



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

16 June Meeting

Reports on current matters were brief and included reference to the special luncheon to honour our volunteers; the successful Tour of Ryde; the forthcoming two-day Tour to Lithgow and surrounding areas on 27/28 October; the Oral History Training Course; Courses on Family History and plans to photograph headstones at the cemetery at St Johns Church at Gordon. These reports were followed by a talk by Dr Bronwyn Hannah on:

Women Architects in New South Wales

Dr Hanna explained that, in researching the careers of early women architects between 1900 and 1960, she discovered there were over 200 practising in NSW. Many of them were living and working in Ku-ring-gai.

An architectural course was available at the Sydney Technical College from the late 19th century, but a university course did not commence until 1918. In the first thirty years of the university course only a relatively small number of women graduated, but this changed dramatically from 1960, when the number of women studying architecture almost equaled that of men. Bronwyn found it surprising that despite the large number of women graduates, they received very little public recognition. This was probably because they worked in subordinate positions in large firms or followed their profession intermittently in a domestic situation.

The first woman to work professionally as an architect was Florence Taylor who attended the Technical College course. She practised for only a few years, doing mostly domestic design. When she was refused entry to the Architectural Institute in 1907 she turned to editing architectural and other journals, at which she was highly successful.

The next most important woman architect was the American, Marion Griffin, wife of Walter Burley Griffin of Canberra and Castlecrag fame. It appears that she was more highly qualified than her husband and played an important part in the development and drawing of the Canberra layout and the Castlecrag houses and other projects. After over thirty years in Australia, during which her husband died in India, she returned to the USA.

Bronwyn mentioned a number of North Shore women architects including Ellice Nosworthy, Anita Lawrence, Kathleen Gray, Judith Mackintosh and Rosette Edmunds

Coming Meetings

NEXT SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING (Gordon Library Meeting Room)

Saturday 18 August

2pm – GENERAL MEETING

Guest Speaker: **Dr Lesley Muir**
(Historian and RAHS Councillor)

Topic: **Sydney in the 1860s and 1870s**

(In these decades Sydney was transformed from a town of run-down early colonial structures into the largest and most prosperous city in Australia. Dr Muir will enhance her presentation of a tour of the city with high quality photographs of the city's buildings of the period)



Sydney Town Hall - courtesy Council of City of Sydney

**Afternoon tea will be available
Visitors welcome**

NEXT FAMILY HISTORY MEETING

Saturday 4 August

11am - Victorian Resources

2pm - General Meeting

Speaker: Helen Davies

(KHS Member and representing "The Friends of Tulkiyan")

Topic: *The Donaldson family and Tulkiyan*

Afternoon tea will be available

who concentrated on designing mostly domestic, religious or minor institutional buildings. These names and that of Florence Taylor were of particular interest to some of the members present who were aware of their work or had direct or indirect knowledge of them personally.

- Notes from Don Fifer

Focusing on Killara

In this issue we are focusing on Killara with items in the *History Notes* section on its “creation” by J G Edwards, known in his day as *The Father of Killara*, and brief stories on two of its pioneer women – Matilda Fish and Jane MacGillivray. In *Built Heritage*, Kathy Rieth tells of the Killara Hall which is better known these days as the site of the Marian Street Theatre. The theatre is currently in the news again because Ku-ring-gai Council, which now owns the building, is looking at options for its future. At present it is leased to the *Marion Street Theatre for Young People*.

Recent Acquisitions

Recent additions to our Collection include:

* *Local Histories* of Kiandra, Broken Hill, Dubbo and Glen Innes.

* *Dictionary of Western Australians- 1829-1914* (Ed Rica Erickson. Published by the University of WA (1979). This Vol II lists some thousands of convicts who were residents of WA before 1915 together with brief biographical notes on each.

* *A Directory of Businesses in Roseville 1931-1947*. Extracted from the Wise Directory.

