

Kogarah Historical Society Inc

Carss Cottage Museum – Carss Park
Postal Address PO Box 367, Kogarah 1485

Patron: The Mayor of Kogarah

President: Beverley Earnshaw (9546 1091)

Newsletter

July-August 2009

Volume 1 No 3



*Members did a tour of Houses and Heritage buildings in late 2008.
They are pictured here in the grounds of Sunnyside*

Meetings and Speakers

Thursday 9 July

Speaker: Carol Baxter, Genealogist, Historian & Author of *An Irresistible Temptation on Scandal & Skulduggery in Early Sydney*.
Book available at meeting.

Thursday 13 August

Speaker: Dr Shirley Fitzgerald, Historian & Author of *Red Tape Gold Scissors on The History of the Chinese in Sydney*. Copies of her many books available at meeting.

Meetings are held at the School of Arts, Bowns Road Kogarah, at 2pm. Enjoy the speaker then the opportunity to chat over afternoon tea. A short business meeting follows. For assistance with transport to meetings please contact Carole Tier (9527 2403)

Mondays at the Museum

Heather Bentley will be the next speaker on Monday 27 July 2009 and she will talk about ‘Tea and Coffee in the 17th Century’ - when tea was so expensive it was locked up. It was safer to drink than the water of the day and a lively addition to meals. If you heard Heather last November you will know this is going to be a fascinating session. It starts at 10 am and your entrance fee of \$5.00 includes an excellent morning tea and the chance to win a door prize. Space is limited so book early through Coralie on 9546 1580.

Museum Roster

July		August	
5 th	Carole Tier & Ken Grieve	2 nd	Gilda Tilia & Evelyn Buckingham
12 th	Mavis Ward & Mary Williams	9 th	Coralie & Albert Lewin
19 th	Trudy Johns & Elizabeth Emerson	16 th	Trudy Johns & Elizabeth Emerson
26 th	Betty Goodger & Janette Hollebone	23 rd	Betty Goodger & Janette Hollebone
		30 th	Cath & Leo Sullivan

Hours are 1 pm – 5 pm. Any problems, please contact Coralie Lewin on 9546 1580. (Elizabeth Emerson, our usual roster person, is moving house so we are giving her a break!)

Any members who are willing to volunteer for a regular spot at the Museum or to be on the emergency list, please contact Coralie or a committee member.

Committee 2009 (* denotes Executive)

President:*	Beverley Earnshaw	Ph: 9546 1091
Vice President (1):*	Janette Hollebone	Ph: 9529 7117
Vice President(2):*	Betty Goodger	Ph: 9570 1101
Secretary:*	Gill Whan	Ph: 9546 4623
Treasurer:*	Cath Sullivan	Ph: 9579 6149
Museum Custodian	Coralie Lewin	Ph: 9546 1580
Committee Members:	Beryl Butters, Mavis Ward, Trudy Johns, Judy Reynolds, Carole Tier, Lawrie Corry	

Committee meetings

6 July 09, 7.00 pm	Gill Whan, 11 Dewrang St., Carss Park
3 Aug 09, 7.00 pm	Trudy Johns, 2/900 Forest Road., Peakhurst
7 Sept 09, 7.00 pm	Janette Hollebone, 1 Meriel St., Sans Souci

Notice of Motion

The Committee is proposing a rise in the KHS annual subscription rate to \$10 for a single member and \$15 for a couple, to take effect from February 2010. We welcome your comments or discussion and will ask you to vote on the proposal in September.

Heather Bentley was our speaker in November 2008

Report by Mavis Ward

Heather Bentley is an Independent *Historian and History Communicator* with a life-long interest in poetry and food in the way it illuminates history. She is fascinated with the part food has played and she referred specifically to the Renaissance period, 16th/17th centuries, in England and Europe and the four 's' words – salt, spices, sugar and slaving to produce sugar plantations and their influence on development. Searching for them opened up the world to white explorers.

