

Kogarah Historical Society Inc

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

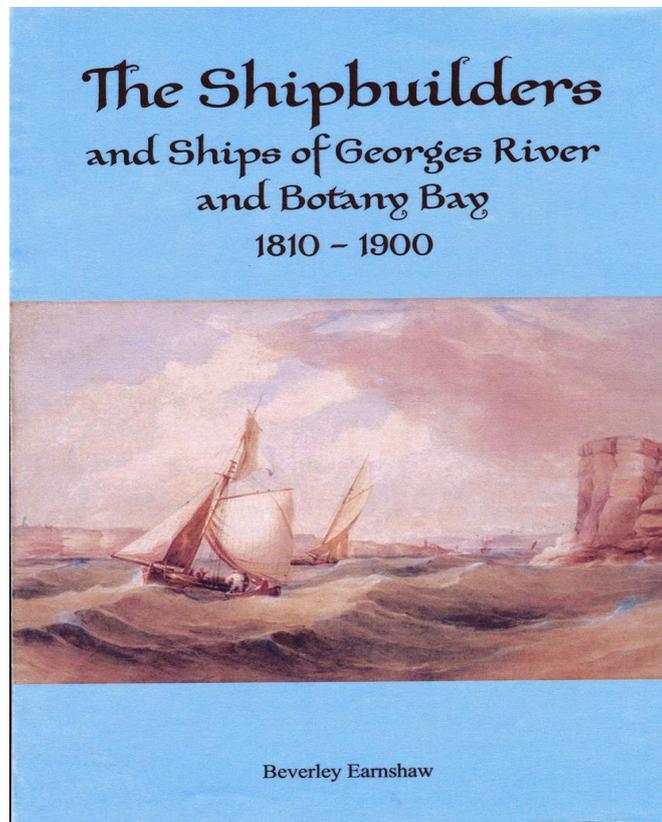
Patron: The Mayor of Kogarah

President: Beverley Earnshaw (9546 1091)

Newsletter

May/June 2011

Volume 3 No 2



The Society's latest publication, available NOW – see enclosed flyer

Meetings and Speakers

Thursday 12 May 2011

Speaker: Bob Whan, former wool researcher/politician, *The Rise and Fall of the Wool Industry in Australia*

Thursday 9 June 2011

Speaker: Harold Dews, Movietone Man, *Stories of how events were brought to the screen in days gone by.*

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.

Mondays at the Museum

23 May – Cliff Crane

The Banjo is not Dead! Cliff returns to give part 2 of his talk on Banjo Patterson. Book early as seating is limited. Join us at 10 am for a delicious morning tea in the courtyard and then adjourn to the Kogarah Room in the Museum to hear Cliff. Cost is \$5 which also gives you the chance to win a door prize. Stay after the presentation and look around the Museum if you wish. Bookings essential. Ring **Mavis Ward** on 9546 5704 to reserve your place.

New Members

We welcome Dolores Davis, Betty Hickman and Councillor Lachlan McLean to the Society. We hope you have a long and happy association with us.

Museum Roster

May 2011		June 2011	
1 st	Carole Tier & Ken Grieve	5 th	Gill Whan & Deidre Schroeder
8 th	Museum closed, Mother's Day	12 th	Adele Ryan & tbc
15 th	Trudy Johns & Elizabeth Emerson	19 th	Trudy Johns & Elizabeth Emerson
22 nd	Betty Goodger & Janette Hollebhone	26 th	Betty Goodger & Janette Hollebhone
29 th	Cath & Leo Sullivan		

Hours are 1 pm – 5 pm. Any problems, please contact Elizabeth Emerson on 9579 4118
We are always looking for members to volunteer for either a regular spot at the Museum or to go on the emergency list. Janette Hollebhone will run an 'orientation' session at the Museum for any members interested to find out more. This will be on 24 May at 10 am..

