



# 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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## March Meeting -

### *ERYLDENE- a Ku-ring-gai Jewel*

President Kevin reported to the Society's 15<sup>th</sup> March meeting on a number of current issues prior to introducing our Guest Speaker, Ian Waterhouse.

Ian had been the Foundation Professor of Psychology at Macquarie University and Head of the School of Behavioural Science. He was the youngest son of Professor Gowrie Waterhouse who built the heritage-listed Eryldene at 17 McIntosh St, Gordon in 1914. The home had been designed by his father's friend, architect Hardy Wilson. Having been brought up at Eryldene, Ian was able to tell us how it had been to live there as a family before it became a showpiece.

The Waterhouse family was of Methodist bent and Ian smilingly told us how the family referred to the Prospect Dam as the Prospect Lake. He said that his father had toyed in his early life with following his father and grandfather into the ministry but chose against it.

Most people who have visited Eryldene have been entranced by the simplicity of its design and also by the magnificence of its garden with its many Camellias and other rare and impressive plants. Ian gave us new insights because he enhanced its beauty of structure with stories of the Waterhouse parents and children who lived there. Professor Waterhouse was painted by Ian as a warm father, who shared the upbringing of the four children with their mother, Janet, who, in Ian's words, was "always available, helpful and loving". The garden was the scene of hide-and-seek, while the tennis court saw fantasised recreations of cricket matches featuring Don Bradman in company with other heroes of the day. With Ian's stories, the house became warm with the presence of the family sharing meals (including breakfast) in the dining room, and with the table being decorated with flowers specially picked from the garden on birthdays. Ian spoke of children doing homework and riding a scooter up and down the corridor; with the Professor withdrawing to his garden flat to escape the telephone and rowdiness of the family when he had to prepare lectures. The library was used by all the family when information was needed for projects. There were visits by many academics, artists, musicians, overseas diplomats and friends. The tastefully furnished Drawing Room was reserved for the more formal of these occasions and not otherwise used.

It was a pleasant talk, much enjoyed by all present and Ian was warmly thanked.

## Coming Meetings

### Next Society General Meeting

**Wednesday 17 May at 7.45pm**

The opportunity will be taken to "recognise" our many Volunteers whose efforts contribute so much to the success of the Society.

#### **Guest Speaker: Ken Knight**

Society member Ken Knight will speak on the significance of inns, taverns, alehouses and hotels in the daily life of Sydney's early settlers. Ken and colleague Allan Rost have spent several years compiling a database covering the County of Cumberland up to the year 1850 which is soon to be published as a searchable CD. It has information on 2500 publicans, many of whom were convicts and colourful characters, plus pub buildings and signs and contemporary licensing arrangements.

Supper will be available  
Visitors welcome



### Next Family History Meetings

**Saturday 6 May**

11am: Members' Research

2pm: General Meeting

Guest Speaker: Helen Dickinson

Topic: *Getting the Most from Google*

Family History research today makes access to the internet virtually essential but how many of us know how use it to best advantage, whether for family history purposes or for any other reason?

Afternoon Tea will be available  
Visitors welcome

## Welcome to New Members

We are pleased indeed to welcome the following recent new members:

Cheryl Kinsey (Pymble); Chris Radford (Killara); Harry Loughman (Killara); Kate Wexler (Northwood)

We know they will enjoy their time in the Society and that we in turn will enjoy their company.

## Recent Acquisitions

HAWKESBURY HEROES- Vol 1-Extracts from the Windsor and Richmond Gazette (1914-1915) of news items and letters re WW1 servicemen. Collated by Rod & Wendy Gow, Val Birch. Several hundred entries. Indexed. 150 pages.

## Southern Tour

On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March a full coachload of members visited Picton, Camden and The Oaks. A stroll through the Picton village was followed by a tour of the local historic sights. Then on to Wollondilly Heritage Centre at The Oaks for a short talk on the area's history followed by a video showing the clearing of the nearby Burragorang Valley prior to building the Warragamba Dam. This Heritage Centre is well worth a visit and comprises several separate buildings with extremely well presented displays. Next was Camden where the local museum was unfortunately closed but the group visited instead the impressive St Johns Church and its historic churchyard. The Tour was arranged by our incredibly energetic Vice President, Jo Harris and, as always, was informative with good fun and fellowship.