To give the talk a Christmas slant, we heard about Little Miss Muffett (she really did exist) the daughter of Dr Thomas Muffett who wrote a cook book, "Health Improvement" in which he wrote "*Spaniards eat, Germans drink but the English exceed in both.*" Perhaps at Christmas we tend to indulge ourselves. Christmas was really special then for reasons that do not apply today. There were twelve days of fasting to be observed which meant eating fish, so mince tarts contained fish and fruit instead of meat. Advent was also a fasting period.

Popular foods at the time were turkey and ham, pigs being easy to raise as they lived on scraps in small pens, were happy in mud, didn't sweat, bred freely, so that they were affordable. Also, being salty, the meat was tasty and could be preserved. About that time Turkeys were brought from Mexico. They were fat, sweet birds, not skinny ones previously used. Eating turkey was really an old English custom, not American, but was only available to the rich. Turkey was so called because traders in exotic goods were Turks and they were credited with importing all good things. The Silk Road and Persia were the source of exotic goods and the influence was strong. Rosewater, other perfumes and carpets were extensively used, carpets sometimes even as tablecloths.

Cranberries, known as crane berries or marsh warts, were made into jelly or clear, shiny sauce, using loaf sugar which was unrefined sugar formed into pyramid shapes, treated with a solvent to remove impurities and left to crystallise. It was known as Indian salt. Sugar was very expensive so it was exciting when seedlings from India were found, planted in Brazil and sugar began flowing into England.

Heather described a usual Renaissance Christmas feast which consisted of a mind-boggling assortment of food. There were two courses, each made up of about twenty dishes consisting of boiled meats with sauces, apple and custard pies, brawn, mince pies, a gigot of mutton with hot mustard, sweetbread, roast of swan, pasty of venison, plovers, larks and veal tongues. *What a meal!*

Traditions were strong in those days and Heather had lots of explanations to pass on. Setting the table was a ritual, using knives and spoons but no forks, food being eaten with fingers. Salt was placed in just the correct place, meat was carved in special ways, and napkins (called diapers) were folded, sometimes in very elaborate ways and worn over the shoulder. Folding napkins was an art - people even made a profession of it. Diners' hands were washed as they approached the table.

Because of the approach of Christmas, Heather gave us a Christmas cake recipe from 1740. It contained suet, steak, giblets, duck, raw fruit, currents, butter, possibly rice, oatmeal, vermicelli and sago. It has gradually developed into what we have today.

Heather covered many customs and traditions in her interesting and humorous talk and left us with lots to think about regarding food and the difference between a Renaissance Christmas and a present day one. As a final touch of nostalgia, Heather distributed musk sticks, an interesting reminder of a popular old fragrance.

Astral Observatory to Animal Hospital



St George Animal Hospital 2009

The St. George Animal Hospital is a familiar landmark on the corner of Princes Highway and Edward Street, where the street sign changes from Carlton to Kogarah Bay. The exterior of this building encases another significant landmark of the 1890s, *Correa*, the home of retired civil servant and astronomer, Cecil Henry Haviland.



Correa, now St George Animal Hospital

Cecil Haviland was born at Chippendale NSW in 1861 and educated at Christ Church St. Laurence School in Sydney where in 1877 he won the T.S.Mort Scholarship. He married Emily Shaw in 1888 and in 1890 they were living at Livingstone Road, Marrickville in a house named *Correa*. In 1891 they moved to a newly built home in Kogarah Road, Kogarah, taking their house name with them. Four of their five children were born there. His fourth son, Stanley Haviland, had a distinguished career in the NSW Public Service, with many achievements too numerous to note here.

When fund raising began to build a church in nearby Park Road, the Havilands played an active part. Cecil Haviland himself made the Communion Table which is still in use today. The dedication and opening of the church took place on August 15, 1908 after which refreshments were served by Mrs Haviland 'at her home on Kogarah Road'. The Haviland family is recorded in the church's first service register and Mrs Haviland was an active member of the Ladies' Committee along with Mrs McWilliam from Sunnyside.

