



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.

September 2006

Monthly Newsletter

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Notice of Annual Meeting

The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 20 September at the conclusion of the monthly meeting to be held at 7.45pm.

The meeting will consider the Annual Report of the Committee and the financial report for the year ended on 30 June 2006. The elections of Office Bearers and the Committee will also be conducted. Nomination papers relating to these elections are enclosed with this Newsletter. Completed nomination forms must be received not later than close of business on Wednesday 13 September 2006.

15 July General Meeting

Approximately 60 members were present to hear President Kevin open the meeting and report on a number of current items being considered by the Committee. These included

*the successful Festival at St Ives: development of the Society's Oral History program.

* the proposed listing by the State Heritage Office of Ethel Turner's home, Woodlands, in Werona Av, Killara, where she wrote *Seven Little Australians*

* the growing band of volunteers who gather each Wednesday to work on the preservation of the Society's records

* an invitation to members to put forward names of likely speakers to Beverley Dunstan

*grants from Council to assist with publicity banners for the Society's community activities and towards making a CD on local history for primary schools.

* a call for any members with teaching experience to help develop teaching aids to support the CD for schools.

Kevin's remarks were followed by a report from Jo Harris on

* the Tour to Tocal and Paterson planned for 11/12 November

* discussions with Volunteers aimed at increasing service to members and the public

* the July Family History meeting

* the commencement of another Introductory Course on Family Research.

The meeting unanimously approved a recommendation from the Committee that Life Membership be granted to Past President Max Farley.

Coming Meetings

Next Society General Meeting

Wednesday 20 September

7.45 pm - GENERAL MEETING
- ANNUAL MEETING

Guest Speaker: Anne Higham

Topic: "Post-war Architecture in Ku-ring-gai"



Rose Seidler House

Anne is a researcher currently working with the Institute of Architects on a project funded by the Heritage Office. She will talk on contemporary architecture which has shaped the physical environment of Ku-ring-gai. Particular reference will be made to Seidler, Pettit and Sevitt and the Kuring-gai CAE.

Supper will be available

Visitors welcome

Next Family History Meeting

Saturday 2 September

11am - Members' Research Session

An informal Q&A Session on using computers

2pm - Family History Meeting

General Reports on Activities and events

followed by

Eric Ward who will talk on:

"Innocents Abroad –

WW2 Child Evacuees from Great Britain"

Afternoon Tea will be available

Visitors welcome.

Our Guest Speaker, Brigadier Owen MacGee, was then introduced. He had been Director of the Rocks Redevelopment Authority from its inception until 1985 and told How the Rocks Was Won. A brief report of his talk is contained later in this Newsletter.

National Trust Leader Dies

Reginald Nelson Walker, previously of West Pymble and Mayor of Ku-ring-gai in 1962, recently died at the age of 87. He was the first full time Director of the NSW National Trust from 1963 until 1974 and also Secretary of the Australian Council of National Trusts. He was awarded the Order of Australia in 1975.

“How the Rocks was won”

Brigadier MacGee, Director of the Rocks Development Authority from its beginning and until 1985, spoke to the Society's meeting on 15 July. He said the Rocks area in Sydney acquired its name from the day Phillip landed at Sydney Cove. Convicts were directed to the “rocky point”, the marines to the creek and the gentry to the left. Later its residents included Robert Campbell, Lieutenant George Barney, Bishop Broughton, Edmund Barton and George Reid. It became a working class residential area and much of it was demolished by the Government as a result of the 1900 bubonic plague. In the 1950s it was ripe for renewal and big developers were interested. The prospect of change aroused great hostility from the residents who had been enjoying extremely low rentals for decades. If they were to be moved, they demanded high “key money”. The developers decided not to buy because of tenant opposition. Many of the “residents” in fact lived in homes elsewhere and others were commercial organisations which had been enjoying ludicrously low rentals. A change of government brought a firmer attitude and compulsory evictions were made through the Courts. The NSW Builders Labourers Federation applied a black ban and resulted in the Federation eventually being de-registered.

The Authority, with strong legislation now behind it, proceeded with its task. It first had the National Trust undertake a survey to recommend what buildings should be kept. Brigadier MacGee said there were several things he had failed to achieve including a memorial to Caroline Chisholm next to Cadman's Cottage, a St Patrick's Park on the NW corner of Grosvenor Street as traffic left the Bridge and a plaque near the Overseas Terminal in recognition of the Aborigines of the area.