NB The Museum will be closed on Mother's Day, Sunday 8th May so that our Mothers can enjoy the day with their families.

Committee 2011 (* denotes Executive)

President:*	Beverley Earnshaw	Ph: 9546 1091
Vice President (1):*	Janette Hollebhone	Ph: 9529 7117
Vice President(2):*	Vacant	
Secretary:*	Gill Whan	Ph: 9546 4623
Treasurer:*	Cath Sullivan	Ph: 9579 6149
Committee Members:	Beryl Butters, Mavis Ward, Trudy Johns, Carole Tier, Lawrie Corry	

Committee meeting venues

2 May, 7.00 pm	Beryl Butters, 36 Louisa St., Oatley
6 June, 7.00 pm	Gill Whan, 11 Dewrang St., Carss Park
4 July, 7.00 pm	Janette Hollebhone, 1 Meriel St., Sans Souci

KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY AGM 2011

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I am happy to report that Kogarah Historical Society is growing, with a membership now at 109. Although several members have passed away this year, we were happy to welcome new members in their place. 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 Gill Whan for engaging excellent speakers this year. These were :-

April Lesley Muir, *Sydney's Garden Palace Scandal*

May John Breen, Sydney Water, on *Historic Alexandria Canal*

June Pauline Curby, *The History of Randwick*

July Michael York of the Maritime Museum, *restoring Historic Vessels*

August Greg de Moore, *The Rise & Fall of Tom Wills, Aboriginal Sportsman*

Sept. Brian Lawrenson, *Following Marco Polo's Silk Road*

October Paul Brunton, Senior Curator Mitchell Library, *Governor Lachlan Macquarie*

Nov. Denis Overton, *Excuse me Elizabeth, Your House is on Fire*

During the year we had two **bus trips**, one around the historic houses of Hurstville led by Betty Goodger and one to the historic Camperdown cemetery, La Perouse and the Sir Joseph Banks Pleasure Grounds led by Janette Hollebone.

Our major project for 2010 was **Australian History through Art**, a competition for school children in the Georges River Region in Kindergarten to Year 6. We were endorsed as an official event in the Governor Macquarie 2010 Bicentennial Celebrations. Children were asked to draw any event in Australian history, but Kindergarten children had to colour in a picture of the Macquarie Lighthouse. This was created for us by South Coast Artist Noline Berthold. Prize money was allocated from interest on the Gwen Coxhead bequest and consisted of a \$50 first prize and ten \$10 prizes in each section plus one hundred dollars to the library of each winning school. We received nearly 500 entries and every entrant received a Certificate of Participation. A selection of entries was placed on exhibition in the foyer of Kogarah Library, and later at Carss Cottage.

Carss Cottage Museum continues to be the society's showpiece and our main source of revenue. This year the museum received 521 visitors. The museum is open on Sunday afternoons from 1 pm to 5 pm and is open by appointment for school groups and tour parties. This year there were seven group tours.

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 – Wendy Cornish – *Printers Ink in my Veins*

May – Heather Bentley - *Food at Sea, Buccaneers and Scurvy*

July - Tom Thompson – *The Sporting History of the St. George Area*

September – Silas Clifford Smith – *Changing Fashions in Australian Gardens*

November - Cliff Crane – *The Banjo is not Dead*

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. Several of our longstanding volunteers are now in failing health and we need extra helpers to serve on the roster or to go on the 'emergency list' to step in if someone is sick. Elizabeth Emerson organizes the rosters and we would welcome new volunteers.

During the year Jeff Veness, a former President of the Society and a trustee for the Carss Cottage Museum passed away. He has been replaced as trustee by Lawrie Corry.

In recognition for her ten years of hard work at the Carss Cottage Museum, we nominated Coralie Lewin for a *Certificate of Achievement*, awarded by the Royal Australian Historical Society. Our nomination was successful and at the RAHS conference at Richmond in October, the citation was read out and slides shown of the Carss Cottage Museum. Unfortunately, Coralie's health did not permit her attendance but she was presented with the certificate at our Christmas Party in December.

