, it would be appreciated if payments were **not made until after 1 July**.

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

by Dick Whitaker



The car park in the newly erected St Ives Village shopping centre, 1961. Lots of interesting vehicles on parade!

Image: National Library of Australia (W. Brindle)



A similar view today,

Image : Google Street View.

This is the description accompanying the image: 'Retail shopping centres are mushrooming in the outlying areas of Australia's capital cities. More home-building in outer urban districts and better car parking facilities are inducing retailers to capitalise on the quickening pace of decentralisation. The new £400,000 two-level shopping centre at St Ives, some twelve miles from the NSW capital of Sydney, illustrates current smaller-scale shopping development'.

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German Special Interest Group

Our German SIG met on the 6th June with 14 enthusiasts attending.

Peter gave a comprehensive and well-received presentation on the Legacy Family Tree genealogy software, comparing it with online tools and paper records. An introductory PowerPoint presentation was followed by a tour of the Legacy website (legacyfamilytree.com) plus a tutorial on the software itself, using examples from the family of Queen Elizabeth II

Tony updated members on activities from the German Australian Genealogy and History Alliance (GAGHA) and the International German Genealogy Partnership (IGGP); and Frank proudly circulated an essay written by his 16 year old grandson, describing how history has a habit of repeating itself (especially in light of current military activities in Europe) from the perspective of a family impacted by World War II. Very sobering.

The next meeting is planned for Monday 8th August 2022 at 1:30 pm. Visitors are welcome to attend! For more information, see www.khs.org.au/german-sig

Peter Stehn

Tales from the Past

14 December 1806

As a Reward for the Encouragement of growing Peaches for the purpose of making Cider, it is HIS EXCELLENCY's pleasure to announce, that the person who will produce, in the next Peach Season, Two Hogsheads of Peach Cider, which when One Year old is judged by him to be the best, shall receive a Cow from the Government as a Reward.



New Members

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

Geoff Lovell & Partner from Lindfield
Virginia & Richard Fischer from Warrawee

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

DIARY DATES

JULY 2022

Saturday 16 : **2pm - General Meeting**
More Iconic Australian Inventions
Presenter : Ian Thompson

Saturday 23 : **2pm - Meeting** at Church of St John,
Gordon
History of St John's Cemetery
Presenter : Sue Holmes

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

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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.

### Treasurer's Report

Income for May was from sales of books, whilst expenses included computer resources, internet fees, postage and stationery. A deficit resulted for the month, however, we are still in surplus year to date. It is expected that we will have a small surplus for the 2022 year and the society will end the year in a strong financial position.

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

Until next month.

*Ken Bromley*

## ADMINISTRATION

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|                | Morrison Hammond | 0425 303 525 |
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|                | Yvette Reeve     | 0414 249 737 |

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|                      | Trish Thomson     | 9499 8659            |
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| Tour Contact         | Yvette Reeve      | 0414 249 737         |
| Speakers' Programme  | Beverley Dunstan  | 9419 8526            |
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|                      | Ralph Davis       | webmaster@khs.org.au |
| Welfare Officer      | Jill Nicholson    | 9144 6948            |

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