Don Paull expressed the Society's thanks to the Brigadier for his extremely interesting talk.

RAHS Conference 14-15 October

We are particularly fortunate this year because the annual conference of the Royal Australian Historical Society, with which we are affiliated, is being held right on our doorstep at the Hornsby RSL. It will be on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th October.

This year the general theme will be “*Roads, Rates and Records: Governing the Neighbourhood*”, but topics will

be wide ranging and include *State Records and Local Government Records and the Role of a Local History Society in preserving Heritage*.

Registrations need to be in by Friday, 29 September. Forms and more information can be had from the RAHS (9247 8001) or from the KHS Rooms.

Tocal Tour Firms Up

Arrangements for our 11-12 November Tour are almost all slotted into place. We'll be having a guided tour of the historic Tocal, visiting nearby Paterson with a stop-over on Saturday night at Maitland then another guided tour of Singleton on Sunday including its museum. Had hoped to have full details with this Newsletter but they'll be along with the next. The fee will be \$195 (single supplement \$43) covering virtually all costs. It might seem a long way off but these Tours are always very popular so it might be an idea to make sure of a place by having a word now with Jo Harris on 9489 4393.

Vale “Mr Ku-ring-gai”

Norman Griffiths BEM, Ku-ring-gai's Town Clerk from 1937 until retirement in 1969, passed away on 22 July 2006 at the age of 102. Known to his general staff as “Mr Ku-ring-gai” he served the citizens of Ku-ring-gai, through Council, for 50 years having joined the staff as a clerk in 1919. He had worked with five Shire Presidents (Ku-ring-gai was a Shire before becoming a Municipality in 1928) and 21 Mayors.

KHS member Stuart Doyle, himself a long-serving staff member of Council, worked closely with him and speaks glowingly of Norman Griffiths both as a civic servant and as a gentleman. He was conservative in the fashion of the times and was generally known always as “Mr Griffiths”. Though his senior staff called him “Griff” they did not do so to his face and only very few Mayors addressed him as “Norman”.

In his 50 years with Council, including 22 as Town Clerk from 1947 to 1969, many changes took place - Council became a Municipality, adopted the Cumberland County Council Planning Scheme, constructed the current Council Chambers, Public Libraries, Baby Health Centres, acquired two Golf Courses and promoted the “greening” of Ku-ring-gai. He was involved in all these things and much more.

A local person through and through, Mr Griffiths was raised with his family in Highlands Avenue, Gordon and attended the Gordon Public School. After marriage he lived in Darnley Street, also in Gordon.

Though a leader in a bygone time, his character, commitment and abilities would have guaranteed him a leadership role no matter what the era.

Quiz

The challenge is to match up the House Names with the correct Suburb and the name of the Person(s) associated with that house.

<u>HOUSE</u>	<u>PERSON</u>	<u>SUBURB</u>
<i>Eryldene</i>	Ethel Turner	Turrumurra
<i>Grandview</i>	Donaldson family	Killara
<i>Woodlands</i>	Sir Martin McIlrath	Pymble
<i>Ingleholme</i>	Grace Smith	Gordon
<i>Tulkiyan</i>	Richard Porter	Turrumurra
<i>Cossington</i>	Prof. Waterhouse	Gordon

The Somme Remembered

July saw recognition paid to the tens of thousands, many of them Australians, who suffered the horrors of the battle of the Somme in WW1 in July 1916 – 90 years ago. Thousands died. Our member Hilda Wakelin's father was there and fortunately survived. Her uncle Arch died in the trenches at Bullecourt. Hilda was interviewed on the ABC's 7.30 Report on Tuesday 18 July and spoke of her family's involvement in that horrendous battle. Hilda's father was Roy Gowing OAM of the retail family. She was a granddaughter of Frank Cliff and Daisy Light – all of Lindfield. The family names *Light* and *Cliff* were combined in Lindfield's Lightcliff Avenue. Hilda and her late husband, Bert Wakelin, together produced a number of large volumes detailing their family history including family involvement in the life of Lindfield over many years.