- Based upon notes taken by Joan Antarakis

## We now have 70 Volunteers

It is gratifying indeed to realise we now have this number of members happy to help others in their research and generally ensure the Society ticks over smoothly. Mind you, our resources of information and equipment have increased so much over recent times that it is quite a job for every one of us to keep on top of it all. For this reason an intensive few days of "retraining and updating" are in the pipeline. A worthwhile by-product is that volunteers will add to their own skills and, in the process of learning, enjoy the company of other members. Dates will be announced shortly.

## Tulkiyan Open Day

Congratulations to the Friends of Tulkiyan for the success of their Open Day on 9 April as part of Heritage Week activities. The Society does not play a direct role in managing Tulkiyan but it is warming to see its value to the community becoming more widely appreciated.

## Quiz

1 Q: For many years the community relied on Churches to maintain birth, death and marriage records. In what year was compulsory civil registration introduced in NSW by the Government?

(a) 1845 (b) 1856 (c) 1888 (d) 1901

2. Q: What is a Sands Directory?

(a) A list of NSW beaches; (b) A list of occupants in each street; (c) A list of the products of John Sands (stationers); (d) A privately published telephone Directory issued before the PMG published one.

3. Q: Ku-ring-gai has had a number of married couples where both parties have excelled in the arts. Can you link the following husbands and wives? Maiden or professional names are shown here for the wives.

Husbands	Wives
Tony Tuckson, artist	Margaret Coen, artist
Frank Hinder, artist	Alison Rehfish, artist
George Duncan, artist	Dorothea Margaret Bissett, potter
Peter Laverty	Jean Appleton, artist
Tom Green, artist	Margel Harris, sculptor
Douglas Stewart, poet	Ursula Nathan, artist

## A busy, busy month!

The last few weeks have been particularly busy.

Activities have included-

- \* a manned display at the Garden Festival at St Ives Showground on 25<sup>th</sup> March
- \* staging several displays in the corridors outside our Research Centre from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> April in connection with Heritage Week
- \* organising a display at our Centre featuring the work of past Gordon resident Dr JJC Bradfield of Harbour Bridge fame
- \* Conducting a Heritage Tour of the Lindfield, Gordon and Wahroonga Railway Stations on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April in conjunction with the National Trust. A description of the Stations can be found in History Notes.
- \* A manned display at St Ives Shopping Centre on 30<sup>th</sup> March celebrating Seniors Week
- \* Our 18<sup>th</sup> March Tour to Camden, Picton and The Oaks mentioned elsewhere.
- \* An organised tour by 20 members to the Society of Australian Genealogists on 3<sup>rd</sup> April
- \* Our regular meetings of the Society (15<sup>th</sup> March) and Family History group (1<sup>st</sup> April)

All these, plus having our Centre staffed and various projects being undertaken, reinforces awareness of how much the Society depends on the involvement of our many volunteers.

## We need your help!!!

A group of volunteers has been working on a new “Streets of Ku-ring-gai” book for many months. This project is far more difficult than we had anticipated. But we now know why the Society gets so many enquiries on street names!

Ku-ring-gai has not had a firm policy on naming streets, or keeping records as to why streets were named. The reasons are many, varied and frequently obscure.

For example:

- Two streets in Lindfield, Owen and Howard, seem to have been named after the surveyors for the subdivision.
- One group of streets in South Turramurra was named after aviators, and another group after members of Captain Cook’s first voyage in 1770.
- Margaret Street Roseville is named after Winifred Margaret Dodds, who owned the original property.

So it appears that there have been many different principles used to name a cluster of streets, but often individual streets have been named without recording the reason.

If you have any information on why any of the streets in Ku-ring-gai were named, we would like to hear from you.

