



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

21 February Meeting

Committee member Helen Davies took the Chair because of the inability of President Kevin Callinan to attend at the last moment. As is customary, a number of matters relating to the Society's operations were reported including the appointment of Don Fifer as Secretary; notification that there was space for more volunteers to work on Wednesdays (always popular) to preserve our historical records; the redevelopment of the website together with a call for donations to help defray the cost; the Course on researching Built Heritage; another Course on using the Family Tree maker program; the Family History Meeting on 3 February; a Tulkiyan update; the National Trust Festival and the Society's involvement in a number of approaching events.

Speaker:

Randi Svensen – The Halvorsen Story

Randi, a granddaughter of Lars Halvorsen, spoke engagingly of the Halvorsen family. Lars Halvorsen, born in 1887 in Norway, was the youngest of ten children. He learnt the boatbuilding business from his father. Seeking wider horizons he first sought to do business in America and then started his own business back in Norway where he married Bergithe and started a family. Times were, however, bad after the First War and he lost the company. He decided to venture further afield and went to South Africa with his family, intending to settle there. He found there was too little scope for him in that country so came to Australia with his eldest son. He left his Bergithe and remaining four boys and two daughters living in a tent in Cape Town. He built his first boat, Sirius, here in 1924. Encouraged, the family reunited in Sydney in 1925. Though life was very difficult initially he established a thriving boatyard at Neutral Bay in company with his sons and survived the Depression by a combination of hard work and a willingness to try new ideas. In addition to building working, fishing and pleasure craft, he built speedboats and offered joy rides around the harbour.

The company always placed great store on marketing and innovation and Randi showed photos of many local and international celebrities enjoying relaxed times on the water with members of the Halvorsen family

Lars died in 1936 at the young age of 49. The sons, Harald, Carl, Bjarne, Magnus and Trygve determined to carry on their father's business and the company, *Lars Halvorsen*

Coming Meetings

NEXT SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING (Gordon Library Meeting Room)

Wednesday 18 April

7.45pm – GENERAL MEETING

Guest Speaker: Jim Macken

(Retired Judge and current RAHS Councillor)

**Topic: *Tales of the Early Settlement at the Basin
in Coasters' Retreat, Pittwater***



Supper will be available
Visitors welcome

NEXT FAMILY HISTORY MEETING

Saturday 7 April (Easter Saturday)

11am - Members' Irish Research Session

2pm - Family History Meeting

General Business – Reports and activities

Speaker: Ian Palmer will talk of his First Fleet ancestor,
John Palmer

(It may be recalled that John Palmer laid claim to the first
ancestral Arms in Australia)

Afternoon tea will be available

and Sons, was formed and prospered. During the war the company had a staff of 250 and made boats for the Australian, American and Dutch forces including 178 sea rescue craft. After the war it ventured into racing yachts including Peer Gynt and Gretel. Its beautifully built wooden "cruisers", used for recreation, are nevertheless the craft most people think of when the Halvorsen name is mentioned.

Randi Svensen has now told the family story in her book *Wooden Boats, Iron Men*.

Our “Logo”

Back in November 1987, members were invited to suggest ideas for a logo for the Society to “be used on letterheads etc, as well as spoons, tea towels etc if and when they are produced”. In September 1988 members approved the design submitted by past President and (now) Life Member Hazel Perdriau. Life was more leisurely in those days and it was another two years before it appeared on the Newsletter. Though the design has evolved a little by usage over the years it is really the same as the one we use today. It was described then as “a timber-getter’s hut in a wattle clearing”. Though it is being “sharpened up” a little as part of the redesign of our website its essential character is being retained.



From time to time someone suggests our logo should be “updated” and replaced with a logo visually more striking. Maybe. Others, however, seem to take the view that it is quite appropriate for an historical society to have a logo with a flavour of the past and “why change anyway?”