Research Never Stops

It is wonderful to see so many members researching so many things these days. This work is going on quietly all the time and vast amounts of information are being gathered for use by local and family historians from Kuring-gai and elsewhere. The research is often done by individuals working alone but sometimes members pool their talents and work collectively. One such group visited State Archives at Kingswood on 24 July to find out the finer details of the early grants of land in Kuring-gai. We already know the broad picture but it was known more information could be obtained from the actual documentation. The group was led by Jennifer Harvey and included Ann Barry, Rosemary Pye, Kathy Reith and Neroli Lock.

Wireless Anniversary

Come and help us celebrate the 88th anniversary of the first direct wireless message from the UK to Australia - Wales to Wahroonga. The Society will be at the Wahroonga Fisk monument at the corner of Cleveland & Stuart Streets all day on **Friday 22 September**.

Member Profile - Mary Christmas



Once a regular face at our meetings we nowadays see Mary Christmas only on those Saturdays in winter when the Society meets on afternoons. Because of that, not many of our newer members know much about her nor of her work for the Society which earned her Life Membership in 1994.

Mary joined in 1979 and by September the following year she was appointed to the Committee where she remained until 1995. She served four terms as Vice President and seven as Treasurer.

Previously Mary spent 32 years in the insurance industry – six as Secretary to the NSW Manager of the Eagle Star Insurance Company and six as a stenographer with the Company in both London and Edinburgh. Upon returning to Sydney she spent 20 years working for an Insurance Broker, initially as Secretary and later as Head Office accountant and Paymaster for Branches in all States of Australia.

Perhaps Mary is most recognised within the Society, particularly by all the long-term members, for the many Tours she organised. Incredibly, from 1984 until 1999 she arranged as many as 76! – sometimes up to seven each year. This she did in company with her friends and fellow members Mary Salier and Cushla Baker. The Tours always emphasised historical aspects and required detailed research.

Mary Salier sadly died in January 2005 after a long illness. She, too, had been an active worker for the Society being a committee member from 1980 until 1988. In that time she also served a term as Assistant Honorary Secretary then as Librarian. We are always happy to see Cushla Baker whenever she is able to come along to our meetings. Cushla, too, was a committee member from 1984 until 1995. In her last year she was Vice-President.

These three, led by Mary Christmas, collectively arranged tours to dozens of places of historic interest. They gave members great enjoyment and at the same time helped the Society with much needed income. Both the Marys had gained a lot of knowledge about historic Tours because they had each spent eight years as “Guardians” for the National Trust at Old Government House at Parramatta and were active participants in countless of the Trust's Day and “Away” tours.

In 1991 Mary was the deserved recipient of a Certificate of Achievement from the Royal Australian Historical Society.

She continues to serve the community as a *Meals on Wheels* volunteer – a task she has carried out for the past 27 years.

History Notes

A Forgotten History

The Cromla Fortalice

Most members who have read of Ku-ring-gai's evolution from very early times would accept that the first comprehensive history published was that of Les Thorne who, in 1968, released his *North Shore, Sydney, from 1788 to Today*. In his book he traced the development of the whole of the harbour's northern shore embracing not only the Municipality of Ku-ring-gai but also the municipalities of Lane Cove, Willoughby, North Sydney and Mosman.

It will surprise almost everyone, however, to learn that a book was written as far back as 1927 which had the same broad vision as did Thorne forty-one years later. What was this book and why do we not know of it?

It was the *Book of the North Shore* written by Charles Henry Whitham and has been buried away in the Mitchell Library as an unpublished manuscript. The Society has had a section of it in its Collection but details of its origin and of its author were vague. Perhaps a contributing factor to its "disappearance" was that an unknown hand at the top of the manuscript has mistakenly called the author "Witham" and this may have sent enquirers down a profitless road.

Why was it not published? It seems probable it was so far ahead of its time that no publisher was willing to risk finding a market for it.

What of the mysterious Charles Henry Whitham? Some delving has disclosed that he was born in India in 1873 and came with his family to Hobart in 1886. We find that his father was a military man and that Charles entered the mining industry in Queenstown. He became a leading individual in promoting environmentalism and tourism in Tasmania's west coast. He came to Sydney as a journalist in 1923 and, apart from several years in Canberra, remained here until his death in 1940. One of his brothers, John Lawrence Whitham, was a professional soldier like their father and, interestingly, retired to live in Lucinda Avenue in Wahroonga where he died in 1952.

