

# KU-RING-GAI HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.



Including:  
Ku-ring-gai Family History Group  
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  
The NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc.

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## SEPTEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER VOL. 35 NO 8

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 2**  
**FAMILY HISTORY MEETING**  
**11.00am WORKSHOP: WEBINAR: *Convicts.***  
**2.00pm FAMILY HISTORY MEETING**  
***Sir John Jamison, Cultural Pioneer.* Presenter:**  
**Dr Warren Dent.**

Sir John Jamison (1776 –1844) was an Australian physician, pastoralist, banker, politician, constitutional reformer and public figure. Like his father, he trained as a surgeon, joining the Royal Navy in 1799. He served under Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 aboard the *Agamemnon*. In 1806, he saw further action at the Battle of San Domingo on the same vessel. One year later, Jamison graduated as a physician from Edinburgh University, earning a Doctorate of Medicine.



**John Jamison**

Warren Dent, was Dux of Gordon Public School in 1955, but has lived overseas for many years. Warren has written many Australian historical books, and his latest book-in-progress concerns the Jamison Family and his convict ancestor who was assigned to Sir John Jamison at “Regentville”.



Warren Dent in Headmaster's Office

Visitors Welcome

Afternoon Tea Available

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16**  
**2.00pm, GENERAL MEETING,** followed by  
***A Nobel Prizewinner's Shame.*** Presenter: Don Napper.

Emeritus Professor Don Napper's Uncle Frank was one of the first Australian soldiers to survive being gassed on the Western Front, a fact that triggered Don's interest in gas warfare and the work (for both good and evil ends) of the brilliant German scientist, Fritz Haber, controversial winner of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1918.



Fritz Haber

Donald Napper is Emeritus Professor and a past Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the College of Science and Technology at the University of Sydney. His association with the University has lasted over thirty years, excluding his time there as a student. Over the years, Napper has developed an internationally recognised expertise in polymer colloids and the polymerisation processes. He has co-authored over 180 scientific articles in the field and is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science (FAA) and of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI).



Professor Don Napper

Visitors Welcome

Afternoon Tea Available

## THE NEW COMMITTEE FOR 2017-18

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Neil Falconer

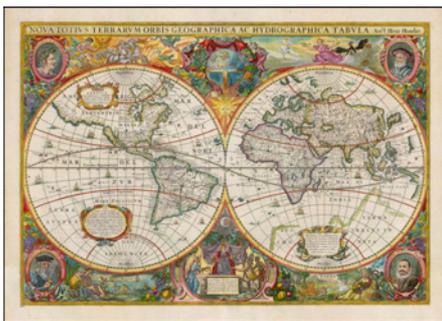
Lorna Watt

Helen Whitsed

Evelyn Wyatt

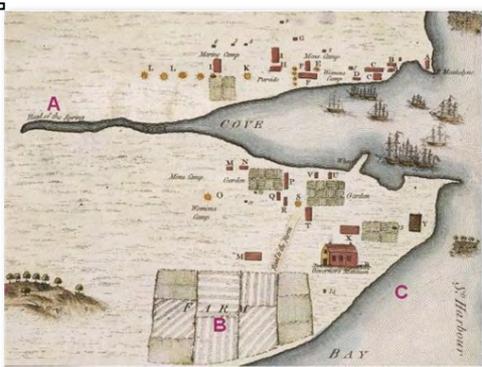
## THE STORY OF ELEVEN MAPS

At the 15 July General Meeting, our speaker was Emeritus Professor Robert Clancy AM, a clinical immunologist with a passionate interest and expertise in maps, or, more specifically, historical cartography.

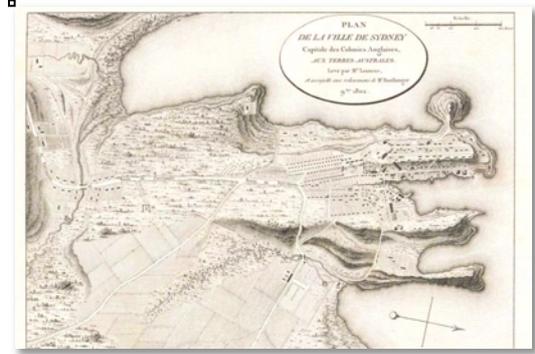


World Map 1630

His talk was illustrated by eleven maps stretching from images of the earliest world maps (very colourful and veritable works of art, produced from multiple wood blocks) to more modern maps or plans of Circular Quay, Port Jackson, Sydney, the County of Cumberland and NSW dating from the earliest days of European settlement of Australia. He included a number of others, showing the first tentative explorations and mappings of the "Great South Land" by explorers of various nationalities.