* *The Sirius Letters* – The Complete Letters of Newton Fowell, a midshipman/Lieutenant aboard the Sirius from 1786 until his 1790 death. Edited by Nance Irvine. Published by the Fairfax Library (1988). 178 pages. Indexed.

* *The Close of an Era – A History of Nursing at the Royal North Shore Hospital 1887-1987* (Margaret Rice). Donated by Stella Green.

Springtime in Canberra

Canberra in springtime is always worth visiting and there is another excellent reason to be there on 20-21 October. The Royal Australian Historical Society, with which we are affiliated, is having its Annual Conference that weekend at the ANU. Details of the program are now being finalised but you can pencil the dates in now. Further information will soon be available from the RAHS on 9247 8001.

Noonan's Platform

Our Quiz question last month asked about *Noonan's Platform*. The answer was that it was an early name for Wahroonga Station and was so named because a Patrick Noonan had lived there. Patrick's contribution to history did not stop with just a “Platform”. Our member, Dr Geoff Ford, tells us there was also *Noonan's Track* which left the Highway and followed a similar route to today's Coonanbarra Road. It was natural that the original “Platform” should therefore be placed on the Track. It was also just as natural that the spot where the railway line crossed the Track should then be called *Noonan's Crossing*.

Thomas Swannell, a Lands Department Overseer, used *Noonan's Track* in 1883 when building the Cook trig station

near Grosvenor Street. It seems that Thomas married Catherine Tracey, who came from a Coonabarabran family, in Coonabarabran in 1873. One must never leap to conclusions but the thought occurs that Coonanbarra Road, the “new” name for Noonan's Track, may have derived from Thomas Swannell's choice of spouse.

Fees for 2007/2008

Members were mailed last month with an invoice for fees for 2007/2008. These need to be paid by 30 August - \$25 for Individual Membership, \$30 for Household Membership (two persons from the one household) and \$55 for Corporate Members. Members who have not paid by then automatically become unfinancial. Fees can be paid to Treasurer Doug Milne personally, left for him at the Rooms or mailed to Box 109, Gordon, 2072 *but clearly identifying in writing that the payment is for fees*.

2006 Census

No doubt people are beavering away behind the scenes painting a total picture of Ku-ring-gai based on the recently released Census figures. For our small part we have extracted just a small portion of what has been published. As is usually the case with statistics, we have to make qualifications – specifically that the following figures are not exactly those of the municipality of Ku-ring-gai because part of Roseville (postcode 2069) drifts into the Willoughby Municipality and part of Wahroonga (postcode 2076) into the Hornsby Shire. Taking adjustments into account the Ku-ring-gai population has been calculated at 101,083 rather than the 113,927 shown in the following “raw” figures. We have, however, used the “raw” figures in the following table because they allow comparisons between our suburbs.

<i>Suburb</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Aust Born</i>
Roseville	12198	66%
Lindfield	10959	64%
Killara	11824	60%
Gordon	5993	57%
Pymble	14096	67%
Turrumurra	19808	67%
St Ives	17334	56%
Wahroonga	21715	67%
Total	113927	

Note that the Turrumurra figures include Warrawee as both suburbs have the same 2074 postcode. Also that 71% of the overall Australian population were born in this country. “Australian born” carries no ethnic implication. St Ives stands out from the rest of Ku-ring-gai because as many as 11.9% of the people in that suburb were born in South Africa. In Gordon 13.1% were born in what might be loosely described as Asia.

Information about the Ku-ring-gai municipality shows there were 48,404 males and 52,679 females; 16,965 persons (16.8%) 65 years of age and over compared to 13.3% for Australia; 64,204 (63.5%) born in Australia compared to 70.9% for Australia and median weekly individual income of \$716 compared to \$466 for Australia.

For more Census details just Google "Census".

Why Not?