Whitham's *Book of the North Shore* is clearly of considerable historical importance though the author in his introductory remarks admits it is incomplete and unrevised. The Society is delighted to now have a complete copy of the manuscript on its shelves and to have helped gain wider recognition of the important place it has in the recorded history of the North Shore.

Elsewhere in these *HISTORY NOTES* mention is made of Charles Whitham's 1927 history of the North Shore. It was he who wrote poetically of *Cromla*, one of Ku-ring-gai's little known gems which is in The Kingsway in Roseville Chase. *Cromla* in Gaelic means "Altar". Built above Roseville Bridge in 1889, it looks down on a picturesque section of Middle Harbour which even today remains rimmed by uninhabited bushland. Whitham likened the home, together with its complex of stables, servants' quarters and other support structures, to a Scottish fortress, or *fortalice*, built on the steep banks of a Scottish loch and well placed to repel invaders from hostile clans.

Cromla was built of sandstone by John Campbell, a Sussex Street merchant, who should not be confused with his namesake Robert Campbell who had his own warehouse and Wharf at Dawes Point. John Campbell was born on the Isle of Skye in 1835 and came to Australia as a very young child with his parents in 1837. He began as a grain merchant in 1853 and became highly regarded by his fellow merchants. He was also active in the Presbyterian Church with strong connections with St Stephen's and was a Councillor of St Andrew's College at the University from its inception.

In 1858 he married Elizabeth Peat, a daughter of First Fleeter George Peat whose name is today mainly associated with the Hawkesbury. They had 10 children. He had a jetty below his property which gave river access to his Sussex Street wharf. He was also known for his four handsome white horses stabled below the *Cromla* home. He died in 1907 and his wife Elizabeth in 1925.

In later years the complex changed hands a number of times with members of the Berkelouw family of bookselling renown being owners at one time. Even though the property has been subdivided it is pleasing to see that for the most part the resulting homes retain much of the original sandstone structures though well adapted to today's living requirements.



- Max Farley *An early photo of Cromla. Taken from the vicinity of Babbage Road. Most of the buildings are recognisable today. The living areas were in the building at top left with the bedroom/bathroom accommodation to the immediate right. Below were the stables, fodder storage and men's quarters.*

Before Ku-Ring-Gai Council

As we know, Local Government came to Ku-ring-gai just on hundred years ago in 1906. Many would also know that it first appeared as a Shire Council with a President but was proclaimed as a Municipality with a Mayor in 1928.

How many of us may have sometimes wondered who, before 1906, was responsible for making and maintaining our streets, tending to health and hygiene, setting standards for buildings, establishing our parks and generally doing the things we expect these days of our local Council? The short answer is that these were not done at all or were done by the NSW Government itself, through local groups such as Progress Associations or by individual residents. Government financial help was sought for specific projects.

As Sydney grew the Government found the financial burden of meeting the costs of providing municipal services was becoming too heavy. In 1858 it passed the Municipalities Act which set the stage for the introduction of local government on an optional basis in those districts which wanted it. They were given the right to raise money. Lane Cove, North Sydney, Willoughby and Ryde set up Councils but Ku-ring-gai and many others didn't - presumably because residents baulked at introducing a system which meant the compulsory payment of rates.

As populations continued to expand the need for more services grew and became increasingly costly. In 1905 the Government decided to introduce compulsory Local Government throughout NSW with the result that areas, including Ku-ring-gai, which had so far chosen not to incorporate were forced to do so from 1906. A 1905 Royal Commission had proposed that two Councils be set up in the Ku-ring-gai area - one to be known as "Wahroonga", and the other "Lindfield" with Ryde and Mona Vale Roads being the dividing point. This did not eventuate.

Party politics in the usual sense has not entered Ku-ring-gai but that is not surprising having in mind the essentially conservative political inclinations of most residents. That is not to say, however, that there have not been many controversial problems for Council to handle as there has never been a shortage of special interest groups ever ready to promote their many causes, often with considerable heat and passion. Individual Councillors, too, have frequently differed for a multitude of reasons. Indeed in 1925 Mr H A Warby of the Ku-ring-gai Citizen's League publicly declared that:

"During the past six or seven years the Ku-ring-gai Shire Council had degenerated into a battle of conflicting personalities, where matters of policy were debated on personal grounds rather than on their merits."

Notwithstanding these problems and recognising the limitations within which it has to operate, it would be hard not to agree that, looked at objectively, Local Government plays a large and effective role in fostering and maintaining the many benefits enjoyed by residents.

