



# 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 May Meeting

Formal business on the night was brief with President Kevin Callinan mentioning just some of the many current activities. These included the continuing scope for even more volunteers to join those already participating in a range of projects including Oral History, the St Ives Festival on the Green, photographing headstones at St Johns cemetery and the ongoing task of putting our records into first-class shape for preservation. He reported, too, on family history matters including the coming course for beginners, for near beginners and for those who want to develop more research skills. He referred, too, to the forthcoming Day Tour to Ryde and arrangements for the special lunch for Volunteers being arranged for 16 June.

Beverley Dunstan then introduced our Guest Speaker, Professor Brian Fletcher, who spoke on:

### Myth, Reality and the Founding of Australia

In his address, Professor Brian Fletcher dealt with the controversies that have arisen concerning the reasons for the establishment of the colony in eastern Australia in 1788 and also on the background of the convicts sent to New South Wales.

Brian emphasised that there is limited information in the official documents concerning the decision to send convicts to Botany Bay in particular. There is clear evidence that the British Government had been assessing other possible destinations for some time, but for various reasons all had been rejected. A number of reasons for establishing the colony were canvassed at the time and later. These related to future trade, forestalling the French, and naval strategy. On balance, the evidence suggests that the desire to relieve Britain of the convict burden was the overriding reason. It had one particular advantage in that the convicts would be a source of cheap labour. In contrast to the lack of official documentation prior to the actual founding of New South Wales, the first seventy years of its history after 1788 has been extensively recorded and is readily available in *Historical Records of Australia* and *Historical Records of New South Wales*.

Although there is also plenty of documentary information on the performance and treatment of convicts after arriving in the colony, it is only comparatively recently that Mollie Gillen's *Founders of Australia*, (first published in 1989),

## Coming Meetings

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

Saturday 21 July

2pm – GENERAL MEETING

Guest Speaker: Trevor Patrick

Topic: In Search of the Pennant Hills

*(The story of the people who influenced the settlements along the hills on the north shore of the Parramatta River – 1788-1906)*



“Thomas Pennant (1726-1798)”

Afternoon tea will be available  
Visitors welcome

### NEXT FAMILY HISTORY MEETING

Saturday 7 July

11am Looking at

*NSW Government Gazettes*

*1914 -1918 Military Rolls for London*

*1863 -1913 Royal Navy Crew lists*

*Bathurst Pioneers (if time permits)*

2pm General Meeting

Members Talks:

- David Wilkins (*Publishing Your Family History*)

- Fay Murphy (*Connections with Complications – Consanguinity*)

Afternoon tea will be available

gave the criminal background of all convicts in the First Fleet. This study confirmed that most of the crimes would now receive only a fine or a short gaol sentence. The occasional depiction of convicts as degraded criminals applies mostly to those who committed secondary crimes and were sent to penal settlements such as Port Arthur. The majority of convicts were assigned to settlers and led useful productive lives. Many Australians are now proud to

boast a convict ancestor whereas, as recently as fifty years ago, convict names were sometimes erased from historical records.

Brian concluded by referring to the changed attitude to the settlement itself which has recently been designated by Aboriginal activists and their supporters as an invasion. He also noted the differing interpretations by historians of the relations between the settlers and the Aborigines as emphasised in the current 'history wars'. This type of dialogue between past and present is likely to continue and hopefully will gradually explode past myths and establish an agreed reality.

- based on notes taken by Don Fifer

## Thank you Ryde



*St Anne's Church at the Ryde Village with the old Courthouse in the foreground (photo – Elaine Turnidge)*

The Society's Day Tour to Ryde on Sunday 20 May was, according to all reports, thoroughly enjoyed by our members. Ryde, as we know, played a significant part in the very early days of the colony and echoes of those days remain after over 200 years. We are grateful to our sister Society, the Ryde District Historical Society, for giving their time to tell of Ryde's history and for showing us many historic buildings and places of interest. Beyond that, Ryde members were extremely hospitable in providing us with morning and afternoon teas beyond compare. Thank you, Ryde.

