

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

Sept/October 2010

Volume 2 No 4



The Tall Ship James Craig – page 5 has the story

Meetings and Speakers

Thursday 9 September 2010

Speaker: Brian Lawrenson Author and Traveller, takes us on a journey *Following Marco Polo's Silk Road*

Thursday 14 October 2010

Speaker: Paul Brunton, Senior Curator Mitchell Library on Governor Macquarie. Bring your friends.

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

Next event -27 September 2010

Silas Clifford Smith is a Gardener and Historian. He has worked in some of our finest gardens including Admiralty House, Vacluse House and Norman Lindsay's Garden and Everglades in the Blue Mountains and has written numerous articles for different publications on garden and heritage topics. He will talk to us about "*Changing Fashions in Australian Gardens*". Join us at 10 am for a delicious morning tea in the sunny courtyard and then adjourn to the Kogarah Room in the Museum 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. Space is limited so bookings are essential, please make these through **Mavis Ward** on 9546 5704.

Welcome

A very warm welcome to new member Pat Watson of Sans Souci. We hope your association with the Society is a long and happy one Pat.

Museum Roster

September		October	
5 th	Carole Tier & Ken Grieve	3 rd	Evelyn Buckingham & Adele Ryan
12 th	Mavis Ward & Mary Williams	10 th	Gill Whan & Deidre Schroeder
19 th	Trudy Johns & Elizabeth Emerson	17 th	Trudy Johns & Elizabeth Emerson
26 th	Betty Goodger & Janette Hollebhone	24 nd	Betty Goodger & Janette Hollebhone
		31 st	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 the 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	

Committee meetings

6 Sept, 7.00 pm	Betty Goodger, Unit 3/2 Nelson St., Penshurst
4 October	Public Holiday so no meeting
1 Nov, 7.00 pm	Trudy Johns, 2/900 Forest Road, Peakhurst

WILLIAM RUST, SAILOR, HOTELIER AND CAMPAIGN MANAGER

By Beverley Earnshaw

On September 16, 2010, Janette Hollebhone will be leading our Society on a bus trip which will take in the historic Camperdown Cemetery, then go on to the Eastern Suburbs and the site of the old Prince of Wales Hotel at Botany. In its heyday this hotel was one of the star attractions of Sydney's hinterland. It was a comfortable carriage drive from the town, and in later years a 54 minute tram ride, where patrons could enjoy the hotel's pleasure grounds, gardens and zoo. Two early employees of the Sir Joseph Banks were William and Emma Rust who later played a prominent role in the development of the Kogarah Municipality



William Edward Rust was born on December 14, 1828 near Sandringham, Norfolk, England. In his youth he entered the Merchant Service and had seen much of the world before coming to Australia in 1850.

On March 11, 1854 he married Emma Jane Broughton at St. Philips Church, Sydney. Due to the scarcity of accommodation in the 1850s, caused by the exodus of building workers to the gold fields, the Rusts were forced to buy a tent which they pitched on the site of what later became Marrickville Public School. There they lived until August 20, 1857, the night of the never to be forgotten Dunbar Gale. In later years Rust used to say that *no one could appreciate the ferocity of the wind and rain on that night. The wind was so strong that the waters of Botany Bay were driven in on Lady Robinson's Beach and into the forest and scrub lands for over half a mile.* Their canvas home was blown away and floodwaters covered the lowlands of Marrickville, Botany and Rockdale.



Emma Jane was experienced in running hotels and restaurants and the couple took over the management of the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel. The licensee was Vickers Moyses, (another man with a connection to Kogarah). The Rusts remained there until 1866 when William purchased Sans Souci House on Rocky Point and opened it as the Sans Souci Hotel.

In 1872 William Rust handed over the Sans Souci Hotel to Louis Dettmann, formerly a steward at Parliament House, and built the first Prince of Wales Hotel, renaming the locality around Rocky Point after his birthplace, Sandringham. The Prince of Wales Hotel was later replaced by 'Mick Moylans' which was demolished and the land rezoned for housing.

The Rusts had no children of their own but they fostered Ann and Sally Stockdale, daughters of two former employees, and raised them as their own. But although the girls were fatherless, their mother, Maria Stockdale, would never consent to their adoption. Their beloved Ann married young Walter Moyses, son of Rust's former employer, Vickers Moyses.

