



KU-RING-GAI HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Incorporating the Ku-ring-gai Family History Centre • Patron: The Mayor of Ku-ring-gai

Affiliated with the Royal Australian Historical Society, the National Trust of Australia (NSW),
the Society of Australian Genealogists, and the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc.

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Monthly Newsletter

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Festival on the Green

To help celebrate the Centenary of Local Government in 2006 Council has requested the Society to staff a 'Social History Tent' at the Festival on the Green **Sunday 18th June**. Council has hired a 6m x 6m tent for this purpose.

In conjunction with Council we are encouraging people to come along with their collection of memorabilia and photographs of living in Ku-ring-gai. In addition we will be interviewing people to record their 'Oral History' and recollections of living in Ku-ring-gai. These interviews will be friendly discussions and assist those who are uncomfortable about 'putting it in writing'.

This is a unique opportunity for the Society to showcase its capabilities. We will be showcasing:

- Development of Local Government in Ku-ring-gai – A display will be mounted highlighting key aspects of the past 100 years of Local Government
- Scanning and reformatting photographs and memorabilia – where people are unable to 'gift' these items to the Society we will photocopy or scan the records and photographs onto computer for addition to our collection
- Oral History recordings – for those people who have stories to tell of living in Ku-ring-gai, be that of earlier times or during various stages of transition in development of Ku-ring-gai. We will be conducting interviews to record those recollections. These interviews may form the basis of a more comprehensive interview at a later date.
- Family History – Jo Harris will be operating her laptop with an extensive range of databases encouraging those interested in family history to pursue their genealogical research

This is a comprehensive undertaking and will require volunteers to assist in documenting what people may bring along and the conduct of Oral History recordings. *A number of members have volunteered; however, many hands make light work and more volunteers are welcome.* We will try to schedule a time that suits your availability. Please contact Kevin Callinan tel. 9983 1525. Training will be provided commencing 11.00am on Sat. 27th May.

Please promote The 'Social History Tent' amongst your neighbours and friends, in particular those that you know

Coming Meetings

Next Society General Meeting

Saturday 17 June

Prior to the General Meeting - 12 noon

Volunteers Luncheon

General Meeting - 2pm

Guest Speaker: Stephen Szabo

Topic: *Heraldry in Australia*

Stephen is an Heraldic Consultant and Editor of "Heraldic News". He will give an overview of the origins of heraldry in Europe and its arrival in Australia with the First Fleet.

Afternoon Tea will be available

Visitors welcome

Next Family History Meeting

Saturday 3 June

11am - Members' research

2pm - FH General meeting

Share a Document

Members will be requested to bring a Letter, Post card, Will, Service Record, Naturalisation Certificate or any one piece of paperwork that is significant to their family history.

Afternoon Tea will be available

Visitors welcome

have been living in Ku-ring-gai for some time and may have a story to tell or, photographs and memorabilia that they may be willing to gift to the Society or be prepared to enable the Society to copy and add to our collection.

As we proceed with the preservation program not only will the items and information collected be preserved for future generations but also accessibility will be improved by adding to our catalogue and digitised photographic collection. Donors may be assured that the information will not disappear into a 'black hole' but will be available and accessible to researchers in the future.

9th April Meeting – Bushells

President Kevin opened the meeting and brought members up to date on a number of matters currently being handled by the Society, following which our Speaker, Susie Khamis, spoke about the advertising methods Bushells Tea used to build its market in Australia.

Teas in Australia traditionally had a “bush” image but Bushells decided to adopt a different approach and promote the notion that its tea represented an elegant lifestyle for sophisticated consumers, marked by quality and good taste, with a suggestion of the exotic. This was designed to appeal not only to city dwellers but also to those in country areas. Rural tea drinkers were being given the opportunity to share the genteel customs of fashionable well groomed city people. The message was modernity, high society and prestige.