## Quiz

1. Where, if at all, was there an Empire Theatre in Ku-ring-gai?  
(a) Lindfield (b) Roseville (c) Gordon (d) not in Ku-ring-gai at all.
2. What was "Noonan's Platform"?  
(a) An early name for the Wahroonga Railway Station.  
(b) The colloquial name for the pulpit in the Catholic Church at Lindfield when Father Patrick Noonan was the priest.  
(c) The platform from which Lindfield's eccentric Mick Noonan harangued the Sunday crowd in the Sydney Domain in the 1930s.

## Pymble Turramurra Kindergarten

The kindergarten in Handley Avenue is nearly fifty years old and is preparing a printed celebration to celebrate its birthday. It is looking for photos and stories of the kindergarten from the 1960s and 70s as well as old photos

of the surrounding area of Bannockburn Road, Princes Street etc. If you can help please phone the Director on 9449-1445 or email to [pymbleturramurrakindy@bigpond.com](mailto:pymbleturramurrakindy@bigpond.com)

## Our Volunteers Thanked

The Society is blessed to have such a large band of enthusiastic volunteers with a wide range of skills and interests. They give their time freely and gain enjoyment, friendship, satisfaction and opportunities to extend their knowledge. Though none seek thanks, all members of the Society greatly value the work each and every volunteer does not just for the Society and fellow members but for the community generally. In recognition of the important role they play they were all invited to a special informal lunch, just for volunteers, prior to the General Meeting on 16 June. Sixty or so attended and it was a great opportunity to chat and share ideas.

## Telling of History

The Australian Storytellers Guild in conjunction with the National Trust is planning an eight-week course to train volunteers on presenting historical stories. "Living history presentations" are now operating successfully for school groups at Old Government House and Experiment Farm. The Trust is keen to expand the concept and see it extend to other properties, personalities and events not only for school groups but for visitors generally. We recall, for example, an excellent presentation about Ku-ring-gai's own history which was staged by a group of young "actors" at last year's launch of *Under the Canopy – a Centenary History of Ku-ring-gai*. The course starts on 17 September and costs \$100. Society members would be welcome to attend. Bookings to Jo Henwood (mobile 040 88 75 137. Email [jo7hanna@optusnet.com.au](mailto:jo7hanna@optusnet.com.au) or Vivien Ward on 9362 1383.

## New Cabinet now installed

We recently mentioned having received a cash donation to allow us to have a new cabinet made for the hallway outside our Rooms. It has now been delivered and put in place. Its purpose is to house memorabilia dealing with Australia's wartime involvements. President Kevin Callinan would be pleased to hear from anyone who has items which may be suitable for display.

## The "Boundary Tree"

Recently a question arose about the precise location, date and naming of the "Boundary Tree" which Les Thorne mentioned in the Foreword to his 1968 *History of the North Shore, Sydney*. The location is believed to be adjacent to Mona Vale Road at St Ives and close to the Wildflower Garden. A trig station was nearby which in earlier times marked the convergence of three parishes – Manly Cove, Broken Bay and Gordon. These questions are now being researched with the help of professional surveyors and others with special knowledge of relevant past events. We expect a report shortly.

## Recent Acquisitions

The following are some of the recent additions to our Collection.

*Thanks Girls and Goodbye – the Australian Women’s Land Army 1942 1943* - (Sue Hardisty). Penguin Books (1990). 230 pages. Indexed.

*Great War Memorabilia – Stan Cork and Win Turnbull*. Their letters and postcards to and from home during WW1. Arranged by KHS members Ken and Gwen Knox [Gwen is of the Cork family]. (April 2007).

*The History of Granville – 1919* (Thomas Fowlie). Published by the Granville Historical Society (2001). 196 pages. Indexed.

*The Port Phillip Almanac and Directory for 1847*. Compiled by J J Mouritz and printed by the “Herald”, Little Collins St.

*Genealogy Research Outline – Germany*. Family Search – Uniting Families.

*GRAMMAR – A History of the Sydney Grammar School 1819-1988* (Clifford Turney). Sydney Grammar School in association with Allen and Unwin (1989). 490 pages. Indexed.

## What’s in a Name?

Perhaps someone has already done it but if so it has not been well publicised.

When researching our local history there are many confusions caused and no doubt errors made because districts on the north shore of Sydney which now carry a familiar name such as *Lane Cove*, often used to be known by some other familiar name. *Lane Cove*, for example was part of what was *Hunters Hill*.

