



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 History Council of NSW, the Society of Australian Genealogists, and the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc.

January/February 2006

Monthly Newsletter

Vol 24 • No. 1

PO Box 109 Gordon NSW 2072 • Ph: (02) 9499 4568 • www.kuringgai.net/khs • email: khs@kuringgai.net

Mayor Malicki Opens Museum

The new Headmaster's Office Museum was officially opened by our Mayor, Councillor Elaine Malicki, on Saturday 19 November immediately following the General Meeting. A large crowd of members and visitors witnessed the ceremonial cutting of the ribbon. The museum is dedicated to the teachers, students, parents and citizens who made the school such an important part of Ku-ring-gai's life from its opening in 1871 to its 1989 closure. The ceremony was followed by our customary Christmas refreshments.

In introducing Councillor Malicki, KHS President Kevin Callinan expressed appreciation to some of the many people who had made the project possible including Dr K N E (Bill) Bradfield whose father Dr J J C Bradfield, himself a Ku-ring-gai resident, played a major role in the development of the Harbour Bridge. Some others who helped establish the Museum were Ku-ring-gai Council, its management and staff who assisted in creating the display area, the Ku-ring-gai Library and many Society members.

The School had its origin in 1871 when the Wesleyans, who had operated a school in what are now the grounds of Ravenswood, decided to hand it over to the State Government. A new building on the present site was completed in 1877.



Mayor, Councillor Elaine Malicki officially opens the new Headmaster's Office Museum

Known as the Lane Cove Public School, it became the Gordon Public School in 1885. Kevin detailed some of the additions made to the buildings over the years because of the need to accommodate increased student numbers. He referred too to the threat to the School's very existence in the 1880s because the proposed railway line bisected its land. Fortunately land was available at both the Park Avenue end of the existing building and also North along the Highway and this was acquired for future expansion.

Kevin made special mention of Harold Lovelock Fry, known to the students as "Cocky" Fry, who was Headmaster from 1890 until 1924. Major progress in the development of the School was made during his lengthy 34 year tenure. A disaster was avoided in the year after his departure when an attempt was made to burn down the building. Abbotsholme College in Greengate Avenue was torched the same night. After putting out the Gordon Public School's fire, the brigade went to Abbotsholme but, being of wooden construction, it was burnt out.

The Society's thanks go to Councillor Malicki for contributing to the formalities. All in all, a pleasant and interesting afternoon.

Next General Meeting

Wednesday, 15 February at 7.45pm
**Lane Cove Boatman: The Story
of Joseph Fidden**

By Dr Ken Meldrum (KHS Member)

Supper will be served.

Visitors welcome.

Family History Meetings

Saturday, 4 February 2006

11am: BDMs on the internet

2pm: FH General Meeting

Jo Harris will talk on "Digital Cameras and Laptop Computers for the Genealogist".

(This presentation was recently given at SAG).

Visitors welcome.

January Meeting Report

The 18 January General Meeting was held after this Newsletter went to press. Jo Harris spoke on the British-Australian Connection with reference particularly to England.

RAHS Events

The Royal Australian Historical Society with which we are affiliated has many activities which members may wish to attend. All are at the RAHS at 133 Macquarie St unless stated otherwise. Fees are for persons who are not RAHS members in their own right. Enquire at 9247 8001 re bookings.

Thursday 26 January (Australia Day)

Pot Luck with History. Call in to hear one or more ten minute talks on something about events, people or places that contributed to Australia's history. Every half hour from noon to 3pm. No booking needed.

Tuesdays 7, 14, 21 and 28 February

A Workshop – Creating a Heritage Album. A four week course from 10am to 2pm on 7, 14, 21, and 28 February on storing your photos and memorabilia safely. \$90.

Wednesday 8 March

Celebrating Local Government. Before the 1906 Local Government Act most of NSW was administered by the NSW Government and the records are now kept at State Records. Christine Yeats will talk about the wealth of information to be found there. 5.30pm for a 6pm start. Light refreshments. \$7.

