



# 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

## 17 October Meeting

### James Meehan - A Most Excellent Surveyor

Tony Dawson, who has written a book entitled "*James Meehan – A Most Excellent Surveyor*" on the career of James Meehan, outlined the surveying work undertaken by Meehan in the colony between 1800 and the early 1820s.

Meehan was born and grew up in Ireland, becoming a schoolteacher and surveyor by profession. He was sentenced to transportation to NSW for his association with the 1798 uprising, arriving in Sydney in February 1800 aged 26. He was soon put to work assisting Charles Grimes, the Deputy Surveyor General.

After some early work on the Hawkesbury River, he was sent, in 1803, to Van Dieman's Land to survey around the mouth of the Derwent River, the provisional settlement site, mainly to forestall any attempt by French expeditions from laying claim to the island. He then extended the survey some way along the Derwent valley, before returning to Sydney in 1804.

Between 1804 and 1807 Meehan was engaged in further work on the Hawkesbury and then Shoalhaven River, followed by survey around the Lane Cove River and the present areas of Gordon and Pymble, including Gregory Blaxland's 2000 acre grant. In 1806 he received an absolute pardon and on Governor Bligh's instructions, he produced the first survey map of Sydney.

Governor Macquarie had great respect for Meehan as a surveyor and sent him with Acting Surveyor General George Evans to prepare a survey and plan for Hobart and to survey allotments for settlers. With the appointment of John Oxley as Surveyor General in 1812, Meehan was promoted to Deputy Surveyor General. As much of Oxley's time was taken up with exploration, most of the routine survey work was done by Meehan, who accompanied the Governor on most of his tours of inspection.

Between 1814 and Macquarie's departure, Meehan's survey work extended along Sydney's northern beaches, in the Illawarra and in generally frustrating attempts to survey a road over the coastal escarpment to Jervis Bay, during which he discovered Lake Bathurst and the Goulburn Plains

In the aftermath of the Bligh rebellion, in which Meehan took no part, and during Macquarie's governorship, Meehan was allotted a total of around 2000 acres at Minto, which he named Macquarie Field (the present Macquarie Fields), where he built a substantial house.

His health deteriorated in the early 1820s and he died in 1826. Although his death was little noticed in the colony at the time, Macquarie paid tribute to him in his dispatches for 'his indefatigable assiduity in fulfilment of his arduous duties.....I believe no man has suffered so much privation and fatigue in the service of this colony'.

## Coming Meetings

### NEXT SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING (Gordon Library Meeting Room)

Wednesday 20 February, 2008

7.45 pm - GENERAL MEETING

Guest Speaker: Steven Carruthers

Topic: *Japanese Submarine Raiders 1942*

First published in 1982 as *Australia Under Seige*, Steven's recent book incorporates material from survivors and participants of the midget submarine attack on Sydney Harbour. Their stories provide valuable insights into the events of 1942 and also help to fill gaps in the official histories.



HMAS Kuttabul sunk by Japanese submarine - Internet

Supper will be available  
Visitors Welcome

### NEXT FAMILY HISTORY MEETING

Saturday 2 February 2008

11am - Members Research

2pm - "*The brick walls I have climbed*"

Afternoon Tea will be available  
Visitors welcome

## Computer System Upgrade Training

Would all volunteers please note that they are asked to attend a 1.5 hour training session in the rooms, to learn about these changes, and know how to navigate the new system.

DETAILS OF TIMES AND DATES ARE SHOWN ON PAGE 8.

PLEASE BOOK WITH JO HARRIS - 9489 4393

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## Historians of the Year

At the November meeting last year, Kathie Reith was awarded "The Historian of the Year"

The inaugural Family Historian of the Year was awarded to David Wilkins, for his book "From Brecon to Broken Hill".

