



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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2007 – A Good Year?

This is our first Newsletter of 2007 and we offer all our members and many friends our greetings for a happy and healthy year of achievement for 2007. 2006 was excellent for the Society with progress in many fields of activity. With the continuing member support, particularly from our team of volunteers, we are confident 2007 will be even better.

“Under The Canopy”

This much-anticipated book celebrating the Centenary of local government in Ku-ring-gai was formally launched in a ceremony in the Council Chambers on 8 December. It is not only an extremely worthwhile contribution to our recorded history but a beautifully produced publication of over 200 pages with many finely reproduced photographs. Naturally enough, particular emphasis is given to Council's responses to the continuing changes in community problems, needs and attitudes over the last 100 years. The Society played a significant role in providing information but the greatest credit must go to those who supervised its production and, in particular, to the joint authors Pauline Curby and Virginia Macleod who were commissioned to carry out the project. Copies may be had from Ku-ring-gai Council's offices for \$59.95 (plus \$7.50 p&h if mailed).

Our 2007 Speakers

The Committee has approved the following program of speakers for 2007. It will of course be subject to change as the dates approach.

17 Jan: **Ian Barnett:** *The “Odd” in Early Sydney History*

21 Feb: **Randi Svensen:** *The Halvorsen Story.*

21 Mar: **Richard Lander:** *The Lace Makers of Calais.*

18 Apr: **Jim Macken:** *The History of Coasters' Retreat.*

16 May: **Brian Fletcher:** *Myths, Realities and the
Founding of Australia.*

16 Jun: **Bronwyn Hanna:** *Women Architects of NSW.*

21 Jul: **Trevor Patrick:** *In Search of Pennant
Hills.*

18 Aug: **Lesley Muir:** *A Visit to Sydney of the 1860s
and 1870s.*

19 Sep: **Jo Harris: AGM:** *Early Wireless & Ku-ring-gai
Connections.*

17 Oct: **Tony Dawson:** *James Meehan: A Most
Excellent Surveyor.*

17 Nov: **Bill Woods:** *The Rum Rebellion.*

Our Christmas meeting.

Coming Meetings

NEXT SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 21 February

7.30pm – GENERAL MEETING

Guest Speaker: **Randi Svensen**

(the author of *Wooden Boats, Iron Men*
on the life and work of the Halvorsen family)

Topic: *The Halvorsen Story*



Supper will be available

Visitors welcome

FAMILY HISTORY MEETING

Saturday 3 February 11am

Members' Research Session

2pm - Family History Meeting
General Reports on activities and events

Speaker : **Dr Robert Robins**

Topic: “**Jerusalem Bay – First Settlers**”
(Jerusalem Bay is in Cowan Creek near Bobbin Head)

Afternoon Tea will be available

Visitors welcome

A Tree Was Planted

Saturday, 2 December saw Mayor Nick Ebbeck plant a Wollemi pine in the grounds of the Library adjacent to the Society's Rooms in the presence of a number of local residents and many of our members. The purpose was to recognise the completion of 100 years of local government in Ku-ring-gai. The date was chosen to coincide with one of our meetings. The event was followed by luncheon in the Meeting Room at which the Mayor gave a short address. It was a busy day with the ceremony being followed by the Family History meeting.

Meeting Reports

There have been two Society meetings since our last Newsletter and we report, very briefly, on each.

18 October Meeting

Kevin Shaw, a past President of the Ryde Historical Society, spoke on the rich history of the Parramatta River and the important role it has played since the very beginnings of the colony. Over the years it has served as a means of transport between Sydney and Parramatta ("discovered" in 1788) and the settlements in between as well as a place fostering industry, residential development, sport and recreation. Familiar names such as Looking Glass Point and Breakfast Point date right back to when Governor Phillip, on an exploratory journey by boat, stopped for breakfast on 15 February 1788 and gave a looking glass to an Aboriginal who "looked immediately behind the glass to see if any person was there". The river provided the only access to Parramatta until Parramatta Road opened in 1795. Many industries were to be established along the river banks including Squires Brewery, George Howell's Flour Mill, Byrnes Woollen Mill and later, Nestles and the AGL Gasworks. The river also had John Blaxland's property *Newington* from 1807, the Female Orphan School (erected in 1818) and Dr Arthur Renwick's Abbotsford House. For many years it was a favourite location for sporting activities, particularly rowing.

