



# 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.

March 2008

Monthly Newsletter

Vol 26 • No 2

PO Box 109 Gordon NSW 2072 • Ph: (02) 9499 4568 • www.khs.org.au • email: khs@khs.org.au

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

## 20 January Meeting

Topics covered at the General Meeting included congratulations to the members responsible for the recent "Historian" which contained over 100 pages; the resignation due to ill health, of the Newsletter Editor, Max Farley. Kerrin Cook to take over as Editor; the new Computer System which had been upgraded by Peter Stehn and that all members were encouraged to attend the training courses; tours to the South Coast in March and to Sofala and Hill End in September (this now fully booked); and the upcoming Australia Day celebration at Bi-centennial Park which would include a presentation to Jo Harris as Citizen of the Year.

### Eccleston Du Faur

Joan Webb gave an account of the Australian career of Eccleston Du Faur, based on her book *Eccleston Du Faur: Man of Vision*. She found writing the book a difficult task, as details of his activities are sparse, there being little documentation about his personal or public life. Contemporary comment suggests that he was a very private, austere person, little inclined to have warm personal contact, even with his immediate family.

Eccleston Du Faur (1832-1915) was born in England, his parents being of French descent. He came to Australia in 1853 for health reasons and remained here for the rest of his life. His Australian legacy is as a leading supporter of the preservation of the environment and promoter of the arts. Local interest centers particularly on his advocacy for the establishment of Ku-ring-gai National Park and his efforts to get government support for its maintenance.

Du Faur spent most of his working life as a draftsman in the New South Wales Lands Department, from which he resigned in 1881. He gained a reputation for his interest in cultural matters and became a trustee of the Art Gallery of New South Wales and later President of the Trustees of the Gallery, a position he held until his death in 1915. A debate in Parliament in 1897 over a proposal to commission a bust of Du Faur produced some adverse comment, but the bust was eventually produced and is now in the basement of the Gallery.

Du Faur's other main interest was the local environment. He was particularly attracted to the Blue Mountains to which he was a frequent visitor. He was also generous with his time and money in supporting exploration in islands of the South Pacific. In the early 1880s he was one of the founding

## Coming Meetings

### NEXT SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING (Gordon Library Meeting Room)

Wednesday 19 March 2008 - 7.45 pm

Guest Speaker: Peter Lalor

Topic: *The Sydney Harbour Bridge*



Bridge being constructed - Internet

Supper will be available  
Visitors welcome

### NEXT FAMILY HISTORY MEETING

Saturday 1st March  
11am - Members Research

2pm - members Helen Davies, Barry Badham  
and Peter Bidence to speak about their families

Afternoon Tea will be available  
Visitors welcome

members of the Geographical Society of Australia.

In 1889 Du Faur settled in Warrawee and explored areas around the Hawkesbury River and Cowan Creek. He became convinced that this pristine landscape should be preserved and lobbied the Government to create a national park in the area now known as Ku-ring-gai Chase, which was finally proclaimed in 1894. Thereafter, Du Faur was a Managing Trustee of the park and worked enthusiastically for its financial support until his resignation in 1904. A plaque in his memory was unveiled by his son at the Bobbin Head Road entrance to the Chase in 1953.

---

## Oral History

Plans are in train to make a start on the oral history project, referred to in the November/December Newsletter, which is aimed at finding out how long time residents of Ku-ring-gai have related to the local community. Several members have already volunteered to be trained as interviewers, but we still need a few more.

Training will be conducted by Neroli Lock assisted by Jenny Joyce and will consist of weekly one to two hour sessions, covering interviewing technique, practice in the use of recording equipment (microphones and tapes) and general organisation of the project.

This program should be of special interest to members who have spent a significant part of their lives in Ku-ring-gai, enabling them to relate their experience to that of others.

**Members wishing to join the project please contact Don Fifer (9482 4613), Neroli Lock (9489 5794) or Jenny Joyce (9440 2131)**

## Computer Training Course

The recent course run to update members of the Society and Volunteers with the new set up for the Society's Computers was very successful with Peter Stehn and Jo Harris going over the whole process - our thanks to both of them for their time and enthusiasm. Between 50 and 60 people attended and went away with a much greater understanding of all the wonderful resources available.