House Style Talks Well Received

Ku-ring-gai Library, with the support of Friends of Ku-ring-gai (FOKE), recently staged a series of three Talks on house styles in Ku-ring-gai. It was a series presented as part of the National Trust’s festival. The speakers were three distinguished architects each of whom was well equipped to cover the topic. The subjects and speakers were *Federation and Arts & Crafts Styles* (Ian Stapleton), *Interwar Housing* (Scott Robinson) and *Modernism* (Professor Harry Margalit). Each talk was well accompanied by photos, many of them of Ku-ring-gai homes recognisable by many in the audience. An excellent and very successful project!

Day Tour to Historic Ryde

The Ryde Historical Society will be hosting a full-day bus tour for us on Sunday, 20 May. There is a lot of history and heritage to be seen in Ryde including two of its interesting cemeteries – Field of Mars and St Anne’s – see the HISTORY NOTES pages of this Newsletter. The fee will be \$38 (BYO lunch). Details will be sent with the next issue. Advance bookings (with fee) can be made now through Max Farley on 9499 7113.

Neglected Treasures

Primary Applications? Valuation Rolls? Parish Maps? Deposited Plans? Sections? Lots? Torrens Title?

Researchers into local history need information about the history of the families that shaped that history. Similarly, family historians need to find out what they can about the history of the localities in which their forebears lived. Too many, however, pay scant attention to the treasure-field of information buried at the Land Titles Office at Queen’s Square and State Archives at Kingswood. Over recent times the Society, under the guiding hand of Jennifer Harvey, has built up an array of records – some are mentioned above - dealing with land ownership. Jennifer is a Committee member and our current Historian of the Year. We mention this now because we are coming to the end of a Study Course at which Jennifer, with colleagues Ann Barry, Kathie Rieth and Paul Dignam (Council’s Heritage Officer) have been helping some 15 members to a better understanding of researching the ownership of sections of land over the last 220 years. These records contain a multitude of family names of importance to both local and family researchers. The Course was fully booked but, hopefully, can be repeated at some time in the future.

Harbour Bridge Exhibition

The Sydney Museum, on the corner of Bridge and Phillip Streets, currently has an excellent exhibition dealing with the building of the Bridge. It runs until 29th April. A visit will pay a bonus because there is now also an exhibition celebrating the ABC’s 75th birthday. As we all know, the Museum is on the site of the first Government House some parts of which have been retained and displayed.

Faith Bandler Portrait

Seems the Bandler family is in the news again. Last month we featured Hans in our Member Profile section. In the article we mentioned his wife Faith, respected by us all for having played a major part in achieving the success of the 1967 referendum which extended citizenship to indigenous Australians. This month it is Dr Faith Bandler herself who has gained special mention in our Newsletter. Her portrait now hangs in the Art Gallery as one of the finalists in the Archibald Prize. It was painted by Turramurra resident Greg Warburton. If you are visiting the Gallery to see the entrants, as many do, don’t forget to look out for Faith.

Recent Acquisitions

Australian Pioneers & Reminiscences -1849/1894 (Nehemiah Bartley). First published 1896. This 1978 edition by John Ferguson (Sydney) in association with the Royal Australian Historical Society. 425 pages. Indexed.

Under the Canopy - a Centenary History of Ku-ring-gai Council – 2006 (Pauline Curby/Virginia MacLeod). 208 pages. Indexed.

Golden Girls visit us

On Saturday 10 March the *Golden Girls* of the Gordon Public School came to see our Research Centre and Headmaster's Museum. They are a happy band of (girl) ex-students who left the School over 50 years ago and have occasional "get-togethers". They enjoyed the visit and so did we. What is more, several are to send us memorabilia, photos and the like, to add to our Collection.

Quiz

This is an "uninvited guest" quiz. Each question has names all of which, bar one, have something special in common. The task is to select the one in each set which is out of place:

1. *Alexander, Endeavour, Friendship, Lady Penrhyn, Scarborough, Sirius.*
2. *Archbold Rd, Curtin Av, Du Faur St, Fiddens Wharf Rd, McIntosh St, Mudies Rd.*
3. *Ralph Darling, Charles FitzRoy, George Gipps, Francis Grose, John Hunter.*
4. *Norman Griffiths, Harry Jago, Richard Lennon, W Cresswell O'Reilly, C Bowes Thistlethwayte.*

Family History Committee Appointed

The Society's Committee has now formally appointed the Family History Committee for 2007/2008 following nominations from the Group. Congratulations are extended to Jo Harris (Leader); Lyn Done, Stella Green, Jean Smith, Peter Stehn and Elaine Turnidge.

