



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

21 March Meeting

President Kevin Callinan gave news of a number of matters currently being handled by the Society. He particularly mentioned gifts of several thousand Ku-ring-gai photos from Ann Barry and Dinah Warner; the reconstruction of our website and an invitation to members for financial contributions to help offset the costs involved; the well-received Course researching the history of land ownership and structures in Ku-ring-gai; the Society's recent displays and "tables" at St Ives and Turramurra in connection with Seniors Week; conducting a bus tour of Ku-ring-gai in association with Council for over 50 residents; attendance at a Remembrance Service at St Johns for JJC Bradfield on the 75th Anniversary of the opening of the Bridge and hosting a visit to the Old Gordon School by women ex-students who left over 50 years ago (the *Golden Girls*). He called for even more volunteers to play a part in the Society's many interesting and worthwhile programs.

Jo Harris followed Kevin's comments with a report on past and coming activities of the *Family History* members including the conduct of the Course on *Computers and the Family Tree Maker* computer program. Helen Davies updated the Meeting on *Tulkiyan* events.

Our **Guest Speaker, Richard Lander**, is Hon. Secretary of the *Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais*, and told of the history of the lacemakers and their migration to Australia in the mid 19th century. The following is a summary of his talk:

"The trade of lacemaking in England developed mainly in Nottingham from the 15th century and was a flourishing cottage industry by the end of the 16th century. In the 18th and 19th centuries, overproduction became a problem because the machinery became more efficient. In the early 19th century conditions in Nottingham prompted many lacemakers to relocate to Calais. They had to dismantle their machines and smuggle them into France, because their export was illegal.

By 1828 there were over 700 people employed in the lace trade in Calais, most having come from Nottingham. In 1843 the export of lacemaking machinery from England became permitted but by this time lace making was no longer a cottage industry and factories had been built to house the large steam driven machines.

Financial depression and political instability in Europe in the late 1840s culminated in the outbreak of revolution in France.

Coming Meetings

NEXT SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING (Gordon Library Meeting Room)

Wednesday 16 May

7.45pm – GENERAL MEETING

Guest Speaker: Professor Brian Fletcher

(Foundation Bicentennial Professor of History at the University of Sydney)

Topic: Myths, Realities and the Founding of Australia

(May 2007 marks the 220th Anniversary of the departure of the eleven ships of the First Fleet. Professor Fletcher will address the popular myths which surround the early colonisation of NSW)



HMS Sirius

**Supper will be available
Visitors welcome**

NEXT FAMILY HISTORY MEETING

Saturday 5 May

**11am - Members' Research Session
German Ancestry**

**2pm - Family History Meeting
General Business – Reports and activities**

Afternoon tea will be available

This caused decreased demand for lace and the closure of factories. The English population in Calais was in a dire predicament. The people had no desire to return to the crowded conditions in Nottingham where they would not find employment but their prospects were no better in France. They decided to petition the British government to grant

them assisted passage to the colony of South Australia, presumably because it was advertising for settlers, albeit mainly agricultural labourers, and assisted passages were available to selected migrants. Edward Lander, Richard's great great grandfather, played a leading role in drafting the petition which eventually led to three ships bringing 642 Calais lacemakers to Australia from mid 1848. Most settled in South Australia. Although their lacemaking days were over, they took other occupations and adjusted to the new environment.

The *Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais* was formed in 1982 and has since located the descendants of most of the ex-lacemakers. Two books have been written on their history and a Family History Research Group is actively continuing research on their progress."

- based on notes taken by Don Fifer

Volunteers Recognition Day

Each year we pay tribute to our many volunteers and the work they do for the community through our Society. Previously this has been, in part, at the May evening meeting to coincide with Volunteers Week. Then, in June, there has been a special luncheon for Volunteers held immediately prior to the 2pm afternoon meeting. The Committee has decided to combine the two activities and have them both on the day of the June Meeting. So, Volunteers, please make a note in your diary and make a special point of coming along for the Volunteers Luncheon at noon on Saturday, 16 June, prior to the General Meeting