## A New Life for Firs Cottage

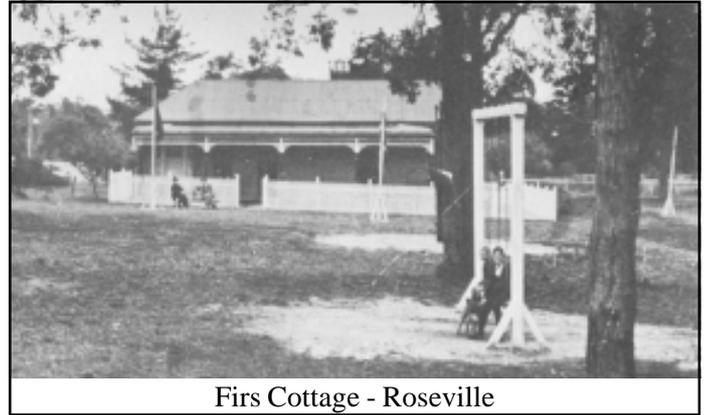
The Society has long taken an interest in the well-being of Firs Estate Cottage in Roseville Park. It was originally built by the Archbolds, probably in the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, and had only two main rooms. It is probably the oldest domestic residence in Roseville. The Fowler family enlarged it in the first decade of the 1900s as a country home. Richard Fowler was a Lord Mayor of Sydney.

Ku-ring-gai Council acquired it in 1918 when developing Roseville Park in Clanville Avenue and it served as a home for the Park's caretaker. However its plumbing was primitive and household amenities basic so it eventually became unacceptable as a home. Despite its inclusion in Ku-ring-gai's local heritage list the Society arranged for its listing by the National Trust. A building empty and unused is always at risk. It was regularly vandalised and in danger of becoming derelict. A number of proposed uses proved unacceptable to local residents and the restrictions necessarily required by Council tended to make it unattractive to commercial tenants.

Happily, the afternoon of Saturday 1 December saw Firs Estate Cottage emerge with a brand new and exciting role as a quality restaurant carrying the name *Sous le Soleil*. The building has been painstakingly restored jointly by Council and by the restaurant operators who have shown

an outstanding commitment in respecting the heritage of the cottage. The official opening was by Mayor Nick Ebbeck whose remarks were preceded by our Past President Max Farley who spoke of the history involved. A number of Society members were present including Jennifer Harvey, Ann Barry, Sue Cooper and Barbara Walker.

The trading hours of the restaurant are limited to the daytime, every day except Monday, with morning and afternoon teas available as well as luncheon. It is an attractive cottage set in parklands and looks most inviting. The Society certainly hopes the venture meets the commercial success its entrepreneurs deserve. By doing so one of Ku-ring-gai's treasures will be preserved.



Firs Cottage - Roseville

## Harry Seidler Reserve

Members will have noticed that a section of bushland north of Wattle Street and adjacent to Kalang Avenue, Killara, has been renamed Harry Seidler Reserve. Previously the area had been known as *Geary's Way* and the new name was chosen because Kalang Avenue contains the architect's home, Seidler House, at number 13. The home won the Wilkinson Award in 1967. Interestingly, number "13" is rarely used as a house number in Ku-ring-gai. The section of *Geary's Way* south of Wattle Street retains its name. Geary was, of course, a bushranger who in 1821 plied his trade in this part of Killara. It is comforting to know that his notoriety is still to be commemorated in Ku-ring-gai.

## Recent Acquisitions

The following are among the recent additions to our Collection: *BLACK FOUNDERS* (Cassandra Pybus). Published by the University of NSW Press in 2006. 222 indexed pages.

Biographical information about eleven ex-American slaves who arrived as First Fleet convicts. Donated by John Brown.

*1788 – THE PEOPLE OF THE FIRST FLEET* (Don Chapman). Doubleday 1986. Brief alphabetical biographies of First Fleeters. 194 pages.

*SPEED THE PLOUGH – ASHFIELD 1788-1988* (Sheena and Robert Coupe. Ashfield Council (1988). 266 pages, indexed.

*AN ABC OF EPPING* (Alex McAndrew). An alphabetical description of places. 328 pages.