Own a Digital Camera?

Whether you are new to this versatile and modern method of taking photos, or well experienced, would you bear in mind we will be spending time at St Johns cemetery at Gordon when the weather cools down a little? The project is to photograph the headstones for posterity before time and the elements take their inevitable toll. This will be a good opportunity to develop and practice your skills in company with other members. Details will be announced before long.

St Ives Records

We are fortunate to have been given the early records of the St Ives Progress Association to add to our records. As is usual, we need to sort them so they can later be searched by researchers. Helping the Society do this would be a pleasant pastime particularly for any member who has a special interest in St Ives. Spending time at our Gordon Research Centre in the company of kindred souls is enjoyable as well as worthwhile. If you would like to help, a call from you to President Kevin on 9983 1535 would be very welcome.

Member Profile

Heather Davidson

Heather joined the Society almost ten years ago and plays an important role behind the scenes in liaising with our volunteers to help ensure the Centre remains manned at its publicised times.



She was born in 1931 to Scottish parents who had only just arrived in Australia. Her schooling was mainly in the area of Neutral Bay, finishing at North Sydney Girls High School before entering Nursing. She trained at the RPAH and then worked at the Royal South Sydney Hospital. When Ken and she married, they moved to their new home in Turrumurra in 1958. Heather has two daughters one of whom is a doctor and the other a nurse. She also has a son who is a Commander in the RAN. When her children were young she was attracted to work at Pymble-Turrumurra Kindergarten where she spent 17 very enjoyable years.

Now widowed, Heather has a busy and varied life. Grandmotherly duties take their turn with volunteering roles with our Society, the Royal Botanic Gardens, the Royal Prince Alfred Nurses Museum and the Lady Davidson Hospital Museum – the latter in company with our Evelyn Wyatt. Her full life is completed with enjoyment of the theatre, movies, reading, gardening and, as she puts it, "easy crosswords".

Barbara Burgess

Barbara is another of our quiet workers.

She joined the Society in 1984 with her sister Heather. They have been Lindfield residents since forever. Barbara is always willing to give of her time and extensive local knowledge. For many years she was a member of what was called "The Tuesday Group". This originally worked every Tuesday with Margaret Wyatt (then Council's Local Studies Librarian) on a variety of tasks



such as numbering old photographs, filing newspaper cuttings, indexing the HISTORIAN and preparing displays. Others in the Group included Jean Bennett, Prue Docker, Betty Locke, Cushla Baker and Hilary Cameron. Today Barbara is the only one we still see regularly.

Barbara attended Lindfield Public School, Roseville College and Hornsby High before attending Sydney Kindergarten Training College. She then taught in Kindergartens in Sydney, Melbourne and then London. On returning home she joined the Education Department and taught at Pennant Hills, Beaumont Road (Lindfield) and Wakehurst.

Barbara attends St David's Church at Lindfield and is involved with its Seniors Group and inter-church activities. In earlier times she set up an inter-denominational Sunday School at Bradfield Park for the Housing Commission and migrant children. A valued member.

History Notes

The Church of St John the Evangelist

The story of the Church of St John the Evangelist at Gordon, locally known just as St John's, has been told many times. The Church and its site have been of such importance in Kuring-gai over so many years that it is worthwhile recounting it again, albeit briefly, particularly as so many new residents are constantly joining us. In preparing the following "Time Line" we have drawn on a number of sources including *Notes on Religion in Lane Cove (1839-1872)* by John Brown; *Pioneers at Peace – the Story of St John's Cemetery* by Jill Lyons; *The HISTORIAN* and a 1923 *History of the Parish of St John* utilising details given by Henry Selkirk (FRAHS). Copies of these publications are in the Society's Collection.



