



# 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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## June Meeting

Almost 70 members were present when President Kevin Callinan opened the meeting. He referred to a number of matters currently before the Society including the up-dating of Volunteer training and the Volunteers luncheon, oral history, our website, St Ives Festival on the Green and the proposed CD for schools. He then introduced our Guest, Stephen Szabo, who was to speak on....

### Heraldry

In his opening remarks, Stephen Szabo said that family "Coats of Arms" so readily available at fairs, on the internet or by mail were highly questionable. The fact that a particular family may have had a recognised Coat of Arms in the past did not mean that it had any relevance to other unrelated families with the same name.

Heraldry began in Europe some 1000 years ago and initially identified members of the landed classes. It assisted in wars, including the Crusades, to help soldiers recognise their leaders. Banners played their role in this and identifying shields evolved. In time the warhorses came to be similarly decorated.. Initially no authority exercised any control over the designs and families created Arms of their own which sometimes included symbols or charges that were a pun on their name, such as a fox's face on the shield of a man named Fox.

As well as in war, the Coats of Arms would be used in tournaments organised by "heralds" and these heralds gradually assumed control over the designs with royal approval. A good many arms holders used a signet ring to seal important legal documents, using their arms rather than a signature as an identifier.

Stephen explained that a Coat of Arms consisted of various parts with the critical feature being the shield. There is often a motto under the shield and a helmet at the top. Attached to the helmet is a "crest" which itself depicts an object of relevance to the family. Arms of nobles or of corporations often have supporters, who hold up the shield. These supporters may be animals (such as Australia's kangaroo and emu) or human figures.

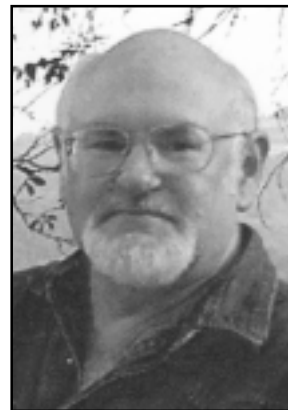
So far as Australia is concerned John Palmer, a First Fleeter and after whom Palmer Street was named, laid claim to ancestral Arms but his right to them is doubtful. The first official Australian-related grant of arms was in 1836 to the Anglican Diocese of Australia.

## Coming Meetings

### Next Society General Meeting

Saturday 19 August 2pm

Guest Speaker: *Graham Spindler*



*Graham is an author and a "walker" when not at his job as Education Manager at the NSW Parliament House.*

Topic: "Walking History" which will focus on some of Graham's favourite historical places to walk to and through as well as "Walking Volunteers" projects such as the Harbour City Walk launched last year.

Afternoon Tea will be available  
Visitors welcome

### Next Family History Meeting

Saturday 5 August

11am - Members' research

"Accessing and printing information from databases and pdf files"

2pm - Family History Meeting

Members will be invited to tell of a book which influenced their lives.

Afternoon Tea will be available  
Visitors welcome

Today there are many Coats of Arms to be seen on buildings in Sydney and are worth searching out with a view to trying to interpret the meaning of their various features. In these modern days, however, Corporate logos are now more common.

Ken Knox proposed a vote of thanks to Stephen for a talk which, though it could only touch the fundamentals, opened the eyes of many to the history, rules and complexity of heraldry.

## Awards Earned

Ku-ring-gai Council is celebrating its centenary. At the *St Ives Festival on the Green* on Sunday 18 June, Mayor Elaine Malicki gave special Centenary Awards to a number of individuals in recognition of the work they are doing for voluntary bodies in Ku-ring-gai. Members of our Society were well represented with no less than eight being honoured. They included Committee members Kevin Callinan, Jo Harris and Jennifer Harvey. Others were Mark Mealey (for contributions to the welfare of West Lindfield and West Killara); Sue Cooper and Barbara Walker (for their Roseville heritage activities) and Ian Ramage and Zeny Edwards (for their authorship and work on aspects of local history). All members will join in offering each and every one of the recipients their congratulations.

Congratulations, too, are due to member Peter Perry who was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia, (OAM), in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. He received this for his work, through Rotary, in promoting Public Health in developing countries.

