



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.

April 2013

Newsletter

Vol. 31 No. 3

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 Room, 799 Pacific Highway Gordon

Bradfield Park was home – for 20 months

During his academic career Michael Hogan wrote some dozen books and many articles on Labor Party history, and the connection between religion and politics. Now working in local history, he spoke to our February meeting about his book *Almost Like Home: Living in Bradfield Park*, published by the Society in 2012. Young Michael was about ten when his family lived for 20 months at Bradfield Park in the late 1940s, awaiting a Housing Commission home.

The site, between Fiddens Wharf Road, Lady Game Drive and Lane Cove Park, had several 'lives'. Part of the Moore Estate, it was originally planned as a garden suburb, which failed to sell at launch. It was then the site of the Australasian Scout Jamboree of 1938. By 1941 an RAF Dominion Flying School was built there, training Air Force crews for Britain. This became RAAF Station Bradfield Park, continuing to 1950 as the Korean War developed.

Bradfield's capacity for the NSW Housing Commission was 2200 people (500 families) at one time, accommodating about 100 000 overall from 1947–64, coexisting with a European refugee camp from 1949, followed by a British migrant hostel in 1951–71. In 1973 the site was taken over by the CSIRO.

Michael described for us the Housing Commission era at this and other such sites, in the context of the severe Sydney-wide housing shortage of the time, and his own personal experience. Post both the Depression and WWII general housing in Sydney was tight owing to shortages of building materials, finance and manpower – all resources had been invested in the War. Returning soldiers, country to city movement, post-war migrants, and refugees increased housing demand. Former Army camps were co-opted, but not rebuilt – the idea was that the occupants not be too comfortable to move on when offered a new Government-built place, or their opportunity went to the next family.

For a young boy, Bradfield was heaven, with plenty of friends (so close – the uninsulated fibro huts were subdivided for families). Mud abounded, with no made roads or paths. There was a kiosk, shop, school, church, chemist and doctors, dentist, and a policeman. For parents, privacy was scarce, inside conditions were stifling or freezing, and there were chip heaters and fuel stoves to contend with.

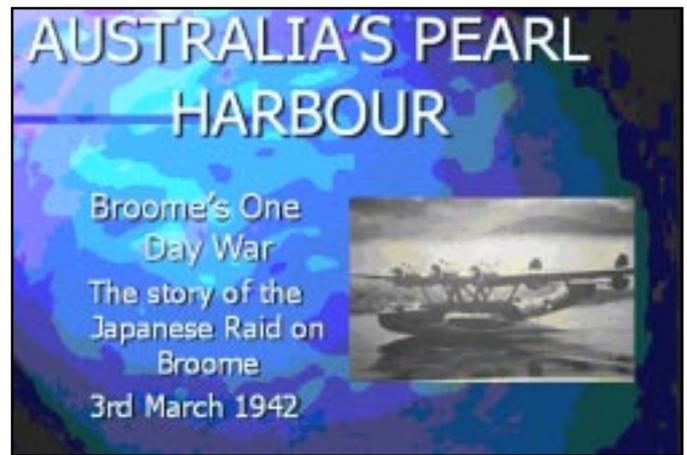
Nevertheless, this place is obviously remembered by past transitory residents for the mutual support and tolerance of its community, in a time of few options.

Helen Davies

General Meeting

Saturday 20 April 2.00 pm

The Japanese attack on Broome



Speaker **David Rosenwax** tells the little-known story of the loss of lives and aircraft during a surprise attack on 3 March 1942.

**Afternoon Tea will be available.
Visitors welcome.**

Family History Meeting

Saturday 6 April

11.00 am "New Early Convict Records"

2.00 pm **General Meeting**

"German Origins": **Allan Rost**,
2012 KHS "Historian of the Year".



**Afternoon Tea will be available.
Visitors welcome.**

Society has a new President

The Committee has regretfully accepted Jackie van Bergen's resignation from the position of President.

Jennifer Harvey has agreed to take on the position of President, with the unanimous support of the Committee.

We wish to thank Jackie for her contributions during her time as President, and welcome Jennifer to the position.

Volunteer Training/Update Days – with a social Morning Tea!

Friday 5 or Monday 22 April 10.30 am

We've changed a lot of things over the last year!

Are you a room volunteer who can't seem to find where things are anymore? It's difficult to keep up with changes if you're on duty once a month!

Maybe you're just not too sure how to use some of our new resources; or maybe there's an aspect of room volunteering that you've always wanted to learn.

