

Kogarah Historical Society Inc

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

Patron: The Mayor of Kogarah

President: Janette Hollebhone (95297117)

Newsletter

May/June 2012

Volume 4 No 2



Above: Revue 20 group – Claire Poole top left corner – see story on page 7. Also inside – Wreck of the Charles Eaton

Meetings and Speakers

Thursday 10 May 2012

Sue Castrique: Writer, editor and teacher on *Convicts and their conditions on Cockatoo Island*.

Thursday 14 June 2012

Harold Dews: Last Editor in Chief of Movietone News, *It all began in 1896*

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

28 May – Margaret Stephens

Margaret is President of the NSW Branch of the Lace Guild and Keeper of Textiles at the Berry Museum. She will talk about *Lacemaking in Australia* and invites anyone with a piece of lace from the early days to bring it along for identification and discussion. Join us at 10 am for a delicious morning tea in the courtyard and then adjourn to the Kogarah Room in the Museum for the presentation. Cost is \$5 which also gives you the chance to win a door prize. Please book as numbers are limited and it helps with the catering. Ring Adele Ryan on 9529 6730 (leave a message if she is not there) to reserve your place.

Welcome to new members

We are pleased to welcome Margaret Croker, Mavis Cummins and Jan Magrath as members of the Society. We hope they enjoy a long and happy association with us.

Museum Roster

May 2012		June 2012	
6 th	Carole Tier & Ken Grieve	3 rd	Gill Whan & Deirdre Schroeder
13 th	Mavis Ward & Mary Williams	10 th	Adele Ryan & Lawrie Corry
20 th	Trudy Johns & Elizabeth Emerson	17 th	Trudy Johns & Elizabeth Emerson
27 th	Betty Goodger & Janette Hollebone	24 th	Betty Goodger & Janette Hollebone

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. Training given. Contact one of the Committee if you are willing to help.

Committee 2012 (* denotes Executive)

President:*	Janette Hollebone	Ph: 9529 7117
Vice President (1):*	Beverley Earnshaw	Ph: 9546 1091
Vice President (2):*	Mavis Ward	Ph: 9546 5704
Secretary:*	Gill Whan	Ph: 9546 4623
Treasurer:*	Cath Sullivan	Ph: 9579 6149
Committee Members:	Beryl Butters, Lawrie Corry, Trudy Johns, Adele Ryan, Carole Tier,	

Committee meeting venues

7 May, 7.00 pm	Trudy Johns, 2/900 Forest Road, Peakhurst
4 June, 7.00 pm	Beverley Earnshaw, 15 Hamer St., Kogarah Bay
2 July, 7.00 pm	Janette Hollebone, 1 Meriel St., Sans Souci

Please tell us if you know of anyone ill or in hospital so that we can acknowledge it and send a card. We also like to know if there is a special occasion coming up – birthdays etc. Please let Mavis Ward (9546 5704) or anyone on the committee know. Apologies for non-attendance at meetings should go to the Secretary, Gill Whan (9546 4623).

KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY AGM 2012

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I am happy to report that Kogarah Historical Society is growing, with a membership now at 110. 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 our secretary, Gill Whan, for arranging publicity and also our program of speakers. Gill's innovation of producing an annual Events Calendar has proved a useful tool in promoting the Society.

Our *Speakers* for the year were :-

February: Tony Lanarch Jones from the Boer War Memorial Association

March: AGM followed by *Show and Tell*

April Bill Little: *Arnotts Biscuits, Everyone's Favourite*

May Bob Whan: *The Rise and Fall of the Wool Industry*

June Bob Whan: *Stories of King Island*

July Gary Cook of Sydney Harbour Federation: *Rediscovering our Harbour Gems*

August Paul Couvret OAM: *Will Nagasaki be the last atom bomb?*

Sept. Dr Ian Jack, President RAHS: *Macquarie and Town Planning*

October John Brock: *Colonel William, the Shining Light in Australian Surveying*

Nov. Lauris Bonfield: *The Life & Times of Author, Christina Stead*

In 2011 Carss Cottage celebrated its **40th anniversary** as a Museum of Local History. About 100 people attended an Open Day on Saturday October 21, 2011 at which the Mayor of Kogarah, Councillor Nick Varvaris announced that Kogarah Council would be renewing the Society's lease on the cottage for another 10 years.

