



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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Important Ceremony

Ku-ring-gai Council turns one hundred this year and has honoured us by choosing one of our meeting days to have a special tree-planting ceremony to mark the Centenary. Our new Mayor, Councillor Nick Ebbeck, will perform the deed at 1pm on Saturday 2 December in the garden adjacent to the School. This date coincides with our regular Family History Meeting day. All Society members are not only welcome but urged to attend the ceremony as it is an important occasion in Ku-ring-gai's history. It is so special we have decided to follow the planting with an informal luncheon for those who come along even though not family history buffs. So please come and bring a "plate". It may even be that Society members generally may like to stay for the regular 2pm Family History meeting where a number of our family history people will talk on "the First 25 Years of My Life".

Year's End coming

It seems that no sooner do we get one year well under way before we have to make plans to wind it up and start the next.

This is our last Newsletter for 2006. We have reported on a year which, looking back, has been one of satisfying achievement – made possible by the valued work of our volunteers.

The Committee wishes all readers goodwill for the festive season and hopes you enjoy health and happiness in the coming year.

Brainless Destruction

Not just Family Historians but everyone with a concern for the past and for those who peopled it, would have been shocked to have read that hundreds of historic tombstones have been knocked over and smashed at Rookwood. Indeed more than 300 grave sites have been vandalised over the last several months. The damage was mostly to Catholic crosses but police are of the opinion there was no religious motivation behind the attacks.

Christmas Rooms Closure

Our Research Centre will be closed from Friday 22 December and will re-open on Monday 8 January.

Coming Meetings

NEXT SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 18 November

2pm – GENERAL MEETING and Christmas party

Guest Speaker: Tom Ware

Topic: The Sealers of Macquarie Island



**THE MEETING WILL BE FOLLOWED BY OUR
CUSTOMARY CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Please bring a plate

Visitors welcome

NEXT FAMILY HISTORY MEETINGS

Saturday 4 November 2006

11am - Members' Research Session

2pm - Family History Meeting

General Reports on activities and events

- Speaker: Beth Williams

Topic: Homan Family – Lace Makers who settled at Paterson.

Saturday 2 December 2006

11am - Members' Research Session

2pm - Family History Meeting

"My first 25 years" (members' talks)

The Mayor, Councillor Ebbeck, will plant a tree at 1pm. This will be followed by a celebratory luncheon to which all Society members are invited followed by a "bring a plate" lunch.

The Family History Christmas gathering will take place after the 2pm meeting.

Visitors welcome

JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING

Wednesday 17 January 2007 at 7.45pm

Guest Speaker: Ian Barnett

**Topic: The "Odd" in Sydney's History
(to be confirmed)**

Wedding Preparations at Tulkiyan

Tulkiyan, Ku-ring-gai's own heritage house museum at 707 Pacific Highway at Gordon, will open to the public on Saturday and Sunday, 4 and 5 November.

Featured will be displays of 1920s garments with a "wedding" theme, from the collection of the Cavalcade of Fashion, who will also speak at 2pm on both days.

Open: 10am-4pm, 4 & 5 November

Entry charge \$10 includes refreshment.

Booking is required for Cavalcade talks-
phone *Friends of Tulkiyan* on 9489 3754

November Tour shaping up

Arrangements for our November Northern Tour on 11/12 November are working out well. The visits to the heritage agricultural property Tocal, historic Paterson and Singleton – not to mention the night-time inspection of a Maitland cemetery – all add up to a program chock-full of interest and enjoyment in friendly company. We still have a number of vacancies and would urge you to contact Jo Harris (9489 4393) right away if you would like to be in the party. The "all-up" twin share fee of \$195 (luxury coach travel, lunches, dinner, cooked breakfast, morning and afternoon teas and all entry charges) is the sort of value for money most of us can only remember from the "good old days".

