



KU-RING-GAI HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Incorporating the Ku-ring-gai Family History Centre • Patron: The Mayor of Ku-ring-gai

Affiliated with the Royal Australian Historical Society, the National Trust of Australia (NSW),
The Society of Australian Genealogists, and the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc.

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Monthly Newsletter

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PO Box 109 Gordon NSW 2072 • Ph: (02) 9499 4568 • www.khs.org.au • email: khs@khs.org.au

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

18 AUGUST GENERAL MEETING

Vice President Jo Harris chaired the meeting in the absence of President Kevin Callinan who was unable to attend. As is customary, she reported on a number of current topics including the forthcoming Lithgow Tour (26/27 October); the coming Annual General Meeting (nominations for Committee were being sought); the manning of the Fisk Memorial at Wahroonga; Family History Meetings and Training Courses and an Open Day being arranged in connection with St Johns Cemetery on 20 October. The Meeting also formally received a Financial Report from the Treasurer.

Guest Speaker – Dr Lesley Muir Sydney in the 1860s and 1870s

In her address to the Society on 18 August, Dr Muir showed a series of photographs from the State Library Collection of Sydney between the 1860s and early 1880s. Starting with views of the wharves and then moving to various parts of the city and near environs, the photographs show a city only vaguely recognisable as the precursor of Sydney today.

It is not surprising that little remains of the Macquarie period, apart from buildings such as St. James Church, the Old Sydney Hospital and the Barracks Building. It was interesting to see some structures that have long since vanished including Fort Macquarie, Dawes Point Battery and the Commissariat Store. The survey also juxtaposed the work of Greenway, the early architect of public buildings, with that of Blackett, the architect of the Thomas Mort wool store, St. Andrew's Cathedral and the University of Sydney, the latter three being in their pristine isolation, unhampered by surrounding buildings.

A number of the decorative iron buildings imported in the 19th century which no longer exist were shown, including St. Stephen's Church and the Temperance Hall. The visit of the Duke of Edinburgh in 1868 prompted the erection of timber structures which were even more ephemeral, including an elaborate ceremonial arch in Pitt St. and a rather ordinary looking ballroom in the centre of Hyde Park, both of which soon disappeared after the conclusion of the Royal visit.

Generally the photographs indicated a transitional period in the city's development when a number of the more substantial buildings that still exist were erected. Apart from those already mentioned, they included the GPO, the Town Hall, St. Andrews Cathedral, St. Mary's Cathedral and a number of commercial buildings. This was also the time when horse drawn public transport was coming into use in the city streets which had not yet been sealed.

Coming Meetings

NEXT SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING (Gordon Library Meeting Room)

Wednesday, 17 October 2007

7.45pm - GENERAL MEETING

Guest Speaker: Tony Dawson

Tony Dawson was Associate Dean
at the University of Technology

Topic: *James Meehan - A Most Excellent Surveyor*



An antique theodolite

This is the title of a 2004 book published by Tony Dawson about James Meehan, an Irish rebel who measured every farm in the colony between 1803 and 1821. He drew up plans for Sydney, Hobart, Bathurst, and Liverpool. Lachlan Macquarie became his friend and confidant.

Supper will be available
Visitors welcome

NEXT FAMILY HISTORY MEETING

Saturday 6 October 2007

11 am - Members Research - Shipping

2 pm - General Meeting

Guest Speaker - Ian Small

Topic - *The Kurrajongs - a forgotten Australian Story*

Afternoon Tea will be available
(Kay Mossie, Pat Harper)

Visitors welcome

In contrast to the emergence of new buildings, there was a distressing slum area in the west of the city, particularly towards the lower end of George St. Decrepit buildings with small dark overcrowded rooms and open street sewers

were obviously sources of disease and were only eliminated as the commercial area expanded.

The final series of photographs concentrated on adjacent areas such as the present eastern suburbs where much of the landscape was little changed since settlement, as public transport outside the city was non-existent except for the railway to the west. Bondi in particular, showed no sign of human habitation.

- based on notes by Don Fifer

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Committee Report for 2006/2007 was presented by the President. Copy is attached.

The Treasurer reported on the strong financial position of the Society.