At the moment we need specific help with the following:-

- Gordon: Pearson Av, Lennox St.  
Killara: Kiamala Cr, Saiala Rd, Bruce Av.  
Lindfield: Max Allen Drive, Treatts Road, Robinson Street, Charles Street, Edmund Street, Johnson Street.  
Pymble: Cameron Road, Cadow Street.  
Turramurra: Handley Av, Evelyn Av.  
St Ives: Ashlar Street, Dawn Close, Flinders Avenue  
Roseville: Abingdon Road, Bayswater Road.  
Wahroonga: Lockville Street, Munderah Avenue

If you are able to assist with information on a street, or can help with the project in general, please call Ann Barry on 9144 6480 or email [a.barry@optusnet.com.au](mailto:a.barry@optusnet.com.au)



Do you know this street?

## Profile of Member - Ken Knox



Though a relatively new member, Ken has already become a familiar face. He can often be seen toiling quietly away at the computer in the Research Centre scanning many photographs in our Collection.

Ken graduated from the University of Sydney with Class I Honours in Biochemistry in 1949 and followed this with an MSc. He then went to London to study for a Ph.D and married Gwen Cork, a nursery school teacher, just two weeks before sailing. He worked at the Lister Institute and this led to studies on the surface components of oral bacteria. Oral bacteria issues occupied most of his professional life.

Returning to Sydney, he became a Lecturer in Biochemistry before moving to the Institute of Dental Research in 1958. The Institute had been established in 1946 by Dr Neil Goldsworthy of Pymble. Dr Goldsworthy and the Assistant Director, Dr Harold Sullivan of Roseville, both died suddenly in late 1960. Ken was appointed Assistant Director and then Director. He also became Professor of Oral Biology in the University of Sydney and frequently travelled overseas to lecture and to develop collaborative studies. He was awarded a Senior Fulbright Research Fellowship and a major research grant from the US National Institutes of Health.

After retirement Ken wrote the History of the Institute of Dental Research, Sydney, 1946-1996, before he and Gwen turned to family history to “keep the brain cells active”. Ken’s grandfather, Harry Munro, had been a Lane Cove River ferry captain who had lived with his family as caretakers at the historic Carisbrook on Burns Bay Road. For this reason Ken and Gwen have for many years been members of the Lane Cove Historical Society which is responsible for Carisbrook.

Gwen was born in the Milton district on the south coast, where her father’s Cork family had been farmers since the 1850s. As a result, Gwen and Ken have together written the story of the Corks for the Milton Ulladulla Genealogy and Historical Societies.

Ken is descended from George Knox who migrated from Armagh, Ireland, in 1867, and from Agnes McGregor, who had arrived at the age of five from Blair Athol, Scotland, in 1853. Agnes had a younger sister, Elizabeth, who happens to have been the great-grandmother of Kathie Rieth one of the editors of our HISTORIAN.

Though Ken and Gwen have lived in Pymble for nearly 40 years, their many other activities meant they did not become involved with our Society until recently.

# History Notes

## The North Shore Railway

The North Shore railway is over 115 years old. It opened on 1 January 1890 with a single line from St Leonards to Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai stations were at Roseville, Lindfield, Gordon, Pymble, Turramurra and Wahroonga. Killara opened in 1899 and Warrawee in 1900. There were four services each day in each direction during the week and two on Saturday. Until the line was extended to Milsons Point in 1893 a cable tramway provided a connection to harbour ferries. Duplication of the line was completed to Lindfield in 1900 and Wahroonga in 1909.

*The North Shore Line is recognised as having High Regional Significance. The station precincts are excellent examples of railway architecture. They display a unity of development rarely seen on the railway system and are sited in garden settings typical of many stations throughout the State at the time but which now have largely been removed.*

The first stations were basic timber utilitarian structures. The majority were rectangular with an iron skillion roof that either sloped towards or away from the platform. The only surviving example of this style is located at Gordon.

With duplication of the line came the introduction of island platforms with brick station buildings. Every brick station building now existing in Ku-ring-gai was Federation in style with a steep gable and corrugated iron roof. They were 11-12 feet in width and ranged in length from Lindfield 57 feet, to 108 feet at Killara. Large prefabricated metal brackets supported the awnings and eliminated the need for columns or posts to support the verandah.

All the functions were contained within the station building and usually included: Station Master's office; Booking office; General waiting room with a ticket window; Ladies' waiting room with toilet. Access to the ladies' toilets was via the ladies' waiting room. A cleaners' passage separated the ladies' and men's toilets so the pans could be removed without entering the ladies' waiting room. The men's toilets were located at the end of the building, usually the "country" end away from the city, and hidden by a vanity screen.