By 1929 Australia had become the world’s largest tea-drinking nation. However, 1929 saw the beginning of the Depression. Bushells sought to retain its image of being a “cut above the rest” but allied this with the promotion of thrift. It removed symbols of wealth from its advertising and emphasised household competence. It advertised that good tea is cheap and that common tea was wasteful because more had to be used to make it stronger to hide the bad taste. Offers to housewives to save Bushells tea labels to exchange for household goods proved popular and recognised customers’ need for frugality with their desire to retain the notion of elegance they had been encouraged to associate with the Bushells brand.

Volunteers

We now have over 70 Volunteers who give their time and talents for the well being of the Society and Ku-ring-gai community. Our May meeting fell during Volunteers Week and we were delighted to pay tribute to them all.

Luncheon 12 noon - 17 June 2006

All our Volunteers are invited to a light lunch in appreciation of their efforts during the past year. Every Volunteer is invited to come along and take this opportunity to meet and chat to other Volunteers. The lunch will precede the monthly meeting which will start at 2 pm. Volunteers are asked to contact Ann Barry to confirm your attendance Tel 91446480 or e-mail a.barry@optusnet.com.au

Welcome to New Members

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

Marion Dundon (Pymble); Patricia Harvey (Thornleigh); Joan Mudie (Hornsby) and Alastair Spate (Chatswood).

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

“Ku-ring-gai”

Last issue we mentioned the concrete map at the St Ives Showground and how it was constructed during WW2 “by the 18th Battalion (*The Ku-ring-gai Regiment*)”. Stuart Doyle, a valued member, whom unfortunately we do not see often enough, gently mentioned to us that it is the “*Kuring-gai* Regiment” not the “*Ku-ring-gai* Regiment”. It is just one of those things, just as a little further north we have Mount *Kuring-gai*. In like vein, Margaret Wyatt tells us she too often sees “*Ku-ring-gai*” wrongly written as “*Ku-Ring-Gai*”.

Recent Acquisitions

SHIPWRECKS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA 1836/1875. Ronald Parsons (1995). 76 pages.

A CLOUD OF WITNESSES – Tryon Rd Uniting Church 1896-1996. Geoffrey Stacey. Published by the Lindfield Tryon Rd Uniting Church Centenary Committee (1995). 200 pages.

THE BROWN AND THE YELLOW – The Sydney Girls High School 1883-1983 (1983). Lileth Norman. 274 pages.

THE STORY OF GALLIPOLI. Bill Gamage. Penguin Aust (1981). 160 pages.

DISCOVERING PRAHRAN. Betty Malone, The Prahran Historical and Arts Society. 70 pages

THE TRIBES OF BRITAIN (David Miles). Published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson-UK (2005). 470 pages. Donated by Bruce Henderson.

TRACING YOUR SCOTTISH ANCESTORS-The National Archives of Scotland. Mercapress (2003). 220 pages

Quiz

(answers on Back Page)

Question 1. Walter Burley Griffin designed many incinerators including one in Ku-ring-gai. Where was it?

(a) Off Koola Av, Killara (b) At the end of Westbrook Av, Wahroonga (c) at Council’s Works Depot in Carlotta Av, Gordon. (d) in the Bicentennial Park in Ryde Rd .

Question 2. Cock fighting, horse racing, operating illicit stills and bare knuckle boxing were popular pastimes in early Ku-ring-gai. Bingham’s Ring was in the bush and a known spot for boxing. Where was it?

(a) down Kissing Point Rd (b) at the foot of Fiddens Wharf Rd (c) in Killara Park (d) at Blue Gum Creek.

“Grab your camera”

Ku-ring-gai Council is having a History Week Photographic Competition with prizes to be won. Entries are required to represent part of Ku-ring-gai’s heritage, be taken since January 2006, be 8x10 inches and be submitted to Council by 2 June – not much time! Details on www.nsw.gov.au or at a Ku-ring-gai Library.

