

# Kogarah Historical Society Inc

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

[www.kogarah.historicalsociety.com](http://www.kogarah.historicalsociety.com)

Patron: The Mayor of Kogarah

President: Janette Hollebone (95297117)

## *Newsletter*

*July/August 2012*

*Volume 4 No 3*



*Typical “flag break” at the original Sea Scouts Hall, Carss Park. See story inside.*

*Photo, courtesy of Bob Harrington*

### **Meetings and Speakers**

**Thursday 12 July 2012**

Dr Judith Godden: Historian and author,  
*Discovering Lucy Osburn*

**Thursday 9 August 2012**

Elizabeth Ellis OAM: Emeritus Curator  
Mitchell Library, *Sydney People & Places*

*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 July – Ian Palmer**

Ian Palmer is a member of the Fellowship of First Fleeters and I think we can look forward to a fascinating story about his ancestor John Palmer who was the Purser on the Sirius. 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**

At our last meeting we were pleased to welcome David Martin, Rodger Robertson and Joan Sherlock as new members. We hope they will have a long and happy association with the Society.

## **Museum Roster**

### **July 2012**

1<sup>st</sup> Carole Tier & Ken Grieve  
8<sup>th</sup> Mavis Ward & Mary Williams  
15<sup>th</sup> Trudy Johns & Elizabeth Emerson  
22<sup>nd</sup> Betty Goodger & Janette Hollebone  
29<sup>th</sup> Cath and Leo Sullivan

### **August 2012**

5<sup>th</sup> Gill Whan & Deirdre Schroeder  
12<sup>th</sup> Adele Ryan & Lawrie Corry  
19<sup>th</sup> Trudy Johns & Elizabeth Emerson  
26<sup>th</sup> 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)**

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

## **Committee meeting venues**

**2 July, 7.00 pm** Janette Hollebone, 1 Meriel St., Sans Souci  
**6 Aug, 7.00 pm** Gill Whan, 11 Dewrang St., Carss Park  
**3 Sept, 7.00 pm** Beryl Butters, 36 Louisa St., Oatley

*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 Bay Sea Scouts

By Beverley Earnshaw

The year 2012 represents the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, but closer to home, it also marks 80 years since the formation of the Kogarah Bay Sea Scouts.

The Scouting Movement was founded by Baden Powell in 1907, but few know that the concept of sea scouting was very close to his heart. In 1932 he introduced his book *Scouting for Boys* with this opening paragraph.

*I WAS A BOY ONCE*

*The best time I had as a boy was when I went about as a sea scout with my four brothers on the sea round the coasts of England. Not that we were real Sea Scouts, because Sea Scouts weren't invented in those days. But we had a sailing boat of our own on which we lived and cruised about, at all seasons and in all weathers, and we had a jolly good time – taking the rough with the smooth.*

The Kogarah Bay Sea Scout Hall, aptly named *The Guardship* has stood on the shores of Kogarah Bay since 1937, just a stone's throw from Carss Cottage.



*Ken Northwood, first Scoutmaster*

The foundation of the scout hall was laid in 1937 following a loan from Kogarah Council and the grand opening took place on October 21, 1939 when there was a Sea Scout display at Carss Park to commemorate Trafalgar Day. The original Hall was painted white with blue trim and had a tiled roof. With widespread parental and community support the Scouts threw themselves into fund raising. There were fêtes and bazaars, but bottle drives were their main source of income and Carss Park Bowling Club their principal contributor of bottles. So successful were their fund raising efforts that they were able to repay Kogarah Council's loan and to make extensions to the building.

They were given encouragement and practical assistance by the Carss Park Ranger, Harald Coxhead, and their appreciation of his support was expressed in a gift made entirely by the boys and presented when he retired. It was a set of book ends with a miniature model of a campfire at the base and the silver badge on each piece of the pair.