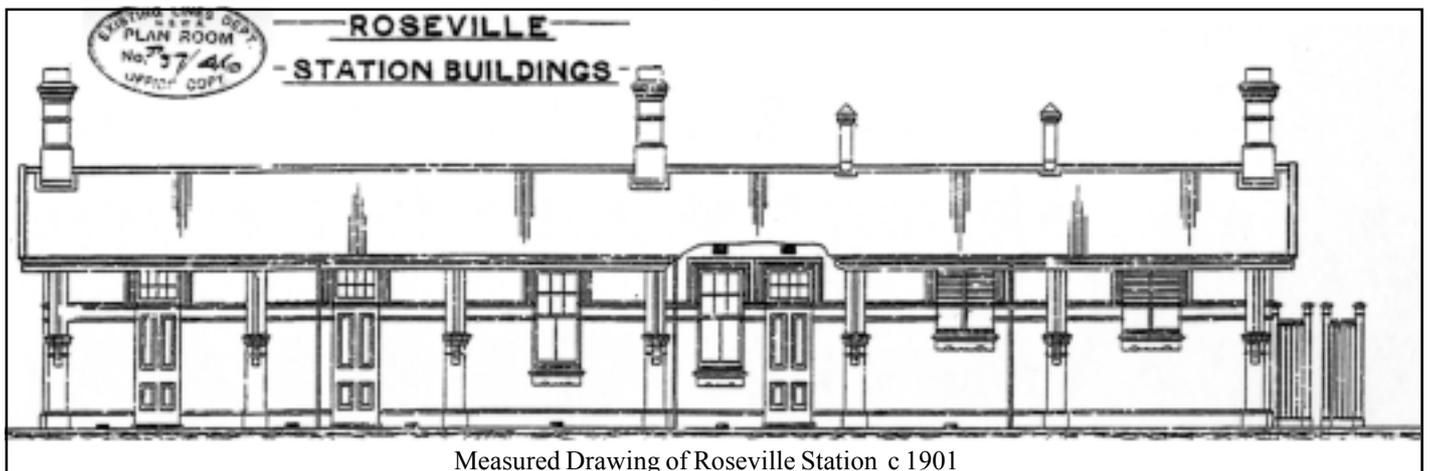
Roseville Station is the first of the eight stations in the Municipality of Ku-ring-gai. When approaching Roseville, travellers can recognise they are entering a different type of locality: one with more open space and larger gardens. Roseville Station Master's cottage, built in 1903, still stands beside the Pacific Highway.

Lindfield Station is one of the most interesting precincts containing both a side platform as well as an island platform. It is the only station to have a full brick station building on the second platform; an original men's water closet with cleaner's passage; a station driver's drinking fountain and the only station to have a pre-cast panelled signal station. Lindfield also contains Newel posts with the star design, "haunched" beams and RSJ trestles.

Killara Station with its surrounding gardens was featured on the front cover of the Sydney Suburban train timetable during the 1960s and demonstrates the importance of the garden settings at that time. A series of pathways lead from the surrounding residential areas to the footbridge, a unique feature of this station. Killara is another station containing Newel posts featuring the star design.

Gordon Station with its garden setting is probably the best example of its kind in NSW. The precinct contains a footbridge with an overhead booking office; a brick station building on an island platform and a timber waiting shed on a side platform. The group is valued because of its intact condition, its retention of significant detail and its use as an intermediate terminus with the use of the additional platform. Its significance is heightened with the additional items of intact signal box and fittings. The footbridge constructed of steel contains the oldest "haunched beams" in NSW, a timber booking office and WWI Honour Board.

Pymble Station had the potential to be one of the most dangerous stations because the railway crossed the highway on a level crossing. Pymble station contains the relatively rare 'haunched beams" RSJ trestles and Newel posts featuring the knob design. There are only three sites in NSW where this design of Newel post still exists.



Measured Drawing of Roseville Station c 1901

Turrumurra Station has the oldest brick island station building in Ku-ring-gai, being constructed in 1899. The circular gusset inset in the awning bracket indicates that it was built in the 1890s and is the only example of its kind in Ku-ring-gai.

