



KU-RING-GAI HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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

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

March 2013 Newsletter

Vol. 31 No. 2

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

“Rainbow On The River”

In an interesting start to the Society’s year, author and resident of Dangar Island, Ann Howard, explored the absorbing history of the Hawkesbury island with members who attended our January meeting. Ann has lived on Dangar for 38 years, and has found the island’s history to be a fascinating subject. Through extensive primary research, Ann has discovered many intriguing facts and stories about Dangar and its past and present residents, and she emphasised the fact that new information is continually coming to light.

Her discoveries have become the subjects of the several books she has written about Dangar, “Rainbow on the River & Other Dangar Tales” being the one which provided the basis for her talk. Celebrated Australian poet, Les Murray, has written of Ann’s work: “I greatly admire your history of Dangar Island – thanks for it.”

Ann described many aspects of Dangar’s history, ranging from the activities of the Dharug people prior to white settlement, to modern day Dangar with its repository of interesting residents and historic tales. These included aspects of the history of nearby Brooklyn, the building of the bridges and tragic accidents which occurred there.

The area was visited in 1770 by Captain Cook who named Broken Bay, and Dangar was named Mullet Island by Captain Phillip, when he camped there in March, 1788. The island gained its name from the Dangar family, who owned the island in the 1860s, beginning with Henry Dangar and then his son Henry Carey Dangar, neither of whom developed the island, although the extended family became influential in NSW. Henry Dangar, who arrived in Port Jackson in 1821, became a wealthy squatter before buying Dangar Island. Some poor decisions reduced the family’s financial position and it was left to his widow, Grace, a good businesswoman, to rebuild the family’s fortunes.

From 1886 to 1889 the island was leased to the Union Bridge Company, the American company which built the Hawkesbury River Railway Bridge. The American workers lived on Dangar (while the Australian workers lived in another camp on Long Island). The bridge spans were constructed on Dangar, and floated into position on the tides. The huge pontoon built for the construction and floating of the spans was the venue for the official banquet held to celebrate the opening of the Railway Bridge – a great celebration attended by politicians and dignitaries from across Australia, as well as dignitaries from around the world.

In the 1930s three-quarters of the house Henry Dangar built burned down. However, Ann Howard bought and restored the largely derelict house, and it is still her home.

Beth Facer

General Meeting

Saturday 16 March 1.30 pm

Lord Sydney: The Life & Times of Tommy Townshend

Speaker: **Andrew Tink**, author and former parliamentarian, discusses his biography of the politician instrumental in the decision to found a colony at Botany Bay.

(NB: Starts early at 1.30 pm, with speaker first, then Society Meeting.)



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

Family History Meeting

Saturday 2 March

11.00 am “Familysearch” The Mormon site – updated

2.00 pm **General Meeting**

“Dating Early Photos”

Members to bring a photo for discussion and possible identification.



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

Volunteer Training/Update Days with a social Morning Tea Friday 5 and 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.

Please try to come along.

Anyone who is interested in learning what being a room volunteer is all about is very welcome too.

Please book (in the bookings folder) so we know how much morning tea to get in.

Seniors Week, March 2013

All talks will cost \$5, and are being held in the Meeting Room **10.30 – 12.30**.

Morning tea is included.

Please feel welcome to bring a friend or two.

Please book on 9499 4568 or email khs@khs.org.au

Mon 18 Mar: Stories of early Ku-ring-gai

Jo Harris will take you on a journey through the development of Ku-ring-gai, from Captain Arthur Phillip's overland expedition, to the timber-getters, then the orchardists; to land grants in 1816 for the first school and church at Gordon, and then agitation by residents resulting in the North Shore railway line, all followed by housing subdivisions.

Wed 20 Mar: Computer security and back-up

Learn how to browse the web safely, how to keep your computer up to date, and get an overview of security software. This talk by Peter Stehn will also look at advantages and disadvantages of different types of back-up media, and how to protect your backed-up data.

Thu 21 Mar: How to research your family history

Jo Harris will give a highly entertaining presentation on getting started with researching your family history.