## Vale Dr Bradfield

Members will recall that our recently opened Gordon Public School Museum was made possible by a substantial gift from Dr Keith "Bill" Bradfield OBE. He was a son of Dr J J C Bradfield famed for his work in the planning and construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Sadly Dr "Bill", who was 95 years of age, died on 12 June and his funeral service was at St John's Church, Gordon, on 19 June.

His extensive education began at the Gordon Public School and embraced Shore, the University of Sydney and Oxford. He was a Rhodes Scholar in 1935. Dr Bradfield's services to the Australian community were mainly in the sphere of aviation as Assistant Director-General of the Department of Civil Aviation and a Council Member of the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

Those of our members who were privileged to meet him are left with the impression of a gentleman of outstanding intellect whose mind retained all the incisiveness of men a fraction his age.

The Society's sympathies are extended to his family.

## Welcome to New Members

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

- Roger and Janet Gilbert (St Ives)
- Michael and Fiona McAuliffe (Wahroonga)
- Annet Latham (St Ives)
- Patricia White (Roseville)

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

## Recent Acquisitions

The following are among recent additions to our Collection:

- WILLIAM WOOLLS b1814 – A MAN OF PARRAMATTA. (M M H Thompson). Hale & Ironmonger (1986). 140 pages.
- MUDGE. (Godfrey Harris). The Mudgee Guardian (1960 2<sup>nd</sup> ed). 108 pages.
- THE CRIMES OF THE FIRST FLEET CONVICTS. (John Copley). Angus & Robertson (1970). 324 pages.
- THE UNREASONABLE MAN. – THE LIFE AND WORKS OF JJC BRADFIELD. (Richard Raxworthy). Public Works Department of NSW-1989. 154 pages. Indexed.
- HOBART TOWN – The growth of Hobart from its earliest days. (Peter Bolger). ANU Press (1973). 337 pages. Indexed.
- THE CORKS OF "BELLEVUE" AND "HILL TOP" FARMS OF ULLADULLA/MILTON. A Family History of the Cork family prepared by members Gwen and Ken Knox. 60 pages.
- THE VISION SPLENDID – The history of Coonamble. (Joan McKenzie 1988). 216 pages. Indexed.
- BETWEEN TWO HIGHWAYS – The STORY OF EARLY CROYDON. (Eric Dunlop). The Wentworth Press. Undated. 82 pages.
- PALM BEACH – 1788-1988. (Ed. Joan Steege). Palm Beach Association (1984). 118 pages.
- CLICK GO THE YEARS. (Ellaine Mabbutt). Photographs of Berry, NSW, 1875-1925. Berry & District Historical Society
- A GUIDE TO HILL END. (Harry Hodges). Hill End Publications (1969). 52 pages.
- LOCOMOTIVES BEYOND RECALL. (Gifford H Eardley). NSW Rail Transport Museum (1970). 56 pages.

## "Snap Ku-ring-gai"

Our ongoing "SNAP" program continues to have members and other Ku-ring-gians bring us photographs of homes, streetscapes and aspects of local life to add to our Collection. Photos can be left with us permanently or dropped in for scanning. Vice-President Helen Davies has now been appointed to co-ordinate the overall project with local contacts being:

- Ian Ramage (9489 3679) handling Wahroonga
- Jennifer Harvey (9489 6390) Warrawee
- Heather Davidson (9144 1844) Turramurra
- Peter Bidencope (9144 2728) St Ives
- Dudley Reynolds (9498 4906) Killara
- Mark Mealey (9416 7229) Lindfield and Roseville
- Helen herself (9498 3754) looking after Pymble and Gordon.

So if you have any queries about participating in the project just give any of these a call.

## Quiz (Answers on Back Page)

At some time in the last two decades Ku-ring-gai suffered two major natural disasters, both in a January. Can you recall the years?