A good talk packed full of information.

18 November Meeting

This was our celebratory Christmas meeting with formalities reduced to a minimum. We nevertheless did hear a most interesting address by John Ware on the *Sealers of Macquarie Island*. Sealing was a lucrative industry in the early days of the colony and, with sealing grounds being depleted, the discovery of any new colony was news of major moment. In 1810 the brig *Perseverance* came across a new island, Macquarie Island, which looked extremely promising. The Island is half-way between Australia and Antarctica. As recounted by John Ware, its location was known only to the ship's captain, Captain Frederick Hasselborough and one crew member. The Captain sought to have the information kept to himself and put the crew member and several other seamen ashore before returning to Sydney. News of the "find", but not its location, soon spread. Sydney was agog but Hasselborough refused to give any details. By devious means, however, the Underwood brothers, merchants, tricked the Captain into disclosing the site and the Underwoods hastened there. Within 3 years the seals had been virtually exterminated. The abandoned crewmen were rescued. Soon after these events, Captain Hasselborough fell over the side of his ship and drowned. A story of drama and intrigue very well told.

Local History Course

Have you ever thought that you would like to find out more about Local History/Built Heritage in Ku-ring-gai?

We will help you trace the ownership of a house, discover if the property had a name, who the occupants were, the date it was built and in what style it was designed.

Discover how to analyse information from: Land Titles, Building Applications, Sands' directories, Water Board detail sheets, Auction Maps, Electoral Rolls, Valuations and Deposited Plans.

Find out about heritage items in Ku-ring-gai and how the Heritage Council of NSW has developed criteria to help assess whether an item should be recommended for heritage listing.

A six week course will commence in our rooms from 10.15am - 1pm Friday 23 February. Lectures and assistance will be given by Ann Barry, Jennifer Harvey, Kathie Rieth, and Paul Dignam.

Participants will be required to undertake research and may have the opportunity to go on field trips.

To book, contact Jennifer Harvey (9489 6390) or Ann Barry (9144 6480). Numbers are restricted.

RAHS Hornsby Conference

We probably had more representatives at the October Annual Conference of the Royal Australian Historical Society at Hornsby on 15/16 October than ever before. Those who attended were Ann Barry, Beverley Dunstan, Max Farley, Jo Harris, Jennifer Harvey, Alla Kamallari, Judi Oliver, Kathie Rieth, and Ian and Susan Ramage making ten in all. The emphasis was understandably on celebrating 100 years of compulsory local government.

It is always worth making the point that Conferences of this sort provide a wonderful opportunity to meet many people who share our interest and to swap information with kindred Societies throughout NSW.

"Heritage"

Most of us feel kindly towards "heritage" but it tends to be slippery when it comes to definition. The topic has no doubt been the subject of many debates with more to come. The NSW Heritage Office views it as "the physical evidence of our past that we want to pass on to the future". This goes close to it for most purposes but does it embrace *cultural* heritage unless one accepts artefacts and ephemera as being sufficient physical evidence?

The Importance of History

There are many reasons given why a knowledge of history is important. We came across what to us was a new one at the RAHS Conference on the masthead of the Newsletter of The Hills Historical Society. It read: "A community which does not know its own history is like a man who has lost his memory".

Tocal/Paterson Tour Excellent

The Society's Northern Tour to Tocal, Paterson and Singleton on 11/12 November was voted an outstanding success by those who attended. The several site inspections were of considerable interest and the night-time visit to the cemetery at Maitland memorable. Just as importantly the whole program was extremely enjoyable.

Thanks are due, yet again, to our indefatigable Vice-President, Jo Harris, who organised it all from beginning to end.

Quiz

Sir Charles Gregory Wade was NSW Premier (1907-1910) and the Rev Clipsham President of Ku-ring-gai Shire (1911-1913). Both were local residents. Their memories have been treated unkindly. In this respect what do they have in common? (No multiple choice on this one).