Sydney Cove 1788



An Example of an Early 1802 Map of Sydney Cove

Robert's accompanying narrative added much interest to his maps and eventually led to a lengthy Q&A session, extending well after Patrick Dodd had proposed a vote of thanks with his usual mix of insight and love of the early history of Sydney, its harbour and development. All in all, a most interesting well-attended and instructive afternoon.

Graham Lewis

## FAMILY HISTORY MEETING

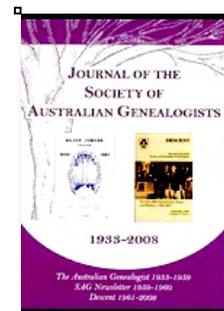
### 11.00am Session

27 members attended the morning session which was chaired by Sue Holmes.

Jenny Joyce reminded members about the Unlock the Past on UK and European research seminars in Parramatta, and the all day genealogy day at Hornsby Library.

Sue then introduced the presenter for the morning session, Heather Garnsey, Chief Executive Officer of the Society of Genealogists, Kent Street, Sydney. Her talk was called 'Leave No Stone Unturned – The SAG Collections and Why You Should Use Them'.

SAG was started in 1932, and is located at two addresses in Kent Street. The main library is at 2/379 Kent Street, which is set up for research on computers, microfiche, microfilm, and printed materials in book, pamphlet and document form. Experienced and skilled volunteers are on duty each day to assist researchers make the most of their visit.



There is also a library at 120 Kent Street where manuscripts are kept, including published family histories, of which SAG has about 5000 from all

over Australia, and also family trees, and charts, photographs, newspaper cuttings, correspondence, documents, journals, diaries and logs. These can be checked online using the MIDAS catalogue before making a visit.

Heather emphasised the two golden rules of family history: 'Don't reinvent the wheel' and 'It isn't all on line'.

When searching it is necessary to check the Library Catalogue and the Manuscript Catalogue for the location of useful material. The SAG also runs a program of lectures and webinars for members, and non members. Heather gave details of opening hours and membership fees, and distributed a pamphlet about this. She reminded everyone that the SAG is organising the Congress in March, 2018 at Darling Harbour, an event not to be missed. Angela Lind, a volunteer at SAG, thanked Heather for her informative presentation.

### **2.00p.m. Session**

Sue Holmes opened the meeting and welcomed members and visitors. She mentioned several interesting events on 5 August: 910 - Last Viking invasion of England; 1944 – Breakout of Japanese prisoners at Cowra; 1962 - Arrest of Nelson Mandela; and also in 1962 – the death of Marilyn Monroe.

Jenny Joyce reminded members of the 2017 AGM on 19 August, and that nominations are due before 12 August.

### **Tours**

Neil spoke about the upcoming program of tours, details of which are in the Newsletter.

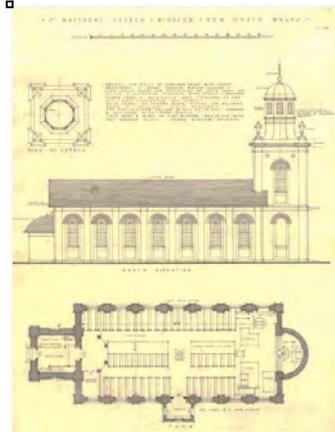
### **ST MATTHEWS CHURCH, WINDSOR: AN ANGLICAN CHURCH CELEBRATING 200 YEARS**

Dr Ian Jack and Jan Barkley-Jack spoke to their jointly written book '*St Matthew's Windsor: an Anglican Landmark celebrating 200 years*', which won a highly commended award in the Research and Investigation section of the Heritage Festival Awards, in April 2017.