Boosts to our Collection

Our Photo Collection is being increased by well over a thousand items by sizable gifts from two of our members – Ann Barry and Dinah Warner. Ann was a founding publisher of the *Ku-ring-gai Observer* and amassed many hundreds of Ku-ring-gai photos during the years she had that publication. Dinah Warner, for her part, has had a long-time interest in the preservation of the area's heritage and has many photos of homes and buildings. Both have generously offered their Collections to the Society and we are excited to have them. There will be a lot of work for volunteers in cataloguing and scanning them but it is a responsibility we are delighted to accept..... *(We take the opportunity once more to remind readers we always have space for more volunteers – in this case either to learn scanning skills or apply their existing knowledge while working on an enjoyable and worthwhile project. President Kevin Callinan would like to hear from you).*

Vale - Jean and Marion

Sadly we have to report the death of two of our members this month.

Jean Bennett, of Roseville, joined the Society in 1982 and was a regular participator until recent times. She gave a lot to the Society over a number of years because of her knowledge of Ku-ring-gai's history and by her active work,

particularly with the *Tuesday Group* which did so much to keep our records in order. Jean also contributed greatly to the well-being of the Society through the pleasure her friendship gave to so many members.

Marion Stuart, also of Roseville, joined in 1997 and frequently attended meetings. She had a long-standing interest in Australian history and also belonged to the Hurstville Historical Society. In 1988 she wrote a short publication about a Church at *Dandaloo*. *Dandaloo* is on the Bogan River near Narromine.

Ryde Tour

Enclosed with this issue is a notice and booking form for our Tour of Ryde on Sunday, 20 May. Any enquiries can be asked of Max Farley on 9499 7113 - email mmff2@bigpond.net.au.

Award to Ann Barry

Congratulations to Vice-President Ann Barry on receiving a Mayoral Award during the recent Senior Citizens Week. Ann has a long history of commitment to the welfare of Ku-ring-gai in a number of spheres. The tremendous work she is now giving to the development of our Society is greatly valued. Her Award is well merited.

RAAF Memorial in Ku-ring-gai

October last year saw a plaque unveiled by Chief of the Air Force, Air Marshall Geoff Shepherd AO and Defence Minister Brendan Nelson. The plaque is adjacent to a new Memorial on the site of the RAAF Station at Bradfield Park, West Lindfield. The Memorial is a sculpture by Graham Chalcroft titled "Spiral Ascent". The structures honour the 200,000 RAAF and WAAAF personnel who went through the station from 27 May 1940 until 31 October 1946. Stuart Doyle, a long-time Ku-ring-gai personality and KHS member, agitated for many years for on-site recognition of the RAAF Station.

www.khs.org.au

The revision of our website is moving along. It is a costly task and has been aided significantly by cash donations from John Brown, Heather and Barbara Burgess, Helen Davies, Don Fifer, Mary Minns, David Wilkins and Barbara Wood. Others are in the pipeline. The Society appreciates their generosity and hopes we will be able to add to the list by the time of our next issue

Recent Acquisitions

Coasters Retreat and Pittwater (Sue Gould). Kingsclear Books. 1993. Limited Edition. 120 pages. Donated by Kathie Rieth.
The Irish in Australia. (Patrick O'Farrell). NSW University Press (1987). 336 pages. Indexed.
The Bidencope Story. (Irene Schaffer). The Bidenscopes were tailors and hatters in Hobart. 84 pages. Indexed.
Highfields Preparatory and Kindergarten School – our History (1945-2005). A booklet celebrating the School's 60th anniversary. 24 pages.

These Are the Names - Jewish Lives in Australia (1788-1850). (John S Levi). The Migunyah Press (2006). 874 pages. Indexed.

The Fate of the Artful Dodger - Parkhurst Boys transferred to Australia and New Zealand-1842-1852. (Paul Buddee). St George Books (1984). 188 pages. Indexed.

Bywong – Sometimes I Have to Cry. (Norman Moore). A history of Bywong in novel form (1988). *Bywong* is near Gundaroo, NSW. 116 pages.

Quiz

1. What, if anything, do the following have in common:
Bullock Toby Toe, Jinkers, Ticket-of-Leave?

Are they:

- (a) parks and playgrounds
- (b) nick-names given to convicts
- (c) names and words associated with the pioneering timber industry

2. What is a “Primary Application”:

- (a) the first request made by a convict for “ticket of leave”?
- (b) the original Development Application before any changes are made?
- (c) a request to have land Old Title property converted to Torrens Title?