Quiz answers (see p. 8 for Questions)

1. (b) 1791, the fleet comprised 11 ships that set sail in February, March and April 1791 with more than 2,000 convicts on board. The fleet arrived between 9 July 1791 and 16 October 1791.
2. (c) John Hunter (1737-1821) served from 11 September 1795 – 28 September 1800.
3. (c) Leather.
4. (b) Ernest Selby served as Mayor in 1934. On 5 November 1928 Ku-ring-gai Municipal Council had its first meeting. Prior to this, Ku-ring-gai Shire Council existed from 1906, when the heads of Council were Presidents.
5. (a) William Lawson (1774-1850)
6. (d) Henry Parker (1808-1881) served as Premier from 3 October 1856 to 7 September 1857

Special Interest Groups

Mac Users SIG

The next meeting is on Monday **4 March at 2.00 pm** in the research rooms.

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 KHS German Special Interest Group (SIG) meeting held Monday 11 February was well attended with thirteen members participating in the lively interchange. The main discussion centred on the lecture notes kindly made available by Elizabeth Allum and based on her presentation given to SAG on 20 October 2012. These notes covered a wide range of topics, liberally seeded with handy hints and tips for the German researcher.

There was far more valuable information available in the notes than could be discussed in-depth and digested at our short meeting. Several members requested a soft copy of the notes so that they could click directly on the numerous embedded links without transcription errors and also easily search the 15 page document electronically.

A weird coincidence was noted during the free-ranging discussions towards the end of the meeting. Richard Lander proudly exhibited a framed certificate showing German immigrants naturalised in South Australia in 1847, including his ancestor. Sitting next to Richard was Ann Ronfeldt, who had so-far been unsuccessful in tracing her husband's ancestor in that State. By chance she noticed the missing ancestor's name on the document – much joy ensured, with another brick wall breached.

Next Meeting: 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 February 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 8 March at 1.30**. All welcome.

Ric Hall

Scottish Research SIG

Check next month.

KHS General Meeting talks

Copies of our talks are available on CDs for \$5.

Email khs@khs.org.au or call 9499 4568.

Vale Wendy Ermert



Wendy Ermert died in November last year.

Wendy was one of our loyal room volunteers for many years. A softly spoken person, she was liked by all. She had been ill and hospitalised for a long period, and many of our members were regular visitors during this time. She will be sadly missed from our rooms.

Brooklyn to Marramarra Creek....

The Society was fortunate in obtaining a late booking for this tour from Brooklyn to Marramarra Creek, with points between and return, with expert commentary by Lower Hawkesbury historian, Tom Richmond, O.A.M. It can only be done two or three times a year when the king tide and light are right, and the numbers were strictly limited. The appointed time was 10 am at Brooklyn on Wednesday 13 February 2013 – king tide and time waits for no man.

The Society did not have sufficient warning to include the outing in the January/February *Newsletter*, but it was announced at the Family History Meeting on Saturday 2 February 2013.

We set out on the incoming tide. We had a lot to see and a clock to watch – morning tea and lunch would be later. History was going to be uncovered and we would get a feeling of what it was like. At appropriate points Tom would stop the launch, point out historic sites with background information, and then we would roar off, checking the incoming tide level.

A detailed brochure had been handed out and we did well. We almost sailed off the map provided.

The return trip was taken a little more leisurely once we cleared the shallow waters – we did bottom a few times – and we were able to take in more history and a nice morning tea. Lunch, a nice fish dish, was provided at Brooklyn.

Tom donated a signed set of his books, and new member Janne Gourlay was very happy to win them.

Bruce Robinson

Note from our January Speaker

I had a beautiful thank you card from Bev today, following my talk about Dangar Island on January 19th, handwritten, so I can't possibly throw it away! It is I who want to thank you members of the Kuring-gai Historical Society, for your warm welcome. You, Jo and Bev went out of your way, and so did Peter Stehn, who wrestled with my USB and did a great job. I am so impressed with your dedication and I wish I lived at Gordon – I'd be in the research room twenty four seven! I am enjoying the book about Bradfield Park you presented to me very much. Again, I really thank you for a fun afternoon,

See you on Dangar Island, *Ann Howard*

“Writing Ku-ring-gai History”

KHS Anniversary Competitions

Do you fancy yourself as a published writer? Or are you a budding historian?