We are holding a couple of training days, with lots of time for Q&A, and time for a social morning tea.

We always welcome new faces interested in learning what being a volunteer is all about.

Please try to come along to find out what goes on.

Please book (in the bookings folder) so we are able to arrange catering.

Society 50th Anniversary

On 7 November 2013 it will be 50 years since the first meeting of our Society. We propose to mark this occasion with an Anniversary Dinner to be held at the Roseville Golf Club on **7 November 2013**.

Please mark the date in your diary.

It should be NaRRelle Avenue – not NaRelle!

Having written a little about Sister Florence Narrelle Hobbes in the last *Newsletter*, I must make some corrections. It seems that the street was named after Sister Hobbes, in which case it should be spelt with a double R. Melanie Oppenheimer, author of *Oceans of Love*, the story of Sister Hobbes' participation in WWI, has documentation to show that the name was spelt Narrelle, and Sister Hobbes signed family correspondence 'Narrie', both with the double R.

However, having consulted a variety of records, I found the following – *North Shore Sydney* by Les Thorne, *The Historian* articles, deposited plans, heritage listings, electoral rolls, Sands' directories, valuation records, newspaper articles and adverts for sales in the street – all spell the name with a single R. Some even give the earlier street name as 'Shakel', 'Narella' or 'Marelle'.

I know the street was dedicated in September 1920 but, despite searching Council minutes, have not yet found a registration of the name. Somewhere along the line, despite the best intentions of everyone involved, the spelling of the street name has changed.

Kathie Rieth

Special Interest Groups

Mac Users SIG

A lively group of 12 people turned up for our last meeting, and some of the topics covered were creating folders, a new photo editing suite, and bluetooth keyboards for the iPad. The next meeting will be on **Monday 15 April at 2.00 pm** in the research rooms.

Topics we hope to cover include: using iCloud, and making folders on the iPad.

So, if you use, or have tried, iCloud, please come along and help us answer some of the questions.

Our May meeting will be on **Monday 6 May at 2.00 pm** in the research rooms. Most of our meetings from now on will be on the first Monday of each month, except when there is a public holiday (as in April).

If you have any specific questions, please email them in advance so they can be circulated to the group for answers. (jackievb@optusnet.com.au)

No need to book, just turn up. Bring your laptop or iPad if you like.

Jackie van Bergen

German Research SIG

The next meeting of the German SIG is planned for **Monday 8 April 2013 at 1.30 pm** in our rooms.

Peter Stehn

Irish Research SIG

On Friday 8 March Irish descendants gathered at the rooms to talk about their Irish family history. We discussed a number of searching ideas and looked at various websites. We all learnt a bit, shared stories and had some fun.

The next meeting is **Friday 12 April at 1.30 pm**. All welcome.

Ric Hall

Scottish Research SIG

The Scottish Group met on 25 February. Julie Werner told us about her trip to Scotland, when she met a distant cousin and saw houses (or in one case remains of a house) where her ancestors lived. Our next meeting will be **27 May at 1.30 pm**.

Jenny Joyce

Quiz answers (see p. 8 for Questions)

1. (b) From 15–18 April 1788 Arthur Phillip led the first overland expedition, on 17 April he arrived at the Ku-ring-gai hills, later Pymble.
2. c and d) Captain Phillip Gidley King arrived at Port Jackson in the *Speedy* to replace John Hunter as Governor. Also on board were George Caley (explorer & botanist – see references in *The Historian*), Francis Barrallier and 50 convicts.
3. a) RMS *Titanic* operated by the White Star Line, sank in the North Atlantic Ocean on her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York City.
4. a) Andrew Peacock resigned from federal cabinet, accusing Prime Minister Fraser of "gross disloyalty". All events in Q 4 occurred in 1981.
5. (d) Leonardo da Vinci was born 15 April 1452 in Anchiano near Florence, Italy.
6. a and c) Sidney Robert Nolan lived in Wontora Ave, Wahroonga. Benjamin Edwin Minns lived in Minns Rd, Gordon.

Category: Outstanding Individual

Our nominees, with their immediate family and fellow KHS members, were entertained at a Council Morning Tea on 8 March, 2013 at the Turramurra Uniting Church, following which Certificates were presented to all nominees.

A plaque was awarded to the overall winner in both the Individual and Group categories. Some members of the group stayed on to enjoy the free jazz concert by Judy Bailey's "Jazz Connection" young musicians.