Oral History Leader

Neroli Lock has been appointed to lead our developing Oral History Program and three members have already volunteered to help with the project. Neroli’s willingness to take on this potentially important role is greatly appreciated. The Society is obtaining good quality equipment and will organise training sessions. Extra hands will be needed, so if you like to meet people, hear their stories and generally learn more about “how things were”, President Kevin Callinan would very much like to hear from you.

Auditor Spot Filled

Since Tom White relinquished the post of auditor at the last Annual General Meeting, the Committee has been seeking to fill the vacancy. Happily Reg Wallin BCom., FCIS, has agreed to take on the responsibility. The Society thanks him for doing so.

New Display Cabinet

The display cabinets we have in the hallway outside our Rooms attract quite a deal of attention from passing members of the public. The current one featuring JJC Bradfield and the Bridge has proven particularly popular. We have found, too, that those having wartime memorabilia including Anzac Day themes also catch the eye. With this in mind, we are obtaining another cabinet and intend to devote its content to recognising the roles played by our servicemen and women in all the theatres of War in which Australia has been involved. If any members have items they feel would help achieve this goal the Society would like to hear from them.

Member Profile

Kerrin Cook



Kerrin first joined the Society in 1989 and served on the committee until 1993 when her husband Lindsay’s work took them to Orange. On returning to Sydney, she rejoined the committee in 2005 and plays an important role in helping produce our Newsletter. She is also a volunteer in the rooms. It is in the sphere of publishing that Kerrin has become widely known in Ku-ring-gai for her highly regarded book “*The Railway Came to Ku-ring-gai*”. This is, however, just one of her works.

After attending the unique Preshil School in Melbourne, Kerrin continued her education at Beecroft Public School and MLC Burwood. She then studied accountancy before attending the University of New England, Armidale, where she obtained a B.Sc. (Hons) degree in Biochemistry. This led her to the Tissue Typing Laboratory run by the Red Cross Blood Bank in Sydney until 1971, and later to the Serology Department at St Vincent’s Hospital, Melbourne. During this time she did research associated with Tissue Typing, and obtained her M.Sc. degree in Medical Microbiology from the University of New South Wales.

While in Melbourne Kerrin became interested in family history and photography. She has since written three books on her family - “*The Cummins of Cork in Australia*”; “*Pearls Past and Present*” and “*The Cook Book*”. She is now preparing another on the *Baird* family who came to Victoria from Cumnock, Ayrshire, Scotland.

On returning to Sydney in 1977, Kerrin started working part time for her sister, managing her Paediatric Surgical Medical Practice and continued doing so even during the period the family lived in Orange, commuting fortnightly. She continues in this role.

Kerrin’s interest in family history and photography motivated her to compile a pictorial history of the Ku-ring-gai municipality where she and Lindsay live. This resulted in the 1991 publication of the large-format 472 page “*The Railway came to Ku-ring-gai*”. It remains one of the best publications on the history of Ku-ring-gai.

On moving from Sydney to Orange in 1993, she was commissioned by Orange City Council to write the history of Lucknow and her “*Lucknow - a Veritable Goldmine*” was published by the Council in 1995.

1999 saw the publication of “*The Glint of Gold*”. This arose from a 1996 commission to write a short history of the gold mining districts of the Central West of New South Wales. “*The Glint of Gold*” had the tourist industry in mind, and is in its second printing. 1999 also saw her “*History of the Orange City Bowling Club*”, which the Club commissioned for its Centenary Year.

In 2001, Orange Council asked her to compile a history of the Spring Hill district and “*A History Springs to mind*” is now in its second printing.

She and Lindsay are now permanently back in Ku-ring-gai. They have two daughters - Nicole, who is expecting a baby in early July, and Kirrilly who has a 3 year old son, Declan and 6 month old daughter Mia.

