



# 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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## Ku-ring-gai's Centenary Dinner

On 7 March, 1906, the NSW Government Gazette published a proclamation defining the boundaries of 134 local government areas including Ku-ring-gai. To celebrate this event of 100 years ago, Ku-ring-gai Council organised a dinner at the Greengate Hotel on 7 March. It was attended by as many past and present Aldermen, Councillors and senior staff as could be mustered along with a large number of local people and community groups including our own Society.



Being a tribute to the municipalities' 100 years and to those who guided Council's progress over that time, it was understandably a night of speeches and our Mayor, Councillor Elaine Malicki made no apology for that. For her part, she paid reference, specifically, to many of those people, particularly mentioning past Mayors, those earlier Councillors who were present and a number of senior staff.

One person present, who was very warmly received, was the 102 year-old Norman Griffiths who had been on Council staff for 50 years. He had served as Town Clerk from 1947 until his 1969 retirement. Notwithstanding the infirmities of age he spoke to the gathering with great coherence of his career with Council, having started virtually as an office boy and rising through the ranks to the senior post of Town Clerk. Other speakers included the State member for Ku-ring-gai, Barry O'Farrell, and the acting General Manager John McKee.

Council has commissioned two professional historians, Pauline Curby and Virginia MacLeod, to write a book on the history, assisted with the showing of a number of slides of historic

## Coming Meetings

### Next Society General Meeting

Wednesday 19 April 7.45pm

*Business:* The Meeting will consider a Notice of Motion under Rule 4(a):

*"that the membership fees of the Society be:  
Individual Members \$25; Household members \$30  
and Corporate members \$55".*

Guest Speaker: Susie Khamis

*Bushells: A History of Tea in Australia*

Ph.D. candidate Susie Khamis is researching the history of the humble cup of tea in Australia. She is drawing largely from Bushell's archives and notes the advertising imagery used to sell the product. His advertising was effective because by the late 1920s Australians were the world's top tea drinkers.

Supper will be served  
Visitors welcome

### Family History Meetings

Saturday 1 April

11 am: Members' research

2 pm: Discussion:

*Looking Outside the Square – Your Yes Moments*

Afternoon tea will be available  
Visitors welcome

interest. Those Society members present were happy indeed to hear of the praise the Society received for the degree of co-operation we had given the two authors, as well as for the quality of our Collection, of the photographs we had amassed and of the large number of enthusiastic volunteers we have.

The centenary book is expected to be published in November. It will be available for \$59.50 with a pre-publication price of \$49.50 if ordered before 1 November. A special Limited Edition is being offered pre-publication for \$140.

## Website and email address

The Society's new website has been registered as [www.khs.org.au](http://www.khs.org.au) and is expected to be operational within the next couple of weeks. When established the Society's new e-mail address will also become operational. The e-mail address will be [khs@khs.org.au](mailto:khs@khs.org.au).

## SAG Visit

Jo Harris (9489 4393) still has a few places for our special guided tour to the Society of Genealogists on 3 April.

## Recent Acquisitions

These are some of the recent additions to our Collection: **DICTIONARY OF AUSTRALASIAN BIOGRAPHY** – (CD). Written by Philip Mennell in 1892 it has almost 2000 biographies of significant Australia colonists in the 1855-1892 period. It draws heavily on Aldine's.

**PYRMONT AND ULTIMO – A HISTORY** (Michael R Matthews). Published by the Pyrmont Ultimo Project, c/- Century Oils Aust (1982). 112 pages.

**THE RYERSON INDEX** (CD). Named after our member Joyce Ryerson and published by the Dead Persons Society, the Index lists deaths printed in the SMH and a number of other publications from 11 November 2005. Donated by the DPS.

**THE BOOK OF AUSTRALIA** (Almanac 1991/1992). Hodder and Stoughton. A reference book of 525 pages. Indexed.

**SYDNEY'S HIGHWAYS OF HISTORY**. (Geoffrey Scott). Georgian House (Melbourne) (1958). The history of each of Sydney's main CBD thoroughfares. 264 pages.

**MOSMAN – A History** (Gavin Souter). Melbourne University Press (1994) Indexed. 380 pages.

**THE LONG FAREWELL** (Don Charlwood AM). Penguin Books (1981). The story of many immigrants to Australia in the era of sail. Indexed. 324 pages.