### The Rum Rebellion - speaker Bill Woods

Bill Woods was introduced to the members and guests by Beverley Dunstan who told of his career in engineering and telecommunications until retirement, when Bill became active in the University of the Third Age, specialising in Australian history. This talk was one in his series on the irreverent history of Australia, the Rum Rebellion, being the only time in Australia when the civil government has been overturned by the military. Bill began his talk by showing several minutes of the old black and white movie "Mutiny on the Bounty" starring Charles Laughton as Captain Bligh. This set the scene of how that beastly Bligh treated others and how this type of behaviour may have later antagonised the NSW Corps into their rebellion against him in 1808. Also by way of background, Bill gave an overview of the penal system in England in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and its transportation of convicts to America, then, after a short experiment with the Skeleton Coast of Africa, to the Australian colonies.

The first governor of NSW, Arthur Phillip, landed with the first fleet of convicts and a military presence in the form of the Royal Marines, but the latter said they were here for defence purposes and not to guard convicts, so the English authorities established a special military unit called the NSW Corps. Unfortunately it consisted generally of low life who were not really interested in their duties but were intent instead in making money. This they did mainly with the use of rum, used in payment to the convicts despite a prohibition against convicts having alcohol.

By this time the NSW governor was Governor William Bligh (who had somehow managed to navigate himself to civilisation after being cast adrift in a small dingy near Tahiti following the mutiny). Bligh followed the home country's edict to outlaw alcohol, but one of the NSW Corps members, John Macarthur, who had used rum payments to purchase tracts of land, continued to import alcohol. In 1805 Bligh had him arrested but Major George Johnson, in charge of the NSW Corps (the Rum Corps), sided with Macarthur and had his troops march upon Government House where Bligh was arrested, reputedly from his hiding place under his bed. Johnson assumed command of the Colony.

Bill's talk, although called "The Rum Rebellion" included many side topics of interest, such as:

- why women were burnt at the stake for petty treason, which was murdering a person of higher status;
- how Australia was saved from being French when Napoleon missed out on accompanying Count La Prouse;
- the solicitor who witnessed signatures on wills although the testator was already dead, but he swore there was

"life in him" because he had put a live fly in the deceased's mouth;

- the origin of making rum in Jamaica and the origin of the term "grog";
- dodgy land grants in NSW;
- John Macarthur's forced return to England and his wife Elizabeth successfully running the farm and wool industry;
- the gold rush;
- The colonial governments giving into demands for secret ballot, universal suffrage, female representation in Parliament etc;
- the dismissal of premier Lang by Governor Game in 1932 and Lang's dalliance with the idea of arresting Game but decided against it because the situation was very different with a professional Army compared with the NSW (Rum) Corps.

Bill was thanked by Max Farley who presented him with the Society's book *Women of Ku-ring-gai*.

### Trip to Lithgow

On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October the most recent KHS tour set off. Our first main port of call was the Zig Zag railway station at Clarence. We boarded the train and steamed off to Top Points station (the first point of the 'Z'), where we all disembarked for a short time to watch the engine move round to the back of the train to lead us down to Bottom Points (the bottom point of the 'Z'). There the engine again switched ends and took us back to Top Points station for a final switch before heading back to Clarence.

The steam train, true to form, left a layer of ash and soot on all our clothes, bringing back memories for many of a time when steam train travel was commonplace. From the Zig Zag we headed into Lithgow to the State Mine Heritage Park, where we were treated to a wonderful sausage sizzle for lunch, after which we visited Esk Bank house. We then went back to the State Mine Heritage Park for a blacksmithing demonstration and the opportunity for us to explore. Some of the braver souls had a ride in an underground "train".

Our guide, Ray, was very knowledgeable and also full of amusing anecdotes with which to entertain us. After we left the park, Ray took us on a tour around Lithgow in the comfort of our coach, and then we went to our home for the night, the Zig Zag Motel. The motel was very comfortable and we had a pleasant evening with our host Michael making sure everything went very smoothly.