Elections of Office Bearers and Committee were held and the present Office Bearers and Committee were all re-elected. The one vacant position on the Committee was filled by the election of Jenny Joyce. We welcome Jenny to the Committee.

RESEARCH CENTRE CLOSURE

Our Centre will be closed from 15 December until 7 January.

ST JOHN'S OPEN DAY

The historic cemetery at St Johns Church at Gordon is the only cemetery in Ku-ring-gai. It holds many famous people who made their mark not only in this area but in Sydney generally. These days it is well maintained by volunteers from the Church. One of its charms is that it is small enough to be able to comprehend its scope in one visit. A Cemetery "Open Day" is being planned by the Church for Saturday, 20 October. More details to come.

FEDERAL GRANT RECEIVED

The Society's application for a grant under the Volunteer Small Equipment Grant Program was approved by the Minister for Family and Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Mal Brough. This will enable the Society to purchase a laptop computer and associated software to be utilised in preparing databases, the Historian and outreach programs.

LITHGOW TOUR

Arrangements for the Tour on 27/28 October have fallen into place very nicely indeed. As with all tours organised by Jo, there will be lots to see, lots to learn and lots of enjoyment to be had. Bookings should be made direct to Jo Harris on 9489 4393. (Stop Press: The Tour is now full but Jo is starting a "Reserves" list).

VALE IAN RAMAGE



It is sad indeed to record the death of Ian Ramage, one of our most respected members. Ian passed away on Sunday, 19 August after a long illness. A well-attended Memorial Service was held at St John's, Wahroonga, on Saturday 25 August.

Ian will be remembered within the Society for many things, perhaps the most notable being his major published works on Wahroonga – *Wahroonga Our Home, One Hundred Years Ago (Life on Sydney's Upper North Shore)* and *We Still Call Wahroonga Our Home*. These books, however, were just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to his research into the history of Wahroonga and his dedication over many years to widening our knowledge of the suburb's history.

The Society recognised the value of his work by naming him our Historian of the Year in 2003.

Beyond his contribution to our local history, he will be forever widely remembered for his involvement in a number of community groups and his willingness to make his expertise freely available when ever sought.

Ian's first wife, Nancy, died several years ago. We extend our sympathy to his children and to his wife, Susan.

Ian Ramage – always a gentleman.

QUIZ

With citizenship questionnaires in the news recently we thought we would have one of our own. We have to link the event with the year.

Year

1770, 1788, 1813, 1843, 1851, 1890, 1901, 1903, 1927, 1932.

Event:

- * The first elections for the NSW legislative Council were held.
- * Governor Phillip arrived with the First Fleet
- * Women first voted in a Federal election
- * The Harbour Bridge opened
- * Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson crossed the Blue Mountains
- * Captain Cook explored the east coast
- * The North Shore Railway line opened
- * Gold was discovered at Ballarat
- * The States joined to become a Federation
- * The Duke of York opened Canberra

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Recent additions to our Collection include:

* *Gazetteer of Sydney Shipping 1788-1840*. I H Nicholson. Publication No 26 of the Roebuck Society. An alpha index of ports of origin, destination and places discovered or "remarked upon" by shipping in the period. 220 pages.

* *The Sydney Herald facsimiles from 18 April 1831 to 2 January 1832*. The first 38 issues. Initially published by Stephens, Michaelstokes and McGarvie. This became the Sydney Morning Herald in 1842 under Charles Kemp and John Fairfax.

* *Who's Who in Australia 1941*. Published by the Melbourne Herald. An addition to our already extensive series.

* *The Story of the Snowy Mountains – Its History and People*. John Larkins (1980). AH & WA Reed. 80 pages.

* *The Business Who's Who of Australia 1965/66*. R G Riddell Pty Ltd. 600 pages.

HAVE YOU NOTICED OUR NEW DISPLAY CASE?

The society has been able to purchase a large display case with funds donated by the "Ku-ring-gai Remembers Committee". This display case will contain regular displays of Ku-ring-gai's contribution to theatres of war and peace-keeping activities. If you have any relevant memorabilia, please contact a committee member.

CAN YOU HELP?

A member has suggested we give members an opportunity to ask help from other members for information about Ku-ring-gai's past. We are happy to do so.