**VINEYARDS of SYDNEY** – from the First Settlement to Today (Dr Philip Norrie). Horwitz Grahame (1990). Indexed. 222 pages.

**THE WHITE FAMILY of BELLTREES** – 150 Years in the Hunter Valley (Judy White). The Seven Press) (1981). Indexed. 198 pages.

**LANE COVE RIVER STATE RECREATION AREA** (1983). Published by the Trust (1983). History, walks,

vegetation, activities. 80 pages.

**STANLEY – A YOUNG MAN'S COLONIAL EXPERIENCE**. Letters from Rev Stanley Howard to his family in England 1872-1878. Edited Laurel Horton. The St Peter's area in Sydney is highlighted but not exclusively. St Peter's Publications (2005). 536 pages. Indexed. Donated by Virginia Robison.

**TAKEN FOR GRANTED** – The Bushland of Sydney and Suburbs (Doug Benson & Jocelyn Howell in association with The Royal Botanic Gardens (1990). Indexed. 160 pages.

**BOOK OF EVENTS**. 1000 events that shaped Australia (in date order). Edited by Bryce Fraser. Macquarie Library (1983). 608 pages.

## Preservation

The majority of the preservation materials have been received, which will enable work to commence on the full range of preservation tasks. If you attended the preservation training please contact Kevin Callinan (9983 1525) to enable a suitable work program to be agreed upon. Team up with a fellow member if you choose or we will try to match you or fit in with your wishes.

## Vale Lorna Pufflett

Not known to many of recent times, the death occurred last month of Lorna Pufflett of Gordon who joined the Society in 1984. Lorna had been the Librarian at Ravenswood and became the school's Honorary Archivist on her retirement. Lorna always had a particular interest in Tulkiyan and acted as a "Friend" of Tulkiyan right up until her death.

## New Family History Committee

Following recommendations from a Family History meeting on 4 April the Society has appointed the following as the Family History division's committee for 2006/2007:

Leader: Jo Harris

Committee: Lyn Done, Jenny Joyce, Jean Smith, Peter Stehn and Elaine Turnidge. We all wish them continued achievement.

## A Welcome Development

You may have noticed that this issue has several items based on information contributed by persons in addition to regulars like Stella Green. Michael MacCabe, Lyn Done and Ian Ramage all submitted information that we felt was of interest to readers generally. These contributions are welcome indeed and we hope they suggest a growing trend.

For Newsletter purposes we can only carry short items but we can rewrite or edit down or up as suits. Credit to the contributor is always given. Think about contributing?

## Our New Members

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

Judy Andrews (Gordon); Ian Stutchbury (Elizabeth Bay); Phillippa Hoffman; Don Fifer (Waitara) and Peter and Diana Winkworth (Gordon).

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

## Quiz (Answers on page 8).

If you have strong feelings about sexism (is that the right word?) then read no further because our questions this month are decidedly sexist.

- Who was known as “The Father of Killara”? (An easy one).
  - Who was known as the “Squire”? (Pretty easy too)
  - Who was known as “The Father of Roseville”? (Pretty hard)
  - Who was known as “The Father of Rosedale”? (Hard too).
- In what suburb is *Ticket of Leave Park*?

## Heritage Festival

A display titled *Industry – What Industry* will be in our Rooms on 3<sup>rd</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> April as part of the Heritage Festival.

The Society will be conducting a Railways Heritage Tour on Sunday 2 April visiting the Lindfield, Gordon and Wahroonga stations. It starts at Lindfield Station at 10am sharp and finishes at Wahroonga at 1pm. No charge, just your fare. A lunch to eat in Wahroonga Park may be nice too. Information from 9498 2402.

The Gordon Public School Museum will be open and there will also be a Bradfield Display.

## Tour Date Change

The two-day tour to Paterson, Tocal and other places of interest which had been planned for 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October has been changed to 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November. The Annual Conference of the Royal Australian Historical Society has now been scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of October at Hornsby and a number of our members will want to attend.

## Profile of a Member

### Ian Ramage



Whenever one thinks of the history of Wahroonga the name *Ian Ramage* immediately comes to mind. Ian is best known to us as the author of three books about the suburb – *Wahroonga, Our Home* (1991); *One Hundred Years Ago – Life on Sydney’s Upper North Shore* (1996) and *We Still Call Wahroonga Our Home* (2003).