The afternoon's proceedings began with the St. George Concert Band playing outside the cottage. We were pleased to have with us four of the original signatories of the document to establish a Historical Society for Kogarah in 1970. They were Dick and Val Burghart, Beryl Butters and Dennis McDonald. Harpist, Jenny Sewell, entertained us during the formalities and later in the cottage as guests viewed the displays.

Beryl Butters, as senior member of the society cut the anniversary cake. This was made and decorated with an image of Carss Cottage and donated by Lynda Robinson.

Free Devonshire Teas were served in the courtyard and we compliment our caterers, Trudy Johns, Elizabeth Emerson, Gilda Tilia and Betty Reynolds.

Cath and Leo Sullivan inflated and distributed about a hundred balloons which said "I Love Carss Cottage". Mary Williams and Wendy Keys managed the book sales. Janette Hollebone gave a talk on Carss Cottage.

The Society's **new banner** went on display for the first time, and the whole function was put together by Secretary, Gill Whan, who had previous experience in event management.

Carss Cottage Museum continues to be the society's showpiece and our main source of revenue. This year the museum received 672 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. There were fifteen group tours during the year.

Our latest exhibition is on local artists of high repute and features images of work by Elioth Gruner, Justin O'Brien, Daphne Kingston, May Grieve, Thomas Dean, William Priestly Macintosh and Keith Chatto. Les Bursill provided us with images of Aboriginal Rock Art found in the St. George Area.

The new laptop computer with a wrap around Power Point display of historic pictures of Kogarah is proving a popular attraction in the museum. **The lease** on the Cottage is not yet finalized.

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. This year Mavis Ward has stepped down as compère and has been replaced by Adele Ryan. Once again our efficient catering team led by Trudy Johns makes the event a great success.

This year's speakers at *Mondays at the Museum* have been;-

March – Lyn Smith, Nurse Educator, *History of the Coast, Prince Henry Hospital*

May – Cliff Crane, *The Banjo is not dead, Part 2*

July - Yvonne Stewart, *The Benevolent Society: Australia's First Charity*

September – Beverley Earnshaw, *The Phoenix Convict Hulk*

November - Les Bursill, Aboriginal Anthropologist, *Aboriginal Art in southern Sydney*

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 are always in need of extra helpers to serve on the roster. The work is not onerous. Volunteers are only required to attend once every two months and we do not open on Public Holidays or Mothers' Day. At present we have only Betty Reynolds to step in if someone is sick and she has been called on several times. Elizabeth Emerson organises the rosters and we would welcome new volunteers.

The bi-monthly newsletters have been typeset by Gill Whan and sometimes by Beverley Earnshaw. The printer, Cliff Lewis Print, delivers them to Mavis Ward who folds and despatches them. Fewer people have offered material for the newsletter this year but we are always happy to receive contributions, no matter how small, from members. Contributors this year have been Betty Goodger, Janette Hollebone, Gill Whan, Lois Walker, Beverley Earnshaw, Francis Lillian Milne, and Jill Howard. 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 Hollebone.

A New Monograph. The Shipbuilders and Ships of Georges River and Botany Bay 1810-1900, by Beverley Earnshaw was published by the Society this year. This 48 page saddle stitched monograph was printed at very low cost at Sydney University. The first print run of 200 is almost sold out and the publication has gone into reprint.

A ***Bus Tour*** of the Sutherland Shire was held on September 15, organized by Janette Hollebone and led by Terry McCosker of the Sutherland Historical Society.

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 organizing a very successful Christmas Party at Mortdale RSL. Janette Hollebone is a great asset to the society, always first to arrive at the monthly meetings, and very enthusiastic about doing research. Carol 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 the committee for their support during the year and I thank the members for their loyalty and attendance, for without them 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 2011/2012

GROWING UP IN CARSS PARK Part 3

By Frances Lillian Milne

All the Neal children went to Blakehurst Public School which in 1946 had the main brick classroom block and several portable classrooms for a growing population with young children settling into Carss Park after the war. When our grandfather, William Hardaker, attended Blakehurst Public School some 50 years earlier there was only the single cottage school. William reputedly “played hookey” in the caves at Carss Park.