Members would have noticed that the Society's committee is very active on a lot of fronts. Being a Committee member is no sinecure and offers people with an interest in any aspect of local and family history plenty of opportunities to do valuable "hands on" work. It is also a great chance to develop skills and knowledge. So, with the Annual Meeting coming up in a month or two, what about considering a position either as a Committee member or as a fully involved "reserve"? If you'd like to discuss the idea, what about having a word with President Kevin Callinan or any other Committee member?

Pubs and Publicans CD

Members will recall that Ken Knight spoke to us in May last year about the significant role played by inns, taverns and alehouses in the daily life of early settlers. He told us then that he and his colleague, Allan Rost, were preparing a searchable CD with information on over 2500 "pubs and publicans" in the County of Cumberland up to 1850. It is being produced through the Society of Australian Genealogists. We believe it will be available in September at the pre-publication price of \$35 for SAG members and \$45 for non-members. Pre-publication orders are to be sent to SAG before 10 August. After that both prices increase by \$10.

Both Ken and Allan are KHS members though we do not see as much of them as we would like – they have both been very busy lately.

Rain stops St Ives Festival

No one will be surprised to learn that the St Ives Festival on the Green planned for Sunday 17 June had to be cancelled because of the rain.

Quiz

1. *Browning, Coleridge, Dryden, Keats, Shelley, Tennyson.* What two things do these have in common?
2. The Lindfield Golf and Recreation Club was formed c1899 and built a 9-hole Golf Course in "Archbold's Paddock" which stretched from Roseville Park in Clanville Road to short of Middle Harbour Road. Its one-year lease expired and the land was slated for subdivision. The Club was re-formed, renamed and relocated. What is its current name?
(a) Roseville Golf Club (b) Chatswood Golf Club (c) Killara Golf Club (d) Gordon Golf Club

Member Profile

Elaine Turnidge



Elaine joined the Society in 2003 and, always keen to be involved, has thrown herself energetically into our activities and made many friends.

Born Elaine Quigley, she grew up in Roseville with her parents, Reg and Helen, and her sister Shirley and attended Roseville Public School and Hornsby Girls High. After Business College, she worked for an accountant before moving to the Cumberland County Council where she became interested in the development of the "Cumberland Plan for Sydney".

In 1957 she married Graham Turnidge from Hornsby and they settled at Chatswood. Graham registered as a surveyor in 1963 and they moved home many times including living at Eden and Carlingford with a weekend cottage at Mt Wilson for a few years.

In 1972 Graham joined Rotary Club at Carlingford and in 1982 was Governor of District 968. They hosted several exchange students and enjoyed a number of overseas trips including Rotary International Conventions and meeting friends from many countries. In 1983 Elaine joined the Parramatta Inner Wheel at Parramatta, an organisation for women related to Rotarians. It is one of the largest women's organisations in the world.

Graham suffered a stroke and died in 1997 but had the pleasure of seeing their daughters, Robyn, Louise, and Kirsten all happily married. There are now seven grandchildren for Elaine to enjoy.

Wendy Ermert (nee Wyatt)



Wendy, one of our popular and enthusiastic volunteers, was born in Melbourne but her "family" soon moved to Lord St, Roseville, then to nearby Addison Avenue. She went to Roseville Girls' College followed by Ravenswood.

Wendy was told she was adopted and life went on although at each birthday she wondered if her real mother was thinking of her.

Having done a shorthand and typing course, her first job was with a Chartered Accountants' firm. This was followed by an enjoyable but short time nursing at Bankstown Hospital. Wendy then joined the Commonwealth Bank where she met her husband, Rupert. They built a house in Turramurra and Wendy is still living there. She has three lovely daughters, five grandsons and two granddaughters.

Her adored adopted parents passed on and years later her daughters persuaded her to seek her "real" family. Within six weeks she "discovered" her mother and traced her to a town near Orbost. Wendy wrote to her and things took off from there. She found she has a half sister and two half brothers and, yes, her mother did always think of her on her birthday. Wendy says she has been accepted by all the family and has also met her father's side. Something she has found stunning is the similarity between her sister and herself. Their writing is almost identical, they have the same likes and dislikes and are very similar in nature.