Display Cabinets

How often do you look at the two display cabinets we have in the hallway outside our Rooms? If you don't, you probably do not realise their content is frequently being changed to give extra information to members and the visiting public about current events. Recently, for example, we have had a special display to mark the 90th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme in WW1, to mark the 88th anniversary of the first wireless message from the UK (from Wales) to Australia (to Wahroonga to be precise) and to celebrate Family History Week. Jo Harris and Helen Davies are responsible for putting the displays together. What about taking a few minutes next time you are in?

A Local Architect of Note

It is pleasing indeed to see new books being written about people who played a role in building Ku-ring-gai. One such was architect James Chambers who came from Scotland in 1910 and who designed and built many homes in Ku-ring-gai. A number of these were in the Lindfield/Roseville area and quite a few survive today. Shirley Road figured prominently. Larger works in which he was involved were St David's Presbyterian Church in Lindfield and Holtermann House at the Shore School. *James Thomson Chambers, A Small Architectural History* has been written by granddaughter Heather Chambers. Heather recently became a Society member but we do not really know her personally as she lives in the Central West of NSW.

The book is of 75 pages and has 84 illustrations. Copies can be obtained direct from Heather Chambers at 47 Hamilton Avenue, Eglinton 2795 for \$39.95 plus \$5 postage.

Ethel Turner's Woodlands listed

Driving north up Lindfield Avenue from Lindfield to Werona Avenue one may notice an old home on the corner of Treatts Road. Many would recognise it as Woodlands where Ethel Turner lived in the early 1890s with her mother and stepfather and wrote *Seven Little Australians*. It was built c1885 and was originally called Inglewood. In his *From a Chair in the Sun*, author A T Yarwood records Ethel feared living in the bush at distant Lindfield "posed the danger of being 'buried alive'" but that "at first sight decided she liked Inglewood awfully well, describing it in late 1891 as a pretty, square house with a long balcony and verandah, honeysuckle and white roses creeping up". The name was changed to Woodlands after Ethel Turner left. It is pleasing to see that the NSW Heritage Council has now decided to list it as a heritage building.

Tour Troubles

Organising Society Tours is fraught with hidden problems but one being organised for 22 October 1977 takes the cake. It had to be abandoned because, as is recorded, "the bus proprietor had refused to take a bus load at the time of day required for crossing the Hawkesbury at Wiseman's Ferry punt since the meteorological forecast was 'low tide' and new maritime regulations prevented possible fouling of punt operations".

Quiz

Q 1 The following persons have two things in common so far as we are concerned. What are they? Sorry, it is already so easy that there are no multiple choices on this one.

Barton, Chifley, Curtin, Fadden, Fisher, Forde, Holt, Page and Scullin.

Q2 The following persons have two things in common so far as we are concerned. What are they? Sorry again, no multiple choices on this one either.

Banks, Evans, Forwood, Hicks, Jordan, Parker, Parkinson, Ravenhill, Satterley, Stainsby and Terrell.

Wheels turn and return ???

Retiring KHS President Michael McCabe made this comment in our March 1993 Newsletter:

"Some members may not be aware that the NSW Secondary School Syllabus from 1993 has a mandatory segment where all students must study both Australian History and Australian Geography in years 7-10. One part of the Australian History segment covers student research of their local area. This research is left largely to the discretion of the school".

What happened?

Recent acquisitions

Recent acquisitions to our Collection include:

AUSTRALIA IN TRUST – a selection of the best writings from “Heritage Australia”. (1985). Australian Council of National Trusts in association with William Collins. 274 pages.

THE GRAND OLD MAN – the life and times of Sir Henry Parkes (Robert Travers) Kangaroo Press (1992). 224 pages.

A VICTORIAN ENGAGEMENT – letters and Journals of Walter Hume and Anna Fowler during 1869. Hume was an immigrant surveyor who became senior Queensland Government administrator. University of Queensland Press (1975), 180 pages.

BEYOND THE BORDERS – a history of the Hume and related families from 1790. (Stuart Hamilton Hume). 1991. 224 indexed pages.

DECORATIVE CAST IRON IN AUSTRALIA (Graeme Robertson). Curry O’Neil and Ross (1984). 240 pages.