With his knowledge of astronomy and collection of telescopes and astronomical instruments, Cecil Haviland was able to conduct educational evenings. These were popular as fundraisers and as social gatherings when guests were able to scan the night sky with the help of the Haviland instruments.

In retirement, he turned to gardening. He had no lawn and heavily planted garden beds produced a proliferation of flowers and shrubs in bloom. He would tell passers by "I'm very proud of my old world garden".

Cecil Haviland collapsed and died on Wynyard Station on April 23, 1943, aged 82 years.

For a short time the house was occupied by a family named Moon, then in 1944 the premises were taken over by Dr Richard Deveneaux Boon, a veterinary surgeon who set up practice for the care of animals. In 1947 Dr Boon bought the property and established a full veterinary hospital, the Directors being Dr Richard Boon who later became President of the Australian Veterinary Association 1962-1963, and Dr John C Holt who was President of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association in 1966.

Dr Boon ceased practice at Kogarah in 1966 and for the next 40 years lost animals from all over the district were impounded in buildings at the rear of St. George Animal Hospital. In 1999 the pound and hospital were separated and the pound became the St. George Animal Shelter. The shelter is now used by 10 Councils from Sydney Harbour to the Georges River and is called Sydney Dogs and Cats Home Inc. Councils provide funding for only one week for an unmicrochipped animal and two weeks for one which is microchipped. For this reason, the home became a registered charity in an effort to keep animals alive longer and hopefully

rehome them. The home can accommodate 60 dogs and 50 cats at any one time. It is open seven days a week, 365 days a year and is never closed to lost animals in its Council areas.

The current owner, when approached, declined to be interviewed so that it was not possible to ascertain how much of the old cottage, *Correa*, still stands. But the walls of the old house are still visible within the hospital building, as are the old steps which led to the street outside.

Beverley Earnshaw 2009

Olson's New Pharmacy

From *St George Call*. 14 December 1912 p.1

Among the latest up-to-date structures to be noted in the district is the subject of our illustration—the new business premises erected for Mr Olson, Chemist, opposite the Kogarah Post Office. That the district is growing and advancing in up-to-date, roomy and healthy structures is due in large measure to its progressive and business-like men. The improvement to Kogarah may be realized in large part at the corner of Belgrave Street and Railway Parade, where Olson's Corner has superseded the old cottages that for years occupied the site. The transformation is one of which anybody might be justly proud.

Mr Olson came to Kogarah about two years ago, taking over the business hitherto conducted by the late Mr F Leeder. By strict attention and courtesy he built up a connection which justified the expansion into more commodious premises, and he is to be congratulated upon the enterprise. The building, which is a well lit and ventilated shop and dwelling, also comprises the premises at present occupied by the Government Savings Bank, is enhanced in appearance by the mirrored stanchions and large plate windows. Beneath the shop is a well aired cellar of some 13,000 cubic feet space for use as a cool storage in keeping drugs fresh and pure—a valuable adjunct to a chemist business. The designing and contract are both by local firms. Mr W Kenwood, of Bexley and George Street, City, the well-known architect had an awkward corner to work upon but in style and

general effect, has made the most of it. Messrs Parkinson Bros, of Hurstville, who have done some of the largest work in the district, were the contractors for the building, and have carried out the work in thoroughly satisfactory style. This firm have at present over fifty hands employed upon contracts running into some thousands of pounds.

“The Call” congratulates Mr Olson on his enterprise, and wishes the extension every success.