History Notes

The Fading “Stain”

Robert Hughes in *The Fatal Shore* highlighted the many negatives in Australia’s colonial beginnings. In particular he wrote of what he termed the “indelible Stain” of the country’s convict background. It is undeniable that many aspects of those early days were indeed ugly and no rationalising will change that. However, as Australia’s years accumulate, the proportion of its history given to the convict period diminishes. No longer does that era dominate the minds of today’s Australians as it did those of our grandparents who lived much closer to the events. Today many Australians are content, even pleased, to have a convict or two amongst their ancestors. It ties them more closely to their country and their roots.

Though large numbers of convicts continued their evil ways, and many were hung for it, others took the opportunity offered by a new life in a new land and prospered. Some became amongst the wealthiest and most worthy in the community. Though Ku-ring-gai was almost uninhabited up to the time transportation ceased, there were many convicts and emancipists still living in the country, including Ku-ring-gai, until the last died well into the 1900s. Numbers of them played significant roles in Ku-ring-gai and there is scope for a detailed study of their identity, lives and achievements here. We will mention just a few but the list is by no means exhaustive. The names of some would already be widely recognised by many local readers. In addition to those of our convicts who acquired land in the area by grant or purchase, or who distinguished themselves in some way, there were countless others who worked here as “assigned servants”.

Richard Archbold (c1793-1836). Was granted 600 acres at Chatswood but later acquired Daniel Mathews’ 400 acre Clanville Estate at Roseville.

William Baker (1792-1866). Transported in 1819 but became a member of Geary’s gang of bushrangers. Later settled down at *Redbank*, West Lindfield, on the east bank of Lane Cove River.

James Bradley (1782-1857). Opened the Springdale House Academy in 1830 – thought to have been in O’Connell St. His daughter, Jane Bradley, married Lachlan MacGillivray and received a grant in her own name at Killara in 1839. The grant was named *Springdale* after her father’s school.

William Brown (c1769-c1824). A timber worker who came to the North Shore. A son, John Brown, became a wealthy timber merchant who had large holdings in Wahroonga. John, native born, was a founding Trustee of St Johns Church.

Michael Cook (c1798-1853). Operated a timber shipping business at Cook’s Wharf, Lane Cove River, from 1831. Needs more research. Probably Cook Road in Killara and Cook’s Flat were named after him.

David Edwards (c1809-1849). Married Eliza Pymble, a daughter of Robert Pymble, in Hobart in 1842. Had a son,

George, who became “The Father of Killara”.

Joseph Fidden ((c1778-1856). An admired and respected “boatman” who for a time lived at the foot of Fiddens Wharf Rd. In 1821 he was granted 40 acres on the Highway at the top of Fiddens Wharf Rd which he soon sold.

Michael Fitzgerald (17— 18—). A stonemason who worked for Governor Macquarie who in 1821 granted him 40 acres on the western side of the Highway at Roseville down to Corona Avenue.

William Fowler (1783-1843). A major timber merchant who leased part of Robert Pymble’s land for a time and was one of the largest employers of timber-getters in the district.

William Henry (1778-1862). In 1806 Governor Brisbane promised him 1000 acres from Fullers Bridge to Fiddens Wharf Rd. Thought to be the first settler in Ku-ring-gai. *Loyal Henry Park* in Roseville carries his name as does William Henry St, Ultimo.

Thomas Hyndes (c1790-1855). A timber-getter and merchant who owned and leased large holdings in Pymble, Hornsby, Wahroonga and elsewhere. Highly respected and a committed churchman.

James Jenkins (c1776-1835). Had a grant on the western side of the Highway at Roseville which included the site of Lindfield School. Lived mainly in Kent St and in the Manly/Warringah area. His Collaroy land found its way into the possession of the *Salvation Army*. There are Jenkins Roads in Chatswood and Manly/Warringah.

Frances Mills (c1780-1837). Later Frances Johnson, Frances Foster and Frances Pass. Became important landowner and hotelier whose interests included Killara’s Greengate Hotel.

Henry Oliver (1763-1832). Had a grant on the Highway bounded by Stanhope and Treatts Roads. Oliver St in Roseville is so named because his daughter, Mary Ann, married Gerald Archbold of Roseville.

Aaron Pearce (1786-c1831). Owned and resided at Pearce’s Corner, Wahroonga.