1. The “big storm” with thunder and hail which came from the south west, travelled up Fox Valley Road and through Turramurra and Pymble and centred on Pentecost Avenue. Was it in:

(a) 1989 (b) 1991 (c) 1994 (d) 1998 (e) 2001

2. Bush fires destroyed many hectares of bushland and a number of houses on the western side of Lindfield and Killara. The fires had world wide television exposure. Were they in:

(a) 1991 (b) 1994 (c) 1996 (d) 1997 (e) 2000

## St Ives Festival on the Green

The Festival is becoming an annual event but this year was even bigger and better because it was a public occasion where the community could celebrate the coming of local government to Ku-ring-gai one hundred years ago. Many local groups had stalls publicising their activities.

There were also enjoyable entertainments offered by local musicians, children, dancers, vocalists and even amusing “games” played by dogs from a local dog club. And plenty of food stalls to cater for the many visitors when feeling peckish.

The Society had a “Social History” tent which was a hive of activity all day with oral histories being recorded, family histories researched, photographs scanned for our Collection (we could do with more), historic photographs put on display and a number of our publications made available for reading by residents.

Our tent attracted a lot of interest and made a worthwhile contribution to the success of the event. It was a good day for the community, for the cause of history and for our Society. Again, it was made possible because of the time given by our member volunteers.

## Fees for 2006/2007

This is another reminder that fees for 2006/7 are payable and need to be paid by 30 August - \$25 for Individual Membership, \$30 for Household and \$55 for Corporate Members. Members who have not paid by then are unfinancial. Fees can be paid to Treasurer Doug Milne either personally (perhaps at the 19 August General Meeting) or left at the Rooms (but clearly identified in writing what your payment is for) or mailed to the KHS at PO Box 10, Gordon, 2072.

## Profile of a Member - Helen Davies

Most know Helen by name and face but not many know much of Helen, the person, unless they have worked with her on community activities. Born in Melbourne of expatriate Sydney parents, she came with them to Ku-ring-gai in 1963 and obtained her Leaving Certificate at Abbotsleigh. She then graduated from Sydney University with a BSc, and began work as a research assistant at the University’s School of Medicine. On moving to St Vincent’s Hospital research labs, she worked toward a postgraduate degree from UNSW and met Wayne, her future husband, who is a Chemical Engineer.



With an MSc in her pocket she went to Westminster Hospital in London working on cancer research before returning to Australia and the Prince of Wales Hospital. She and Wayne married and they spent two years in Boston, USA, where he worked under a Fulbright Scholarship at Massachusetts General Hospital while she was at the Children’s Hospital Medical Centre. On returning to Sydney she had stints at RPAH and at Sydney Hospital in melanoma research. She then “retired” in favour of raising a daughter and son.

In 1988 the State Government announced that Gordon Public School would close. Her children were pupils and she joined other parents in an unsuccessful attempt to keep the school open. The focus then changed to retaining the building for community use and to this end she led a Committee of like-minded people and organisations, including the Historical Society. Their goal was achieved when the Government was persuaded to sell the Heritage building to Council for \$1. A plaque honouring her and the group is now in the hallway below the Society’s Rooms. Helen took up part time employment in word processing and legal work in Gordon - activities she no longer pursues but which widened her experience in fields far distant from her earlier research work.

Helen joined the Society in 1989 and has contributed in many roles – including assisting in editing the HISTORIAN, serving on the Committee and as Public Officer from 2000, producing the Newsletter, acting as Secretary, as Vice President, and as a Research Centre Volunteer. In 2002 the Society appointed her as its representative on Council’s Tulkiyan Management Advisory Committee. This led to the formation of the *Friends of Tulkiyan* group which conducts openings at the property. Helen has accepted with great enthusiasm the opportunity to help in the stewardship of this Council-owned 1913 “Arts and Crafts” house in Gordon. Helen has also “discovered” family history as she puts it. This woman of diverse interests gains great pleasure from church bell ringing at Christ Church St Laurence, Sydney, and St Mark’s, Darling Point.

# History Notes

## The Annie Forsyth Wyatt Garden

This small park on the western side of Gordon Railway Station harbours forgotten stories. Why, for example, does it carry the name it has?