Recent Acquisitions

The following are among the many recent additions to our Collection:

JAMES THOMSON CHAMBERS – A Small Architectural History - by KHS member Heather M Chambers (2006). The story of James T Chambers (1870-1954) who designed and built many homes in Ku-ring-gai particularly in Roseville. 74 pages. Donated by the author.

ACROSS THE HARBOUR – the Story of Sydney's Ferries. (John Gunter). Rigby, 1978. 80 pages.

THE PREMIER STREET DIRECTORY OF SYDNEY & SUBURBS. (A E Jones - 1925). Facsimile reproduction by Paul Hamlyn (1975)

GREAT ESCAPES BY CONVICTS IN COLONIAL AUSTRALIA. (Warwick Hurst). Kangaroo Press, 1999. 176 pages.

HERALDRY IN AUSTRALIA. (Colonel A G Puttock). Child and Assoc Publishing Pty Ltd (1988). 160 pages.

TE BROWN'S THIRTY YEARS' FIGHT (Against Combines for Individual Rights and Freedom in NSW). Self published (c1930s?) by Thomas Edwin Brown (1862/1944). Donated by our member and 2004 Historian of the Year John Brown. Thomas Brown, a fractious and litigious individual, was a nephew of the original John "Squire" Brown (1825/1884) and was convicted of murdering Sergeant Hickey of the Pymble Police Station in 1913. He was later declared insane. This 168 page publication, lodged at the Mitchell Library, expresses Brown's version of what befell him and why.

Member Profile - Ann Barry



Vice President Ann Barry can be described both as a quiet achiever and as an all-rounder. It is unlikely anyone, except perhaps President Kevin Callinan, spends as much time in our Rooms as does Ann, or contributes to so many of our activities. She does so with little fuss.

As a child, Ann lived on a small farm at West Pennant Hills. Girls were not expected to progress to higher education and she left school after the Intermediate for employment in banking and bookkeeping before traveling the world by ship in 1964. On returning, she worked in her father's manufacturing company and various accounting positions before marrying Bob, a high-school science teacher, who was then doing his Bachelor of Arts degree. Small children followed, but Ann nevertheless continued her commercial work and encouraged Bob to give up teaching in favour of studying psychology full time.

Having her own children gave Ann an interest in studying the marvels of early childhood development. This led to her opening a Preschool Kindergarten at Belrose that she ran for five years. During this time she published a number of research papers, with Bob, on aspects of early education.

The family moved to West Pymble in 1977 and Ann became interested in the native bush adjacent to their home. She studied bush regeneration at Ryde TAFE and became the first President of the Ku-ring-gai Bush Care Association. She still usually spends at least two mornings a week in active bushcare work near her home.

The family spent 1981 in Los Angeles and later had extended visits to Canada, Britain, Germany, Poland and the Netherlands. After the children grew and went their own way, she and Bob spent extended periods in the US, Italy and Poland and still travel regularly.

For a time, Ann also ran a skateboard manufacturing company but a major undertaking began in 1996 when she founded the monthly *Ku-ring-gai Observer* with Tanya Wood, who worked with her for the first three years after which Ann handled it on her own. From the outset the "KO" distinguished itself by taking a deep interest in all manner of issues of concern to Ku-ring-gai and was never coy about expressing viewpoints. This did not always endear the KO to those whose attitudes and actions were being questioned but the publication certainly gained wide respect in the broader community. She sold the KO in 2001.

In more recent times Ann has happily become active in our Society and joined the Committee in 2002. A growing passion has been genealogy but her enthusiasms now extend to practically all the many aspects of the Society's activities and her contributions and opinions are greatly valued.

History Notes

From Triumph to Tragedy

Freda Du Faur was born in 1882 and roamed freely as a girl through the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. The park had been established mainly by the efforts of her father Eccleston Du Faur. English born, Eccleston Du Faur was a man of note and his many other achievements included playing the major role in creating the NSW Art Gallery. The family home at the Park's entrance now forms part of the Lady Davidson Hospital complex.