St Matthew's Anglican Church is an elegant Georgian building designed by Francis Greenway. The foundation stone was laid by Governor Lachlan Macquarie on 11 October 1817. The church was completed on 10 September 1821 and consecrated on 22 December 1822 by Reverend Samuel Marsden.

By then, Windsor, one of the Macquarie Towns, was already a good sized village, and King George III donated a communion set for the opening. St Matthew's is similar to St Thomas's, and still has box pews. Music was originally provided by the

regimental band, but in 1840 the first Australian built organ was installed.



St Matthews Design 1817

Jan Barkley-Jack spoke of the 'scandal' associated with Rev. Joseph Docker (1793-1865), the fourth minister. In 1829, Docker with his wife Sarah and six month old daughter commenced ministry at St Matthew's. He supported education in Windsor and opened an Infants School. Unfortunately, he criticised the magistrates over the length of sentences handed down from the bench, of which William Cox was the head. When a farewell dinner was given by the magistrates, Docker was not invited to attend, but was asked to join the group for the toasts. Everyone was toasted, but not Docker who felt he was being treated unfairly.



Joseph Docker

In this, he was supported by his parishioners, and in 1833, wrote a letter of complaint to the Governor saying that the four previous ministers had also been badly treated by the magistrates for criticising them. (Doubtless the fact that Docker was an Evangelical while the magistrates were High Church was a contributing factor in the situation.) After a disruption to the service, challenging the incumbent, Docker preached his last sermon from the high pulpit before leaving Windsor.

In 1838 he took up a squatting run near Wangarratta in Victoria where he became a successful pastoralist.

After several questions, a vote of thanks was given by Patrick Dodd.

## Raffle

The raffle winners were Hugh Dowd, a visitor who had seen the speaker advertised in the Hornsby Advocate, and Morrison Hammond, member and editor of the KHS Newsletter.

## TOUR DESK

Bookings will open on the date given in the Newsletter, when tour organisers will be in the rooms taking bookings on a first in, first served basis. Participants will be able to pay by cheque or cash on this day, and the green booking form will need to be completed. You will then be issued with a tour information sheet with tour starting point and timetable.

The following day, the tour will be open to members and non members paying by electronically transferred funds (EFT).

KHS ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER (EFT): BSB 032-083, Account Number 248971.

If you choose to pay this way, **please make sure that you identify your payment with your surname and designated tour number**, and send an email to Yvette Reeve [yreeve@optusnet.com.au](mailto:yreeve@optusnet.com.au), notifying her that you wish to join the tour and have paid. Yvette will acknowledge your payment by email and send you a Tour Information Sheet.

For more information on the booking process refer to the August *Newsletter*.

### TOUR 03 **Pemberton Mangrove Mountain** (near Gosford)

Thursday September 28.

Bookings open in the rooms on Monday August 21

Pemberton is the former South Mangrove Post Office alongside the Hawkesbury River.

This delightful timber cottage was built around 1900, and has a wonderful view. The owner Ron Hattersley, a history buff and collector, has repurposed the cottage in an English cottage style.

Ron will be providing a BBQ on a wide verandah, overlooking his wild life, including 7 donkeys, peacocks and geese, meantime discussing with us early life in the area, and his very interesting collection.

Cost: \$50 for members and \$60 Non Members.

Transport will be by Community Bus, travelling via Wisemans Ferry for morning tea.



### TOUR 04 **Rookwood Cemetery.**

Thursday October 19.

Bookings open in the rooms on Monday 18th September.

Our visit to Rookwood is long overdue. Rookwood is the site of the second largest Necropolis in the world, and because of its relatively large space, is the site of some very rare plants, and birds that exist nowhere else in Sydney, including some antique roses. The extensive Victorian memorial gardens have been restored.



The guided tour will include the resting places of interesting and famous people. Monuments in cemeteries often feature interesting funereal displays, which will be explained by our guide. The Rookwood Records Office contains readily accessible historical records.

Our Tour will be by Bus and will include a picnic lunch.

Cost: \$50 for members, and \$60 for non members who are always welcome.

The Tour Information Sheet will give timing and pickup site.

Coming in November: **Sculptures by the Sea.**

### **Exploring Ku-ring-gai**

These very informative and interesting Exploring Ku-ring-gai tours (99.6 km around Ku-ring-gai) are conducted regularly by Vice President, Jo Harris. An expressions of interest sheet is available in our Research Rooms.