Annie Wyatt OBE, (1886-1961), lived in Gordon on the northern corner of Park Avenue and Rosedale Road and was appalled when Council dumped clay and rubbish in the gully behind her home. She thereupon gathered some friends and in 1927 formed the *Tree Lovers' Civic League*. As part of its programme the League helped develop the small Park and in 1930 planted some trees there.

The only tree specifically documented is the large lemon-scented gum (*Eucalyptus citriodora*) which now dominates the Park. Near to it the League placed a plaque, now long missing, bearing the words “*A tribute of remembrance to Mr. and Mrs. C T Musson. Planted, 1930. T.L.C.L.*” A report in the 31 July 1933 issue of the *Journal of the Hawkesbury Agricultural College* says a tree had also been planted in honour of the then recently deceased botanist Richard Cambage of Burwood but has no other information.

Who were the Mussons? Charles Tucker Musson and his wife had lived in Nelson Rd, Gordon, from 1922 until Charles' death in 1928. His wife, Ada, died two years later. He had been a noted botanist and had for many years been a highly regarded Science Master at the Agricultural College.

On 1 July 1933, the League held another ceremony. One of the events this time was to unveil a stone “memorial” seat under the lemon-scented gum as a gift from the League to the citizens of Ku-ring-gai. The unveiling was carried out by Miss Cambage who was the daughter of Richard Cambage. It is obvious when looking at the seat that it, too, had borne a plaque. Investigations disclose it had read “*A gift to the Citizens, 1933. The Tree Lovers' Civic League, Kuring-gai*”.

The 1933 ceremony also saw the planting of another eucalypt (*E. nicholi*) by the widow of Joseph Henry Maiden. This tree has not survived. Maiden had come from England as the first Curator of the Technological Museum but is mainly remembered as the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens from 1896 until retirement in 1924. He then moved to his home, *Levenshulme*, in Turrumurra Avenue but died in 1925. His many community and scientific involvements included the Presidency of the Linnean Society and the Royal Australian Historical Society. He and his widow are buried at St Johns, Gordon. A daughter, Acacia Dorothy, was a teacher at Abbotsleigh and later ran the Blue Book Library and Book Shop opposite Pymble station.

It was reported in the June 1978 issue of the *HISTORIAN* that a Society member believed the Linnean Society had planted the lemon scented gum in honour of Joseph Maiden and that a plaque stating “his claim to the notice of posterity” had been placed in the Park. The member also thought the Park had been known as Maiden Park. An extensive search of Linnean records has failed to find any support for these beliefs.



*Miss Cambage unveils the Memorial Seat – 1933*

Walter Froggatt, an entomologist, was a speaker at the 1933 ceremony. He, Joseph Maiden and Richard Cambage had been closely associated during their working lives and would undoubtedly have known Charles Musson well.

The Tree Lovers' Civic League of Ku-ring-gai appropriately chose to call the area the “*Garden of Memory*”. It is sad, however, to realise that Ku-ring-gai's memory of two of its distinguished residents, Charles Musson and Joseph Maiden, was fleeting here though certainly not at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College nor the Royal Botanic Gardens where they are respectively greatly honoured.

In 1994 the Garden of Memory was fittingly named the “*Annie Forsyth Wyatt Garden*” in recognition of her formation of the Tree Lovers' Civic League and, flowing from that, her outstanding role on a wider stage as founder of the National Trust in NSW.

*- Max Farley with additional information from Margaret Wyatt, the University of Western Sydney and Ku-ring-gai Council*

## “Owing to Mud”

As one frequently does, we were browsing the other day through a June 1933 edition of the *Courier*, a one-time local paper, and a heading “OWING TO MUD” caught our eye. Mrs F McLeod of Pentecost Highway, as it was then called, was complaining about her Highway because “in summer it was unbearable because of the dust” and in June “it was impossible because of the mud”. “Cars”, she said, “were bogged for hours and both she and her husband spoil their clothes trying to get their car out”. As a result she “had to cancel her social and business engagements”. It would have been of no comfort to her to learn that in the opinion of the Council's Engineer it used to be “much worse”.