The photo is of the St John's after the 1899 extension. The smaller original church was understood to have been incorporated into the 1899 extension (see the lighter roof colour). This section remains today.

1816 – Governor Macquarie bestowed 10 pounds to assist in building a school on Church of England land near where St John's would later be built. A weatherboard school was constructed with help from public subscription and began classes in 1817. It only operated for a year or two. The building fell into ruins.

1831 – The Rev Charles Dickinson was appointed Chaplain at the Field of Mars (Hunters Hill) and instructed to visit "Lane Cove" monthly to conduct a service.

1832 – The Church of England had a new school built. It was also used for worship. It operated until about 1855.

1850 – "Lane Cove" was served via St Paul's Church at Pennant Hills which was consecrated in 1850. The school was used for services.

1865 – The school was burnt down in a bush fire in the mid 1860s. Rev Wood from Pennant Hills conducted services at the homes of Robert Pymble (where Pymble Station was to be) and James Terry.

1867 – The first burial in the cemetery took place.

1871 – Trustees Robert Pymble, John Brown and William McIntosh purchased 3 acres for a Parsonage, Church, cemetery and school on the old school site. (JL page 15) The school was never built.

1872 – The foundation stone of a church designed by Edmund Blacket was laid by Mrs Francis Lord. This section remains today though the Church has been substantially enlarged.

1899 – The Church building was extended.

1924 – A new and much larger church was opened. It incorporated the original Church and earlier extensions.

Note: In preparing this item we observed a "foundation" stone on the church recording that the 1899 extensions were opened by "Lady Mary Lygon". We became curious to find out more about her. In 1899, William Lygon, the Seventh Earl of Beauchamp, was appointed Governor of NSW. The Governor was young and himself unmarried so had no wifely "Lady Lygon". It seems most likely the Lady Mary Lygon in question was his unmarried sister and accompanied her brother to Australia to share the Vice-regal social responsibilities. His mother, who had been Lady Mary Stanhope (an interesting name in itself in view of Stanhope Road), had died in 1876 so she clearly could not have been the Lady Mary Lygon in question.

The Spycatchers of Telegraph Road

Telegraph Road in Pymble was apparently the site of a hush-hush Radio Security Organisation Observation Centre in WW2. We are now looking for more to confirm the accuracy of the story. It seems the neighbours in Telegraph Rd were quite unaware of the existence of the Unit. It succeeded in picking up scarcely discernable Morse messages being sent by a Japanese agent using the sidebands of 2GB. The agent used to go to an island off the coast from Coff's Harbour to observe ship movements and then send the information to the enemy from Newcastle. The ships could then be attacked by submarines. We picked this information up on the internet as it appears on a CD titled "Australia @ War" published by Peter Dunn (2005) – www.ozatwar.com. Interesting.

Turrumurra Photo



This photo was published in our October 2006 HISTORIAN and we have since learnt that the young lady was Lorna Mocatta whose birth was registered at Chatswood in 1905. The Mocatta name was well known in Pymble and her father,

William Hugh Mocatta, was a District Court Judge. He lived in *Eschol*, 71 Pittwater Rd. Mocatta Avenue in Pymble carries his name. Her uncle George Mocatta was the surveyor in the team which won a competition to design the model “garden suburb” of Daceyville in c1900. Other team members were Richard Joseland and Walter Liberty Vernon. George Mocatta built *Geraldra*, 40 Roseville Avenue, Roseville, in 1902 and lived there until 1908. It later became a private hospital for a time. Can you see the dog? His name is “Poncho”.

