



# KU-RING-GAI HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Incorporating the Ku-ring-gai Family History Centre • Patron: The Mayor of Ku-ring-gai

Affiliated with the Royal Australian Historical Society, the National Trust of Australia (NSW),  
The Society of Australian Genealogists, and the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc.

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Newsletter

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

## *Harry Seidler 1923-2006, Architect*

At our General Meeting on 19 May, Colin Griffiths gave us an insight into the workings of Harry Seidler's architectural office, and how Seidler's training in the modernistic Bauhaus style changed the face of Sydney and other cities worldwide. Colin joined Seidler's office in 1952, when he was 19 and in his third year of an architectural diploma at Sydney Technical College. He remained there as Harry's friend and right-hand man for 27 years.

Harry Seidler was born in Vienna in 1923 and immigrated with his Jewish parents to England when Nazi Germany invaded Austria in 1938. He commenced studies at the Cambridgeshire Technical School but was interned in 1940 and then shipped to Canada as an enemy alien. He was able to continue his studies in Canada, and at the end of hostilities obtained a scholarship to study under Walter Gropius and Marcel Breuer at the Harvard School of Design. There he was influenced by the Bauhaus movement, which remained apparent in much of his work.

After WWII, Seidler's parents immigrated to Sydney and Harry was invited to come out and design a house for them – the Rose Seidler House in Wahroonga. This was to be the first of over 50 designs, many of them major buildings, to come out of his office. Soon he was imposing his unique style on the Sydney CBD.

Colin showed images of many of Seidler's buildings, including Blues Point Tower, Australia Square Tower, the Hong Kong Club, apartments along the Danube in Vienna, a ski lodge for Dick Dusseldorp (of Civic & Civil), the Ian Thorpe Pool, and the Alliance Francaise Building in Sydney, his last commission. For these Seidler received many honours, including the Sulman Medal five times, and the Wilkinson award three times.

Colin made the point that before Seidler, Sydney's city buildings were institutional and built to a 150 foot height limit. Seidler changed both these, creating a style that was artistic, filled with art, and comfortable to work in. Several of his designs were built by Dick Dusseldorp (Civic and Civil/Lend Lease) and he designed them with Civic & Civil's building techniques in mind.

In 1958, Harry married fellow architect, Penelope Evatt (Clive Evatt's daughter), and together they worked on several commissions. Although never employing more than 14 architects, Seidler and Associates produced many designs, all with the characteristic Harry Seidler brand on everything that came out of the office – "it was as if no one else worked there."

Harry Seidler died in 2006, following a stroke the year before. He was 82.

*Doug Milne*

## General Meeting

**Saturday 21 July 2.00 pm**

***Brendorah:***

***World War II Artist***



Speaker: ***Tony Griffiths***

Researcher and author Tony Griffiths has a fascinating tale to tell of Bren guns and paint brushes in wartime Lithgow. Come along to hear more...

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

## Family History Meeting

**Saturday 7 July**

**11.00 am** My latest discoveries: Q&A

**2.00 pm** **General Meeting**

"Ku-ring-gai  
Theatre Guild" with  
former members of  
the Guild.



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

## What workshops do you want?

Last month we asked for your input on workshops.

We didn't receive *any* responses!

We are now making another try...

Is there any interest in KHS organising a DNA workshop presented by Kerry Farmer?

Do you have any other topics you would like covered?

Please send an email to [khs@khs.org.au](mailto:khs@khs.org.au) or speak to a Committee member.

## Room Volunteers needed

From time to time we lose the services of our room volunteers, for a wide range of reasons.

Currently, having lost two monthly volunteers, we need one person on each 4th Monday and 2nd Thursday.

Room volunteering is a good way to get to know our members and our resources.

If you are able to assist, please phone Ann Barry 9144 6480 or Jo Harris 9489 4393.

## Volunteer thank-you luncheon Saturday 16 June 12.00 noon



Approximately 40 of our volunteers were recognised by the Society at a luncheon in the meeting room before the last General Meeting.

This lunch was very pleasant and enjoyed by all, and resulted in a very cheerful audience at the General Meeting and invited speaker's talk.

## Find My Past

Find My Past Ireland has been added to our subscription. Access is now available on the computer named IBBITSON for four countries: UK, Ireland, New Zealand and Australia. Don't forget to check at home for the record and come to the rooms for its printout.