Freda grew to love the outdoors as a young woman and became captivated by the beautiful sights and experiences offered by mountaineering. Her own place in history was cemented by being the first woman to reach the summit of New Zealand's Mount Cook which she did in 1910 and to traverse its three peaks. She undertook other life-threatening climbs in the area and today her reputation still stands high in the nearby Timaru township. Indeed it was the efforts of several New Zealanders, with their roots in Timaru, that led to a monument being unveiled at her previously unmarked grave on Saturday 2 December in Manly cemetery.

Her journey from the high point of Mount Cook to Manly was a painful one. She travelled to England in 1914 and lived there with her friend Muriel Cadogan. Muriel and Freda were partners for many years before Muriel suffered a mental illness and was subjected to the now discredited Deep Sleep treatment. This considerably aggravated Muriel's condition and she died in 1929. During this time Freda was not even allowed to see her friend. Needless to say this experience caused Freda great distress and led to her own mental breakdown.

After Muriel's death, Freda returned to Australia and settled in Dee Why where she spent much time walking in the bush. No doubt devastated and clearly withdrawn and lonely, she committed suicide in 1935.

There were many people at the unveiling of the plaque on 2 December and it was warming to realise that a woman of spirit who died such an unhappy death was at last being given some of the recognition in Australia that her achievements clearly deserved.

(The Society was represented at the Ceremony)

- Max Farley

The Kuringian

Local newspapers provide a wonderful source of information for researchers not only on facts but also about the attitudes of the day. Ku-ring-gai was unfortunately not particularly well blessed with independent newspapers in years gone by. *The Pymble News* (1901 – 1903) was a happy exception as was the short-lived *KURINGIAN* (April- July 1911) which can be found as micro-film at the Gordon Library.

The *KURINGIAN*'s publisher was John R Lockley (incorrectly spelt Locksley in Locksley St, Killara) who these days may be remembered by many as the journalist *Redgum*. He was a garden writer for the Sydney Morning Herald and publisher of *The Amateur Gardener* magazine. Even more important from our viewpoint was his election as our Shire President in 1924.

The temptation to reproduce some light-hearted extracts cannot be resisted.

From 8 April 1911... *“An application for permission to build **picture-show premises** on a block of land on Fox St (now that section of St Johns Avenue between the Highway and railway), Gordon, was refused (by Council). Someone said that picture shows ‘constitute a serious menace to the morality of the community’. The Council have no time for this class of entertainments (sic)”*.

Also from 8 April 1911... *Council decided “to call for tenders for the supply of three **tool-boxes**, one for each Riding.*

And yet more from 8 April 1911... The Harem Skirt. *“So far we have not heard of any Kuring-gai lady having donned “harems” in public. It is just possible that several of our leaders of fashion are practising with the new costume with a view to making an appearance at the Randwick Easter carnival or at the show. We are sure to get a whisper about it if anything is doing. There is plenty to do for the present without bothering over the bloomers. They will ‘come’ all right. Not long ago we laughed aloud over the idea of wearing ‘hobbles’. Now the ‘nine-gore’ and the ‘pleated and plentiful’ are things unsightly and obsolete. How mothers (were) ever allowed to wear such things fairly puzzles us! How ridiculously ugly they looked. As it was with the “hobble” so it must soon be with the ‘harem’. We will get used to them: provided the sex refrain from tweeds and fancy trouserings, and keep to delaines, crepes, silk mixtures, and stuff such as we have always worn no harm will be done. What we fear most is the coming of the tail-coat and double breasted vest. Whatever you do girls, steer clear of hip pockets, braces and “harems” that do not carry a little bit of ‘larstie’ round the ankle. Make yourselves comfortable, but avoid making yourself a show.”*

From 27 May 1911... *“Mr Lundy (at Council), asking for levels for his fencing in Highfield St, Lindfield. Someone said ‘Levels for this land are not easily supplied, as the position is rather an inaccessible one’. Councillor Brown, at this juncture, remarked, ‘unless a man lives on the main road he gets no justice’. Then we knew Councillor Brown was awake!”*

Hyndes - The Forgotten Man

Thomas Hyndes certainly does not rank anywhere in the popular mind when it comes to recalling people who figured largely in Ku-ring-gai's history. The names Archbold, Pymble, Mathew, McIntosh, Babbage, Boyd, Brown and even Henry, Bromley, Du Faur, Waterhouse and Lofberg strike a note for those with even a modicum of knowledge of our early days. Thomas Hyndes, who preceded most of them, has passed us by without local trace. Perhaps this may in part be because he did not reside permanently in Ku-ring-gai. He lived mainly in Sussex Street, where he had a timber yard, and also in Enfield in the Cooks River district. His business interests, too, were more widely spread over much of Sydney than were those of most of our pioneers.