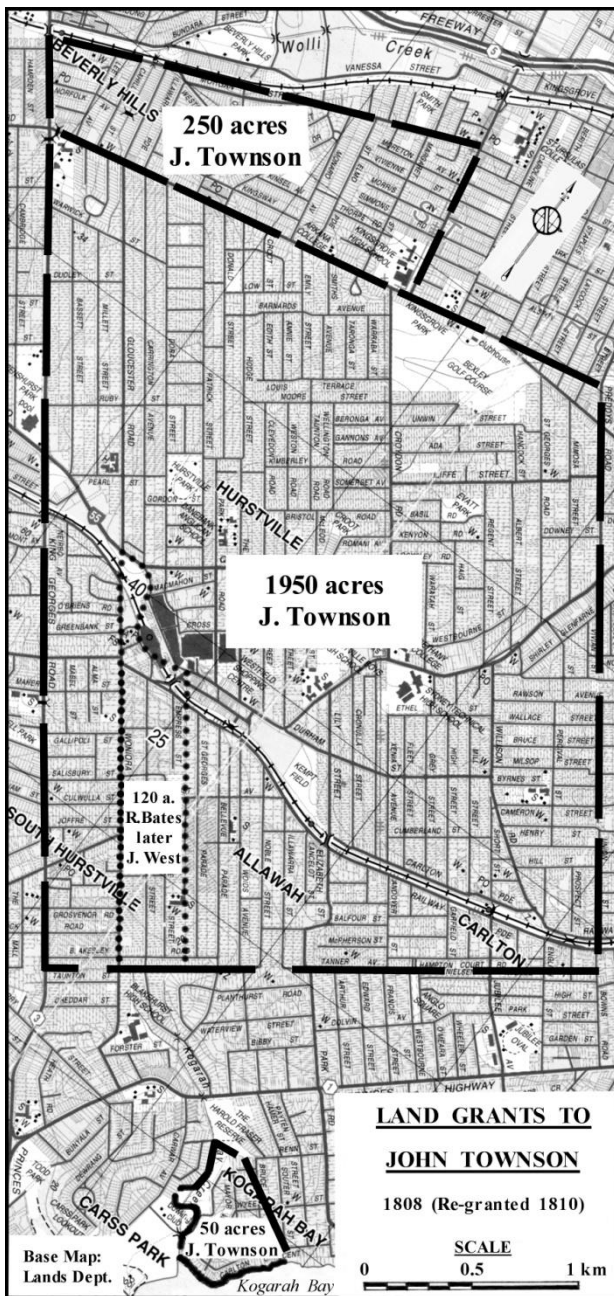
Photo, courtesy of Kogarah Library



RAILWAY STREET, HURSTVILLE

West's Paddock Subdivision - Part 1

By Ken Kershaw



This is the first of a two-part article dealing with the subdivision into housing allotments of the land south of Railway Street (now Parade) between the now Woniara Road and Empress Street, Hurstville. This part deals with the European history of the area up to and including the first subdivision.

The subject land was located within the 1950 acre grant, centred on present day Hurstville, which was the largest of the three in the area made to Capt. John Townson (retg.). He was the brother of Dr Robert Townson (a PhD not a medical practitioner). The latter received grants to the south-west of those of his brother. The Grants to John were initially made in 1808 under the illegal regime of Major George Johnstone, although they were confirmed by Gov. Macquarie in 1810. The accompanying drawing shows the boundaries of this grant together with one of 250 acres to the north, and a 50 acre grant on the shore of Townson (now Kogarah) Bay immediately east of the watercourse later called Kogarah Bay Creek. John Townson built a house on the latter property naming it *The Retreat*. His two main grants were known as *Townson's Farm*.

John Townson was interested in raising sheep, for which this land was not really suitable. Consequently in 1812 he sold it for £800 to Simeon Lord, and for a while it was known as *Lord's Forrest*. Timber-getting was the main

activity on the land. Four years after Simeon Lord's death in 1840, his executors sold the 1950 acre property to John Rose Holden and James Holt who subdivided it. The first Lot to be sold was the 120 acre No. 10 which was purchased in 1850 by Robert Bates for £120 (refer drawing). This land included the area subsequently known as *West's Paddock*.

Michael Gannon, innkeeper of Cook's River, struck a much harder deal when he bought the balance of the 1950 acre property for just £732 only two months later. In the meantime Surveyor-General Mitchell's new "Illawarra Road from Cook's River to Georges River [now Lugarno]" had been completed in 1845, and was the northern boundary of Lot 10. The general area became known as *Gannon's Forest*, and the new road as Gannon's Forest Road (now Forrest Road).