William Rust remained at the Prince of Wales Hotel, Sandringham until 1885 during which time it developed into one of Sydney's most fashionable holiday destinations. In the

grounds was a honeymoon cottage ideal for celebrities such as Sir Frederick Darley to spend a secluded honeymoon. One of the most splendid functions ever held in the district celebrated the opening of the Illawarra Railway to Hurstville on October 15, 1884. It is described in *The Triumph of the Speculators* by Joan Hatton and Lesley Muir. (The book is on sale at Carss Cottage Museum).

[at] Rockdale omnibuses were waiting to convey the visitors to the luncheon at Sandringham. The drive was through gardens and orchards, then pretty forest lands, to the beautiful site of Rust's Prince of Wales Hotel and grounds ...

While waiting for lunch, they wandered about the shore ... or strolled through the garden under a honeysuckle arch. The Government steamer Cyclops took a party for a short cruise on Georges River.

The dinner bell at Rust's called the visitors to luncheon at about half past one. About 300 persons sat down at the tables laid in the pavilion by the Compagnoni Catering Company

Rust was a civic minded and energetic district leader. In January 1884, he and Walter Moyse petitioned the Education Department for a local school as the existing schools at Blakehurst (4 miles distant) and Kogarah (3 miles distant) were too far away for most of the local children to attend. They needed 20 children, but on their first ride through the area were only able to gather the names of eight. They tried again, this time including the names of the children living at the Aboriginal camp at the foot of Endeavour Street. As a result of their efforts, Sans Souci Public School opened on April 20, 1885 with an enrolment of 21.

On April 7, 1884 a public meeting was called at the Gardeners Arms Hotel at Kogarah to bring the district's needs before the Government. A committee was elected comprising Messrs Ennis, Carroll, South, Todd, Carruthers, P & J English, Moyse and Rust. As a result, Kogarah became a municipality in 1886. That same year Walter Moyse died during the typhoid epidemic, leaving his wife and infant daughter, Lucy.

William Rust's retirement coincided with the launch of the career of a young politician, Joseph Hector Carruthers. Rust became Carruthers' campaign manager and accompanied Carruthers on his campaign tours. He used to be introduced as 'Captain Rust' although he had never been a sea captain, but as a storyteller, his tales of the sea could keep an audience enthralled.

William Rust died on October 27, 1913 at 'Broughton' in Endeavour Street, Sans Souci, the home of his foster daughter, Ann.

(For more information on William Rust which is not published here, see Kogarah Historical Society's Newsletter, September, 1981)

Historic Houses Trust has opened a new exhibition at the Museum of Sydney titled *Painting the Rocks: the loss of Old Sydney*. Countless colonial buildings around the Rocks were demolished in the name of public health and progress following the outbreak of bubonic plague in Sydney in 1900. A group of artists set out to capture the charm of Old Sydney before it disappeared. The exhibition is open daily from 9.30 am - 5 pm until November.

Restoration of the James Craig

Michael York, ex Olympic yachtsman and a governor of the Sydney Heritage Fleet, came to tell us about his epic battle to save restore and preserve the barque *James Craig*.



Photo: Sydney Heritage Fleet

He gave us the history of the vessel which started life in 1874 as the *Clan Macleod*, built in England to carry cargo. For the next 26 years she followed the trade routes of the world, rounding Cape Horn 23 times until in 1900 she was bought by Mr J Craig of Auckland. He renamed her *James Craig* and she was used on the trans-Tasman route until 1911 when increasing competition from steamships made sailing ships uneconomical. She gained a new lease of life during the 1st World War and afterwards, when there was a shortage of cargo ships, but in 1925 she was reduced to a coal hulk at Recherche Bay Tasmania, then in 1932 stripped down

and abandoned. The photo Michael showed us was a sorry sight, a hole had been blown in the hulk to stop it running into fishing boats in the harbor, she was beached and stayed there until volunteers from the Sydney Heritage Fleet arrived in 1972 to look at the wreck with a view to salvage and restoration. They decided she was worth it, re-floated her and she was towed to Hobart in 1973 for temporary repairs to allow the journey to Sydney.

Michael had many photos of the 40 year process of salvage and restoration now undertaken and during this period his considerable fund-raising skills were very much in demand.