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 to go in the newsletter. Contributors this year have been Betty Goodger, Janette Hollebhone, Gill Whan, Fred Scott, Beverley Earnshaw, Patricia Morand, Cath Sullivan, Janette Pelosi, Andrew Papworth, Betty Reynolds and Ken Kershaw. 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. During the year requests for speakers were filled by Betty Goodger, Beverley Earnshaw and Janette Hollebhone.

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 answers enquiries. We are grateful to Mavis Ward for stepping in to compère Mondays at the Museum. Mavis also organized the Christmas party and despatches the newsletter. Janette Hollebhone is a great asset to the society, always first to arrive at the monthly meetings, and very enthusiastic about doing research. Carole Tier and Lawry Corry are also co-operative members of our committee who contribute much to the society. 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.

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 2011

JOY MEAD PARK

By Betty Goodger

In 1977 Elaine Howard wrote an article for the KHS Newsletter about parks in Kogarah¹

She started with Joseph Banks shooting quail in Botany Bay in 1770 and ended with a list of the open spaces – bush parks of several acres and “public open space areas of 2 acres or over”.

Her list did not include Joy Mead Park for it was not officially opened until 3 August 1995.



The pretty little green park runs from Barsby² Street through to Rutland Street, not far from Allawah Station. The park is not visible from the train or the constant stream of cars hastening through the traffic lights down Elizabeth Street and on towards Sans Souci. One needs to turn off Elizabeth Street into Barsby Street to find this green oasis.

I had not heard of its existence until we hosted a group that had come from Bankstown Uniting Church to visit Carss Cottage, in April 2010. One

of its members, Neil Matherson, told me there was a park in Allawah named in honour of his mother.

Soon after, I was exploring the park! The street contains some units, but still has several houses, of human scale. The park is designed for quiet relaxing or picnicking in the gazebo or just sitting while the children enjoy the swings and slides.

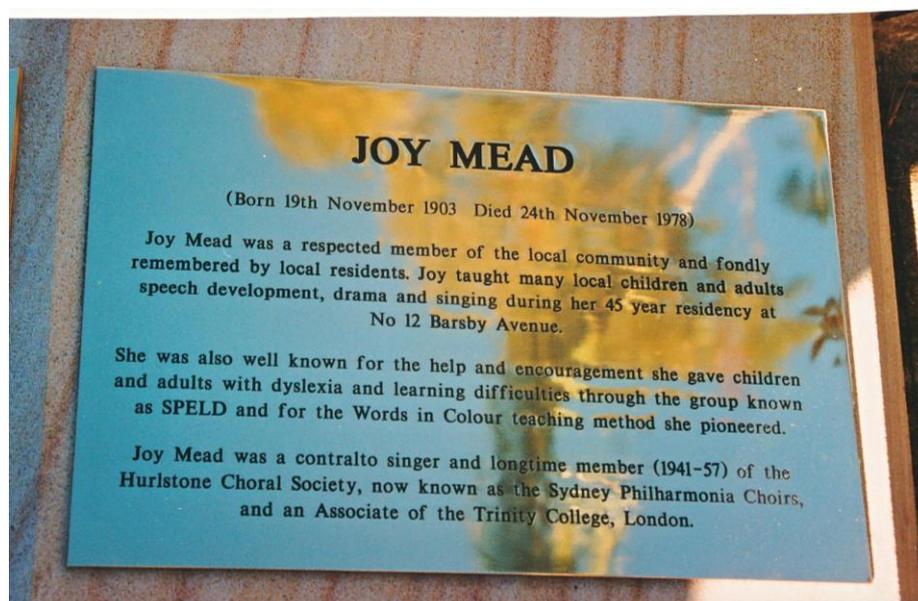
Near the playground, and almost hidden by the plants, is a concrete structure supporting three plaques, which effectively tell the story of Joy Mead Park.