Richard Porter (c1765-1849). His son Richard came to Pymble in 1855 as an orchardist. Pymble Ladies College is on his land. Richard Jnr bought the Gardeners Arms Hotel at the top of Pymble Hill in 1886. His family built the adjacent house *Grandview*.

- Max Farley

Parish Maps

The Course recently run by Jennifer Harvey on how to research properties, brought focus on to Parish Maps. Surprising to many when they first come across the term, it has absolutely nothing to do with Churches. By 1835, the Government had broken New South Wales into its existing 141 Counties. In turn, each County was broken up into Parishes. These Parishes were established to assist the Government in its administration of the land area of the State.

Over the years, these Parishes were further divided by grants to individuals or by purchases. Parish Maps are therefore the starting point for researchers who wish to trace European ownership of any particular piece of land to its beginning. Ku-ring-gai is in the County of Cumberland and for practical purposes its boundaries coincide with those of the Parish of Gordon.

What's in a Name..... Matong Street, Gordon

Matong is a small rural village in the east central Riverina of NSW. The name is an Aboriginal word said to mean 'great', 'strong', or 'powerful'.

Does Matong Street, East Gordon, have any connection to this place? Indeed yes.

H Clifford Love was born in Ireland in 1835 and was in business in Sydney from the early 1880s variously as a merchant, tea merchant, corn starch and oat miller. He owned business premises in Clarence St and mill works on the Lane Cove River. The company Clifford Love & Co Ltd was first registered in 1911.

The large house still standing at Number 4 Matong Street Gordon, known as Stonyhurst, was built in 1898 for him and his wife Annie Paton Love, nee Bell (note Bell St nearby), on some 11 acres of land, which was part of the 100-acre George Thorne land grant of 1856. H Clifford Love died in 1919, his wife died in 1924. The land surrounding Stonyhurst was progressively subdivided.

The parcel where the main house stands was acquired by William Francis Regan of 40 McIntosh Street Gordon in 1926. He immediately further subdivided the property, creating and naming Matong Street in so doing. He also purchased parcels of land near Matong, NSW through the 1920s and 30s. The 1940 official valuation of the Gordon property shows him as the owner and but actually residing at Yarragna, Matong NSW.

Regan divided Stonyhurst into four flats, a configuration which it retains to this day. He sold it in 1952 to Paul Bannister Gee, a Gordon real estate agent.

- Helen Davies

Books about Ku-ring-gai

Most of us live in Ku-ring-gai. Knowing something of its history makes doing so even more enjoyable. Those newer members wanting to learn about Ku-ring-gai's past would do well to start with the following books which are in our Collection:

A HISTORY OF THE NORTH SHORE FROM 1788 TO TODAY (Les Thorne). Deals with Ku-ring-gai as a whole. Though written over 30 years ago it remains extremely informative. It has a little over 200 pages and is mainly text.

FOCUS ON KU-RING-GAI. Published by the Society in 1996 it has 128 pages and combines text and illustrations. Easy to read, it covers all suburbs.

THE RAILWAY CAME TO KU-RING-GAI (Kerrin Cook). A large format book of 470 pages which, though mainly of well chosen illustrations, has considerable explanatory text.

THE STORY OF ST IVES (Gay Halstead). In 530 large format pages it follows the historical development of St Ives through stories of many of its families. Combines text with illustrations.

WAHROONGA – OUR HOME (Ian Ramage). The first of a trilogy by Ian Ramage dealing with the history of Wahroonga and its early residents. Has some 370 pages but is broken up into small "stand-alone" pieces.

There are, of course, many more dealing with particular topics as well as a number of biographies and family histories of local people. A browse through our HISTORIANS would also be worthwhile.