Photo: Geoff Winter

The *James Craig*, (lined with concrete in case the rivets went) was towed to Sydney in 1981 with fuel provided by Ampol and went to a special dock built for her. The trip was rough but she did not take water. The volunteers went to work assisted by donations from a diverse range of Companies and people from as far afield as Birmingham UK which provided the rigging. Much of the work was carried out in the workshop at Rosehill Bay. Timber used was North American Pine and there is teak furniture on the deck, the wheel came from Jessie Craig. The restored hull was re-launched in 1997 and in 2001 she hoisted all 21 sails for the first time in nearly 80 years.

Michael gave us the cost of restoration – total cost \$20 million comprising 10 million cash, 5 million donations of equipment/goods and 5 million volunteer labour.

The *James Craig* is one of four sailing ships in the world to be restored to passenger carrying and was in the worst condition of any similar vessel. It now sails every second weekend, earns its keep, and cruises are open to the public and small groups. If you fancy a sea voyage under sail you can book by phoning the Fleet on 9298 3888.

The talk was accompanied by detailed photographs of all stages of the restoration which was a most genuine of all restorations. Michael was awarded a well deserved OAM for his services to maritime heritage and restoration of the Tall Ship, James Craig.

G. Whan

- **Please note that this will be your last newsletter if you have not renewed your subscription. Membership fees remain at \$10 per annum (single) \$15 (couple)**

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Lachlan Macquarie, Governor of New South Wales, 1810-1821

If you live in Sydney, or are a visiting tourist, you are sure to have explored *Macquarie Street*. Not only is it named for Governor Macquarie but it contains several reminders of why we are honouring him this year.

If you approached Macquarie Street from Hyde Park, you would have seen St James Church and the Supreme Court and the Barracks that once housed convicts and later immigrant girls, come to find a new life in the Colony, then the long buildings that were first known as the Rum Hospital and are still in use today. It was Governor Macquarie who had these buildings erected.

Not far away is *Macquarie Place*, where Macquarie placed an obelisk, from which all distances from Sydney were measured and shown on milestones.

It was not until 1813 that explorers found a route across the Blue Mountains and the interior of NSW began to be opened up. Surveyor George Evans discovered and named the *Macquarie River* in 1813 and the *Lachlan River* in 1815.

Water supply for Sydney, as it grew, was always a problem and for a time, around 1837, the *Lachlan Swamps*, in Centennial Park, provided relief.

In 1810, Captain Frederic Hasselborough in his ship “Perseverance” discovered and named *Macquarie Island*, the island about 1000 miles south east of Tasmania, and Australia’s starting point for the Antarctic.

In Tasmania, John Kelly circumnavigated the island in a whale boat in 1815. He named *Macquarie Harbour*, on the west coast in the Governor’s honour.

Lachlan Macquarie and Elizabeth Henrietta Campbell were married at the church of St Peter and St Paul at *Holsworthy*, a charming little village in Devon, in 1807. Her family estates were called *Airds*.

Elizabeth Street and *Elizabeth Bay* were named for Mrs Macquarie, and we can still sit on the rock seat just outside the Botanic Gardens, called Mrs Macquarie’s Chair.

Darlinghurst commemorates Governor Darling (1825-1829), but in Macquarie’s time, the area was an Aboriginal reserve and called *Henrietta Town*.

In 1810 Macquarie opened up some new land, naming it *Airds*. William Redfern was given a grant of land that he named *Campbell Fields*. When the district needed a township, in 1820, Macquarie chose a site and named it *Campbelltown*.

These are a few reminders of the Governor and his lady around Sydney!

B. Goodger

Macquarie Bicentenary Commemorations 2010

Selected art works from the recent competition Australian History through Art, held in Primary Schools from the St George area, are now on show at Carss Cottage Museum.

Celebrating NAIDOC week

Aboriginal Guided Tour for Seniors

by Cath Sullivan



We met at Carss Cottage on 8 July to learn about Aboriginal Culture and experience an authentic bush tucker lunch. Two Aboriginal Rangers, Sue and David came to discuss and explain their Culture bringing with them exhibits of stuffed kangaroo, wallaby, possum, snake and echidna. Four children were among the participants and were fascinated by the presentation. The use of spears, boomerangs and woomeras for hunting was explained, after which the children were taught to weave grasses for

making bracelets.