More Street Conundrums

Thank you to the people who responded to our request in the last newsletter. Last month one of the streets we asked about was Max Allen Drive in Lindfield. After a call from member Richard Simpson, Kerrin Cook found that *Arthur Max Allen* was the Surveyor General from 1937-1945 and became Director of Post War Reconstruction after World War II. He was possibly also a Trustee of the original Lane Cove National Park. He was born on 21 Feb 1891, and died after being struck by a train on 28 Nov 1979. He and his wife Ethel had one daughter and two grandchildren

Our ongoing search for the origins of street names continues. This month we would like any information on why the following were named:

Gordon: McIntyre Street, Wilton Close (after Wilton McIntosh?)

Lindfield: Havilah Rd, Dangar St, Ellsmore Av

Killara: Cunliffe Road, Garnet St (*after a relative of Thos Nock?*), Prince Road

Pymble: Bettowyn Rd, Hope St, Wyuna Rd

Roseville: Alison St, Calga St, Kimo St

St Ives: Bontou Road, Edgecombe Road, Ottway Close

Turrumurra: Katina St, Timaru St, Ancona Road

Wahroonga: Adelong Place, Myra St, Zelda Av

Warrawee: Lowther Park Av, Laurel Av

Any suggestions would be appreciated by Ann Barry at a.barry@optusnet.com.au, (ph 9144 6480) or by mail to the Society at Box 109, Gordon, 2072

Have Fun Preserving!

Every Wednesday morning from 10am we have a batch of happy members working to preserve the long-time health of our records. The Society received a grant from the Commonwealth Government to ensure we do so in the scientifically approved manner. We have the necessary materials to do so even to the obligatory white gloves. The more hands to fill those gloves the better. Though you may have no experience at all – perhaps you may not even be active in the Society at present - you will nevertheless be very welcome. Either call President Kevin on 9983 1525 or just turn up on a Wednesday.

Lindfield Cricket Club

New member Alastair Spate is preparing a history of the Lindfield Cricket Club formed in 1923. Its base has been the Soldiers Memorial Park in Tryon Rd, Lindfield. Alastair would like to hear from anyone who has had contact with the Club or who had a parent, grandparent or, indeed, any person at all who did. He can be found on 9405 5334.

Profile of a Member – Evelyn Wyatt



Quietly spoken Evelyn Wyatt, though born in Hurstville, moved with her parents and family to Omeo in Victoria and then Canberra where her father was a civil engineer. Not knowing what career to pursue and after a couple of false starts she was accepted into the Sydney University Medical School in 1968. Following her 1974 graduation, she spent four years in hospital practice in Sydney. In 1976 she married electronics engineer Tony Wyatt (no relation to our historian Margaret Wyatt as she is sometimes asked) and they have three grown-up children whom she happily confesses are computer “nerds”. When the children were little she worked for 7 years part-time in general practice in outer western Sydney before taking up full-time practice in 1986 at North Turrumurra’s Lady Davidson Hospital. Husband Tony did a stint as househusband. For the next 15 years Evelyn worked at Lady Davidson mainly in Palliative Care and geriatrics and mostly with War Veterans.

Her active interest in history began only four years ago after her retirement from medical practice. This was when she joined the Society. Her first success was “the debunking of a family myth”. The myth was the one shared with many past generations and was that the family’s first arrivals all came to Australia of their own free will. After proving this wrong, she admits that her interest in history “has grown to an almost obsession”. Like all family historians she has discovered many previously unknown early relatives. She tries to go beyond basic “names and dates” information to understand their circumstances in the light of the events in Australia and the world during their lifetimes. The history of Lady Davidson Hospital, too, has excited her interest and she has been ferreting out details of its history much of which has been lost. In company with several colleagues she established and is now developing a small on-site museum depicting the hospital’s past.

Her interest in history extends beyond Ku-ring-gai and, as a parishioner of Christ Church St Laurence in the inner city, she has been poring over parish registers to uncover information about its early parishioners. After the famous church architect, Edmund Blackett, put the finishing touches to the church it was consecrated in 1845 and is therefore one of Sydney’s oldest with a lot of history.