## Quiz answers (see p. 8 for Questions)

our Society and our area.

Please take time to peruse this site to learn more about

[www.khs.org.au](http://www.khs.org.au)

All questions are based on the Society's website

future.

5. a), b), c) & d) All of these and more if required in the

4. d) "The Historian".

3. a) 1963

2. c) Wahrenonga, 210 metres above sea level.

1. d) The local Aboriginal tribe (variously spelt) Gurringal.

## Special Interest Groups

### SIGs can help YOU

Here is a good example of a special interest group helping out a member. The Mac users group was the first to get started and has a mailing list of about 20, and about 6-10 people attend each month. We don't just discuss Mac as related to genealogy, but also usually have discussions and demonstrations of other programs, tools, activities and ideas related to using our many items of Mac technology.

This month, a member had a problem with security settings and spam. He couldn't find the emails of the rest of the group, so just emailed the leader, who forwarded his email to some of the regulars, and within 24 hours, four had come back with possible solutions and where to get help!

*Jackie van Bergen*

### Mac Users SIG

At our last meeting on Monday 4 June, we discussed the many uses for 'Dropbox', a new hardware attachment that transforms an iPad into a TV, and a number of interesting and varied topics.

The next meeting is on **Monday 2 July at 2.00 pm** in the research rooms.

If you have any specific questions, please email them to [oswatt@bigpond.com](mailto:oswatt@bigpond.com) in advance so they can be circulated to the group for answers.

No need to book, just turn up, experienced or inexperienced are all welcome, as we all learn from each other. Bring your laptop or iPad if you wish.

*Lorna Watt*

### Scottish Research SIG

Our last meeting on Monday 28 May attracted around 16 people. Jenny Joyce gave a very informative talk on Scottish Maps and Gazetteers, which was very well received. It was stressed how important it is to know where your ancestor came from, and what the surrounding parishes were, in following up your family history. We looked at various websites, including Origins Place Names, National Library of Scotland Maps, Statistical Accounts, and even Youtube videos for background material.

Our next meeting is to be held on **Monday 25 June at 1.30 pm**. Jenny will not be able to attend our next meeting and it was suggested we talk about how we have found "breakthroughs" in following our own family histories, e.g. along masonic lines.

*Bev Jach*

### German Research SIG

Meetings are normally held on the second Monday of each month. The second Monday of June was the Queen's Birthday public holiday, so no meeting was held. Therefore the **next meeting will be held at 1.00 pm for a 1.30 pm start on Monday 9 July 2012**. See you then?

*Peter Stehn*

### Irish Research SIG

The Irish SIG had an interesting and informative June meeting. The next meeting will be on **Friday 13 July at 1.30 pm**, where we will be looking at *Findmypast.ie*

If you are interested please contact Jenny Joyce at [jenny.joyce@writeme.com](mailto:jenny.joyce@writeme.com).

## OAM award

Our Immediate Past President, and current ex-officio Committee Member, **Kevin Callinan**, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Awards for his contributions to the Community.



During his term as President, Kevin contributed enormously to shaping the Society we have today, including updating the Constitution, and putting in place many of our current procedures. He was directly responsible for the Society's current "can do" attitude, that has led to our increasing range of activities and prominence in the local community.

Kevin was also a key player in forming the Ku-ring-gai Community Shed. The Society congratulates Kevin for this well-earned recognition.

## Wanted

Do you have experience in organising large events, either now or in a previous job? Do you know what to look for in a venue, how to cost or source catering or guest speakers? Can you design invitations or banners? Can you write a media release, or help with marketing/promotion? Do you know how to get sponsorship or other funding?

If so, your Society needs you!

We are about to turn 50, and would love to have a big celebration. BUT... to do that, we need helpers.

We can't leave this one up to the Committee – they have enough to do just keeping the everyday things of the Society running, and are actually a little under-manned at present.

If you do have some of these skills, please contact us. Even if you can only spare a small amount of time, please contact Jackie on [jackievb@optusnet.com.au](mailto:jackievb@optusnet.com.au),

## Obituary

The following is based on notices in the Sydney Morning Herald and Royal Australian Historical Society eNews.