Wednesday 15 March at *State Records*, Globe St, The Rocks **AND**

Wednesday 22 March at O'Connell St, Kingswood *Women Through the Records.* 10.30am to 12.30pm. A seminar by State Records and the RAHS on new sources of information for those researching the history of women. This is to celebrate Women's History Month. Attend either location. Free but book early.

State Library Hours

New opening hours of the State and Mitchell Libraries were introduced on 3 January. The State Reference Library is open from 9am-9pm (Monday-Thursday); 9am-6pm (Friday) and 11am-5pm (weekends). The Mitchell's hours are 9am-7pm (Monday-Thursday); 9am-6pm (Friday) and 11am-5pm (Saturday). The Mitchell is closed on Sundays.

The Society would welcome any memorabilia, photos, artefacts or memories from anyone with knowledge of the old Gordon Public School – students, parents, teachers, residents, friends

Mitchell Library "Online"

The Mitchell Library, as we all know, has a vast amount of historical material much of which is too precious to be made generally available for inspection. The Library has made first steps towards making its Collection available to everyone over the internet. At this early stage only a small amount is accessible but it will be expanded over time. Why not have a look at it on atmitchell.com ?

The *Historian*

Members recently received a new issue of the *HISTORIAN*. This is the Society's flagship publication and after 33 years continues to play a vital role in achieving the Society's aim of disseminating information about the history of Ku-ring-gai. The *HISTORIAN* publishes original research into Ku-ring-gai's history. This latest issue concentrates on the Wahroonga section of Ku-ring-gai. The previous issue dealt mainly with St Ives and sections of Pymble and Gordon. The *HISTORIAN* does not set out to publish something about every suburb in every issue. That is not its role. Since 1972 the *HISTORIAN* has published a huge amount of material about all parts of Ku-ring-gai and this is available to those who visit our Rooms. There is lots of information on file, for example, regarding Roseville, Lindfield, Killara, Gordon and Turramurra. Producing "in-depth" information involves a huge effort and we are indebted to the *HISTORIAN*'s Editorial Committee for its work. As time goes by and as more members accept the challenge to undertake original research into our local history, we will produce even more detailed studies of other areas of Ku-ring-gai.

Government Gazettes 1832-1863

The Society of Australian Genealogists has released a CD carrying an Index to the NSW Government Gazettes from its first issue in 1832 to 1863. It has 830,000 records. The index is of personal names only. The Gazette was the official newspaper of the times and contained many types of legal announcements and much more. This CD has been installed at our research centre.

Recent Acquisitions

These are some of the recent additions to our Collection:

THE RICHEST LODGE – BROKEN HILL 1883-1988. R J Solomon. Published by Hale & Ironmonger (1988). 424 pages.

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS – YOUNG CEMETERY (NSW). Jane Grant/June Perry. Published by the Heraldry and Genealogical Society of Canberra (2004). 160 pages.

BIOGRAPHICAL REGISTER OF CANBERRA AND QUEANBEYAN 1820-1930. Peter Proctor. Published by the Heraldry and Genealogical Society of Canberra (2001). 354 pages.

ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA. Published by Paul Hamlyn (1974). 1528 pages.

WHO'S WHO OF AUSTRALIAN WOMEN. Lofthouse/Smith. Methuen (1982). 504 pages.

THE ARCHBISHOPS OF RAILWAY SQUARE. A history of Christ Church, St Laurence, Sydney. Rev John Spooner. Halstead Press (2002). 224 pages.

DUBBO to the Turn of the Century (1818-1900). Marion Dormer. Macquarie Publications (1981).

SANDS' SYDNEY AND SUBURBAN DIRECTORY (1913) (CD). Purchased by the Society.

WHO WAS WHO – THE HUNTER VALLEY TOWNS IN 1888. John Turner. Hunter Valley Publications (1984). 152 pages.

Welcome to New Members

We are pleased indeed to welcome the following recent new members

Alan Condie (Lindfield); Stephen Courtney (North Parramatta); Val Fearby (Gunnedah); Elizabeth Hassall (Pymble); Judi Johnston (Nth Turramurra); David and Judith Knox (Gordon); Fay Murphy (Gordon); Peter Perry (Pymble); Robyn Riches (Lindfield); Robert Robins (Lindfield); Allan and Pam Stratton (Waitara).