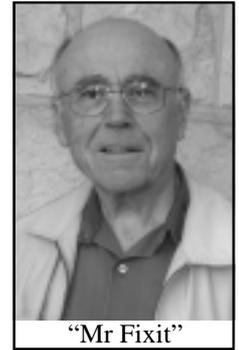
The other day we were collecting information about our early local post offices (using Les Thorne’s *North Shore* book as a starting point) and read that before the 1850s all the mail for this side of the Harbour had to be obtained from the GPO in Sydney. From the late 1850s things improved and mail could be had from *St Leonards* – but it was not really *St Leonards*. It was really *North Sydney* because today’s *St Leonards* was then known as *North Sydney*. Or was *North Sydney* known as *St Leonards*?

Then, in 1860, mail could be got from *Lane Cove* Post Office but it was not really *Lane Cove* as we now know it because *Gordon* was called *Lane Cove* back then. By 1879 our *Lane Cove* Post Office had to be renamed the *Gordon* Post Office because mail was mistakenly being sent for collection to another *Lane Cove* Post Office about eight miles away.

This is all very clear isn’t it. A handbook listing all the names with a brief story of the boundaries of each and how each was named and when and why, together with any earlier name or names, would be extremely handy. We will not hold our breath but maybe someone can help. Maybe.

## Member Profile

### Peter Bidencope



Peter joined the Society in 1990 and is always helping behind the scenes quietly, reliably and efficiently. He is possibly best known to many as the man who handles our microphones and tape recordings at General Meetings. Amongst his many other talents, however, is having an extremely practical mind when it comes to fixing “things” as well as capable hands that can make “things” work when they break down.

Peter spent his early childhood on his father’s grazing property near Coonamble and, aged 8, began as a boarder at Lochiel Junior Grammar School then operating in Kardella Avenue, Killara. He became a boarder at Knox, but when his father died the family moved to Killara, and Peter became a day pupil. After obtaining his Leaving Certificate he worked in the manufacture and sales of heavy-duty electrical switchgear – especially of radio receivers and radiograms.

In 1955 he did a two year training course in England with Mullard Limited, then Britain’s largest manufacturer of electronic valves and picture tubes. In 1960, back in Australia, he changed from electronics to building materials with CSR as Personal Assistant to the General Sales Manager and compiled a seven-volume Products Manual for management and sales staff. This was followed as an architectural sales representative with the responsibility of promoting the Company’s products to private architects, engineers and specialist consultants. In 1980 he joined an Australian Trade Mission to promote the Company’s products in Saudi Arabia.

Early retirement opportunities were being offered by CSR in 1982 and Peter joined a smaller concern, Swan Products, for almost five years before “tapering” off into full retirement. This gave him more time to follow up private interests, hobbies and some voluntary work.

Peter has a long-term association with the Killara Congregational (now Uniting) Church since school days in 1936 and he married Judy Kingsbury there in 1959. They settled into their St Ives home and raised three sons. For many years he has been responsible for most church maintenance matters, including electrical, organ and sound systems.

After sighting an incorrectly dated historical photograph some twenty years ago, Peter contacted our Society and soon became a member. An interest in photography led Ku-ring-gai historian, Margaret Wyatt, to ask him to take photographs of properties in Gordon and St Ives which faced likely demolition. He soon noticed that the Society had problems with its sound equipment and offered help. He has since operated this equipment for us. For a period he also served on the committee and, being a practical hands-on individual, has been a *Mr Fixit* for the Society whenever “fixing” of furniture or anything else was needed. He has also constructed special items of equipment and refurbished display cases.

# History Notes

## Leonora

The name *Leonora Windsor* stands out in the list of those who received the first land grants in Ku-ring-gai before 1857 because she was the only woman. This naturally excites curiosity about her – a curiosity given added impetus when it is learnt that Leonora was the great great grandmother of Ethel Anderson of the Turramurra Wall Painters group (see our June Newsletter).