He was, however, one of the most active of the band of timber getters and merchants who made huge inroads into the forests of Ku-ring-gai and elsewhere. He leased and owned large tracts of land in Ku-ring-gai and played a major role in the area's development. From today's perspective some would say he exploited the area by taking its trees and therefore left Ku-ring-gai a poorer place. Two hundred years ago, however, Ku-ring-gai was not the tamed environment of today and it took men and women of strong mind and muscle to clear it and lay the foundations of the genteel suburbs we now value so much. Without them our suburbs could not have been fashioned and their motivation – the pursuit of a livelihood – cannot be properly seen as less worthy than it is today.

This brief story about Thomas Hyndes is not the place to recount in depth his leaseholds and holdings in and near Ku-ring-gai but the following adapted extracts give some indication of their wide extent:

From the HISTORIAN of September 2000... *Mr 'Pimble' chose 600 acres immediately where Hyndes was already working and Hyndes was forced to move (note that Hyndes had been there a number of years before 'Mr Pimble' came on the scene)... Hyndes then leased 2000 acres which encompassed much of Wahroonga, Warrawee and Turrumurra (note that this stretched north from Bobbin Head Rd.)*

From Thorne's History of the North Shore... *Hyndes bought ten acres to establish his own wharf at Lane Cove (note that he had previously leased Fiddens Wharf)... Hyndes had 80 acres which are now part of Avondale Golf Course...*

From Pioneers of Hornsby Shire... *Hyndes held 220 acres of land which was to become Hornsby... Hyndes was awarded a grant of 640 acres south of Pearce's corner for helping the shipwrecked crew of HMS Mermaid in Torres Strait in 1829 (note that "Focus in Ku-ring-gai" records that this area was along the Highway to Fox Valley Road).*

Hyndes had been earlier been promised land at Enfield but Governor Macquarie refused to confirm it so he came to the North Shore. He later returned to Enfield and built a large home there. He leased 2560 acres in the Illawarra and had

another 1000 adjacent acres which he owned. His other holdings included the last of the windmills in Darlinghurst. As a trader he owned a schooner, the Admiral Gifford.

He was born in London and came to Sydney on HMS Glatton in 1803 not as a seaman, as has been written, but as a convict. Three years later he married another convict, Charlotte Green. They had no children. He took great interest in the Anglican movement in Enfield and his efforts made the building of St Thomas's Church and hall possible as well as the establishment of a cemetery.

It is worth noting that his wife Charlotte is believed to be the aunt of George Green who immigrated to Australia in 1821 at the age of 11. He was unaccompanied by his parents but under the protective eyes of Thomas and Charlotte. George was destined to be an important part of the history of Greenwich.

It is plain that Thomas Hyndes was indeed a pioneering giant in Ku-ring-gai in the true meaning of the word "pioneering". Though widely honoured in the Enfield district it is unfortunate there is no memorial at all to him here.

A Sporting List?

Why not help us compile a list of Ku-ring-gai people who have excelled at some form of sport? We'd suggest it consist of persons who have represented their country (not necessarily Australia) at a senior level in a team sport and/or have gained international recognition, again at a senior level, in an individual sport. To qualify, persons must have lived in Ku-ring-gai for a significant part of their life – without defining that phrase too tightly. Below are some of those we already have in mind. Those with an asterisk need confirmation particularly to determine their Ku-ring-gai connection and whether they did indeed represent their country.