THE LAST FAREWELL - SETTLERS UNDER SAIL (Don Charlwood). Allen Lane – a division of Penguin Books. Based on the diaries of 19th C immigrants from England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland (1981). *

COLONIAL EVE (Ed Ruth Teale). Hundreds of short extracts from a variety of publications – fascinating, moving, sometimes comical. Glimpses of the lives of Australian women 1788-1914. Oxford University Press (1978). 288 pages. Indexed. *

THE FIRST (& SECOND) FIFTY YEARS. Histories of nursing at RPAH. 1882-1932 (Armstrong). 1932- 1982 (Wilson). *

AUSTRALIANS AT THE BOER WAR (R L Wallace). AGPS (1976). 420 pages. Indexed. *

THE WAY WE WERE – LEISURE and SPORT. Australia in photographs 1860-1920s. Daniel O’Keefe Publishing. 54 pages.*

A DICTIONARY OF AUSTRALIAN COLLOQUIALISMS (G A Wilkes). 1978 Fontana Books (1987). 370 pages. *

* One of a number of publications generously donated by Kathryn Green, sister of Stella Green.

Long-Time Members

It was intriguing when looking up the records about the Society’s early days (see the article on page 3) to see how very long some members have been with us. Even though a number of them have moved away from Ku-ring-gai, and others find it hard to get to meetings, they clearly maintain their interest in the Society and things historical.

Records are not always right but the following are our most longstanding members: *Mr John R E Brown* (1967). Historian of the Year 2004; *Miss Betty Locke* - Life Member (1968); *Mr & Mrs Douglas Spinney* (1973); *Mr & Mrs Alan Templeman* (1973); *Mrs Muriel Leafe* (1974); *Mrs Diana Cumming Cornwell* (1975); *Miss Hazel Perdriau* (1977) – Life member; *Mrs Helen Malcher* (1978) - Past President; *Miss Mary Christmas* (1978) – Life Member.

Happily we still see some of them from time to time. By the way, if anyone feels this information is incorrect, a call to the Editor on 9499 7113 would be welcome.

Profile of our Past

Recently we have been printing “profiles” of some of our current members. In our Historical Society, however, it is appropriate from time to time to look backwards and profile aspects of the Society itself. In doing so we can draw attention to some of those many people who gave their time and talents to bring the Society to where it is now. Too often we tend to think today began only at the end of yesterday . We forget there have been many, many yesterdays since the Society had its Inaugural Meeting. This took place in Council Chambers under the Chairmanship of 1963 Mayor George Revan Nicol (Lindfield) at 8pm on 7 November 1963. Also present were:

Sir John Northcott (Wahroonga) - retired NSW Governor
Brigadier Claude E Cameron (Turramurra) - Mayor 1936
Mr Gordon D Richardson (St Ives) – NSW State Librarian/RAHS
Mrs G D Richardson

Mr Archibald J Gray (Wahroonga) – RAHS

Mrs A J Gray – Society of Australian Genealogists

Mr Russell B Cowan (Wahroonga) – son of first Shire President

Mrs R B Cowan

Mr Les A Jeckeln (Turramurra) – Clerk of Parliaments/ Wahroonga P&C

Mr R G Norminton – Wahroonga P&C

Mr John Atkinson (Lindfield) – Ku-ring-gai’s Chief Librarian

Mr Hugh M Bickford (West Pymble)

Mr & Mrs S H Peattie (Turramurra)

Mr Kenneth A Polden (Gordon)

Mrs P L Davies (Killara) – SAG and National Trust

Mr & Mrs H D Sillery (Bradfield Park)

The first Committee was appointed and consisted of Alderman G R Nicol (President); Mrs G D Richardson (Vice President); Mr A J Gray (Vice President); Mrs P L Davies (Hon Secretary); Mr Sillery (Hon Treasurer) and Committee members Mr L A Jeckeln, Brigadier Claude E Cameron, Mr K A Polden, Mrs K M Sillery, Mr J S Atkinson and Mr H M Bickford.