*EDEN AND TWOFOLD BAY* - the discovery, early history and points of interest (1797-1961). H P Wellings. 48 pages.

*E G WATERHOUSE OF ERYLDENE* (Mary Armati). Published by The Eryldene Trust (1977). 96 pages, indexed.

## Ku-ring-gai Citizen of the Year

On Australia Day 2008 The Mayor Cr N Ebbeck announced that Jo Harris was Ku-ring-gai's Citizen of the Year for 2008. Mayor Ebbeck acknowledged Jo's contribution to the community through over 50 years volunteering for many community groups and in particular mentioned her role as coordinator of emergency radio services during major bushfires and storms in Ku-ring-gai. He also acknowledged her current role as Vice-President of the Historical Society and her role over the past several years as leader of the Family History Group.

In response Jo mentioned how fortunate she was to have spent all of her life in 'leafy' Ku-ring-gai and the pleasure that she had derived from being associated with so many worthwhile causes and groups. She concluded by stating that she still calls Ku-ring-gai home.

I am sure that you will all wish to congratulate Jo on her award and wish her well in continuing the tradition of serving the community of Ku-ring-gai for many years to come.



Jo Harris receiving presentation from Mayor Ebbeck, Jonathon Coleman, Australia Day Ambassador for Ku-ring-gai, and the Manager of Woolworth's St Ives. Photo. R. Barry.

## Quiz

Ku-ring-gai had 35 hospitals in the Municipality, most of which were private maternity or convalescent hospitals.

Do you know in which suburb were the following 12 hospitals

Airlie	Cherrywood
Ballina	Churchill
Bangalore	Emoh Ruo
Blairholme	Glendaruel
Braemar	Kia-Ora
Carramar	Kooyong

## CHANGES TO THE COMMITTEE

The committee has reluctantly accepted the resignation of David Wilkins due to work commitments. We acknowledge his commitment and support whilst a member of the committee, and thank him for his contributions.

We welcome Peter Stehn to fill this casual vacancy. Undoubtedly Peter will give the committee the same support as he has in redeveloping the computer resources for the society, and as a member of the Family History committee.

## Member Profile – Stella Green



Stella first joined the Society six years ago after hearing Jo Harris give a talk to a family history group at Computer Pals for Seniors in Turrumurra.

Born in Brisbane, she also lived in Nambour and Stanthorpe in Queensland, moved to Sydney in 1943, lived in Roseville, East Lindfield, Epping, Lindfield, and then Turrumurra since 1997.

She went to two rural schools in Queensland, one term at Roseville Public School and four years at Abbotsleigh. She spent 1948 at Miss Hale's Secretarial College and worked in a great variety of offices and industries including manufacturing, stockbroking, Girl Guide national headquarters and shipping, until retirement in 1991.

In the early 1950s Stella was a member of Red Cross VAD for nearly three years, then spent a further three years in the Citizen Military Forces after enlisting in the Army's first ever CMF (Reserve) unit for women. This involved one night a week at Victoria Barracks, occasional weekend training, and two weeks annual camp, generally under canvas in the winter at Singleton.

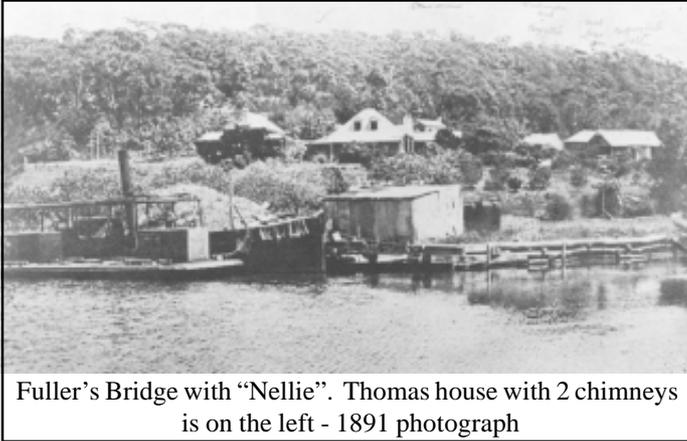
Stella has been interested in family history research for at least 40 years, and was fortunate to have a mother, several aunts and great-aunts who handed on many stories, photos, diaries, letters, etc. She seriously researched her mother's forebears before the days of computers and the internet, while her sister worked on their father's ancestors. Together they established that all families were in Australia by 1852, and discovered the seven ships in which they arrived.