Plaque 1 is the actual brass plate that had been displayed at Joy Mead's front door, during her professional life. It was presented to Kogarah Council by her son and incorporated into her memorial.

Plaque 2 records the official opening by the Mayor, Councillor Laurie Seill on 3 August 1995, with the names of all the other councillors, the General Manager and the Landscape Architect, R.M.Ward.

But Plaque 3 tells us something of the life of Joy Mead.



The Leader foreshadowed the opening of the park in an article ⁵ “Joy Mead to be honoured. The council had asked for public participation in naming the park and Joy Mead’s name was put forward.” The official opening took place on Saturday, 3rd August, but it was not reported in the Leader until later with an aerial photo of the park and a summary of the Mayor’s speech. (The Mayor’s speech writer must have used the same text for the earlier press release!)

Hazel Joy Mead was her full name and she began her career as a teacher of physical culture in Hurstville in the 1920s. Her interests expanded to the burgeoning Children’s Library Movement and she opened a children’s library in the former stable buildings of a bakery on Diment’s Lane in Hurstville. This was before the Library Act of 1939 encouraged municipalities to establish the public libraries we now enjoy.

Her first husband lost his life when the Japanese swept through Malaysia. After the war she married William Horace Matherson who became father to her two sons. She continued her career as a teacher.

Another memorial to Joy Mead is that her great granddaughter has qualified as a speech therapist.

Her house, No 12, Rose-lea, still stands beside the Park. It is a neat, red brick cottage, with a garden leading to the front door, so far safe from the developers. The park will see that her life’s work is not forgotten.

REFERENCES

With grateful thanks to Joy Mead’s son, Neil Matherson, for information about his mother.

1. KHS Newsletter August 1977 pp 4-6
2. Barsby Street is named for Charles Henry Barsby, described as a fashion entrepreneur.
3. In KHS Newsletter Vol 1 No 6 January-February pp 6-7
4. ATCL stands for Associate of Trinity College, London
5. SPELD stands for Specific Learning Disabilities
6. Leader 27 July 1995 p.12
7. Leader 24 August 1995

Historical Teasers

1. Name Australia’s largest desert?
2. What is the lowest point in Australia?
3. In what year did transportation of convicts cease in Australia?
4. Who was known as *The Father of Federation*?
5. In Australian athletics, who was our ‘golden girl’?
6. Who was the first woman aviator in the Commonwealth to carry passengers?
7. Name two world famous Australian sopranos?

Answers

(1) The Great Victoria Desert; (2) Lake Eyre, 16 metres below sea level; (3) 1868 in WA; (4) Sir Henry Parkes; (5) Betty Cuthbert; (6) Nancy Bird Walton; (7) Dame Nellie Melba, Dame Joan Sutherland

Why not invite your friends along to a meeting? We welcome visitors and new members. Membership is only \$10 per annum for single and \$15 a double. Members receive newsletters, notices, invitations and have free entry to Museum on Sundays.

If you need assistance with transport to get to meetings, please ring Carole Tier 9527 2403 or one of the committee.

Show and Tell

Beryl Butters started the proceedings by challenging us to identify an egg coddler (someone guessed it) and she also brought an old map of Sydney put out by the Grahame Book Co 'for the curious wayfarer' which showed theatres, restaurants, nightclubs and shops of the day. This brought back memories for many people – a restaurant noted for its caramel ice cream cake, Romano's night club and shops such as Grace Bros and Farmers.

Joan Fairhall showed X stitch tags made by a Betty Ross and Trudy Johns showed off a patchwork cot quilt made for her grandfather when he was born in 1897.