Next morning we started off a bit earlier than planned and made an unscheduled visit to Hassan's Walls Lookout. We were all very pleased at this unexpected chance to see the wonderful views of the Lithgow and Hartley Valleys. Jo even spotted an isolated group of gravestones in the middle of a clearing! The next stop was the Small Arms Factory, where we were shown a variety of weapons, as well as some of the other things made at the Small Arms factory, like sewing machines and handcuffs! We also learned the origins of some of our expressions, like "going off half-

cocked”, “a flash in the pan” and “skin flint”.

After leaving the Factory we stopped at a Graveyard in Lithgow for a short visit, and then headed off to Hartley village for our lunch.

Once lunch was over it was sadly time to make our way back over the Blue Mountains and to go home, having had a wonderful and very enjoyable weekend. - Jenny Joyce



Ride in Mines Museum train



Eskbank House - both photos Jenny Joyce

## St John's Cemetery Open Day

On Saturday 20 October at the historic St John's Cemetery, Gordon, KHS member Noel Blake gave a most informative on-site history of four notable early internees.

**John Brown** (1825-1884), 'the Squire', landowner and timber merchant, acquired 630 acres stretching west of the Pacific Hwy from Pearce's Corner to Fox Valley Road. He named Lucinda, Ada and Roland Avenues in Wahroonga for his three children.

**Thomas Waterhouse** (1810-1884) Father-in-law of John Brown above, Waterhouse acquired licence and freehold of the Green Gate hotel, Killara. Some claim Thomas' father was Capt. Henry Waterhouse b1770, First Fleeter, initial Sydney Harbour surveyor, and facilitator of merino ram introduction to Port Jackson.

**John Waterhouse** (1836-1903) son to Thomas, was publican of the Green Gate Hotel. Horse racing, bare-knuckle and cock-fighting fan, he agitated for the Hornsby to Harbour railway, and apparently built the house which became Abbotsholme College.

**John George Edwards** (1843-1927) 'the father of Killara' was a Shire Councillor and developer of the Gordon to Lindfield area. He was involved in formation of the Railway, Gordon's first Post Office, and the final Gordon Public School building (being its first teacher).

## Member Profile – Kathie Reith



Kathie Reith

Our Historian of the Year was not born and bred in Ku-ring-gai but was raised initially in 'The Shire' – She did not need a passport to get into Ku-ring-gai becoming a resident in 1989.

Her initial interest was in researching her family history and in 1980 commenced studies in the Local, Applied and Family Studies course at UNE Armidale NSW.

Her initial research was focussed upon the Newcastle area from where her parents came.

During her studies a group of residents proposed that they compile a history of Bromborough Rd. This was published in 2001 as a book titled 'William Henry's 40 Acres.' It is highly regarded by residents and the wider community receiving an award from Ku-ring-gai Council.

For the past ten years she has worked as a volunteer at SAG assisting in computerisation of the catalogue. Her article on the new premises at SAG was recently published in their magazine 'Descent'.

She has undertaken work outside Ku-ring-gai researching the architecture of BJ Waterhouse for an exhibition at Mosman. This involved research at Randwick, Woollahra, Manly and North Sydney. More recently she has been involved in a project to study the work of FG Castleden in Chatswood, the architect under whose supervision the Newcastle Cathedral was completed.

However it is for her work for the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society that she was awarded the Historian of the Year for 2007.

Throughout the last five years she has helped research, write and edit articles for "The Historian".

Whenever Jennifer Harvey has been unavailable she has stepped up to the mark and guided the development and publication of the Historian.

Throughout the past year she has been helping Jenny Harvey lead a group researching heritage listed houses in Nelson Street, Gordon. The results of this group will be published in the forthcoming 2007 Historian.

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David Wilkins was awarded the Inaugural Family Historian of the Year. His profile can be found in the November/December 2007 Newsletter on page 3.

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## Upcoming Tour

"Sallying down the South Coast" - 16-17 March 2008. Visit Kiama Family History Centre, and stay overnight in Nowra. Bookings Essential - contact Jo Harris 9489 4393.