Brought up in Roseville, Ian attended Knox Grammar, graduated from the University of Sydney as Bachelor of Economics and served in the RAAF. He became a Wahroonga resident following his 1951 marriage. After a short time in banking he was employed for a time with the Sydney University Union before holding posts at the University from 1969 until retirement in 1986. These included Accountant and Acting Bursar. During those days he was active in community affairs including 3<sup>rd</sup> Wahroonga Scouts, the Presbyterian (later Uniting) Church at Wahroonga, the National Bank’s Sub-Branch of the RSL and the Australian Junior Chamber of Commerce. One of his many honorary positions has been auditor of our Society.

It was only on his retirement that he took up his study of local history and published his first two books the first of which was made possible because of encouragement and financial assistance from the NSW Heritage Office. By this time his interest had become a passion and he enrolled at the University of New England and was awarded a Graduate Diploma in Local and Applied History in 1999.

Ian’s contributions to our history go well beyond his three books and extend to *A Cameo of Captain Thomas Rowley* who was Adjutant of the NSW Corps (c1748-1806) and who was became a large landowner in the colony at Burwood, Newtown and Bankstown; *Wahroonga’s Daily Bread*; *Shipping Disasters at Cape Hawke*; *Ray Ramage - Citizen Soldier* and *Background to the Grange*. He has given many talks to community groups and conducted tours of Wahroonga. His encyclopaedic knowledge of Wahroonga is frequently drawn on by local bodies.

The value of his work was recognised by our Society when it appointed him as The Society’s Historian of the Year for 2003.

Following the death of his wife Nancy with whom he had three children, Ian recently married KHS member Susan, the daughter of a distinguished Wahroonga resident, the late Colonel Ian Hutchison DSO, OBE, MC, ED, *psc*.

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# History Notes

## High Rise not new

During the month I spent some time reading a draft copy for the book Council is producing to mark the centenary of Local Government in Ku-ring-gai. It is being prepared by professional historians Pauline Curby and Virginia MacLeod. I have been allowed to quote a little of it here.

We are all well aware of the current feeling towards the building of increased numbers of high-rise accommodation in Ku-ring-gai. It was revealing therefore to read that similar challenges were faced by Council back in the 1920s and 1930s. At that time home units had not been invented but “flats” certainly had been. Not surprisingly they were not looked on with favour in Ku-ring-gai where “the house and garden on its own block remained the preferred option”. This opinion was initially held too by both sides of politics as they were considered the “antithesis of single-storey suburbia”.

It is not intended here to recount the details of the lengthy controversy as the centenary book will no doubt do that but Council believed at the time that flats were “inimical to the public interest” and expressed many reasons of objection including their height, being out of keeping with other buildings in the locality, the effect on nearby land values of nearby buildings and the effect on the comfort and enjoyment of owners and occupiers of neighbouring property. Even though 70 and more years have passed we can still easily understand these attitudes. Health and hygiene issues also came up because sewerage was not then the norm. Building standards too were not so well developed.

What is particularly interesting from today’s perspective are the opinions held by some individual Councillors at the time. The following comments are drawn from the draft version of the coming book.

Alderman Malcolm McFadyen believed that “a flat is not a home ... but a refined slum area that lowered the moral tone of the community by bringing a floating population ... the flotsam and jetsam of Darlinghurst”. He thought flats “housed night birds who spent most of their time in cabarets and became refuges for women who ... refused to discharge their domestic duties”.

Alderman Hector Mackenzie viewed flats as “the ruination of our country. ... women were blamed for preferring these as they entailed less housework. ... Golf and bridge must also take their share of the responsibility”.

The opposition to flats was, however, not confined to male aldermen and, as the draft records, “a virtuous mother-of-two living in a Roseville cottage without a hot water system

or any refrigeration was featured in the Sydney Morning Herald. Apparently she preferred this, as she did not want ‘to sacrifice the health of my babies’ by living in a flat. Children, she said, needed to have a swing and their sandpit and their dog”. (It perhaps should be mentioned that hot water systems and refrigeration were not widely available before World War 2 anyway – even in flats).

However, Alderman Norman McIntosh pointed out that flats were convenient for some lifestyles and though “it would be very nice for everyone to have an acre of ground, how are they going to do it?”