Fred Scott had inherited the contents of his Father-in-law's garage and chose two pieces to show us. The first was an old slate beautifully hinged to allow it to fold both ways and the second was a carved wooden photograph frame hand-made by the photographer. Beverley Scott had a letter written in 1887 to her grandmother from the Adelaide Musical Association accepting her as a member. At that time the membership fee for ladies was 5 shillings and for gentleman 10s. The letter was signed Yours Respectfully. Beverley also had directions for housewives on how to prepare fish scales – this apparently took a whole day with a whole page of directions to follow. There was much speculation about the usefulness of this exercise.

Bob Whan brought a medal presented to his grandfather in 1905 for the champion hen at the Wangaratta Agricultural Show (A Rhode Island Red). It was his only tangible link with his grandfather who died a few months after he was born. Bob told us about his grandfather, a staunch Presbyterian, who ran a general store in Wodonga and kept it open during the Depression giving credit to people of all religious persuasions. Years later his family benefited from this generosity when they were chosen, on the advice of a Catholic priest, to be awarded the lease on a farm owned by an Italian family and sought after by many of their relatives.

Beverley Earnshaw had a cup and saucer which had come from South Africa after the Boer War and had pictures of the generals involved in the war. Bob Earnshaw showed us his medal awarded for 25 years service to scouting in Australia.

John Forrest brought a book that he has written called the Old Shop on the Corner – the shop on the corner of Montgomery and Hogben Streets, Kogarah was where he grew up. He told us about his Aunt Clare who was a nursing sister and joined the Army Nursing Service in 1940. She was made the matron of the first Australian hospital ship in WW2, the Maunda. The ship was bombed in Darwin harbour but fortunately she survived and was later awarded the Royal Red Cross for her service.

Janette Hollebhone had a photograph of Mundarra Towers bought by her grandfather in 1910, now demolished and the site of the current Clovelly Hotel. Another photo showed her father with her Aunt Lily and Janette told us how Aunt Lily had rejected a suitor for marriage and the young man had returned and shot her three times. She did not die instantly but lost the use of her legs and passed away 20 months later. The man was arrested and tried and received a sentence of seven years for wounding with intent.

This was the third year that members were invited to bring a memento for Show and Tell and once again we were surprised and delighted at the diversity of objects brought along. Thank you everyone.

Gill Whan

KOGARAH STATIONMASTERS 1884-1906

By Janette Hollebone

The Illawarra Railway line was officially opened as far as Hurstville on 15 October 1884. Kogarah's first stationmaster was George Hodgkinson who kept that position for five years.

On the evening of Thursday, 21 November 1889, a large number of locals met at the railway station to say their farewells to Mr Hodgkinson. To mark the occasion Mr J B Carroll, JP, Mayor of Kogarah, presented him on behalf of those present with a very handsome silver cruet and spirit decanter. The toast to his health was proposed by Mr P J Lacey.

In response George Hodgkinson thanked the gentlemen for the very handsome present, and was pleased his efforts were appreciated. The Illawarra railway line had been extended and there were many changes being made within the Railway Department, and Mr Hodgkinson was being promoted to stationmaster at Wollongong.

Kogarah's next stationmaster was John Thorburn who remained in that position from the end of 1889 until his retirement in April 1906, just over sixteen years. It was not his decision to retire, but the Commissioners for the Department of Railways informed him that this was so. John Thorburn had wanted another year of service to complete 40 years with the Department.



Stationmaster's house behind Kogarah Railway Station pre 1906

John had worked his way up through the ranks from porter, shunter, night foreman, guard and finally to Stationmaster at Kogarah. John was well liked in the district, was a good family man and *in Church circles the family had been a backbone to their congregation.*

It was reported in the *St George Call*, dated 7 April 1906, that *on Friday evening last there was a gathering at the Council Chambers to do honor to the retiring Kogarah Stationmaster, Mr John Thorburn.* The Mayor, Mr D J O'Brien, praised Mr Thorburn for carrying out his duties fearlessly and well, and presented him with a purse of sovereigns and a splendidly illuminated address on behalf of the residents.

