

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

May – June 2010

Volume 2 No 2



Sans Souci Steam Tram (report of the talk on Sydney Trams by Peter Kahn and Peter Stock inside)

Meetings and Speakers

Thursday 13 May 2010

Speaker: Jon Breen, President Burwood Historical Society, Former engineer and historian with Sydney Water, on *The Historic Alexandria Canal*, formerly Shea's Creek.

Thursday 10 June 2010

Speaker: Pauline Curby, Professional Historian and Author, Sutherland Historical Society, speaking on *The History of Randwick*

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 makes a welcome return to Mondays at the Museum on 24 May to talk about *Food at Sea, Buccaneers and Scurvy*. Heather as you know researches the history of food and culture and loves her topic. As always we start at 10 am with a delicious morning tea in the courtyard and then go inside to hear the speaker. Cost is \$5 which also gives you the chance to win a door prize. You are of course welcome to stay after the presentation and look around the Museum. Bookings are essential, please make these through **Mavis Ward** on 9546 5704.

Museum Roster

May		June	
2 nd	Carole Tier & Ken Grieve	6 th	Evelyn Buckingham & Adele Ryan
9 th	Mavis Ward & Mary Williams (closed for Mother's Day)	13 th	Gill Whan & Deidre Schroeder
16 th	Trudy Johns & Elizabeth Emerson	20 th	Trudy Johns & Elizabeth Emerson
23 rd	Betty Goodger & Janette Hollebhone	27 th	Betty Goodger & Janette Hollebhone
30 th	Cath & Leo Sullivan		

Hours are 1 pm – 5 pm. Any problems, please contact Elizabeth Emerson on 9579 4118

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

Committee 2010 (* denotes Executive)

President:*	Beverley Earnshaw	Ph: 9546 1091
Vice President (1):*	Janette Hollebhone	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	Vacant	
Committee Members:	Beryl Butters, Mavis Ward, Trudy Johns, Carole Tier, Lawrie Corry	

The 2010 Committee was elected at the March AGM – thank you to those people who have taken on positions in the Society.

Committee meetings

3 May 10, 7.00 pm	Janette Hollebhone, 1 Meriel St., Sans Souci
7 June 10, 7.00 pm	Beverley Earnshaw, 15 Hamer St., Kogarah Bay
5 July 10, 7.00 pm	Beryl Butters, 36 Louisa St., Oatley

KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY AGM 2010

President's Report

I am happy to report that Kogarah Historical Society is growing, with a membership now at 96. Regular monthly meetings are held at Kogarah School of Arts, Bowns Road, Kogarah on the second Thursday of the month at 2 pm. Attendance is usually between 25 and 35 and we are grateful to the Leader Newspaper for publicity which often brings a number of visitors to our meetings.

We thank Judy Reynolds for engaging excellent speakers this year. These were :-

April – Easter Thursday 'Show & Tell'
May – Chrys Meader – The History of Marrickville
June – Ron Ringer – Early Australian Brickworks
July – Carol Baxter – Historical novelist
August – Dr Shirley Fitzgerald – the history of the Chinese in Sydney
September – Bill Allen gave his 4th talk on ferries
October – Julian Holland – 'A share of Public Patronage'
November – Brad Manera – The Battle of Crete in World War II
December – Christmas Party
February – Peter Kahn and Peter Stock – Steam Tramways

Kogarah's Volunteer Heroes. In 2009, Kogarah Council launched a small publication recording the efforts of some of the many unsung heroes of the local area who have contributed their time and effort as volunteers. The title *Kogarah's Volunteer Heroes* was suggested by our member, Betty Reynolds. The book contains short biographies of 48 people and groups and of those 48, ten are members or deceased members of Kogarah Historical Society. Our member, Anne Field, chaired the committee and Beverley Earnshaw represented the Society.

Carss Cottage Museum continues to be the society's showpiece and our main source of revenue. This year the museum received 860 visitors, our highest number yet. The museum is open Sunday afternoons from 1 pm to 5 pm and is open by appointment for school groups and tour parties.

