

Kogarah Historical Society Inc

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

www.kogarah.historicalsociety.com

Patron: The Mayor of Kogarah

President: Janette Hollebone (95297117)

Newsletter

Sept/October 2012

Volume 4 No 4



A steam tram pre 1906 - mail box attached to leading passenger car. See story p.5 (This photo was taken at Kensington).

Meetings and Speakers

Thursday 13 September 2012

Judith Dunn: Historian, *Colonial Ladies*:
lovely, lively & lamentably loose

Thursday 11 October 2012

Bruce Shaw, St George Heritage Society,
Ellis Rowan: *More than a Flower Painter*

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

24 September – Mary Small



Mary Small will tell us about Lennie's Ride – the epic journey of a 9 year old boy who rode his horse from Gippsland to Sydney to see the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. 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.

Museum Roster

September 2012

2 nd	Carole Tier & Ken Grieve
9 th	Mavis Ward & Mary Williams
16 th	Trudy Johns & Elizabeth Emerson
23 nd	Betty Goodger & Janette Hollebhone
30 th	Cath and Leo Sullivan

October 2012

7 th	Gill Whan & Deirdre Schroeder
14 th	Adele Ryan & Lawrie Corry
21 th	Trudy Johns & Elizabeth Emerson
28 th	Betty Goodger & Janette Hollebhone

Hours 1 pm – 5 pm. Problems, contact Elizabeth Emerson, 9579 4118 or Gill Whan, 9546 4623

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 Hollebhone	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

3 Sept, 7.00 pm	Beryl Butters, 36 Louisa St., Oatley
1 Oct, 7.00 pm	Trudy Johns, 2/900 Forest Road, Peakhurst (tbc/public holiday)
5 Nov 7.00 pm	Beverley Earnshaw, 15 Hamer Street, Kogarah Bay

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).

A Boy's life - Growing up in Carss Park (Part 2)

By Graham Phillip Knowles



Graham (Greg), brother Ian and their mother Elsie Knowles

In my days of growing up in Carss Park there were not many houses and I have seen it develop from bush with lantana and blackberry bush which contained snakes, to what we have now. In the old days we had two movies made at the end of Bunyala Street going towards the water, namely *Sons of Matthew* (with Tommy Burns) and *Bush Christmas*.

Cracker night was always on the corner of Carwar Avenue and Girroma Street. The local pushbike racing track went from Girroma Street – Carwar Avenue (where the local coffee shop is now).

The Turnbolls lived in the first house in Girroma Street, built the track and used to run the time trials. Eventually Dave Turnbull used to ride his motor bike around the track, as in the speedway.

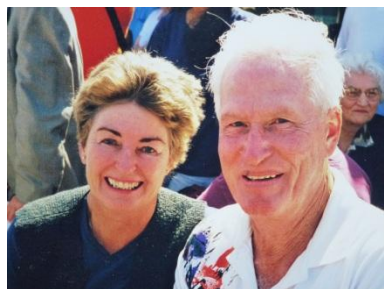
Where the coffee shop is now was one of our corner stores owned by Mr Stevens. It was eventually bought by Jack Hanson, reputedly the No.1 trumpet player in the Sydney Prince Edward Theatre, Surryville Regent Dance Hall Hurstville and the Pacific Rockdale. He played at my 21st birthday party on our back verandah.

The first general store in Carss Park was Hudsons, corner Princes Highway and Carwar Avenue. In 1951 they sold to Penders who had a talking cockatoo (boy, could he swear!). It was next sold to the BP Service Station and Stewarts Motor Service moved from Carwar Avenue to Princes Highway between the BP Service Station and the canal. The newsagency opened on the current site which was owned by Bill Paterson, the Penders' son-in-law. The mural on the wall showing Carss Bush Park, shows the African grey cockatoo from the original shop – Beryl and Bill could look at it from their front window.

As my parents didn't have much money we had the usual vegetable garden, chooks, ducks and open fires for warmth, plus homebrew which used to blow up occasionally under the wash tubs and the house. The people of Carss Park used to have home brew and sing-a-long parties. There were the usual trades people who called, the toilet man, the grocery man, the iceman, the rabbit-O, the coalman etc.