Information Sought on Builders and Architects

Our member Kathie Reith (9416 1587) is compiling information on the architects and builders who lived and/or had projects in the Ku-ring-gai area, particularly in the period from 1900 to WWII. Any information members could provide would be great. And if anyone knows of or has original drawings or early photos she would be really happy. Of particular interest at this time is Stanley C Molineaux, who moved to Roseville c.1920 and set up his workshop at 121 Pacific Highway. (Kathie does a lot for the Society particularly for the *HISTORIAN*. Contact her direct if you can help).

New Local Studies Librarian

Ku-ring-gai Council has appointed Joan Rowland as its new Local Studies Librarian replacing Jennifer Sloggett who, believe it or not, has been with us for nine years. Joan was on the staff at Hornsby Library in the Local Studies Section. The Society extends her a warm welcome and looks forward to working with her on many projects in the future.

Committee Changes

Janine Kitson has been on our committee since 2004. We all know how tremendously active she is in a wide range of community affairs so were not surprised to learn of her decision

to withdraw from the committee. Of more recent times Janine has become heavily involved in the National Trust and the work load became too much. The Society is appreciative of the contribution she has made to the Society through the committee and in other ways. We know she will always be there to give us a helping hand whenever we might need it.

On the bright side, however, we are delighted to welcome Sue Dunston and David Wilkins who have been appointed to fill the casual vacancies. Both are relatively new members but have already shown an enthusiasm to match their known abilities. We know they will help significantly in spreading the administrative load. David has also been in the news as the winner of our Christmas hamper.

For the first time in many years the Society now has a full complement of officer-bearers and committee members. This is cause for celebration.

Wanted for our “Ku-ring-gai Streets” Project

We are busily collecting information about the origin of street names in Ku-ring-gai. In 1987 our members helped produce a booklet explaining many of them but we are expanding it. The information will be the basis of a bigger publication with a wider range of information about each suburb. A number of volunteers are working on different sections but right now we need volunteers to carry on with the research work already done specifically on each of Turramurra, St Ives and Gordon. Can you help?

If you are unable to take full responsibility for a suburb, perhaps you may be willing to assist someone else with the research? Please call Ann Barry 9144 6480.

Tour to Camden/Picton/The Oaks

Vice President Jo Harris is arranging a one-day Tour to the historic area of Camden, Picton and The Oaks. It will be on Saturday, 18 March and will be chockfull of scenic and historical interest. The date should go into your diary right away. Details will be mailed well before the event.

Those Nativity Scenes

We don't know if there is any truth in it (actually we like Canberra) but we heard that their shops did not have many nativity scenes this Christmas. Not for any religious reason. Apparently they had too much trouble finding three wise men and a virgin. There was no trouble finding the asses though.

QUIZ (Answers on page 8)

Why do Australians call acacias “wattles”?



History Notes

Unis and Honours, Pubs and Gallopers



John Waterhouse (1836-1903) (*Greengate Licensee*)

Two groups of notable Ku-ring-gai residents share a family name but had little else in common. One was of academic bent. The other wasn't. The two families both carry the name *Waterhouse*.

When one thinks of the academic Waterhouses one particular family member, Eben Gowrie Waterhouse of *Eryldene*, immediately comes to mind but there were others.

As to the other Waterhouse family, it was John Waterhouse of the Greengate Hotel, who attracted attention largely because of his various sporting activities.

The academic Eben Gowrie Waterhouse was known as Gowrie Waterhouse. His grandfather, Jabez Bunting Waterhouse (1822-1891), was a Wesleyan minister who lived at Waverley. Jabez had a son, Gustavus John (Gus), who was an alderman on Sydney Municipal Council. Gus had two sons connected with Ku-ring-gai. They were Athol Gustavus DSc, BE, FRES, FRZS (1877-1950) and his brother Eben Gowrie OBE, MA (1881-1977).

Athol Waterhouse, the eldest, was an entomologist. He and his wife Beatrice lived in Stanhope Rd, Killara. Athol carried out hybridisation experiments in breeding butterflies. He published *Butterflies of Australia* (1914) and *What Butterfly is That* (1932). His range extended widely with interests too in geology, sea shells, ancient history and philately. He received many national and international honours and held many posts in scientific organisations. He died in 1950.