The group then went on a conducted tour of the sea shore and found sea animals and middens on the banks. The Rangers named various trees and encouraged us to taste samples including berries, a sour and bitter taste.

We all enjoyed the lunch provided by another Aboriginal lady called Ali. It consisted of wraps of kangaroo and wild chicken with salad, spinach tarts and Anzac cookies.

The day concluded with most visitors inspecting the Museum.

KHS was pleased to support this event and our heartiest congratulations go to Ibtisam from Kogarah Council for her organisation and to Council which sponsored the day free of charge.



We were pleased to receive comments from Barrie Dyster, Emeritus Professor of Economic History at the University of NSW who had just read our book *An Australian Sculptor: William Priestly Macintosh*. (who of course, lived in Kogarah)

He writes *“I have gone from beginning to end (of the book) several times looking at the beautiful works carved by William Priestly Macintosh. The devotional statuary in Goulburn Cathedral is so fine. I passed by the explorers on the Lands Building recently and admired them idly but now I will look at them directly and know the careful labour they represent. And Sydney Tech - years ago we used to park there for Paddy’s Market and smiled at the beasts and birds. What a range the man had, and with what assurance he cut into the stone. It is a book to go back to. And he is a person definitely to remember and celebrate.*

Copies of the book are still available at a special price of \$20.00

Book Reviews

Ramsgate Life Saving Club - 75 Years of Life Saving 1934 – 2009.

This colourful booklet was prepared and published in 2009 by the Club Executive Committee, using their minutes, old newspapers and the memories of Life Members, Rolly Vass, known as Mr Lifesaving, Bill Batley, who was a Torch Bearer of the Olympic Flame in 2000, and Stan Seabrook.

Groups who were associated with the Club are the Millionaires, who swam all year round in the 1940s and the Ramsgate Winter Swimming Club formed in 1967. You may be interested in their formula of 2-2 and 2.

The Ramsgate Baths are “significant because it is the last surviving timber pool in the Botany Bay/Georges River area. The original timber pool was constructed in 1950 and demolished in 1973. In 1999 the Baths were substantially modified, installing a floating net.”

The book records a splendid community service in an attractive format. A copy is available in KHS’s collection.

B. Goodger

Remember Thursday 13th December 1810. Governor Lachlan Macquarie Visits Botany Bay District

By Brian Shaw and Mary Salmon, Syd, Peakhurst School of Arts, 2010

To celebrate Macquarie’s year of 2010, Brian Shaw has published an attractive, well illustrated booklet, telling of Macquarie’s day spent in and about Kogarah.

Macquarie had been in the colony of NSW for barely a year when he set out to inspect his domain. He kept a diary so we can read of the people and places he visited in 1810.

Interesting background material is provided by articles written by Mary Salmon in 1911, a little more than 100 years after the events described.

Brian Shaw tells us she was a retired schoolteacher who wrote historical articles for several metropolitan newspapers. She outlines the background to the infamous Rum Rebellion, gives us an account of the lives of Lachlan Macquarie and his wife, Elizabeth, his aide-de-camp Major Henry Antill and Dr Robert Townson, first owner of a large part of Kogarah.

The remaining pages are about Robert Campbell of Campbell’s Wharf, so there is a snapshot of the commercial and trading side of early Sydney. I was very interested in this as I found that my earliest English ancestor to arrive in Sydney in 1833, worked for Campbell at his Wharf.

I recommend the booklet as a “good read” and a fitting tribute to Lachlan Macquarie.

B. Goodger

THE NSW ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

(Information taken from *Monumentally Speaking*, NSW Boer War Memorial Association Committee, Occasional Newsletter No 5, March 2010, article by Keith Smith)

William D C Williams was 29 years of age in 1885, working as a surgeon at St Vincent's Hospital, Darlinghurst. He was also the unpaid CO of a group of doctors and orderlies forming the beginnings of the volunteer NSW Army Medical Corps.

Captain William DC Williams led a medical team in the Sudan War—March to June 1885. He had five ambulances, two stores carts, a water cart and 26 horses for heavy tentage, hospital equipment, field kitchen, for patrolling and personal use in the field. He also counted in his 34 officers and men those with the skills to manage and maintain all equipment and horses. British stretcher-bearers waited until dark when firing stopped to gather the wounded, while Williams trained his bearers to be at the edge of battle to extract casualties as quickly as possible.