In my day there were seven tennis courts in Carss Park, and Milton McKinley helped me to begin playing tennis when I was about 12 years old on Gearin's tennis court in Erang Street. I had a further three months of lessons on Saturday mornings at Rockdale. Jack Kramer spoke to us children once. I ended up playing A4 Saturday afternoons and B1 Sunday morning competitions. One of my greatest pleasures in tennis much later was teaching my daughter, Elisabeth, and playing competitions with her.

In 1949 I was one of the foundation members of the Kogarah Bay Sailing Club. We raced VJs and I was lucky enough to sail in a few major events, including Sydney Harbour as a forehand. The Club was originally 300 yards along the beach from the existing club today.



In 1970 my “cheap board” finished. I married Beverley Cox, a widow who had two daughters, Elisabeth and Marete.

We extended the Carss Park house to look after my mother before she was required to go into a retirement village.

No.37 Carwar Avenue had been the “honeymoon” house for Elsie (1906-2004) and Jim Knowles (1901-1971). We have kept the tradition of the house as a “halfway house” because we have had a lot of interstate visitors.

In my days Carss Park had lots of opportunities for sport and education, all you had to do was grasp them, which I did. My childhood was one that I remember with pleasure but all good things come to an end. There was a working life to come and now I am retired, still busy and enjoying life but with time to remember the old days.

I hope you have enjoyed reading a few of my stories regarding my life in Carss Park. Thank you. *Graham Knowles.*

Coming Events

All Dressed Up. Clothing in Kogarah. An exhibition at Kogarah Library 10 – 23 September 2012. The exhibition explores the history of clothes in Kogarah and unpicks the meaning behind the wardrobes of the past. Inquiries: 9330 9573.

Kogarah Library – 5 September 2012. *Why Books Matter.* An evening with Richard Glover (ABC). 7pm – 9pm to mark National Year of Reading. Free event but bookings essential.

Historic Walk around Oatley – Saturday 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 can be made on 9330 9527. This is a free event. If weather is wet there is an alternate date of 22 September.

Royal Australian Historical Society – Thursday 27 September 10 am – 1pm at History House. Lecture by Gay Hendriksen on *Your Family’s History and Treasures – Be the Curator of your own Home.* Cost \$32 (morning tea included). Bookings 9247 8001.

Royal Australian Historical Society – 2012 State History Conference 20 and 21 October 2012 at Rowers on Cooks River (1 Levey Street, Wollie Creek). Theme: *Saturated with Filth and Corruption – NSW History?* Looks at the good, the bad and the ugly of NSW local history. Registrations are now open. Details on-line and available at our meetings.

NB: It is a few years since this important conference has been held in an area so close to us. This is a chance for our members to attend and we hope lots of you will consider registration.

English Street Walk 27 October 2012. Organised by your own KHS. Starts 10 am at corner of Railway Parade and English St. \$4.00. Led by Janette Hollebone & Beverley Earnshaw. No need to book, just come.

A Post Office for Sans Souci

By Beverley Earnshaw

In the last half of the nineteenth century when Kogarah was little more than a rural outpost of Sydney, postal services were very sparse. William Blake became Kogarah's first Postmaster in 1863 with an office on 'Kogarah Road' which was also then known as 'Rocky Point Road'. A carrier on horseback delivered mail three times a week from Cooks River to Rocky Point and from 1882 William Lowe conveyed mail from Tempe to Tom Uglys Point by coach.

The people of Sans Souci felt badly neglected when it came to mail services and in December 1891 began 'an agitation' for a post and telegraph office at Sans Souci. A postal inspector recommended that an office be opened at the junction of Rocky Point Road and Sandringham Street, the latter of which led to the elite Prince of Wales resort hotel.

In 1892 Edwin Collis, proprietor of a boatshed and refreshment room at Rocky Point, applied for the position of postmaster and letter carrier, to operate out of his premises at Rocky Point but his application was rejected because his refreshment room had a liquor licence.

Later that year Henry Dose was appointed Sans Souci's first postmaster. He erected a building which served as a mail office and telephone exchange at his own expense, 150 yards from Sans Souci Public School and the Post Office opened on November 16, 1892. He was paid £52 a year plus an allowance to employ a mail boy to make daily letter deliveries on horseback.