Our photos show the Mayor, Cr. Elaine Malicki, with Lois and Peter.



Two Society members were honoured recently at Council's International Women's Day.

Marie Rumsey

Marie (left in photo above) has been a member of KHS since 2004, and a willing research room volunteer for most of that time. She has fully embraced our technology and is able to competently help researchers access our resources and the internet.

Marie is usually one of the first to volunteer to do an extra day (or two) when a spot on the rooms roster becomes vacant, or when our catering lady is away. She is always willing to swap or fill in for sick or holidaying room volunteers.

A quiet achiever, Marie often 'goes missing' before and after our meetings, only to be found in the kitchen helping prepare and then cleaning up after morning/afternoon teas.

If she sees something that needs doing, she just goes and does it – without making a fuss and without expecting any recognition. It's this capable, uncomplaining nature, that makes others happy to work with her.

Jill Nicholson

Jill (on the right in photo) has been a member of KHS only since 2009, but she has really made her presence felt. She took on the task of 'catering' when no-one else would, and we were at the point of considering not having afternoon tea at our meetings.

Jill has taken this above and beyond all expectations, not only setting up and clearing away the bi-monthly afternoon teas, but cheerfully coming to the rooms for any other meetings that include morning or afternoon teas.

She has made afternoon teas at our meetings a real feature, following the theme of the speaker with decorations, and sometimes even special food treats that match the topic. There are always flowers or something from her garden on the tables.

Her consideration extends to those with dietary requirements, now including gluten-free biscuits or snacks.

She has also learned how to set up and operate the various microphones we have for use at meetings, backing-up to assist our guest speakers in a most professional manner.

Jill's happy smiling nature has made getting more volunteers to help her an easy task. *A real Gem!*



Lois McEvoy

Ku-ring-gai resident and trained nurse Lois McEvoy has answered public inquiries as a *Ku-ring-gai Historical Society* volunteer at our Gordon Rooms since 2003. She contributed local research and articles to the Society's *The Historian* journal. Lois researched, photographed and volunteers at Lady Davidson Hospital. She has raised a large family; donated Quong Tart memorabilia to the State Library; transcribed Rookwood headstones; and continues University studies for recreation – a quiet contributor.

Peter Bidencope

Peter Bidencope has served two years on *Ku-ring-gai Historical Society's* Committee, and also as our "sound" man for many years, overseeing equipment and recording visiting speakers. He has photographed houses threatened by demolition, and maintained various equipment from chairs to display cases. Peter also cares for electrical and sound systems at his Killara church, including its significant organ. A longtime St Ives family man, Peter is an invaluable local contributor.

Helen W Davies

Notes on

- *Ku-ring-gai meaning,*
- *Hawkesbury River 'Rainbow', and*
- *Marra Marra Creek*

In the March 2013 edition (Vol. 31, No. 2) of the Society's *Newsletter* are two items linked to the Hawkesbury River.

On Saturday 19 January 2013 Hawkesbury tour leader Ann Howard gave the society a presentation about Dangar Island in the river to include "the activities of the Dharug people prior to settlement". [Pronounce Aboriginal sound 'dh' like English 'th'.] Recent research at the University of Sydney, released in 2011, has shown that to be historically mistaken. It came from a misunderstanding dating to an error in 1940 from the South Australian Museum. In exhaustive analyses of original historic records, it has been shown that when identities for the Aboriginal people around Sydney were recorded, the Dharug were located along the Georges River across to Camden, moving over the Cumberland Plain to Blacktown southeast of the Hawkesbury floodplain. The people northwest of the floodplain along the Hawkesbury Branches and in the northern Blue Mountains identified themselves as Darkinung ['Darkinyung'] people.

At the time of British settlement, Aboriginal Cammeray and Turramurra locality clans [modern spellings], who occupied Middle Harbour and Lane Cove River catchments, were part of the Port Jackson /Botany Bay "Sydney" Tribe. However, foreign Aboriginal people from Broken Bay led by Bungaree moved south to occupy the North Shore of Port Jackson in the first twenty years – after the locals had disappeared from the area.

The original Aboriginal tribe along the coast from the Hunter River to the catchment of the Arms of Broken Bay identified themselves as Wannungine [rhyme with 'wine']. However, an emigrant Scotsman who thought them extinct proposed the term Kuri'nggai for the people who used the term kuri for mankind, and the government published that name in 1892. It was adapted almost immediately for Kuring-gai Chase, subsequently adopted for the local government area which embraced Bobbin Head [at the bobbin' rock] in the Chase, and thus taken for the Historical Society.