### **RICHARDSON, Gordon Dalyell, OBE**

At Canberra on June 11, 2012, aged 94 years, late of *The Grange*, Deakin, ACT, sometime of Inverness, Scotland, formerly Principal Librarian and Principal Archivist, NSW, and Mitchell Librarian, loving and loved husband of the late Ruth Helen Robertson and previously of the late Yvonne Lockhart Spence, loving father of Lindsay (Mrs King), Gordon and Jennifer (Mrs Fish), grandfather of nine and great-grandfather of ten.

As well as being an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Australian Historical Society since 1978, Gordon Richardson was both a Senior Vice-President and a Vice-President of the RAHS from 1956 until 1963, and convened its Library Committee.

Gordon was a founding member of Ku-ring-gai Historical Society, and was our Vice-President 1969-70. Gordon's first wife Yvonne was Vice-President of KHS for its first three years (1963-66), and again (with Gordon) in 1969-70.

## Ku-ring-gai Council Mace

The following letter is taken from documents donated to KHS by Les Jeckeln, inaugural Committee member and Secretary of KHS (1964-65). Les has recently rejoined the Society.

*A number of private citizens have put forward the idea of presenting a Mace to the Council of the Municipality and have said they are willing to contribute certain sums. The cost would be approximately £320.*

*This is rather a unique suggestion, because no Council on the mainland of Australia possesses a Mace.*

*The use of a Mace goes far back in history. Originally a weapon of war, which gradually went out of use, it changed form and was stylised over the years until it became a symbol to represent authority.*

*Many Councils in England have a Mace, and there are even some in the United States of America, dating back to the time when the British still ruled there.*

*Its appearance at a function or meeting of the Council, indicates that the Mayor is present in his official capacity as the Chief Executive of the Council. When used, the Mace immediately precedes the Mayor; it is a tradition that the bearer will allow no one to come between the Mace and the Mayor.*

*It has been said many times, that Local Government is the expression of democracy in its truest form since the people, through their elected representatives, are able to retain more direct control over their own affairs than is possible at higher levels of Government.*

*Anything which helps to emphasise this, and to keep Local Government to the fore in people's minds, is worth doing. For this reason, and also because we have many new citizens in this country who may not necessarily be familiar with our British traditions, I feel that the presentation of a Mace to the Council by its citizens would be significant, and an expression of confidence and support.*

*I emphasise that this would be entirely a presentation by private subscription, which, as a means of convenience, could be sent to the Town Clerk at Council's office.*

*GR Nicol*

*Mayor*

**George Revans Nicol** (Mayor of Ku-ring-gai in 1963) was the Founding President of the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society for its first six years.

The Mace was presented to Council by Sir John Northcott, former Governor and then Patron of KHS, on 11 November 1963.

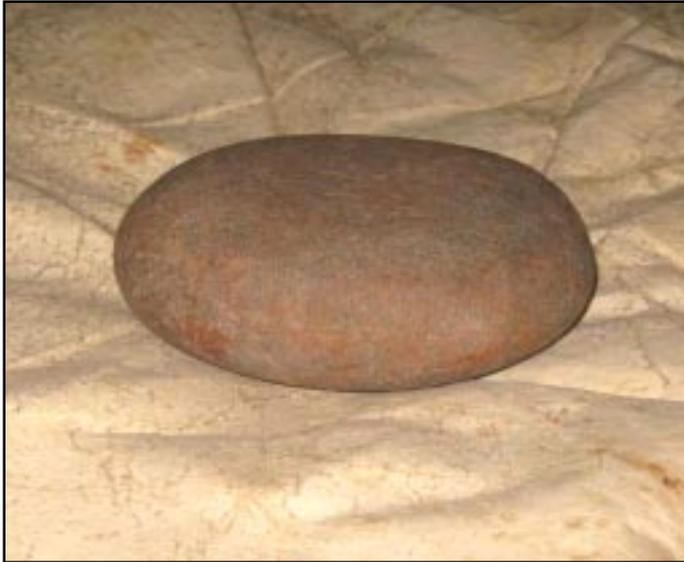
We understand that the Mace is now used only on formal ceremonial occasions. Does anyone have a photo?

## Annual Subscriptions now due

The 2012–2013 subscriptions are now due. If you have not paid your subscription, a form will be enclosed with this *Newsletter*. Prompt payment will be appreciated.