## TOUR REPORTS

### **SYDNEY JEWISH MUSEUM**

Our visit to this memorial building, with its striking architecture, began with a one hour guided tour. After being split into small groups, our guides first gave us an overview of the origins of anti-Semitism, detailing how the rise of Hitler and his propaganda used humiliation and deceit to erode the position of Jews in society. The rise of the ghettos from 1939 was explained as well as how in 1942, the death camps became operational, and seen by the Nazis as the 'Final Solution to the Jewish Question'.

The museum features a special gallery and water feature dedicated to the 1.5 million Jewish children who lost their lives. Another gallery

brings together portraits of holocaust survivors, portrayed with significant historical objects; these range from a disturbing blanket of human hair fashioned by the Nazis, to a lovingly and intricately carved wooden ship made by a Jewish father for his children, whom he would never see again.

We then had the opportunity to hear a presentation from Holocaust survivor Jacqueline Dale (her father crafted the ship mentioned above), who described the arrest of her father by the Nazis, and her remaining family's narrow escape as they fled occupied France by train. She was just eleven years old.

The Jewish Museum experience was profound, moving all of us and creating pause for reflection.



Museum Interior

## DARLINGHURST GAOL, NOW THE NATIONAL ART SCHOOL



The Entrance

We then travelled the short distance to the old Darlinghurst Gaol, where we were delighted by a 90 minute tour with our fabulous guide, and resident art student, Kertika. Despite the naughty antics of corrupt Gaol Governor Henry Keck, both inside and outside of the prison walls, and drunken executioner Alexander Green, a total of 76 prisoners were publicly hanged during the gaol's history.



"Imprisoned Historians"

The site is renowned for its colonial architecture in sandstone, although the interior walls were originally painted blue to calm the prisoners. As the poetry of one-time gaol resident (Henry Lawson) confirms, prisoners were desperate for any calming influence. For the first nine months of a sentence they endured 23 hours' solitary confinement per day in cold, damp sandstone cells, and were reduced to a meagre diet of bread and water. The gaol is also notorious for its women's prison area, where 450 women were crammed into a space designed for just 79 – today this space is known as the Cellblock Theatre and is a coveted and unique performance venue.



The Women's Cellblock

After closing as a gaol in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the site became East Sydney Technical College in 1921, and in 1995, evolved to become the National Art School.



19th Century Gaol Implements



The Morgue

Text by Leah Miller Lock  
Photos courtesy of Sue Moore

## TREASURER'S REPORT

July was the start of our new financial year, so dues were sent to all members. The dues figure comprises most of our income for July, which was \$17,333, and will be used to pay running costs throughout the year. We still have \$6,295 (36%) of these dues outstanding so it is possible our annual income could be reduced by this much. Please note, if your dues are still outstanding you will be receiving your newsletter by email because we can no longer afford to subsidize the cost of postage. Our expenses for the month amounted to \$462.

Annet Latham

## IRISH SIG

At the most recent meeting of the Irish SIG we shared some recent successes and some brick walls. We then watched a video about the effects of the Great Famine on emigration.

There will be no meeting in September. The next meeting will be on Friday 13th of October at 1.30p.m in the Research Centre.

## GERMAN SIG

The group met on Monday, 14 August with 18 members present. Items discussed were:

**Book Launch:** Edition 1 of the group project *German Ancestors of Ku-ring-gai Historical Society Members* was printed, bound and sold during late June, early July. The booklet was extremely well received and the modest production run is now complete. Inputs for Edition 2 were called for and will be coordinated by Leone as the coordinator. The Society copy of the booklet was passed around at the meeting for signing by authors and members.

**BookForm:** Sandra Clark introduced a web application she felt may be useful for creating a family history book or memoir. The application is called BookForm and details can be viewed at <https://bookform.com.au/>. The six minute video, available through a link on the home page, was recommended viewing for those requiring assistance in writing and producing their family memoir.

**GAGHA Progress:** Tony Karrasch updated members on progress with the German Australian Genealogy and History Alliance (GAGHA). The GAGHA website (<http://germanheritage.org.au/>) has been recently updated and members were encouraged to visit the site to check-out the changes. Tony also described the many valuable snippets he has obtained through Facebook pages such as *German Genealogy*.