Mondays at the Museum is held five times a year. It begins with morning tea in the courtyard, after which patrons go into the museum to hear a speaker and later browse the collection. I thank our caterers for these occasions, Trudy Johns, Gilda Tilia and Elizabeth Emerson. This year's speakers at *Mondays at the Museum* have been;-

March - Doug Minty, Master Clockmaker
May - Kevin Skelsey – Investigating antiques
July - Heather Bentley – Tea and Coffee in the 17th century
September – Cliff Crane - The Man from Snowy River and other poems
November - Beverley Earnshaw - Princess Charlotte

For the past ten years the museum custodian, Coralie Lewin, has put in many voluntary hours cataloguing the collection, arranging the displays and taking care of the artefacts. Coralie is particularly talented in working with textiles. Last year, however, Coralie was diagnosed with a very serious illness and has been forced reluctantly to resign as museum custodian. This has been a severe blow to the society and although her many voluntary duties have been distributed amongst other members of the committee, we urgently need a new custodian to oversee the whole of the museum. The person taking over will inherit a museum which is clean and well organized, with records that are up to date, and we must keep the museum at this high standard as it is an important educational facility and cultural icon in the district.

At present we have a team of 14 volunteers filling the museum roster on Sunday afternoons. Most

come bi-monthly but four attend once a month. We always need extra helpers or people to go on the 'emergency list' to step in if someone is sick. Elizabeth Emerson organizes the roster.

Carss Park, our latest publication, was launched on September 20, 2009. Over 80 people attended the launch in the Carss Park Lifesavers' Hall by Local MP, Cherie Burton. The book launch was held in conjunction with an Open Day at the Museum when 160 people came through to view displays on the history of Carss Park, the native flora and fauna. The book documents the history of Carss Park from Captain Cook's visit in 1770 to the present day. I must acknowledge the help received from Kogarah Council who willingly gave access to their files and to Council Officer, Alison MacNamee, for her assistance. Without this material the book could not have been written.

Australian History through Art. This month we have launched our most ambitious project, an art competition for school children to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Governor Macquarie's arrival in Australia. We have received endorsement as an official event in the Macquarie 2010 Bicentenary Commemorations and will be on the Government Website. Children are invited to draw or paint any event in Australian History and prize money will be provided from the Gwen Coxhead Bequest.

The bi-monthly newsletters have been typeset ready for printing by Gill Whan or Beverley Earnshaw, then delivered by the printer to Mavis Ward who folds and despatches them. We are always happy to receive contributions from members for the newsletter. Contributors this year have been Betty Goodger, Janette Hollebhone, Gill Whan, Coralie Lewin, Mavis Ward, Betty Reynolds, Ken Kershaw, Beryl Butters, Lynne Johns and Beverley Earnshaw but I feel sure that many members know of incidents and have life experiences that would be of interest to our members.

Telephone and postal enquiries were answered by Betty Goodger and Janette Hollebhone.

Speakers from the Society. The Society is frequently called upon to provide speakers for other societies, View Clubs &c. Last year the President spoke thirteen times on the Society's books and other historic topics. Betty Goodger is another popular speaker.

I wish to thank those volunteers who contribute so much towards the running of the society: Gill Whan our secretary, treasurer Cath Sullivan, Betty Goodger who looks after the museum library and files, and Mavis Ward for her work at the museum and with the newsletter. Janette Hollebhone is a multi-tasker, always first to arrive at the monthly meetings, or available to step in where help is needed. Our speakers' convenor, Judy Reynolds, is standing down after doing an excellent job. Carole Tier and Lawry Corry are also co-operative members of our committee who contribute much needed help when called on. Albert Lewin has carried out many small maintenance jobs in the museum, thank you Albert. We invite and encourage more members to come forward to assist in running the society and new ideas and suggestions are always welcome.

David Shaw has once again been our honorary auditor and his help is appreciated.

This year we are sad to report the passing of Meg Thompson, a popular and loyal member of the society who also served on the museum roster.

I thank all the members of the committee for their support during the year and especially I thank the members for their loyalty and attendance, for without the members there could not be a society. I look forward to Kogarah Historical Society growing in strength and reputation during the coming years.

Beverley Earnshaw
President 2010

Show and Tell – 11 March 2010

By Gill Whan

It's usually hard to repeat a good occasion. But this year's Show and Tell was as enjoyable as the 'inaugural' one held at the same time last year. 12 members brought a variety of objects and experiences to the meeting.

Janette Pelosi showed us a wooden crocodile bought by her grandmother in Egypt, en route to Australia. Her grandparents, George James and Annie Cole had left England on the Waitara in November 1911, arriving in Townsville on Boxing Day of that year. An extract from a diary kept by her grandfather during the voyage made fascinating reading. The Suez Canal was open, the ship called at Port Said where no single women were allowed ashore. However, the men went and explored the Port and were particularly impressed by the Post Office (where they bought Egyptian stamps), a mosque (where they had to put baskets over their feet) and a Greek Temple with alabaster and marble columns and pillars.