All queries should be phoned to the Editor (9499 7113), sent to mmff2@bigpond.net.au or mailed care of the Society at PO Box 109, Gordon, 2072. Replies should be similarly directed so they can be forwarded on. Queries should not be longer than 75 words and have direct relevance to Ku-ring-gai events or people.

We currently have two queries:

- * In the depression years a conservatively dressed woman, aged perhaps 40 or so, used to play a xylophone in Hill St, Roseville at the foot of the steps down from the railway footbridge. She did so several times a week and sought cash donations. Does anyone remember or know anything about her?
- * Is there any information about the Ku-ring-gai Theatre Guild which apparently existed in Gordon on the western side near the Highway in the 1940s and 1950s?

Member Profile – Don Fifer



Our Secretary, Dr Don Fifer, is a comparative newcomer to the Society, but has had a long and varied experience as secretary and president of local and national organisations. Born in Ipswich, he has lived in Sydney from the age of four, first in the Eastern Suburbs, then for forty years at Killarney Heights overlooking Middle Harbour and for the last two years in Waitara.

He was educated at Sydney Technical High School and at Sydney University, where he commenced an Engineering Course in 1939. With the entry of Japan into the War in 1941, undergraduates in technical faculties were invited to join the RAAF in areas such as Radio Location (Radar) or Meteorology. Don chose Meteorology, and after six months training at the Melbourne Weather Bureau, graduated as a Meteorological Officer and was posted first to airfields in Victoria and then to RAAF bases in northern Queensland. During his four years in the Air Force he gained a BA by external studies from Sydney University by adding courses in History and English to already completed courses in Maths and Physics.

Don completed the Engineering Technology Course in 1948 (a course which became Chemical Engineering in 1949) and commenced employment at Garden Island Naval Dockyard as a Radiographer. Within five years Don was appointed Superintendent of the Dockyard Laboratory, which over the next thirty years became a multi-disciplined operation involved in testing and research in metallurgy, non-destructive testing, paint technology, corrosion and plastics as applied in naval service.

In his capacity as Superintendent of the Dockyard Laboratory, Don became involved in two professional organisations concerned with aspects of the Laboratory's work. He was successively State Secretary, President and Federal President of the Australasian Corrosion Association and founding member, State President and Federal President of the Australian Institute for Non-Destructive Testing.

On retirement in 1983, Don pursued his lifelong interest in history by completing an Hons. MA on the political career of William Charles Wentworth followed by a PhD on the Sydney merchants in the early 19th century. He subsequently published articles on Wentworth, and the merchants in the Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society. In the 1990s Don joined U3A and became Secretary and then President of Sydney U3A, where he also led several courses on colonial history and on writing your life story. Latterly he served six years as Secretary of the NSW Chapter of the Independent Scholars Association of Australia and is now editor of their bi-monthly Bulletin. He was concurrently secretary of Chatswood Central Probus for three years.

Don relaxes by listening to music and reading biography. He has been married for fifty seven years to his wife Dorothy who emigrated from Germany in 1948 after traumatic wartime experiences in Berlin. They have one daughter and three grandchildren.

History Notes

MILK

These days most of us choose our milk from a bewildering display of options at the local supermarket. Going back one step in time many can recall when the “milkman” came along daily in a truck loaded with milk already sealed at a milk factory in bottles (Dairy Farmers Co-operative introduced milk bottles in Sydney in 1925) and placed the required number at our gate or doorstep.

Going even further back to the days of WW2 and before, we had the milkman arriving with his horse trailing a cart. Within the cart was a tank of unrefrigerated milk. Householders placed metal “billies” at some convenient place outside their house so the milkman could pour the agreed amount of milk into these “billies”. Many homes had a “tradesman’s box” which could be accessed from the outside by the milkman and from the inside by the “lady of the house”. The milkman’s horse patiently plodded the same course day after day, knowing when to stop, where and for how long.

Even before then, and from the earliest days of our suburbs, many residents had their own cows which they milked for their own household. However, as the population grew, allotments became smaller, residents took paid jobs, and “keeping your own cow” became an increasingly impractical burden.