Have you always wanted to write, but never quite found the motivation?

Would you like to help us celebrate our 50th anniversary and win a prize?

These competitions may be your chance!

The judges will be members of *KHS* and local authors. Short-listed entries will be displayed in the Gordon Library, and then published in a small booklet later in the year. Yes, you could be published!

Please go to our website for full details, including the Terms and Conditions, and the entry form. There is no entry fee. There will also be flyers in the rooms from Mon 4 March.

The competition runs from Mon 4 March to Fri 3 May.

The topics (in summary) are:

Adult: 1st prize \$500, runner-up \$200

Write an essay of 2000–2500 words on “*Ku-ring-gai comprises a rare blend of fine domestic architecture within a landscape of indigenous forests and exotic plantings and gardens. Its families, communities and suburbs show it to be a place full of stories and events that bring history to life.*”

Years 3 and 4: 1st prize \$100, runner-up \$50

Design an A3-sized poster, entitled *Then and Now*, showing the difference between your suburb today and what it was like in the past. This can be about a whole suburb or maybe just your street, a building, a house, or a school.

Years 5 and 6: 1st prize \$200, runner-up \$50

Write an essay of 500–800 words on an individual you believe to be of historical importance, and who has made a significant contribution to all or part of the Ku-ring-gai area, or to a community within it.

Years 7 to 9: 1st prize \$300, runner-up \$100

Write an essay of 1,000–1,500 words on ONE location, community or event that has been of historical importance to the development, character and people of the Ku-ring-gai area.

Years 10 to 12: 1st prize \$400, runner-up \$100

Write an essay of 2,000–2,500 words analysing the impact of wider events in Australian and/or world history on the suburbs and communities in the Ku-ring-gai Council area.

The support of the Ku-ring-gai Council and the Turrumurra and Lindfield Community Bank Branches, Bendigo Bank, for these competitions is gratefully acknowledged.

Tragic tenants of St Ives

The house at No 2 Sherwood Place, St Ives, is an elegant split level, white-painted home on an elevated, sandstone-buttressed site. Built in 1968, its original owners occupied the house for only eighteen months before it was owned by a series of investors between March 1970 and September 1973 and leased to an American oil company executive and his family when they resided in Australia.

Sidney J Reso, with his wife and two of their (later) five children came to Australia to take up an appointment as Chief Engineer of Esso Standard Oil (Aust) Ltd, to plan and develop the (then) newly-discovered major off-shore oil and gas reserves in Bass Strait (he later became the Manager of its Natural Gas Department, marketing natural gas and LPG in Australia and the Asian Region).

But the Reso Family could not have imagined the horror that would eventually beset them after they had left Australia, where they had made many friends.

Upon his return to the USA in 1973, "Sid" Reso (as he was known) went on to London in 1975 as Vice-President and Managing Director of Esso Europe, developing its North Sea oil facilities. He was a distinguished petroleum engineer who, after returning to the US, was appointed Vice-President in 1981 of the giant Exxon Oil Company, and ultimately President of Exxon International.

The Reso Family now lived in a five-acre, French colonial style home in a beautiful wooded estate in Morris Township, New Jersey. Life had not been all roses however. They had lost a son and Sid had suffered several heart attacks. He and his wife Patricia were devout Catholics and generous donors of their time and money to soup kitchens and other voluntary church and community work.

Sid was 57 years of age when, on the morning of 29 April 1992, as he drove off to work, he stopped his car at the entrance to his property to pick up his delivered newspaper, and was not seen alive again. He had been kidnapped. His car was found idling by the road.

Shortly thereafter, ransom notes began to arrive. At first these appeared to have come from the group known as the "Rainbow Warriors" claiming recompense for Exxon's damage to the environment. The amount demanded was \$(US)18.5m in used \$100 bills. When the Rainbow Warriors were found not to be involved, the largest police search since the 1974 missing Patty Hearst case went into action.

