



**Ringwood District Historical Society**

11 Ripley Court, Ringwood, 3134.

**Tennis Ball**

From the estate of Ronald Arthur Hamilton (1922-2015)

This tennis ball was kept as a memento of the opening of the Scots Church Tennis Club in Ringwood which was performed by Miss A Russell on 28 September 1929 (as written on the ball).

**Background**

The Hamilton family (Trevor, Jessie and their two children, Gwen and Ron) moved from Mount Dandenong to South Warrandyte in 1925 when Trevor took on the post of Head Teacher at South Warrandyte State School. The family joined the Ringwood Presbyterian Church, and Trevor Hamilton eventually became an Elder. Trevor Hamilton taught at South Warrandyte, Ringwood and Ringwood North State schools from 1925 until his sudden death in 1943.

Jessie Hamilton, who was also a primary school teacher, then married Frank Pollard (himself a widower) in 1944. Frank Pollard had no children (although he became a wonderful 'step' grandfather to Jessie's grandchildren.)

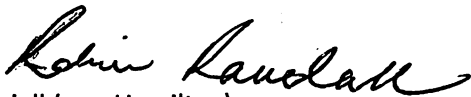
Therefore, the keepsakes and documents left in Ron Hamilton's estate included items from the Hamilton family and from Frank Pollard. In connection with this tennis ball, Ron had said that Miss Russell was a member of a prominent local family, but there was no discussion about the event or why the family had the item.

Presumably this tennis ball was presented to either a Hamilton or a Pollard at the conclusion of the proceedings in 1929.

I have since concluded that the Miss A Russell in question was Miss Anne (or Annie) Russell, who was resident at the time with her widowed mother at Aringa, a large local property. Mrs Russell and Miss Russell were President and Secretary respectively of the Ringwood Presbyterian Church Ladies Guild in 1926, so had been very involved in church activities. <sup>1</sup>(Source: Box Hill Reporter 5 Nov 1926).

Perhaps the Scots Tennis Club was therefore formally launched and subsequently played at Aringa.

Regards,



Robin Randall (nee Hamilton)

[daughter of Ron Hamilton]

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1