Stella's other great interest is travel by sea and she has made about 40 voyages, many in cargo ships carrying just a few passengers - her favourite mode of transport along with train travel. She has been through both the Suez and Panama Canals and visited UK, Europe, many Asian countries and Pacific Islands, all by ship. In November 2002 she and another former passenger were invited to travel as guests of a German-owned freighter company while Channel 7 were aboard making a segment for the 'Great Outdoors' TV program. She also greatly enjoys reading history and biography, and belongs to several ship societies, Army, Service and Merchant Navy groups, Society of Australian Genealogists and the Friends of Gore Hill and St Kilda (Melbourne) cemeteries.

# History Notes

## Justice and Shades of Grey

Questions on Ku-ring-gai's past come along frequently to the Society. Some are easy to answer, others need researching and add to our store of knowledge. From time to time, we learn of unrecorded events which warrant a place in our history.



Fuller's Bridge with "Nellie". Thomas house with 2 chimneys is on the left - 1891 photograph

One concerned 33 year-old Mary Cecelia Thomas who was the central figure in an event which was anything but a happy one. On 21 August 1937 Mary was committed for trial on the charge of murdering her husband, William, aged 60, two days before. Lawyers rightly tell us, however, that being charged neither means nor implies guilt. This should always be remembered.

A query came to us from Mary's granddaughter who asked if we knew anything about Mary and her problems. We didn't.

It seems that Mary and her husband William had been living with their three young children in a cottage at Fullers Bridge next to the Jenkins homestead. This immediately aroused our curiosity because it has been widely understood that no such cottage existed in 1937. There had earlier been a number of structures in the immediate vicinity associated with the business activities of Thomas Jenkins, an important fruitgrower and merchant but it was widely thought that all except the main homestead and separate "Jenkins" kitchen had been destroyed by 1937. The homestead was demolished soon after and the only structure now remaining is the kitchen. It is now an office used in the administration of the Lane Cove National Park.

In 1937, the weir crossing the river at Fullers Bridge was being built and the river banks in the vicinity being stabilised. This was in readiness for the opening of the Park in 1938 and in time for an International Scouts Jamboree.

Fortunately C Bowes Thistlethwayte, who had been President of the Ku-ring-gai Shire in 1925-1927, was deeply involved in the establishment of the new Park and had taken a number of photographs. By delving through his records we found a

1937 photograph of the cottage with a caption in his handwriting referring to Jenkins' "houses" in the plural with the further comment "demolished". The cottage had indeed been there in 1937.

As to William and Mary Thomas, we could find nothing about them having lived in "Fullers Bridge, Chatswood". This was not solely because the relevant section of the Park was not in Chatswood at all but in Lindfield. It was also because William and Mary were not shown in any likely Electoral Roll either.

There has been a suggestion that they were squatting there but, if so, they appear to have been there for a year or two because Mary had acquired a local reputation as a successful grower of tomatoes. Beyond that, they were seemingly accepted because Mary, in a note she wrote from the State Reformatory dated 25 August, asks a Detective Simpson "Did the Solicitors see Mr Thistlethwayte about Bail". In other words their presence in the Cottage was apparently tolerated by a sympathetic Thistlethwayte, perhaps because this was in the late-Depression period and a kindly eye could be turned towards people in need of a roof over their heads. It may be, too, that he knew of the suffering being encountered under that particular roof.

What, then, was it all about? It is both impossible and pointless to try to resolve the rights and wrongs seventy years after the events particularly as the Courts and juries of the day were able to do so at the time. In brief, based on Court records and Sydney Morning Herald reports, the Court was told.

\* by Dr Aubrey Gunning, of Chatswood, that William was suffering from cardiac asthma because of heart disease; was gasping for breath and had asked to be given sufficient morphia to "finish him off"

\* by Dr Gunning that William had not more than three weeks to live at the most

\* by neighbours Mr and Mrs Shipley who said that he had said he intended to shoot himself

\* by a shop salesman that Mary had bought a rifle on the day before the shooting.