## Horse Racing in the Old Days

Doreen Wane retired as Headmistress of the Sydney Girls High School in 1968. After a short time she became Honorary Secretary of the Society - a post she held for 12 years until she died in 1982. She wrote many pieces for the HISTORIAN and, with full acknowledgement of her contributions to knowledge of our local history, we have adopted the theme of an article she wrote in 1973. Doreen's story and now ours is based on information in the reminiscences of J G Edwards, the *Father of Killara*, writing as "Jones" in the "Evening News" of 18-22 July 1921.

It is not possible to set specific dates for the events described so let us just say they were in or about the 1850s. Indeed with the clarity of hindsight it seems likely that the ageing Jones – he was approaching 80 when he wrote – may have been a little confused about the dates himself. It is the more likely, however, that he took the view that many a good yarn has been made turgid by the search for pinpoint accuracy. We are of like mind and will not do battle with those who may wish to question details.

In similar vein, the names of hotels and their licensees have been subject to periodic change and no serious attempt has been made, for the same reason, to match changing hotel names with their changing landlords. Researchers keen to find facts for publication in an erudite journal are therefore warned against taking these notes as a reliable source of information on the score of detail.

The story begins ...

Horse racing was a favourite sport. There were several race "courses" all of them in the streets where normally people went about their daily business. One of them was at Cook's Flat at the foot of Fidden's Wharf Road. At Christmas this one had a full programme with races for every description of horse. For the further enjoyment of the crowd a few fist fights were staged. At the end of the day all those present were "baptised with the spirit of the turf" and "raced their horses, both those with carts and with saddles, along the main road (Lane Cove Road and later the Pacific Highway) back to their respective homes". No RBT in those days!

Sometimes the same main road was used between Johnson's at Springdale Road in Killara (possibly the site of the Johnson's earlier Sawyers Arms Hotel at the top of Fidden's Wharf Road) and Owen McMahon's Travellers Rest Hotel on the corner of the Pacific Highway and Mona Vale Road at Pymble. All "traffic was suspended" and it would take some imagination today to see "8 or 10 horses taking possession of the public highway and galloping helter-skelter through the mud and ruts with no other permit than that accorded their rider". Mind you, there would not have been much traffic to suspend back then.

The most exciting of the racing events was that held in Pymble's Paddock. The course started where the Pymble Post Office is now and went up Pymble Hill to the Richard Porter's Gardeners Arms Hotel near where the Ku-ring-gai Town Hall is now and then took a right turn into Telegraph Road and along to the rear of Dr O'Reilly's before descending Alma St back to the Post Office. The "most important race was for a silver cup which was won by Richard Porter's mare. This cup was (in 1921) still in the possession of the late Mr Porter's sons and an important relic of the past".

It seems this course was "a most dangerous one, and there were a number of jockeys thrown and more or less injured". The Snowy River may have had its stripling but Ku-ring-gai obviously had its heroes too.

The horses boasted names that would be well accepted by the owners of horses today. McMahon had Tinker and Pretty Boy, Waterhouse (still a familiar name in racing circles) had Belford with McIntosh having Mosquito and Mountain Maid.

Horse racing was just one of the pastimes of the period with bare knuckle boxing and cock fighting being common too.

## Ku-ring-gai's Castle

If by some mischance you have taken your eyes off the road when on the "Suspension" Bridge on Rosedale Road, Gordon, you may have noticed a strange structure that looks very much like a castle. It is indeed a castle, *Killarney Castle*, though it would never have seen any knights in shining armour or damsels in distress.

What is its story? ... It was built in 1913 by Thomas Whitford Taylor, better known as Tommy Taylor and as a Fighting Irishman". The title *Killarney* did not appear in the Sands Directory until 1928. Perhaps he or his neighbours felt *Killarney* a little pretentious so it was earlier just plain *Taylor's Castle*.

It surprises none of us to know that he was born in Ireland. An early claim to fame, it is said, is that he was with Stanley in South Africa in 1871 when Stanley found Livingstone. He travelled to many countries and arrived in Sydney in 1881. He studied for the Bar, practised as a conveyancer and became manager of a company exporting frozen meat to England. The company failed.