It turns out that Leonora was Dutch-born in about 1767 as Leonora de Yongh. She married Samuel Bridgeman Windsor who came of a wealthy English family. Samuel's cousin, the seventh Earl of Windsor, had been Governor of Jamaica and this led Samuel to settle on the Island of St Vincent where he became Judge Advocate. On his death, the widowed Leonora moved to Brussels but found it too cold and came to Sydney in the very early 1830s (no record of the arrival has been found) with her two married daughters, Leonora Bannatyne and Harriett Woodhouse. She initially lived with Harriett and her daughters in Lavender Bay. Unfortunately Harriett's husband, Dr Thomas Woodhouse, did not take kindly to colonial life and returned alone to England. Though well connected and not completely impoverished, Leonora felt it essential to earn income and, in company with another, established a brickworks. More will be said of this "another" shortly.

The brickworks was on the north side of the harbour and flourished because until then bricks had to be brought across the water. As time progressed, Leonora had a home of her own built for her by the same "another" mentioned earlier. It was next to the then new St Thomas's Church at North Sydney and she named her home *Windsor Lodge*. Though now demolished, it was still there in 1938.

It was in 1843 that Leonora purchased her 20 acre grant in Ku-ring-gai. Early on, grants had been given freely by the Governors but from 1831 could be purchased. Leonora's land had a frontage to the Lane Cove River and was on the western side of Little Blue Gum Creek near Fullers Bridge. It was later to be owned by Thomas Jenkins and now forms part of the Lane Cove National Park. This particular 20 acres was part of the 1000 acres which had been promised to our very early settler, William Henry, by Governor Bligh but after the promise was derailed by the 1808 Rum Rebellion other settlers moved in.

Now to revert to the "another". Who was he?

Among the "facts" are:

1. Ethel Anderson's daughter, Bethia Foott, wrote a biography of her mother, *Ethel and the Governors' General*, in which she says the man's name was John Bryson, that he was a convict and that Leonora promised to get him a ticket of leave if he would operate the brickworks and build her a home.

2. Bethia based a novel, *Leonora – an Indomitable Woman*, on the life of Leonora in which she named the convict Arran and said there was a street in St Leonards named after him on the site of the old brickworks. There is no street of that name.

3. In *The Upper Lane Cove: History, Heritage and Bibliography* (McLoughlin and Wyatt) it is recorded that a John Brian was in occupation at what seems to have been Leonora's 20 acres c1830. No likely John Brian appears in the records as a convict or in the 1828 census.

4. *The Convict Timber Getters of Pennant Hills* (Ralph Hawkins) has *John Brine* coming to Australia as a 23 year-old convict in 1818 and working at the Government's Pennant Hills Sawing Establishment in 1821. Since then he has not been traced so could have been the occupier though not the owner.

5. Records state that a John Bryson arrived as a Bounty Immigrant from Antrim, Ireland, on the ship *Susan* in 1839 (well after John Brian's recorded c1830 occupancy) with his wife, Mary Anne, and son Gregory. He was a carpenter and a founding Alderman of Willoughby Council in 1866.

6. Records at the Land Titles Office suggest that some time after 1843, Leonora's land at Lane Cove may have been transferred to a John Bryson.

7. A document in Willoughby Library says this John Bryson bought land on the Lane Cove River where the National Park is now, then built a house and planted an orchard.

8. There is a Bryson Street in Chatswood adjacent to where a John Bryson lived diagonally over from the Uniting Church on the corner of Mowbray Road. Though brickworks were in the vicinity no mention of one at this location has been found.

So who, if anyone, was the "another" who teamed with Leonora in establishing and operating the brickworks? What about him is fact and what fiction?

Leonora herself seems to have died in 1851, but like other facts about her, some verification is really desirable.

- Max Farley

## Kissing Point

In the course of the Society's Day Tour to Ryde on 20 May, we were reminded that Ryde had previously been known as *Kissing Point* because it was there that the river shallowed and boats headed to Parramatta touched, or "kissed", the bottom.

As we know, Ku-ring-gai has Kissing Point Road at Turramurra. How many realise, however, that it is the same Kissing Point and that Turramurra's Kissing Point Road was so named because it was the path, or track, to Ryde from the Ku-ring-gai area in the mid 1800s? As the booklet *Turramurra – A Special Place*, published by the Kissing Point Progress Association, puts it – "*There was much*

interchange between Ryde (*Kissing Point*) and *Ku-ring-gai*, and one pathway linking the two areas became *Kissing Point Road*, officially gazetted in 1858. A wooden bridge built across the river survived until the 1940s". Nowadays the road ends well before reaching the Lane Cove River.