In 1970 the term Guringai was suggested in a preliminary research note to apply to those Kuringgai from the Arms of Broken Bay to the Tuggerah Lakes, and that has been adopted by their descendants – so is now 'politically correct'. The modern use of "Guringai" for festivals to apply to the Port Jackson North Shore country reflects the historical error described above – the Broken Bay people migrated south *after* settlement.

On Wednesday 13 February 2013 another Hawkesbury tour leader Tom Richmond took Society members up the river to Marra Marra Creek, past Bar Island. A named Aboriginal woman there (Sarah Wallace) had married a convict (Lewis Ferdinand), who worked in John Grace's limeburning business based in Marra Marra Creek. She was a granddaughter of Bungaree, as mentioned above, after

his family had travelled to the North Shore.

These notes are extracted from two research publications by Society member, Dr Geoff Ford:

A digital copy of the Timeline, 2012, for Aborigine Sarah Lewis, is in public domain circulation as a pdf file for sharing. Entries on pages 7 and 9 are of particular interest to members.

A digital Abstract, 2013, from the study about the traditional Aboriginal people of the Hawkesbury River, is published online as a pdf file at the University of Sydney Library URL: <http://ses.library.usyd.edu.au/handle/2123/7745> where the full 2010 study "Darkinung Recognition" may be downloaded and checked. Chapter 9 deals in detail with the Broken Bay situation (for mention of original Lane Cove valley people in a footnote commentary, search <<Turramurragal>>).

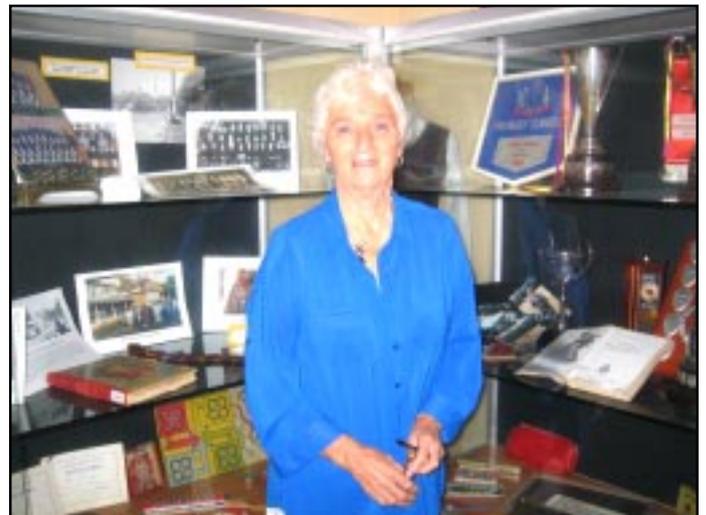
Dr Geoff Ford

"Golden Girls"

The "Golden Girls", old girls from Gordon Public School, held a reunion at their old School on Saturday 9 March 2013. A number came into the Research Centre and were interested to visit the Old School Museum. They helped identify many students from the old class photographs.

They meet every year and some travel quite a distance. We were pleased to meet these ex-pupils and hear their stories.

One, Maureen Wright, represented Australia at the Summer Olympic Games held in Melbourne in 1956, in the Womens' Javelin Throw, the first time this event was held. Maureen had travelled from her home at Gerringong to attend the function.



Maureen Wright in our School Museum

Excursion to Justice and Police Museum

Wednesday 17 April 2013

A guided tour of a museum that explores the darker side of Sydney's history. For those interested in the gruesome and the macabre, details of notorious crimes such as the Shark Arm Murder, the Pyjama Girl Case and the Graeme Thorne Kidnapping are on display. Participants will meet at History House at 12.00 pm for refreshments and then walk with Donna Newton to the museum at Circular Quay.

Time: 12.00–2.00 pm Cost: \$10 RAHS members, \$14 non-members. Bookings: Phone RAHS on 9247 8001.

Recent Acquisitions

The following is a selection of acquisitions. Please check the fireplace shelf. If they have already been sorted into the reference library you will need to use the sort code to locate the book that interests you e.g. CEM/2315– filed under Cemeteries and then 2315, the postcode that interests you. If a locality interests you, then obtain the postcode and search the catalogue e.g. 2031/CUR – in this case it is filed under Sydney Places.