# History Notes

## Captain Cook Series

Many would have seen the television story on Captain Cook screened by the ABC before Christmas. The presenter was an English author, Vanessa Collingridge, and some may recall her saying she was a relative of George Collingridge (1847-1931) who had come to live in Australia in 1879. She said Collingridge had caused a stir in the 1890s by his writing in his book, *The Discovery of Australia*, that Captain Cook's "discovery" of the east coast of Australia had been preceded by the Portuguese. He wrote that they had charted all except the south coast of Australia before 1530 - some 250 years before Cook. It seems the substance of his claims is now hardly ever disputed. In the 1890s, however, Collingridge was seen as attacking the reputation of our heroic Captain Cook who had come to be popularly regarded as Australia's English discoverer and therefore a builder of the British Empire.

George Alphonse Collingridge de Tourcey was an artist, art teacher, engraver, historian and author. Though he lived predominantly in Hornsby and his Hornsby home was to become a chapel within Hornsby Hospital, his activities and influence spread widely and certainly impacted on Ku-ring-gai.

He was a man with many interests apart from his art. He was a founder of the first Esperanto club in Australia, a writer of history books and of children's books and a founder, with his brother Arthur, of the Royal Art Society of NSW.

One of his many legacies was a magazine he called *Progress* in which he passed comment on aspects of life, including notable homes, not only in Hornsby but also in nearby areas including Turramurra and "Waroonga". (He insisted that the insertion of the "h" into "Wahroonga" was cumbersome, "phonetically incorrect, unwarranted and in direct opposition to the genius of the native language"). More specifically he was described as the founder of the Wahroonga Progress Association. In 1913/1914 he had a studio in the vicinity of Mt William St, Gordon.

Collingridge's researches and publications led to his appointment as a knight commander of the Portuguese Order of St James and the first honorary member of the Royal Australian Historical Society. They also earned him an entry in the Australian Dictionary of Biography.

## Politically Incorrect?

Forty years ago one of our early members, Fred Pymble, told the Society some of his childhood recollections. Fred was the great-great grandson of the first Robert Pymble and his reminiscences drifted back to 1900 or thereabouts. He told us that in his days:

*... we children had few toys, and those mainly home made. I had a bundle of spears from the black boy plant, tipped with iron-bark – a deadly weapon – we used to*

*throw them with a womerah; my father was an expert with these things, boomerangs and all, and instead of playing "Indians" we played "Aborigines", blackening our faces with charcoal ... we had narrow escapes as spears ricocheted off a tree – it was all part of the set up and we had a great deal of enjoyment from it.*

Today's children would quickly be "corrected" if they cast Aborigines in such a role!

## A Deficient Local History

Many local histories have a ghost or two but Ku-ring-gai seems to disappoint on this score.

The nearest one we have "on file" is connected with *Peppercorn Cottage* in Pymble's Bannockburn Rd. We will not give an address for the still-standing cottage but the pioneering Reely (originally *Rhule*) family and their descendants lived there until well into the 20th century. Gay Halstead in *The Story of St Ives* tells how from about 1950 some new owners became convinced the home was haunted. Stories abounded of coffins floating in the orchard, blood seeping through the walls, a woman in period costume being sighted, a man falling down the well and dying a slow lingering death and a love-lorn lass who suicided but who could be sometimes be heard singing *Oh, Perfect Love*. So many things were claimed to have "happened" there that the cottage owner was able to charge people who came to visit the scene of these startling events.

Happily, though disappointingly for those who seek spice in our local history, a Mrs Mary Reely paid her two shillings and promptly announced it was all rubbish and completely untrue. And so ended Ku-ring-gai's brief tinkering with the supernatural and the owner's profitable enterprise.

We are reluctant to believe, however, that our readers cannot tell us of similar mystical events in Ku-ring-gai's past – or present for that matter. Though proof of the supernatural is not essential, plausibility would be a distinct advantage.

## An Unsolved Mystery

Life has always had its share of tragedies and many of which leave wounds that never heal. Sadly "closure", as it is commonly called today, is not always achieved.