Old Newspapers are fun

Children believe the real world did not begin until the day they were born. As the years pass they, and we, come to know better. When Captain Cook's handwritten log was on display at the State Library it looked as though it might have been written by him only yesterday. Actually seeing it, made him a real person not just a piece of history. Old documents written by bureaucrats can be pretty boring even though informative. However, browsing through newspapers can be fun. They bring life to the long dead writers and issues which have now passed into irrelevance. These thoughts come to mind having recently read a report of a Council meeting in *THE KU-RING-GIAN* local paper of 27 May 1911. It reads in part as follows:

All the Councillors were in their places when we got into the hall, at about fifteen minutes past eight.... Some of the never-absents will be suffering from Shireitis before the year is out if they don't take a night off now and again. A chap who works hard with his horny hands should always be abed by nine-o'clock. Staying out until within an hour of midnight might put some of them into the doctor's hands. It takes a fellow with a bit of brain to follow the Councillors in their deliberations. When chunks of law and learning get flying round, as they often do, one has to keep pretty wide awake, or the finer points are lost altogether.

Though their hands may not be horny, we suspect modern-day Councillors can relate to these comments penned almost 100 years ago.

Yesterday's Luxury

In 1942, Council considered a proposal to extend Werona Avenue from Stanhope Road in Killara to Treatts Road in Lindfield. Many Councillors opposed the idea on the grounds it would be a luxury and be, at best, only a short cut saving a few hundred yards.

Family Matters

3rd April Meeting

11am Session, This was attended by 28 people. It featured "A Little Bit of Irish" and was presented by Kevin Callinan. He concentrated on how to go about researching rather than looking up names. He demonstrated several computer resources including:

Counties in Times - 31 types of records illustrating what is available in PRO Dublin

Index to Griffiths Valuation of Ireland 1848-1864

Index of Irish Wills 1484-1858

Memorials of the Dead

Kevin emphasized that, contrary to general belief, not all records were destroyed in the 1922 fire as a lot had already been transcribed.

2pm Meeting. Jo Harris chaired the 2pm meeting at which 33 people were present. She told us the sad news of the passing of Joyce Ryerson's husband Charles, and she mentioned: -

- her opinion that in buying a digital camera it is essential to have a viewfinder that you can put your eye to. Also that 5 megapixels is sufficient and one should always carry 2 memory cards and 2 batteries if out all day.
- the importance of old letters.
- a new Family History 8-week course is to begin in June - dates to be announced.

Our guest speaker Ian Palmer gave an entertaining and informative talk about his ancestor John Palmer, Purser of HMS Sirius in the First Fleet. Ian described the Fellowship of First Fleeters which began in 1968 for those who descend from someone in the First Fleet.

John Palmer was born 17 June 1760 in Portsmouth, joined the Royal Navy aged 8 as Captain's servant and was a Purser by 21. He was taken prisoner when HMS Richmond was captured off Chesapeake Bay by a French squadron in September 1781. After his release he married Susan Stilwell, daughter of an American loyalist family.

Of the eleven ships of the First Fleet which arrived in Sydney, nine returned to England. Sirius and Supply remained. After Sirius was wrecked off Norfolk Island, John Palmer was appointed Commissary in 1791. This important position involved responsibility for Government stores, provisions and food supplies.

John was a sailor, merchant, magistrate, landholder, shipowner, and therefore very prominent in early Sydney. He acquired land by grant or purchase at Woolloomooloo, Freemans Reach, Pitt Town and Schofields. He owned four ships trading to the Hawkesbury and Newcastle and sealing in Bass Strait.

He travelled to England in 1796 to settle his affairs in England and to bring his wife, Susan, and two sons to Australia. They had been separated for 10 years. His brother Christopher and sisters Sophia and Sarah also came.

John Palmer became unpopular with the revolutionists because he supported Governor Bligh against the Rum Corps. He borrowed from his brother-in-law Robert Campbell and ultimately became bankrupt. He had to sell and leave his property at Woolloomooloo and lived on the his farm, *Waddon*, at Parramatta.

Susan died in 1832 and John the following year after surviving all his fellow officers of the First Fleet. Both John and Susan are buried at St Johns, Parramatta.

- from notes by Stella Green

A Difference of Opinion

It is not at all unusual for architects and builders to see things differently. Our member Joy Walker's enthusiasms include the collection of information about her paternal grandfather. He was Joseph Power, a distinguished architect, who was at one time in partnership with John Sulman. Power designed many local structures including the charming "home" of the Lindfield Chess and Whist Club in Havilah Lane.