People of our Past

The Fowler family of Roseville

Ku-ring-gai Council is once again seeking expressions of interest for the lease of Firs Cottage in Roseville. How many are aware of this old cottage in Roseville Park off Clanville Road? It has been there since at least the latter half of the 19th century and a section of it could possibly be the oldest residential structure in Roseville.

It lies within the Clanville Estate which Governor Macquarie granted to Daniel Mathew in 1819 – the first land grant in Ku-ring-gai. Mathew soon moved his operations to Pymble/St Ives and the Clanville Estate was taken over by Richard Archbold. Just when its initial two rooms were built, perhaps as living quarters for employees, is not known with certainty but they could well be the oldest residential structure in Roseville. The cottage remained with the Archbolds until sold by Richard Archbold's grandson, Albert, to the Fowlers, potters, in c1904. The cottage was in an area where the clay was suitable for the manufacture of pottery and this may have been a factor in the purchase although it was also viewed as a country holiday home.

The Fowler patriarch was the Hon Robert Fowler MLC. He headed the family pottery business in Camperdown where he built a large home which he called Cranbrook after the location of the family's earlier pottery business in Kent. Later the name Cranbrook was applied to a street adjacent to the Roseville cottage. Robert's official positions included Sydney Mayor in 1880. As it happened, the senior Robert did not live in the cottage himself and died in 1906. Instead one of his sons, another Robert (1873/1928), moved there as he was in ill health and it was thought the country air may have been beneficial. It was this Robert who made substantial additions to the structure to make it more or less as it is today. The cottage came to be known as "The Firs Cottage" because of the fir trees which surround it.

In 1919 the Fowlers began dividing and selling the land and Ku-ring-gai Council came to own the Firs Estate Cottage by 1920. For the following 40 years it was occupied by a Council caretaker and others but then was in danger of becoming derelict until the Historical Society took an interest and had it listed on Council's heritage list and by the National Trust. Though Council had since taken steps to maintain the building it unfortunately remains unused.

As to Robert Fowler, he and his family moved to a large home on the corner of the Pacific Highway and Maclaurin Parade where the Roseville RSL Club is now located. He called the home Girraheen but whether he built it or bought it as Ben Aku (Ben Aktu), built c1907, is something to be questioned. Robert died in 1928 and his wife, Florence, in 1951. Both are buried at Waverley.

Family Matters

5 August Family History Meetings

11am Members Research

Over 30 members were present. Accessing and printing information from databases and pdf files was discussed.

2pm General Meeting

The following were the subject of reports and discussion under the chairmanship of Jo Harris:

National Family History Week. Special displays had been set up in the hallway outside the Research Centre.

The “Introduction to Family History” Course is progressing well.

Tour of Land Titles Office, Hyde Park Barracks and St James Church on 20 July. The Barracks has a record of every convict who passed through the Barracks, even if it was just for one night. Barbara Coleman saw the marriage entry of one of her relatives while on the excursion to St James Church. Thanks must go to Rosemary Annable and Helen Dickinson for making the day a great success.

Tour to Tocal, Paterson and places of interest in the Hunter Valley, Saturday and Sunday 11 and 12 November. \$195.00 including accommodation (\$43 single supplement). Those interested should let Jo know as soon as possible.

Requests for information about local areas. Please advise request to Jo in advance so that she has time to look out information to bring to the Rooms.

“Descent Magazine”. Old copies are available for members to take home and keep or return.

Transcript Service. Requests to Joy Murrin are sent off in bundles so if you just miss a posting there will be a short delay. Transcripts are available for collection from the Collection Box (top shelf below the “signing-in” table in the Rooms).

Messages for Committee Members should be placed in their Pigeon hole.

Volunteers’ Discussion Groups. Visitors to the Centre should be made welcome. If it is not possible to answer queries on the spot, volunteers should know where to redirect the question.

Databases. Volunteers are always needed to help develop new computer databases.

Royal Australia Historical Society Annual Conference - 14, 15 October at Hornsby RSL. Cost: \$100.00

registration. All members are encouraged to attend. Brochures and Registration Forms are available in Rooms.

Family Tree Connections magazine for August features European interests. There is a list of all European Civil Registration Records and where they are held and an interesting article about the 1841 Census.