Inevitably, either intentionally or in ignorance, the name *Kissing Point* has from time to time been locally applied to the area at the foot of *Kissing Point Road*. It has even been used in some street directories and appears in the name of parks and some local groups - such as the *Kissing Point Progress Association* itself. A proposal to officially call the lower section of South Turramurra *Kissing Point* was refused in 1958-59.

## Pearce's Corner

Anyone in *Ku-ring-gai* over the age of ten who does not know *Pearce's Corner* must surely have only recently arrived in the area. Mind you, even though it is in *Wahroonga*, *Pearce's Corner* is not strictly in *Ku-ring-gai* because *Ku-ring-gai* stops at the Freeway. Nevertheless, being, as it is, just a couple of stones' throw from *Wahroonga Railway Station*, we *Ku-ring-gai* people tend to have a proprietorial feeling toward *Pearce's Corner* which we hope our *Hornsby* neighbours can tolerate.

Why *Pearce's Corner*? Yes, there was someone called *Pearce* who gave it his name. *Aaron Pearce* came from *Buckinghamshire* as a 25 year-old convict in 1811 and in 1835 leased land from *Frederick Unwin* which he later bought. It was at the junction of "Lane Cove Rd" and *Pennant Hills Rd*. It is possible he was actually on the land before the formalities were processed, This was not unusual in those days. He built a slab hut near the corner on the western side of *Pennant Hills Rd*. *Aaron* was a timber getter and dug saw pits on the property and planted an orchard. In 1815 he had married another convict, *Ellen Holland*, and there were ten children marked down to them.

*Aaron* died in 1849 and *Ellen* in 1856. The *Pearce* name remained in the area for many years with two sons, *John* and *James*, both having homes at *Pearce's Corner* on the *Pacific Highway* opposite *St Pauls Anglican Church* in 1894.

## From our Collection

We have many, many books, documents and records in our Collection but not all are known to members by any means. From time to time we will put the spotlight on one of them and highlight a few of the many interesting facts they contain. Doing so may even spur readers to browse further.

Our first book is *Ku-ring-gai During War* compiled by *Margaret Wyatt* in 1997 for the *Bradfield Electorate Australia Remembers Oral History Project Committee*. The book had its genesis in a programme sponsored by *Department of Veteran Affairs* celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of *World War II*. *Margaret Wyatt* was *Council's Local Studies Librarian* and an active member of the *Society*. Many of those who did not live through those

times little realise just how *World War II* dominated everyday living.

The pages of *Ku-ring-gai During War* tell us:

\* The **Volunteer Defence Corps** (VDC) is claimed to have been born in the *Roseville-Lindfield* district as a result of a 1938 proposal from the *Roseville RSL*. The VDC was made up of ex-servicemen and others aged from 45 to 60.

\* The **Women's Air Training Corps** was formed in January 1940 and the legendary *Ku-ring-gai* resident *Nancy Bird Walton* was Commandant from May of that year.

\* **St Ives Showground** was occupied under *National Security Regulations*. A number of military units operated in the area. The 18<sup>th</sup> *Battalion*, known as the *Ku-ring-gai Regiment*, spent considerable time there and built a relief map of the area.

\* **Avondale Golf Club** lost part of its course in 1942 when the *Army* camped on the fifteenth fairway.

\* **Air raid sirens** were regularly tested at least once each week (Usually it was the steady "All Clear" siren that was sounded rather than the warning wail that alerted residents to take cover).

\* **Searchlights** criss-crossed in the skies every night.

\* A pylon on the **Roseville Bridge** had several holes drilled into it so gelignite could be inserted to blow up the bridge should the *Japanese* land on the northern beaches.

\* Many people and groups made **camouflage nets** to cover the gun placements that were everywhere.

\* **Voluntary Aid Detachments** made up of women (VADs) were formed to give medical assistance wherever needed. All members had to have a recognised *First Aid* and *Home Nursing Certificate*. The VADs worked at the *Lady Gowrie Red Cross Home* at *Gordon*, the *Neringah Red Cross Home* at *Wahroonga* and the *RAAF Station* at *Bradfield*.