To read more, I am afraid you will have to buy the book when it is printed – or perhaps borrow it from Council’s Library.

- Max Farley

## A Research Topic?

Some years ago a member of an Historical Society (not ours) said their Society was in decline because “there was nothing left to find out”. What an appallingly negative thought! There are always many topics to be explored. All that is needed is some imagination and an inquisitive mind. What is more, many tasks are being made less challenging because of the greatly increased access to old records. Computer databases are increasing in number with rapidity, indexes of all sorts of official documents are being compiled and publications are being digitalised making searching so much easier.

This thought came to mind when pondering how single or widowed women survived economically in the past before the “welfare state” was invented. We know that many widows quickly remarried in the hope of gaining economic security for themselves and their children but what about those who were unable, or did not wish, to find a suitable “provider”. What effect, too, did the casualties incurred in the First War have on the availability of potential husbands? Was Ku-ring-gai any different from other parts of Sydney bearing in mind that Ku-ring-gai was not always the prosperous community it was to become?

Some women had parents or siblings to help them, others may have had an inheritance or obtained employment within another household as servants, governesses or companions. Teaching, hairdressing and dressmaking were all within the female realm and some of these could be carried out from home. Those with an entrepreneurial flair opened their own kindergartens, schools, shops and, in later times, salons.

Someone, one day, will do a study on how the women of Ku-ring-gai survived financially from the time Ku-ring-gai

started to become a cohesive community, perhaps from the latter quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century until, say, the late 1940s after the Second War opened the door to employment opportunities and Governments began offering increased financial support to those in need.

What about it?

## A Mystery Rock

A member mentioned recently that a rock, about 1x1.5 metres, with some engraving on it has been found near the Arterial Rd, Killara. The lettering reads "RELIEF ROAD". The belief is that this part of the road was a job for the unemployed during the recession but nothing seems to have been written. Whether the engraving was "official" or done by one of the workers in his spare time is unknown but, if verified as genuine, the rock is certainly of historical interest as a reminder of those troubled economic times. It also brings to mind the foresight of Council because, contemplating an increased amount of traffic being channelled along the Highway as a result of the opening of the Harbour Bridge, it was seeking to construct alternative routes parallel to the east and to the west of the Highway.

## Some notes from Ian Ramage

(Member Ian Ramage was our 2003 Historian of the Year and author of three books on Wahroonga. He takes a wide interest in the history of Ku-ring-gai. He reports here on items of interest).

### Wartime history at St Ives

Many readers would have seen a large concrete map of the St Ives/Hawkesbury area at the St Ives Showground and wondered what it was all about. It was constructed by the 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion (*The Ku-ring-gai Regiment*) when preparing to defend our country from possible assault by Japanese forces landing near the Hawkesbury or northern beaches. Its purpose was to help our troops gain familiarity with the topography of the area. Weather and time have had their effect and it badly needs attention if it is to survive as tangible evidence of our local history. For many years, Ku-ring-gai Council has deferred any decision on its fate "pending a heritage study". Some members of the 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion and I met heritage consultants there recently giving hope that some preservation of this significant site might be forthcoming.

### Percy Bergan's Butcher's Shop

One of Wahroonga's unsung heroes is Percy Bergan who displays just a few of his magnificent collection of Wahroonga photos in the window of his Redleaf Avenue butcher's shop each week-end. As a young man he was apprenticed to the business of butchering and has spent his working life serving the people of Wahroonga. His photos attract the attention of passing pedestrians and arouse interest in our local history as well as providing pleasure.

## The Billy Tree

Remember the time when milk was delivered? If so you'll maybe also remember when "milk zoning" was introduced as an economy measure during World War 11. Customers were zoned with only one designated milkman being permitted to be the supplier of each zone. It seems that Apps Brothers Dairy of North Turramurra supplied Eastern Road and Tournier's Clissold Road Dairy, Junction Road. Residents in the Apps zone were convinced their milkman extracted too much cream from their milk and preferred Tournier's who were zoned to deliver to the other side of the road. They pragmatically solved the problem by hanging their "billies" on hooks on a tree in the neighbouring zone. Clive Evatt, one of the residents, dubbed it the "Billy Tree". No doubt an oblique reference to "Billy Tea".