**German Ancestor Story:** Peter Roennfeldt gave an interesting and informative presentation on his German ancestors, their geographic origins, and how they were influenced by contemporary events.

**Show and Tell:** Frank Olivier gave an entertaining presentation on "The Russian Cross" and how he acquired the object and its associated wooden stand.

### Reading German Handwritten Records:

The third and final lesson on reading German script was outlined to members. The full lesson is available

at <https://familysearch.org/ask/learningViewer/40> for interested members to go through in detail.

**Old German Maps:** During afternoon tea Les Jeckeln showed several members an old calendar, beautifully illustrated with detailed facsimiles of old German city maps. Several members expressed an interest in getting an image of one or more of the maps. Leone volunteered to assist with scanning the maps to high resolution images which will then be made available to members on request.

Next meeting 9 October when Frank Olivier will give a 50-minute joint family history presentation.

Peter Stehn

## THE GREAT NORTHSORE HAILSTORM

On 17<sup>th</sup> November 1896, a tremendous thunderstorm lashed Pymble and Turramurra, producing massive amounts of hail, and a large damage trail across the upper North Shore.

An article describing the event appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald the next day under the headline *A Phenomenal Fall of Hail*.

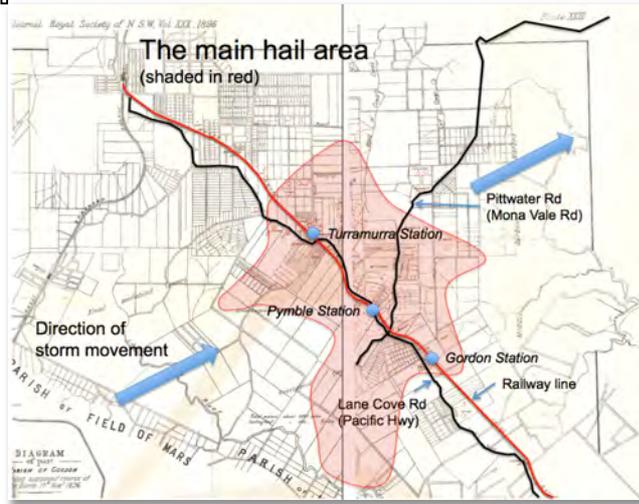
*In the metropolis yesterday the weather was oppressive. About 5 pm a change came, and the rain fell copiously, 12 points being recorded in the shower. The lightning flashes were very severe, especially over Pennant Hills. The Hon. Mr. Garrard, Minister for Instruction, informed Mr. Russell that while going through Turramurra and Pymble, the country looked as white as though a heavy snowstorm had taken place. In places the hailstones were 2 ft deep.*

Frederick Eccleston du Faur, a Fellow of the Royal Geographic Society and a resident of Turramurra, was on the train travelling from the City to Turramurra station just after the storm had struck.

He described the scene:

*"On our arrival at the Gordon Station at 5.21 pm on the evening in question, we found a considerable amount of hail on the platform, and a heavy mist arising from the lands on the north-eastern side of the railway; before arriving at Pymble we found the lands on both sides of the line completely white with hail; as white as after a moderately heavy winter snow storm in Europe. Reaching Turramurra at 5.30 pm where I left the train, the hail, which had ceased falling some ten minutes previously, had almost half filled the empty trucks on the siding.....".*

Du Faur later contacted the Government Astronomer, Mr. H. C. Russell, who invited him to submit a paper to the Royal Society of NSW. This was read out at a Society's meeting in December.



A map showing the main hail area as it appeared in du Faur's paper published by The Royal Society of NSW, Vol XXX, 1896

This storm resulted in:

- Hail piled up 7 feet deep at Turramurra
- Gardens and glasshouses destroyed
- Tiles and windows smashed around Turramurra
- Local orchards totally stripped of fruit and foliage
- Roof slates smashed
- Hailstones perforated a corrugated iron veranda at Pymble

Richard Whitaker

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS - July 2017

*Remembered with Pride. Memoir of Mark John Hammond.* Mark J. Hammond. 1998, 287 pages; index plus photos. BIO HAM.