Two trials were held and on both occasions the jury was unable to reach agreement, basically about whether William had committed suicide or whether, as Mary claimed, she had shot him at his request and, also at his request, had attempted to make it appear suicide because he wanted to avoid the possibility that she would be accused of murder. Irrespective of the legalities and technicalities it is hard not to have sympathy for Mary. She was in a terrible situation with three young children to care for, one just 13 months old, a terribly ill husband in constant pain with only death to expect and who was constantly calling for it. As we said earlier – not a happy event.

Often one would not bring such a case to attention but would let the bygones be bygones. This case, however, attracted public attention at the time and has relevance, too, because of the place it occurred – the Lane Cove National Park when the Park was gaining a wide profile because of its pending opening and because of growing interest in the soon-to-be-held Scouts Jamboree.

### **Delayed Justice**

We have just written a story on Mary Thomas of “Fullers Bridge” who was charged on 21 August 1937 before the Central Police Court with murdering her husband two days before on 19th August. A Coroners Inquest took place on 24 August and she was committed for trial. We noted that the case was heard initially by the Central Criminal Court and Mary was acquitted on 9 September because the jury felt it would be unable to agree on a verdict. There was a retrial but on 18 September the jury was discharged for the same reason. The time from the date of the death until the closure of the case was just two days over four weeks. This included the police investigations, the charge being heard by the Central Police Court, the Coroner’s Inquest and two separate hearings before the Central Criminal Court. We’d guess that today such a case would take many months, even years, to reach a conclusion.

### **The Rofes of Rofe Parks**

Few Ku-ring-gai residents would know of even one Rofe Park let alone two, One is in Hornsby Heights and therefore outside Ku-ring-gai. The other, however, is some 50 acres in the heart of Ku-ring-gai itself. It straddles the western side of Turramurra and Pymble and runs down from the foot of Sheldon Forest to Mimosa Street. It escapes attention from most of us because Mimosa Street carries little passing traffic. Both parks owe their existence to Thomas Ernest Rofe and his family.

If the Parks are not prominent in our minds, then the Rofe family is even less so. In the case of Ku-ring-gai’s Rofe Park it was this family who donated the Park to Council. They did so in 1927 “for the preservation of natural flora and fauna”. The actual donors were Thomas Ernest Rofe and his wife Minnie. Minnie had herself bought the land in 1904 from Helena Gannon, the widow of William Gannon, the first owner of the land.

The story of Thomas and Minnie has both sorrow and inspiration. Thomas was born in 1869 as a son of Alfred Rofe. Alfred was a significant solicitor in the city and two of his sons, Thomas and Percy, followed in the profession. Thomas, however, fell foul of the legal fraternity and was struck off for presenting evidence in a divorce case allegedly knowing it was untrue. In his many remaining years he sought to clear his name and became widely known as a philanthropist. His community contributions in many spheres were astounding. To list them would take a full column of this Newsletter but include being President of Ku-ring-gai Council, a founder of the Council of Churches in NSW, a President of the Royal Philharmonic Society, a President of the Town Planning Association, a founder of Hornsby

Hospital and of the Hospital Contribution Fund and the donor of many thousands of dollars to charitable groups. He also endowed beds in six hospitals in perpetuity, a violin scholarship at the Conservatorium and annual prize at the Royal Australian Historical Society.

He and Minnie lived in Woonona Avenue in that part of Wahroonga which lies within the Hornsby Municipality. In 1919 an area had been gazetted as the site for the hospital but was thought by many to be too far away from the centre of Hornsby. Thomas solved the problem by giving an alternative site. This led to the original area in Hornsby Heights being designated as a Park carrying the Rofe name.

He and Minnie bore three daughters and one son. Sadness came into their lives when their one son, Ernest, was killed in a motor bike accident in 1920. This tragedy has been said to have been their motivation for later donating, in his memory, the 50 acres which was to be Ku-ring-gai’s Rofe Park. The same reason has been given for the naming of the Hornsby Heights Park. Which is correct is never likely to be known for certain. Perhaps both are. The 1922 death of their eldest daughter, Minnie, was another unhappiness with which they had to contend.