Exhibition at National Maritime Museum: The Halvorsen Story. (One of our members is a descendant).

Shipping Day. Information is awaited from State Archives on details of our proposed visit to research Shipping.

Interesting Places to Visit. Include Castle Hill House, the Cemetery at Ebenezer Presbyterian Church and the *Eora, An Unbreakable View* Exhibition at the State Library.

Books of interest

Life is Mountain - Buckman Olive

Pig Bites Baby 1803 - 1810 - Connor Michael

More Pig Bites Baby 1810 - 1821 (Extracts from The Sydney Gazette)

News, News, News. Momentous Events and daily Life as Reported in the Australian Press

“You’ll Never Take me Alive” Life and Death of Bushranger Ben Hall - Bleszynski Nick

Farewell to the Heather 1837-1840. Scottish Emigrants to Australia

The following members spoke on a book that influenced their life:

Jill Fisher - *They were Strong and Good (A fictitious Family History for children)* by Robert Wilson. This Influenced her decision to write her Family History (with portraits) titled *They Came to Armidale*.

Joy Walker - *The Pollyanna books*. Thinking positively - every day a “glad day”.

Barbara King - Her Grandmother’s *Diary of the voyage to Australia* from Cornwall as a young newly wed.

Patricia White - *Silas Marner* (George Eliot). This began her lifelong interest in the welfare of children.

Elaine Turnidge - *Collins New Gem Dictionary*. Set her on the track always to spell correctly.

Don Paull - *The Second Fleet* (Michael Flynn). This brought him to the decision that God was not an Englishman.

Jo Harris - *Struwwelpeter*. Tales written in Germany over 100 years ago and translated into many languages. Tells of the fates that befall children who misbehave. The stories frightened Jo into doing as she was told!

Raffle Prizes

1st: Don Paull (*Philip of Australia*)

2nd: Jeanette Rennie (*The Floating Brothel*)

- Notes prepared by Lyn Done

Name searching problems

We all know how many variations can arise when searching for a name. At a recent meeting the name *Hemming* was raised. A researcher found two variations - there may well have been more. One was *Flemming*, no doubt because someone when writing the *H* of *Hemming* did so carelessly and the *H* was interpreted as *Fl* making *Flemming*. Another was *Emmin* probably because the speaker, a cockney, when pronouncing the name as *Hemming* apparently dropped not only the opening *H* but also the closing *g* – so it was written as *Emmin*.

Well done Stella!

The publication *Australian Family Tree Connections* selects a prize-winner issue as winner of its “Letter of the Month” award. The July edition selected our own Stella Green as its winner. Stella’s letter bemoaned the fact that there is not a central register in Australia for BDM information and that researchers, here and overseas, have to troll through a number of separate State records. A fair point. Bad enough for us locals but difficult for researchers not familiar with the way our States often operate as though the others do not exist.

Where a Question can lead

Five years ago our member Diana Rose, delving into her forebears, asked the Beaufort Historical Society in Victoria the whereabouts of *Stockyard Hill* and *Causeway Farm*. Beaufort, incidentally, is not a long way from Ballarat. It seems Diana is a great great granddaughter of Henry and Jane Campbell from Dalrymple, Scotland who set out for Australia with 10 of their 11 children (their eldest, Hugh, was already here). Tragically Henry died at sea two weeks before reaching Australia. Jane arrived in Victoria with the children on the *SS King of Algeria* on 17 July 1861. Many of the family became prominent graziers throughout of Australia.

Diana’s enquiry set a variety of balls rolling which resulted in a large number of family members (including Diana of course) gathering at the site of *Causeway Farm* (it is now part of a property named Ellimatta) at Stockyard Hill on Saturday 15 July. Family memorabilia were displayed by the Beaufort Historical Society and the Mayor of Beaufort, Cr. Lysette Ashford, unveiled a plaque. The 21 July 2006 edition of the Pyrenees Advocate, the local newspaper, reported that accompanied by “the haunting tune of four pipers the family took a soulful journey across the paddock and along the road to where (the) plaque had been erected”. A happy event which recognised and paid tribute to family ties stretching back in Australia over 150 years.

A simple question led to a big gathering of the clan. Well done Diana!

Spend more time on your Family History

Yes, but how?