\* *Ku-ring-gai* residents collected money to buy a **Gypsy Moth plane** for the *RAAF* in 1942. It saw service in *New Guinea*. The plane was the 1000<sup>th</sup> *Moth* built by *De Havilland* and named the *Too Tool* (*Aboriginal* for "bird").

\* **Munitions factories** making parts for precision instruments were set up in a home at 93 *Braeside Street*, *Wahroonga* and opposite the *Greengate* at *Killara*. The staff was mainly young women.

## The Bancroft Highway

In our *June Newsletter* we told of the foresighted *Eden Babbage* who became known in his day as *The Father of Roseville*. Even visionaries can be wrong as the following quote shows:

"I may mention also that *Bancroft Avenue (Roseville)* is destined to become in the near future to be the main road leading to *Middle Harbour*, over the water by a causeway and small bridge."

- letter from *E H Babbage* to *JC Lough* of *Ku-ring-gai Council*  
(24 May 1921)

# Family Matters

## 2 June Meeting

### 11am Session.

21 members were present at this session on Cemeteries. Jo Harris described the **Harleian Society** in London and its members' visits and collections of pedigrees from families and published them in a book "*The Visitation of London 1663-1664*". She suggested it could be the origin of the UK Society of Genealogists!

**Cemetery transcripts** are available including Bathurst, Rookwood, Waverley, Campbelltown, Camperdown, Cootamundra, Glen Innes, Hill End, Illawarra, Liverpool, Maitland, Newcastle, Orange, Shoalhaven, Sackville, and more.

The **Dern Index** was compiled by Mr and Mrs Dern who visited many country cemeteries and collected indexes available from headstones.

### 2pm General Meeting

#### **Reports**

Chairperson Jo Harris spoke to the 34 members present on the following

*Murrin Transcripts* reminder - NSW births to 1906, marriages to 1946, deaths to 1976.

*RAHS Journal* - article on Frederick Campbell of Yarralumla. *Turrumurra Memorial Gates* – new book available.

*The Huguenot newsletter* has a list of members' interests.

*Victoria BDMs* - revised access policy comes into effect later in 2007. Restriction periods on public access to birth and change of name records will increase from 75 to 100 years. CD and microfiche products containing records that are in breach of the 100 year restriction period will no longer be available for purchase. These include the Edwardian Index 1902 to 1913 and the Great War Index 1914 to 1920. More information on [www.bdm.vic.gov.au](http://www.bdm.vic.gov.au) and in the June issue of 'Australian Family Tree Connections' magazine.

*Queensland BDM "historical" indexes* (1800-1929) will be online in the next few weeks. No firm date has been announced. It has not yet been said if there will be a charge. More details will be on [www.justice.qld.gov.au/bdm](http://www.justice.qld.gov.au/bdm)

#### **Books**

A number of recently obtained books were tabled for members to look at.

#### **Members' Reports**

A speaker at SAG seminar on *City of Sydney Archives* stressed the importance of Assessment Books available in Town Hall House, 456 Kent St. An appointment is necessary. The *Museum of Sydney* has an exhibition of prints and paintings of Old Sydney.

*Members Interest* and *Shipping Arrival* forms are available for completion.

*Maitland FHS* has photos of headstones available.

#### **Guest speaker**

John Jewell gave a fascinating and entertaining talk and Powerpoint slide show on the problems and pitfalls of his family research.

After retirement in 1991, John decided to do family history research to leave something behind about his family's origins. He started with a few certificates then found a 13-year-old letter at SAG from an American cousin seeking contact. John's great-grandfather had come from America having heard that NSW had a dry climate. Sadly he died after 6 months in Goulburn. John's great-grandmother was left with small children. She returned to Sydney and married another passenger from their ship.

John tracked down his US cousin and her brother. Ultimately they all met and John was given two letters written from Australia by John's great-grandfather to his young daughter who had to be left behind in America.

John and his wife Helen also went to the Shetland Islands where her people had originated. He met a man whose father used to fish with Helen's grandfather. Helen's grandmother was second housemaid to Lord Hopetoun when he was Governor of Victoria. She later became a children's nurse at Government House, Sydney, where she married.