## Discovery at Killara

The discovery of an Aboriginal anvil stone near Killara Station in January 2011 raises some interesting questions. The stone was found eroding out of clay at the entrance to the car park opposite Killara Station. Most of the stone was exposed, and commuters going to the station must have walked right past it without recognizing what it was. It is surprising that such an item was found in an urban area.



*Anvil stone found opposite Killara Station*

This example is made from a flat water-worn pebble that has been traded into the locality from elsewhere. The source of waterworn pebbles closest to Killara is in the Nepean River at Yarramundi and Penrith. The stone is elliptical in shape, 160 mm long, 120 mm wide and 60 mm thick, and is near the large end of the scale for such stones. It is slightly concave on its working surface, where it bears the marks of fine hammering. There are signs of red staining on its working surface where it has been in long contact with the soil.

An anvil stone was used, as a hard base, in conjunction with a hammer stone. Unfortunately, in this case, the associated hammer stone is missing, but it would probably have been made from a hard basalt pebble, specially selected for the purpose. The pair of stones was sometimes used to pound lumps of ochre to make pigments, for softening and shredding bark, and as a base for knapping small stone tools.



*Lomandra longifolia in seed*

If it was used for cracking nuts and seeds for food, it would have been used in conjunction with a pair of grindstones. The stone is portable. This location, on a sunny spur above two creeks with a panoramic view to the north east, suggests domestic use rather than any other. Plants growing in this locality would have included acacias, lomandras and various species of grasses, the seeds of all of which were used for making bread.

If the stone had a domestic use, Aboriginal women would have left it at a convenient location while they went off gathering seeds, which were then gently shaken into a round coolamon, brought back and left to dry in the sun. When dry, the husks would be removed by rubbing the seeds between the hands, then the seeds pounded on an anvil stone with a hammer stone. The coarse meal would then be taken to a source of water for grinding and making into flat cakes.

*Ralph Hawkins*

## Letter to the Editor

In the May 2012 *Newsletter* there was an article regarding the Willoughby Museum in Johnston Street, Chatswood.

There is also another museum in Willoughby, the Masonic Military Museum, situated in the Coach-house of the property, "Laurelbank," on the corner of Peshurst and Laurel Streets, Willoughby.

Among the exhibits are A4 size photographs of the twenty NSW Freemasons who have been awarded the Victoria Cross. These have been framed, and include histories of those concerned, along with the circumstances leading to the Victoria Crosses being awarded.

There is also a piece of the casing of the first Japanese bomb that landed on Darwin on 19 February 1942.

On display is a large model of the Mohne Dam being bombed by a Lancaster Bomber as a tribute to one of the local Lodge members, who flew with the Dambusters' Squadron.

There is also a large model of a Wellington Bomber as a tribute to two District Lodge members. One was associated with these aircraft in Squadron 580 from its inception in 1941 in England until the end of World War II. Another Lodge member served as a rear gunner for some time in one of these aircraft.

There is also a comprehensive exhibit regarding the late Brigadier Sir Frederick "Black Jack" Galleghan, who was the commander of allied POWs in Singapore and Changi during World War II. He was a member of the Gunners' Lodge, *Lodge Ubique*, which met at "Laurelbank".

Also on display is an Honour Roll featuring photographs and details of 25 members of Lodge Ku-ring-gai who served in World War I.

Another display is a model of a Sopwith Camel Biplane, one of which was flown in the First World War by another Freemason, Charles Kingsford Smith of Southern Cross fame. There are also a number of other exhibits on display and this number is continually being added to.

Visitors to this museum are always welcome. Please ring me on 9498 7230 for an appointment.

*Don Davis, KHS member (Curator)*

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## **GOLF CADDY SUES ORCHARDISTS**

### **“Beaten and Chained” - Claims £2,000 Damages**

*SYDNEY, Friday 19 March 1937 - The Argus*

Robin Lee Logan, aged 15 years, was the plaintiff in an action heard before Mr. Acting Justice Owen and a Jury to recover £2,000 damages from Harold John Britton and William Britton, his father, orchardists, of St. Ives, for alleged assault on September 16, 1936. The plaintiff alleged that the defendants beat him, chained him to a dray, and kept him imprisoned for some time.