Ryde - our elderly neighbour

Last October Kevin Shaw of the Ryde Historical Society spoke to us about the vital role the Parramatta River played in the early days of the Colony and its continued use since then by industry and for transport and recreation. Ryde itself was an important settlement being the half-way point between Sydney and Parramatta. Ku-ring-gai was little more than a sparsely populated rural area until after the North Shore railway opened in 1890. By then Ryde had been “on the map” for 100 years. Parts of it had variously been known as Kissing Point, Eastern Farms and Field of Mars. Kissing Point is widely accepted as the spot where the hulls of vessels travelling upstream touched, or “kissed”, the shallow bottom. Eastern Farms were the farms east of the settlement of Parramatta. The name Field of Mars was initially applied to the area of land grants to eight former marines in 1792 and reflected their military background. The precise boundaries of these areas changed over time. The name “Ryde” was not adopted to cover the municipality until 1870 but had been used as the name of the village since 1841.

Ryde is just over the Lane Cove River from Ku-ring-gai so it is not surprising that family names such as Henry, Porter, Baker and Jenkins figure prominently in the history of both areas. Being a very old district it can be expected Ryde has many places of great heritage importance. Examples are the Field of Mars cemetery, St Anne’s Church established in 1826 with its own old cemetery; Willandra – the home of the Ryde Historical Society - built in about 1845 and Brush Farm which has been home to William Cox, D’Arcy Wentworth, Gregory Blaxland and his son-in-law Dr Thomas Forster who was father to a NSW Premier William Forster. Though Blaxland had his home there, it was significantly extended and the existing main building evolved about 1850.

The Society is planning, in company with the Ryde Historical Society, a one-day visit to Ryde on Sunday 20 May. We will see for ourselves some of its many outstanding historical features, including cemeteries, and a number of its heritage buildings. Early bookings can be made with Max Farley (9499 7113).

Early Visitors to Ku-ring-gai

Botanist George Caley has perhaps received too little recognition for his very early journey into the wilds of Ku-ring-gai. Captain Hunter and Lieutenant Bradley are remembered because of their boat journey a short way up the Lane Cove River within days of the arrival of the First Fleet. Governor Phillip then set out on 15 April 1788 on a cross country journey from Manly to the St Ives area via

Bungaroo in Middle Harbour just above Roseville Bridge. This venture is frequently referred to though there remains some question in some minds as to how far he actually went. When at Bungaroo he sent Lieutenant Ball back to Sydney together with some fatigued seamen. Ball travelled along the ridge, possibly following an Aboriginal trail. His route became known as Ball’s Track and was to develop into the Pacific Highway 150 years later. Lieutenant Ralph Clark was another early visitor to Ku-ring-gai. He travelled up the Lane Cove River, possibly as far as De Burgh’s Bridge, on 15th and 16th February 1790 but his explorations were minimal.

George Caley, however, made a lengthy journey of exploration of the Ku-ring-gai area in 1805. He was a botanist from Yorkshire and Sir Joseph Banks arranged for him to come to Australia in 1800 at the age of 30, where his first task was to develop the Botanic Gardens at Parramatta. He travelled widely and even attempted a crossing of the Blue Mountains in 1804. On 18th February he set out from near Thompson’s Corner in West Pennant Hills. His account suggests he was accompanied only by one person but whether this was a friend, a fellow botanist, a convict or an Aboriginal is not known. He does mention however that the weather was very hot, often wet and steamy – a typical Sydney February. Caley and his companion travelled through Thornleigh and down to Fox Valley Road to the Wahroonga Sanatorium thence up to Lovers Jump Creek near Burns and The Chase Roads, Turramurra. He then went through St Ives, north of Belrose, Terrey Hills and down to Narrabeen. Returning, he crossed the headwaters of Middle Harbour and, apparently speaking of the plateau which was to form a large part of Ku-ring-gai, commented: “*Some good farms could be made here. In some places it was rather stony, but in general I have not seen so good forest land elsewhere in the country*”. He continued through Gordon to the Pymble Ladies College and headed back to Thompson’s Corner. Quite a trip, and one that resulted in greater knowledge of the Ku-ring-gai area and its flora. His praise of the timber would have led timber getters to a greater interest in the district.

Later that year he published *The Account of a Journey to the Sea in the Month of February, 1805*, a copy of which we now have in our Collection. Further information can be found in *The Story of St Ives* (Halstead) and *A History of the North Shore, Sydney* (Thorne).