Robert Bates (described as a farmer) sold the 120 acres to Alfred Barden (a butcher of Cook's River) in 1857. It was in turn sold to James West, gentleman, of Petersham in 1860 for £800. James West had migrated to the Colony with his wife, Janet, and family c.1840. It would seem that James West had done reasonably well for himself in the Colony, and apparently remained at Petersham while his eldest son Henry established himself at the (now Hurstville) property. His house was in the area now bounded by Woniora Road, Butlers Road and Ormonde Parade with the property being called *Holly Farm*. Henry was aged 32 when his father purchased the property.

Henry West married Mary Rose Fraser in 1852. She was a daughter of Scottish immigrants William and Margaret who arrived in the Colony with their six children in 1839. Henry and Mary had nine children before Mary died of an unspecified illness at *Holly Farm* in 1871. Her husband, as Acting Undertaker, buried her at "Lords Forrest Burial Ground", which in reality was the cemetery attached to St. Georges Anglican Church built in 1856.

Seemingly, Henry continued to live at *Holly Farm* which in 1881 his father formally transferred to him. This was the same year that the Illawarra Railway was authorised. James West died at Petersham in 1882.

Not surprisingly, land speculators were soon buying property near the proposed railway and subdividing it into suburban allotments. Henry West's property was an obvious candidate as the railway alignment actually passed through the northern extremity of his land. While the site of Hurstville Station itself was not actually on his land, it was immediately adjacent. Although Henry himself may not have had the necessary experience to capitalise on his good fortune, it was not long before one William Anthony Kingscote of "Bective near Tamworth" came to his aid. He purchased 47 acres of land at the northern end of Henry's property, including a 40 acre fenced portion known as "West's Paddock", for a total of £5800. This equates to £123/acre which was a tidy increase on the £7/acre that Henry's father had paid.

This purchase was made in 1881, and it would seem that while the railway alignment had been determined, action to resume the necessary property had not been undertaken. This allowed the wily Mr Kingscote to design his subdivision without regard to railway land requirements. More than 20 of the allotments were intersected by the railway! He promptly put the subdivision up for auction on 01 April 1882. Whilst it would appear that not a single Lot was sold or leased at the auction, the unfortunate Commissioner for Railways was the April Fool. The railways had to pay the residential resumption rate of £385/acre which was more than twice the rate applicable to rural land.

Henry West, then aged 53, had apparently decided to cease farming the area, and sold the southern part of his property late in 1881. At that stage, his children's ages ranged from 10 to 28 years. However, a 1.7 acre block including Henry's house had been excluded from the sale to William Kingscote, and Henry lived there until c.1888 when he moved to his late father's house at Petersham. Arthur Ormonde Butler, a son-in-law of Henry, then lived in the house for a period (refer to drawing accompanying Part 2 for the location of this house).

The second part of this article will cover the final "West's Paddock" subdivision, and some brief notes on early Railway Street residences.

New members are always welcome. Application forms at the meetings or ring Gill Whan on 95464623. Members attend monthly meetings with a speaker, receive a newsletter every second month and have free entry to Carss Park Cottage Museum. Annual fees \$8 single, \$12 couple.

JUBILEE OVAL - IN KOGARAH'S FIRST PARK

By B. Goodger

A recent article in the Leader¹ reported that the St George Leagues Club had “received another \$5 million from the State Government to fund stage three of upgrading the Jubilee Oval”.

It reminded me that Kogarah Park was the first park in the municipality of Kogarah, proclaimed in 1896 – at a cost of only £2000. What does that represent in today's currency? It would certainly be more than \$4000.

Even before Kogarah was incorporated as a municipality, on 22 December 1895, the gentlemen of Kogarah were complaining that there was not a public park and agitating for land to be set aside for this purpose. The railway had come through in 1884 and subdivision of land had begun. Joan Hatton gives a detailed account of their efforts and the sites they proposed in her book *The English Family of Kogarah*.²

In 1885 four sites for a park were suggested to the Minister for Lands, and among them was English's Paddock. This area of 87 acres had been granted to Archibald McNab on 23 May 1854. He sold it on within a few months to Edmund English, for £337, making a healthy profit by the sale. Edmund English then owned land bounded by Bowns Road, the Prince's Highway, O'Meara Street and nearly to Hampton Court Road. His name is commemorated in English Street running beside the Park.