Warrawee Station was the last station to be built in Ku-ring-gai. It is in a bushland setting and is unique in that there is an absence of commercial buildings in the area.

Wahroonga Station is a superb example of the early 1900s Sydney suburban railway station architecture and design and is set among lovingly tended gardens. Trees and shrubs on the platform add to the pleasant appearance. At the Northern end of Wahroonga Station is a “freestanding” footbridge over the railway allowing pedestrian access over the railway without entering onto railway property. The Station precinct and footbridge contain Newel posts featuring the knob and star designs.

*Extracted from the talks given by Jennifer Harvey, Janine Kitson, Kathie Rieth and Ian Ramage at the KHS Railways Tour on 2 April in conjunction with the National Trust and Heritage Week.*

## **\$2500 Brierley Competition**

The North Shore Historical Society is inviting entries for the annual \$2500 Isabella Brierley Competition for an unpublished biography of a person whose life and/or career was substantially connected with the North Shore. Entries close on 1 July and can range from 5000 to 50000 words. Information can be had from the NS Historical Society at 44 Kurraba Rd, Neutral Bay, or from phone 9955 1921.

## **An Early Burial**

Back in the 1970s our 2004 Historian of the Year, John Brown, in a talk to the Society, referred to the school on the site of St Johns Church, Gordon. The school had been built with the help of a £10 donation from Governor Macquarie. William Baker was the first, and perhaps only, teacher. John later told how, in discussion time after the meeting, the late Fred Pymble gave a droll “off-the-cuff” account of William’s burial as the story had been handed down from generation to generation in the Pymble family.

According to Fred, it seems the deceased had no known relatives. It also seems there was no graveyard in the area at the time (the first recorded burial at St Johns did not take place until 1867) so several of William’s friends decided to take his casket by dray to a cemetery to the south.

As they had to pass by the Greengate it was unanimously agreed a drink or two in honour of the departed would be in order. In due course the party resumed its journey but, having travelled several miles, it was noticed the casket was no longer in the dray. There was nothing for it but to return towards the Greengate searching along the way. Eventually

the missing casket was found beside the road but by this time night was falling. What to do? Obviously the problem warranted serious discussion and, as the Greengate was nearby, it was resolved to repair once more to that establishment for a conference and for refreshment after the long journey.

Some time later it was agreed there was nothing else to do but bury William locally so the mourners travelled back in the dark towards the north until a suitable track into the bush was found. They led their horse, the dray and casket along it for some distance before digging a grave into which the casket was lowered.

Unfortunately no one was clear the next day just where that track had been or, if they were, were too shamefaced to talk of the previous day’s events.

It was not until the 1920s when the Gas Company was laying gas pipes in Church Street, Pymble, that a workman’s pick solved the mystery and the truth was uncovered.

## **Fickle Fashion**

In 1890 Clara Reynolds was a 12 year old living with her family in Coonanbarra Road, Wahroonga. The HISTORIAN of September 1977 records her recollection that “our house was a halfway house for folks from the Hawkesbury River going to town with fish or other goods – or perhaps to do some shopping or attend the theatre. I remember yet, two girls from a well-known family ... calling in to change for a dance. Their underclothing was made from flour bags which was quite a common thing in early days, and lifting up their skirts they cried “Look Mrs Reynolds – super fine!”. Nothing but the best!

And there was the little boy, accompanying his father when Dad was buying a suit, who asked to see the lining. Why? Because he knew the time would come when the lining would be turned into something he would be wearing himself.

## **As it was**

Elsewhere in this Newsletter mention is made of Fred Pymble. Fred was born in 1873 and a great grandson of the first Robert Pymble. Before his 1969 death he reminisced about his early childhood and told of the Pittwater (Mona Vale Rd) home of his “Grand Parents McIntosh” as it was in about 1880. This grandfather McIntosh was Charles McIntosh, a son of Robert McIntosh who had come to Australia as Bandmaster of the 46<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot in 1814. In Fred’s words “the old colonial place was timber with a floor made of beaten down ant gravel. ... The place was built of adzed slabs with interstices covered with stringy bark, lined on the inside with hessian, with paper pasted over it”. This then was the home in which the ancestors of two of Ku-ring-gai’s best known families were happy to live. What would our “baby-boomer” generation make of that!