*The Silver Trail. A Guide to the Heritage of Broken Hill.* G.J. Drew. 1991, 60 pages, lots of photos 2880 DRE.

*The Story of Gulgong. Written in Gold.* Eileen Maxwell. 1992. 112 pages plus photos and map. Donated by Kerrin Cook. 2852 MAX.

*Manning Clark. A Historian's Apprenticeship.* Manning Clark. 1994, A memoir of the writing of A History of Australia. 127 pages with index. BIO CLA.

*DNA for Genealogists, 4th Edition.* Kerry Farmer. 2017. 58 pages with index. HOW FAR.

*Modern Australia in Documents 1901 - 1939, Vol 1,* F.K. Crowley. 1973. 625 pages with index. AUS CRO.

*Modern Australia in Documents 1901 - 1939, Vol 2* F.K. Crowley. 1973. 620 pages with index. AUS CRO.

*Citizenship and Employment. Investigating Post-Industrial Options.* Jocelyn Pixley. 1993. 339 pages with index. SOC PIX.

*The Chains of Colonial Inheritance, Searching for Identity in a Subservient Nation.* Adam Jamrozik. 2004. 208 pages with index. SOC JAM

*Free Immigration, Guide to the Public Records of Tasmania, Section 4.* I. Pearce and Clare Cowling. 1975. 128 pages. TAS PEA

Prepared by Susan Alder

## JO'S WHERE IS IT?

August answer:

GOVERNOR PHILLIP RESERVE – EAST GORDON PARK

1. Located: Next to number 77 Rosedale Road south-east to Eastern Arterial Road, then west to Taylor Street.

Category: Natural Area

Division: Open space

LGA Class: Community

Source 1: Courtesy KMC staff who estimated the size of the entire area as 7000 square metres.

2. <https://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:WhIEYBxNX9wJ:https://mapcarta.com/28656182+&cd=4&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=au>

Governor Phillip Reserve is west of Bushranger Reserve, north of **Ku-ring-gai Flying Fox Reserve** and southeast of **Saiala Road Recreation Reserve**.

Type: Reserve

Location: New South Wales, Australia, Oceania

Latitude: 33° 45' 4.7" (33.7513°) south

Longitude: 151° 10' 19.6" (151.1721°) east

Elevation: 56metres (184 feet)

Source 2: [Governor Phillip Reserve Map - New South Wales - Mapcarta](https://mapcarta.com)

<https://mapcarta.com> › Oceania › Australia › New South Wales

The photo in the August Newsletter was taken from Eastern Arterial Road.

Has any member ever walked in this area?

## SEPTEMBER WHERE IS IT ?



## DIARY DATES

### September

Saturday 2, 11.00am, **Family History**

**Workshop.** Webinar: *Convicts*.

Saturday 2, 2.00pm, **Family History Meeting:**

*Sir John Jamison - Cultural Pioneer*. Presenter

Dr Warren Dent.

Thursday 7, 2.15pm Committee Meeting.

Tuesday 12, Tour: Royal Botanic Garden.

Saturday 16, 2.00pm, **General Meeting,**

followed by *A Nobel Prizewinner's Shame*.

Presenter: Don Napper.

Thursday 28, Tour: Pemberton Mangrove

Mountain.

### October

Thursday 5, 2.15pm, Committee Meeting.

Saturday 7, 11.00am, **Family History**

**Workshop:** *Changes to the AWM*. Presenter:

David Wilkins.

Saturday 7, 2.00pm, Family History Meeting:

*Celebrant Ceremonies*. Presenter: Wendy Bull.

Friday 13, 1.30pm Irish SIG

Thursday 19, Tour: Rookwood Cemetery

Saturday 21, 2.00pm, General Meeting, followed

by *Palace of Tears*. Presenter: Julian Leatherdale.

### November

Saturday 4, 11.00am, Workshop. Webinar:

Shipping and Immigration.

Saturday 4, 2.00pm, John Cann: State Records.

### December

Saturday 2, 11.00am, No Workshop.

Saturday 2, 2.00pm, Christmas Party.

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#### Newsletter Deadline

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David Wilkins 0411 186752

#### 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 to the public from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday (except the first Saturday of each month when members have a Family History meeting).