“Bankstown A sense of identity” by Sue Rosen was mentioned in last month’s newsletter and the correct sort code is 2200/ROS.

“A Biographical Register of the Commonwealth Parliament 1901–1972” by Joan Rydon was published by Australian National University Press, Canberra 1975, ISBN: 0 7081 0644 7. The book covers both houses of Parliament. The author has qualified the quality of information, saying that she has relied a great deal on obituaries and biographical comment in newspapers and on information from death certificates, which may not always be accurate. However, she has been able to correspond with many of the members or with their relatives and such ‘correspondence’ is often given as the major source of personal information. The book has 256 pages without illustrations. BIO/000

“The Bombed Buildings of Britain, a record of architectural casualties: 1940–41” ed. J. M. Richards with notes by John Summerson. This book is Second Impression 1943 and has 140 pages with numerous black/white photos. The book is divided into localities – London, Bristol (and Clifton), Coventry, Portsmouth, Plymouth, Manchester, Liverpool, Other Large Towns and then Country. There is a short index. Donated by Stella Green. OVS/ENG

“Voyage of ‘The City of Brisbane’ 1862” by Bill Barlow 2nd Edition Revised 2001 containing the Journal of Mark Blasdall, the Diary of John Thomas, the Hodgson Family Story, the Bee Miles Connection and Kempsey NSW in the 1930s – the book is 192 pages with numerous illustrations and has the Hodgson family tree with 705 names from 1804 to 2000. Donated by Stella Green. ISBN:0 959 3854 2 8. SHI/BAR

“Runaways, Robbers and Incurable Rogues – Certificates of Freedom Records for Port Macquarie Convicts – 13 December 1823 – 26 April 1827” published by Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society Inc in 2010 with 178 pages, no illustrations. When searching for a name, also search using any known alias as the name on the certificate may differ from that used in the State Records NSW index. Donated by Stella Green. ISBN: 978 0 977524 77 8. CON/POR

“Land research for family historians in Australia and New Zealand” by Carole Riley and published 2012 as part of “Unlock the past series”. The book has 80 pages. If you have missed the talks given by KHS on this topic then this is a good book to start with. ISBN: 978 1 921956 11 9. LAND/RIL

“An Illustrated History of the Greeks in Australia” by Anastasios M. Tamis and published in 1997. The book is in English and Greek, with 291 pages and has a number of group photographs, but no index. ISBN: 1 80050 018 2. SHI/GRE

Bruce Robinson

Do you have a Ku-ring-gai WWI ancestor?

Are you interested in military history?

If you would like to learn how to research people from WWI then this is the project for you.

A project group has been formed to put together a publication commemorating the centenary of WWI.

The focus at the moment is on researching soldiers whose names are listed on Ku-ring-gai memorials.

Many hands make light work so your assistance in any small way would be greatly appreciated.

We are also interested in any WWI photos or other Ku-ring-gai related memorabilia.

If you think you can help please contact Kathie Rieth from the WWI Project Group through KHS at 9499 4568 or frithie@netdata.com.au

Writing Ku-ring-gai History Competitions

As part of our 50th anniversary celebrations, Ku-ring-gai Historical Society is running a history writing competition with the help of a grant from Ku-ring-gai Council and the Turramurra and Lindfield Community Bank.

There are five age categories and the topics focus on Ku-ring-gai history, events, buildings and/or people.

The total prize pool is \$2,000.

Shortlisted entries will be published later in the year.

All entries must be submitted by May 3.

Please go to www.khs.org.au for full details of the topics, to read the Terms and Conditions of the competition, and to download the entry form.

Weekend Excursion in the Shoalhaven Saturday, Sunday 6 and 7 April

On the first weekend in April the RAHS, in conjunction with a number of historical societies in the Shoalhaven area, has organised a two day excursion to the beautiful Shoalhaven area.

Join them for a visit to Lady Denman Historic site and Meroogal Historic House or a Land Titles Workshop in Nowra by Assoc. Prof. Carol Liston.

In the afternoon there will be talks by Dr Margaret Steven on Alexander Berry, Ms Robyn Florance on Broughton Village and Alan Clark on Shoalhaven Cricket in the 19th century, followed by dinner in a nearby cafe.

The following day you can take a guided walking tour of the beautiful historic town of Berry, ending the weekend with a lunch offered by the Berry Historical Society.