It can be confidently agreed that, despite the ill winds which blew over the family, the Rofe name must be accorded high honour and the Rofe name fully cleared of any hint of dishonour.

Oh, it should also be mentioned that he was restored to the Roll of solicitors in 1933 and later admitted to the Bar.

### **Blue Gum Forest Whole Again**

The preservation of the Blue Gum Forest on Mona Vale Rd, St Ives has rightly figured large in the minds of local people over many years. It was established in 1972 within the area bounded by Mona Vale and Rosedale Roads and Vista Street. Its historical and environmental importance is widely recognised. Over the years it has been known in whole or in part as Brown’s Brook, Brown’s Forest, the Dalrymple Hay (Demonstration) Forest and the Dalrymple Hay Nature Reserve with a number of variations to the boundaries of each.

Being of prime real estate, its existence has been constantly threatened but the commitment of many people and organisations has been successful in resisting its “development”. The reserve was, however, incomplete because two sections of the area, 100 and 102 Rosedale Road, remained in private hands. Early in 2007 the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation negotiated the acquisition of 100 Rosedale Road leaving only 102 Rosedale intruding into the area. A public campaign was led by local environmentalist Nancy Pallin and the *Blue Gum High Conservation Group*. As a result Ku-ring-gai Council bought this last section in December. The necessary funding has come from many sources beyond Council itself. Cash donors included members of the public and the Federal Government which gave \$350,000 as a result of the efforts of our local MHR, Dr Brendan Nelson.

The entire site can now be protected for all time. A great achievement.

---

# Family Matters

## 2<sup>nd</sup> February Meeting

The 11am session attracted 27 members when Jo Harris gave an overview of the volunteers training sessions carried out over the previous week under the guidance of Peter Stehn. Jo thanked Peter for the great deal of time spent over the holiday period and advised attendees that Peter had organised all computers to work as an *Intranet* system and are foolproof. Du Faur is a server only to the system, not used for research.

The National Burial Index and disc can only be viewed on *Ibbotsen*. Notes taken by Lyn Done.

### 2pm Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting Max Farley congratulated Jo Harris for being awarded 2008 Citizen of the Year for Ku-ring-gai and also the State Government Local Citizen of the Year complete with postage stamps. Congratulations Jo.

Jo Harris welcomed the members including new member, Marilyn Mason – apologies from Kevin Callinan and Shirley Morley.

Jo told of the work by Peter Stehn on the computers and thanked Peter for time and effort.

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 10.30am FTM Q&A \$5.00 members \$10.00 visitors – also Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March.

Volunteers needed on 5<sup>th</sup> Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays of the month.

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March – general research with Kevin and Peter – pm members Helen Davies, Barry Badham and Peter Bidencope to speak about their families.

15-16<sup>th</sup> March, *Society Coach Tour “Sally Down the South Coast”* cost \$285pp + \$35ss.

Name and phone number only required on Murren Transcripts.

Members encouraged to read other historical societies newsletters (check blue folder near Jenkins) also Family Tree Connections for interesting information.

Web sites – [www.ozgenonline.com](http://www.ozgenonline.com) – [www.hobart.tasfhs.org](http://www.hobart.tasfhs.org) for list of publications [www.justice.wa.gov.au/@apps/pioneersindex/default.aspx](http://www.justice.wa.gov.au/@apps/pioneersindex/default.aspx).

14 books have been newly accessioned including *Coonabarabran Pioneer Register*.

Remember to watch SBS *Who Do You Think You Are* another series to start on Foxtel 26<sup>th</sup> March.

### Book Reviews

Joy Walker – *The Wild Ride* – about Cobb & Co Coaches

Joan Antarakis – about European Settlers in Clarence River Area before 1850s.

Catherine Williams – book she has written about James Riddle – without an index as there were 5,000 Riddles.

Jo Harris – *Dancing with Strangers* – early settlers had good relationship with the natives.

### News

5 members went to Sydney Town Hall archaeological dig – 58 gravesites – Max Farley spoke about the site, 216 years ago first burial ground – now under lower Town Hall – book available Sydney – Story of a City.

Kevin Brown indicated one of Ruth’s ancestors buried there checked DNA – no match.

16 graves faced east 19 faced west – Church of England faced one way.