Undoubtedly it was the Society’s first President, George Revans Nicol who, as Mayor of Ku-ring-gai in 1962/63, had encouraged Council to support the Society’s formation. He was to remain President of the Society until 1971 although from 1966 onwards illness greatly limited the number of meetings he could attend. He was followed in the Presidency by Cliff S McIntosh - a family name well known in Ku-ring-gai

George Nicol had been born in Sydney in 1911 and married Amy Perrin at Singleton in 1935. He was elected as an Alderman on Ku-ring-gai Council in 1962 representing the Roseville Ward and remained on Council until 1968. He was a physiotherapist by profession and, arising from his profession, became a Life Member of the Royal North Shore Hospital. He also played a major role in establishing the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, of which he was made an Honorary Life Director in 1967.

In Rotary, he was a Charter Member and Past President of the Rotary Club of Chatswood and founder, under delegated authority, of the Rotary Club of Ku-ring-gai.

He died on 21 September 1988, his wife Amy having pre-deceased him in 1981.

History Notes

Coleman's Corner, Lindfield

Coleman's Corner has long disappeared as a recognised place name in Ku-ring-gai. It identified a section on the eastern side of the Highway curving north past the Lindfield Library towards the Lindfield Station and gained its name from its one-time owner Thomas Coleman (1855-1937). Thomas had immigrated from Ireland in 1877 and arrived in Sydney on his 22nd birthday.

He married Emma Jenkins in 1881 and they had a dairy farm at *Coleman's Corner* from the late 1880s. They later added a grocery shop, produce store and flower nursery. Emma was a member of the Jenkins family who had settled at *Millwood* farm on the Lane Cove River near Fullers Bridge. Nell, a daughter of Thomas and Emma, used to take baskets of flowers and vegetables from Lindfield on the train to market in Sydney. Writing in *Volley*, a local paper, in 1933 Mayor J G Lockley recalled that 30 years previously "Mr Tom Coleman, of Lindfield, kept the only herd of milking shorthorns in the district". As the gardening writer *Redgum* in the Sydney Sun of 24 October, 1924, Lockley had also claimed that, as a nurseryman, Coleman had the best hippeastrums he had seen.



There are some interesting photographs of Coleman's Corner on page 167 of Kerrin Cook's *The Railway Came to Ku-ring-gai*. Many of the old buildings were removed when the Highway was widened in 1932. Thomas Coleman's own cottage was demolished in 1948.

Thomas died in 1937 and *Coleman's Corner* was destined to lose any remnants of its early character when in 1947 Council compulsorily resumed the land. According to a story in the *North Shore Times* in November 1960, Council offered only \$7660 for the site. The circumstances were controversial and aroused strong opposition from the family members. The Coleman family thought \$7660 was "ridiculous" and refused to take the money. The resumption went ahead anyway.

The family claimed that Council had taken advantage of the war-time "pegging" of prices whereas the real market value

of land was much higher than the artificially "pegged" prices. In the real world much higher and fairer prices were being obtained though perhaps illegally. In 1955, just 8 years later, the VG valuation had risen to \$212,000 according to the *Times*. Coleman's son, Bob, worked as a postman at the Lindfield Post Office and claimed Tooth's Brewery had sought to buy part of the land as far back as 1935 for \$60,000 and that Council had therefore "stripped" him of his rights. After so many years it is difficult to know all the facts but on the face of it the whole situation seems to have been unfortunate.

Those who drive along the Highway past the Lindfield Library may notice a small section of about 2m x 2m fenced off in front of the Library. This marks the site of the Coleman family's well into which household items were dropped when the family vacated. It has continued to subside over the years and the fence protects visitors from tripping over the lowered ground.

We have been assured that the law requires any possible developer from destroying what remains of the well without first having its contents unearthed and examined. It will be interesting to see if this in fact happens.

More Familiar Names

Last month we published brief notes about Robert Pymble, Eden Babbage, Robert McIntosh and Richard Archbold. Even today their family names remain familiar to Ku-ring-gai residents. This month we are referring to several others – Frederick Chilton, Francis Lord and John Fitzgerald Burns.