Athletics (Men) John Treloar... *Golf (Men)* Kel Nagle, Rodger Davis... *(Women)* Joan Hammond... *Hockey (Women)* Isabel Harrison... *Cricket (Men)* Sid Barnes*, Percie Charlton, Ian Davies*, Dave Gregory, Syd Gregory*, Neil Harvey*, Charlie Kellaway*, Charlie Macartney*, Bert Oldfield, Brian Taber*, Johnny Taylor*, Ernie Toshack, Victor Trumper*... *(Women)* Mollie Dive, Barbara Maynard, Margaret Peden... *Rugby Union* Trevor Allan*, Rod Batterham*, David Campese*, Nick Farr Jones, Bob Davidson, Laurie Monaghan*, Jimmy Phipps*, Peter Sullivan*, Arthur Summons*, Alec Ross... *Tennis: (Men)* John Newcombe, Ken Rosewall, Granville Sharp... *(Women)* Joan Hartigan, Mall Molesworth... *Swimming (Women)* Shane Gould.

We cannot help but feel there have been many more in these and many other sports. If you have someone in mind what about contacting Max Farley, our Acting Editor, on mmff@ozemail.com.au or ph 9499 7113 not only with names but also supporting information on how they meet the criteria.

Even better – is there anyone out there who would like to take this list on as a project?

Oral History

"Oral History will seldom furnish the last word on any subject but it will, however, often produce the first".

- Phillip A Crowe (American Historical Association)

Family Matters

November and December Meetings

The Christmas break means there are two meetings to report on in this issue.

4 November Meeting

11.00am Members' Research Meeting :

20 people attended. The main discussion concerned the Government Gazettes. The Society now holds Indexes for 1837, '38, '42, '43, '47, '54, '55, '65 and '75. Other matters discussed were the value of Genealogical Research Directories and the Huguenot gathering in France.

2.00pm General Meeting.

The meeting opened to hear a number of reports including:

Book Launch: *Irresistible Temptation* by Carole Baxter. At Ku-ring-gai Library on Friday 10 November at 6.30pm. Jenny Joyce gave some details about the publication and the launch.

Magazines and Journals:

Family Tree Connections lists new sites coming 'online' e.g. New Zealand BMDs, Victorian Wills Index, Gaol Photo's Index. Strongly recommend these magazines and following up the new sites 'online'.

Net Guide, SOG Genealogist Magazine (UK). Members should remember to look at the new magazines - often find interesting information and family links.

RAHS Conference at Hornsby 14/15 October: Topic - Local Government History. The conference was very well attended and as always one of the best aspects was meeting and exchanging views with many of those who attended.

Recommendations from members:

Book: Max Farley recommended the book "1932" by Gerald Stone.

Exhibitions: *Clipper Ships:* The Maritime Museum.
Australians in France WWI:
Australian War Memorial Canberra

TV Programs: *The Floating Brothel*
on the ABC, Sunday 19 November.
'Who Do You Think You Are':

SBS has bought the rights to this program and will show it shortly.

A Reminder to Volunteers to pick up their rosters. Volunteers unable to attend should arrange an alternative or discuss with Heather Davidson.

Raffle: Books - *Time and Tides* (Gavin Souter); *The Girl from Botany Bay* (Carolyn Erickson); *Monuments and Memorials* (Beryl Henderson); *Living Stones* (Maria Cameron); *North Shore Sydney* (Les G Thorne). The Raffle was won by Julie Werner.

Guest Speaker: As the publicised Guest Speaker, Beth Williams, was unable to attend, our own member, **Noel Schofield**, gave a very interesting talk on the research he has done on the **Swindells Family** with whom he is related. He titled his talk "the Cup of Good Cheer" because of the English bone china cup that was produced as a memorial on the death of his wife's great (not sure how many 'greats') grandmother. This china cup had provided the inspiration for his research.

- based on notes by Lyn Done

2 December Meeting

11.00am Members' Research Meeting:

This session featured questions and answers. Subjects covered included the Family Tree Maker computer program, message boards on Ancestry.com, subscribing to Genuki (a Genealogical Service for the UK and Ireland); finding a missing great-grandmother born in Ireland, married in New York and disappeared here; search for Macrae deaths; search for the death of Philadelphia Austin born 1791, arrived on 1838 on *Maitland* with her husband and 4 children, settled in Dubbo. Discovering what ship brought Peter Stehn's forebear, Johann, to Australia in about 1878 or before - his father was a master mariner in Hamburg.