In c1884 he moved to Liverpool, was bitten by the political bug, and became Mayor of Liverpool. In 1900 he served in the NSW Legislative Assembly representing Canterbury. It is of interest to see he spent some time on the governing body of the Anglican Moore Theological College. Tommy Taylor did not ever marry. He died in his castle in 1938 and is buried in the Northern Suburbs (Macquarie Park) Cemetery. Nearby Taylor St carries his name.

# Family Matters

## 1 July Family History Meetings

### 11am Research Meeting

Some 30 members attended the morning meeting which was devoted to obtaining a better understanding of the resources now available in the Society's rooms. Both new and older members found this very useful as the Collection is increasing rapidly and we often do not get a chance to catch up. Doing so not only helps members in their own research but is also necessary when answering enquiries when on volunteer duty.

### 2pm Members' Meeting

Approximately 40 attended the 2pm meeting.

- **Welcome** - new members Cath White and Annet Latham were welcomed as were visitors Margaret and Ern Williams.
- **Volunteers' Lunch** - thanks were extended to Ann and Bob Barry who arranged the lunch for the volunteers on 17<sup>th</sup> June.
- **Family History Course** – this was to begin on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July for 8 weeks with 22 enrolled.
- **Tour of Lands Department Office, St James and Hyde Park Barracks** – this was arranged for Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July, Rosemary Annable conducted the St James' tour. Lunch was in the Lands Department Office cafeteria
- **Family History week** - 30<sup>th</sup> July to 6<sup>th</sup> August. Helen Davies will look after the display case. Anyone with memorabilia or anything related to local families please let the Society know.
- **August Family History Meeting** - Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August. The morning session will be how to access and print information from databases and .pdf files successfully. The afternoon meeting will be a "members' meeting". The topic is "a book that has influenced my life".
- **Retraining discussions** with volunteers were currently underway.
- **Isle of Skye Historical Society** recently sent Diana Rose a reply in response to an enquiry she made three years ago.
- **Society databases** – Judith Fuller is working on a database of students at the Gordon School. Stella Green and Alison Lever are working on a database of shipping lists.
- **Historian Index**. This is being updated by Heather Davidson and Evelyn Wyatt.
- **Members' interests** - members are invited to fill out family names and ships etc in the book provided. These will be entered on a database.
- **Cockatoo Island** - Joy Walker reported that archaeological digs on Cockatoo Island have found the girl's reformatory. It was suggested that the Society pay a visit to the island.
- **New CDs** - Government Gazette 1847; CD of Palmdale Cemetery; 1903 Electoral Rolls for Victoria, SA and Qld have been ordered.

- **Christine Edwards** gave an update on the search for the chest her great grandfather, Adolph Grunow, carved for RNS Hospital when it was made "Royal" in 1902. Christine hopes to appear on the ABC's "Can You Help?" programme.
- **Jo Harris** - has recently acquired the following books: Two editions of the *Domesday Book*; *Tartans*; *Kings and Queens and Chiefs and Rulers*; *Barker College Register*; *Death of Liberty*; *House of Wunderlich*; *Huguenot Ancestry and Convicts on the Calcutta to Tasmania*
- **Raffle** – this was won by Don Paull.
- **Festival on the Green** - President Kevin Callinan spoke about the Festival on the Green at St Ives on 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2006. It was a pleasant day and thanks were extended to all the volunteers. Jo worked with family history all day. Oral histories were taken from 12 people with more to come. Everyone was pleased with the Society's Social History tent which was crowded all day. It is hoped to have a larger tent next year.
- **Speakers, Creative Memories** - Carolyn Robinson and Maria Gaudrey brought a display of materials and spoke about products available from *Creative Memories*. These are designed to preserve and present photographs and documents. In talking to the meeting the speakers felt that they were speaking to the converted as there was no need to emphasise to this group the importance of preserving photos and documents. *Creative Memories* products aim to meet the highest standards of protection. Their albums were very handsome with canvas or leatherette covering, in various colours with polypropylene sleeves. Other tools available to create decoration were trimmers and stencils, special pens for permanent, non fading ink and stickers. There were also propylene boxes with lids which can hold up to 2,400 photos. Special classes could be organised for the Society.