No-one could identify the object brought by Graeme Schroeder which it turned out was specifically for cleaning the barrel of a rifle, it even had a small mirror. Graeme had been in the air training corps, live firing on the ranges there; had been chosen to shoot in the NSW State team and remembered practising at Malabar, where the bolt mechanism was removed for safety.

Our last newsletter had a fascinating article by Betty Reynolds on the Queensland Flying Doctor Service and she had brought along photographs of some of the aircraft. We were particularly interested in the "Dragon" which the 'frequent flyers' such as Betty, called Old Butterbox, because it shook so much.

Marj Pritchard had a shoe/pin cushion, over 100 years old which had belonged to her mother who arrived in Australia in 1919 as a war bride and lived at Cecil Street, Hurstville Grove. After many years the wheel turned full circle and the shoe came back with Marj to once again live in Cecil Street.

A Cow Bell from the mid 19th century was next and Deidre Schroeder described how it was used on the family property at Lewis Ponds, NSW and later at Castle Street, Blakehurst where her family had a poultry farm. Customers rang it when they wished to buy eggs. We discovered that Deidre's ancestors had arrived on the 2nd fleet in 1790.

Fred Scott showed us a cricket bat presented to Mr W Felton (grandfather of his wife) by DCC in 1882. The bat is still in good condition but Fred does not know who DCC is/was – probably a cricket club around the London area. If anyone can help, please contact the Society.

A splendid invitation from the Victorian Government to Mr and Mrs M Tully to attend the opening of the Commonwealth Parliament was the next treasure shown by Elizabeth Emerson, grand daughter of the Tully family. Mr Tully had written in response to say that they would be unable to attend because Mrs Tully could not eat a normal diet. Elizabeth told us that in 1900 a pharmacist had mixed up the labels on medication prescribed for Mrs Tully and she had drunk liniment prescribed for rubbing on her chest. This had burned the lining of her throat and therefore she was unable to eat. A return letter advised that Mrs Tully would be catered for with a special diet – the couple attended the opening where Mrs Tully was so well looked after that she was called "The Duchess". Lovely story Elizabeth.

Dorothy Jones had lived in Malaysia and showed a beautiful butterfly that had been caught and preserved in a frame and Beverley Earnshaw demonstrated a Tongue Press (for meat) made by her great grandfather in the boilermaker's shop on Cockatoo Island.

Dancing was a popular pastime from the 1700's and Janette Hollebone told us about Dance cards which came into fashion particularly in Vienna in the 1800s, the time of Strauss waltzes. Janette had a paper fan that had been used by her mother at balls and dances, very light weight and kept in a roll of decorated cardboard, and a delicate jewelled dance card holder.

Beryl Butters showed us the delightful Hat Box Series from Wade which was a collection of the characters from the Disney film *Lady and the Tramp* and Gill Whan talked about her suitcase (large, no wheels, no retractable handle) which had accompanied her on the Oronsay travelling as a £10 Pom from England to Australia in 1958, then back to England only to return again, this time with wedding gifts and baby clothes.

A copy of the famous Tasman map which was the first one to show the shape of Australia in 1644 was the last exhibit, shown by Betty Goodger. The acquisition of the original for the Mitchell library was a wonderful story told well by Betty and bears repeating. The map was first in the archives of the Dutch East India Company, bought by Prince Roland Bonaparte in 1891, who showed the map to Dr James Park Thomson (Australian) telling him that he intended that it be presented to the Australian people on his death. Nothing happened on his death in 1895 but much later Daisy Bates wrote from her isolated outpost drawing attention to Dr Thomson's reference and Prince Bonaparte's expressed wish and urging acquisition. Enquiries were made and in 1933 Princess George of Greece, heir of Prince Bonaparte, presented the map to the Mitchell Library.

Honour for President of KHS

Beverley Earnshaw has been invited to present a paper at a prestigious conference to be held on Norfolk Island in July this year. The Professional Historian's Association is celebrating its 25th anniversary with an *Islands of History* conference. It will be attended by delegates from both here and overseas, including representatives of UNESCO who will inspect the convict sites on Norfolk Island.