1. Open a new folder on your computer
 2. Name it “Housework”
 3. Send it immediately to the Recycle Bin
 4. Empty the Recycle Bin
 5. Your computer will ask “Are you sure you want to delete ‘Housework’ permanently?”
 6. Answer calmly “Yes” and click the mouse button
- Feel better now?

It fell on deaf ears

At our Family History meeting in June, our member Judith Fuller told how a she had asked a professional researcher in England to find what she could of one of Judith’s forebears, George Jenkins, who arrived in Geelong as an exile on the *Sir George Seymour* on 2 March 1845. He landed as an “exile” because Victoria did not accept convicts and prisoners were automatically freed on arrival and were known as “exiles”. Judith’s decision to commission an “on the spot” researcher in England paid dividends and is perhaps a move others may consider if ever they meet a dead end or generally want to expand on existing knowledge. The report from the researcher touched on many other topics but the main part related to George’s plea for “merciful consideration”.

The researcher uncovered a “Humble Petition of George Jenkins late of Leeds in the County of York, Attorney’s Clerk but now a Prisoner in Her Majesty’s Prison at Pentonville, under sentence of transportation for ten years”. It was dated 11 May 1843 and written from the Prison.

The petition was addressed to the “Right Honourable Sir George Graham, Her Majesty’s Secretary of State for the Home Department”.

In it George Jenkins pleaded that “your petitioner is now nearly 34 years of age, and his distracted wife and two children are alive, for whom your Petitioner entertains every feeling of love and affection, that it is possible for a father and husband to possess”.

It seems that the young George “received several sums of money on account of his employers, which he had not paid over to them”. Later “not having the heart to go personally to his employers and inform them” he “absented himself from the office and wrote to them with a full account ... and at the same time wrote to his wife ... and requested her to go immediately ... and pay them the amount”.

His employers, however, decided to prosecute because, the Petitioner claims, he did not go directly to them himself.

The Petitioner then claims “he is truly repentant” and “will in every respect, order and conduct himself, as a good and loyal subject”.

The Petitioner boarded the *Sir George Seymour* and sailed from Woolwich on 9 November 1844. He died in Melbourne in 1855 aged 47 with a new wife and two new children. His English wife died some twenty years later.

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.

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, Joy Walker, Diana Rose, Jo Harris, Lyn Done, Judith Fuller and Hilda Wakelin.

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

Welcome to New Members

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

David and Valerie Adamson (Castle Cove); Brian Burke (Macquarie Fields); Michael and Barbara Burke (Warrawee).

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

Quiz Answers

Eryldene Prof Waterhouse, 17 McIntosh St, Gordon
Grandview Richard Porter (hotel keeper), Pacific Highway, Pymble
Woodlands Ethel Turner (author), Treatts Rd, Killara
Ingelholme Sir Martin McIlraith (retailer), 17-23 Boomerang St, Turramurra
Tulkynan Donaldson family, 707 Pacific Highway, Gordon
Cossington Grace Cossington Smith (artist), Ku-ring-gai Av, Turramurra.

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.

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Diary Dates

- Sat 2 Sept **FAMILY HISTORY MEETINGS**
 11am - Members Research – Computers Q&A
 2pm - FH General Meeting
 Guest Speaker: Eric Ward
 Topic – “Innocents Abroad”
- Wed 20 Sept **KHS GENERAL MEETING**
 7.45pm - **ANNUAL MEETING**
 Guest Speaker: Anne Higham:
 Topic: Post-war Architecture in Ku-ring-gai
- Friday 22 Sept Wireless at Wahroonga (see p 3)
- Sat 7 Oct **FAMILY HISTORY MEETINGS**
 11am - Members' Research - Huguenots
 2pm - FH General Meeting
 Topic – Noel Schofield's Family Research
- Wed 18 Oct **KHS GENERAL MEETING**
 7.45pm - Guest Speaker: Kevin Shaw
 Topic: The History and Heritage of
- 14/15 Oct **Royal Australian Historical Society Conference - Hornsby**
- 11/12 Nov **Two-day Society Tour to Tocal/Paterson etc**

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

President	Kevin Callinan	9983 1525
Vice Presidents	Helen Davies	9498 3754
	Jo Harris	9489 4393
Treasurer	Doug Milne	9487 2853
Secretary	Alison Trotter	9489 2787
Immed. Past President	Max Farley	9499 7113
Committee members	Ann Barry	9144 6480
	Kerrin Cook	9416 2586
	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