Williams was appointed Permanent Medical Officer (PMO), then in 1889 promoted to Lieutenant Colonel.

When the Boer War broke out in October 1899 the colony of NSW sent its First Contingent, the NSW AMC and its 50-bed hospital including half a bearer company, together with the front-line troops. The Second Contingent NSW AMC Company which included 14 nurses left Australia in January 1900, the first Australia had ever sent overseas with troops. Lieut Neville R Howse (in the Second Contingent) won the first VC by an officer in an Australian unit and the only one still ever by an Australian Medical Corps officer.

By this time Williams was Colonel Williams, commander of the NSW AMC. Second in Command was the colourful Major Thomas Fiaschi. Williams trained his hospital workers in rifle shooting to protect themselves as they were not covered under the Geneva Convention.

Stretcher bearers stabilized the wounded in the field and loaded them into ambulances to go to a hospital. The ambulances were a heavy truck-style wagon with a raised canvas cover. The small diameter, wide iron-tyred wheels vibrated badly over the rough surface adding to the suffering and further damaging the wounds of the casualties. Survival rates were low.

Williams designed smaller, lighter wagons that were still tough enough to withstand off-road use, as purpose-built ambulances. They were sprung more like the comfortable stagecoaches and private carriages of the day. They had large diameter, narrow tyred wheels. The higher axles allowed room for the suspension mechanism under the raised tray floor. Even cleverer, Williams designed tubular springs in the supports for the two stretchers in the wagon. Five seated wounded could also be carried. The lighter wagons needed fewer horses in the team for more manoeuvrability and greater speed.

It became evident that the survival rate in the NSW ambulances was much higher than in the British ones. Their praise was widespread. British soldiers sewed labels inside their tunics, "If sick or wounded, please take me to a NSW hospital." A British Parliamentary inquiry was held, the Elgin commission. Its outcome was for the British army to adopt the NSW practice.

The Australian soldiers showed inventiveness and bravery which was appreciated at the time of the Boer War. Many more stories need to be told.

J. Hollebone

INQUIRIES

By Will Carter

Who put the wool on Woolloomooloo?

What do the people on Dunedoo?

Why are the Manly men so shy?

Why Collaroy if he says Dee Why?

Is a Cowra cow a Cowra calf?

Is an hour in Nowra a Nowra half?

When does the frog in Frogmore hop?

When does the wind in Windsor stop?

Who put the gun in Gundagai?

When do the crows in Crows Nest fly?

What sort of pens does Penshurst use?

How many books did La Perouse?

Is the ball in Ballina hard or soft?

Do the people in Hay live in a loft ?

A Note on the Author by B. Goodger

William Alexander Carter was born on 29 May 1867 and lived until 1956. From 1888 he taught in schools in NSW. After his retirement in 1928, he lived in Hillcrest Avenue, Hurstville. He was friends with one of the two Wenholm brothers who published the Hurstville Propeller and joined their staff . (The Hurstville Propeller was published from 10 March 1911 to 31 December 1969.)

He had always written poems, stories and articles and continued his interests. In 1930 he formed the Young Writers' League and remained Editor until 1935. The Young Writers' League nurtured the young with a talent for writing and published their stories and poems. I have not ascertained the date the League ceased to operate, but found contributions from members up to 1940, the beginning of the second World War. I expect the urgencies of war service left no staff to supervise and encourage young writers as Will Carter had done.

REFERENCES

Old Hurstville and District; A Scrapbook of Will Carter's poems, stories and articles, including examples of his columns such as Cricketosities and Jokersities. (Scrapbook no 5 held at Carss Cottage) His articles have provided me with much material on our early history.

"The Propeller", Young Writers' League. Edited by Jean Jehan 1995.

Facts from the 1500s

Floors were dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, "Dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance-way. Hence: a thresh hold.

Historical Teasers

(thanks to Janette Hollebhone)

1. Where and when did the last three members of the Kelly gang die in a police shoot-out?
2. In which state is the Murchison River?
3. Which part of Australia was never part of NSW?
4. Who is the Australian businesswoman on the \$20 note?
5. Where in the United States did the Australian boxer, Les Darcy, die?
6. Which NSW town is named after a character in Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'?
7. What was the name of Australia's first newspaper published in 1803?