Beverley's paper is on the *Phoenix Hulk*, subtitled *Prisoners in Transit to Norfolk Island*.



SKINT! Making do in the Great Depression

This is the new Historic Houses Trust exhibition at the Museum of Sydney (Cnr Bridge & Phillip Sts). Discover how Sydneysiders lived during the Great Depression in the 1930s, making do in times of great hardship but demonstrating great community spirit where reusing and recycling, growing vegetables and raising chooks, playing with makeshift toys and bartering were all part of daily life.

The Exhibition is open daily 9.30 am – 5pm until 25 July.

Highly recommended by Betty Goodger who attended the opening for the Society

LACHLAN MACQUARIE 1761 – 1824

Governor of NSW 1810 – 1821



Throughout 2010 we will pay tribute to Lachlan Macquarie who served the young colony of New South Wales so well. He had arrived in the last days of 1809, to reinstate William Bligh, who had been deposed during the Rum Rebellion, then take over as Governor.

He was a military man, having been Colonel-in-Chief of the 73rd Highlanders, following Governors Arthur Phillip, John Hunter, Philip Gidley King and William Bligh, who had all been Naval officers.

His self appointed task was to get out and get to know this strange, new land. Fortunately he kept a journal, now in the Mitchell Library, and published by the State Library of NSW in 1956.

My copy tells me he visited Kogarah on Thursday, 13th December 1810. Here is his account:-

The farms lying on the shores of Botany Bay, on Cook's River and in the small District of Petersham between Sydney and Botany Bay, being the only ones in the Colony now remaining unexplored in my present tour of inspection, I set out this morning at 7 o'clock from Parramatta with Mrs Macquarie in the carriage, and accompanied by the gentlemen of our family and the Surveyor, to visit those farms on my return home to Sydney. We struck off at Powell's Half-Way-House through the woods and after a very pleasant drive through a thick forest, arrived at Capt Townson's farm house on Botany Bay at half past 9 o'clock.

We found the Captain at home in his very pretty neat clean little cottage, where he received us with hospitality and in a gentlemanly manner and whilst our breakfast (which we had carried along with us) was getting ready, he walked with us to shew us his garden, and all the other little improvements of his farm. His garden we found in excellent order and producing the largest and best strawberries I have yet seen or eat in the Colony. After breakfast we embarked on the water in Capt Townson's boat, in order to see his own and his brother Doctor Townson's farm, which join each other at this place. The Doctor's farm we found in miserable bad order, with only one solitary hut on it, occupied by two of his indented servants, a man and his wife, the latter being very sickly and to all appearance half starved; there were no appearance whatever of any improvements on this farm which is as yet in a state of nature.

Having viewed these farms, we proceeded for five or six miles down Botany Bay until we opened the Heads and entrance of it, and then returned to Capt Townson's cottage after a two hours very pleasant water excursion.

After 1 pm, the party set out again and visited Mrs Laycock and her two daughters at their farm at Cook's River, then farms at Canterbury, Petersham and Grose Farm, finally arriving back at Government House, near Circular Quay, at 6pm. Macquarie had been "absent on this very pleasant tour of inspection for 5 weeks and 2 days."

A few notes will round out the description of Kogarah in 1810.

Botany Bay was used to describe the area we now call St George. Macquarie had spent the night at Parramatta, and Powell's Half-way-House was at Homebush, near the present railway station.

Brian Madden considers that if it only took him about two hours to get to Kogarah Bay, the road must have been in reasonable condition.

Captain John Townson (1760-1835) had retired from the NSW Corps and returned to England in 1803. He arrived back to settle on 5 August 1805 – on the same ship as Governor Bligh. He brought with him a letter from the Secretary of State allowing him a grant of 2000 acres. Unfortunately Governor Bligh did not have any such instruction and was not willing to hand out the generous grants. John Townson called his house The Retreat and it was on Kogarah Bay.

Doctor Robert Townson (1763-1827) brother of John was a classical scholar and scientist. He arrived on 6 July 1807, with a similar letter allowing him a grant and of course, was treated by Bligh in the same way.

Authority for the land grants finally arrived from London, but by that time, the Rum Rebellion had taken place on 26 January 1808. All grants made to the officers of the NSW Corps were declared invalid and had to be reissued by Macquarie. The whole interesting story is told by Brian Madden in a publication of the Hurstville Historical Society, *The Background to the Townson Grants*, with a map. He points out that the Townson brothers' grants did not actually adjoin as they were separated by the land we know as Carss Park!