Frederick Chilton

Another name well known to most Ku-ring-gai people is Chilton because of *Chilton Parade*, Turrumurra. This runs from Eastern Road and past Knox College's Gillespie playing field in Warrawee. The Chilton story is yet another which shows how kind Australia has been to many of our early migrant families.

Our first *Frederick Chilton*, was born 1838 in England and came to Australia as an assisted migrant in 1863. He had been encouraged to do so by his brother Henry who had arrived in 1849 with the 12th Regiment. Fred bought 7 acres in Eastern Road, Turrumurra, settling there in 1879 with his wife, Mary, and 8 year old son, also Frederick. He had much clearing to do before planting his orchard and building his two-roomed home. It was a hard life for the small family and younger Fred, still very much a boy, had to carry a share of the load.

This young Fred had ambition and became a pupil teacher when 14. He then sat for a scholarship exam but, much to his disappointment, was not chosen. This may have had something to do with the fact that on the morning of the exam he and his father had to walk all the way from Turrumurra to "Lane Cove"

to get the ferry to Sydney. This would hardly have been a good thing for a 14 year-old to do before sitting for an exam! Having missed the scholarship he went back to things he knew and became a significant Fruit Merchant in Sydney with friends and business contacts in Victoria, Tasmania and Queensland. He also continued his studies, however, and obtained an Honours pass in Agriculture at the Technical College. In 1902 his father transferred portion of his own land to his son and in 1907 he moved back to Warrawee with his wife. At this stage he had a 2 year old son, also named Frederick. When his business allowed, he preferred to stay at home and work in his orchard where he was always experimenting with new methods, new sprays, new irrigation techniques and equipment. The orchard became a showplace. Other children, two boys (Bob and Henry) and four girls were born at Warrawee.

The last of the trio of Fredericks went to Gordon Public School then to an Intermediate High School at Chatswood. This was followed by two years at North Sydney High and the University where he was to gain degrees in Arts and Law. During this time this third Fred Chilton continued to live in the family home at Turramurra. However, a military career beckoned and he pursued this with distinction. He was awarded a DSO and Bar, became a Brigadier and Deputy Secretary of the Department of Defence. He became Sir Frederick Chilton in 1968. His brother Bob trained as a pharmacist but became interested in radio. He joined the RAAF and became a Squadron Leader and expert in the new Radar technology. His other brother, Henry, became a Lieutenant-Colonel and was awarded the OBE.

Grandfather Frederick and Grandmother Mary must be looking down from above with great satisfaction to see how their early labours had brought fruits of success for the Chilton family.

Francis Lord

Lord Street is on the eastern side of Roseville and runs down from the shops to Archbold Road. Though **Francis Lord** never lived in Ku-ring-gai his name is nevertheless commemorated. Who was Francis Lord and why does Roseville have a Lord Street?

Francis Lord was the third son of seven children born to the memorable Simeon Lord who had arrived in Australia as a convict in 1791 at the age of 20. Simeon was to be one of the colony's wealthiest and most influential residents but that, as they say, is another story. Francis himself was born in 1812. He opened a store in Bathurst but later went on the land and was elected as Member of the NSW Legislative Council for Bathurst in 1843, a post he held "off and on" until his 1897 death. In 1868 he was one of the members of the first Council of the borough of St Leonards. The Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society (Vol 30 page 195) published in 1944 records that Lord Street is "on the property, later called the Station Estate, owned by the Hon Francis Lord MLC, bought in 1885 and subdivided in 1896". Lord had acquired the land from Richard Archbold on 2

May 1886 probably as an investment knowing that a railway was to be built. A portion of the land was purchased from Francis in October 1888 by the Railways.

John Fitzgerald Burns

Burns Road in Wahroonga is rightly regarded as one of the most outstanding in the municipality with its imposing homes, well kept gardens and many large trees. It takes its name from **John Fitzgerald Burns** (1833-1911) who was born in Northern Ireland and came to Australia with his parents when 8 years old. He became a flour miller in the Maitland district but moved to Sydney. In 1873 he was a sharebroker and by 1876 was living in his home, *Braeside*, at 23 Regent St, Paddington. He entered politics in 1861, initially as Member for Hunter and later for St Leonards. His political career took many turns with many changing alliances before being defeated in the election on 1891. While in Government he held the positions of Postmaster-General and Colonial Treasurer.