After all the information was assembled, John described his decisions on selecting a family history program, what paper to use for printing (Reflex Archival Paper V, alternative high gloss white Nova) and how many copies of the book to print. His immediate family received a publication in two volumes plus a DVD/CD back-up. Family members across the globe received smaller versions as 'thank you' for their input.

A vote of thanks was given by Chris Radford.

The book raffle was won by Ken Knox who chose Les Thorne's "*A History of the North Shore from 1788 to the Present*".

- this report is based on notes by Stella Green

#### **Well said Christine**

Our member, Christine Edwards, had these words in a letter to the Editor published in the June issue of *Family Tree Connections*.

"... I have been a member of the Society of Australian Genealogists and also the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society for some years and recommend that all researchers join a Society. Societies enable us to make connections, friends and even (as I did) discover long lost cousins....."

We could not have put it better ourselves.

## Some Sites to See

The following **Shipping Websites** are recommended and can lead to a lot of information in areas you may not have thought about.

\* *Convictions and Mariners* and *Ships in Australian Water*  
Easiest access for both these sites is to type the title into Google, or enter through the **State Library of NSW Family History site / Shipping** - previously highly recommended in the Newsletter.

\* [www.yesteryears.co.nz/shipping/passlists](http://www.yesteryears.co.nz/shipping/passlists) for those interested in New Zealand passenger list 1800 - 1900. Also has some ship pictures.

\* [www.members.optushome.com.au/lenorefrost/shipslog.html](http://www.members.optushome.com.au/lenorefrost/shipslog.html) If you have trouble opening this page type 'ships log' into Google and it will take you to the site without any trouble.

\* Australian Maritime Museum [www.anmm.gov.au](http://www.anmm.gov.au). Click **Collections and Research** then **Vaughan Evans Library**. Select **Research guides** for access to a series of shipping related subject guides.

\* **Two other general sites** of interest are:

[www.simonknott.co.uk](http://www.simonknott.co.uk) When the page opens, click on the photograph to get to his 'Home Page' if you have an interest in finding photographs of churches in Norfolk and Suffolk.  
[www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au) Click **About Sydney** and then **History and Archives** and follow the prompts to your area of interest.

- collated by Lyn Done

## What about James Cherry?

Cherry Street in Turramurra is said to be named after an orchardist, James Cherry, who lived there. He is listed in Electoral Rolls and Directories between 1859 and 1875 but his birth, death and family connections have proven hard to pin down. Has anyone researched the family or come across his name? Are there any descendants to be found who may throw light on him? Any information to the Editor would be welcome.

## Family History Course starts on 13 July

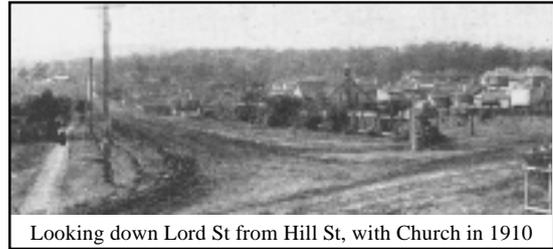
The new 8-week "hands-on" Course starts at 10.30am on Friday 13 July. These are for people (not restricted to members) keen to know how to go about researching family history. They have proven very popular. The Course will run on successive Fridays, finishing each day at about lunch time though experience has shown that the enthusiasm of those present sometimes results in informal discussion running on past that time. Assignments will be set each week. The cost is \$80 and this covers Lecture Notes. There are still some vacancies – please call Jo Harris on 9489 4393.

## AFFHO 2009 Congress

A note for your diary. The 2009 Congress of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations is set for Auckland on 16-29 January 2009. Its formal title is the 12<sup>th</sup> Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry. It would be worthwhile to pay a visit to [www.affhocongress2009.org](http://www.affhocongress2009.org). It shows that planning for the Congress is already well under way.

## Built Heritage

### Roseville's First Church



Looking down Lord St from Hill St, with Church in 1910

This year the Uniting Church at No.7 Lord Street, Roseville, celebrates its centenary. This was Roseville's first church.