Answers:

(1) Glenrowan, Vic in 1880. (2) Western Australia. (3) Western Australia. (4) Mary Reibey. (5) Memphis, Tennessee. (6) Oberon. (7) The Sydney Gazette.

AUSTRALIA DAY

By B Goodger

Thoughts on Australia Day 1990 was the title of an inspiring article written by Beryl Butters in the January issue of KHS Newsletter. In it she stated that:

Kogarah Council was the first municipal body in the St George area to set up an Australia Day Committee to organize celebrations to awaken public enthusiasm. Rockdale and Hurstville Councils soon followed.

I have enjoyed several of these celebrations at Carss Park, so I was interested to establish the date celebrations began. When I was a girl, the 26th January was known as Anniversary Day, and it was only in 1976 that it was decided the name should be Australia Day.

KHS had Alderman Ken Cavanough to speak at their meeting of May 1977 on the topic of Municipal Highlights, illustrated by slides. While showing a slide of the Australia Day celebrations at The Rocks, he remarked that it had long been his wish to see similar celebrations held at Carss Cottage each Australia Day and he would like to have the views of other members and if possible their support for the idea.

An Australia Day Committee was set up in 1978 with Alderman Ken Cavanough as Chairman. Jeff Veness and Alderman Dick Burghart represented KHS. One of the meetings was held in Carss Cottage. The final report, made in May 1978, decided there would be three main events – a naturalisation ceremony, an open-air concert and fireworks at night. Of course, there would be other events, a church service on the nearest Sunday and exhibitions of arts and crafts during the week leading up to 26th January.

But the pattern was set for Kogarah's celebrations on Australia Day.

REFERENCES

KHS Newsletter May 1976, June 1977, January 1979 p1, January 1990 p7

Kogarah Council Minutes 17 April 1978 It was resolved that a letter be sent to appropriate local organizations to consider the appropriate activities to celebrate Australia Day in 1979. see also Annexure B

Member Profile



Deidre Schroeder has been coming to the Historical Society with husband Graeme for about two years, so is one of our newer members but already does a regular spot of volunteering at the Museum. She has a fascinating family history which goes back to the Second Fleet. Her mother was a descendant of Joseph Eades who came to Australia with his wife and five children in 1790. Joseph died in 1796 in Sydney Harbour while cutting rushes for his hut. Deidre's mother was born on the family property in Lewis Ponds near Orange. Her father Allin Saunders was English and first came to Australia as a steward on a P & O ship. He liked the look of Australia and eventually came with his brother, to live here. After doing contract fencing for a while, he went to Katoomba and worked for Paul Sorensen, Australia's Master Gardener who designed Leuralla and Everglades, and was then employed by Council designing gardens and parks in the area. The Prince Henry Cliff Walk is one of the better known projects he designed. In Katoomba he met Deidre's mother who was nursing and they were married. The pair visited England in 1935 and worked for a while on the Isle of Wight. When they returned to Australia, they bought three acres of land in Castle Street Blakehurst and set about building a house. By this time Deidre's Mum was pregnant and she stayed with family in Orange where Deidre was born, weighing in at only 2 lbs. In those days of snail mail it took a long time to advise her father of the birth and the letter "hoped she would survive". She did and the family took up residence in Castle Street and ran a poultry farm for many years. Deidre attended Kogarah and Hurstville Primary Schools, then St George High School followed by Secretarial College, after which she went into the Public Service. She met Graeme at a party at the yacht club at Kangaroo Point and they were married in 1959. At the time he was working in aircraft radio maintenance, however, he went back to night school to do his leaving certificate, then to Sydney Uni and eventually graduated as a History and English teacher. They moved to Carss Park in 1966.

They have two children, Glen based in England and Annabelle living in Helensburg. Deidre and Graeme have travelled extensively around Europe and Australia and hope to make another trip next year to attend Glen's wedding in England.

They are both involved in a number of community organisations including Probus, their church, Neighbourhood Watch and of course the Historical Society, activities which they are determined to continue despite Graeme's recent health problems.

Janette Hollebhone, our Vice President has jetted off to Russia for a holiday.

Betty Goodger, our other Vice President has just returned from a trip on the Ghan.

June Kerr of Kogarah is recovering following a recent fall.

Jan Williams, our Caring Officer, is about to go into hospital for heart surgery.