The school day started with a general assembly where the children all faced the flag pole and said the pledge “I honour my God, I serve the King, I salute the flag”, before marching in lines to their classrooms. Elizabeth became Queen in 1952 and she was adored as a fairy-tale princess and Queen to the young generation.

George was president of the P & C Association and Nell used to bake trays and trays of scones and small cakes for sale at the school fund raising fêtes. As the cakes came out of the oven Frances would help decorate them and carry the trays carefully to the school where George was having great fun spruiking for customers at the hoop-la or other entertainment stalls. George was a great showman and very outgoing. Nell was a very shy and quiet person who was happy to work hard behind the scenes for the Blakehurst School, Kogarah Bay Sea Scouts and the South Hurstville Girl Guides Association. She surprised the family when she accepted the position of Commissioner for Guides in the local area.

However, school activities were a centre of the community and the school held monthly Friday movie shows run by Mr Dodds who had been dragooned into teaching after the war. The films were all comedies and cartoons including Laurel and Hardie, Charlie Chaplin, Donald Duck, Mickey Mouse and lots of other slapstick films. These constantly broke down as the reel snapped amid cheers and boos and sharing sweets until Mr Dodds got everything started again. It is interesting that the first assembly hall at Blakehurst Public School was built by George and his brother.

There were only Australian-born children at Blakehurst Public School at the time Frances started in 1946. When she was about 10 years old, a girl named Amesha Tardy from Budapest, Hungary, enrolled in the class. She was the first person the children had met who could not speak English and she wore her traditional dress of beautiful brocade and had a very big plait around her head. It was believed that her mother had had to flee Hungary after the war to avoid being killed and that she was a real Princess, a matter none of the children doubted. They all competed to be the person to take Amesha outside and teach her English during class time.



George and Nell, Nov 1967

Daughter, Frances, recalls that the only other experience they had of people from other countries was when the Gypsies camped at Carss Park near the bathing enclosure. They also had richly embroidered clothes and they came each year for several years. They offered to read people’s palms and tell their fortunes for money, but the Neal children were warned never to go near them, so they remained a mysterious people.

George and Nell moved from the area in the early 1970s and spent their later years in the Lower Blue Mountains. George continued to do voluntary work for the Penrith Community Aid organization. He died on March 9, 1985 at Castle Hill Sydney.

Nell also continued to do voluntary work for the Penrith Community Aid and as a counsellor for the local branch of “Life Line”. Nell died on May 18, 1985 at Westmead Hospital, just 9 weeks after losing her beloved husband.

(That was the last part of the wonderful reminiscences of growing up in Carss Park. Our sincere thanks to Frances Milne (formerly Neal) who allowed us to use them. We invite other members to contribute their memories from earlier days)

Historical Teasers

1. Which horse won the Melbourne Cup in 2002?
2. How many countries are larger than Australia?
3. Who designed the Sydney Opera House?
4. How many ships in the First Fleet?
5. Name Australia’s western-most point.
6. In rhyming slang, if someone said they were going to have a “bo-peep”, what would they be doing?
7. In what year was the Aboriginal issues referendum?

Answers:

(1) Media Puzzle; (2) 5—Russia, Canada, USA and Brazil; (3) Joern Utzon; (4) 11; (5) Steep Point (Shark Bay); (6) having a sleep; (7) 1967



Time Travellers

KHS’s most recent bus tour, with expert and obliging driver Barry, was to the old Coast Prince Henry Hospital where Lyn Smith and three of her colleagues, all nurses who had come through the system, took us back in time to the origins of the hospital and the early days of nursing.