And to conclude on a particularly harmonious note, Evelyn for good measure also rings the church bells.

History Notes

Ku-ring-gai and its Industrial Heritage -

A two hundred year review

In the aftermath of the recent National Trust Heritage Week, it is reasonable to ask the question: *Does Ku-ring-gai have significant industrial heritage?*

The Australian Council of National Trusts has defined industrial heritage as “the culturally significant physical and documentary evidence of Australia’s industrial past.” In this context, “Industry” is usually taken to be of one or other of three types: *Primary* (extractive processes such as mining, quarrying, dairying and agriculture), *Secondary* (all processing and manufacturing activities), and *Tertiary* (services such as transport, communications and energy). But there is no industrial *heritage* unless there is some *evidence* that is still in existence: it may be physical, such as buildings, machines or landscape, or it may be documentary, in the form of photographs, letters, reports or the like, but it must be tangible and verifiable.

The timber industry was the earliest of the nineteenth century Primary industries. The Lane Cove Sawing Establishment, a government-controlled convict timber-getting camp located at the end of present-day Fiddens Wharf Road, harvested timber from c 1808-c 1815, and some of its activities are documented. To-day, part of the convict route leading down to the water’s edge is still visible. After the convict camp closed, timber contractors moved into Ku-ring-gai, extending their operations along major feeder roads. Although no physical evidence of the operations remains, there is documentary evidence of DD Mathew’s important saw-mill at the corner of Cowan and Mona Vale Roads.

From c 1840 to c 1880, orcharding, dairying, farming and market gardening formed the second phase of Ku-ring-gai’s nineteenth century industrial heritage. The borders of the land grants became tracks, and later roads in their own right, and more farming occurred. By 1900 dairies appeared along the main road, and gradually moved into the outlying areas where they were joined by market gardens and piggeries. Within the shire/municipality, continuing residential subdivision during the twentieth century resulted in a newly defined pattern of streets, formed within earlier agricultural boundaries.

Beginning in the nineteenth century, and extending into the twentieth century, quarrying was an important Ku-ring-gai primary industry. In the nineteenth century, many privately-owned quarries were located in North and South Wahroonga, North Turramurra and in the areas of the two present-day National Parks. In the twentieth century, extensive quarrying was carried out by Council within the present Bicentennial Park

area, and a very large shale quarry at St Ives provided raw material for brickworks at Penrith.

There was very little Secondary industry in Ku-ring-gai. A moderately large plaster works existed at Lindfield, producing fibrous plaster sheeting for the interior lining of many of the timber buildings in the northern suburbs. During World War II, a manufacturing industry, unique in Ku-ring-gai’s history, was established as a response to the requirements of the time. It was a highly secret so-called ‘Munitions Factory’, making precision instruments used in aircraft and was located firstly at Wahroonga, and, as the need for the instruments expanded, in a purpose-built factory at Killara.

We are much more fortunate in the preservation of physical evidence of Tertiary industry.

Transportation was important for a rather isolated area such as ours. The railway south from Hornsby was opened in 1890, and most of the engineering works created at that time still exist, such as the fine brick-arch underpass at Lindfield, together with more recent works such as the buildings at Gordon Station, recently preserved as a result of community action. Our earliest road linkages were to Hornsby in the north and to the horse-ferry at Milsons Point in the south, but in 1899 a splendid and innovative bridge was built by the engineer de Burgh across the Lane Cove River in West Gordon; sadly, it was destroyed in the bush-fire of 1994, and only parts of the abutments remain today. Two modern prestressed concrete bridges are of State heritage importance because of their engineering design: the 1956 Bobbin Head bridge and the 1966 Roseville bridge.

The first piped water was supplied from Hornsby to steel reservoirs at Wahroonga in 1896 and 1898; the 1898 one is still in service together with several masonry reservoirs dating from the one built at Pymble in 1900. The earliest sewer lines were at North Wahroonga in 1915 as part of the Hornsby system. Most of the municipality was served by the West Middle Harbour Sub-Main which reached Pymble in 1927, with a high-level bridge-crossing at Gordon Creek. Most of these mains are still in service.