- based on notes by Evelyn Wyatt

## Family History Societies Conference

The annual conference of the NSW and ACT Association of Family History Societies is being hosted by the Liverpool Genealogy Society on 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> September. Topics will include *Divorce in NSW*; *Lebanese in Australia*; *Irish research*; *Jewish Research in Australia and Overseas*; *The East India Company and Research "Foresight or Myopia"*.

Representatives from NSW Births Deaths and Marriages will be present as will Christine Yeates from NSW State Records and Shauna Hicks of the Victorian PRO. Paul Brunton, the Senior Curator of the Mitchell will give the Keynote Address on Lachlan Macquarie. Full registration is \$125 with early birds before 1 August at \$114. One day registrations are \$70 for Saturday and \$55 for Sunday. The Conference Dinner is \$46. These conferences are valuable not only for their content but because they offer an excellent opportunity to swap ideas with fellow researchers. Information on [www.lgs.org.au](http://www.lgs.org.au); email [info@lgs.org.au](mailto:info@lgs.org.au). Mail address PO Box 830, Liverpool, NSW 2170.

## Don't Believe It!

An article headed *Getting Started* by Ray White in the June issue of *Australian Family Tree Connections* urges caution before accepting received information as fact. Opening with the dictum that “It’s a clever person who, without *accurate* and *truthful* records, can identify his mother and a genius who knew his father” he follows with, amongst many others:

- Information, no matter where it came from – copies of recorded information or family folklore – has to be verified before it goes into the family tree
- Information handed down from previous generations often has birth names added to, changed or removed
- Birth, Death and Marriage indexes should be taken as a guide only. Certificates should be obtained – “el cheapo” methods should be avoided if accurate records are wanted (remembering too that even certificates are only as accurate as the persons who gave and recorded the information)
- Corrupt information can be passed on many times to unsuspecting amateur researchers and can find its way into Pioneer Registers
- Unchecked information can find its way into internet websites. Being on the web does not guarantee accuracy
- Identification of people, dates and locations in photographs usually rely on someone’s memory and assumptions. The information cannot be taken as correct until verified.

## “Opt-In” at Census on 8<sup>th</sup> August

Many Family History Groups, SAG included, are urging members to tick “Yes, agree” to Question 60 which asks if you agree to having your household records preserved to be accessed in 99 years for the benefit of the researchers of future generations. Ignoring the question would amount to a “No”.

## Villiers-Bretonneux

Angela Lind will be spending a day or so in September at the Villiers-Bretonneux WW1 Cemetery. If a member has a relative there Angela may be able, perhaps, to take a photo of the grave. You could contact her with details on 9499 2363.

## Family History Course

The introductory Course which started on Friday, 7 July, has attracted 22 “students”. By all accounts they are all extremely enthused and spending lots of time in our Rooms and in Ku-ring-gai Library doing their “homework”.

## Carved Wooden Chest Missing

At our June Meeting Christine Edwards told of a wooden seat/chest carved by her Great Grandfather in 1902 to commemorate the Royal North Shore Hospital achieving Royal status. The chest was on display in the Hospital’s foyer for many years but has disappeared. Christine (9440 3214) wonders if anyone can help find it. It is of general historical importance and particularly so to the Hospital and to Christine’s family. Christine expects to talk about it on the ABC’s “Can You Help” television program.

# bitsnpieces@khs

**Indentures** . . . At the last Family History meeting Jo Harris told how she had learnt about the origin of the word “indenture”. It seems that in the old days agreements were written out twice on the one sheet of paper with one copy at the top and the other at the bottom. The sheet was then torn in two across the centre in a jagged zig-zag fashion with one party taking the top half and the other the bottom. The two edges therefore had a series of matching indentations. Hence the term “indenture”. Later, if there was a dispute as to the terms of the contract, the two parts could be laid together. If they did not fit perfectly it would be clear one was not genuine.