The presentation by the four ladies took place in the very comprehensive and spacious Nursing and Medical Museum which is run by the Prince Henry Hospital trained nurses Association and housed in former Ward 18. Much of the original site is being developed but some buildings are heritage listed and therefore preserved. The presentations with the vivid memories of early nurse training and discipline were appreciated, particularly by the ex nurses in the audience who were nodding vigorously in sympathy! Others reminded us of how the hospital had led the medical field in many areas. The hospital occupied this spectacular site at Little Bay because of its isolation, being originally established as an infectious diseases hospital in 1881. The Museum was a voyage of discovery, nursing uniforms, old hospital beds, huge iron lungs (the hospital had the first intensive care unit which evolved after the poliomyelitis outbreak), an operating theatre with some terrifying looking surgical equipment and photographs from every era.

From the Museum, the bus took us around the site which was extensive and then to the Nurses War Memorial Chapel which has a stunning stained glass window looking out to the ocean. Then it was lunch at the Coast Golf Club (in the building which used to be the hospital laundry) and on the way home a quick stop at the Botany Bay Pioneer Cemetery to see the Charles Eaton Memorial. Congratulations and thanks to the organisers – Janette Hollebone who arranged the visit, Beryl Butters the parking, Cath the bus, and Mavis and Betty who helped with bookings.

Gill Whan



CLAIRE POOLE

In every community there are talented people, high achievers who instead of boasting of their success are content to remain quietly and modestly in the background.

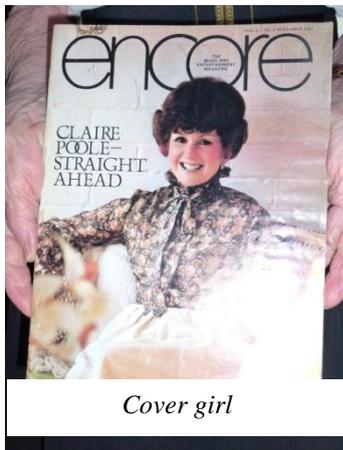
Kogarah has one such achiever in **Claire Poole**, a doyen of the Australian entertainment industry, who has been involved in the professional music scene for more than 60 years.

Claire Poole was born on August 29, 1927 in Kogarah where her father operated Poole's Paragon Bakery in Regent Street. They later opened another bakery in Carlton Crescent Kogarah Bay where they produced "Poole's Baby Rusks".

Claire, encouraged by her Mother, took dancing lessons from the age of 5, began singing lessons at age 7 and learned the piano from the Nuns at St.Patrick's Kogarah where she went to school. She continued her musical studies while at high school at Holy Cross Wollahra and advanced to achieve an AMusA in piano and singing and a Licentiate in Music from Trinity College London.

Her father died in 1945 and at the age of 17 Claire took her first job in the sheet music department of Palings in George Street Sydney. There she would play pieces for the customers to hear.

Two years later she was working in the professional department of Alberts Music Publishers in King Street Sydney. As her talent began to be recognised she joined the band which performed at Grace Bros Auditorium for balls, which loomed large on the social scene in those days. She also entertained at interval for 'themed' shows in Sydney's cinemas, such as the long demolished Prince Edward Theatre'.



Cover girl

She was engaged by Radio Station 2CH to take part in a program called "Breakfast at Valentine's", Valentines being a fashionable restaurant in George Street, Sydney. Then in 1950 she auditioned successfully for the ABC where she went into ABC radio and was at one stage on the cover of the ABC Weekly.

After her marriage to a singer in 1952 she went with her husband to London where she "fell on her feet". While her husband was conducting business, Claire filled in time by playing the piano in the room. The agent was on the phone being asked to find an accompanist, heard Claire and asked her to go along and audition at the London Palladium. She got the job but found that the American star of the show did not want any sheet music on stage. It was a very demanding program which included works by Franz Liszt and Claire hired a studio in London where she practised until she had it all committed to memory.

Her success led to a tour around the United Kingdom with the show and a first appearance on TV which was just beginning in the UK. She worked for the BBC on a program called "Gay Parade" (gay having a different connotation 60 years ago than it does today).

She was in England for 18 months during which time she was asked by the War Office to entertain the troops in Korea. She did shows in Korea, Japan and Singapore.