The earliest energy supplier to the district was the Australian Gas Light Company, who in 1896 constructed a pipe-line across the river at the site of de Burgh’s bridge, and extended it to Gordon. In 1923 a large gas-holder was built at Pymble which remained until the 1970s. Only documentary evidence now exists of these early installations, and of the extensive network of street gas-lamps that they served. Similarly, there is little left of the 1917 electricity line from Willoughby to Gordon, although the fairly important 1929 substation at Pymble still stands. Although the first telegraph lines followed the construction of the railway in 1890 and the first telephone

lines linked Wahroonga to Hornsby in 1896, today we have only photographs and some limited documents as evidence.

We see that, although there is little remaining physical evidence of Ku-ring-gai's primary and secondary industry, there is an amount of physical evidence of tertiary industry. More importantly, there is an important bank of primary source materials documenting all these industries, with materials to be found in commonwealth, state and local archives, in the collections of the library and the historical society and in private papers. *It must be our on-going task to research these documents so as to provide coherent bodies of documentary evidence, through which we can tell the stories of our industrial past.*

- Margaret and Ken Wyatt - May 2006

The Mysterious Squire

We mentioned in our April Newsletter that Philip Fletcher Richardson had in his time been dubbed "The Squire of St Ives". We also said he was involved in agitating for the North Shore Railway, for Hassell Park, for the St Ives Post Office and in the adoption of the name "St Ives" in place the previous "Rosedale". He was also a major initiator, in company with George Porter, in having the Public School established. A few more words about him are well justified but information is remarkably hard to come by.

Such scraps as seem to have been published, particularly by Les Thorne in his *North Shore – Sydney*, suggest he was born in 1837 in Belfast, came from a family of linen manufacturers, had an aristocratic bearing and a Dublin University education, had Lady Cowan as his first wife (seems unlikely), came to Australia before 1876 for reasons unknown, worked for a time for the Government in several positions related to Crown Lands, married Julia Vernon (1853-1924) of St Ives in 1876, lived on the SE corner of Collins and Mudies Roads previously occupied by his parents-in law, entertained the Governor of the day, Lord Jersey, and became a "gentleman farmer" with his wife Julia running the farm. He seems to have devoted himself to "good works" thus earning the "Squire" label.

He died in 1901 as a result of a horse and cart accident. Both he and Julia are buried at St Johns, Gordon. They had no children and this may account in part for the scarcity of facts about him. More recorded history may well exist but, if so, there is not much on the Society's records hence our description of him being "mysterious".

One would hope someone, perhaps a St Ives resident, perhaps a researcher wanting a challenge, perhaps a family member, perhaps someone who is just plain curious or perhaps someone who already has some answers will help give Philip and Julia the recognition in our local history they deserve.

Scholars and Gentlemen

The Mackerras family of Turramurra has been one of Ku-ring-gai's most distinguished.

Alan Mackerras and Catherine MacLaurin married at St Andrews Scots Church at Rose Bay in 1924 and lived in Vaucluse before building their home, *Harpenden*, at Warrangi Street, Turramurra, in 1933. They lived there for 32 years and raised seven remarkable children. Alan (b 1899) was an engineer with the Water Board and Senior Lecturer in Engineering at Sydney University. Catherine was also born in 1899. Her father, Charles, was a surgeon and author and her grandfather, Sir Henry, a Chancellor of the University.

Catherine appears to have been strong willed with a rebellious streak and domestic harmony was not improved when she adopted Roman Catholicism in the early 1930s. The question of the education of their children was settled on the basis that their primary schools would be Catholic but that the boys would obtain their secondary education at the non-denominational Sydney Grammar School. The two girls went to PLC at Pymble. The children's talents were fostered in the family home notwithstanding tensions in the marriage. Who were these outstanding children?