History Notes

Creating Killara

Most Society members would know of J G “George” Edwards and that he was known as “The Father of Killara”. But who was he and what did he do to earn this title?

He was born in Tasmania in 1843. His father was David Edwards, a convict, and his mother Elizabeth Pymble, the youngest daughter of Robert Pymble who, it is said, went to Tasmania as a governess. Elizabeth, however, returned to Sydney in 1849 with her six year old son, James George, and daughter Elizabeth. David Edwards disappeared from history.



James became a man of many parts with an eye to the development and well-being of the Ku-ring-gai area. He was instrumental, for example, in having a Post Office established at Gordon in what became the grounds of Ravenswood (his 14 ½ year old sister was postmistress!). He had the Gordon Public School built and opened where the Society now has its Rooms. He also played an important role in having the Government build the Railway which opened in 1890.

Knowing that the Railway was in the pipeline, Edwards conceived the notion of acquiring much of the largely vacant land between Lindfield and Gordon, then subdividing and selling it. It was, however, much easier to dream the dream than turn it into reality because the ownership of a large part of the land, which was largely unoccupied, had become widely dispersed.

The area in which he was interested had originally been granted to some six people – John Griffiths had 100 acres on the western side of the Highway between Essex and Buckingham Streets, Samuel Midgely had 60 acres between Buckingham Street and Fiddens Wharf Road, and the redoubtable Joseph Fidden had 40 acres south from Fidden’s Wharf Road down to Commonwealth Street.

On the eastern side, the original grantees were Edwin Booker, who had 80 acres from Greengate Road almost to Marian Street, the MacGillivray’s with 160 acres from just north of Marian Street to Stanhope Road, and Henry Oliver who had 45 acres from Stanhope Road to Treatts Road.

Over the years these sections had changed hands many times and been subdivided, though still largely unoccupied. “Creating Killara” was a mammoth task. George Edwards first had to find the current owners. Negotiations then had to be conducted and agreements made to formalise the transfers of ownership to allow their amalgamation and subdivision. Subsequent sales were disappointing, with buyers less than enthusiastic. In order to encourage interest, he negotiated with the Railways to have

a new Station built at Killara. This was opened in 1899 and Killara was well on the way to being created.

These efforts alone would have been sufficient to earn him the title of *Father of Killara* but his contribution to the formation and development of Killara went even further. In 1887 John Waterhouse of the Green Gate Hotel, who was a racing enthusiast, thought land at the foot of Springdale Road would make a good racecourse. George got into action and spearheaded a move to have Killara Park reserved for public recreation. He was also deeply involved in having land obtained for the building of the Killara Golf Club and became its second President. Neither the Killara Bowling Club nor Lawn Tennis Club would have existed without his initiatives.

A less happy experience was his leading role in the establishment of the Killara Hall, destined to become the Soldiers Memorial Hall and, later, the home of the Marian Street Theatre.

Though the search for profit was a major motivation, it is evident that he put a lot of himself into creating the suburb which became his lasting legacy. It is understood he died anything but rich in money terms.

(More detailed information is in an article by George Edwards in the Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society Vol 12, Part 2 published in 1926. A copy is in our Rooms. Also see material prepared by Helen Malcher published in the HISTORIAN Vol 29 No 2 in September 2000)

- Max Farley

A Sign of the Past in Lord Street



We should know more about this “DANGER - look out for - CARS “ sign but our searches have so far been unsuccessful. It is at the foot of Lord Street, Roseville, about 20 metres before Lord Street meets busy Archbold Road. One guesses it may go right back to when the “missing link’ in Archbold Road – the big dip between Lord Street and Dudley Avenue – was bridged in the mid 1920s and traffic could at last travel along Archbold Road from Boundary Street to Clanville Road. Then, as now, the steep hills must have tempted speedsters, hence the need for the warning sign. To be still in good condition after over 50 years, perhaps 80 years, it must have been given special care by someone.