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# Family Matters

## Members Meeting 1st April

### 11am Research Meeting

Jo Harris showed the following CDs to the 25 present at the 11am Research Meeting:

- NZ Marriages 1836-1956
- John's Notable Australians 1906 (forerunner of Who's Who)
- 1831 Tithe Defaulters (Ireland)
- Index of Ships Pictures and References, Mitchell Library

### 2pm Members' Meeting

Over 40 attended the afternoon meeting when Jo reported on:

- 3 NEW COMPUTERS with Windows XP and also a 400 gig drive to be a server for all computers and help overcome the huge task of keeping all resources up to date.
- ACTIVITIES - March events and forthcoming ones including a new Beginners Course (for "all-comers") which will be "hands on" with homework between classes. \$75 including all hand-outs.
- FORTHCOMING AUSTRALIAN CENSUS IN AUGUST 2006. Members are encouraged to tick "Yes" to the question relating to the retention of census details for release in 99 years' time.
- GRD (*Genealogical Research Directory*) - recommended the use of this annual publication, which lists names all over the world with researchers' addresses. Several recent copies have been acquired for our library.

### BOOKS

Jo, Jenny Joyce, Max Farley and Bruce Henderson (Jo's cousin visiting from England) spoke on the following books some of which had been added to the Collection. Others were tabled for examination.

Bright Hopes for Tomorrow

A Pictorial History of Sydney Suburban Cinemas  
Cinemas of Australia

History of Ku-ring-gai Art Society

Strength of Spirit (re pioneering women)

Taken for Granted (Sydney Bushland)

Curious Scotland, by George Rosie

The Tribes of Britain, which goes back to prehistoric times

Governor's Noble Guest (taken from Hyacinthe de Bougainville's diaries)

A Girl at Government House (below stairs)

On the Edge (deaths at The Gap)

Plague - Epidemic in Australia, Sydney and interstate 1900

They Worked at Camden Park

Hill End and Tambaroora Pioneer Register

Yerranderie 1871 - 1995

Ron Mill's Yerranderie-Burraborang Scrolls  
Redbank Uniting Church  
St Matthews Church, The Oaks  
Index to Marriage Registers in Picton area

Jo spoke on the flooding of Burraborang Valley, where 5 churches had been lost and many headstones moved.

Stella Green reported on a recent cruise to Hobart (where she visited the Tasmanian Museum and Ingle Hall), Melbourne (St Kilda Cemetery), and Adelaide (Migration Museum and Maritime Museum).

The meeting's subject of "*Looking Outside the Square - Your Yes Moments*" drew experiences from Joy Walker, Bruce Henderson, Kevin Callinan, Stella Sutherland, Kerrin Cook and Joyce Ryerson.

The raffle of pre-loved books was won by Mary Minns.

- based on notes taken by Stella Green

## Can you tell us?

Pentecost Avenue, once known as Pentecost "Highway", is so known because "way back" a nurseryman, or two, lived in the area. Very little is known about them but the records do show that a Henry Lear Pentecost was on the 1859/60 Electoral Roll at "Lane Cove" and that the marriage of a gentleman of that name to Alice Jane Johnson was registered at St Leonards in 1856. He seems to have had at least two sons. Was Henry our nurseryman? If so where did he come from and where did he go? If not Henry, who was the nurseryman - or were there more than one? Perhaps one or other of his children? What happened to them? The name *Pentecost* is of sufficient local interest to warrant finding out more. This is a challenge. So much so we are offering a pre-loved copy of Les Thorne's book *North Shore, Sydney from 1788 to Today* as a prize. To win you must provide a significant amount of information about them with sources. Descriptive material would be very welcome but beyond that officially recorded information is needed. Our Family History Leader, Jo H, will be the sole judge and "no correspondence etc". What about accepting the challenge?