Enterprising souls saw their opportunity, acquired some land – many already had it – put together a herd of cows for daily milking and set about establishing their local market. The days of the local dairy servicing a set “run” of nearby customers had arrived.

At much the same time, dairy farmers in rural areas banded together to pool their milk and butter for sale into metropolitan Sydney. The Dairy Farmers Co-operative Milk Co Ltd was formed in 1900 and, in the first instance, consisted mainly of farmers from the Illawarra. It established a depot in Ultimo and expanded to Newcastle. In 1915 the Co-operative opened on the eastern side of the Highway at Lindfield where it remained for several years. Incidentally, Charles Devenish Meares, the founder of the Co-operative, later became a Lindfield resident. The local dairies and Co-operatives developed in competitive tandem.

In 1993 two members of our Society, Barbara Burgess and Pru Docker, set about documenting details of the domestic dairying industry in Ku-ring-gai. Their research concentrated on the local dairies operated by local people. They sought to identify the local dairy keepers and the location of their dairies.

In their work they, and later researchers, encountered many problems. The facts were muddled because it was not uncommon for the dairymen to have other occupations as well (George R Smart was also shown as a plasterer, Tom Coleman was a nurseryman, grocer and produce merchant); also some dairymen held sway for only short periods of time; in many cases different family members were shown at different times as the nominated owners and some owners moved from one dairy to another. Another complication was that the location

of dairies moved from one site to another as different pieces of land became unavailable and others were slated for subdivision.

Barbara and Pru found that the first dairymen (or dairy keepers) in our area were Tom Coleman and the Wilkes family. Both were listed as being on the Highway at Lindfield in 1898. They were soon followed by G R Smart then of Lindfield’s Provincial Road but later at Rosebery Rd, Killara, T Etherington on Mona Vale Road, St Ives and T J Phillips at Turramurra.

The Report prepared by Barbara and Pru is in the Society files. They freely admit it has many gaps but, for all that, is a worthwhile contribution to our knowledge of yet another aspect of the development of Ku-ring-gai. The Report is too detailed to be reproduced here. Nevertheless some, just some, of the dairy locations and the names of some of their owners are:

Waratah Dairy, Rosebery Rd (Smart/Sadler/Donovan),
Fiddens Wharf Rd (Wilkes),
Warrimoo Rd (Steer Bros),
Eastern Rd (Gilroy),
Ku-ring-gai Chase Rd (Gilroy/Smith/ Swan),
Moore Estate Lane, West Killara (Colver),
Beaumont Rd (Gannon),
Cameron Rd, Pymble (Mullane),
Bobbin Head Rd (St Ledger),
Mona Vale Rd (Spring/Morrow/McLardy),
Bradfield Rd, West Killara (Shipley),

Perhaps readers will be encouraged to delve into the owners and families who may have operated a dairy in their own locality.

FROM OUR COLLECTION

Robert McIntosh Snr was born in Scotland in 1781 and arrived in Australia in 1814 as Bandmaster of the 46th Regiment. He was accompanied by his wife, Ellen, and three children. They were to have five more. As time progressed he became a farmer and settler – hence the title *Bandmaster to Farmer/Settler* - another of the many publications in our Collection. The book of 116 pages is a McIntosh family history and includes lots of information about Ku-ring-gai. The *Bandmaster* book was published in 1982 by Cliff McIntosh who, incidentally, was KHS President in 1971/73.

Most of us would know of McIntosh Street in Gordon which is where we find the heritage home *Eryldene*. There are other lesser known connections between Ku-ring-gai and the family. Robert Street, also in Gordon, is named after Robert McIntosh and Redbank Road, West Lindfield carries the name of the Redbank Grant given Robert McIntosh Jnr on the Lane Cove River in 1832.

We often feel, when writing of our history, that there can be a sharp disparity between the harsh lives of our early families and the genteel way of life most Ku-ring-gai people enjoy today. The McIntoshes certainly made major contributions

to the development of the colony, particularly in the Ku-ring-gai and the Pittwater areas, but the family, like many others when one scratches beneath the surface, was not free of scandal. The McIntosh family had feuds, lawsuits and controversy to the hilt. Fortunately Cliff McIntosh made no attempt to sanitise the facts surrounding his forebears and our knowledge is richer and more accurate as a result.