To help with the first extension the Council donated old paving bricks. These were so heavily coated with tar that the boys had to chip it off with tomahawks. Later a second extension was

The Kogarah Bay Sea Scouts was the first body of Sea Scouts in the St. George District. It was formed in 1931 and registered with Scout Headquarters in March 1932, the same month that the harbour bridge was opened. The first Scoutmaster was Mr Ken Northwood who led the troop until he joined the Air Force in World War II. His successor was Mr Larry Arthur who served for approximately 25 years. In the early 30s the Scouts met in a garage belonging to the Leader, then later at 153 The Promenade, Sans Souci (in the Boatshed). The scouts all put in money to buy their first boat, a 16 footer called the *Dauntless*.<sup>1</sup>



*Larry Arthur with scout – if you know who it is we would love to know*

made bringing their *Guardship* to its present dimensions. Originally the waterline was just below the lower level boathouse in the basement of the building, which had been built on a rock shelf projecting over the water. When dredging and reclamation was done around Carss Point, a strip of land was created between the Sea Scout Hall and the water. This necessitated the laying of rails to ease the boats from the building into the water. The several boats kept in the boatshed were essential for the training and activities of the scouts.



The boys spent weekends together in activities designed to increase their knowledge, practical skills and general efficiency as Sea Scouts. During World War II when so many men were away at the battlefield, the Sea Scouts patrolled the Georges River around their base. They also carried out rescues of people who were stranded out in the bay when their boats had overturned.

In 1982 the Kogarah Bay Sea Scouts, like the Sydney Harbour Bridge, reached its Golden Jubilee. It was also the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Scouting Movement world wide. Under the patronage of Mr Bill Crabtree M.L.A. and Group Leader Hans Behrens, the Scouts had a gala day at Carss Park on Saturday, March 6, 1982. It was attended by many leading scouting and civic guests.

The day commenced with a procession of Scouts in full uniform led by the Australian Navy Band dressed in immaculate white, from Carss Park Entrance to the *Guardship*. There the flag was ceremoniously broken and prayers were offered. While a regatta was in progress on the bay the Navy band entertained with lively music.

At 3 pm the official ceremony took place. Various speakers recounted the growth of the Scouting Movement, the changes that had occurred and Scouting's future expectations. Then Scout, Derek Woo of Benwerrin Ave, standing beside his proud parents, was presented with the Queens Scout Award. There was also a presentation to Mr Larry Arthur for his years of dedication to the Kogarah Bay Sea Scouts and the Scouting Movement in general. At dusk the boys organized a barbecue followed by a campfire singalong.

Bob Harrington of Carwar Ave became a Scoutmaster in 1982 and was involved for around 5 years. He made the plaque installed with a ship's wheel in the Sea Scout Hall to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Bob recalled that the building was repainted, at the request of the Council, in colours to blend with the environment, hence the green with brown trim. He kept a spare tin of paint handy and any graffiti was always removed by the next day.



Boat in early 60s, later bought by Mr Ray Dodd<sup>2</sup>



New boat 1984, sourced from North Cronulla surf club



*Bob Harrington on right – our readers may recognize some of the young scouts.*

Bob remembers a ceremonial occasion in 1985 when a time capsule was buried near Carss Cottage commemorating the centenary of Kogarah Municipality. A small steamer arrived carrying a postman in period costume and the scouts provided a guard of honour<sup>3</sup>.

Now in its 81<sup>st</sup> year, the Kogarah Bay Sea Scouts have moved from Carss Park to combine with Kyle Bay Sea Scout Troop on the Georges River and the Scout Hall which served so well for three

quarters of a century is almost beyond reclaim. The old hall is marked for demolition by Kogarah Council to be replaced by green space or eventually a multi-purpose facility, but the Scouting Movement and the young men and women who pass through it still make a vibrant contribution to both the local and wider Australian community.

#### *References:*

1. Information from Mr Garry Beers, son of Jim Beers an original Sea Scout.
2. Mr Ray Dodd visited the Museum and identified the boat as one he had bought in 1962, a 12 ft cedar carvel hull sailing boat. It was finally beyond repair in 1982 and broken up.
3. Our thanks to Bob Harrington of Carwar Ave for information and photographs.

*This report draws heavily on two articles in the Society's Newsletter, written by Gwen Coxhead, the first in November 1979 following an interview with the late Larry Arthur, and the second in April 1982 Robert Baden-Powell: Scouting for Boys, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition 1982.*

*\* Biography of Lord Baden Powell on page 9.*

Editors note: Bob Harrington has put together a board of photographs of the Sea Scouts and these are on display in the Kogarah room of the Museum.