Burns Road, c 1905

His business interests at one time or another included being a director of the Australian Steam Navigation Company, a trustee of the Sydney Permanent Freehold Land and Building Society, Chairman of Wickham and Bullock Island Coal Co Ltd and a trustee of the Public Library of NSW. In 1887 he refused a knighthood.

Perhaps the most controversial event of his career so far as Ku-ring-gai is concerned was his membership of a syndicate which bought land in 1876 in the Hornsby area and which extended to Grosvenor Road in Wahroonga. This was prior to the 1886 opening of the main northern railway line to Newcastle. One of his colleagues was **Robert Burdett Smith** (giving rise to Burdett St, Hornsby and Smith St, Warrawee - the latter now renamed Bangalla St). He was a solicitor and politician. Another was **George Withers** (George St, Hornsby) who was a builder and also a politician. Their venture was later the subject of major inquiries by a Parliamentary Select Committee and a Royal Commission into insider trading and the improper use of public moneys. It was said that the Government's Casual Labour Board had been called upon in the construction of Burns and Junction Roads. As it happened, the syndicate's project was a financial failure. John Burns died at his Paddington home on 19 March 1911. He had married Lucy Maria Smith in Maitland in 1854 and they had nine children.

Family Matters

Julie's Jubilation

All those at our 7 October meeting could relate to the surprises and frustrations Julie told us she had encountered during her researches. Her father had been born in Woolwich, England, not at Bulli as on his marriage certificate. How and when he came to Australia remains a mystery. Further, he was not an only child as had been thought but turned out to have had many siblings of whom 3 younger sisters, a step sister and brothers have completely disappeared. He had previously been married and divorced unbeknown to Julie who was the only child of his second marriage. His first marriage was so secret it took a lot of searching to find it or the subsequent divorce. If he did in fact have any parents at all, they were never buried so far as has been discovered. His mother must have been found under a bush as she does not seem to have been born in the usual way. Julie then found nine different ways to spell her own grandmother's maiden name but her other grandmother had neither a maiden name nor a given name – she came from nowhere and went nowhere.

Really! Though Julie did have many successes, the problems she met must have been enough to tempt her to turn to knitting for relaxation, but she is of sterner stuff and did what all researchers should do when everything comes to a dead end – start a different line of research altogether.

She decided instead to trace her husband's Werner family. She knew the family came from Schleswig-Holstein, which was once an independent state between Germany and Denmark, but is now part of Germany. At one of our meetings she discussed her project with fellow member, Peter Stehn, who warned her that many of the earlier records would have been in "old German" and difficult to read. He did, however, give her the name of a researcher in Hamburg with whom he had dealt and suggested they make contact. Julie emailed a list of rather general questions and received an immediate reply setting out the fees involved and services. She happily sent off a deposit of 60 Euros (no technical problem) and within a short time had masses of information she would never have been able to uncover herself even if she had been prepared to travel to Germany. JUBILATION! There were to be extra expenses involved if Julie wanted to go further, which she did. She says it was worth every cent and much more. A lot of documentation came too. Amongst other things it seemed that her husband's forebear had come to Australia in company with his own brother, but they came under different names!

Oh, and Julie learnt that ancestor Gottfried Werner, described in records as "Inspector of Buildings", was a Chimney Sweeper.

Family History Meeting

7th October

11am Questions and Answers

Kevin Callinan led the 11am session and the meeting dealt with questions on aspects of family history research posed by the 20 members present, many of whom suggested solutions and ideas. Subjects included the availability of Electoral Rolls, books on Gore Hill Cemetery, how to look up Wills without paying for a copy, shipping arrival records, preservation of documents in propylene sleeves not PVC, transferring old videos to DVD, South Australian deaths, research on someone who jumped ship from a German vessel, migrant ships from Hamburg, and researching a barrister who took his own life.