Telegraph RoadMilitary Road?

Mention of Telegraph Rd, Pymble in another item in this Newsletter brings to mind the thought that Telegraph Rd may have been named in 1883 at the instance of resident Dr W W J O’Reilly to replace an earlier name of Military Rd. It is said the change was made “*to commemorate the telegraph line from Parramatta to the coast, part of which ran along the road*”. If this were true there could be an interesting story or two lurking behind the fact. Trouble is that much recent searching has failed to turn up evidence. We wonder if any of our readers can throw some light on the matter?

Family Matters

3 March Meeting

11am Discussion Session.

About 28 people attended the Tasmanian research session at 11am. Jo Harris brought 49 books about Tasmania.

2pm General Meeting.

Nearly 30 attended the 2pm meeting at which Jo mentioned the following matters:

New Tasmania CD - 1900-1919 Births, 1900-1930 Marriages and Deaths.

Next Family History meeting will be held as usual despite it being Easter Saturday, 7 April. -

11am. Irish research in the morning will be led by Kevin Callinan.

2pm Reports and Discussion followed by guest Ian Palmer speaking about his ancestor, John Palmer of the First Fleet who was Purser on the Sirius.

Future Events

Proposed SAG Orientation Tour, date to be set.

Sunday, May 20, tour of Ryde including Field of Mars and St Anne's Cemeteries. Details to be announced.

News from SAG

- London Family Records Centre is to close by April 2008.

It is expected that the 1837-1934 birth indexes are moving to Kew. There will be no facility in London to order certificates, only online or by post.

- Queensland BDMs 1800-1929 indexes will be on line soon. It is not known if they will be free.

- Findmypast.com has launched www.ancestorsonboard.com, hosting Outward Passenger Lists 1890-1960 for long-distance voyages from the British Isles.

- Images of *Scottish Old Parish Registers* are now on line at www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk - births and marriages of Established Church of Scotland before civil registration began in 1855. Earliest records date from 1553.

- Lyn Done advised members to bookmark "*State Library NSW family history research*" which leads to hundreds of sites.

Worthwhile websites. Max Farley seeks members' suggestions of favourite websites, with 50-word description for listing in the newsletter.

Committee Nominations. The following were selected for nomination to the Society for appointment to the Family History Committee for 2007-2008:

Leader: Jo Harris

Committee: Lyn Done; Stella Green; Jean Smith;
Peter Stehn and Elaine Turnidge

The meeting felt the Committee should select a Deputy Leader.

My First 25 Years. Joy Walker, Elaine Turnidge and Diana Rose entertained the meeting with reminiscences of their "First 25 Years".

The Raffle was won by Kevin Callinan, who chose "Australian Pioneers and Reminiscences 1849-1894" which

he then donated to our Collection.

- *this report is based on notes taken by Stella Green*

Christmas Memories - WW1

This last Christmas season was special due to items found in my father's wooden box which I collected from his sister's home in the Mountains.

"Syd's box" proved to be a treasure trove which included an old Union Jack, given to him at the end of WW1. Other items were his "tin whistle" which was a silver flute; a pair of brass shell cases, each carved with a rose; a scrap of paper from a notebook detailing his journeys between Marchienne, Villers Brittx, La Bassee, Nieuport, Neiu-le-Mines and Villers Brettix again, transporting supplies.

But the most interesting treasure was a menu for Christmas dinner, printed as follows -

"Xmas Dinner 1918, Staff Cars, Australian Corps Headquarters, Drivers' Mess, HAM-SUR-HEURE, BELGIUM" on the front cover, with three autographs: Edward P*, R W Anderson, Captain and A Henisley, Lieut.

Inside, the menu was printed in French on the left hand side and in English on the opposite page. That page also listed the TOASTS:

THE KING
FALLEN COMRADES
PRESENT COMRADES, with Auld Lang Syne
THE GIRL WE LEFT BEHIND
OLD FOLKS AT HOME
ABSENT FRIENDS

God Save The King

On the back page is my father's signature, S Juleff, address and his comment "*The Prince of Wales signed one menu for each of us. He is a good sport. Syd x.*"

(Edward, P being the Prince of Wales*).