Logan stated in evidence that he had been acting as a golf caddy at the Pymble links, near the defendants' orchard. He was with some companions when it was suggested that they should search for golf balls in the orchard. While getting over the fence he was caught by Harold Britton, who kicked him on the thigh, forced his hands behind his back, and took him to a shed. William Britton then tied his hands with a piece of rope behind his back. His wrists were then tied to one end of a heavy chain and the other end was attached to the axle of a dray to which a horse was harnessed. He was left alone for about 15 minutes, during which he managed to detach the chain from the axle and escape.

Harold John Britton said that he saw five boys climbing over the orchard fence. Three of them, including Logan, had made towards the fruit trees. When the boys saw him they ran back, but he caught Logan as he was climbing over the fence. He did not strike or kick Logan, but placed the boy's hands behind his back. He tied his hands to one end of a chain, which was not made fast to a dray, only for four minutes. When he returned the boy had gone.

The addresses of counsel had not concluded with the Court adjourned.

### **Boy Wins Action**

*Sydney, Monday 22 March 1937 - The Argus*

Robin Lee Logan, aged 15 years, was awarded £126 damages by a jury in the Supreme Court this morning.

Logan had proceeded against Harold John Britton and William Britton, orchardists of St Ives, claiming £2,000 damages alleging that they had beaten him and chained him to a dray.

He stated in evidence on Friday that with companions he had been climbing over the fence of the defendants' orchard near the Pymble golf links to search of golf balls when Harold Britton caught him, kicked him, and tied him to a chain attached to a dray from which he later escaped

## **12 INJURED WHEN THREE ELECTRIC TRAINS CRASH**

*Sydney, Fri 28 July 1950 - The Canberra Times*

Twelve people were injured and others had remarkable escapes when three electric trains crashed near Roseville this morning.

Carriages were ripped open, at least five were hurled off the line, and traffic on the main northern suburbs line was disrupted, delaying thousands of city-bound workers.

Four carriages were smashed to splinter-wood, and the casualty list is low only because few passengers were on board.

The injured were buried among the tangled mass of wreckage.

The accident occurred when an electric train travelling towards Hornsby from the city crashed into the rear of another train which had stopped at a signal midway between Roseville and Lindfield stations.

More than half the leading carriage telescoped into the rear carriage of the stationary train. A minute later a city-bound train from Lindfield swung round a bend and crashed into the interlocked wreckage of the other two trains.

The current was short-circuited as overhead wires broke, and flames belched from the debris.

Some of the injured were carried out and handed down to rescuers. Several women from houses nearby brought blankets, bandages, tea, coffee and stimulants.

It was stated that there were few passengers on the city-bound train because of a mistake on the indicator board at Lindfield station. Passengers were directed to platform 1 for the first train to Central, but the local from Lindfield left first from platform 2 before those waiting had a chance to board it.

The victims of the smash are:

- Roberta Ritchie, 26, Townsend Street, Tom Ugly's Point, lacerations and shock, admitted to hospital.
- Daisy Cliff, 50, 5 Howard St., Lindfield, lacerations and shock, treated at hospital and allowed to leave.
- Maurice Leffler, 27, Tunks Street, Northbridge, lacerated scalp.
- Francis Barrett 60, train driver, Tillock Street, Haberfield, probable fractured right leg.
- John Carroll, 31, Northcote Road, Lindfield, lacerations to right wrist.
- Rhonda Bull, 13, Karina Road, Lane Cove cuts to right arm.
- Sergia McCrow, 56, Alfred Street, Naremburn, injuries to nose and shock.
- Alison Davis, 12, Garling Street, Lane Cove, cuts, abrasions and shock.
- Alfred Hudson, 39, railway patrolman, Trafalgar Street, Annandale, lacerations to leg and shock.
- Clarice Simpson, 39, Denison Road, Lewisham, shock.
- Catherine Farley 59, Chandos Street, Crow's Nest, bruises and slight shock.
- Ian Bros, 21, Grosvenor Road, Lindfield, injured right leg.

*Richard Whitaker*

## ***Are you able to help?***

The Society has a collection of real estate cuttings from the Friday North Shore Times.

We currently have three people working on these, but it would be nice to share the load.

The task involves going through each Friday's paper, cutting out display ads of houses for sale, marking the date and filing in suburb folders. To save duplication, it is important that people work only on their nominated suburb.