Two months later, after several failed "drop off" arrangements for the money to be handed over, the kidnappers were caught and arrested on the third such attempt. To everyone's surprise they turned out to be a former Exxon security guard, Arthur Seale, and his wife Irene (both 45).

Irene made a deal with the police to inform on her husband and to provide information as to the whereabouts of Sid Reso. The gruesome details shocked the nation. They had seized Mr Reso at gunpoint, bundled him into a car, then taped his mouth, tied him with rope, placed him in a makeshift coffin-like box that Arthur had made, and left him in a rented storage repository.

When payment of their ransom demands took too long,

Sid Reso died. Not knowing what to do with him, they decided to bury the "coffin" about three feet below dense undergrowth in a secluded part of the New Jersey State Forest, about 20 miles north of Atlantic City. When the police recovered the body it had a shotgun wound in one arm (claimed to have been an "accident"). The autopsy indicated that Sid had died about four days after his abduction.

Arthur Seale was convicted of kidnapping and murder and sentenced to 95 years life imprisonment (a quaint system of US sentencing) whilst Irene Seale was given 20 years.

An unusual aspect of the case was a claim by a noted psychic, Elizabeth Joyce, who maintained she had informed the police of a vision she had "received" of a woman pretending to be hurt outside Sid's home, and of him going to her assistance and being forced at gunpoint into a van by a man, then stuffed into a trunk and buried in a shallow grave, dug between two pine trees in a place off the highway, essentially where the police had found him. The police did not refute the story.

After the Reso family's departure from the house in St Ives, it was bought in late 1973 by a Sydney barrister, John de Meyrick and his high school teacher wife, Mari. They named the place Sherwood House and resided there with their three children for the next 27 years before moving to another part of St Ives.

John de Meyrick

Nurses who served in WWI

A recent visitor to the rooms expressed her concern that the spelling of Narrelle Avenue, Pymble is incorrect, that it should have one 'r' only. Our visitor is correct: it was named for Sister (Florence) Narelle Hobbes (1878-1918), whose story is told by Melanie Oppenheimer in her book *Oceans of love, Narelle: an Australian nurse in World War I*. Sister Hobbes had spent part of her early life living with her sister Isobel and brother-in-law Donald Commons at their cottage in Pymble, its address now No 3-5 Narrelle Avenue. After WWI Donald sold some of the five acres surrounding the house and he was asked by the shire 'to name the road after a fallen soldier'. He chose Narelle.

Sister Hobbes is also mentioned in *The other ANZACS, nurses at war, 1914-1918* by Peter Rees, who based his book on the diaries and letters of nurses who served in WWI. One of these was Kath King from Orange who married electrical engineer Herbert Gordon Carter, and settled in Roseville in 1919, later moving to Wahroonga. Carter was an alderman and later mayor of Ku-ring-gai in 1938-1939. His name is on the memorial at Millewa Avenue, Wahroonga, as is Ursula Carter, his sister, a nurse with the AANS who enlisted in November 1914.

Other nurses of the AANS of WWI whose names are recorded on memorials in Ku-ring-gai are: Nellie Clarice Richardson Allworth; Jessie McColl Cameron; Charlotte Elizabeth Evans; Anastasia McCormack; Linda May Oldfield; Emily Walker; Olive Deane Walsh; and Eileen Rose Williams. Nurses who were residents of Ku-ring-gai when they joined or who named Ku-ring-gai residents as their next of kin, were: Lillian Elizabeth Braye; Mollie Carney; Iris Everett; and Eva Laura Tighe.

There are probably many more who served with other units, as did Sister Hobbes who sailed independently to England and joined Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. Sister Mary McAllister of Roseville served with the VAD and her name is recorded on the WWI memorial in the small park next to the Roseville Memorial Club.

Can anybody help with information on these women and any others who served in WWI?

Contact Kathie Rieth frithie@netdata.com.au or phone the KHS room 9499 4568 if you are able to assist.