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## Historical Teasers

1. When did colonial self-government commence?
2. What was Sir Donald Bradman's batting average?
3. In what state/territory was the highest recorded temperature of 53°C recorded?
4. How many albums did the late Slim Dusty record?
5. What year did Cyclone Tracy hit Darwin?
6. What is the highest grossing Australian movie?
7. How much of Australia is classified as desert? 8%, 16%, 25% or 35%

Answers:

(1) 1856; (2) 99.94; (3) QLD; (4) 103; (5) 1974; (6) Crocodile Dundee; (7) 35%

***Murphy's Law - The repairman will never have seen a model like yours before!***

## Lacemaking in Australia



*On display in Carss Cottage*

Mondays at the Museum in May featured Margaret Stephens talking about Lace in Australia. Margaret we discovered has been a member of the Australian Lace Guild and Embroiderers Guild for 30 years. She is Keeper of Textiles at the Berry Museum and President of the NSW Branch of the Lace Guild. She does Lacemaking herself which she says you have to apologise for these days and is a tutor in Needlelace, giving workshops throughout Australia. She has studied in Italy and France to further her knowledge. She brought along samples of different types of lace and also drew our attention to the excellent examples we have in our own Museum which perhaps we hadn't appreciated.

We learned that we were lucky to have so many Irish women who came here in the mid 1800s bringing with them their excellent skills in fine handmade lace. They soon adapted to the harsh conditions in Australia and crochet became popular for its rugged nature and durability. Lace and crochet was widely used on clothing and in households, hems on petticoats, edgings on collars and cuffs, lace collars, doilies and tray cloths etc. Margaret reminded us of early times when distance and poverty meant supplies of materials etc were not readily available. Lace would be recycled and used again and again after the original garment had worn out. We heard that people were constantly industrious and busy, that it was the normal thing for all ladies to carry and work on their lace or tatting or crochet when they visited each other for afternoon tea or were meeting together. One of the audience wondered when this changed and it became almost impolite to produce knitting and start doing it at a gathering! As Australia became more affluent there was finer lace and also machine made lace imported from England and Europe. Margaret told us that it was an indicator of success if a man could provide labour saving devices in the household which allowed his wife to make lace or do 'fancy work' as a pastime.



*From the Museum collection*

The mysteries (to some of us) of the different types of lace were explained. Bobbin lace done on a pillow with numerous bobbins and painstakingly slow (One inch per hour), Tatting using a shuttle which was probably more suited to being put in the bag and taken to meetings – then there was Chantilly and Belgian and Maltese and many more. Several in the audience had brought examples of lace for identification including some beautiful satin lace which had been on the sleeves of a wedding dress.

A most interesting morning - even the men had questions, and the rain held off until we were in the Museum allowing us to have morning tea in a sunshiny courtyard.

### Vale Bill Wright

We were saddened to see the report of the death of Bill Wright on 8 June 2012. He was 96 years old. Bill was a Foundation Member of Kogarah Historical Society and its first Vice President. We send our sympathies to his family.

## A Boy's life - Growing up in Carss Park (Part 1)

By Graham Phillip Knowles



*No 37 Carwar Ave, looking across at Gooroa St.  
Circa 1960*

I still live in the house where it all began which is No. 37 Carwar Avenue, Carss Park.

My name is Graham Knowles and I was born on 10-7-1934, the second child of Elsie Mildred and James John Knowles at a private hospital in Carlton and christened in St. Cuthberts Church, Park Road, Langlea (South Carlton). I have lived my whole life in 37 Carwar Avenue and we think it was the 6<sup>th</sup> house built on the estate of William Carss in 1929.

The Burridges in No.95 were the first and the Rogers in No.97 were the second.

In those days Carss Park was mostly bush and between Carss Park and Kogarah Bay there were two Chinese market gardens, one of which contained mangroves and sea snakes. The gardener nearest Princes Highway (Tak Hing) gave or sold some of his land to Taskers to extend their market garden which eventually became Tasker's Caravan Park, and I used to wheel vegetables into the shed to make pocket money. This area is now completely converted to sporting fields.

The only medical help we had was a Pharmacy run by W.E.V.Jack on the current site of Red Rooster, cnr. Princes Highway and Park Road, Carlton. The nearest doctors were Dr Howell at South Hurstville and Dr Saxby in Gray Street, Kogarah.

I had one set of good clothes and one pair of shoes. The material came from Vickers Woollen Mill at Marrickville and my mother sewed it. The rest of the time we went around bare footed.