John Thorburn responded and *thanked them all for their generous gift, the thought of which would always carry him back to his time at Kogarah.*

A further presentation, from the railway staff—a framed group photograph of the Station Master and station officials—was made by Signalman A Bryant, who stated that during the 15 years he had worked under Mr Thorburn a cross word had never passed between them. The same feeling existed with the whole staff, on whose behalf he asked Mr Thorburn's acceptance of the framed picture.

Stationmaster Thos Hall, of Hurstville, also spoke highly of John Thorburn whom he had known for 31 years. Mr Thorburn again responded to thank the staff for their token of respect, and wished them all success. Dr Lamrock proposed the health of the guest and the Headmaster of Kogarah Superior Public School, Mr E G Wilson, seconded the toast.

The Station Master's house was positioned on the eastern side of the railway line near the overhead bridge. During excavations in the 1960s/1970s the well for the house was found on the site of the petrol station now standing in Railway Parade North.

References:

Sydney Morning Herald, Saturday, 23 November 1889 p11

St George Call, Saturday, 7 April 1906 p3



Steps used to lead up to the Stationmaster's house from Kogarah Railway Station - 1904

Vale Cath Southall



Catherine Southall was born in 1933, educated to Intermediate standard, married Donald in 1958 and trained as a nurse in England. They lived in Ghana for a few years where their son, Nicholas, was born in 1960. Their daughter, Fiona, was born in England in 1964.

The family migrated to Australia in 1966 but returned to the UK after two years for Donald's further studies. In 1971 they returned to NSW where Donald set up a Specialist Practice in Obstetrics and Gynaecology while Cath completed her Diploma in Nursing Education.

In 1985 Cath started a 5-year degree in Architecture and was awarded the Degree of Bachelor of Architecture (Hons) in Sydney in 1989. She then worked as a hospital design consultant.

While Cath was working towards her Degree, as part of her course she completed the Conservation Plan for Carss Cottage in 1987 under the guidance of her instructor, Peter Reynolds. Cath joined our Society at that time and remained a member until she died on 14 February 2011. The Conservation Plan with architectural drawings are held in our library at Carss Cottage where architectural students and others can view them, a fitting memorial to Catherine Southall.

Janette Hollebome

Farewell Laurie Curtis

The Society has lost yet another friend with the passing of Laurie Curtis, longtime member. Laurie had not been in the best of health for some time and had spent the last couple of years in Chesalon Nursing Home at Jannali.

Laurie and his wife, Bernice, have been members of our society for over 30 years. For many years they were both very active members as Secretary, Treasurer and Social Secretary (in the days when we had some wonderful day trips and longer historical trips). They went on duty at the Museum regularly. Laurie and Bernice have two daughters, Vivienne and Michelle and four granddaughters. We send our thoughts and sincere sympathy to all the family.

Several members of the Committee were able to attend Laurie's funeral on Tuesday 12 April.

Beryl Butters

THE JUNIOR RED CROSS

By Lois Walker

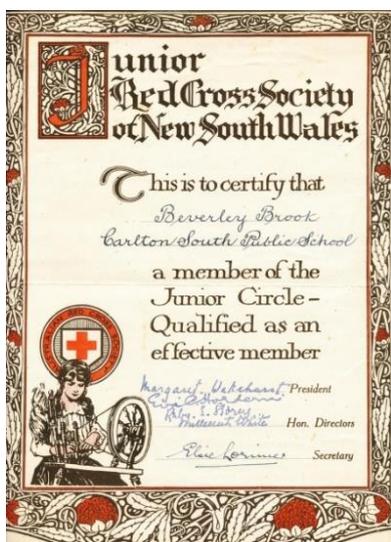
The Junior Red Cross was founded in New South Wales in 1914. It was a movement organized mainly through schools in co-operation with the teaching staffs and State education authorities. Local schools in the St. George Area produced many enthusiastic young members and there was eager participation in fund raising activities.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s some children from Sans Souci Public School wrote, directed and appeared in small plays and skits on such songs as “Alice Blue Gown” in aid of the Junior Red Cross. The scene of these performances was the Endeavour Boatshed at the foot of Endeavour Street, Sans Souci. The clothes they wore were made by Julie Harvey’s mother, and some songs were performed on a swing which Julie’s father, Boyd Harvey, strung across from the boatshed’s rafters. Some of the performers in these concerts were Julie Harvey, Lois Walker, Margaret Knightly, Marie Mortimer and a few boys. Children came from the school and paid to see the concert and money raised went to the Junior Red Cross.