Charles Mackerras (b 1925) followed an international musical career as a conductor based in London. He is now best known as Sir Charles Mackerras.

Alastair Mackerras AO (b1 928) became an outstanding headmaster of the Sydney Grammar School.

Neil Mackerras (b 1930) chose law and developed an interest in Labour-oriented political and social questions, notably support of Aboriginal issues.

Joan Mackerras (b 1934) studied the violin here and overseas and became a music teacher. In Australia, she married another music teacher, Graeme Hall., and they moved to Norwich where they lived and worked as teachers.

Elizabeth Mackerras (b 1937) studied the ballet after studying overseas. She married Andrew Briger, an architect, who became well known as a progressive Lord Mayor of Sydney.

Colin Mackerras (b 1939) became a highly qualified academic and Professor and Head of the School of Modern Asian Studies at Queensland's Griffith University.

Malcolm Mackerras (b 1939) is seen throughout Australia on election nights as a political analyst.

There would not have been many families who in one generation have made such an impact on cultural, educational and political life here and overseas.

Bitumen

"After the first Roseville Bridge was opened in 1924 the main road, which at the time was called Gordon Road, was treated to a strip of bitumen. This novelty was introduced by W B Carr, who contracted to put down a strip of bitumen 18 feet (*5½ metres*) wide. The idea was ridiculed by many people, who said that it could not last with increased motor traffic coming into use." *from The HISTORIAN (March 1975)*

Family Matters

6th May Family History Meeting

11am Research Meeting

Many books from Jo Harris's library were on display relating to the morning's theme - research in Victoria. Several members found useful details from the computer resources she demonstrated:

Victorian BDMs

1847 Port Phillip Directory

1852-1879 Immigrants

1854 Melbourne Commercial and Squatters Directory

1882 Victorian Men of the Times

1904 Victorian PO Directory

Founders of Australia (many Victorians)

Gazetteer of Victoria

Victorian Criminals

Victorian Cemetery Transcripts

Immigration to Victoria 1852-67 (Digger)

Jo reminded us to ring her before any meeting so she can bring books on a specific subject. (Best time to ring is after 9.30pm but before midnight. Yes, it *IS* from 9.30pm until midnight!)

2pm Members Meeting

At least 50 attended and Jo reported on:

- duplicate copies of *Descent* (journal of Society of Australian Genealogists) available for borrowing or keeping
- wine casks cut in half and used to store magazines and journals
- next meeting Sat.3 June - South Australian research in morning, and members asked to bring to the 2pm session **one** family letter, will, document, etc. of particular interest (put in a plastic folder for easier handling)
- work still proceeding on server to all computers
- more volunteers needed for duty in rooms, and someone to become familiar with and oversee books in our library
- showed glue-stick available at K-Mart
- There would be a special "Problem Helping Day" on Saturday, 20 May, at 10.30am, as a trial, for any members seeking help. If this proves worthwhile it may be repeated, but with more notice.

President Kevin Callinan spoke on "Festival on the Green" at St Ives Village Green on Sunday 18 June, 9.30 to 4.30 and called for volunteers to man an Oral History section in a *Social History* tent (featuring information on local district) and generally help with providing local and family history information, collection of photographs and scanning. Short training session will be provided. A number of those present said they would help.

Kevin gave information on the Preservation Group, sought more volunteers to help with the project. It should be completed by November in terms of the grant received.

BOOKS

Jo, Joyce Ryerson, Stella Green and Joy Walker gave reports on the following:

Goodnight Bobbie by Marilyn Dodkin (One family's war)

Caroline Chisholm by Margaret Kiddle (includes good background on general subject of emigration)

A Commonwealth of Thieves by Tom Keneally (early days of Sydney)

Portrait of a Pioneer (about Horace Dean)

A Parson in the Australian Bush (about Charles Matthews)

Royal NSW Lancers 1885-1960

Murray Family of Yarralumla

Rowe Family History (excellent example of how a family history can be put together)

Society of Genealogists journal UK

Early Days in Borellan and District

Broster Family

Tucker & Co. (wine merchants)

Pymont and Ultimo

In and Around the Rocks

Beckenham (Surrey England) - where Jo's grandparents were killed by a flying bomb in WWII.