She returned to Australia for the birth of her son and soon went back to work. Television was just beginning on this side of the world. She found work in clubs and in making commercials. Her manager at the time was also Talent Manager for Channel 7 and Claire went to Channel 7 in 1959 with her group, the Claire Poole Singers, comprising four men and four girls (all of whom faced competitive auditions and had to be able to read music). When a new producer-director Peter MacFarlane was imported from England to create a new show he had the idea of adding 12 singers to the group and calling them The Revue 20. Claire became the Choral Director and started the audition process to find the additional 12 singers. Revue 20 provided background for Seven network's variety programs such as Revue '61 and '62, Startime, Studio A and Curtain Call which was a late night variety program.

The Claire Poole Singers provided backing music for show business celebrities in both live performances and recordings. These included Kamahl, Barry Crocker, Ethel Merman, Shirley Bassey and Katherine Grayson. In 1975 Claire went on a round Australia tour with Perry Como.

Among those who began their careers in the Claire Poole Singers were Hazel Phillips, Helen Zerefos and John Heffernon who later joined the cast of Phantom of the Opera.



Claire in centre (the petite one)

Claire also worked on the Mike Walsh Show (Channel 9), The Don Lane Show and Johnny O'Keefe's "Sing Sing Sing!" She was Associate Producer of Barry Crocker's "Sound of Music" and has been a guest judge on the original "Young Talent Time". Her son, Stephen Baker, has followed in her footsteps as a successful singer and appeared regularly on the Mike Walsh Show.

One notable occasion for her was the appearance of the Claire Poole Singers at the Wentworth Hotel at the official reception given to Prince Charles and Princess Diana during the Royal Visit in 1983.



Claire Poole taught music and singing for many years in her Kogarah Studio, one of her most outstanding pupils being Rhonda Burchmore.

Now at the age of 84 and in retirement, Claire Poole still lives at Kogarah. Her youthful appearance is that of a woman half her age, and we were welcomed graciously into her home to look through a scrapbook of her achievements which must surely be unequalled in show business circles.

We wish Claire Poole the very best of health and happiness in the future. Thank you, Claire for sharing your story.

B. Earnshaw/G. Whan

If you are thinking to yourself that the speakers for May and June are not as they appeared in our calendar, you are quite right! The Movie Man asked to change his date and Sue Castrique obliged by agreeing to come in May instead of June. So – you still get to hear both of them.

Show and Tell

As usual we were amazed and delighted at the ‘treasures’ that our members produced for this annual session of Show and Tell.

Graeme Schroeder showed us two swords - one Toledo, a famous make produced in Spain. This one may have been made as a souvenir – it had a wire hilt, was engraved and would have been produced in the 1920s. The second sword with leather hilt had two elephants on one side, writing which may have been Sanskrit and was of the type that the British Cavalry carried. Graeme stunned us when he told us that both had been found in a Council cleanup – thank goodness enterprising children did not make the discovery.

Deirdre Schroeder had three beautiful books that had belonged to her mother. One was an autograph book from 1913 with an ivory cover. There was a floral birthday book 140 years old – each day had a different flower and a poem and lastly a Prayer book of the same vintage.

David Richards told us the story of his ancestors who came from Ireland during the potato famine, arriving in 1878.

Irene and Warren Selmon had a panoramic photograph of Sandringham beach in 1920 depicting the Prince of Wales Hotel, Boatsheds and Summer houses. Warren’s father had been born in that area.



On display – steam engine, coconut communication, panoramic photo

Fred Scott showed us a ‘letter’ which had arrived for him from his father who was serving in the Army in New Guinea. It was a coconut! It was stamped and addressed and the postman had knocked on the door to deliver it.

Bev Scott had a book by Lynette Ramsay written in 1896 called “A Fools Gold”. Bev told us that it proved that a William Tipple Smith had been the first person to find gold and not Edward Hargraves.

Mavis Cummins had an exquisite model of a steam engine which had belonged to her father. It was 80 years old and we later discovered that it was an extremely valuable collectible piece.

Betty Reynolds had two postcards sent from England celebrating both the coronation of Edward VII and Alexandra in 1902 and of George V in 1911.

Beverley Earnshaw displayed a newspaper which commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Fall of Singapore and contained lists of all the people who disappeared at the time, some unknown, some believed dead and some Prisoners of War.

Beryl Butters moved us with a tape recording of Dorothy MacKellar reading “My Country”.