Athol's brother **Gowrie Waterhouse** was a linguist by profession with a particular interest also in camellias and art. He met his wife Janet Kellie in Paris in 1907. Her family home was named *Eryldene* at Kilmarnock in Scotland.

The name *Eryldene* is said to come from a combination of beryl, the birthstone of Janet's mother, with "dene", Scots for "garden". Janet held a Master of Arts degree from Glasgow. They married in 1912 at *Eryldene* in Scotland. In 1926 Gowrie was appointed Associate Professor of German. In 1913 he asked the architect William Hardy Wilson to design a home for him in Macintosh Street, Gordon. He and Janet called it *Eryldene*. The home was acquired by the *Eryldene* Trust in 1980 and is frequently open to the public. He helped establish the NSW branch of the Australian Camellia Research Society. His parallel enthusiasm for art led to his appointment as President of the National Art Gallery of NSW. He died in 1977 and was survived by three sons – Gordon (b1913), Douglas (b1916) and Ian (b1921).

Gowrie's second son, **Douglas Frew Waterhouse** AO, CMG, FRS, DSc, FAA, FRACI, followed in his uncle Athol's footsteps as an entomologist. He was in charge of the CSIRO's Division of Entomology for 21 years and among other achievements devised the formula for the insect repellent Aerogard. His career took him to Canberra to live.

Gowrie's third son, **Ian Kellie Waterhouse** MA, PhD was Professor of Psychology at Macquarie University from 1967 to 1987. He has been active in a number of professional bodies in psychology and psychiatry. He lives in Hunter Avenue St Ives. As to the sporting Waterhouses they also have many members of note in addition to John including, perhaps, First Fleeter Lieutenant Henry Waterhouse.

Lieutenant Henry Waterhouse distinguished himself by removing a spear from Governor Phillip after the Governor was attacked at Manly while visiting the natives. When in Australia, Henry had an illegitimate daughter, Maria (born 1791). He sent her "Home" to be cared for by his own mother in England. Though not recorded, it is possible he had other children here too. A Thomas Waterhouse was born c1810 many years after Henry officially left the colony. Some strongly argue, with a degree of supporting evidence, that Thomas also descended from Henry. Henry Waterhouse is noted for bringing the first merino sheep from the Cape of Good Hope. It is also said, significantly in view of the interest the Waterhouses were destined to have in horse racing, that he brought the first thoroughbred stallion from England.

The unarguable story of our sporting Waterhouse family begins with the 1810 Thomas. He was born in Windsor/Parramatta area and came with his wife and family to "Lane Cove" in 1838. He had married Lucy Irwin (variously spelt) in 1832 and took over the Green Gate hotel in 1853. A local dynasty began. Lucy died in 1859 and is buried at St Thomas's, North Sydney. Thomas died in 1884 and is also buried at St Johns. Thomas and Lucy had 13 recorded children. Their lastborn died as an infant in 1859 and interestingly had the name Henry. Others included Mary Ann, Tom, John and Charles.

Mary Ann Waterhouse (1832-1881) married our legendary timber merchant John Brown, known as the “Squire”, who became very wealthy and virtually achieved his ambition to own a square mile in Wahroonga. They lived in a home called The Grove on the corner of Bruce Street and the Highway at Gordon. Mary Ann and John Brown are buried at St Johns, Gordon.

Tom Waterhouse (1835-1897) was renowned as a boxer. A crack boxer was brought from Sydney town for a bare knuckle contest. The match went all one afternoon and then all the next. The contender from Sydney failed to appear on the third day.

John Waterhouse (1836-1903) had a penchant for sporting activities including cock-fighting, bare knuckle boxing and horse racing. Aged 15, he went to the Turon goldfields then to Melbourne, and Queensland. He took over the Green Gate hotel from his father in 1884. In 1888 John had 120 acres in Ku-ring-gai and 1340 acres on the Macquarie River. He once sought to have a racecourse put where Killara Park is now. He gave protection to a West Indian sailor who had jumped ship and John taught him to box. This was Peter Jackson who went to America and became the de facto world champion. John’s wife was Jane Elizabeth of the locally well known Schwartz family. Several of their children married into families with equally well known names including McIntosh, Reely, Lofberg and Porter. John is buried at St Johns, Gordon. His widow, Lucy, remarried.