Hannah Laycock was the widow of Thomas Laycock, senior sergeant and quarter master of the NSW Corps. Her farm was situated in the present suburb of Kingsgrove and her cottage was probably near the corner of Homer Street and Rosemeath Avenue.

Grose Farm is the site of the University of Sydney.

REFERENCES

Lachlan Macquarie Governor of New South Wales Journals of his tours in NSW and Van Dieman's Land 1810-1822. Syd., Public Library of NSW 1956

The Background to the Townson Grants, by B.J.Madden Hurstville Historical Society Monograph no 5 1977

KHS Newsletter March 1978 When Governor Macquarie visited Kogarah

Betty Goodger

Historical Teasers

- 1 Name the Australian athlete who was known as "The Lithgow Flash"?
- 2 What year were the Olympic Games held in Melbourne?
- 3 Name the journal first produced by J F Archibald?
- 4 Who was the first white man to be buried on the east coast of Australia?
- 5 Who was Australia's official war historian in WWI?
- 6 Who designed Canberra and which other city in Australia?
- 7 Name Lieut Cook's ship and the year he charted the south-east coast of Australia?

Answers:

(1) Marjorie Jackson; (2) 1956; (3) The Bulletin; (4) Forby Suthead; (5) Dr C E W Bean; (6) Walter Burley Griffin and Chifflin, NSW; (7) The Endeavour, 1770.

New members to the Society are always welcome. Membership is only \$10 single and \$15 for a couple. It ensures that you are invited to monthly meetings to hear excellent speakers, receive a newsletter every second month and have free entry to Carss Park Cottage Museum on Sundays.

Trams and Trolley Buses – February meeting

By Janette Pelosi

At our meeting on Thursday 11 February we welcomed two Peters: Peter Kahn from the Sydney Tramway Museum at Loftus and Peter Stock from the Valley Heights Steam Tramway Museum in the Blue Mountains.

Peter Kahn began by showing us part of the video/DVD *Shooting Through!* This showed the trams in Sydney. The steam tram service was an express service from Bondi Junction to the City in the mornings and the evenings via Centennial Park and Oxford Street. It was a fast tram which didn't stop, hence the familiar phrase 'shooting through like a Bondi tram.'

In its heyday Sydney had 180 miles of tram routes and was the second largest system in the British Commonwealth. Steam trams travelled to suburbs such as Waverley, Woollahra, Dulwich Hill, Newtown, Petersham, Leichhardt, Glebe, Annandale. Sydney spread as suburbs became more populous along the tram routes.

Sydney's first trams were horse trams which ran along Pitt Street from 1861 to 1866. Then came steam trams and double deckers. There were also cable trams. Electric trams were introduced in 1899, although there had been experimentations in 1890 on the North Sydney-Mosman and Edgecliff to Rose Bay routes. The George Street electric line opened in 1899 with ornamental poles in the middle of the roadway. The poles were removed in 1908.

A movie of trams made in 1926 showed almost every type of tram then in operation. It showed trams taking the huge crowds from the City to the Easter Show at Moore Park and some of the 400 trams which also took them to the racetrack at Randwick. A film showing a 1936 Sans Souci steam tram was also shown.

During World War II women took on many occupations previously thought of as male only. Some women trained as conductresses on the corridor trams. As well as selling tickets they learnt how to change the electric cable onto the line. In 1942 a tram had brown out features instead of its usual colours.

The trams had destination signs made up of colours and symbols which were easier to read at a distance than the names of the destinations. The signs go back to the steam trams which had coloured lights in front to identify their destinations. People got used to using the signs to identify where the trams were going. For example the Green Lines went through Newtown and Marrickville.

Traffic in the 1920s could be chaotic with motor cars and trams on the same road. If a tram was derailed it had to be put quickly back on the track. A breakdown tram was used to do this. There was one housed at every depot.



NO. 35A AT THE DEPOT
ARTHUR WHITTAKER, TONY ANTHONY, FRED KEEP, UNKNOWN, UNKNOWN, BILL TUCKWELL
Front: ALF FLORES, BERT HUNT, MANNY SLADE

Peter Stock has been with the Valley Heights Steam Tramway Museum since the days when it was at Parramatta Park. He has vivid memories of the end of the tram to Sans Souci. As a boy he used to watch the steam trams from the window at 'Turners' at Kogarah while his mother shopped.