People of Ku-ring-gai in WWI

Can any members of KHS help compile biographical information on those in our municipality who took part in the First World War? Has anyone with family in Ku-ring-gai who served already compiled information that they are happy to share? The names of over 1500 are recorded on memorials throughout our suburbs, and of these, we believe over 200 were killed in action or died of wounds or disease. Whether the information is used to compile a publication, a digital resource on our website or, at the very least, a database available to visitors to the rooms, is yet to be determined.

On 4 August 2014 it will be 100 years since war was declared between Britain and Germany, the news reaching Australia on the following day when the first Allied shot in the war was fired at midday by Australian artillery on the German ship *Pfalz* when it tried to leave Port Philip, Melbourne. Recruiting for the AIF began on 10 August and on 19 August the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force left Sydney for training at Palm Island before being sent to New Britain off New Guinea. The first Australian casualties of the war were on 11 September, with six lives lost and four wounded when the force captured the German wireless station on New Britain.

One of those lives lost was Dr Brian Pockley, a son of Capt Robert Francis Pockley of *Lorne*, Killara. Pockley, Col. Henry Normand Maclaurin and Sergeant Edward Rennix Larkin are commemorated in Roseville by the naming of three streets adjacent to the Memorial Club – Maclaurin Parade, Pockley Avenue and Larkin Street.

In a letter dated December 1951 to the President of the RSL, JHW Henry of 122 Roseville Avenue, Roseville wrote:

“It is a rare coincidence – but a remarkable one – that the Roseville Returned Servicemen's Memorial Club and headquarters of our RSL in Roseville should be situated in a street which was named to perpetuate the memory of one of Australia's outstanding soldiers of World War I.

Strange as it may seem, few people are aware that Maclaurin Parade was named in August 1915 in memory of Colonel HN Maclaurin, the first Australian to be appointed to raise and train and lead on active service an Australian infantry brigade.

That brilliant young officer, a prominent Sydney barrister (and the son of Sir Norman Maclaurin, who was a leading Sydney medical man and for years

Chancellor of the University of Sydney) was only 35 when, in August 1914 he was chosen as Commander 1st Australian Infantry Brigade, AIF. His was the very onerous task of setting a standard of discipline and training which was to be the foundation upon which the AIF of 1914-1918 was to be built. The great success that resulted from his instruction and example is now a matter of history from which much of our tradition has sprung. He was killed in action in the front line at Maclaurin's Hill, Gallipoli, on 27th April 1915. A few weeks later his promotion to Brigadier-General was gazetted.

It seems to me, Sir, that it would be fitting for the Roseville Sub-Branch to suggest to Ku-ring-gai Council (where no information was available on this subject) that the origin of the name of the street should be appropriately recorded. It was JH Park of Chatswood who in 1915 named these three streets, adjacent to the land where our Memorial Club now stands, in memory of three gallant young Australians who made the supreme sacrifice for their country early in the war. They were Capt. Brian Pockley, AAMC, the first Australian to be killed on active service in 1914 in New Guinea; Sergeant ER Larkin, 1st Battalion AIF (he was MLA for North Sydney) killed in action at ANZAC 25 April 1915; and Colonel Maclaurin. Hence we have close by us Maclaurin Parade, Larkin Street and Pockley Avenue.”

On the corner of Maclaurin Parade and the highway is a small park, one of a handful of green spaces along the highway within Ku-ring-gai, the location of Roseville's memorial to those who served in both



World Wars. One thousand and one names are inscribed on this memorial. For WWI there are 273 men (29 killed or died) and five women, for WWII 665 men (45 killed or died) and 36 women. A huge commitment for what was then a relatively small suburb.

Now that all WWI records have been digitised, with newspapers and many other resources freely available online, it must be possible for each and every one of us in KHS to write at least a paragraph or two about the people named on our Ku-ring-gai memorials. Not only possible but also, as one very valued member of KHS said, *imperative*.

Contact Kathie Rieth frithie@netdata.com.au or phone the KHS room 9499 4568 if you are able to assist.