Total Cost: \$100 (or \$73 excluding Saturday dinner) includes Saturday morning tea, light lunch, afternoon tea, entrance fees (Lady Denman/Meroogal) and dinner (optional); Sunday light lunch.

Phone RAHS on 9247 8001 or email history@rahs.org.au

FAMILY MATTERS

March Family History Meeting

11.00 am Session

This was held in the rooms and about 40 people were present.

Jenny Joyce explained 'Family Search' – <http://familysearch.org/>, which includes the old IGI, by a step by step demonstration of how to use it, which showed what an invaluable free site it is.

Useful Websites. Jo Harris then demonstrated several other sites:-

- Free bdm certificates – <http://ausbdm.ucoz.org/>
- New Zealand Newspapers – <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast/>
- Wises Maps of New Zealand – www.wises.co.nz/
- The Press New Zealand – www.stuff.co.nz/the-press/
- My Primitive Methodist Ancestors – www.myprimitivemethodists.org.uk
- Irish Orphans Memorial in Sydney – www.irishfamine.com.au
- Genealogy in Time- Google search: Top 100 Genealogy sites:
- Rootsweb: Mailing Lists – <http://lists.rootsweb.com/index/intl/AUS/GENANZ.html/>

2.00 pm Session

Jo Harris opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. 'Family Tree Connections', available in the rooms, has many articles worth reading including one on p.41 about findmypast.com.au. New books were also mentioned: Chinese ANZACS; Richard Tilden Smith of Muswellbrook; Coonabarabran Pioneer Register Vol 2; 150 Years of Roma, Qld; and Britain in the 1920s.

Book Reports

- Moree on the Mehi – Court House Death Records 1860–1975
- Colonial Women – Their Stories, Costumes, Artefacts and Weapons
- Meet the Pioneers (Illawarra District)

Seminars

- Hornsby RSL – Scottish Seminar featuring Paul Milner

Exhibitions

- Museum of Sydney – Margaret Olley works
- NGA - Toulouse Lautrec
- NPGA – New portrait of the Queen
- National Archives – British Child Migrants' Scheme
- Tweed Valley Art Gallery – Recreating Margaret Olley's Rooms plus her paintings

General Business

Jo thanked the 2012-2013 Committee members – Jenny Joyce, Yvette Reeve, Beverly Robinson, Jean Smith and Elaine Turnidge. Nominations were received for 6 people and, after a vote, the previous committee was re-elected.

(At the KHS Committee meeting on 11 March it was noted that the committee numbers did not need to be limited to 5. We therefore welcome Margaret Holland to the 2013–14 committee. *Jo Harris*)

Speaker

Jenny Joyce spoke about 'Dating Photographs'. She outlined the main types of photographs: Daguerrotypes (1841–1865); Calotypes (1845–1855); Ambrotypes (1852–1890s); Tin Types (1850s–1940s); Carte de Visites (1859–1919); Cabinet Prints (1866–1919); Platinotypes (1880–1916) and Postcard Portraits (1894–1940s). Her talk was followed by her dating the photographs that members had brought along.

Afternoon tea followed and the 3 Lucky Door prizes were won by Trish Tarnansky (Organizing Your Family History), Jean Smith (Avondale Golf Club) and Jenny Joyce (Home Comfort).

Based on notes by Jean Smith

Archival storage for photos

At our photo dating session in March, many people wanted to know where they could buy archival storage materials for photos. Here are a few of the places that sell them:

- Gould Genealogy (<http://www.gould.com.au/>)
- Preservation Australia (<http://www.preservationaustralia.com.au/products>).
- Zetta Florence (<http://zettaflorence.com.au/>)
- The Photo Album Shop (<http://www.photoalbumshop.com.au/>). The shop is at Unit 15, 12–14 Beaumont Rd, Mount Kuring-gai, open Mon–Fri 10–5.

Jenny Joyce

Shake Your Family Tree

Celebrate your heritage at the **RAHS** family history Open Day, **Tuesday 16 April 2013** 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

Delve into your family history with a full day of activities presented by the National Archives and others. Speak to experts, and hear personal stories from fascinating guest speakers.

This year the focus is on immigration. Many Australians are descendants of migrants. Learn how to find records related to your family's story of arriving and settling in Australia. Key sessions will be webcast, including a special panel about how migrants have shaped Australia, moderated by Karen Middleton, SBS journalist.

Events are being held in participating state offices. See individual programs for details and times.

Free, bookings essential: Programs available soon! Bookings open Friday 22 March.