Kathie Rieth's story last month about the WW1 War Service homes prompted Joy to tell us that her own father, Allan Power, obtained a War Service Loan in 1922 to build at 26 Owen St, Lindfield. Naturally enough it was arranged that his architect father, Joseph, should design it. Just as naturally, it was arranged that his wife's brother-in-law Frederick Dodwell, a builder of Lindfield, should build the young couple's dream home.

Oh dear! A "difference of professional opinion" arose between Joseph and Frederick when architect Joseph decided one of the walls was "out of plumb". He made builder Frederick pull the whole wall down and rebuild it. Think about it! Even after 80 years one imagines the family discord and can sympathise with the newlyweds who were caught in the middle.

Some Sites to see

From Judith Fuller: www.coraweb.com.au Particularly good because it has many links to other useful sites.

From Annet Latham: freebmd.rootsweb.com for English births, marriages and deaths (BMD's) from September 1837. This is a work in progress undertaken by volunteers and is not yet complete, but is well worth exploring. www.familysearch.org the Latter Day Saints free website is particularly useful for pre 1837 BDM records and the 1881 UK Census. www.findmypast.com This is a pay per view site for UK BDM's from 1837 and all Census records 1841 - 1901 but indexes can be viewed free of charge.

From Ken Knox: www.awm.gov.au for armed forces service records (particularly WWI). Typing "embarkation records" or "Red Cross" into **site search** will take you to

thousands of records. Users should be warned, however, that if using **dial up internet** it can take a long time to download the records.

www.naa.gov.au National Archives have now completed the task of digitalising all WWI service records. There are clear directions for access to individual records and they can open up a fascinating insight into an ancestor's service career, from enlistment to death or discharge.

All the above can be accessed via www.sl.nsw.gov.au

Useful Tip: If you like a particular site, remember to put it into **favourites** before you exit.

- collated by Lyn Done

Is it a Record?

Probably not a world record but surely one which would be hard to beat.

Our member, Christine Edwards, tells us there have been 18 (yes, EIGHTEEN) successive female births in one line of her family tree without even one male. It works this way:

Christine's great grandparents, Adolph and Elizabeth Grunow, had 5 daughters but no son. (Running total 5). One daughter was Christine's grandmother Linda Grunow.

Linda Grunow married Alfred Newington and had 3 daughters but no son. (Running total 8). One daughter was Christine's mother Hilma Newington.

Hilma Newington married Kenneth Biddle and had 3 daughters but no son. (Running total 11). One of the daughters is our member, Christine Biddle. (Running total 14).

Christine Biddle married Douglas Edwards and had 2 daughters but no son. (Running total 16). The daughters are Katy and Emma. Katy and Emma have both married. Katy has two daughters and no son (Running total 18 for Katy). Emma has three daughters and no son. (Running total 19 for Emma). If neither Katy nor Emma now has a son, the number of successive female births in their respective lines is likely to climb even higher.

Are there any challengers out there?

Another One-Day Session on 18 June

There is to be another one-day session on computers and on the Family Tree Maker program on Monday 18 June at 10.30pm. Contact Jo Harris (9489-4393) for details and registration.

The Ryerson Index

It was surprising to learn at the last meeting that many of our members were not aware of the Ryerson Index. As is generally known, the NSW Death Register on the internet is now accessible up to 1976. The CD version is up to 1948. Volunteers from the Dead Persons Society are continually extracting death notices from the Sydney Morning Herald, Daily Telegraph and many other NSW and interstate papers and adding them to the free-of charge Ryerson Index on the internet. The Index has some supplementary data too. The Ryerson Index is a wonderful source of information not available from official locations. Copies of death notices can also be requested – again without charge. Just Google “Ryerson Index” and list it in your *Favourites*.

Built Heritage

Cheppywood/Boongala



In 1920 John Spencer Stansfeld designed *Cheppywood* at 28 Kuring-gai Avenue as his own home. Spencer Stansfeld (sometimes incorrectly *Stansfield*) is best known for his involvement with Sydney's first garden suburb, Haberfield. The greater part of the entire estate of 1500 houses at Haberfield is believed to have been designed by him. *Cheppywood* is an Inter-War Old English style villa constructed of dark red brick with a half-timbered gable. The interesting roof covered with terracotta tiles gives it a distinctive character. In September 1924 Eric Campbell bought the property and Spencer Stansfeld moved to another house he designed, which he also called *Cheppywood*, at 61 Kuring-gai Avenue.