## Milkmaids Reserve

Just prior to a speaking appointment I had at a Probus Club which met at North Turramurra, a friend told me of a nearby recreation area named Milkmaids Reserve. The name had appeal. I decided I should make an inspection and found it in Ellalong Road at the end on Keats Road. It was registered with the Geographical Names Board in 1991. Apps Dairy was at North Turramurra and was honoured by the naming of Apps Avenue. How good then to see the milkmaids honoured too although I suspect that those milkmaids were not the finely dressed, dainty damsels of fairy-tale days. Most dairies I recall were very muddy affairs.

## The Forgotten William Fowler

We read a lot about our early timber getters such Thomas Hyndes, Daniel Mathew and John Brown but little about William Fowler who deserves to be bracketed with those three. That he isn't, is probably because he didn't settle here nor own land. He did, however, obtain the right to take out timber. One of the sites he used was Robert Pymble's land. The November 1972 HISTORIAN records that the 1828 census has him as "the largest employer of labour in Hunters Hill". (Hunters Hill in those days embraced Ku-ring-gai). The HISTORIAN goes so far as to say he was "the most notable figure in the North Shore timber trade" in those years and had "yards near Market Wharf, Darling Harbour" and "whose other activities extended as far afield as the export of colonial timbers".

Despite the large operation he conducted he tends to be a shadowy figure with little written about him we have been able to find. Ralph Hawkins in his "*The Convict Timbergetters of Pennant Hills*" makes only several brief references to him. He was born in Oxford in 1783 and arrived as a convict in 1813. In 1816 he married Elizabeth Seymour who arrived free in 1814. They had six children from 1814 until 1824. Can any reader throw more light on him?

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# Family Matters

## Meeting Reports

### Members Meeting 4 March

#### 11am Morning Discussions

About 30 people were present to hear Jo Harris speak of the purchase of new CD's to be installed in the Resource Centre. They were projected on to the screen and the contents discussed. They included:

1853 - 1900 Immigration Deposits  
1856 - 1857 Regulations in a Supplementary Index  
1880 - 1892 Railway Passes  
1823 - 1840 Deane Index - Settlers, Military and Convicts  
1828, 1832 - 33 & 1838 - 44 Convicts & Employers of NSW  
1836 - 1852 Unclaimed letters - noting ship or Regiment  
1860 - Unemployed Registers  
1849 - 1851 Wages Paid to orphans  
1855 - 1892 Australian biographies  
1882 Victorian men of the time  
1925 Pastoral Directory of Australia  
1926 - 27 ACT Pioneer magazines  
1906 Municipal Year book  
1890 Kelly's Handbook to the titled, landed & official classes of England

#### 2pm Afternoon General Meeting

Chairperson Jo:

- ◆ said there was a mammoth task to our keep resources on all the computers up to date. They are to be networked. The cost will be paid for out of profits from Tours and Raffles.
- ◆ advised we will be represented at the Garden Expo at St Ives Showground on 25 & 26 March as well as Seniors Day at St Ives Shopping Centre on Thursday 30 March.
- ◆ gave details of the next FH meeting on 1 April. The 11am morning session will look at new resources. The 2pm afternoon meeting will be general discussion of problems - Titled: *Looking Outside the Square. Your Yes Moments*. There would be a new *Introduction to Family History Course*. Those attending would learn to use all the resources of the Centre and Library over 8 weeks. Bookings \$75.
- ◆ reminded that those wanting BMD Transcripts should fill in the yellow forms and place them (open) in Jo's blue folder.
- ◆ drew attention to recent Magazines etc. including *Family Tree Connections*, 'NZ Genealogist' (which now has an index), 'ANCES-TREE (the Journal of the Burwood and District Family History Group) and 'Australian Heritage' (a new quarterly magazine).

Book Reports were given on:

*Strugglers and Settlers. Darvall Family Letters 1839 - 1849*, ed. Jeremy Long  
Two books on *Pioneer Women*  
*Floating Brothel*, Sean Rees

Reports were given :

- ◆ by Catherine Williams - she had been invited to open the Gundagai show
- ◆ by Jo on being guest speaker at the Lace Makers of Calais descendants' meeting

**The Annual Election** resulted in the following being chosen for nomination to the Society's committee for formal appointment to the Family History Committee for 2006/2007: Leader: Jo Harris. Committee: Lyn Done, Jenny Joyce, Jean Smith, Peter Stehn and Elaine Turnidge. Catherine Williams gave a vote of thanks to Jo and John Harris for the enormous amount of work they do for the group.