**Volunteers’ Lunch** . . . The special lunch on 17 June was a happy way to say “thank you” to our volunteers for all they do to keep the Society ticking over. As new members of the team join and get to know each other better it is has become a cheery group – group by the way which always has room for more!

**Churchill** . . . Consternation was caused in wartime 1941 when Council decided to put a street light in Churchill Lane described as “that little dark unmade lane which runs from in front of St John’s Church, Gordon, to connect with Henry Street opposite the railway station”. A protest was made about the indignity of having such a lane carry the name of Britain’s wartime Prime Minister. The situation calmed when it was discovered that the McIntosh’s old home opposite the Church was named Church Hill and the name that came to be applied to the lane was really Church Hill Lane. At the time it was suggested that Eastern Arterial Road could be named after the PM. There is now a Churchill Road in East Killara.

**Wendy Low** . . . Wendy used to have the Inca Woolshed at Turramurra. She was a Society member and, besides writing articles for the HISTORIAN and Ku-ring-gai Observer, produced a number of tea towels including one for each of our surburbs. She is moving to Brisbane and has been kind enough donate a full set of the towels as well as background papers on her articles. One set of papers deals with the “deferred” building of the railway from Gordon to Narrabeen via St Ives. Thank you Wendy. We wish you well.

**Old Street Directories** . . . Would any member have any old street directories tucked away in a cupboard? We would love to have any older than 1961 – 25<sup>th</sup> edition (Gregorys).

**Volunteer updates** . . . With so many additions to the resources in our Collection and with the frequent re-organisation necessary to make it easier “to find things” we have just had an informal series of short sessions at which changes were explained. Just as importantly, information about problems was sought from volunteers and suggestions for improvement discussed.

## Copy For Newsletter

General copy for publication should be lodged with the Acting Editor, Max Farley at ([mmff@ozemail.com.au](mailto:mmff@ozemail.com.au)) as early as possible but no later than 10<sup>th</sup> of the month (except December) unless otherwise arranged with the Acting 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 it in whole or part with acknowledgement to the Society and author (if identified). Material should preferably be in electronic form.

## Thank you to Kirri

Kerrin Cook usually “lays out” our Newsletter but this month has escaped Sydney’ chills by holidaying in Queensland. Happily computer skills run in the family and this issue has been handled for us by Kerrin’s daughter, Kirri. Thank you Kirri – your willingness to “fill in” for your mother has been very much appreciated by the Society.

## Quiz Answers

Question 2. 1994  
Question 1. 1991

## Make a Special Note

Final arrangements are now being made by Jo Harris for the two-day Tour to Tocal, Paterson and other places of general and historic interest in the Hunter Valley. We expect to have full details in the next Newsletter. These two-day events are always popular and filled with information and enjoyment. So pencil the dates in now – Saturday 11 November and Sunday 12 November.

## Council Contribution

Ku-ring-gai Council has contributed \$500 to the cost of the two banners on the Society’s Social History tent at the recent St Ives Festival. We expect to use them in future years too.

## 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.

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## Diary Dates

<b>Sat 5 Aug</b>	11am	<b>FAMILY HISTORY MEETINGS</b> Members’ research – Accessing and printing information from databases and pdf files
	2pm	FH General meeting - “A Book that Influenced Your Life”
<b>Sat 19 Aug</b>	<b>2pm</b>	<b>KHS GENERAL MEETING</b> Guest Speaker: Graham Spindler Topic: <i>History Through Walking – Sydney Harbour and Beyond</i>
<b>Sat 2 Sept</b>	11am	<b>FAMILY HISTORY MEETINGS</b> Members’ research
	2pm	Guest Speaker: Eric Ward Topic: <i>Innocents abroad - English children wartime evacuees</i>
<b>Wed 20 Sept</b>	<b>7.45pm</b>	<b>KHS GENERAL MEETING</b> <b>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b> Guest Speaker: Anne Higham Topic: <i>Post War Architecture in Ku-ring-gai</i>
<b>14/15 Oct</b>		<b>Royal Australian Historical Society Conference – Hornsby</b>
<b>11/12 Nov</b>		<b>Two-day KHS Tour to Tocal/Paterson, etc.</b>

## Administration

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