There was no transport at the time between Carss Park and the railway stations, so my father walked to catch a train to the city where he worked at Grace Brothers and later at Nock & Kirbys He eventually became the hardware buyer for two Nock & Kirbys stores. After all day on his feet, he then had to walk home from the railway station, 5½ days a week

At the beginning of the depression my father was made redundant from Grace Bros and resorted to hawking door locks and clothing around the area. The banks and government decreed not to take people's houses in the depression, otherwise we would have lost Carss Park. He was lucky enough after 18 months to obtain a position at Nock & Kirbys which he kept until he retired in 1969. To balance the household bills my mother used to separate a little bit of money into "Eagle" tobacco tins.

In our days most children had to do family chores, inside and out, and one of ours was cutting and laying flagstones to make paths and gardens – ready mixed concrete was not available in those days as it is today. Mother wanted us two boys to have some religious upbringing by sending us to Sunday School, which we did not like, so we traded it off by helping Dad with the flagstone work.

I went to Blakehurst Primary School. There were only eight classrooms there at the time and we had to stand on hot tar for assembly with bare feet – a girl, May Williams, could stand longer than us boys. Some had shoes and some didn't. In 1946 I went to Hurstville Secondary High School, which had only 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> year then. Some good fights went on in the playground there.

In 1926 Wal Stewarts Motor Service opened up on blocks 42 & 44 Carwar Avenue. It started as a Buick Agency and then became a BMC agent. He had a couple of notable employees on his staff, one being Ron "Torchie" Uren who became chief test pilot for Qantas, and the second being his son, Gordon Stewart, who became advisor for BMC Australia. Later in my Primary School days I used to clean engine parts (for love). Gordon said my name, Graham, was a girl's name so he called me Greg and that name is still with me today. Stewarts were involved with Bathurst car races (104 mph down Bathurst Strait). One midget car raced at the Sydney showground against Sir Jack Brabham, Perry Grimm and Col Niday. When we attended the Sydney Sports Ground and the Showground Speedway we also watched the world's best motor bike riders.

We went to Cubs Meetings which were held in the Carss Park Lifesavers Hall, and I still have my uniform. There used to be a black Hudson car parked under the only light on the flat. I am not allowed to say what they were doing, but we made a lot of noise and they, of course, would get out of the car and chase us.

We used to make tin canoes and the only way we could make them waterproof was to chip tar off Princes Highway (which had only one lane in each direction) at the end of Carwar Avenue, put it in a pot over heat and melt it. Then we applied it to the canoe.

We had memorable tin canoe trips – to the St. George Motor Boat Club where we had to hang on to a pylon as the boats raced past us, and from Carss Park to Como Railway bridge where the water was full of jelly blubbers and sharks.

Before the tip was made in Carwar Avenue (something that would not be allowed today), it was a big lagoon with two openings in the walls. These were affected by the tides and we would shoot the rapids in our tin canoes. Incidentally, some high tides would come up to the house which is beside the Bowling Club. We used to catch tadpoles there. Cyril Lutton was a builder and built the Bowling Club with voluntary helpers. Two of the many were Alex Johnstone and Bill Mercer. Because of the unstable ground formed by the tip they had problems building the Council swimming pool which is now leased to Dick Caine.

We had billy carts! Mine was not a very good one, but my older brother, Ian, and John Turner had the champion billy cart of the district and would take on all challengers. A standard run was down Girroma Street and a championship run was Terry Street into Kyle Bay.

We used to get into trouble for being late home from bird nesting at Sylvania.

In order to earn pocket money I used to deliver milk on the horse and cart which came from Salters Dairy on the corner of Princes Highway and King Georges Road. This site is now the Catholic School and a car wash. For the morning run one of the deliveries was half a pint to Coxheads who lived in Carss Cottage at the time. For the 4.30 am deliveries on the week ends, I used to walk from home to Beach Street, Blakehurst through the park, close to William Carss' grave which was highly polished in those days. On a full moon it used to let off an eerie light and I would hang on to my dog "Pooch" very tightly. I used to deliver to all of Carss Park, hence I knew most of the people. Mr Coxhead always threatened to tell our parents about us riding our pushbikes through the park.

I also used to deliver groceries on the handlebar of my bike. For delivery into Carss Park, newspapers had to come from Ormonde Parade, Hurstville (Mr Newman). They eventually sold to the Carss Park Newsagency.