In August 1894, Joseph Hector Carruthers became Minister for Lands. Since he lived in Kogarah, there was a sympathetic ear for a deputation urging the government to accept an offer of 10 acres 2 roods and 6 perches, known as English's Paddock, for a park. Edmund English asked only 2000 pounds and it was accepted on 12 February 1896. On 26 June 1896, possession of the park was officially taken by the Cumberland Ranger.

Trustees were appointed on 1 July 1896. They were: the Hon. J.H.Carruthers, James English, Peter Hermann, John Bartholomew Carroll, Amaziah Green, Charles Barsby and John Sale.³

In 1902 The Public Parks Act was passed to allow a municipality to act as Trustee of a Public Park. On May 15 1906 the Trustees of Kogarah Park resigned in favour of Kogarah Municipal Council who took over on 29 August 1906.

In 1920 the renowned architect and town planner, John Sulman, prepared a plan for improvement of Kogarah Park. He proposed an oval, tennis courts and a bowling green.

In 1936 Kogarah celebrated its jubilee, thirty five years as a municipality, 1895-1935. The elections and first meeting of the Council had taken place in March 1896.

It was “decided to construct a modern sports oval with grandstand” and Council adopted the name Jubilee Stand and Oval on 8 July 1935. The grandstand was built by a local man, J.A.Gifford. It was during the Great Depression and many unemployed men were given work during the building of the oval.

The program for the celebrations on Saturday 7 March 1936 included a Grand Procession from Kogarah Station to Kogarah Park Oval at 2 pm, Sports at the Oval including Woodchopping

¹ Leader 12 March 2009, p.14

² *The English Family of Kogarah. A History of Kogarah 1854 – 1912*, by D.J.Hatton 1976, p. 114

³ Folio 30 Archival material on Kogarah Park and Jubilee Oval collected by Peter Orlovich, Local Studies Section of Kogarah Library

Contests and Tug-of-War, with the Official Opening at 4 pm by the Premier, the Hon. B.S.B. Stevens.⁴

The following Saturday, 14 March 1936, there was a Rugby League Football Match – St George vs Newtown.

*To Alderman Poulton of Kogarah Council, fell the honour of setting the ball rolling in the rugby league match St George v Newtown, played at the new Kogarah Sports Oval last Saturday. A coin, the property of Ald. Poulton, was used by the opposing captains to toss to see which team would run with the wind. The alderman intends having the coin put away and reproduced for the centenary of the council in fifty years hence as a souvenir of the council's golden jubilee.*⁵

That penny was treasured by the Poulton family and Sydney Poulton, Harry's second eldest son, presented it to KHS in 1986. It has featured in several exhibitions.

When the Dragons wanted to celebrate their return to Jubilee Oval as St George Illawarra, they borrowed the 1919 penny to toss at the opening match on 4 May 2003. We were very happy to cooperate with the Club but glad that the much used penny is safely back at Carss Cottage!

The Dragons had been formed in 1920 and were playing at Kogarah Park from 1921.

*St George Rugby League, born as a first grade football club in 1921 and Illawarra, born 1982, were to form a joint venture on 22 September 1998.*⁶

Jubilee Oval became Oki Jubilee Oval from 2004 to 21 October 2008. From 2009, it became Win Jubilee Oval.

Kogarah Park is now well over one hundred years of age. Let's hope Jubilee Oval will reach its century in this twenty first century.

4. Kogarah Municipal Jubilee 1895 – 1935 (Published March 1936) p. 75

5. St George Call, March 1936

6. Saints: The Legend lives on, by Ian Heads p. 320



A painting of The Homestead, home of Edmund English, which is now the site of Carlton South Public School.