Writing Competitions

Have you considered entering our **Writing Ku-ring-gai History** competition?

It's not too late and there are great prizes!

The competitions **close on Friday 3 May**.

Please go to our Society website for full details of the topics, to read the Terms and Conditions of the competition, and to download the entry form.

There is no entry fee.

There are information flyers in our research rooms.

BUILT HERITAGE

Ku-ring-gai Court

and the mysterious Mr Miller

Anyone who drives along Boundary Street, Roseville will know that it is to be widened and the sooner the better, we all hope. A new railway overbridge, to span 6 lanes of traffic, was erected in April 2012. There was talk of closing Hill Street where it enters Boundary Street but community resistance has scotched that idea. Roads and Maritime Services are still seeking community feedback on the Boundary Street upgrade.

I wonder what will happen to Ku-ring-gai Court on the corner of Boundary and Hill streets? It will certainly lose much of its front garden. Listed on Council's LEP for its historic, social and municipal significance, it is noted as 'substantially intact'. Completed in July 1929, it was advertised as 'exclusive modern flats', each with entrance hall, living room 19 x 13, main bedroom 17 x 13, a second bedroom, sun porch, large kitchen with built-in cupboards, refrigerator, electric hot water service to kitchen and bathroom, each 'tiled and equipped with every modern convenience'. Rooms were 'tastefully papered, well lit, airy ...with superb views'.

At the time, title to the Court was in the name of Roseville builder Robert Wallace Miller, whose purchase of the site had been finalised on 3 April 1929 and who, in December 1927, had applied to Council to build a block of flats costing £10,000. Approval was not given until May 1928, delayed, no doubt, by much heated debate. The contentious issues surrounding the building of flats are not new. In the 1920s it was associated with an expected influx of undesirables, a decline in living standards and property values. Miller must have been confident of approval, for in late 1927 four separate notices were published advising that he was to build a block of ten flats in Roseville designed by architect CL Rounding. A fifth notice, however, published in January 1928, advised that Rounding had let the contract to Robert Park of Roseville.

Rounding ran his practice during the 1920s from Chatswood, removing to the Central Coast during the early 1930s (probably riding out the Depression), after which he returned to Sydney, working from offices in Pitt Street before relocating once again to Chatswood. Between 1914 and 1940 he had a formidable number and variety of projects throughout Sydney – bungalows, five-storey flats, factories and shops. The most intriguing project was in January 1929: 'plans being prepared in relays for 21 bungalows at Pymble'. Their location is not otherwise specified. Frustrating!

Contracts awarded by Rounding to Miller include a bungalow in Ku-ring-gai Chase Road, Wahroonga and two in Fern Street, Pymble (1925), one in Killara Avenue, Killara (1927) and a large bungalow in Warrawee (1928).

Rounding projects built by various members of the Park family of builders include the large picture theatre at Ryde (1925), three blocks of flats in the eastern suburbs (1927, 1929), seven shops and dwellings in Gladesville (1928) and a bungalow in Killara (1935).

Robert Wallace Park was a son of James Wallace Park (1850–1931), 'The Boss', a Scottish stonemason who settled in Gladesville in the early 1880s and who built there the

Presbyterian Church of St Andrew. Four other sons of The Boss became builders: James, Gavin, David and John. My article on one of James



Park's developments, Nos 2 to 10 Nelson Street, Gordon, appeared in *The Historian* of 2007, and another on one of RW Park's developments, Bloomsbury Avenue, Pymble, in *The Historian* of 2008. One of John's projects was the development of the Maclaurin, Pockley and Larkin Streets precinct behind Roseville RSL, in which, at its start, RW Park also had an interest.

As for Robert Wallace Miller, despite searches in vital records, electoral rolls and such, his origin and demise remain a mystery. He pops up in September 1920, advertising for sale a four-bedroom bungalow in Killara 'just completed, Gloria-st, off Springdale-rd ... £1850.' Between then and the end of 1927 most of his projects were in Roseville, but there were others throughout Ku-ring-gai. The only architect associated with these was Rounding. The last reference to Miller that I've found (to date) is in November 1935, when, 'formerly of 67 Stanhope Road, Killara', he and his business partner Lionel Wingrove were taken to court by their mortgagee wanting to exercise her power of sale of a house in Chatswood.