Tree Planting.

At 1.15pm the Mayor of Ku-ring-gai, Nick Ebbeck, planted a Wollemi pine in the Library grounds to mark the centenary of Local Government in the area. There followed a Christmas lunch with champagne, after which the Mayor gave a short address saying he was very impressed with the Society's resources and activities.

2.15pm General Meeting:

The afternoon session began with a welcome back to *Peter Stehn* after his time in hospital.

Members applauded the editors of the recent issue of '*The Historian*'.

Joy Walker reported on the book "Reluctant Rebel" about Lt-Col. George Johnston

Kevin Callinan gave high praise for preservation work on the Society's Collection by volunteers. 1500 man-hours had so far been applied equivalent to a value of \$30,000. Grants had been obtained for best quality preservation materials.

Max Farley emphasised that a copy of family histories should be lodged with our Society.

Joan Morris spoke on 20th anniversary on 17 April 2008 of the opening of Bungaroo Track, Hunter Ave, St. Ives. Governor Phillip walked in the area of the track 200 years ago to St Ives from *Bungaroo* which is at the tidal headwater just above Roseville Bridge.

The *Sydney Harbour Bridge* 75th Anniversary is in March 2007. A display case is planned.

Esther Deans, now 95, donated a scroll of her poem “A Day in the City of Sydney”. She is author of gardening books including “No Dig Gardening”.

Their First 25 Years. The remaining program featured three members describing their first 25 years of life - *Peter Perry*, *Nola Bramble* and *Shirley Morley*. Extremely interesting talks. It is planned that other members will offer similar talks at later meetings.

The Raffle of the Christmas hamper was won by Joan Badham.

- based on notes by *Stella Green*

A Family Planning Question

If you knew a woman who had an incurable disease and who was pregnant, already had 8 children, 3 of whom were deaf, 2 were blind and one mentally retarded, would you feel she should terminate the pregnancy? If you had been able to say “yes” at the time, you would have been depriving the world of Beethoven. (From “*Unearth Wyong*” published by the *Wyong Historical Society*).

Some Sites

www.imagepartners.co.uk/ has 138 million ways to spell almost 3 million surnames.

www.originsnetwork.com now covers about 35 English counties including Middlesex (London) for the 1841 census.

SAG’s Move

The Society of Genealogists, of which our Society is a member, is in the throes of moving to 379 Kent St, halfway between Town Hall and Wynyard stations. As we write it is too early to say when the new premises will be available for use but it is expected this will be late January.

Family Tree Maker Sessions

A useful Training Session on using the Family Tree Maker genealogical computer program was held in our Rooms on 17 November under the guidance of Jo Harris. Some 15 members attended with much benefit to all.

Just to Confuse

Our forebears could perhaps have made our researching more difficult if they had really tried but they did a pretty good job of it anyway. The recent SAG Newsletter adapted the following New Year “resolutions” from the English www.dalton-newsletter.com. We have selected several and made a few changes ourselves to reflect some of our own problems. The “resolutions” could well have been penned by one of your own ancestors back in about 1856!

1. No man is truly well-educated unless he learns to spell his name at least three different ways even within the same document. I resolve to give the appearance of being well-educated in the coming year.
2. I resolve to see to it that all my children will have the same names that my ancestors have used for six generations in a row.
3. I resolve that if my beloved wife Mary should die, I will marry another Mary.

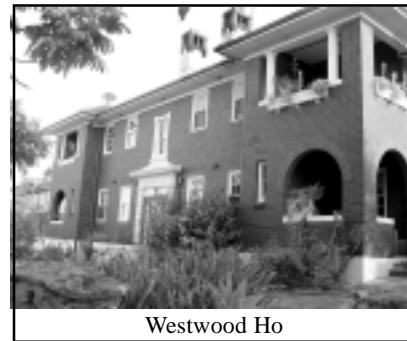
Built Heritage

Early flats in Ku-ring-gai

St Ann’s Court and *Westward Ho*,
34 & 36 Henry Street, Gordon

Although Sydney’s first apartment block, *Albany*, was built in 1905 in Macquarie Street, it was another twenty years before the first block of flats was constructed in Ku-ring-gai. By 1920 there were some flats in Ku-ring-gai but these were limited to residences converted into flats.