Julie also took children for paying rides on one of her father’s half-cabin cruisers around Kogarah Bay.

Fund raisers held at the school included toffee days and cake days (for which the mothers did the cooking) and there were peg doll competitions and vegetable doll competitions.

Mrs Ruby Brett was Patron of the Junior Red Cross at Sans Souci while she was teaching there. On Anzac Days a group of Junior Red Cross children with Mrs Brett would attend the early morning service at the Ramsgate RSL, the children wearing their Red Cross uniforms with veils and koala badges. Mrs Brett also took money raised by the children to Red Cross House in Sydney and collected any awards the children had earned.



Certificate awarded to Beverley Earnshaw

In the 1940s some Red Cross children did their “collections”. They would gather a list of friends and neighbours who would pledge to give them a penny a week for the Red Cross. When they had collected 240 pennies, which constituted one pound in the non-metric system, the collector would be awarded a certificate.

Many school children belonged to the Junior Red Cross and on special days at school they wore their “nurses” uniform and koala badges.



Red Cross Girls at Sans Souci Public School 1956

NB: Thank you to Lois Walker for this contribution. Members are encouraged to offer articles for the newsletter.

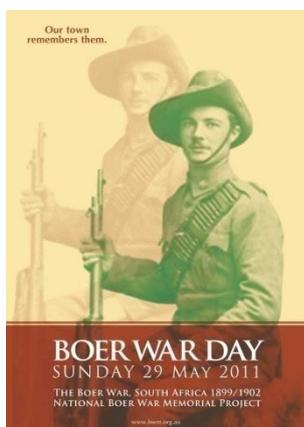
The Boer War 1899 - 1902

Presentation by Tony Lanarch-Jones, February 2011

Tony is the Chairman of the National Boer War Memorial Committee NSW. He told us that the National Boer War Memorial Association is bound together by a sense of unfairness because the Boer War is Australia's only major war that is not commemorated by a national monument on Anzac Parade in Canberra. Their work will eventually reach fruition as a site was allocated and dedicated in 2002, the centenary of the end of the war, but the memorial is still not completed.

The Boer War was the first war that Australia fought as a nation and about 23,000 Australian men and women served. It was the first time that nurses had been sent to the front. Nearly 1000 Australians paid the ultimate price of their lives. They fought alongside 6000 New Zealanders and were really the first ANZACs. Six Australians were awarded Victoria Crosses, the first time any Australian had been awarded this honour. In addition to serving men and women, Australia sent 43,000 horses of which two-thirds were lost.

Tony explained the history behind the outbreak of war which was finally triggered when the Boer-issued ultimatum was rejected by the British. Australian troops, who were sent as Commonwealth contingents, were nevertheless under British command. (After this war that changed) Our soldiers were acclaimed for their horsemanship and bush skills spending long periods in the saddle and battling insanitary conditions, lice and extreme temperatures as well as the enemy.



The war ended on 31st May 1902 with the signing of the Treaty of Vereeniging. 2011 is therefore the 109th anniversary and there will be commemorative ceremonies in cities and towns across Australia on Boer War Day which is on Sunday 29 May.