One such tragedy befell the Bromley family in 1862. Andrew Bromley came to Australia in 1842 with his family, having been sponsored by Daniel Mathew who wanted him to work for him in the timber industry. This would presumably have been at St Ives. Time passed and Andrew became a notable orchardist in the district. He and his family played a significant part in developing the area and gave their name to today's Bromley Avenue.

However the Sydney Morning Herald of 23 September 1862 reported, under a heading *Suicide at Lane Cove*, that

“Andrew Bromley, a sawyer, long resident in this district, was discovered in a well of water on the property of the late Mr Spencer”. Some details are given of injuries he had suffered as a result of knife wounds. The item concluded that “deceased had been in a state of mental depression”.

Four days later the Herald wrote that Andrew’s son, Joseph, was later brought before the Water Police Court “on suspicion he had murdered Andrew Bromley, his father, at Lane Cove”. A week later, it was reported he had been found not guilty because the evidence was circumstantial.

The truth of Andrew’s death remains a mystery to this day. To add even further to what was clearly an appalling tragedy, neither of the likely explanations offered comfort to the family.

## Black First Fleeters

It is interesting to read that, somewhat surprisingly, there were as many as eleven black men who arrived as convicts on the First Fleet. This specifically came to our attention recently when our long-time member, John Brown, sent us a book titled *Black Founders* written by Cassandra Pybus, an historian and Professorial Fellow at the University of Sydney. *Black Founders* was published by the University of NSW Press Ltd in 2006.

The book explains these eleven had been slaves in America who supported the British during the American Revolution but who were later to find themselves neglected residents in England. Unemployed, they turned to crime which in turn led to their transportation.

Cassandra Pybus delved into the origins of each, the crimes they committed and their lives in Australia. Among them were our first bushranger who was known only by the name Caesar, the boatman Billy Blue of Blue’s Point and John Randall, the forebear of our own John Brown. This John Brown prospered and holds centre stage in the history of Wahroonga and Ku-ring-gai.

This Newsletter is not the place to examine the John Randall story in detail so we simply mention he was emancipated, joined the NSW Corps probably as a drummer, shot game for the tables of important citizens (possibly for George Johnson, William Paterson and Francis Grose) and became a constable in Surry Hills. Towards the end of his life he managed a property at what is now Mona Vale for Robert Campbell Jnr. He is believed to have died in 1822. Randall had at least two wives but also a daughter, Frances, borne by an unknown convict woman. Frances herself gave birth to John Brown in 1825 with the father probably being a William Brown, a convict who arrived in 1789.

This connection between John Randall and John Brown was obscure, or more likely carefully obscured, for over 150 years, and has only started to come to light over the last decade. *Black Founders* adds much more to the known facts and should certainly be read by anyone interested in filling these gaps or in the stories of these eleven black First Fleeters.

## “The Maples” Flats

Most Ku-ring-gai people know of the Killara Post Office on the corner of Werona Avenue and Locksley Street and have been saddened by the graffiti-induced ugliness it currently offers train travellers and motorists alike. How many, though, know of the large home on its opposite corner? Known as *The Maples*, it carries many stories.

The size and prominent position alone of the home are sufficient to stir the curiosity of the curious and none more so than that of two local amateur historians, John McDowell and Jim Murray. These two gentlemen happened to be boarding there in 1990 at a time when interest in our local history was at high ebb because of the celebrations marking the centenary of the North Shore Railway. When visiting an exhibition of railway photographs at the Council Chambers our two historians saw views of the Killara Railway Station. *The Maples* dominated the background and they wondered who it was had built such a large home. This set them on a journey to uncover the answer.

It seems *The Maples* was built by William Roberts and his wife Charlotte with the land being in Charlotte’s name. William had been born in Melbourne and had been reemployed by Griffith’s Bros Teas from a young age. He inherited money from his stepfather and this led him to buying shares in the Company. In due course he became a Director and in 1904 was transferred to operate the Sydney office. At this time they built *The Maples*. There were several children but Charlotte died in 1907. William married Mary Greenwell of a Killara family in 1909. In about 1917 the family moved to Wentworth Falls and *The Maples* was converted into flats but with the family retaining a presence there.