Janette Hollebhone had discovered a sketch book of houses in Wingham which included the house that she and her husband had rented when they were first married and Cath Sullivan had brought a book which looked at 50 years of television in Australia.

Gill Whan

THE WRECK OF THE CHARLES EATON

A COLONIAL MARITIME TRAGEDY

By Beverley Earnshaw



Recently when Janette and I were in the Eastern Suburbs, we called in at the Pioneer Memorial Park attached to Botany Cemetery. Our purpose was to see the memorial erected to the passengers and crew of the vessel, *Charles Eaton*, which was wrecked on the Great Barrier Reef in 1834. To our dismay we found the memorial in such bad condition that unless it is conserved it will disappear within a few years and memory of a

significant event in Australian history will be lost.

On July 29, 1834 the 313 ton barque *Charles Eaton* sailed from Port Jackson in fine weather bound for Canton via Torres Strait and Singapore. On board were 27 crew and six passengers including the D'Oyley family. Captain D'Oyley of the East India Company's Artillery was returning to his regiment in India with his wife, sons George aged eight and Will aged two, and an Indian mem-servant. As they approached Torres Strait the weather deteriorated. There were storms and on August 15, 1834 at 10 am the ship struck a reef. The keel and rudder were torn away, the vessel fell over on her beam ends and all the life boats except one were dashed to pieces. Mr Clare, the Chief Mate, ordered her masts to be cut away, but the bottom was bilged, the sea was already breaking over the decks and the vessel was a total wreck.

Very swiftly three seamen with the ship's carpenter and bosun commandeered the one remaining boat and were soon out of reach of the ship. Another seaman, attempting to swim to the boat was drowned.

The passengers and crew set about building two rafts. The first was small and could carry only nine people and left the wreck carrying the passengers, Captain Moore, and Doctor Grant. The rest worked frantically to salvage ship's timbers and build a bigger raft. This raft left the wreck a week later carrying the remaining 17 stranded mariners including two young cabin boys, John Sexton and Jack Ireland. The men stood in water up to their knees and were rationed to one soggy biscuit and two wineglasses of water per day. Sharks encircled them as they drifted for two days and two nights. On the third day they sighted an outrigger canoe manned by about a dozen painted and befeathered Islanders who took them aboard. The canoe proved to be one of a flotilla, for when they reached the island of Aureed, other canoes had preceded them. In one were the two young D'Oyley boys from whom they received the awful truth that everyone on the first raft had been murdered. Two hundred years ago Europeans spoke of the warriors of Torres Strait as the "Headhunters of the Coral Sea".

Those from the second raft were so exhausted, hungry and thirsty that some could only crawl up the beach. Sensing their fate was sealed, Mr Clare, the Chief Mate, said a prayer over them and they fell into an exhausted sleep. It was then that the natives swept in, clubbed them to death and removed their heads, sparing only the two cabin boys.

John Sexton and young George D'Oyley were taken away by canoe and never seen again. Jack Ireland and Will D'Oyley were taken to Mer (Murray Island) where they were 'adopted' by an Islander family, believing them to be the ghosts of their two sons who had been lost at sea.

More than a year passed. The ship *Mangles* under Captain William Carr was engaged in island trading and the first report of the probable wreck of the *Charles Eaton* appeared in the Canton Register of February 16, 1836. Captain Carr reported seeing a white youth among those manning one of the trading canoes, but when he had tried to pull him on board, the lad was held back by the natives and the canoe took off at speed. The Captain had also seen a white child on the beach.

Meanwhile, the cutter carrying the deserting crewmen had reached Timor with four men still alive and after some months they reached Batavia. They finally reached England where they gave depositions about the loss of the *Charles Eaton*. Other vessels had reported drifting wreckage, several casks marked 'Charles Eaton', a cuddy door and a stern window and rumours began to circulate that there may be survivors from the wreck.

Captain D'Oyley had influential relatives in England including his uncle Sir Charles D'Oyley, Baronet, and two brothers-in-law, one of whom was taking care of his two older sons who were being educated in England. This group kept pressure on the British Admiralty to send out a vessel to search for survivors.