*Graham's memories of his early life in our district will be continued in our next newsletter. We hope this will encourage others to write down their childhood memories of life in the suburbs of the Kogarah Municipality.*



## Vale Lesley Muir



It is with deep regret that we acknowledge the death of Dr Lesley Anne Muir OAM, MA, PhD, FRAHS.

Lesley died on 19 May 2012 age 67 years.

She will be remembered for her many wonderful attributes as historian, speaker and author. Her enthusiasm for and knowledge of Australian history made her a particularly gifted speaker and she was also known for her publications on NSW colonial politics, NSW architectural history and Sydney local history. She was always available and involved in local historical societies, attending our special events, usually with husband Brian Madden. She served for many years with the Royal Australian Historical Society, as a Councillor, a Vice-President and Chair of the Affiliated Societies Committee.

Six members of Kogarah Historical Society attended Lesley's funeral and she will be much missed by her family, friends and the wider community.

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## Lord Baden-Powell

Lord Robert Baden-Powell of Gilwell was born in 1857 in England, and lived a busy and adventurous life. He entered the Army in 1876 and was sent to India, where he tried out his ideas of training soldiers in 'Scouting'. Later he put into writing his ideas in 'Aids to Scouting', which was used as a text book for many years.

After the famous siege of Mafeking, Baden-Powell was given a hero's welcome on his return to England.

He was encouraged to set down his views on how he would apply 'Scouting' to the training of boys, so he conducted an experimental camp in 1907 on Brownsea Island with 20 boys and adult leaders. Baden Powell taught the boys what he meant by 'Scouting'. The camp was a great success, so Baden Powell included his experiences in a book called 'Scouting for Boys'. First published in January 1908 in fortnightly parts, it sold readily to boys in England and 'Scouting' spread rapidly. Within two years a rally at the Crystal Palace, London, drew together eleven thousand boys.

Meanwhile, Scouting spread to Australia, New Zealand and India in 1908 and other countries followed shortly after.

Lord Baden-Powell was proclaimed World Chief Scout at the first Jamboree at Olympia in 1920. He was raised to the peerage in 1929, and was awarded the Order of Merit in the Coronation Honours in 1937. He came to Australia three times, in 1912, 1931 and in 1934-35 to the first Australian Jamboree.

Honours were showered upon him by many countries. After the World Jamboree in Holland in 1927 he retired to Kenya where he spent several happy years with his family. He died there on January 8, 1941 and was buried at Nyeri, Kenya.

*Reference: Taken from the flyleaf of 'Scouting for Boys', first Australian Edition 1982.*

## Boer War Memorial

Members will recall that our first speaker last year was Tony Lanarch-Jones Chairman of the NSW Committee of the National Boer War Memorial Association which has been campaigning to have a Memorial erected in the National Capital commemorating the 23,000 men from Australia who fought in the Boer War and the 1000 men who died and were buried there. Ceremonies for Boer War Day this year have been held around the country during May and June and a design for the War Memorial has now been approved.



It will be built in Anzac Parade, Canberra, complementing memorials to later conflicts that sit along Anzac Parade.

The design has been carefully thought out. It recognizes that all Australian troops in the Boer War were mounted or dependent on horses to tow their ambulances, artillery and supply wagons, to match the highly mobile Boer soldiers. It recalls their endurance and sacrifice.

The walls grow out of the natural landscape to frame the action to tell the stories: an outline of Australians' part in the war, a verse from Banjo Patterson, extracts from a soldier's letters home.

The front wall provides space for wreath and poppy tributes. Its six parts remind us that Federation united the six colonies into the Australian nation during the 33 months of the Boer War. The nation's first war is a significant event. Engraved unit lists, including the nurses serving for the first time in military history will be added. The higher back wall provides a horizon for the site's South African environment. The natural Australian eucalypt bushland is the backdrop to all the memorials along Anzac Parade.

Sculpture, in bronze, is by Louis Laumen and pays tribute to both men and horses that suffered the privations of war. *You can see the full design and details at the website [www.bwm.org.au/site/Memorial\\_Design.asp](http://www.bwm.org.au/site/Memorial_Design.asp)*



## 90 Not Out

Trudy Johns celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 13 June 2012. In fact she celebrated all week starting with an Open House for family and friends on the previous Sunday, organized by the family. The Society was delighted that she still managed to attend the meeting on Thursday 14 June, and presented her with a very well deserved Certificate of Appreciation for her 41 years of service which has seen her take on most of the Committee positions, act as Trustee for the Society, continue to volunteer regularly at the Museum and still be in charge of catering both for meetings at the School of Arts and functions at the Museum.