2pm General Meeting

Some 50 members were present at the afternoon session. Reports and information were given on a number of current "housekeeping" matters including:

- * Advice was given that the 2nd December meeting will feature "My First 25 years" (individual members will tell of their birthplace, schooling, growing up, their parents, etc.). Participants to contact Jo.
- * Members can help themselves in the box of duplicate 'Descents' and other publications including maps no longer required. Borrow or take any item with a corner missing.
- * Transcripts of BDM certificates from Joy Murrin.
- * Ordering procedure.
- * Increase in costs of some BDM certificates
- * Volunteer rosters to the end of January are available for collection.
- * The 'NZ Genealogist' journal is recommended reading.
- * Proceedings of Old Bailey 1634-1834 available on the internet.
- * Newsletters from other Societies are in the Rooms to be read.

Following these reports, a birthday cake was unexpectedly produced in celebration of the 90th birthday of our popular member Joyce Ryerson (of Ryerson Index fame). It was ceremoniously cut by Joyce and shared around.

There was then a presentation from Jo Harris on how using a digital camera and a laptop computer can greatly help in research. The points included:

- * buy the best camera you can afford, with a minimum of 4 mega-pixels
- * ensure the camera's viewer can be seen even in sunlight
- * always carry spare battery and storage card
- * ideally have a tripod for inside work
- * your laptop should be the lightest and most compact. (Jo's weighs 1.2kg and fits in an A4 firm plastic file and can be carried in a backpack)
- * the laptop should have adequate hard drive storage and numerous USB ports
- * Using a camera to photo and copy documents is quick and much cheaper than photocopying (87 pages of Gordon School admission lists were copied in 35 minutes).
- * Examples were shown of digital photos which would have been impossible to take using an ordinary camera.

Members asked many question throughout and much was learnt.

- from notes taken by Stella Green

Perpetual Calender Website

It can be pesky when researching something and a note or an old document refers to an event occurring on, say, Saturday 2 November without mentioning the year. The original author knew the year and assumed all his readers did too and would do so many years later (or did not care). Estate Agents, for example, ignored the year in many of their land sale posters. There have been Perpetual Calendars around forever but, even if you can find a copy, they usually involve some tricky calculating.

Happily www.timeanddate.com makes it easy. The site lets you look up the calendar for any particular years. Of course you do need to have a rough idea of about what year your event occurred.

Christine's Missing Chest

In our August issue we mentioned how a seat/chest carved by Christine Edwards' great grandfather had gone missing. He had given it to the Royal North Shore Hospital to mark its attainment of Royal status and it had been in the Hospital's entrance area for many years. We would like to say it has turned up but sadly can't. We can, however, report that its loss featured on Can We Help, an ABC TV program, on Friday 29 September. Let us hope for the sake of Christine, her family's history and the history of the Hospital, that it is now found.

Built Heritage

The BRIARS

14 WOONONA Avenue, WAHROONGA



Woonona Avenue in Wahroonga is one of those places you would have driven past many times but probably never noticed. It is on the Highway opposite Abbotsleigh just south of where the F3 joins. If you do not know Woonona Avenue you probably would not know The Briars at No 14.

The home was designed by Charles H Halstead in 1895 for William Alexander Balcombe (1855-1939) and is a State Heritage listed item. It is also listed by the National Trust and Ku-ring-gai Council.

It is a prime example of the style of development prevalent in the area at the end of the 1890s when the Victorian architectural era was coming to an end and the Federation period beginning. So far as Wahroonga is concerned, it is historically significant as it represents the first period of residential expansion in the area which followed the opening of the North Shore railway line in 1890.

There is also an interesting historical link with Napoleon Bonaparte. William Balcombe's grandfather, also William Balcombe (1779-1829), had settled at St Helena in 1804. He was a merchant and superintendent of sales for the East India Co. His estate at St Helena was called The Briars. When exiled to St Helena in 1815, Napoleon was first housed in a pavilion on Balcombe's estate and Balcombe became a supplier to Napoleon's household. The two became friendly and in 1818 this led to Balcombe's dismissal from the Island on suspicion he was secretly forwarding mail on Napoleon's behalf to and from St Helena. No formal charge was ever laid however.