I thought it remarkable that Miller and Park had identical forenames, and were somehow involved in the same project. On the hunt, I found tender notices for numerous projects, generated separately by Miller and Park, but which gave the same address for each man: Massey Road Gladesville (1920–21), Dalton Road Chatswood (1922–24) and Bancroft Road Roseville (1926–27). Then, when I came across a 1930 ad for the sale of 'new bungalows' in Pymble, the vendor being 'RW Park (trading as RW Miller)' it seemed obvious that Park was using Miller's name to disguise the extent of his developments.

The name Robert Wallace Park, however, does not appear on the title of Ku-ring-gai Court. Can property be registered under a fictitious name? In August 1935 an ad appeared: 'Roseville. Kuring-gai Court. Unfurnished Flats, appointment and value best on line. RW Park, Proprietor, JX 2962' which infers Park was the owner. Not as per the documentation! Title to the flats was in Miller's name until 1936, when he sold to auctioneer Henry Little. The only member of the Park family mentioned in the title was Park's brother David, who for five years held a mortgage.

Whoever built the Court – Miller or Park – it certainly deserves its listing. Over 80 years old, within a year or so it will be surrounded by new developments, book-ended stylistically and historically, enhancing its landmark significance. It definitely has architectural, social and municipal significance – designed by a Chatswood architect and erected by a Roseville builder, we have an early purpose-built block of flats representing a radical shift in thinking that recognised the need for a different type of accommodation in our area.

Kathie Rieth with advice from Allan Rost

Copy for Newsletter

General copy for publication should be lodged with the Editor, Bob Barry (bob_barry@optusnet.com.au), as early as possible but no later than the 15th of the month (except November and December), unless otherwise arranged. Copy is accepted on the basis that the Society has editing rights and that readers can reproduce it in whole or part with acknowledgement. Material should be in electronic form if possible.

New Members

We extend a warm welcome to members who have recently joined the Society.

Lester Burgess	Warrawee
Edwin Carr	Hornsby
Carolyne Hardwick	St Ives
Gloria Regan	Thornleigh

We hope you find your membership rewarding, and look forward to your participation in our activities.

April Quiz (answers p.2)

1. WHICH INCIDENT HAPPENED IN APRIL 1788?
a) Rev. Johnson conducted the first Christian Service in the Colony? b) Phillip led the first inland expedition?
c) The 1st Fleet arrived in Sydney Cove? d) William Bligh arrived at Tahiti on the HMS Bounty?
2. WHO ARRIVED IN SYDNEY IN APRIL 1800?
a) Ralph Darling? b) John Hunter? c) Phillip Gidley King?
d) George Caley?
3. WHAT MARITIME TRAGEDY OCCURRED IN APRIL 1912?
a) The Titanic struck an iceberg? b) The hospital ship Centaur was torpedoed off the Queensland Coast? c) A Japanese midget submarine sank HMAS Kuttabul? d) The Sirius was wrecked off the reef at Slaughter Bay, Norfolk Island?
4. WHAT EVENT TOOK PLACE IN APRIL 1981?
a) Andrew Peacock resigned from the Federal Cabinet?
b) The Alice Springs coroner found that a dingo killed Azaria Chamberlain? c) Prince Charles visited Australia?
d) The Church of England in Australia became the Anglican Church of Australia?
5. WHICH ARTIST WAS BORN IN APRIL?
a) Sidney Nolan? b) Julian Ashton? c) Benjamin Minns?
d) Leonardo da Vinci?
6. WHICH OF THE FOUR MEN from Question 5 lived in Ku-ring-gai?

Jo Harris

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 1st Saturday of each month when members have a meeting). It is closed over the Christmas period and on public holidays.

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Diary Dates

- Sat 6 Apr** **Family History Meeting**
11.00 am "New Early Convict Records"
2.00 pm General Meeting
"German Origins": **Allan Rost**, 2012 KHS "Historian of the Year".
- Sat 20 Apr** **2.00 pm Society General Meeting**
"The Japanese attack on Broome"
David Rosenwax tells the little-known story of the loss of lives and aircraft during a surprise attack on 3-3-42.
- Sat 4 May** **Family History Meeting**
11.00 am "More Resources on the Intranet/Internet"
2.00 pm General Meeting
"Old Sydney on Camera"
Richard Whitaker will tell the story of Sydney in photos from 1841, when the first photograph was taken.
- Sat 18 May** **2.00 pm Society General Meeting**
"Australia's First Successful Strike"
An illustrated talk based on new research by local historian **Ralph Hawkins** reveals some surprising northside facts from early colonial times.

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