Correction: In the article on *Cricket and Tiger O'Reilly* contained in the Newsletter of May-June 2009, I stated that Bill O'Reilly made his final home in Sutherland. Not so! He lived at 94 Hatfield St, Blakehurst. An alert reader picked up this fact and subsequent research has confirmed that he did indeed live in Blakehurst. It appears that Jack McHarg whose authorised biography on Bill O'Reilly was used for the article did not know the Shire from the Municipality.

So, we are pleased to tell you that William (Bill) Joseph O'Reilly can be safely claimed as a St George man. He did not desert us for Sutherland Shire.

Betty Goodger

Behind The Scenes In The Medical World

Report by Mavis Ward from Mondays at the Museum - 22 March 2009

The Speaker, *Doug Minty*, a Master Clockmaker, has previously entertained us with information about clocks but, on this occasion, he had an unusual story to relate, as he told us about his involvement with biomedical inventions for which he was once a winner of The Inventor of the Year Award.

Doug worked for twenty two years at Westmead Hospital in the Biomedical Engineering Department, a rare position because very few hospitals have such a department and Westmead has the largest of the existing ones. Activities there involved maintenance of equipment and finding ways to cope with situations as the need arose. In 1990, 23,000 procedures were performed at Westmead hospital so we can appreciate the variety of needs.

Being a clockmaker with miniature skills, along with his drive to *find a way to do it*, Doug was especially adaptable to the Department's requirements. One of his tasks was to design a box to hold all ambulance equipment which could be used in helicopters, air and regular ambulances and at a rescue site. His design won a gold medal in the United States. Equipment changes are always necessary to keep pace with new developments in ambulance vehicles and hospital buildings. The design of stretchers and beds are also continually improving.

A good deal of the biomedical team's time is occupied performing a monthly inspection of all theatre equipment. Every tap washer and 'O' ring is changed monthly to prevent bacteria forming and, as there are sixteen theatres in the hospital, all this keeps a group of plumbers pretty busy. In the case of a death occurring, the theatre is sealed and all machinery used is thoroughly checked.

Doug talked about the cost of medications and equipment. As one example, he told us that the 'O' rings are a special size and quality. The hospital uses 32,000 per year and they were costing \$5.90 each. However, with the dies Doug and his team made, they were able to get them manufactured for 3.2 cents each. And that was by the company that was already supplying them - which shows how things could be better managed.

On medical management, Doug feels strongly about the AMA which he describes as the "strongest union in Australia". The shortage of specialist doctors is due to the fact that there is no linking between the needs of the community and the AMA policy on doctor training. Not enough Government dollars also plays a part.

At one time Doug was concerned about children having regular chemotherapy and the necessity for them to keep very still during the treatment. This meant that the children were anaesthetised which was very stressful for them. So Doug decided to make a mask from a special type of plastic to fit over the head and be attached to the bed, thus they could be kept still without the need for anaesthetic. A mould was made first so that the mask was a replica of the child's features. To encourage the children, Doug made two masks for each of them and painted one in whatever character the child desired. That one was theirs to keep and show off. The same system was also used for adults - except that they didn't get the special painting.

Doug's job took him into many areas, sometimes even the morgue when something special was required, perhaps helping with the identification of a body or matching a body with a photograph of a missing person. Involvement with helicopter rescues was another test for the team's initiative. In fact it

seems that there was no end to the requests for unusual ideas.

Doug had a number of stories and examples of how they had to “think outside the square” to find solutions to problems. To emphasise this, we were given a problem to solve – “*How to weigh a woman’s breast*”. We didn’t know, but the answer was to lie the woman face down on a couch with a hole in it to accommodate the breast which is placed in a container of water. The water displacement is measured and the weight calculated. *Would anyone have known that?* The information is required to determine the fluid content during breast cancer treatment.

He was once charged with finding a way to stretch and mould the material used to wrap burn victims so that this process could be carried out in the theatre. While watching his wife cooking, Doug got a bright idea and bought an electric fry pan. With its electronic controls, it did the trick. Another example of outside the square thinking, like the laser tube

he invented for \$80 to replace one costing \$2000.