Jeanette Rennie thanked Max Farley for all his work on the Newsletter.

Julie Werner – visited State Library on Australia Day to view original documents re Rum Rebellion then to Museum of Sydney for re-enactment of the Rebellion with the Governor Marie Bashir in attendance – Julie was disappointed that some of the soldiers were women, so not historically correct.

Catherine Williams went to the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dog on the Tuckerbox at Gundagai – Governor Marie Bashir arrived by Helicopter indicating she knew the area as her family home had been in Narrandera.

Jo Harris invited Don Fifer, Secretary KHS, to address the meeting.

Don told the attendees of the Oral History Project of the Society and requested members to consider becoming interviewers – there is to be a training course on how to conduct an interview, what questions to ask, how to use digital equipment and put on CDs.

Many residents of Ku-ring-gai to be interviewed – these would include folk from backgrounds in law, police, politics and others – questions re aspects of their life, what affected their lives, etc.

### Brick Walls

Kerrin Cook – Baird family – Scotland 1700 – found death notices and electoral rolls very helpful – contacted a family in Victoria who assisted with much information.

Jenny Joyce – James Brockbank – great great-grandfather – searched for multiple clues and found the Census very helpful.

Warwick Allen – ancestor Richard Barnes 1790 – was in the Rum Corp.

### Offer

Jan Cook is to travel to France and has offered (if possible) to photograph war graves at Villiers-Bretenaux – please contact Jan.

There was no raffle held at this meeting.

*Notes taken by Elaine Turnidge*

## **Churchyard, Graveyard or Cemetery**

\* A churchyard is any patch of land on church ground, which may or may not include a burial ground.

\* A graveyard is a burial ground situated next to, or around, a place of worship, i.e. it's in a churchyard.

\* Cemeteries are purpose built burial grounds, and not usually adjoined to a place of worship.

(From "Family Tree Magazine", January 2008)

## **Dates of English Censuses**

The dates on which the English censuses took place are

6 June 1841	30 Mar 1851
7 April 1861	2 April 1871
3 April 1881	5 April 1891
31 March 1901	

## **What is a Cordwainer?**

Perhaps you have come across an ancestor in a census or parish record that lists his occupation as Cordwainer. What is a cordwainer? Basically it's someone who makes shoes from soft leather, originally cordovan leather from Cordoba in Spain, which was called "cordwain" in England. In London the occupation was historically controlled by the Worshipful Company of Cordwainers. Note that there is a difference between a cordwainer and a cobbler. A cordwainer makes high quality shoes from new leather, whereas historically a cobbler only repaired shoes and were even prohibited from making new shoes. They overcame this prohibition by collecting worn-out footwear, cutting it out, and remanufacturing cheap shoes entirely from salvaged leather.

## **Orientation Day for New and Current Members**

**10.30am to 1pm Monday 17 March**

The committee would like to invite members to an orientation morning. Come and meet members and discover the depth of our collection. Whether you are interested in local or family history you are sure to find something to interest you. As we need to limit numbers please book by phoning Ann Barry 9144 6480 or email a.barry@optusnet.com.au.

# **Built Heritage**

## **Lindfield Station**

Lindfield Station is one of the most interesting and significant stations on the North Shore Line: it contains a side platform as well as an island platform with a pre-cast concrete signal office. The station's importance is heightened with the addition of a unique pre-cast panelled signal box which is the only one known to exist in the Metropolitan area; the relatively rare 'haunched beams'; the RSJ trestles and Newel posts with the star design.



Lindfield Station opened on 1 January 1890 with a utilitarian timber waiting shed. With duplication of the line in 1900 Lindfield was entirely remodelled with a new island platform containing a standard brick building with access from a new overbridge. This station building still contains its original men's water closet with cleaner's passage.

In 1921 extensive alterations were carried out at Lindfield. Another platform for local trains was built on the eastern side of the line with a second station building. An overhead booking office was constructed on a new footbridge with access stairs to each platform. Of the 226 footbridge sites in NSW only 28 contain steel 'haunched beams'. There are only 22 railway-sites in NSW that contain two footbridges: a street access structure and a platform access structure joined by an overhead booking office. The rare Newell posts at the base of the stairs feature the star design. Lindfield Station contains all three of these significant items.