It is made of wood, with white lettering on a red background, and therefore quite unlike the routine signs we see today. Random enquiries to various staff at Council all drew blanks. So, when did the sign appear? Is it a Council sign or was it privately installed? Who has looked after it so well for so long?

Lindfield Progress Association

From the Minutes of the meeting of 14th April 1897:

The question of danger arising through vehicles on the road and not having lights was introduced and it was decided to place the matter before the local police.

From the Minutes of the meeting of 11th May 1897:

It was reported that the local police had stated they were unable to prevent owners of vehicles from driving without lights.

Two Ladies of Killara

There were two women who were to become legendary in the history of the Killara created by J G “George” Edwards. Stories of both of them are in our *Women of Ku-ring-gai* book but a few words here are appropriate. They are **Matilda Fish** and **Jane MacGillivray**. Their properties adjoined, with the southern boundary of Matilda’s, just north of Marian Street, being the northern boundary of Jane’s.

Matilda Fish was born about 1794 as Amelia Matilda Booker. It seems she came to Australia in 1812 with her brother Edwin Booker, her sister Mary and Mary’s husband Daniel Dering Mathew. Edwin Booker was granted 80 acres in Killara from Greengate Road almost to Marian Street.

Matilda’s first husband, Captain Anthony Bartho, died in India. They had four children. She then married a mariner, Captain James Fish, in 1820. Edwin promptly sold his 1821 grant to Captain Fish but the Captain sailed away never to be heard of again.

Matilda Fish therefore became the owner and the first woman in the area to manage a property. She did this, alone, for 30 years living on the present Powell Street near the Railway bridge. The area was renowned as the haunt of “disreputable people” and Matilda gained lasting fame by being robbed by the Geary Gang of bushrangers and giving evidence against them. Notwithstanding the hardships which went with life in those days, she succeeded in her multiple roles of property owner, manager and mother of four children. She died in 1850 aged 57.

Our second lady of Ku-ring-gai was **Jane MacGillivray** who was born as Jane Bradley in Ireland in 1812. Her father, James, was a tutor and had “eloped” with his student, Margaret Morgan. James and Margaret married in 1811. It was not a romantic episode and James was soon convicted of forgery and transported.

In 1820 he opened his first school in Parramatta and encouraged his wife and daughter to join him. Margaret and Jane left for Australia in 1822. Unhappily, Margaret died on the voyage. The 11-year-old Jane was befriended aboard ship by the Rev.

John Dunmore Lang and after her arrival she was tutored by her father. In 1830, her father opened the *Springdale House Academy* in Parramatta.

Jane married James Lachlan MacGillivray, a “gentleman”, in 1830 and the Rev. Lang arranged for her to select land in the parish of Gordon as a “marriage portion”. She chose the 160 acres which ran east from the Highway from just north of Marian Street down to Stanhope Road. It became known as *Springdale*. Unfortunately James MacGillivray abandoned his family for long periods. During an absence from 1840 until 1846, Jane had her own school in Parramatta and was involved in running *Springdale House* there. After James returned, the family presumably lived on the *Springdale* land, with four more children born at the time. He then deserted the family home once more. By 1856 Jane had a cottage on the *Springdale* property just a few metres north of Marian Street where she had a school for girls with some boarders. She died, somewhat forlornly, in 1861 at the age of 49 with six living children, two boys and four girls.

Next time you pass Killara’s Marian Street when you drive on the Highway why not spare a thought for Matilda and Jane?

From our Collection

The Story of St Ives

The Society’s large Collection has many publications and in this issue we are highlighting *The Story of St Ives* produced by Gay Halstead in 1982. It is already well known to many members but not everyone appreciates the value of its content. The suburb of St Ives existed under the name Rosedale from the early 1800s, but did not blossom as a suburb until after the Second War. This happened because of wider motor car ownership, improved transport, better access roads and post war expansion.