FAMILY MATTERS

February 2013 Family History Meeting

11.00 am Session

Jo Harris opened the meeting and welcomed the 36 members.

Beverly Robinson commenced the session with Free BMD (1837–onwards) ENGLAND & WALES – www.freebmd.org.uk This website is useful for recording the actual certificate number for a family member for their birth, marriage or death.

Our second presenter was Jenny Joyce who showed NEW ZEALAND <http://dia.govt.nz> and also SOUTH AUSTRALIA www.genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-databases.html Jenny also requested that lists of variations of name spellings be sent to her.

Jo then showed some tips re NSW BDMs on the internet: <http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/Index/IndexingOrder.cgi/search?events=births> Jo explained that if you use the BDMs regularly you should place a shortcut on your desktop for quick access – and showed how to open this website three times, i.e., for Births, Deaths and Marriages.

Many questions were asked and answered by the presenters. Thank you Beverly, Jenny and Jo for such a comprehensive morning session – a printed page was given to attendees.

2.00 pm Session

Jo opened the meeting, welcomed the 36 members to the first meeting of the New Year, 2013, two visitors, and gave a special welcome to our Guest Speaker Lester Burgess and Jillian, his wife.

Two (2) special outings were arranged for February – Wednesday 13th February: a Hawkesbury River cruise to Brooklyn – Tom Richmond to give the commentary – limited to twenty two people. The outing includes cruise, morning tea and lunch.

Tuesday 19th February: to The Army Depot at Suakin Street, Pymble – 6.45 pm for 7.00 pm parade by Alpha Company, tour of the Depot and a talk about their archives – limited to 25 people. Participants to indicate if they wish to have a meal afterwards (at own expense) at the “Thai Tucker” restaurant at Gordon, so that a booking could be made.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) were discussed. “Seniors Festival” programme books are available.

Some websites listed include:-

Sentenced beyond the Seas: Australia’s early convict records – a project to digitise and index convict records – search 12,000 names listed in the records and view digital indents online. www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/indexes-online/

The Records of London’s Livery Companies Online: www.londonroll.org/home

UK Outward Passenger Lists 1890-1960 now available on www.ancestry.com.au

India: Families in British India Society – details of births, marriages and deaths reported in the “Times of India” – comprises 2211 births, 1077 marriages and 3676 deaths <http://www.fibis.org/frontis/bin/>

<http://www.fibis.org/frontis/bin/>

New Zealand: Papers Past – 2,000,000+ pages of digitised NZ newspapers and periodicals covering the years 1839 to 1945 in 77 publications from all regions of NZ <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast>

ROOTSWEB: Mailing Lists – remember these – many people are having great success with these lists: <http://lists.rootsweb.com/index/intl/AUS/GENANZ.html>

Jo then showed the new KHS Bags which have been made for the Society – for sale today for the first time at \$10.00 each.

Book Reports: Bruce and Beverly Robinson visited the exhibition in Canberra of the glass negatives found in France and with thanks to Kerry Stokes and his purchase of these – Bruce showed a magnificent book printed with many of these photos – Facebook access on line for unidentified photos; Joy Walker showed “Cloud Street (Geraldton)” by Tim Winton and “Convict Ships” by Bateson, and presented them to the Society.

Jo introduced our guest speaker – Professor Lester Burgess, a distinguished plant pathologist from Sydney University and recently awarded a medal for his commitment to the Crawford Fund, a non-government organisation that strives to alleviate rural poverty in the developing world through agricultural research. Lester and Jillian, his wife, were welcomed, and his talk “Cooyal to Warrawee and all points in between” – Cooyal, near Mudgee, is pronounced Coo-y-al.