St Ann’s Court at 34 Henry Street in Gordon is believed to be Ku-ring-gai’s first purpose-built block of flats. Approved by Council in October 1925, it was designed by Warrawee architect Augustus Aley and built by HK Guest of Chatswood for Commander Cyril J Thornton, a retired naval officer. To our knowledge Aley did not design any other blocks of flats. However, there are examples of Aley’s house designs in Warrawee, Killara, Turramurra, Pymble and Gordon. Aley built four houses in Ku-ring-gai for himself. These included *Santos*, 11 Yosefa Avenue, Warrawee, and *Morningside*, on the corner of Werona and Maples Avenues, Killara. Aley was also a qualified Landscape Architect, and would often design both the residence and garden.



Westwood Ho

Westward Ho at 36 Henry Street was erected in 1929, designed by John Burcham Clamp & Clifford H Finch and built by JS Mumford for William Northam. Northam was a managing director of the Australian Assurance Association, chairman of Starkey’s Limited, and a director of the Victoria Park Racing Club. John Burcham Clamp was a prominent Sydney architect whose commercial buildings included *Wyoming* in Macquarie Street, Tattersall’s in Elizabeth Street and Hampton Court Apartments, Kings Cross. Two residential projects in Ku-ring-gai are *Kirkoswold* at 22 Warrawee Avenue, Warrawee, and *Briar Rose* at 19 Alma Street, Pymble. He was architect for the Anglican Diocese of Sydney and worked on the Christ Church St Laurence complex, Shore Chapel, and St James’ Hall in Phillip Street. Having been Clamp’s partner for six years Clifford H Finch opened his own practice with projects throughout Sydney and beyond. A Lindfield resident, much of his work was in the Ku-ring-gai area; this includes numerous houses, the Roseville Golf Club and the Roseville Anglican Church.

Westward Ho and *St Ann’s Court* occupy a prominent site in Gordon. They are not only excellent examples of the work of notable Sydney architects Aley, Clamp and Finch but also represent a very significant stage in the residential development of Ku-ring-gai.

- Jennifer Harvey and Kathie Rieth

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.

A Welcome Gift

Joyce Ryerson has had the well-being of some of our “aurally challenged” members at heart and has generously donated a lapel microphone for use at our meetings when needed. Thank you Joyce. A kind thought.

New Members

We have not had an opportunity before to welcome the following new members who were accepted at the last Committee meeting in 2006 as well as several approved at the Committee meeting in January. They are:

Lesley Page (St Ives), Richard and Anne Gilfillan (Lindfield), Margery Connelly (St Ives), Sheridan Burke and Robert Moore (Willoughby), Jane Vernon (Gordon) and Deborah Mobberley (Lindfield).

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

Quiz Answers

Both Sir Charles Gregory Wade and Rev Cliphsham have thoroughfares named after them. They must be two of the most unpleasant streets in Ku-ring-gai. Neither now shows its name as though in shame. Nevertheless they remain in Gregory's list. Wade Lane runs from Park Avenue to St Johns Avenue alongside the Council car park. Cliphsham Lane is a very short lane (not defined on their map) from near the southern end of Wade Lane and turning back into St Johns Avenue. They both feature the unpleasant backs of commercial premises decorated with rubbish bins. Perhaps the proposed make-over of the central section of Gordon will see the memories of these two highly respected residents treated more kindly.

Research Centre Hours

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

Diary Dates

Sat 3 Feb	Family History - 11am Members Discussion - 2pm <i>Jerusalem Bay – First Settlers</i>
Wed 21 Feb	7.30pm - KHS General Meeting - <i>The Halvorsen Story</i>
Fri 23 Feb	10.15am. Six week course on local history/heritage commences
Sat 3 Mar	Family History - 11am Members Discussion - 2pm General Meeting including electing nominees to the Family History Committee
Wed 21 Mar	7.30pm - KHS General Meeting - <i>The Lace Makers of Calais</i>

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