The first *Cheppywood* at 28 Kuring-gai Avenue has topical historical interest because, as Colonel Eric Campbell, he was a leader of the New Guard. The Campbells named their house *Boongala* which means 'a shady place'. When *Boongala*, was advertised for sale in 1983 the estate agent stated: "that a special doorway was cut into the study wall to allow New Guard members to come and go without disturbing Campbell's family." It has been said that many plots by the New Guard were hatched beside the mantelpiece in the study. Whether fact or fiction is yet to be proven but what is known is that Eric Campbell, leader of the New Guard movement owned the house from 1924 – 1946. The New Guard was an organisation formed in 1931, the objects of which were declared to be unswerving loyalty to the Throne, support for the British Empire, suppression of any disloyal and immoral elements in the government and industrial and social circles. Its primary object was stated to be the destruction of communism and Eric Campbell said that the organization would stamp out "the bushfire of Langism", meaning the activities of the State Labour Government led by JT Lang.

At the official opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in 1932, a New Guardsman Francis Edward de Groot rode up and cut the ribbon with his sword, announcing: "On behalf of decent loyal citizens of NSW, I now declare this bridge open". De Groot was charged with being a person "deemed to be insane and not under proper care and control". However he was eventually charged with offensive behaviour, using threatening words and damage of a ribbon.

Mr Eric Campbell, in a statement to the Herald declared "That Captain de Groot had acted with the full approval of the executive council of the New Guard, but that the idea was entirely his own. ... "Captain de Groot's conduct throughout was dignified and orderly" proceeded Mr Campbell. "He merely rode up the street without breaking any law in so doing. Even when he passed the Governor's stand he saluted, as a British officer should, and the salute was returned".

- Jennifer Harvey

Copy for Newsletter

General copy for publication should be lodged with the Editor, Max Farley at (mmff2@bigpond.net.au) **as early as possible** but no later than 7th of the month (except December) unless otherwise arranged. Copy lodged before that date **will receive preference** all things being equal. Copy is to be submitted on the understanding that the Society has editing rights and readers can reproduce it in whole or part with acknowledgement. Material should preferably be in electronic form.

A “Thank You”

Producing our monthly Newsletter calls on the time of many people and the work of many of them is too little recognised. This includes the members who do the photocopying, collating, folding inserting and mailing. Last month the mailing list was 423 so the processing does take quite a few hours each month. Though happily we have half-a dozen or more members who work on it from time to time, there are two who are almost always on the job – Colleen O’Connor and Elizabeth Hartnell. They have our special thanks.

New Members

We are pleased indeed to welcome the following new members:

Alan Parker (West Pymble); John R Phillips (St Ives); Carol Rodgers (Turramurra) and Seniors Mortgage Finance – Ray Stokes (Corporate)

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

Quiz Answers

1. They are all parks or playgrounds in Ku-ring-gai.
Bullock Park is off Ryde Rd (Pymble); *Toby Toe* Retreat is between Mander and Delaware Avenues, (St Ives); *Sinkers Green* is off Albert Drive (Killara); and *Ticket of Leave Park* is off Fiddens Wharf Rd (Killara). (Reference: *Gregory’s Directory 2006*)
 2. A Primary Application is a request, with supporting evidence, made by an individual to convert to Torrens Title land held prior to the introduction of the Real Property Act (1862).

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 5 May	Family History - 11am Members Discussion German research - 2pm General Meeting
Wed 16 May	7.45pm - KHS General Meeting <i>Myths, Realities and the Founding of Australia</i>
Sun 20 May	9am (Turramurra) - 9.15am (Gordon) Day tour of Ryde
Sat 2 June	Family History - 11am Members Discussion - 2pm General Meeting Guest Speaker: John Jewell. Topic: “Memory Banks”
Sat 16 June	12.30pm Volunteers Luncheon 2pm – KHS General Meeting Volunteers “Recognition” Speaker: <i>Women Architects of NSW</i>
Mon 18 June	10.30am - One-Day Training Session on Computers & Family Tree Maker

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