The Maples - 2008

### Can you help?

Browsing through our files we came across an oral history report on the blacksmiths at Pymble. One of them was Bill Olive whose business was alongside the present Pymble Hotel. This checks out but what caught our eye was a statement that he “used to race horses, and one of these he named *Sister Olive* after his daughter who was a nursing sister. *Sister Olive* won the Melbourne Cup”.

Always keen to link Ku-ring-gai with events of major importance to the nation, we searched and found that a *Sister Olive* did indeed win the Melbourne Cup. It happened in 1921 with the jockey E “Teddy” O’Sullivan and the trainer J Williams. We were dismayed, however, to read that the owner was shown as “F W Norman”. It often happens there is a germ of truth in fallible human memory so we wonder if there was a connection of some sort between Blacksmith Bill and the champion *Sister Olive*.

Perhaps we have a reader who can throw some light on this? (*Contact Max Farley*).

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# Family Matters

## 3 November Meeting

The 11am session attracted 23 members and featured our Overseas Resources. Jo Harris distributed a 2-page handout listing CDs and Books available, giving advice on first looking at the computer catalogue (updated to Oct 07).

The CDs include such items as the British 1881 Census and National Index, National Burial Index for England and Wales (13.2 million names), Vital Records of Scandinavia, Western Europe and British Isles, Irish Record Finder, Old Maps of England, New Zealand 1893 Electoral Roll.

Among the books are useful resources on the UK, England, Ireland, Scotland, Cornwall, USA, NZ, Germany, and Armed Services.

### 2pm Meeting

About 30 members attended the afternoon meeting, chaired by Jo Harris who encouraged members to visit our Society rooms, read and do research, not just when on duty. If rooms are busy, members can sit and read in the Museum.

### Reports on Events

Lyn Done reported on the recent successful weekend tour to Lithgow.

Jo foreshadowed a day tour to Penrith (changed to south coast weekend) on 16/17 March 2008 and weekend tour to Sofala, Hill End and Mudgee 27/28 September 2008.

### Australian Family Tree Connections magazine

Jo quoted from a touching response in a reader's letter: "I sit here typing to you with tears in my eyes, just to know that I have a big wide family out there."

SBS TV will begin a telecast of the UK series "Who Do You Think You Are" on Sunday 2 December 2007, with the first episode of the 6-part Australian series beginning on Sunday 13 January 2008.

### Book Accessions

Furnace Fire & Forge (history of Lithgow)  
Bound volumes of "The Historian", Society's journal  
James Meehan, surveyor  
1839 Strangers Guide to Sydney  
The Kurrajongs (recruiting march from Inverell in WW1)  
Currency Lass  
Heritage Handbook  
Men and A River (Richmond River)  
Eurobodalla (Moruya district)  
Architecture of Early Sydney  
Snowy Mountains and Its People  
Bathurst Pioneers  
Maitland, and Historic Buildings  
Melbourne Churches

### Book Reports from Members

Catherine Williams recommended "Funeral Nights" by Robert Larcombe, about wills, power of attorney, ground tenure, practical advice about funerals. She also described her own family publications.

Jo reported on:

- Call of the Highlands (Tenterfield story)
- Third Fleet Families
- Cameron Memorial Church, Glen Innes
- Nundle Cemetery
- Land Musters, Stock Returns and Lists, Van Diemens Land, 1803-1822
- The O'Reilly Story
- Stinson Air Disaster DVD
- Land of the Beardies (Glen Innes journals)

### Cemeteries

- Stella Green read descriptions of New York cemeteries - Green-Wood (established 1838) and Woodlawn (opened 1863).
- Julie Werner spoke about Moree cemetery with grave of Charles Dickens' son, also about cemetery where Sydney Town Hall now stands.
- Jo found quite by chance the grave of a relative of her husband in Lithgow cemetery.