**Guest Speaker.** Our speaker, Tracey Fiertl is an experienced Oral Historian who collaborated with Jane Oakeshott on the book *Maths, Marbles, Mates and Mischief* for the centenary of Lindfield Public School. She gave a most interesting and well presented talk on the importance of Oral History and the skills required by researchers. Thorough planning and research prior to interviews are essential and an awareness of the pitfalls - leading questions, personal bias and the accuracy of reminiscences. She also discussed recording equipment and where records should be archived for the use of other researchers. A list of useful questions was issued at the end of the talk to provide a basis for an oral history interview. A vote of thanks was given by Jenny Joyce together with a gift of appreciation.

- Notes taken by Lyn Done

## Can you beat this?

Some 18 months ago the Sydney Morning Herald's Column 8 told of a reader who recalled having spoken as a child to an aged **great-aunt** who had been born as far back as 1856. This gave rise to a certain amount of correspondence.

When it comes to parents, however, Past President Michael MacCabe and his wife Patricia feel they could probably claim an Australian - if not world - record for a husband and wife couple. Michael's father was born in 1862 (he died in 1934) and Patricia's father in 1872 (dying in 1955). Their "record" became possible because Michael's and Patricia's fathers married a second time and they were both the youngest children of the second marriages. The second marriages were both in 1919.

Mind you, we do not know for sure how to do the calculations to determine the record for comparison purposes for couples. However, on an individual basis can anyone recall having spoken to one of their parents born before 1872 let alone 1862?

Michael incidentally is of the MacCabe family who had the *Marshall Mount School for Girls* at 208 Pacific Highway, Lindfield, from 1924 until the early 1930s. The building has been demolished but someone had a sense of history and left the two sandstone pillars of the entrance gates on the western side of the Highway just south of Grosvenor Road. They are still there. The school's boarding house remains as a private residence at 22 Russell Avenue, Lindfield.

## To tell or not to tell

I am in two minds about whether to sign this or to hide in cowardly anonymity. Though I have passed my news on aurally to a number of KHS members I do wonder how deeply our new-found appreciation of having convict forebears goes. Is it a form of reverse snobbery to find a convict amongst our own "way backs"? After searching in desultory fashion for some years I believe I have now found a great-great-grandfather who came here without paying his passage. Having done so, I hastened to pass this "find" on to family researchers, descendants also, with whom I have been corresponding for some years in a mutual search for truth. One now lives in Canada and the other in New Zealand. All I got back from these previously enthusiastic family historians was a cool message from each to the effect they had been too busy with other things to do much family research lately. It seems my "news" may not have been welcome.

My next step was to consider passing my information on to a local lady whom I felt may be more receptive but when I looked at information she had given me several years ago it was clear she believed the gentleman (being an ancestor of mine he would have been a gentleman) had arrived here of his own free will. Though her dates did not always tally with the facts this, it was obviously felt, could be explained by the well known eccentricities of early colonial record-keeping. On making enquiries I found that the ageing lady concerned had been ill lately. In earlier days I believe she would have been delighted to learn about our convict ancestry. However, in view of her illness and in light of the unexpected reactions I had already had from relatives in Canada and New Zealand, I felt it kinder not to risk causing her any distress and to say nothing.

All of which roused my curiosity about whether everyone is really pleased to find a convict forebear to include in their tree and CV? Does everyone really go so far as to harbour the thought that anyone without a convict is not a dinky-di grade one Aussie? After all, First Fleeters have special status so why not their own convict ancestor? Many others may have just decided to take pride born of the belief their convict was harshly treated by the judicial system for a crime which would not merit a slap on the wrist today.

- Anonymous

## Who's Who

Who's Who is this year celebrating its centenary. Family historians know it is a very useful source of information. Many families have people in earlier generations who gained entry. The publication has information not just about their achievements but often about their parents, spouses and children. We have a number of editions in our Library as well as a useful database on "Notable Australians" that John and Jo Harris have put together and installed on our computers. It is an index of Ku-ring-gai people who made it into *Who's Who* and a number of other reference publications like it.