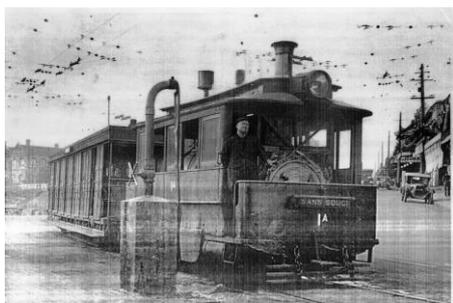
In 1979 Frank Moag (William Rust's great grandson) recorded his memoirs on cassettes given to the Sans Souci Public School Library. Frank always introduced himself with 'My name is Moag, Frank

Moag.' Peter read a transcript of the memoirs and generously offered to give a copy of them to the Society.

In the 1840s a road was built from Cooks River to Rocky Point. In 1853 Thomas Holt bought Rocky Point and called it Sans Souci after the palace at Pottsdam. In around 1865 the Sans Souci hotel run by Mr and Mrs Rust became popular. It even hosted a visit by the Duke of Edinburgh in 1867. A new hotel at Sandringham was opened by the Rusts. This was replaced by Mick Moylan's Hotel. He was known as 'Mad Mick'. There were plans for a railway line to cross the Georges River at Sans Souci but on 15 October 1884 the Illawarra line was opened to Hurstville. The nearest railway station to Sans Souci then was Kogarah.

A horse drawn coach was run by Selmon and Richards between Kogarah and Sans Souci. On 9 November 1885 a private tramway was opened between Rockdale and Brighton-le-Sands by Thomas Saywell. This led to a meeting by residents of Sans Souci urging for a tramway from Kogarah to Sans Souci. Trams would bring tourists to the area.

Work on the tramway began in 1886 and the steam tramway to Sans Souci was opened on 10 September 1887. Jim Selmon and Abiah Richards became the driver and guard of the Sans Souci tram. The tram departed from Platform 4 at Kogarah. It followed the railway line and then ran past the fire station and down to Rocky Point Road. It passed Carroll's Hill (now the site of Calvary Hospital) before passing over Clark's Hill, Ramsgate Road and to the Sans Souci shopping centre at the loop (now KFC and McDonalds). It went down to Riverside Drive (the road opened there after the tram ceased) and stopped at Clareville Avenue where water was available for the steam tram.



The Sans Souci Steam Tram at Kogarah waits beside the water hydrant. Note Kogarah School in the background. The trolley bus wires are already in position indicating the date is 1937. The Kogarah Town Centre shopping complex has been built over the old tram bay.

The pleasure grounds at the waterfront at Dolls Point were a popular destination. There is still a waiting shed for trams in Russell Avenue from where the bus now runs to Kogarah Station via Rocky Point Road and Gray Street.

The Sans Souci rolling stock was a small railway engine which was replaced by tram cars pulled by a railway locomotive. In peak hour there were three cars which could carry 300 people. Sometimes there were two cars. At off peak times they rarely needed more than one car. The cars seated 70 people and the rest stood up. A goods tram carried produce and even furniture.

On 3 July 1937 steam trams were replaced by electric trolley buses. The trolley buses lasted 22 years and were replaced on 29 August 1959 by diesel motor buses. The Valley Heights Museum now runs Motor 103A which was the last one to run at Kogarah. (The Valley Heights Steam Tramway Museum is open on the second and fourth Sundays of each month and you can ride trams there. Also the Loftus Tram Museum is open on Sundays and Wednesdays.)

Shooting Through! included footage of the last steam tram from Kogarah to Sans Souci. It shows a well-wisher giving a bunch of flowers to the conductor on the final trip. A second tram track which had been intended for electric trams was never used. Instead of electric trams the steam trams were replaced by the trolley buses. The first trolley bus service had run in the City from 1932 to 1949 and the second ran to Sans Souci

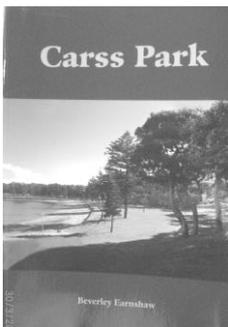


TROLLEY BUS DECORATED FOR OPENING SERVICE 3 JULY, 1937

from Rockdale Station, via Kogarah Station and then to Sans Souci. The trolley buses had nicknames such as ‘whispering death’ because you couldn’t really hear them coming. Trolley buses were regarded the same way as trams when the policy which replaced them with diesel buses was introduced.