Lester began his family research in the pre-internet age – details of family members in Sussex UK including William Henry Burgess who arrived in Australia in 1837, some arrivals were bounty grantees, some at Queen’s pleasure; went to the Crookwell and Grabben Gullen area of NSW where fertile volcanic soils were suitable for cereals, sheep, potatoes, local flour mills, a more reliable rainfall and springs were relatively common – weather just like “home”. Lester’s father was a school teacher and taught at one teacher schools in several country areas; Lester was born in Mudgee on 18 February 1942 and spent his formative years at Cooyal, living in the school house with school just a few steps away, a wonderful environment with the bush and Munghorn Mountain out the back, Bowral and Campbelltown High Schools, Universities of Sydney, California, Cornell, Melbourne and again Sydney. Many special remembrances of holidays at his grandparents’ place and family holidays at Narooma; Lester showed us some cattle branding irons and frames to hold rabbit skins, as he had skinned many rabbits for 7/6 per pound, 15 skins to a pound; he enjoyed reading – a box of books arrived each month at the school; he lived 20 km from Henry Lawson’s boyhood home – teaching and agriculture are in the blood. Lester and Jillian married in 1968 and they have lived at Warrawee since 1975, have 4 children and 3 of the 4 are teachers. Presently Lester is researching fusarium on grasses in Southern Tunisia. Several questions were asked and comments made. Jim Bond thanked Lester for his interesting talk.

Based on notes by Elaine Turnidge

Ku-ring-gai Heritage Award

This award was presented at the *Australia Day Citizen of the Year* award ceremony. The citation for the award included:

Kathie Rieth joined the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society on 24 August 1998.

She has been a major contributor and one of the editors of *The Historian*, the Society's annual publication, for many years. She has been a wonderful mentor to new contributors, assisting them to grow their research and writing skills, and encouraging them to contribute to our publications.

Using her knowledge and expertise, she writes the monthly Built Heritage column in the Society's *Newsletter*. This is very well received by members and often stimulates memories, thereby encouraging members who wouldn't usually contribute to reply or even write a follow-up article.

The Society and the Ku-ring-gai community continue to benefit from the extensive and ever-expanding databases on architects and builders that she has compiled over a considerable period of time.

Kathie was part of the Roseville Community Association Inc that published *William Henry's 40 Acres & the People who lived there* in 2000. This book documents a significant period in the history of Roseville, its subdivision, and land ownership.

Kathie is always willing to assist with any queries and is an enthusiastic and valued member of Tuesday's *Built Heritage* group. We have no hesitation in recommending Kathie Rieth for the 2013 Heritage Award.

Recent Acquisitions

"A Place of Pioneers The Centenary History of the Municipality of Ryde" by Philip Geeves, published by Ryde Municipal Council 1970. No ISBN. The book has 222 pages and a number of black and white historic prints. 2112/RYD

In January 2013, Ann Howard spoke to a general meeting of the Society on her recent book "Rainbow on the River & Other Dangar Tales" ISBN: 978 0 9585843 6 4 and presented a copy of this book; we bought three earlier books, "A Ghost, a Murder & Other Dangar Tales Volume 1" ISBN: 978 0 9585843 4 0, "Ten Dry Pies & Other Dangar Tales" ISBN: 978 0 9585843 5 7 and "Derrymacash to Dangar Island in the 1950s as told to Ann Howard by Eileen McConville" ISBN: 978 0 9585843 7 1. The books are well illustrated and flesh out the history and character of the community on the lower Hawkesbury River. 2083/HOW

"Bankstown A sense of identity" by Sue Rosen was published by Hale & Iremonger Pty Limited 1996, ISBN: 0 86806 585 4 with 194 pages. Ms Rosen was contracted by Bankstown Council to undertake the book. The book has 195 pages, including historic photographs. 2200/BAN

Bruce Robinson

BUILT HERITAGE

Belmont, 132 Pacific Highway, Roseville

At first I watched with dismay, believing the house was being demolished, then with increasing interest as it



became apparent it was being renovated, sympathetically so. Recently I was told it was to become a medical centre, not (as I suspected) another restaurant, of which we have plenty along this stretch of the highway. Great. For a house that is now 100 years old, it's good to see it continuing to serve its original purpose, and looking smart to boot.