Guest Speaker Helen Dickinson's subject was "*Getting the Most from Google*". Her entertaining and informative talk gave us some very good tips and tricks to go "outside the square". Her secret is to go to *google.com* (the international website), then select *Advanced search* which provides four boxes to enter names, phrases, subjects, etc. and can reduce the resulting number of references from perhaps millions right down to maybe ten or a dozen or less. She explained use of the "wild card" and said she only uses *I'm Feeling Lucky* to get into the Ryerson Index. She showed us currency conversion, translation, and how to find a book, read all about it including table of contents and index, and place an order to buy it without leaving home (but be careful to check for the Australian price).

Noel Wales presented Helen with a copy of *Focus on Kuring-gai* and a carry bag.

Ken Knight won the raffle of pre-loved books and chose *The Diaries of Ethel Turner*.

Notes by Stella Green

1841 Census on line

The 1841 Census for England and Wales is now online at *Ancestry.co.uk*. This completes all the series from 1841 to 1901.

The Last Showcase?

The Society of Genealogists is to leave its 24 Kent Street premises and says the May *Showcase* just held could well have been its last. We understand that at present the Society does not know where it will be going. Until that is decided no decisions on a future *Showcase* or a replacement activity, if any, can be made.

To Clarify

From time to time we invite members to contribute items for inclusion in this Family Matters section of the Newsletter. Quite often members say they cannot do so because their forebears did not live in Ku-ring-gai. *This does not matter.* Most members now live in Ku-ring-gai and that fact alone links them to the area. If you have even one ancestor who distinguished himself or herself (or attracted notoriety or was of particular interest) in Ku-ring-gai or anywhere we'd like to hear about it. It would be a bonus if that person had a Ku-ring-gai connection but it is not essential – you are the connection as a Society member. If your research successfully unravelled a mystery that had bedevilled you we'd like to know about that too and how you did it. Being a newsletter we do not carry lengthy contributions as a Journal may do. The length of any item, after editing, must depend on content and the space available. Call Acting Editor Max Farley on 9499 7113 (mmff@ozemail.com.au) if you have any questions. What about it?

Others' Events

7 June – Seminar *Hello Sailor*- crew lists etc records. 10.30 to 12.30. Sydney Records Centre at the Rocks. 9673 1788

12 -16 July – 14th International Oral History Conference – Univ of Technology-www.ohaa.net.au

30 July – 5 Aug - National Family History Week. See www.familyhistoryweek.org.au

15-17 Sept – *Genealogy: That Never Ending Story* – 2006 Conference of the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies. Liverpool. 9771 3529 or lgs.org.au.

A Wartime Note

Our member Sue Dunston recently came across a letter sent in December 1943 by her father, Flying Officer Peter Taylor, to his parents at Napier St, Lindfield. Peter is a relative of hers and was training in Canada as were many Australians at the time. He no doubt had received his initial instruction at Bradfield. There is nothing in any way dramatic or spectacular about the letter. Indeed its very simplicity is its charm. It is too long to reproduce here but he speaks glowingly of Christmas gifts he had received from his Lindfield family. He writes that “the barley sugar was most welcome” not just with him but also with his fellow trainees and “had to fight to get some of it” for himself. No doubt

with the wisdom of hindsight he saw to it that “the chocolate is being stored away”. He also felt guilty that in an earlier letter “I forgot to thank Mum for the nuts”. All very small things and nothing to suggest the tensions of war or Peter's own journey towards danger and likely death. It is unimportant items like this letter that do so much to turn names on paper into living people. Far too often these “unimportant” items are unthinkingly thrown out. Peter, incidentally, survived the War but with the loss of a leg.