This can be done whenever it suits you.

If you are able to help email [khs@khs.org.au](mailto:khs@khs.org.au) or phone Ann Barry 9144 6480.

# FAMILY MATTERS

## June Family History Meeting

11.00 am Session

15 members attended the morning session where Jo Harris demonstrated 'Cemeteries on KHS Computers' and handed out a list of the 99 resources now available. She showed Rookwood, Kinsela's, St Matthew's Windsor, and the site John Harris is working on. A second handout listed all the printed Cemetery Transcripts in KHS Library. Two valuable internet sites visited were 'Australian Cemeteries On-line' and 'Australian Cemeteries Index'.

Shipping websites she recommended were: [www.coraweb.com.au/shipshee.htm](http://www.coraweb.com.au/shipshee.htm) and [www.coraweb.com.au/shipindex.htm](http://www.coraweb.com.au/shipindex.htm). Three NZ websites were also emphasised, [www.nzsg.hamilton.co.nz/shipping.htm](http://www.nzsg.hamilton.co.nz/shipping.htm); [www.stats.govt.nz/yearbooks](http://www.stats.govt.nz/yearbooks) and <http://homepages.ihug.co.nz/~ashleigh/index.html>

2.00 pm Session

Jo Harris opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, especially those from the Huguenot Society, Mr Robert Nash, the speaker, and Mrs Judith Stavely, the Vice-President.

Book Reports, Visits and Seminars

'Tom Wills, First Wild Man of Australian Sport' by Greg de Moore was recommended by Yvette Reeve. A trip to Mount Wilson by Elaine Turnidge provided her with a copy of a group photo of Tooths Brewery containing her father.

Future Dates

Annual State Conference of NSW & ACT will be held in September at Gympie.

Speaker

Jo introduced the guest speaker, Robert Nash, who was born in London and is descended from Huguenot silkweavers who settled in London's East End. He migrated to Australia in 1987. He is a Life Fellow of the Huguenot Society of Great Britain, and a founding member and Secretary of the Huguenot Society of Australia. The latter began as a study group in 2001, and became the Huguenot Society in 2003.

He explained – using a PowerPoint presentation – the origin of the Huguenots, who were French Protestants dating back to the time of John Calvin and the Reformation in the sixteenth century. 10% of the French population became protestants. They lived peaceably until 1572 when the Massacre of Bartholomew forced many Huguenots to leave France. Those who remained were protected by the Edict of Nantes during the reign of Henri of Navarre. In 1661, when Louis XIV, his son, came to the throne, the Huguenots were actively persecuted and all those who could fled to England and America. Today only 1 to 2% of French people are Protestants/Huguenots. There was no direct Huguenot settlement made to Australia, but many descendants came later, e.g. Jacob Bellette (First Fleeter) to Tasmania; James Morriset to the Hunter Valley; Charles Latrobe, the first governor of Victoria; Charles Cazneau to Roseville; Ralph Perdriau, High Court judge and Roy Cazaley, AFL player, to name just a few. During 'Questions' the speaker offered to look up any names our members think might be of Huguenot

origin if the names are sent to him by email [robhug@optushome.com.au](mailto:robhug@optushome.com.au).

A vote of thanks was moved by Yvette Reeve, and then a French afternoon tea was enjoyed by the people who attended the meeting.

Raffle

The raffle was won by Carolyn Darby, who chose 'Chateaux of the Loire' as her prize.

*Based on notes by Jean Smith*

## A visit to Fromelles



On our recent trip overseas, Paul and I included a visit to Fromelles. We stayed at a small farm-stay B&B, *Rosebois*, in Fourne en Weppes, very close to the little village of Fromelles (highly recommended if you should visit the area).

The hostess remarked that the people of the region were very grateful to the Australian soldiers who fought against the Germans in the Great War. She added in her very limited English, "Fromelles was important".

Visiting Fromelles was eerie. Low (foggy) clouds and a strong and frigid wind created a gloomy atmosphere. We visited the cemetery at Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) where the comparatively few identified victims of this wasteful exercise in war had recently been laid to rest (5 533 Australian soldiers were killed, wounded or missing) just opposite the village church. This cemetery contains the graves of 250 Australian and British soldiers whose remains were recovered from a number of mass graves in nearby Pheasant Wood. The Battle of Fromelles was significant as it was the first serious engagement of the Australian forces in France, and the only one to achieve no success. Some of the 'story' of the battle, the discovery and the identification process was told on plaques. The cemetery was scattered with poppies as our visit was only a few weeks after Anzac Day.