The site was bought in November 1911 by Dr Richard Prevost. Records indicate that the house, named *Belmont*, was designed by his brother, architect Reginald Argyle de Tessier Prevost, and built in late 1912 by Parkinson Brothers of Hurstville. Reg (1887-1942) had only recently gone into private practice on his own account. Most of his work prior to 1915, when he enlisted with the Royal Garrison Artillery, was residential. Various partnerships post-war were with Hugh Waterson, Reymond Synnot, Cyril Ruwald, and then Sydney Ancher.

Belmont was large, with ten rooms and a lower floor that housed a billiard room and maid's quarters. Dr Prevost ran his practice, in partnership with Dr Reed, from rooms in the house.

Dr Prevost's history, however, is a sad one. In early 1911 his first wife Rose died. He remarried and his wife Hilda gave birth to a daughter in late 1914. In the early morning of 5 November, called out to an emergency, he was killed when his car overturned at Longueville. Only one week prior he had returned from New Guinea, serving in the Australian Squadron with his 'old friend' Dr Brian Pockley, the first Australian to be killed in WWI.

Drs Dight and Bridges ran their practice from Belmont until 1922, when Hilda sold to James Neil, husband of Nellie Neil (who in 1912 had commissioned the building of the Roseville Hall, later converted to the Roseville cinema). On James' death in 1924, title passed to Nellie and her brother-in-law Frank Fry of 2 Lord Street, Roseville. Later owners were Frank's daughter Kathleen, then Charlotte Keys who, in 1955, subdivided the land. In 1959 a block of flats, Sherrington Court, was built to the rear of Belmont, and in 1961 a two-storeyed block of shops and offices to the south.

Over the years Belmont has housed professional suites – for medical practitioners, dental surgeons and physiotherapists – and a variety of businesses – an art gallery, a uniform maker, a dressmaker and once an agency whose 'models' (I was told by a very reliable source, winking at the time) would take their smokos sitting in the sun on the back steps.

It is such a relief to see this old house, one of the four original houses left on the highway in Roseville, rejuvenated and treasured.

Kathie Rieth

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.

Terry Fogarty	Chatswood
Janne Gourlay	Mt Colah
Susan Greenwell	Gordon
Deirdre Leach	Kirribilli
Carole Riley	Hornsby
Leone & Peter Stumbaum	Lindfield
Christina Whiteley	West Lindfield

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

Quiz (answers p.2)

“3rd QUIZ” for the 3rd month, 2013

- THE 3RD FLEET ARRIVED AT SYDNEY COVE?
a) 1788? b) 1791? c) 1785? d) 1801?
- THE 3RD GOVERNOR OF NEW SOUTH WALES WAS?
a) Ralph Darling? b) Arthur Phillip? c) John Hunter?
d) Phillip Gidley King?
- THE 3RD TRADITIONAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY GIFT MATERIAL IS?
a) Paper? b) Gold? c) Leather? d) Wood?
- THE 3RD MAYOR OF KU-RING-GAI WAS?
a) Paul Clipsham? b) Ernest Selby? c) Claude Ewen Cameron?
d) William Thomas Wait?
- THE 3RD EXPLORER WITH WENTWORTH AND BLAXLAND WAS?
a) William Lawson? b) Henry Lawson? c) Gregory Lawson?
d) John Lawson?
- THE 3RD PREMIER OF NEW SOUTH WALES WAS?
a) Charles Cowper? b) Henry Parkes? c) William Foster?
d) Henry Parker?

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 2 Mar Family History Meeting**
11.00 am “Familysearch”
The Mormon site – updated
2.00 pm General Meeting
“Dating Early Photos”
Please bring a photo for discussion and possible identification.
- Sat 16 Mar 1.30 pm Society General Meeting**
Lord Sydney: The Life & Times of Tommy Townshend
Speaker: Andrew Tink, author and former parliamentarian, discusses his biography of the politician instrumental in the decision to found a colony at Botany Bay.
(NB: Starts early at 1.30 pm with speaker first, then Society Meeting.)
- Sat 6 Apr Family History Meeting**
11.00 am “New Early Convict Records”
2.00 pm General Meeting
“My German Origins”: Alan 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.

Administration

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	Graham Lewis	9416 5818
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	Beverly Robinson	9988 3775
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