At the 3rd June Family History Meeting, members are asked to bring along a letter, postcard, certificate or the like which is of significance in the history of their family. These are usually of wider interest than family members might realise.

Introduction to Family History

Another popular Course introducing the study of Family History to newcomers as well as to those who would like to hone their skills will be commenced shortly. It will be carried out by our Leader, Jo Harris, and will be for eight weeks on successive Friday mornings - dates to be announced. Those who have done the Course before will agree it is very well worth investing the time and fee (\$75). Numbers will be limited. Jo is currently taking expressions of interest on 9489 4393.

More power to Joy

Joy Walker, as many of us know, had an architect grandfather, Joseph Power. He was a one-time partner of Sir John Sulman and lived in Lindfield. His house was *Colyton* on the north-western corner of the Highway and Provincial Rd. It is now demolished. Joy is indefatigable in chasing up information about Joseph Power and was happy when she learnt he played a role in “designing” additions to a charming little weatherboard building in Lindfield's Havilah Lane. It is a simple structure and the task would not have taxed him. It was the home of the Chess and Whist Club over a hundred years ago. Joseph Power had been Secretary of the Club. As recorded in the March 2002 edition of the HISTORIAN he, as Honorary Architect, was in 1909 given a budget of 40 pounds to add a committee room to the original building. The Club is now known as the Lindfield Club and the Rooms still used for card games.

Havilah Lane would not be known to many. It is a lane behind the shops in Lindfield Avenue on the eastern side of the railway line. If you have not seen the building it would be worth making an effort to do so. It evokes images of times long ago and may not exist forever on such a valuable site.



photo: Kerrin Cook

Copy for Newsletter

General copy for publication should be lodged with the Acting Editor, Max Farley at (mmff@ozemail.net.au) as early as possible but no later than 10th 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.

Contributors

We thank the otherwise unrecognised people who have submitted information for the Newsletter over and above the call of duty. We also apologise to any we may have overlooked:

Stuart Doyle; Sue Dunston; Stella Green; Ian Ramage; Joy Walker and Margaret Wyatt.

Not all the information we have received could be included nor necessarily in the form or words received. It is all nevertheless appreciated.

Advance Notice

These coming events are some time off but as they are both of two days' duration it would be a good idea to slot them into your diary now. They will both be "too good to miss".

Sat/Sun 14/15 Oct

Annual Conference of the Royal Australian Historical Society
Location: Hornsby

Topic: *Roads, Rates and Records: Governing the Neighbourhood*

Sat/Sun 11/12 Nov

2-day Tour to Tocal, Paterson etc organised by the KHS

Quiz answers

Q1: (d). It opened on 14 June 1930 and closed in 1954.
Q2: (c). There is a plaque near the corner of Rosebery Road and Koala Avenue

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 3 June	11am - Members' research <i>South Australian Resources</i>
	2pm - FH General meeting <i>Share a Document</i>
Sat 17 June	11.30am - VOLUNTEERS LUNCH
	2pm - KHS GENERAL MEETING Guest Speaker: Stephen Szabo <i>Heraldry in Australia</i>
Sun 18 June	9.30am - ST IVES FESTIVAL ON THE GREEN (includes KHS activities)
Sat 1 July	11am - Members' research
	2pm - FH General meeting <i>Creative Memories- Memory Keeping at its Best (Maria Gaudrey)</i>
Sat 15 July	2pm - KHS GENERAL MEETING Guest Speaker: Owen Magee <i>How "The Rocks" Was Won</i>

Family History Meetings are held on the first Saturday of every month other than January. Members' Research starts at 11am and is followed by a General Meeting at 2pm.

Administration

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Curator	Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390

Family History

Leader: Jo Harris 9489 4393

Committee: Lyn Done, Jenny Joyce, Jean Smith,
Peter Stehn, Elaine Turnidge

Historian Editors	c/- Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
	with Kathie Rieth, John King, Bob Ross	
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