Members of Kogarah Historical Society are invited to attend the Remembrance Ceremony at the ANZAC Memorial, Hyde Park South, commencing at 11 am on Sunday 29th May 2011. The commemorative address will be given by Her Excellency the Governor. Acceptances are due by Thursday 12 May. If you would like an invitation, please contact Gill Whan on 9546 4623 and one will be sent to you.

Boer War Descendants and Relatives

Tony Lanarch-Jones is searching for descendants or relatives of soldiers and nurses who served with Australian, New Zealand, Canadian, South African and the British armies in South Africa from 1899 – 1902 seeking support for a program to build a National Memorial in ANZAC Parade Canberra to commemorate their service and sacrifice.

You can contact him on tony.lanarch-jones@bwm.org.au or mail to PO Box 748, Mosman 2088.

The Society received a letter in March, from John Aquilina MP, on behalf of the NSW Dept of Premier and Cabinet acknowledging our contribution to the commemoration and celebration of the bicentenary of Governor Lachlan Macquarie in 2010. You will recall that we ran a very successful art competition for all primary schools in the area. The letter goes on to say "Your involvementmeans that your organisation's initiative will be included in a historical record of how the bicentenary was commemorated. We can all take pride in this record which will form a wonderful legacy for future generations."

Member Profile



Beryl Butters is a face and name that you will all recognize – she is a regular attendee at meetings and is the ‘corporate memory’ of the Society. She is a foundation member of Kogarah Historical Society and has been honoured with a life membership. She has held every office (except Treasurer) over the 40 years of her membership, including President and Secretary, used to edit the Newsletter, was on the Museum roster and is still on the Committee where she is a valued resource.

Beryl was born at South Lakemba (now Roselands) in Canary Road (now King Georges Road), the third daughter in a family of 6. She attended a one teacher infants school (now Beverly Hills North primary School), Lakemba School and Bankstown Domestic Science School. After leaving she worked for two years with the Postal Sunday School Movement where she helped run camps for country children who had never been to the city before and Sunday Schools in rural centres on the outskirts of Sydney, as well as post out correspondence lessons. She has a real love of the country and country people.

She met her husband Norm, through tennis and married him and moved to Oatley in 1956 which is where they still live. She continued her career, working for 17 years as Secretary to the Managing Director of the Mortein/Pressure Pak Company, leaving there when her first child was born, but later doing part time work for her brother’s hire firm.

Beryl and Norm have two daughters, Julie born in 1962 and Kerrie in 1966. Beryl was actively involved in the lives of her girls taking on the role of Secretary of the P & C at both Oatley Primary School and Penshurst Girls High School. She was also Secretary of Oatley Girl Guides. In 1983 she was Secretary of Oatley’s 150th anniversary celebrations of the granting of land to James Oatley, a convict clockmaker. They raised enough money to build the Oatley Clock.

In later life both Norm and Beryl have been Presidents of Oatley Senior Citizens and they have both received a Senior Citizens Premier’s Award and featured in Kogarah’s *Unsung Heroes* book. Beryl received a Centenary Medal in 2003 and Kogarah Council’s Australia Day Award for Senior Citizen of the Year in 2007.

Travel has been an interest – from regular family holidays caravanning on the south coast with family and friends, and travel within Australia, to trips overseas. One of these was to England and Europe with Cath Sullivan, friends since P & C days, and to Canada and Alaska with Mary Armstrong, another long time member of the Society.

Beryl is not quite as mobile as she used to be and she says that her two daughters and her three grandsons, Matthew, Stephen and Daniel help her tremendously – they have all been to Fiji together on two occasions. She is proud of her family and appreciates the close bond between them. We appreciate her, and are glad to say that she is still ‘going strong’.

Gill Whan

Dates for your diary – 12 May, General Meeting (Bob Whan speaker); 23 May, Mondays at the Museum - Cliff Crane; 24 May, orientation for volunteers at Museum; 9 June, General Meeting (Harold Dews speaker). NB Museum closed on 8 May, Mother’s Day.