Contributed by Barbara King

A Worthwhile Website

We frequently read about new sites that look promising if one judges by the address by which they are known. Often, however, we spend time accessing them only to find they have a limitation, restriction, search problem or cost which makes them not really suited to our own needs. Or are not accessible at all.

With this in mind we would like each Newsletter to carry the names of several sites which members have found worthwhile. Not only the names but also up to 50 words about the features of the site and what it has to offer. So what about penning the Editor with brief details about a site you feel other members may find worthwhile? Most of us have a similar range of interests so what is valuable to you is

very likely to be valuable to others. Let us bear in mind, too, that we have varying degrees of experience - a site which may be well ploughed land to some could be fresh fields to others so do not feel obliged to write only about new sites. Hardy old warhorses can be included. Unless you have an objection we would like to publish your name so others can contact you and ask about the ins-and-outs of the site.

State Library Website

At our last meeting Lyn Done recommended browsing through the NSW State Library's website. On the way to Family History there are many other tempting paths to explore. Lyn suggests:

1. www.sl.nsw.gov.au
- 2 Select "Welcome to the State Library of NSW"
2. click on "FIND" in the box near the top left
3. click on "Internet Links" in the menu on the left
4. Select "Family History" from the list (if you are not tempted to stray)

This leads to 5 major sites – Australian, British/Irish, Convicts, International and Shipping. Very rewarding.

SAG re-opens

The Society of Genealogists is now up and running in its new home at Level 2, 379 Kent St. Opening times are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10am until 4pm. For the time being, access on Saturday means having to press the left-hand button on the intercom outside the building because the main foyer doors are kept closed at weekends. SAG can be contacted on 9247 3953 for more information.

NSW BDMs

Just a reminder that now we are in a new year we can access NSW births on the internet through to 1906, marriages to 1956 and deaths to 1976. These can be had from the NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. Births from 1906 to 1918 can still be found on fiche or the existing CD-ROM.

Another One-Day FTM Session - 13 April

The one-morning Sessions Jo Harris offers to teach members and others how to use the Family Tree Maker computer program when researching their family tree continues to be extremely popular. So much so, that another is scheduled for 10.30am on Friday, 13 April. This time there will also be a short discussion on using computers generally. Please call Jo on 9489 4393 if you would like to attend. The attendance charge is minimal.

An Eight-week FH Course

Every so often we have an introductory course on family history research. Another will be placed in the pipeline should there be sufficient interest. Perhaps in May. There is normally a charge of about \$80. These courses are not restricted to members. Please call Course leader, Jo Harris, on 9489 4393 if you are interested or know someone who may be.

Built Heritage

Ku-ring-gai's WW1 War Service Homes



18 Malvern Avenue

The War Service Homes Act became operative on 6 March 1919. By January 1921 the War Service Homes Commission had approved over 6000 applications. Homes were designed by the Commission's architects and

erected on land the Commission purchased as individual allotments or on subdivisions it developed. In the early months, homes were designed by prominent Sydney architects John and Herwald Kirkpatrick. By September 1920 the Commission's chief architect was F. I'A. Bloomfield, a Boer War and World War I veteran.

The homes were of brick, concrete or weatherboard, and built from one of at least ten sets of stock plans. Each had two or three bedrooms, bathroom, living room, kitchen, scullery and washhouse. If the home was built on land already owned by the soldier he could select his own architect. Between 1919 and 1927 the Commission built or helped finance the purchase or erection of homes in Roseville, Lindfield, Killara, Gordon, Pymble, Turramurra, Wahroonga and Warrawee. Contractors included North Shore builders T.H.L. Ibbotson, J.W. Adams, A.S. Rosner, F. Lindfield, J.G. Major, and A. Carlson.