Charles Waterhouse (1845-1919). Charles bought the Imperial Hotel (previously the Lily of St Leonards) in 1900. His bookmaker grandsons, Charles and Bill and great grandson Robbie are names known to most. This particular line of the family did not remain connected with Ku-ring-gai.

These then are the two Waterhouse families we have had in Ku-ring-gai. They could scarcely have been more different but both have an important place in Ku-ring-gai’s history.

– Max Farley

Irish Town

Just as the leprechauns of Ireland have faded from the sight of man, so too has Ku-ring-gai’s Irish Town. Perhaps the only evidence that it ever existed is a tiny sliver of land facing Adams Street in Turramurra carrying the name *Irish Town Grove*. Yet in the early days it was recognised as a specific district by the local population. Also like the leprechauns, it was never clearly defined nor was it ever really a town.

In the sparsely populated Turramurra of the time it was, as Margaret Wyatt put it in her book on North Turramurra, “the land now bounded by Merrivale Lane and Merrivale Road in the east, to Bobbin Head Road in the west, and extending from Pentecost Avenue to Chatham Place, North Turramurra”. This area fell within the land granted to Robert Pymble in 1823 and parts of which were progressively sold in the latter half of the 19th century. Access was from the Highway via “Irish Town Road” which also defies clear definition though

was in the immediate vicinity of Bannockburn and Reservoir Roads. Indeed part of it was actually incorporated into Bannockburn Road. Though the name Irish Town Road is said to have been used until as late as 1924 it never appeared in the Sands Directories which were published for Ku-ring-gai from 1903.

Those sections of the Pymble land in what was to become known as Irish Town were bought by Samuel King, Thomas Connolly, Thomas Adams, John Henry Reely, Daniel Ryan and Michael Joseph Bourke (Burke). With the exception of John Reely all were of Irish extraction though Samuel King was from Northern Ireland and a staunch Presbyterian. John Reely had been born *Johann Henri Rhule* in Germany and changed his name some time after arriving in Australia. Invariably all these people were farmers and orchardists. With these residents it is in no way surprising how the name *Irish Town* was coined.

Turramurra has long since engulfed Irish Town but if we ever happen to be in that part of Ku-ring-gai, as most of us are from time to time, it adds just a little to our pleasure as local residents to remember that the area was once home to many Irish people and their usually very large families.

Phillip’s Bungaroo Trek

From time to time questions arise about details of Governor Phillip’s journey to Bungaroo. This was to be the first known overland journey by a white person to Ku-ring-gai. Phillip was looking for land suitable for farming. Over the intervening 217 years there have been conflicting accounts of the details. Our recently deceased member Harry Morris was our own expert on the topic and in a talk to the Society in 1997 he told of the conclusions he had reached. In short, Phillip’s party landed near King Avenue, Balgowlah on Saturday, 16 April 1788. They travelled inland but met a large lake “surrounded with a bog and a large marsh” so travelled to the coast and walked north along the coastal beach before turning inland. That night they camped on high ground near Allambie Heights.

The next morning was Sunday, 16 March, and they pressed further west before coming to that part of Middle Harbour at the tidal headwaters above Roseville Bridge where they camped. This was named Bungaroo. On the Monday, 17th April, a number of the party crossed into Ku-ring-gai and when about fifteen miles from the sea coast he had, in his own words, “a very fine view of the mountains inland”. This would have been in the vicinity of Dalrymple Hay Nature Reserve on Mona Vale Rd. The forest was, however, impenetrable and the land generally poor so the party returned to Bungaroo that night and moved camp a little further downstream. Next day, Tuesday 18th April, they travelled further downstream where they were picked up and returned to Sydney by boats sent by Captain John Hunter.