The Society warmly thanked both Peters for a most enjoyable talk which brought back many memories.

Book Review – Carss Park



As an occasional visitor to Carss Park over the last 15 years it was with great interest that I started to read Carss Park by Beverley Earnshaw. Our first visit occurred when the park was still full of playground equipment and a visit was an adventure for children and parents alike. The first indication that the park might have an interesting history was when we discovered the grave of William Carss. It was only two years ago that we (finally) visited the Cottage and learnt much more about the history of the area.

This publication has been extremely well researched and fills in many of the gaps. The book sets the scene with the arrival of Captain Cook and an insight into the way of life of the local Aboriginal population.

The story of the park comes to life through the many photographs and illustrations and enables the reader to get a spatial sense of the area through reference to current day landmarks and the maps. As a visitor to the area it wasn’t always easy to identify parts of the park or its relationship to Botany Bay. I made frequent use of the maps and aerial photograph and eventually had to use “Google” maps to locate the route to Botany Bay and the position of landmarks such as Tom Ugly’s bridge. This would probably not be a problem for local residents!

As a resident of a city without a local council it was fascinating to follow the interaction between the Kogarah Council and the community as Carss Park evolved into its present form; and I’m sure that there will be several more chapters added in the future!

A fitting end for this review is taken from the author’s conclusion “We must never let go of the legacy our pioneer ancestors left us” and we can be confident that the Kogarah Historical Society are well placed to preserve the integrity of the park into the future.

*Andrew Papworth, Canberra
March 2010*

ONE HUNDRED

One Hundred is an exhibition in celebration of the Mitchell Library Centenary 1910-2010. Visitors will see objects that reveal aspects of Australian history in a unique and surprising way. It is a rollcall of the famous and the notorious, the conventional and the rebels, the remembered and the unjustly forgotten, all with a fascinating story to tell.

The exhibition is free and is open every day until 16 June 2010. Don’t miss it.



Member Profile

Betty Reynolds was born at Walcha in the New England area on a property first settled by her great grandparents in the 1800s. They were originally English. The property is still in the family.

Betty's father, a 3rd generation Australian, grew up there and went to fight in WWI where he was part of the Charge of the Light Brigade at the Battle of Beersheba. On his return to Australia by ship, he was met by his brother with his wife who had brought her sister as well. She was to become Betty's Mother – the two brothers married two sisters, something that was quite common in families then, Betty tells me. After they married they lived on the farm where Betty was born and attended a small subsidised school

in the local area in her primary years. She then became a Boarder at PLC in Sydney until she was sent home in 1942 after the Japanese got into Sydney Harbour and her Father thought she would be safer in the bush.

These were war years and Betty joined the VAD and came back to Sydney to work at the Lady Wakehurst Convalescent Home. She joined the Navy (the WRANS) in early 1945 and became an ambulance driver meeting sick and injured troops off ships and taking them to hospital. After 15 months in the Navy she was demobbed and decided to train as a nurse at Royal North Shore. Here, she met her husband, a Senior Registrar at the hospital. They married in 1951 and went to Cloncurry where her husband worked with the Royal Flying Doctor Service and from there to Charters Towers to open a new base for the RFDS. (We all enjoyed Betty's story about the RFDS in the last newsletter and her photographs at the Show and Tell.)

In 1953 they came back to Sydney and made their home in Blakehurst and had a son and daughter. Sadly, Betty's husband died in 1958 leaving Betty with two small children. She chose to be independent and went back to nursing. Those two children are now grown and married with two children each. Both live in Sydney.

Betty says that she wondered what she would do when she retired! But the grandchildren came along and a lot of other activities besides. Apart from joining the Society which she says she thoroughly enjoys, she plays indoor bowls each week, attends fitness classes at Ramsgate and is a member of the Seniors Associations of both Oatley and Kogarah. This year she was a member of the Council Committee for Seniors Week. She has an interest in Art and will be off to see the 'Archibalds' before they close. She did Meals on Wheels for 20 years, is on the emergency roster for the Museum, prepares the School of Arts for our meetings and helps with afternoon teas.

I suspect that Betty is like many of us retired people – wondering how we found time to work!

Gill Whan

Happy Mother's Day for Sunday 9th May.

Please note that the Museum will be closed on that day to allow our 'Mums' to enjoy their family celebrations.