One group of War Service Homes is in Malvern Avenue, Roseville, at numbers 17, 19, 21, 27, 16, 18 and 20. These were described in 1921 rate records as double fronted, brick cottages of three rooms, with kitchen and offices, and tiled roof. Most homes cost about £700 to erect.

By 1922, No.18, *Lachlan* was rented to Edward Bennetts, No.20, *Hamel* to Mrs Grace Hogan and No.27, *Saxward* to Mrs Mary Jessup. Joseph Florentine had purchased No.17, *York Cottage*. Edward Bennetts was a civil servant who had served with the 6th Light Horse and was invalided home. Mrs Jessup shared No.27 with her daughters Daisy, a nurse, and Violet, a dressmaker. Joseph Florentine had served with the 19th Infantry Battalion at Gallipoli. He died in 1925.

By 1925 the Commission had also sold numbers 16, *Glengarlen*, 19 and 21, *Beaumont*. These were owned by Alfred Glynn Peters, John Evanoff and James Gibson respectively. Florentine's widow Hilda sold No.17 to Charles Taylor. Alfred Glynn Peters was a telegraph linesman who had previously served nine years in the Royal Navy. He enlisted in April 1915 and served as a private in the 19th Battalion at Gallipoli and in France, returning to Australia in March 1919.

By 1940 the Commission had sold all seven houses; the only original occupants then being Edward Bennetts and his wife Elva in No.18.

The houses were built from at least three different sets of plans and elevations. Now, nearly 90 years on, two of the houses have had another storey added, however it appears all remain much as they were in 1920-21. - *Kathie Reith*

Copy for Newsletter

General copy for publication should be lodged with the Acting Editor, Max Farley at (mmff2@bigpond.net.au) as **early as possible** but no later than 7th of the month (except December) unless otherwise arranged. Copy lodged before that date **will receive preference** all things being equal. Copy is to be submitted on the understanding that the Society has editing rights and readers can reproduce it in whole or part with acknowledgement. Material should preferably be in electronic form.

New Members

We are pleased indeed to welcome the following new members:

Eric and Gwenda Broadfoot (Pymble); Marie Frazer (St Ives); Kay Immer (Turrumurra); Peggy Janes (St Ives); Dorothy McDonald (Wahroonga); Jill Sharp (Gordon); John and Rachel Townend (Pymble) and Joan Yap (Turrumurra)

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

Guidelines for Volunteers

There are always plenty of jobs to be done to keep our Society running smoothly. Manning our Rooms is an important role and a great way to meet people and learn. It is also an opportunity to catch up on your own reading and research. Some “shyer” members are hesitant about giving these few hours a month but we now have a comprehensive set of “how to” Guidelines. Besides, there are old-hands on the job always willing to help. If you would like to take this opportunity you could discuss it with Kevin Callinan, Ann Barry or Jo Harris.

Quiz Answers

1. All but the *Endeavour* were ships of the 1788 First Fleet. The Endeavour was Captain Cook's ship for his first voyage of exploration (1768-1771).
 2. All are streets in Ku-ring-gai and all, other than *Curran*, commemorate persons who actually lived here. Prime Minister Curtin did not.
 3. All other than *Francis Grose* were Governors of NSW. Grose was an Acting Governor between the departure of Governor Phillip and the arrival of Governor John Hunter.
 4. All other than *Norman Griffiths* were Presidents or Mayors of Ku-ring-gai. B Norman Griffiths was Town Clerk from 1947 until 1969.

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 7 Apr	Family History
	- 11am Members Discussion
	- 2pm General Meeting
	(Speaker Ian Palmer)
Wed 18 Apr	- 2pm - KHS General Meeting
	- <i>The History of Coasters' Retreat</i>
Sat 5 May	Family History
	- 11am Members Discussion
	- 2pm General Meeting
Wed 16 May	2pm - KHS General Meeting
	- <i>Myths, Realities and the Founding of Australia</i>
Fri 13 Apr	10.30am – One-day training on
	Computers and Family Tree Maker
Sun 20 May	9am – Day tour of Ryde

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
	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 (Acting)	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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