Family Matters

Meeting Reports

(These meeting reports are based on notes taken by Stella Green)

Meeting 5 November

Some 30 members attended the informal 11am meeting in the Research Centre to hear John Graham of the Dead Persons Society tell the story of the Ryerson Index, named after our member Joyce Ryerson. John had always wanted to index Sydney Morning Herald deaths, and a 1998 DPS meeting agreed this was a worthwhile project. Volunteers began indexing SMH deaths daily, also the Daily Telegraph. John designed a software program and in due course the index was put on the Web.

At the May 1999 DPS meeting, a lady said "I have a 14 year collection of Heralds". This was Joyce Ryerson who had kept the papers to check Old Girls of her school. John collected them from her laundry next day. There are now 93 other papers also being indexed, and over a million entries. Many local papers are indexed from their websites though the latter do not always contain all listings. A supplementary index includes obituaries and family history entries in the Herald RSVP columns. All this work is done by volunteers.

John offered the Ryerson index for inclusion on all our computers. It has been installed and is up to date as at 11 November 2005. As we (intentionally) do not have internet access at the Research Centre our thanks go to John for this kind gesture.

Afternoon

At the 2pm meeting there were about 35 present and mention made on the following matters:

- NSW BDMs now on internet – births to 1905, marriages to 1954, deaths to 1974. No more CDs will be made. Transcripts can be ordered through our Society, applications must have certificate number.
- Dern Index. A new CD Index of some NSW Cemetery listings
- Recommended reading:
 - The Letters of Rachel Henning and Sea Journals of Annie and Amy Henning*
 - A Fool's Gold, William Tipple Smith's Challenge to the Hargraves Myth*
 - Journal of Daniel Paine 1794-97*
 - Convicted Gunsmiths of NSW*
 - Christopher Cockle's Australian Experiences*
 - Little Cornwall - Cornish miners in South Australia*
 - Gaston Renard's catalogue of books*
- Catherine Williams spoke on Willoughby Historical Society exhibition and also about a book *The Forgotten Gardens* on Chinese gardens in Willoughby

- Elaine Turnidge showed *They Paved the Way*, two stories of Scots pioneers
- Max Farley spoke highly of *Commonwealth of Thieves* by Tom Keneally, a very readable history on the governorship of Phillip
- Angela Lind mentioned *Dancing with Strangers* by Inga Clendenning, with a good description of early days in Sydney
- Jan Cook reported that she had obtain war records of three relatives killed in WW1 from Canberra, \$25 each.

Guest speaker John Graham gave an entertaining history of the Dead Persons Society which had its origins in early 1994 when Leonie Faber of Melbourne felt computers would be useful for genealogists and gathered a few people to meet regularly and share information.

Max Farley gave a vote of thanks and presented John with *Focus on Ku-ring-gai* and a carry-bag.

Meeting 3 December

14 members were present at the 11am session when Jo Harris demonstrated several new CDs:

- The Ryerson Index to 11 November 2005
- NSW Government Gazette of 1838.
- Dictionary of Australasian Biography, written in 1892, includes nearly 2000 concise biographies of colonists 1855-1892. (Not to be confused with the Australian Dictionary of Biography)
- Sands Sydney and Suburban Directory of 1913.
- Biographical Index of South Australians 1836-1885, 4 volumes: published 1896.
- South Australians 1836-1885, published 1990, 7500 entries additional to above.
- History of West Australia, published 1897. Not in alphabetical order.

About 45 attended the afternoon meeting when Jo mentioned the following:

Advantages of applying for Joy Murrin transcripts, often have more information than certificates.

Good Huguenot article in latest *Australian Family Tree Connections* magazine

National Archives will search for information on 20th century migrants, \$25, phone enquiries best, 1300 886 881.

Book reports:

Jean Smith spoke on a visit to York Peninsula, South Australia, copper mining area 1861-1923, Cornish miners and Welsh smelters. Jean showed several books on Wallaroo and Moonta mines. Port Victoria was famous for grain ship races to England and Ireland.

Ken Knox reported unmarked graves of 500 children in Moonta Cemetery, SA. The profits of Moonta mines paid for establishment of Adelaide University.

Joy Walker recommended *The Classer* by a previous speaker Robert Burnett.