The feature of the meeting was "My Spouse's First Ancestor in Australia" and the following members spoke:

- Jean Smith - Irish orphan Mary Mead, arrived in 'William and Mary' 1849 aged 17, potato famine victim, employed in Goulburn district 1854, married William George Lloyd, had 12 children, died 1876.
- Noel Blake - Albert Bruntnall born 1866 Wales, son of a blacksmith, became Salvation Army officer, was sent to Melbourne then Sydney, marriage performed by General William Booth. Later became prominent Methodist, MP, Colonial Secretary, Minister for Public Instruction and Public Service.
- Diana Rose - Rose forebear arrived 1831 to work in Union Bank. Diana is busy feeding information back to Nairn in Scotland. (Usually the other way round!)
- Elaine Turnidge - German ancestors came from Rhine River area. Grandmother and mother born in Albury, graves in Pioneer Cemetery. She showed her husband's watercolour portraits; he took up painting 3 years before his death.
- Joy Walker - Walker family from Stonehouse, Lanarkshire, William Walker born 1826. Came to Melbourne 1879 in 'Lochvenachar', nearly froze in Southern Ocean, then to Sydney in 'Ly-Ee-Moon', became tailor in Balmain.
- Alan King - While visiting old bookshop in Guyra, asked if they had "Men of Our Times" which



contained photo of forebear John Chisholm. Shop owner had a copy which was falling apart and he sold Alan the pages about John Chisholm. John tried farming, became first Constable at Kiama Police Station.

Jo Harris - John Jude, 1795-1865, married 1818 had 3 children, agricultural worker, convicted of theft of ducks, transported for 7 years in 'Guildford', assigned to William Cox at Bathurst, received Ticket of Leave 1828, became landholder on Castlereagh River. Jude is a Walloon name - Walloons were Protestants persecuted in Belgium; John's family went to River Cam in England.

The raffle of pre-loved books was won by Jenny Joyce who chose "A History of the North Shore".

### Family History Christmas Party

On Saturday 1st December the Family History Group had their last meeting of the year and their party at Tulkiyan, the Historic Arts & Crafts home at 707 Pacific Highway, Gordon. The meeting itself was kept fairly short and was followed by those present breaking into groups for a tour around the house. After the tour the Christmas party began with much cheer and convivial company. Unfortunately poor weather made it less than ideal for a tour of the gardens, but despite that, the day was greatly enjoyed by all those present.

Report by Jenny Joyce

### Thanks - Lyn Done

Our member Lyn Done wrote an article on Family History for the November 2007 issue of the Sydney Observer in which she "reveals the secrets of tracing your family history". Lyn pointed out that "membership of a family history group comes into its own ... Ku-ring-gai Historical Society research rooms are situated in the old Gordon Public School ... they house an extensive library and computer records". Lyn then gave details of our meeting times and describes us as a "thriving and lively group led by Jo Harris. Very well said, Lyn. We could not have done the slightest bit better ourselves. Thank you.

### QUIZ

Which suburb of Ku-ring-gai are these parks and reserves?

1. Abbotsholme Glen?
2. Lovers Jump Reserve?
3. Halfpenny Park?
4. Regimental Park?
5. Clive Cameron Grove?
6. Seven Little Australians Park?
7. Loyal Henry Park?
8. Sir Robert Menzies Park?
9. Princess Park?
10. Selkirk Park?