Gay Halstead apparently decided to boost her research resources by enlisting the help of members of the many St Ives families who had been living there over several generations. Collectively they, and the information held within their families, added up to a large part of the history of St Ives when assembled in the one book. The result was an indexed publication of some 550 pages.

It has been said that the book has “mistakes” and so it has. It is based on family histories and these are notoriously unreliable because so much depends on uncheckable family stories handed down over the dinner table from one generation to the next. It also has to be remembered that when the book was produced in 1982, even the basic facts of the birth, death and marriage dates of individuals, as well as their true names, were much harder to verify than nowadays.

If the degree of accuracy many now expect in such a book had been demanded we would still be awaiting publication.

Everyone with an interest in Ku-ring-gai’s history, not just in St Ives by any means, would do well to be aware of the huge amount of information *The Story of St Ives* has between its covers.

Family Matters

7 July Meeting

11am Session

22 members attended the morning session. A number of computer records were shown and discussed including:

- National Roll of the Great War 1914-18 (enlistments in London)
- 1863-1913 Crew Lists - English
- Bathurst Pioneers - also available in book form
- NSW Government Gazettes
- AGCI - some Government Gazettes

2pm General Meeting

38 members were present. Jo Harris chaired the meeting and mentioned some current and coming activities, among them being:

Coming Events

4 August - National Family History Week begins

1 September - Family History meeting will feature "*Show and Tell - My grandmother's or great grandmother's — something—*" – the "something" being an article belonging to a grandmother or great grandmother.

21-23 September – at Casino, NSW – The State Conference of Association of Family History Societies

Reports

Australian Family Tree Connections magazine July issue has information on:

Problems of BDM certificates, e.g. identity theft

A Photographic restoration program which can be downloaded

Good Websites:

- Electoral Roll 2007 - UK - 29 million names
- GENANZ Mailing List - gateway for discussion
- City of London burials 1788-1855 in findmypast.com
- PicturesofEngland.com
- Surname Thesaurus
- 1893-1949 WA PO Directories
- Hawkesbury cemetery and grave register

Book Acquisitions

A number of recent additions to our Collection were mentioned including the current journal of the Society of Genealogists of the United Kingdom.

Jo Harris tabled "*Remembering the Past*" as an example of how not to publish a book. A major failing was that it had indexes scattered through the book rather than at the end. This made it very difficult to search.

Reports from Members

- * A Seminar conducted by the Liverpool Society (Diana Rose)
- * Victorian convicts declared exiles on arrival (Max Farley)
- * The 3-day SOG UK Fair sponsored by BBC and History Channel (Jean Smith)
- * A visit to Adelaide River Cemetery just out of Darwin

Speakers

The first speaker was member **David Wilkins** whose subject was *Publishing Your Family History*. His recently produced book is entitled "*From Brecon to Broken Hill*". The scope of his talk was about the techniques and mechanics of writing and self-publishing rather than the actual research. He spoke of programs to suit your computer, the benefit of attending courses on writing, Photoshop, visiting libraries and looking at other family histories. He covered the collection of charts, documents, etc, biographical studies of family members, themes such as childhood, education, occupations, regional and geographical stories and the family's involvement in those places and studies of immigration. There is a need, he said, to define your target audience, to make careful collection of materials and to record the source of each document and piece of information. The writing task needs planning with the preparation of an outline of chapters and sections. Drafts need to be written, perhaps roughly at first, for later revision and polishing. The real need for numerous footnotes should be questioned. One must consider the privacy aspects of living persons, obtain their permission and not include their birth dates. Finally, he spoke on the formal requirements for publishing and the making of decisions on printing, the number to be printed and the method and extent of distribution. David distributed comprehensive hand-out sheets to those present.