Then we drove another few kilometres on little country roads to the Cobber's Memorial and VC Corner. VC Corner cemetery contains the graves of Australian soldiers who died in the attack and whose bodies were found but couldn't be identified. The graves here are not marked but all names are recorded on a memorial overlooking the cemetery. This memorial commemorates over 1200 Australian casualties. Two of these names are related to two other KHS members.

It was good to see that, despite the inclement weather, a number of small tour groups were visiting these sites. Thanks to Albert (a tour guide) who helped us find our way.

After this we continued on to visit the Canadian memorial

near Vimy - a large contrast. The efforts here had resulted in securing Vimy Ridge for the Allied Forces – what a difference planning and training made to this outcome.

My great grandfather's cousin, Allan Bennett, was a soldier identified at Fromelles. I was contacted by a military researcher some years ago and helped to find the relations who provided DNA. I now have 'new' cousins (in WA).

I took many photos at the cemetery and the memorial so if you have a relation/ancestor involved, please contact me to see if I have a photo to share.

For a more in-depth account of the 1916 Battle of Fromelles visit [www.cwgc.org/fromelles](http://www.cwgc.org/fromelles).

*Jackie van Bergen*

## ***The Sugarbag Gang continued....***

I received a wonderful letter from Stuart Doyle in response to my column in the May newsletter, in which I mentioned the Sugarbag Gang of Bromborough Road, Roseville. Stu was a great help to us when we were compiling William Henry's 40 acres (published in *The Historian* 2001) that includes an article on the gang. Stu's recent letter adds to this.

The name of the Gang was derived from the sugar bags that they wore with the lower end tucked in and then inverted, like today's 'hoodies'. The members were:

- Alan (Axle) Tarrant and Paul (Maggot) Tarrant of No 18;
- Don and Brian (Fat) Young of No 26;
- Stuart (Stu) Doyle of No 28;
- Bill (Squizzy) and Peter Turier of No 31;
- Bruce and Barry (Nipper) Mitchell of No 34.

Some parents did not approve some nicknames! In the families listed, the only girl was Patsy Turier.

Their fathers had all served in WWI and re-enlisted in the Army, RAAF and VDC in WWII. The VDC was the brainchild of Roseville RSL Sub-branch, of which their fathers were all members. In WWII Alan, Don, Bruce and Barry served in the army, Paul and Peter in the RAN, and Brian, Stu and Bill in the RAAF. Bruce was not the only member of the gang not to survive the war; Paul, when in the RAN, died in a motor accident in Sydney, early in the war.

The Sugarbag Gang didn't play with other groups such as those from Thomas Avenue, but rampaged barefoot through the bush, which started at No 40 before Bromborough Road was lengthened, to Gibber Pond where the creek emerges on the western side of Abingdon Road, down the creek to Springy, a natural swimming pool, past Monkey Rock and Moss Rock to Paddy's camp (occupied by one of those unfortunate victims of WWI and the Great Depression) at the old quarry off the bend in Longford Street, which was not then linked to Shirley Road and did not proceed to the boundary of the rifle range. In the other direction, to where Abingdon meets Eton Road, there was Gleeson's camp, another victim of the Depression and the later site of Film Australia. Here flannel flowers covered the plateau and these, with gum tips and bottle brush flowers, were taken home to their mums. Barry, feeling sorry for Gleeson, loaned him his mother's alarm clock. Next morning, no Gleeson, no tent and no alarm clock!

*Kathie Rieth*

## ***BUILT HERITAGE***

### ***Rowardennan, 5 Warrawee Avenue, Warrawee***

*Rowardennan*, originally named *Maiala*, is again for sale, 'a landmark property of historic significance ... exemplifying architectural mastery by renowned architect BJ Waterhouse who also designed Nutcote – the home of May Gibbs'. The house was designed for Joseph Beresford Grant in 1912 when Waterhouse was in partnership with JWH Lake so, to be accurate, I believe the attribution should read 'architects Waterhouse & Lake'. The partnership had begun in 1908 when Waterhouse replaced FG Castleden (who moved to Newcastle to join Frederick Menkens) and lasted until Lake's death in 1924. Readers will know of Tulkiyan at Gordon, now state listed, built 1913, also designed by Waterhouse & Lake.