Max Farley drew attention to a number of recent acquisitions listed elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Guest speaker Elizabeth Bolton gave us an entertaining and informative talk on the History of Food, taking a giant step back before 10,000BC when half of the then nomadic population died before age 20.

David Wilkins gave a vote of thanks and presented Elizabeth with a copy of *Focus on Ku-ring-gai* and a carry-bag. The day's Lucky door prize was won by Kevin Callinan.

Another Convict "Find"

Our previous issue reported on the 1st October Family History Meeting at which a number of members told of the convicts they had found among their ancestors. In the Newsletter we detailed the convicts "owned" by Elaine Turnidge and Joy Walker. This time we could have had a feast of convicts from Gwen Knox (nee Cork) who claims nine – seven on her mother's "Turnbull" side and two on her father's "Cork" side. While her mother's convict ancestors were known to the family, her father was unaware that both his grandfathers had been transported. In addressing the meeting, Gwen chose to restrict herself to two on her mother's side, Thomas Chaseland and Margaret McMahan because of more recent information gained with her husband, Ken..

Thomas Chaseland (Chaseling) was born in London and sentenced at the Old Bailey in 1791 for stealing 230 silk handkerchiefs worth 40 pounds. (Details from oldbaileyonline.com). English law at the time set a mandatory death sentence for theft over 40 shillings but had a proviso that the offender could escape the death sentence if prepared to be transported to Botany Bay for Life. Thomas said he would prefer the gallows to Botany Bay but later changed his mind and arrived here on the Royal Admiral in 1792 aged 19.

His wife-to-be, Margaret McMahan of Dublin, received seven years for stealing a silver watch and arrived on the Marquis Cornwallis in 1796. The voyage was notorious because some of the soldiers and convicts aboard together planned a mutiny which resulted in the death of seven of the plotters. Margaret, like Thomas, was 19 years old so neither could be termed hardened criminals as their later lives were to prove.

Gwen told us that by 1800 Thomas was an overseer and cohabiting with Margaret and "in 1803 received a land grant of 30 acres at Mulgrave Place in the Hawkesbury district. Marsden's 1806 Muster records they had two children, Ann (1802) and Jane (1804), to be later joined by three more, Thomas (1807), Louisa (1809) and Charlotte (1811). They had three assigned servants and Margaret added to the family's holdings by purchasing 30 acres at Mulgrave Place. He was also constable for the Castlereagh district." Soon after Thomas received his free pardon 1812, he and Margaret married, their children being christened on the same day.

One of their daughters, Louisa, married George Turnbull who had been born at Portland Head on the Hawkesbury in 1806.

He was a son of John and Ann Turnbull who had arrived as free settlers on the Coromandel in 1802. They came with their four eldest children in company with a number of other Presbyterian families who settled in the Hawkesbury district. Gwen reported to the meeting that these Presbyterians "built Ebenezer Church, the oldest Church still functioning in Australia". George Turnbull and Louisa Chaseling had 12 children. The third, James, married Mary Ann Winton (who herself had three convict ancestors) and they had 11 children. Their eldest was Cyrus John, a school teacher in the Milton district who married Emma Malvina Fowler (who had the remaining two convict ancestors). Cyrus and Emma's daughter, Winifred, married Stan Cork and they lived on one of the Cork farms in Milton established by the transported Robert Cork in the 1850s where Gwen and her twin sister were born.

Thank you Gwen for your presentation.

NSW Death and Marriage Records

We are now in 2006 and NSW deaths to 31 December 1975 and marriages to 31 December 1955 can now be obtained via the internet. This is in accord with the new Government policy of making records available after 30 years for deaths and 50 for marriages.

SAG Showcase

This will be held earlier this year to avoid conflicting with the 11th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry in Darwin 1st-4th June. *Showcase* will be on Friday 19th and Saturday 20th February.

State Record Centre

A coachload of members visited the Centre on 29 November. It is situated on a 50 acre site at Kingswood in Western Sydney and, although accessible by public transport, everyone appreciated the convenience of travelling on a private coach, and the companionship of fellow historians.