## Speakers for 2008 General Meetings

- Wed 16 Jan. **JOAN WEBB**  
**Eccleston du Faur**  
The life of this almost forgotten public figure, the driving force behind the creation of the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and other venues.
- Wed. 20 Feb. **STEVEN CARRUTHERS**  
**Japanese Submarine Raiders 1942**  
A timely talk on the wartime attack on Sydney harbour from the author of *Australia under Siege*.
- Wed. 19 Mar. **PETER LALOR**  
**The Sydney Harbour Bridge**  
Eight years to complete at a cost of £6,000,000. Hear the story from Peter Lalor, author of *The Bridge*.
- Wed. 16 Apr. **DAVID BRANIGAN**  
**T W Edgeworth David**  
Celebrated geologist. Antarctic pioneer and man of many parts. Edgeworth David's life was extraordinary by any standards. Dr David Branigan's impressive biography is the fruit of many decades' research.
- Wed. 21 May **SCOTT ROBERTSON**  
**Inter-War housing in Ku-ring-gai**  
Architect Scott Robertson will repeat his illustrated talk from the National Trust/Ku-ring-gai series run in 2006.
- Sat. 21 Jun **PAULINE CURBY**  
**& VIRGINIA MacLEOD**  
**Under the Canopy: Ku-ring-gai 1906-2006**  
The authors of Ku-ring-gai Council's commissioned centenary publication will explore themes in Ku-ring-gai's natural and man-made history.
- Sat. 19 Jul **CAROL BAXTER**  
**Two Sydney Scandals of the 1820s**  
The Jane New scandal, a daring convict bank robbery – and more – will feature in this talk from researcher and author Carol Baxter.
- Sat. 16 Aug **PETER BRADLEY**  
**Ben Hall**  
Infamous bushranger, or wronged man? Forbes-bred Peter Bradley grew up hearing tales of his distant relative and set out to find the truth in his *Judas Covenant*.
- Wed. 17 Sep **ROBIN WALSH**  
**Lachlan Macquarie's Eastern Travels**  
The subject of a recent exhibition at Macquarie University's library, exploring its namesake's 1807 sojourn in the Ottoman, Persian and Russian Empires.
- Wed. 15 Oct **TONY CUNEEN**  
**The Upper North Shore in World War 1**  
While writing about Beecroft's involvement in the Great War, Tony's research covered a much broader area which he will draw on for this talk.
- Sat. 15 Nov **PAUL STORM**  
**Handling History**  
A return visit from Paul Storm of the Willoughby Historical Society in the form of a popular "show and tell" demonstration of Australianiana in the applied arts.

## Copy for Newsletter

General copy for publication should be lodged with Kerrin Cook at lindsaykerrin@bigpond.com **as early as possible** but no later than 7<sup>th</sup> of the month (except November and 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:

Lyn Roseby - Turramurra  
Ken Todd - St Ives  
Marilyn Mason - Wahroonga  
Carol Field - St Ives

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

## Quiz Answers

1. Killara
2. Wahroonga
3. Turramurra
4. Killara
5. Wahroonga
6. Lindfield
7. Roseville
8. Wahroonga
9. Lindfield
10. Killara

## Computer System Upgrade Training

Over the Christmas break the computer system has been reworked and a completely new interface installed along with many new and additional resources.

To learn more about these changes, training sessions will be held on Monday 28th Jan, Tuesday 29th Jan, Thursday 31st Jan and Friday 1st February. One-off sessions will be held at 10.30 am to 12 noon and 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm each day. This will be "hands on" which makes **BOOKING ESSENTIAL**. All Volunteers please try to attend.

Contact Jo Harris on 9489 4393

## 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 28 Jan, Tues 29 Jan, Thurs 31st and Fri 1 Feb -  
Training on new computer System

Sat 2 Feb Family History Meeting  
11 am - Members Discussion  
2 pm - *The brick walls I have climbed*

Wed 20 Feb 7.45 pm KHS General Meeting  
Speaker - Steven Carruthers  
Topic - *Japanese Submarines raiders 1942*

Sat 1 Mar Family History Meeting

Sat/Sun 15-16 Mar Tour to South Coast

Wed 19 Mar 7.45 pm KHS General Meeting  
Speaker - Peter Lalor  
Topic - *The Sydney Harbour Bridge*

## Administration

President	Kevin Callinan	9983 1525
Vice Presidents	Ann Barry	9144 6480
	Jo Harris	9489 4393
Treasurer	Doug Milne	9487 2853
Secretary	Don Fifer	9482 4613
Immed. Past President	Max Farley	9499 7113
Committee members	Kerrin Cook	9416 2586
	Helen Davies	9498 3754
	Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
	Jenny Joyce	9440 2131
	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

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