Our second speaker, **Fay Murphy**, gave us an entertaining, often hilarious, description of her family situation - "*Connections with Complications - Consanguinity*". She explained how divorce, re-marriage and de facto relationships can alter the status quo and create all sorts of complex relationships within the "family". Fortunately, in her case, the many people involved including ex-spouses, new spouses, step children, half brothers and sisters etc all manage to mix happily. She has 25 descendants aged from 2 months to 60 years; her 6 children have 8 marriages and 6 divorces among them with 12 children and 7 grandchildren. One distinguished ancestor signed the American Declaration of Independence. Another was transported to Australia as a convict in 1802. Each left a mark on the pages of history.

The raffle of pre-loved books was won by Joy Walker who chose "*Upon a State Unknown*" by Fay Attwell.

Ancestry.com

Many members may now be acquainted with this website and some may even have subscribed. At the Family History meeting on 7 July mention was made that the site now carries indexed information of all persons shown in the NSW Sands Directories. This could prove of great value, particularly to family historians. Non subscribers can now search for a person's name and find all individuals with that name together with the suburb(s) where they resided and in what years.

Some local libraries, including Ku-ring-gai, have the Sands Directories on microfiche and more details can be found there. Ancestry subscribers can, however, access the information online. As with everything there are drawbacks, the main one being that the Sands Directories ceased publication in 1932/33. Incidentally, the Society has indexed the Sands Directories from 1903 until 1932/33 on to a database at our Rooms. Our data base can be searched on streets and suburbs as well as names. We also have the Sands for Ku-ring-gai in hard copy.

Instant Genealogy?

Don't be ridiculous! There is NO SUCH THING. You must VERIFY every single piece of information you are given, especially if it comes from the internet.

- from Australian Family Tree Connections

Share with SAG

The Society of Australian Genealogists is working on a way its members can share their family trees with other Societies. A trial version of a proposed system will soon be on show in the SAG library. It will be interesting to see what support the idea gets and how others can draw from it.

Another Family Tree Maker Course

These one-day Courses on using the *Family Tree Maker* genealogy computer program continue to be very popular. Jo Harris will be running another in our Rooms on Monday 30 July starting at 10.30am. There is a fee (to cover out-of-pockets) of \$5 (\$10 for non-members). To register contact Jo on 9489 4393.

People are Interested!

We all tend to immerse ourselves researching our own families. We think no one else would be interested but most family histories contain some persons or incidents of general interest. Other people may very well like to hear about them. Researchers are also keen to know how those inevitable brick walls were finally breached. Sharing your information, techniques, triumphs and problems can be satisfying and helpful to researchers everywhere. So please tell us if there is anything you would like to share with others.

On the other hand if you are at a dead end there is no shame in confessing your problem and seeking help at a meeting or through this Newsletter.

Well, Well!

We were brought up believing wells were where our forbears got their household water but it seems they were more than that. It is cool down wells, so perishables such as butter and milk were put in a bucket and lowered down. We have read, too, that jellies could be lowered to set. On 1 June 1868 our neighbouring Council, Willoughby, went so far as to instruct its Treasurer to buy "3 glasses, one jug, a bucket and a rope". According to reports these items were for use by the Mayor in an adjacent well to store liquid refreshments for entertainment purposes.

Built Heritage

The Killara Hall

The building of a hall at Killara owes much to JG Edwards. In 1904 residents met to consider whether a community hall would be a financial and social success. Public response was good. The Killara Hall Co. Ltd was formed and on 1 May 1905 land



was purchased from Stephen Perdriau. Although Edwards had suggested that a 'modest' hall be built a more ambitious scheme was planned. The Sydney Morning Herald of 11 September 1906 reported:

A large hall is being erected in Marian-street, Killara, for the Killara Hall Company, Limited. The accommodation will consist of a hall 75ft by 35ft, with a stage 35ft by 15ft, cloakrooms, supper-room, kitchen and four rooms for the caretaker. The building is being built of brick, with galvanized iron roof, and the joinery throughout is to be in pine. The cost will be about £1500. The contractors are Messrs Stewart and Williams, and the architects Messrs Spain and Cosh.