On 8 July 1907 a number of parishioners purchased the land from George A Winzer, who had bought just over 46 acres from Anne Archbold. These parishioners were Percy Newman Slade, Ernest G Hayes, George Hough, William Leithead, Robert S Callaghan, Howard Fleming, Samuel B Dowsett, Samuel P Woodford, Robert W Dawson, Francis RM Vickery, Frederick T Mason, Horatio J Currell and Percy C Raggatt.

*The Sydney Morning Herald* of 10 September 1907 reported:

"A commencement has been made in the erection of a new church close to the Roseville railway station. ... it promises to be an important addition to that rising suburb, from the fact that its picturesque outline will stand out unobstructed by other buildings. The church is being erected by the Methodists of that district, designed to accommodate a congregation of 140 persons. ... The style of architecture is based on the 'Early English', with modifications to suit the climate, principally in the treatment of the gables and eaves, which are to overhang considerably. The structure is of brick on stone foundations, with a judicious use of stone in the construction of the buttresses. The roofs are to be covered with tiles, and a distinguishing feature of the main roof will be an hexagonal turret that will greatly add to the general effect. The plans were prepared by Mr. William Slade, architect, and the builders are Messrs. H. Dengate and Son."

William Slade was a half-brother of Percy Newman Slade and in 1914 was the architect for the Methodist Church in Tryon Road, Lindfield. In 1907 Dengate also built the Methodist Church at St Ives, plans for which had been prepared by PN Slade.

The first service in the Roseville church was held on 8 December 1907. A number of alterations and additions were later made to accommodate the growing community. In 1935 Architect Norman McPherson was commissioned to design a new church. This was to provide seating accommodation for 250 people with extra space available for seating at least another 50. The foundation stone was laid on 7 July 1935; the builder was Roseville contractor Sidney C Molineaux. It was necessary to remove portion of the original church but the remainder served as a hall until 1989-when it was replaced.

McPherson worked on a number of churches in Ku-ring-gai; these included alterations to the Methodist Church at Lindfield, additions to the Turramurra Methodist Church and the Roseville Congregational Church, and the design of the new stone Anglican Church of St Swithun's at Pymble.

- 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 Member

An administrative situation meant we were able to process only one new member this month and we are very pleased to welcome *Grant Bowden*.

### A Slight Delay!

Our Newsletter this month is a shade later than usual. Your Editor shares time between two homes – one at Gordon and the other on the Central Coast. As you know, the latter experienced extreme weather conditions during the last couple of weeks which meant being flooded in for three days, without a phone for three days, without fresh water for five days and without electricity (and therefore no computer or emails) for those same five days. An acceptable explanation?

### Quiz Answers

1. (c) It was at 43 Werona Avenue, Gordon, on the northern side of the Park. It first appeared in the Sands Directory in 1917 meaning it was there in 1916. It continued as the Empire until a new building was erected in 1922 and named the *Gordon Theatre*. It changed to the *Kings Cinema* in 1936 and closed in 1963. Earlier there had been an open air picture show in a paddock diagonally opposite St Johns Church. 2. (a) Even if you did not know, you surely guessed this one. *Noonan's Platform* was the name given to Wahroonga Station during its construction before being briefly named Pearce's Corner and then Wahroonga Station. Patrick Noonan was an Irish gentleman from Tipperary who had been the owner of the land. He had lived with his wife Margaret (Ryan) and their ten children in what is now Wahroonga Park.

### Research Centre Hours

The Society's Research Centre is at 799 Pacific Highway, Gordon, adjacent to the Ku-ring-gai Library. The Centre is open from 10am to 2pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday (except the first Saturday of each month when members have a meeting). It is closed over the Christmas period and on public holidays.

## Diary Dates

Sat 7 July	Family History	- 11am Discussion of a number of topics
		- 2pm General Meeting
		Speakers : David Wilkins, Fay Murphy
Fri 13 July	10.30am.	Commencement of 8-week Family History Course
Sat 21 July	2pm	KHS General Meeting: Speaker - Trevor Patrick Topic - Pennant Hills
Mon 30 July	10.30am	Computers and Family Tree Maker Session
Sat 4 Aug		Family History
		- 11am Members Discussion
		- 2pm General Meeting
Sat 18 Aug	2pm	KHS General Meeting Speaker -Lesley Muir Topic - Sydney in the 1860s & 1870s

## Administration

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