The side platform has a drinking fountain for engine drivers and firemen located at the southern end of the platform. This fountain was designed in such a way that water is always cool.

The original frame 'A' was situated under the extending awning at the Sydney end of the island platform building. However in 1922 the Railway Commissioners decided to build a signal box that was unique to the Sydney suburban rail system. It was constructed of pre-cast reinforced concrete panels. These were prepared in a railway workshop and brought to Lindfield where they were slotted into place using a drop-log construction technique. A roof of 'concrete slates' capped the building. Precast concrete panels were used as a means to lower construction costs and to provide a building which was termite resistant. A second building, used as a maintenance depot was built using the same technique.

In 1927 the Station Master moved from his cottage on the corner of Tryon and Lindfield Ave to further down Tryon Road. The old house was demolished and replaced by the *Ramsay Building*.

## Copy for Newsletter

General copy for publication should be lodged with the Acting Editor, Kerrin Cook at (lindsaykerrin@bigpond.com) as **early as possible** but no later than 7<sup>th</sup> of the month (except November and 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.

## New Members

We are pleased indeed to welcome to membership:

Gillian Lord	Turramurra
Colin Orr	West Pymble
Ian and Sally Hordern	Wahroonga
Elizabeth Stuart	Killara
Salli Chmura	Chifley
Patricia Pitt	Turramurra
Dudley and Shirley Luttrell	St Ives
Joan Stott	St Ives
David Evans	Gordon
Corona Adams	Castle Hill

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

## Quiz Answers

Airline Nursing Home - Kioogle St., Wahroonga  
 Ballina Convalescent Hospital/Nursing Home - Cnr Pacific Highway and Cecil St., Gordon  
 Bangalore Private Hospital - Locksley St., Killara  
 Braemar Private Hospital - Braeside St., Wahroonga  
 Carramar Home - Boomerang St., Turramurra  
 Cherrywood Private Hospital - Cnr Pacific Highway and Cherry St., Turramurra  
 Churchill Private Hospital - Telegraph Rd., Pymble  
 Emoh Ruo Private Hospital - Lane Cove Rd., Roseville  
 Glendarruel Private Hospital - Russell Ave., Lindfield  
 Kia-Ora or Gordon Private Hospital - Park Ave., Gordon  
 Kooyong Private Hospital - Roseville Ave., Roseville

## 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 1 Mar	Family History Meeting 11 am - "Some Irish Resources" 2 pm - General Meeting followed by talks by Helen Davies, Barry Badham and Peter Bidencope
Thurs 6 Mar	10.30 am Computers Q & A Session Bookings not required
Sat/Sun 15-16 Mar	Tour to South Coast See enclosed form for highlights
Mon 17 Mar	10.30 am - 1 pm Orientation day for members
Wed 19 Mar	7.45 pm KHS General Meeting Speaker - Peter Lalor Topic - <i>Sydney Harbour Bridge</i>
Fri 21 Mar	10.30 am Computers Q&A Session Bookings not required
Sat 5 Apr	Family History Meeting
Wed 16 Apr	7.45 pm KHS General Meeting Speaker - David Branigan Topic - <i>T W Edgeworth David</i>

## Administration

President	Kevin Callinan	9983 1525
Vice Presidents	Ann Barry	9144 6480
	Jo Harris	9489 4393
Treasurer	Doug Milne	9487 2853
Secretary	Don Fifer	9482 4613
Immed. Past President	Max Farley	9499 7113
Committee members	Kerrin Cook	9416 2586
	Helen Davies	9498 3754
	Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
	Jenny Joyce	9440 2131
	Peter Stehn	9489 9488
<b>Appointees</b>		
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
	Stella Green	9449 4388
	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/layout	Kerrin Cook	9416 2586
Public Officer	Helen Davies	9498 3754
Publicity	Sue Dunston	9498 8720
"SNAP" Co-ordinator	Helen Davies	9498 3754
Speakers Programme	Beverley Dunstan	9419 8526
Volunteers Roster	Heather Davidson	9144 1844

© Copyright is vested in the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society Inc. and the authors. The content may be reproduced as sourced from this Newsletter and with acknowledgment to the author if named.