All those interested in the early days of Ku-ring-gai would find much fascination in Cliff's book. We will not pre-empt their pleasure nor excite their curiosity further by telling more of the book's content here.

DUNBAR TRAGEDY – 150 YEARS AGO

Sydney's newspapers have recently been highlighting the 150th anniversary of the wreck of the Dunbar. At some time between 10pm on the night of 20 August, 1857 and 2am on the morning of the 21st the ship mistook the entrance to Sydney Harbour and was wrecked on the southern headland. It was a tragic event with some 150 lives lost, many of whom were well known local people returning from a visit "home". There was just one survivor. Initially no one knew the identity of the wrecked ship. The story has been told many times so we will not repeat it here.

The event's particular relevance to us is that on the previous 23 July, less than a month before the wreck, the NSW Treasury appointed "Mr Robert Pockley of St Leonards, North Shore, Superintendent of Lights, Pilots and Navigation within the Colony of New South Wales, and Harbour Master of the Colony generally."

Mr Pockley was in fact the seasoned mariner, Captain Robert Francis Pockley. At the time of his appointment he had recently been married and was living on land he had bought at North Sydney. He came into Ku-ring-gai's history in the 1880s by building a home, "Lorne", at Killara to which the family moved in 1885. The home, now demolished, was on the Highway where the Killara "reservoir" is now. Nearby Lorne Avenue carries its name.



"Lorne" Killara

Following the disaster Captain Pockley, in his official capacity, lodged an official Report. It gives a graphic account and says in part:

"At 10.30am on the 21 August, I received a letter from the Superintendent of the Light House, South Head ... informing me that a wreck had been discovered on the South Head. ... I immediately proceeded by land to the Light House, the weather being too thick and violent to communicate by boat and telegraph. I arrived at the scene of the wreck at noon and saw the splintered fragments of what appeared to have been a large ship scattered about the base of the precipitous cliffs of the South Head, with many human bodies washing about in the

heavy breakers, dashing on the rocks. At 7pm I obtained information that portions of the wreck and some human bodies were recovered at Middle Harbour, which would establish the identity of the vessel... This ... convinced me that the unfortunate ship was the 'Dunbar' of and from London".

A disaster indeed, and one which greatly affected the Colony because so many of the victims were friends or relatives of local people.

A PLEDGE

"I promise not to be silent when I ought to speak".

These words are from the Pledge repeated at *Rostrum* meetings. *Rostrum*, of course, is an organisation established to advance the skills of public speaking. It was formed, of all unlikely places, under a yew tree in Manchester on 21 July 1923. One of those gathered there was Alan Crook of Killara who happened to be working with an engineering company in Manchester at the time.

Back in Sydney in 1930, Alan bumped into a member of the Manchester Club and they agreed they should start a *Rostrum Club* in Australia. To do so they decided to get together a number of friends on 21 July 1930 – seven years to the day after the Manchester meeting. They also decided to meet outdoors as did those in England. Twelve potential members accordingly travelled by hired rowing boats to a spot in Davidson Park in East Killara where Rocky Creek joins with Middle Harbour upstream from what is now Roseville Bridge and a short distance below Bungaroo.

It was here that Australian *Rostrum* was born.

To mark the occasion the letter "R", for *Rostrum*, was carved into the bark of a nearby angophora tree.

Years passed and, not surprisingly, the "R" was covered by the bark's new growth. Therefore another "R" was cut into a nearby rock in order to record *Rostrum's* birthplace more permanently. This was at first called *Pulpit Rock* but later *Speaker's Rock*. Occasional pilgrimages were made to the site until 1980. After that, the rock was left to the bush and would possibly have remained undisturbed forever had it not been for the driving curiosity of the Historical Society's late Life Member, Harry Morris.

Harry frequently went looking for the rock "R" but had no success. Nevertheless he rekindled interest within *Rostrum's* hierarchy. With the 60th Anniversary of the Sydney formation meeting approaching in 1990, it was agreed that the Presidents of each of the State bodies, who were to be in Sydney for a National Council meeting, should visit the spot and hold a simple commemorative ceremony. By no means, however, was it certain just where the first meeting had been held because the "R" in the rock had been lost from view.