Additions were made to the hall in June 1910; these included a supper room with balconies. Designed by Killara architect Oliver Harley, they were built by RP Blundell of Gore Hill. By 1916 revenue had fallen below expectations and the shareholders were facing bankruptcy. Edwards was appointed liquidator and it was decided to put the hall up for auction.

Residents suggested the hall should be dedicated to the memory of those who had served in WWI. A committee was formed and on 16 August 1918 the hall was sold to F Birks, A Campbell, L Charlton, Wm Dixson, Wm Maschwitz, F Middows and G Waterhouse. A new façade was planned to incorporate the memorial tablet then housed at the railway station. Dixson, Maschwitz, Birks, Rev. AP Campbell, Rev. L Charlton, Middows and Waterhouse became trustees. JA Thompson was the honorary solicitor and RC Brewster the honorary auditor. From then on the hall was known as The Soldiers' Memorial Hall.

In 1931 Ku-ring-gai Council purchased the hall. KHS Vice-President Jo Harris recalls: "All the students from all the local schools went every Friday night to Miss Kay's ballroom dancing classes. It was the boy-meets-girl place. The Ku-ring-gai Theatre Guild held all its productions at the Killara Hall, about 3 or 4 per year. The Killara Liberal Party Younger Set had their annual musical revue at the hall."

In 1965 with the assistance of the council, Alexander Archdale established the Marian Street Theatre and the Northside Theatre Company. Due to the collapse of HIH, a major sponsor of the company, these ceased trading in 2001. However the Marian Street Theatre for Young People still holds classes at the hall, as it has done for over 30 years, and is Australia's longest running children's theatre and drama school.

- Kathie Rieth

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 to membership:

Douglas Cuming (West Pymble) and Bill Fairbanks (Wahroonga)

Douglas has visited us a number of times and has been the President of the Waverly Historical Society for a number of years. We know they will enjoy their time with the Society and that membership will open the door to many friends and activities of interest.

We do like our Volunteers

Members of other Historical Societies are frequently astonished when told our Society now has 86 volunteers working on our many projects. They find it equally surprising we have almost 450 members. This means about one in five of our members actually give their time to help the Society achieve its objectives. This is extremely pleasing and shows remarkable growth over recent years. We really do like our volunteers and greatly value the work they do – and know they enjoy doing it.

Quiz Answers

1. Yes, they are all poets. Also, however, they are the names of thoroughfares in Ku-ring-gai. Brownrigg, Dryden, Keats and Shelley Roads are all in North Turramurra. Tennyson Avenue is in Turramurra and Coleridge Street in Pymble. There are other "groupings" such as the "Prime Ministers" in North Wahroonga where there are Barton Crescent, Chiffley Close, Curtin Avenue, Fadden Place, Scullin Place, Fisher Avenue, Forde Place, Holt Avenue, Page Avenue and Watson Avenue. Several of these only held office for a short time.

2 (c). J G Edwards (the Father of Killara) was primarily involved in acquiring much of the land and was the Club's second President (1902-1910). Said to have been affectionately called "Daddy" according to the Golf Club's history.

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

- Mon 30 July- 10.30am One-day Course
on Family Tree Maker
- Sat 4 Aug Family History
- 11am Victorian Resources
- 2pm General Meeting:
The Donaldson Family and Tulkiyan
- Sat 18 Aug 2pm – KHS General Meeting:
Dr Lesley Muir:
Sydney in the 1860s & 1870s
- Sat 1 Sept Family History
- 11am Western Australian Resources
- 2pm General Meeting:
Members' Contributions
Topic: *Show and Tell-*
"My Grandmother's ?"
- Wed 19 Sept - 7.30pm - KHS Annual Meeting
- KHS General Meeting: Jo Harris
Early Wireless & Ku-ring-gai Connections

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
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	with Kathie Rieth, John King, Bob Ross	
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