On June 3, 1836 the Government schooner, *Isabella*, under Captain Lewis left Port Jackson and 16 days later anchored off Murray Island. There they discovered Jack Ireland and Will D'Oyley and traded for them with iron tools, knives, and tomahawks. The Islanders were reluctant to part with Will D'Oyley, then aged about four. He and his Islander mother wept bitterly on being parted and young Will continued to weep for three days.

Jack Ireland led the rescuers to the scene of the massacre and Captain Lewis retrieved the remains from a hut which he then burnt down. After searching nearly all the islands in Torres Strait the *Isabella* returned to Sydney with its grizzly cargo.

On November 17, 1836 Governor Burke had the remains interred in a tomb in Devonshire Street Cemetery with an inscription telling of the sad fate of the passengers and crew of the *Charles Eaton*. The tomb was moved to 'Bunnerong' Cemetery in 1901 to make way for the building of Central Railway and moved again in the 1970s to Pioneer Park when the area was to be reused for burials. All that remains now is the side of the tomb bearing the inscription.

This memorial is a significant piece of Australiana and ought to be conserved. The Kogarah Historical Society intends to apply for a Maritime Heritage grant to have it cleaned and the inscription re-cut. We have already enlisted the verbal support of two local historical societies, the National Trust, Randwick Council and the Department of Environment and Heritage. We hope that our application will be successful when grant applications open later in the year.

References:

Wemyss Thomas: Charles Eaton Barque, published 1837. ML 910.41/89A1

P.P.King: Charles Eaton Barque. ML984.7/4

Idriess Ion L.: Headhunters of the Coral Sea. Angus & Robertson Ltd 1944

Dr Lesley Muir OAM was recently awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Australian Historical Society.

Lesley is a regular speaker at Kogarah Historical Society (remember the Great Garden Palace Scandal) and a strong supporter of our work. She is always at our big events, open days, book launches etc. Currently she is gravely ill in hospital and we send our thoughts and prayers to her and to Brian Madden her husband.

Your Committee and helpers for 2012/2013

Janette Hollebhone	President & Public Officer Researcher, registration of photos, Museum inquiries/Tours/Walks, School of Arts security, Newsletter team, manages KHS website. Speaker, Museum Roster*	9529 7117
Beverley Earnshaw	Vice President (1) Researcher, Speaker, Author, Publishing convenor, organizes grants, Newsletter team	9546 1091
Mavis Ward	Vice President (2) Keeps list of members, folds and posts out newsletters, organizes lucky door prize for general meetings, researches equipment for Society. Museum Roster*	9546 5704
Gill Whan	Hon Secretary Collects mail, does correspondence, minutes, Keeps list of Members, Newsletter team, Publicity for general meetings, organises speakers. Museum Roster*	9546 4623
Cath Sullivan	Hon Treasurer Receipts income, pays accounts, monthly reports, key to PO Box, Museum Roster*	9579 6149
Leo Sullivan	Assistant Treasurer Museum Roster*	95796149
Trudy Johns	Committee. Chief caterer, caters for Mondays at the Museum, afternoon teas at meetings, Museum Roster*	9534 7737
Beryl Butters	Committee/Foundation member	9570 1101
Adele Ryan	Committee. Organises Mondays at the Museum. Museum Roster*	9529 6730
Carole Tier	Committee. Organizes speaker's gift and travel allowance, Museum Roster*	9527 2403
Lawrie Corry	Committee/Helps at Mondays at Museum	9772 3805
Betty Goodger	Research Convenor, family history enquiries, Speaker, Museum Librarian/Tours/Walks. Museum Roster*	9580 6954
Elizabeth Emerson	Caters for Mondays at the Museum. Admission/raffle tickets at monthly mtgs. Museum Roster*	9546 4149
Gilda Tilia	Caters for Mondays at the Museum	9546 2516
Ken Grieve	Museum Roster	9558 7172
Mary Williams	Museum Roster	9547 2812
Deidre Schroeder	Museum Roster	9546 2131
Betty Reynolds	Afternoon teas at meetings, Emergency Museum Roster	9587 1547

We need more people on the emergency roster for the Museum – please let us know if you can help. There are always two people on roster so you don't have to do it on your own.