After the congratulations and presentation Trudy went back to serving the afternoon tea as usual!

*Gill Whan*

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## Coming Events

**History Week – 8 – 16 September 2012. Theme: Threads: They wore what?!** Clothing has always been an important element of human expression. From status to style, culture to professional identity, clothes have defined us.

**All Dressed Up** is the title of an exhibition to be staged by Kogarah Library from 10 – 23 September. Using photographs and surviving clothes, the exhibition will explore the history of clothes in Kogarah and unpick the meaning behind the wardrobes of the past. Our Society will be contributing some items from Carss Cottage Museum.

**Historic Walk around Oatley – 15 September 2012.** This will be led by John Johnson, Local Studies Librarian and will start from Oatley Library at 9.45 am, finishing at 1pm. It will explore the stories of Oatley's rich history. It is an energetic walk with some steep hills involved and requires a moderate level of fitness. Bookings open soon.

**National Family History Week – 27 July – 5 August. Past-Present-Future.** 200 events to be held throughout Australia. Check website for more information.

[www.familyhistoryweek.org.au](http://www.familyhistoryweek.org.au) or pick up a leaflet from our meeting.

**Home Front – Wartime Sydney 1939-45.** This is an ongoing exhibition at the Museum of Sydney, open until 9 September. It shows how life in Sydney was transformed during wartime. The Museum is on the corner of Phillip and Bridge Sts and opens daily from 9.30 am – 5pm.

## Member Profile



Adele Ryan has been a member of Kogarah Historical Society for six years and has been a regular attendee at Mondays at the Museum. She is on the volunteer roster for the Museum and this year was elected to the Committee and also took on the role of convenor for Mondays at the Museum.

She was born in Trieste, Italy and lived there until she was ten years old when the family decided to migrate to Australia. Adele and family arrived in Melbourne in 1955, travelling from Trieste via the Suez Canal on the migrant ship SS Flaminia. On arrival they were taken, together with other assisted migrants, by train to Bonegilla. Adele spoke no English.

Work was guaranteed to assisted migrants and her father, after turning down the offer to go to Ceduna to build the railway (he had looked at the map!), accepted a job at Port Kembla in the Steel Works where he eventually stayed for 27 years. He and the other men were sent to a hostel in Unanderra but the women and children had to go to a migrant camp at Scheyville near Windsor. Adele remembers that it was well set up with school, English classes and recreational activities, the drawback being that her father could only visit on some weekends. Her father soon got on his feet at Port Kembla and was able to bring his family to the area. Adele went to Primary school in Wollongong, to St Marys College for secondary school and then decided to train as a nurse. She did the four year training at St Vincents Hospital in Sydney and came back to Wollongong to do midwifery.

In the meantime she met her future husband Robert, an industrial chemist, and they were married two years later. After the birth of their first daughter they travelled to the United Kingdom and spent two years working there plus three months in Italy, returning to Australia in 1973 and settling in Mascot where a second daughter was born.

The move to this area came in 1977 when they bought a house in Sans Souci. They love the area and never want to leave according to Adele. A third daughter born there completed the family. Adele continued to work but changed careers by graduating as a Bachelor of Social Sciences from UNSW. She worked as coordinator of the NSW Branch of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute and later at the Royal Australasian College of Physicians in the training department. She is currently employed part time in administration at St George Hospital.

Moving to part time employment allowed her to look around and see what was happening in the community. She is passionate about colonial and local history and is a member of the Historic Houses Trust as well as Kogarah Historical Society. She is also an active member of the Kogarah Bay Progress Association focusing particularly on preserving our heritage. She has discovered that she likes to write and is a founding member of the Kogarah (NSW) Writers Group run by Kogarah Council. She is an avid reader of crime fiction and historical novels, loves the theatre and cinema and travel – travel is mostly to her country of birth. Her three daughters have married and live in the Sydney area and she has six grandchildren which give her a great deal of pleasure and keep her busy. Her work commitments mean she is unable to attend our Thursday meetings but you will get to meet her if you go along to a Monday at the Museum and her election to the Committee this year means we are enjoying a fresh perspective on our proceedings and activities.

*Gill Whan*