Doug is himself an example of medical technology. He described his own experience when he suffered a stroke which left him unable to move his arms and legs or stop his head from falling to one side. He regained the use of his limbs and he has a device (like a mini computer) implanted in his chest, enabling him to control the movement of his head through a small remote control unit. He is again slowly losing the use of his legs and it is planned to implant another device into his spine, hopefully with a similar result. The cost of these devices is \$65,000 each. Medical technology is certainly improving fast, but not without cost.

Doug is obviously a man of many talents and we were fortunate to be able to have this insight into some of what happens behind the scenes in a large hospital. We thank him for bringing us this unusual story and we wish him well with his own health problems.

From the Museum

MATCH SAFES

The Match Safes in our Museum Collection are made of silver and are typical of those used in the mid 19th Century. They are quite ornate and feature floral designs, monograms and have a small ring set at the top to attach to a chain or belt. They are about 5cm square with rounded corners for slipping into a waistcoat pocket.

We also have a box of wax matches with gold coloured heads, made in Italy.

Production of a wax match with a phosphorous head began in England in the 1830s. They were expensive, highly combustible and were known to explode in ones pocket, hence the need for a safe container.

Small containers, or match safes (often called vesta boxes) were constructed in a variety of materials and sizes and had a striking surface, usually along the bottom edge. The match was ignited by rubbing it across the rough surface, sometimes with quite a flourish by the ‘dandies’ of the day.

The heroes in old movies sometimes struck a wax match along the sole of their shoe or on a stone wall. The magic of film assured that the match litevery time! No elegant match safes for them.

Coralie Lewin

Member Profile

Elizabeth Emerson is probably the first face you see when you come to meetings. She signs you in and gives you a raffle ticket. You will find her pouring tea at Mondays at the Museum, volunteering on the third Sunday every month at the Museum and she is also responsible for the Museum roster. Her association with the Society stemmed from a long interest in history and since her first meeting, which she came to with Trudy Johns in 2003, she has been actively involved.

Elizabeth and one brother were born and grew up in Marrickville. Her father was Scottish born, came to Australia and enlisted in the army, surviving WWI even though gassed. He was not given a long life expectancy but in fact lived to the ripe old age of 101 – attributing his survival to the care given by Elizabeth’s mother who was a nurse.

After finishing school Elizabeth pursued a secretarial career. She first met her husband-to-be Bruce, after attending a church meeting in a private home. It was late finishing and, much against her will, as she liked to be independent, the ‘mother’ insisted that a reluctant son take Elizabeth home – not a great beginning but it blossomed. They married after the end of WW2 and set up home in Marrickville where they had four children, three boys and a girl. The family moved to Carlton in 1950 and Bruce died there in 2002. So, after 49 years Elizabeth has, in the last two weeks, moved to Mortdale. A big change for her.

The Society is not her only interest. She has five grandchildren, three in Perth and two in Auckland which is where her daughter lives. She is involved with Legacy and is an avid follower of cricket. She puts this love of cricket down to having three sons who were involved in both playing and umpiring. She goes to Test matches in Sydney and I’ve no doubt will be having some late nights during the upcoming Ashes series in England. *Elizabeth’s new telephone number is 95794118.*



Coralie Lewin, our Museum Custodian, had her youngest tour group yet visiting the Museum. Children from Carss Park Play Group all under 5 years of age visited, accompanied by a number of parents. Coralie adapted her usual tour to suit the occasion and reported that they were fascinated by life in the ‘olden days’ particularly the toys, baby clothes and weighing themselves on the old scales. She made them all a badge (pictured) with “I ♥ Carss Cottage Museum” and sent brochures home for parents. They enjoyed it and what good publicity for the Museum!

Date for your diary

Open Day at the Museum and Launch of Carss Park Book

Sunday 20 September

Museum open 1pm – 5 pm, St George Concert Band playing

Book launch and afternoon tea 3 pm in the Life Savers Hall

We will need helpers! Please give your names to Gill Whan (9546 4623) if you can assist.