## "Of many parts"

Our member Catherine Williams is widely known as "The Cemetery Lady" because of the enthusiasm she has for cemeteries. This has been a by-product of her family history research. She has visited hundreds of cemeteries in NSW and is a trustee of Gore Hill. Catherine however has other interests too and was recently invited to open Gundagai's Annual Show. She has gained the reputation in the district as a Gundagai historian because some members of her family

settled there and she has become well known as a result of delving into their history. As if that is not enough, Catherine, whose family was of religious bent, last month presided over a service at St Barnabas, an historic Anglican church at Yarramalong. The church was opened in 1885 and is now deconsecrated. A non-denominational service is held once a month. Catherine is truly a lady of many parts.

## An early Surveyor

My Grandfather, Francis Peter MacCabe (1817-1897), was engaged in England by the NSW Government in 1841 as an Assistant Surveyor, arriving in Sydney in October of that year. He was placed, by Sir Thomas Mitchell, in charge of a party comprising another Assistant Surveyor, a draftsman and convicts to survey the Snowy Mountains area and beyond. As he was completely ignorant of Australian conditions and of what supplies to order, the journey to Cooma took a lengthy three months and Surveyor Townsend was sent from Melbourne to take over.

His surveying, however, was excellent and over the next few years he surveyed the Genoa River to its mouth and laid out towns, including Pambula. In 1847 he was sent to the Murray-Darling area, surveying the Lachlan, the Murrumbidgee, the Murray to the South Australian border (north side) and the Darling up as far as Fort Bourke.

In 1853, he was promoted to "Surveyor" and appointed to lead a party to establish a permanent settlement at Gladstone in Queensland (Queensland was then part of NSW). He remained there until late 1855 when he returned to Sydney and married Jane, the eldest daughter of Henry Osborne of "Marshallmount", Dapto, then said to be the "richest man in Australia".

MacCabe left the Public Service in October, 1856. He stood for Parliament, was unsuccessful, and became Manager of the Osborne-Wallsend Colliery in the Wollongong area, until he retired many years later.

Irish-born, he considered he was treated badly by the Government who in his view did not comply with the conditions of employment he had accepted (due to the 1843-5 Depression). His correspondence seeking back-pay gave rise to caustic comments from Sir Thomas Mitchell which are on record. Nevertheless Mitchell was so impressed with his surveying skills that he sent two of his sons to study under him in the field.

In 1988 I was honoured to be invited to unveil a plaque to the memory of my grandfather at the Port Curtis Historical village near Gladstone. This ceremony was part of the Australian Bicentennial Celebrations in 1988 when Queensland paid tribute to a number of Surveyor-Explorers.

Fifteen years later, in 2003, I was asked (jointly with the Mayor) to unveil another monument at the landing place at Gladstone to mark the 150th Anniversary of that event.

- Michael MacCabe

## Who is Jo Harris ?

Yes, we know that Jo is officially the Leader of the Family History group. She is also seen at most functions of the Society and is involved in organizing many of them. She runs coach tours, training courses, organizes volunteers' rosters, and constantly adds to our Collection of books, CDs and resources. Her outstanding work capacity and infectious enthusiasm are impressive indeed but how much do many of us know about the lady herself?

Something can be learnt of her from the Society's publication *Women of Ku-ring-gai* published in 1999. In retrospect, however, and in view of what she has done since, that article does not do her sufficient justice. It certainly records her achievements to that time in amateur wireless (the Institute's historian), her role in coordinating communication during the 1991 "big storm" and 1994 bushfires when other communication systems faltered, her creation of a garden of such quality it was featured in the Open Garden Scheme and her activities in spinning, ceramics, philately, amateur athletics, the Girl Guides and Cubs, soccer, mosaics, amateur theatre and being mother to a daughter and twin sons just to mention of some of her involvements. A later role was "Mission Controller" for Dick Smith's epic 1993 balloon flight across Australia from West to East. And, dare we mention it, she recently became a great-grandmother.

It does not, however, mention that Jo is Vice President of the Society, served a year as Acting President, is Leader of the Society's Family History Group and our current *Historian of the Year*. The reason the article does not include these is because when the *Women of Ku-ring-gai* item was published in 1999 she was not even a member of the Society nor did she admit to any interest in family history at all.

Nor does the article mention John, her retired merchant mariner husband, who prefers to remain in the background. It is very clear that John gives strong support to Jo as she pursues her enthusiasms even to the extent of spending hundreds of hours developing databases for family history research.