During the ceremony, as fate would have it, a casual glance downwards by one of those present disclosed an "R" partly covered by a mat of Casuarina needles. The needles had been moved aside by the scuffling feet of those at the ceremony.

A little more of *Rostrum's* history, and our own, was therefore established beyond question.

(Those who would like to read more of these events can read Harry Morris's account in the HISTORIAN of March 1991).

Family Matters

1 SEPTEMBER MEETING

11am Meeting - 18 members were at the morning session at which Jo Harris led discussion on Western Australian research and showed a number of books and CDs including:

Passengers arriving WA 1839-1890; 1882 Men of the Time: History of WA; 1905 PO Directory; 1925 Australian Pastoral Directory: Uniting Church Baptisms; Early Australian Electoral Rolls and Crews, Passengers and Overland Arrival (Esperance).

2pm session - 31 members were at the afternoon meeting at which, as is always the case, many and varied issues were discussed including:

The September Australian Family Tree Connections magazine which had interesting items on:

- Byram Mansell, an artist who had lived at Killara
- Traditional practices in selecting given names
- Identity theft - birth certificates
- The Convict Trail Project (Great North Road), www.convicttrail.org
- RAN website loaded with good material, www.navy.gov.au/ships

Recent Book Acquisitions including Genealogical Research Directory (1986); In Search of the Pennant Hills: Masonic Hospitals of NSW; Gazetteer of Sydney Shipping, 1788-1840; History of Berrima; 1000 Famous Australians and Business; Who's Who of Australia 1965/66

New Book Reports

Members spoke of interesting books they had read since the previous meeting:

Beside the Lake, by Mary Steele - Christine Edwards described it as "unputdownable".

The Zeehan El Dorado, re Tasmanian Mining - recommended by John Harper.

Kevin Callinan spoke about a book on Sydney by Tim Flannery and *Search for the Secret River* about research on Solomon Wiseman.

Stella Green showed *Great Passenger Ships of the World 1858-1912*. Covers ships of over 10000 tons up to 1886.

Jo Harris tabled the following books she had acquired for her own collection:

Letters of John Maxwell, Superintendent of government stock 1823-31; Transportation in Place of Death; Our Shetland Heritage; 1788-92 Events around the World; Exiled 3 Times Over; It Happened at School and The Story of the Camera in Australia.

Reports on Events and Activities

- Jean Smith reported on the commemoration at Hyde Park Barracks of the arrival of the Irish Orphan Girls (1848-1850).
- Kevin Callinan spoke of his visit to Broome Cemetery which had the graves of Europeans and Japanese pearl divers

but no Aborigines. Broome now supplies 80% of the world's cultured pearls.

- Diana Rose told of research resulting in internet photos from Gilgandra Cemetery.

Show and Tell – My Grandmother's

The program featured contributions from the following members about items which had belonged to their grandmothers:

Alla Kamaralli – a dressmaking/drafting aid made in Warsaw

Mac Knowles – a lady's gold fob watch

Virginia Robison – a fob watch

Jo Harris – a chatelaine (worn at waist) of ggrandmother who died 1881 aged 94

Stella Green – a christening mug of her grandmother's who was born 1850 in father's pub "Swan with Two Necks" which once stood opposite Sydney Town Hall

Jeanette Rennie – a gggrandmother's ruby glass vase

Joy Walker – a folding black lace fan and a hair comb

Max Farley - stone doorstoppers painted with rural scenes by his grandmother

Elaine Turnidge – a little gold bucket and an 1894 letter to in-laws

Diana Rose – recollections of much of her childhood with her grandmother, whose husband ran the Oxford Hotel in King St.

Pat White – a silver jug c1820, known in the family as "George's jug" (George III). An unusual item bearing Prince of Wales feathers from time when the Regent ruled England.

Wendy Ermert – a birthday book, each page has a poem about flowers.

- This report is based on notes by Stella Green

WESTERN FRONT TRIP

(Last issue we printed musings by Mark Mealey on his visit to a field in Flanders where his father had spent 12 hours in "no man's land" in 1918. We now have a report from Jan Cook telling of her recent journey to the battlefields).