A very interesting 'behind the scenes' tour had been arranged and, after an informative introductory talk by Head Archivist, Gail Davis, we began our guided walk through the storage area with its countless aisles of many tiered shelves; a distance measuring hundreds of kilometres, so we were told. Along with documents, other items of significance such as the architectural models constructed by the Bi-Centenary planners are also kept here. Previous advice to place a request for records prior to a visit now became obvious! The tour ended at the manuscript conservation department where we were able to observe the conservators at their work while being given an overview of the techniques and materials used.

The afternoon was spent on individual research with documents as varied as a 1950's Killara murder, an 1849 Insolvency case, the Gordon Public School Admissions, early photographs and reasons for divorce in the 19th and early 20th Century. Researchers had a fascinating insight into matters which had influenced their ancestors' lives.

Heritage Festival

The Society is joining with other local groups in celebrating the National Trust's 2006 Heritage Festival. It is to be held on 1-16 April. More details will be in a future Newsletter but currently planned activities to take place here Ku-ring-gai include: 1 April: A Bushwalk to Gordon Creek Timber Bridge by the East Killara Bushland Group.

2 April: A Railway Station Tour- Lindfield, Gordon and Wahroonga by the KHS.

3-13 April: Ku-ring-gai's Industry – What Industry? A Display by the KHS at its Rooms.

3-13 April: The Industry of Ku-ring-gai – House and Garden Display by The Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment (FOKE) at Gordon Library.

9 April: The Industrialist's Daughter Who Loved her "Arts and Crafts" Home at Tulkiyan.

9 April: Timbergetting – Ku-ring-gai's First Industry, A Heritage Bus Tour by the Blue Gum Forest Group and St Ives Progress Association.

11 April: Promoting Eco/Heritage Tours. A talk by The Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment (FOKE) at the Old Gordon Public School.

2006 Meetings

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.

The following meetings of the Society have been tentatively set for 2006. Wednesday meetings start at 7.45pm and Saturdays at 2pm. Circumstances may cause alterations so please check the Newsletter each month.

Wed 15 Feb	Lane Cove Boatman – The Story of Joseph Fidden (Ken Meldrum)
Wed 15 Mar	Memories of Eryldene in the 1920s and 1930s (Ian Waterhouse)
Wed 19 Apr	Bushells: A History of Tea in Australia (Susie Khamis)
Wed 17 May	Publicans and Pubs of Colonial Sydney (Ken Knight)
Sat 17 Jun	Heraldry in Australia (Stephen Szabo)
Sat 15 Jul	Pittwater and Coasters Retreat (to be confirmed)
Sat 19 Aug	Walking History (Graham Spindler)
Wed 20 Sep	AGM & Post War Architecture of Ku-ring-gai (Anne Higham)
Wed 18 Oct	The History and Heritage of Parramatta River (Kevin Shaw)
Sat 18 Nov	Christmas meeting (Speaker to be advised).

Diary Dates

Sat 4 Feb	FAMILY HISTORY GROUP	11.00am
	BDMs on the internet	
	FH Meeting	2.00pm
	Digital Cameras, Laptop Computers for Genealogists	
Wed 15 Feb	GENERAL MEETING	7.45pm
	Guest Speaker: Ken Meldrum	
	Topic: Lane Cove Boatman: The Story of Joseph Fidden	
Sat 4 Mar	FAMILY HISTORY GROUP	11.00am
	Members' Research	
	FH Meeting	2.00pm
Wed 15 Mar	GENERAL MEETING	7.45pm
	Guest Speaker: Ian Waterhouse	
	Topic: Memories of <i>Eryldene</i> in the 1920s and 1930s	
Sat 18 Mar	TOUR TO CAMDEN, PICTON AND THE OAKS	

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
Imm. 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

Curator	Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
Family History	Jo Harris	9489 4393
Historian Editors	c/- Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
Speakers' Programme	Beverley Dunstan	9419 8526
Volunteers Roster	Heather Davidson	9144 1844

— P O Box 109, Gordon 2072 —

QUIZ Answers

A wattle was wicker framework to which mud (dab) was applied to make "wattle and dab" buildings. After coming to Australia settlers found that the wood of the plentiful acacias was suitable to make the wattle hence acacias came to be called "wattles".

The Society's Research Centre

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.