Her achievements have been honoured by the State Government for her bushfire work as well as by Rotary and Ku-ring-gai Council.

The Society should be, and is, more than a little thankful that Jo Harris has chosen to direct so much of her abundant energy to serving the Ku-ring-gai community through nurturing local and family history in our area.

## Copy for Newsletter

General copy for publication should be lodged with the Acting Editor, Max Farley at (mmff@ozemail.com.au) as early as possible but no later than 10<sup>th</sup> of the month (except 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.

## SAG Showcase

The Society of Australian Genealogists *SHOWCASE* is to be held on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May from 10am until 4pm each day. The event will be at the SAG premises. As is usual, the attractions include a two-day Speakers' Program, representatives of special interest groups, displays of products and services used by family historians, a sale of new and second hand books plus a sausage sizzle, sandwiches, tea and coffee. The cost is \$15 in total if pre-booked for both days rising to \$15 per day for casual attendees. Information can be had from SAG at 120 Kent St (9247 3953).

## Quiz Answers

1. A: Compulsory civil registration was introduced in 1856.  
2. A: (b) John Sands (Printers and Publishers) issued directories, usually published annually, showing the names of all the occupiers in alphabetical order in each suburb. For Ku-ring-gai they were published from 1903 to 1932/33. Other inclusions are trade and professional lists.  
3. A: Married couples were as follows, showing birth year and suburb of residence. Professional names in italics:  
Douglas Stewart (1913) and *Margaret Coen* (1909)  
Frank Hinder (1906) and Margel Harris (1906) (*Margel Hinder*) (Gordon)  
Tony Tuckson (1921) and Dorothea Margaret Bissett (1921) (*Margaret Tuckson*) (Warrabee)  
Tom Green (1913) and *Jean Appleton* (1911) (Pymble)  
George Duncan (1904) and *Allison Rehfsch* (1900) (Pymble)  
Peter Laverly (1926) and Ursula Nathan (1930) (*Ursula Laverly*) (Wahroonga)

## Research Centre Hours

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

## Diary Dates

- Sat 6 May **FAMILY HISTORY MEETINGS**  
Victorian (the State) research 11 am  
FH General meeting 2 pm  
Guest speaker: Helen Dickinson  
*Getting the Most from Google*
- Wed 17 May **KHS GENERAL MEETING**  
7.45 pm  
Guest Speaker: Ken Knight  
*Publicans and Pubs of Colonial Sydney*
- Sat 3 June **FAMILY HISTORY MEETINGS**  
Members' research 11 am  
FH General meeting 2 pm  
*Members will be requested to bring a family letter or postcard that has particular interest to their family.*
- Sat 17 June **KHS GENERAL MEETING**  
2 pm  
Guest Speaker: Stephen Szabo  
*Heraldry in Australia*
- Sun 18 June **ST IVES FESTIVAL ON THE GREEN**  
(includes KHS activities)

Family History Meetings are held on the first Saturday of every month other than January. Members' Research starts at 11am and is followed by a General Meeting at 2pm.

## Administration

President	Kevin Callinan	9983 1525
Vice Presidents	Helen Davies	9498 3754
	Jo Harris	9489 4393
Treasurer	Doug Milne	9487 2853
Secretary	Alison Trotter	9489 2787
Immed. Past President	Max Farley	9499 7113
Committee members	Ann Barry	9144 6480
	Kerrin Cook	9416 2586
	Sue Dunston	9498 8720
	Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
	David Wilkins	9416 8519

### Appointees

Accessions	Jennifer Wallin	9488 9514
Book Sales/Asst Curator	Ann Barry	9144 6480
Curator	Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
Family History		
Leader:	Jo Harris	9489 4393
Committee:	Lyn Done, Jenny Joyce Jean Smith, Peter Stehn, Elaine Turnidge	
Historian Editors	c/- Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
	with Kathie Rieth, John King, Bob Ross	
Newsletter -Editor (Acting)	Max Farley	9499 7113
- Layout	Kerrin Cook	9416 2586
Speakers' Programme	Beverley Dunstan	9419 8526
Volunteers Roster	Heather Davidson	9144 1844

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