After attending a family function in the UK, my husband and I caught the Eurostar to Lille in Northern France, hired a car and drove to Ypres where we spent two days touring and looking around the Battlefields of WWI. My main priority in this area was to find the grave of my Great Uncle (one of four brothers who went to the War). He was buried at Lijssenhoek Military Cemetery, near Poperinge. The farmhouse immediately over the fence from the Cemetery was then used as a Clearing Station for the wounded and as they died, they were buried a few yards away in the Cemetery. The cafe where the troops used to have their cup of tea still stands adjacent to the Cemetery.

Built Heritage

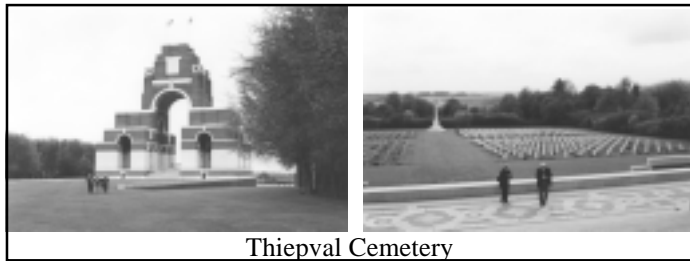
We stayed with Annette (an accredited guide) and her husband just outside Ypres in what had once been a brewery. The following day was Anzac Day and we were invited to join Annette and her other “boarders” to visit the Tyne Cot Cemetery at Zonnebeke (passing Passchendaele on the way) for an Anzac Day ceremony.

Following that, we were then transported the short distance into Ypres to another Ceremony at the Menin Gate. There were marching bands, four bugle players, the Australian Anthem and numerous officials laying wreaths at a very moving ceremony.



Menin Gate

The following day we headed to the Somme, visiting many small and large cemeteries en route (as we had in Belgium). We visited the 2nd Australian Division Memorial near Pozieres which was captured on 4th Aug. 1916, where many Australian troops lost their lives. Then to the Thiepval



Thiepval Cemetery

Memorial Park, mostly dedicated to those missing in the Somme. Thousands of names are listed on the walls as missing. We walked through some of the trenches at the Newfoundland Canadian Park - quite an eerie feeling, knowing that my Great Uncles could possibly have walked the same path all those years ago.

The next morning we headed to Villers-Bretonneux where another brother was buried. The Tower had only just been re-opened, so we walked to the top and had a wonderful view (although a little misty) over the Cemetery. After putting a poppy at Dougal McDougall’s grave, we visited the France/Australian Museum in the town. Before we left for the drive back to Lille, we visited the Adelaide Cemetery where the body of the Unknown Soldier was exhumed and transported to Canberra for burial several years ago.

Whilst visiting these Cemeteries, we were able to find numerous other graves or names of Missing for several other members of the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society.

The whole experience in both Belgium and France was indescribable. There is not one Cemetery we saw that had not been well kept - beautiful lawns and gardens and not a blade of grass out of place - a real credit to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Four days in the area was nowhere near enough and we would like to return one day and do some more touring in the area.

Of the other two Great Uncle brothers, one was killed (and is buried) in Gallipoli and the fourth returned home wounded.

- Jan Cook (member)



Yirrimbirri

Yirrimbirri, 41 Stanhope Road, Killara

Yirrimbirri may be the only house in Ku-ring-gai designed by engineer Norman Selfe, after whom the suburb Normanhurst was named. A large, single storey house set on a wide block on the southern side of Stanhope Road, *Yirrimbirri* was built in 1905 for Selfe’s nephew, solicitor Harry Wolstenholme. Harry was the eldest child of Selfe’s sister Maybanke and her husband Edward Wolstenholme.

Harry’s wife Edith purchased the land in June 1905. The agents claimed it was “surrounded by superior residential properties”, amongst which were the Nutter, Wickham, Sievers and Nosworthy homes.

In August Norman Selfe let the contract to erect a residence in Killara for H Wolstenholme Esq to Chatswood builder David Neely. Selfe had worked as a consulting engineer for over thirty years and, at the time, styled himself as ‘architect and engineer’ with an office at 279 George Street. He had designed two of his own homes: *Amesbury*, at Ashfield, and, at Normanhurst, *Gilligaloola*, a house now listed on the State Heritage Register. Another of his designs was the kindergarten at Newtown, a commission probably obtained through his sister Maybanke, the foundation president of the Kindergarten Union of NSW.