*Rowardennan* is an intriguing blend of styles, a little bit Arts & Craft, a little bit French chateau. The hipped gables and all-encompassing slate roof are features often used by these architects, but this particular house reminds me of houses in Scuol, Switzerland, with their robust rendered walls, randomly-placed small windows, and deep-set arched entrances.

Had the client or architects visited Scuol, and were these the inspiration? I know that Lake travelled widely, perhaps also did Grant, who by 1912, was NSW manager for Atlas Assurance, a company founded in London in 1808. This position was undoubtedly well-paid and probably involved travel to England and the continent.

Grant had purchased the Warrawee Avenue site in two parcels in September and October 1912 from the Hon George Edward Rich and his wife Bertha. Who built the house is not clear. At the time Waterhouse & Lake had designed another in the same area, this being for the Bartletts at 19 Warrawee Avenue. Builders Simpson & Tonkin of North Sydney were awarded the contract for one, and GF Cole of Roseville for the other. Notices, however, do not specify which. The only reference I have found in Council minutes to both properties was the recommendation in late 1913 that 'proceedings be taken against the owners [Grant and Bartlett]... for having erected tanks before the Council's permission had been obtained'.

The Grants named their new home *Maiala*, a name that had been used before for their Powell Street, Killara home, and later for their house in Bangalla Avenue designed by Professor Leslie Wilkinson. In 1915 Grant left Atlas to become a partner in Raine & Horne, estate agents, and in 1928, when it was formed into a limited company, was appointed managing director, a position he held until 1933.

Grant is said to have used his wealth to prevent any commercial development near Warrawee station, gazumping potential buyers and imposing covenants. Currently, seeking to rely on such covenants, the erection of a substation to support the railway is being challenged by residents.

*Kathie Rieth*

## Copy for Newsletter

General copy for publication should be lodged with the Editor, Bob Barry ([bob\\_barry@optusnet.com.au](mailto: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 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 that readers can reproduce it in whole or part with acknowledgement**. Material should preferably be in electronic form.

## New Members

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

Alan & Josephine Barge	Wahroonga
Suzanne Cattell	Belrose
Brian Gilroy	Toowoomba
Leslie Jeckeln	Turramurra
Jan Ruthven	West Pymble
Judith Staveley	St Ives
Alastair & Denise Turnbull	Belrose
Gerald & Judith Worrall	Cromer

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

## July Quiz (answers p.2)

- The name Ku-ring-gai is derived from?  
a) native botanical species. b) The name of a river. c) a rock formation. d) The area's local Aboriginal tribe.
- The suburb in Ku-ring-gai with the highest altitude is?  
a) Pymble. b) Turramurra. c) Wahroonga. d) St Ives.
- Which year was the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society formed?  
a) 1963. b) 1953. c) 1843. d) 1933.
- The Historical Society's Journal is called?  
a) The Newsletter. b) The Journal. c) Chapter & Verse. d) The Historian.
- In the last few years the Society has started a Special Interest Group?  
a) Mac Users. b) Scottish Research. c) German Research. d) Irish Research.

All questions are based on the Society's website [www.khs.org.au](http://www.khs.org.au)

Please take time to peruse this site to learn more about our Society and our area.

*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 7 Jul** **Family History Meeting**  
**11.00 am** "My latest discoveries: Q&A"  
**2.00 pm General Meeting**  
"Ku-ring-gai Theatre Guild" with former members of the Guild.
- Sat 21 Jul** **2.00 pm Society General Meeting**  
Researcher and author Tony Griffiths has a fascinating tale to tell of Bren guns and paint brushes in wartime Lithgow. Come along to hear more....
- Sat 4 Aug** **Family History Meeting**  
**11.00 am** Exploring more Intranet Resources.  
**2.00 pm General Meeting**  
Mystery Man will entertain us.
- Sat 18 Aug** **2.00 pm Annual General Meeting followed by Society General Meeting**  
Popular author and genealogist **Carol Baxter** with the true story of New England bushranger Frederick Ward and Mary Ann Bugg, the subjects of her "well-written cracking read".

## Administration

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