William returned to England but his well-connected wife, Jane, prevailed upon her parliamentary friends to have him appointed the first Colonial Treasurer of New South Wales. He and his family arrived here in 1824. Two of his sons, both born in St Helena, were Thomas (1810) and Alexander (1811).

Thomas married Lydia Stuckey in 1840. One of their children was the William who was destined to be the owner of The Briars in Wahroonga. It is of interest to note that the floor plan of the Wahroonga home is said to be the same as that of grandfather William's The Briars at St Helena.

- Jennifer Harvey

Copy for Newsletter

General copy for publication should be lodged with the Acting Editor, Max Farley at (mmff@ozemail.com.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.

An Appreciation

As your "Acting Editor" I would like to record my gratitude on your behalf not only to those many who have contributed information but particularly to Kerrin Cook who reliably transfers the text I send her into the Newsletter format. Also, a special "thank you" must go to those whose dedicated efforts turn the "artwork" into several hundred mailable Newsletters which are then folded, inserted into addressed envelopes and lodged with the Post Office. The task of so effectively cajoling our photocopier into producing the best quality possible is carried out wonderfully by volunteers led by our new Vice President Ann Barry. We are grateful to them all.

- Max Farley (Acting Editor)

Welcome to New Members

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

Julie Renshaw (Belrose) and Tom White (St Ives)

Tom is already well known to us as our recently retired auditor. We know he and Julie will enjoy their time in the Society and that we in turn will enjoy their company.

Quiz Answers

- A. 1 (!) They were all Prime Ministers
 A. 2 (!) All sailed with Captain Cook on one or more of his three voyages
 (!) All have streets named after them in the Turrumura/Wahroonga/Pymble areas

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

4/5 Nov	10am-4pm – Tulkiyan/Cavalcade of Fashion
Sat 4 Nov	Family History meeting.
11/12 Nov	Tour to Paterson/Tocal/Singleton
Sat 18 Nov	2pm- KHS General Meeting - Tom Ware – Sealers of Macquarie Island - Christmas party
Sat 2 Dec	Family History - 11 am Members Discussion. - 1pm Mayor's Tree Planting/Luncheon - 2pm General Meeting - Christmas Party
Wed 17 Jan	7.45pm - KHS General Meeting - Ian Barnett - The "Odd" in Early Sydney History (to be confirmed)
Sat 3 Feb	Family History - 11am Members Discussion - 2pm General Meeting
Wed 14 Feb	2pm - KHS General Meeting

Administration

President	Kevin Callinan	9983 1525
Vice Presidents	Ann Barry	9144 6480
	Jo Harris	9489 4393
Treasurer	Doug Milne	9487 2853
Secretary		
Immed. Past President	Max Farley	9499 7113
Committee members	Kerrin Cook	9416 2586
	Helen Davies	9498 3754
	Sue Dunston	9498 8720
	Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
	David Wilkins	9416 8519

Appointees

Accessions	Jennifer Wallin	9983 1871
Book Sales/Asst Curator	Ann Barry	9144 6480
Curator	Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
Family History		
Leader:	Jo Harris	9489 4393
Committee:	Lyn Done	9449 7715
	Jenny Joyce	9440 2131
	Jean Smith	9498 4468
	Peter Stehn	9489 9488
	Elaine Turnidge	9899 2635
Historian Editors	c/- Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
	with Kathie Rieth, John King, Bob Ross	
Newsletter - Editor (Acting)	Max Farley	9499 7113
- Layout	Kerrin Cook	9416 2586
Public Officer	Helen Davies	9498 3754
"SNAP" Co-ordinator	Helen Davies	9498 3754
Speakers Programme	Beverley Dunstan	9419 8526
Volunteers Roster	Heather Davidson	9144 1844

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