Harry Wolstenholme graduated BA from Sydney University, after which he entered the legal profession. In 1902 he married Edith Doust, and they had three children, Arthur, Marjorie and Harry D.

In 1912 Edith sold *Yirrimbirri* to Woollahra doctor Frederick Quaife. Subsequent owners were John Hammond, James Elphinstone, Edwin Cummings and John Laurie.

Harry died at *Maybanke* in 1930, aged 62. His obituary referred to him as the *Birdman of Wahroonga* and that the garden and paddock adjoining his home were by way of being natural aviaries with the result that many of the best bird photographs in Sydney were taken at Wahroonga.

- Kathie Rieth

Copy for Newsletter

General copy for publication should be lodged with the Editor, Max Farley at (mmff2@bigpond.net.au) *as early as possible* but no later than 7th of the month (except November and December) unless otherwise arranged with the Editor. 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 published items in whole or part with acknowledgement to the Society and author (if identified). Material should preferably be in electronic form.

New Members

We are pleased indeed to welcome to membership:

Warwick Allen (Frenchs Forest); Terry Barnes (Baulkham Hills); Tom & Kirsten Fransen (Turrumurra); Brian & Anne Perkins (Killara); Barry Slack (Turrumurra); Roslyn Turney (St Ives).

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

Quiz Answers

1932: The Harbour Bridge opened
1927: The Duke of York opened Canberra
1903: Women first voted in a Federal election
1901: The States joined to become a Federation
1890: The North Shore Railway line opened
1851: Gold was discovered at Ballarat
were held
1843: The first elections for the NSW Legislative Council
Mountains
1813: Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson crossed the Blue
1788: Phillip arrived with the First Fleet
1770: Captain Cook's explored the east coast

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 on public holidays and over this Christmas period from 15 December until 7 January.

Diary Dates

Sat 6 Oct Family History
- 11am Members Research - Shipping
- 2pm Family History General Meeting
Speaker: Ian Small
Topic: *The Kurrajongs - A Forgotten Australian Story*

Wed 17 Oct 7.45pm – KHS General Meeting
Speaker: Tony Dawson
Topic: *James Meehan – A Most Excellent Surveyor*

Sat/Sun 27/28 October - Lithgow Tour

Sat 3 Nov Family History
- 11am Overseas Resources at KHS
- 2pm Family History General Meeting
Topic - *“My Spouse's First Ancestor in Australia”*

Sat 17 Nov 2pm - KHS General Meeting
Speaker – Bill Woods.
Topic – *The Rum Rebellion*
(followed by our Christmas Party)

Sat 1 Dec 2pm : Family History General Meeting
(Christmas Party – details to be announced)

Administration

President	Kevin Callinan	9983 1525
Vice Presidents	Ann Barry	9144 6480
	Jo Harris	9489 4393
Treasurer	Doug Milne	9487 2853
Secretary	Don Fifer	9482 4613
Immed. Past President	Max Farley	9499 7113
Committee members	Kerrin Cook	9416 2586
	Helen Davies	9498 3754
	Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
	Jenny Joyce	9440 1231
	David Wilkins	9416 8519

Appointees

Accessions	Jennifer Wallin	9983 1871
Book Sales/Asst Curator	Ann Barry	9144 6480
Curator	Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
Family History		
Leader:	Jo Harris	9489 4393
Committee:	Lyn Done	9449 7715
	Stella Green	9449 4388
	Jean Smith	9498 4468
	Peter Stehn	9489 9488
	Elaine Turnidge	9899 2635
Historian Editors	c/- Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
	with Kathie Rieth, John King, Bob Ross	
Newsletter - Editor	Max Farley	9499 7113
- Layout	Kerrin Cook	9416 2586
Public Officer	Helen Davies	9498 3754
“SNAP” Co-ordinator	Helen Davies	9498 3754
Speakers Programme	Beverley Dunstan	9419 8526
Volunteers Roster	Heather Davidson	9144 1844

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