The January issue of *Family Tree Connections* tells us that the forerunner of *Who's Who* was produced by a chap named Fred Johns who in 1906 published *Johns's Notable Australians: Who They Are and What They Do*. This is on our computers. Johns was born in Michigan in 1868 and came to Australia in 1884. He lived in Adelaide and died there in 1932. His writings extended beyond his *Notable Australians* but biographical research was his forte. There were periodic editions of *Johns's Notable Australians* up to 1922 with the name being changed to *Who's Who in Australia in 1927-28*.

## "Plum Duff and Cake"

This is the intriguing title of The Journal of James Nichols 1874-5 who sailed from London to Picton, New Zealand, on the ship *Carnatic* in 1874-5. Lyn Done's great-grandparents were on the ship and she sends this heart rending extract:

*Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October 1874*

*The first death occurred (sic) this morning on board, deceased being an Infant of 13 Months, who died about 3 am. At about 9 they brought it, sewn up in Canvas on Deck, where the Captain read over the Funeral Ceremony & committed it to the sea, which is the largest of all Cemeteries, & its slumberers sleep without Monuments. The same waves roll over all, the same requiem by the Minstrelsy of the Ocean is sung to their honour, over their remains the same storm beats, the same sun shines, & there unmarked the weak & the powerful, the plumed & the unhonoured will sleep on until dead. It is a very solumn (sic) case is a death at sea, more especially when surrounded by those voracious creatures such as sharks &c., but none of these creatures were in view, & at 9.30 am the body sunk rapidly down into the deep, being loaded with old Iron, &c., to sink it.*





## Deadline for copy

General copy for publication should be lodged with the President (kevincallinan@hotmail.com) AND ALSO Acting Editor Max Farley (mmff2@bigpond.net.au) as *early as possible* but no later than 15<sup>th</sup> of the month (except December). Early copy *will receive preference* all things being equal. Copy is to be submitted on the understanding that the Society has editing rights and that it can be reproduced in whole or part with acknowledgement. Material should preferably be in electronic form.

## Quiz Answers

1. (a) J G "George" Edwards (1843-1922). A son of Eliza Pymble. He "created" Killara by amalgamating landholdings and subdividing. Was active in many community affairs.
- (b) John Brown (1825-1884). He was a major timber merchant and owned large tracts of land in the Fox Valley area of Wahroonga and elsewhere. A founding trustee of St Johns Church, Gordon.
- (c) Eden Herschell Babbage (1844-1924). A banker by profession who lived in Rawhit Street, Roseville. He was a founder of the Roseville Progress Association and involved in subdivisions on the east sides of Roseville. Commemorated by the naming of Babbage Road.
- (d) Phillip Fletcher Richardson (1837-1901). He was involved in seeking the establishment of the North Shore Railway, of Hassell Park at St Ives, the opening of a Post Office at St Ives and the adoption of the name "St Ives" to replace the earlier name "Rosevale".
2. *Ticket of Leave Park* is a little known reserve within Corona Crescent Killara. The name was assigned by the Geographical Names Board in 1989. The park has entrances from Fiddens Wharf Road and Corona Crescent. The name reflects the presence of large numbers of convicts in the nearby Lane Cove Saving Establishment in the early days and particularly those convicts who obtained tickets of leave.

## 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 1 April**      **FAMILY HISTORY MEETINGS**  
 Members' research                      11am  
 FH General meeting                      2pm  
 Discussion: *Looking Outside the Square – Your Yes Moments*
- Sun 2 Apr**      **RAILWAY HERITAGE TOUR**  
 Starts Lindfield Station 10am
- Wed 19 Apr**      **KHS GENERAL MEETING 7.45pm**  
 Guest Speaker: Susie Khamis  
*Bushells: A History of Tea in Australia*
- Sat 6 May**      **FAMILY HISTORY MEETINGS**  
 Members' research                      11am  
 FH General meeting                      2pm  
 Guest speaker: Helen Dickinson  
*Getting the Most from Google*
- Wed 17 May**      **KHS GENERAL MEETING 7.45pm**  
 Guest Speaker: Ken Knight  
*Publicans and Pubs of Colonial Sydney*

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
Speakers' Programme	Beverley Dunstan	9419 8526
Volunteers Roster	Heather Davidson	9144 1844

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