In 1893 unsuccessful efforts were made to have the mail carried from Kogarah to Sans Souci by the steam tram. This did not happen until about 1897/98 when a small post box was attached to the front of the leading passenger car. Later when parcel post was available the mailbag was carried on the front platform of the tram under the watchful eye of the driver.

Samuel J. Moore took over as postmaster on November 8, 1897 after buying the premises from Henry Dose. On November 27, 1900 he was succeeded by Mrs Eleanor Richards who was paid £1 a week plus £43 a year for conveyance of the mails. Her husband, Abiah Richards, was a guard on the Sans Souci steam tram and after he retired became Sans Souci's lamp lighter, lighting and extinguishing the gas street lamps.

By 1907 local residents were asking for two mail deliveries a day. There were now 230 houses



Sans Souci Post Office with Mrs Richards on balcony

on the Sandringham/Dolls Point beat receiving an average of 200 letters a day. They also wanted weighing facilities for despatching parcels to save residents travelling to Kogarah Post Office for that service. Arrangements were made to send scales to the Post Office.

Telegrams were still being delivered from Kogarah and the sandy nature of the soil east of Rocky Point Road made it very difficult for telegram boys riding bicycles.

In October 1912 Mrs Richards sought permission to move the post office to a new two storey brick residence she was having built at the corner of Myers Street and Rocky Point Road. It contained an office measuring 20 feet by 18 feet and the move was completed in

February 1913. The office became an agency for the Commonwealth Bank but the only services offered were deposit and withdrawal facilities, customers having to go to Kogarah for all other banking business. Mrs Richards remained in charge of the office until December 31, 1919.

Successive postmasters were V.S.Thomas (appointed 1.1.1920), Robert Frame (1.2.1927), Mrs Frame (1.5.1940), Henry James Hughes (16.8.1942) and Frederick Ernst (16.11.1942).

From 1913 the Commonwealth Government had owned a block of land at the corner of Rocky Point Road and Newcombe Street on which it was intended to build a 'modern' post office. The opening of the Captain Cook Bridge transformed Sans Souci from a quiet peninsula to a district with heavy through traffic. St.Andrews Anglican church which was next door to the Government land found its property cut in half by the busy Rocky Point Road. The old building (1902) was on the east while the new building (1929) was on the west. A complex exchange of land was negotiated with the help of the Hon.L.J.Reynolds MHR, and another Sans Souci Post Office was built on the east side of Rocky Point Road between Sandringham St and Bonanza Parade.

The Sans Souci Post Office has again moved and is now at 343 Rocky Point Road on the western side between Newcombe and Bonney Streets.

References: St.George District News, Wed.July 14, 1971 The St.Andrews Story,

Historical Teasers

1. Which three events occurred on November 11?
2. Who is Australia's only Formula One driver?
3. Australia has the world's largest sand island. Name it.
4. Who painted the Nebuchadnezzar series?
5. Who invented the bionic ear?
6. Who is the longest serving presenter of Play School?
7. Which is the second largest city in NSW?

Answers:

(1) Armistice signed ending WWI (1918); dismissal of Gough Whitlam as PM (1975); execution of Ned Kelly (1880). (2) Mark Webber. (3) Fraser Island. (4) Arthur Boyd. (5) Professor Graeme Clark. (6) Benita. (7) Newcastle.

The Maitland Mercury & Hunter River General Advertiser, Sat, 26 July 1851 p2 - Sydney News

(From our Correspondent)

Sydney, Wednesday Evening.

James Howe was committed to take his trial for stealing a boat and furniture from Mr. Wm. Heaton, of Woolloomooloo Bay. The prisoner resides at Rocky Point, and there the boat, which was missed about a month since, was found, and a portion of the sails, rudder, &c, concealed, some in his house and some in the scrub.

LARRY FOLEY 1849-1917

Hailed as undefeated champion of Australia in 1879, prize-fighter Larry Foley invested his takings wisely. He ran gymnasiums, hotels and boxing matches—and made a fortune.

Born 1849 in the Turon River country of western NSW, Larry moved to Sydney as a teenager. He had his first fight against 'Sandy' Ross on 18 March 1871 at Como which ended in a draw after 71 rounds under the old bare-knuckle rules. Ross conceded victory to Foley. In the return bout Larry knocked Sandy out in the 16th round.

Edmond English (c1818-1912), *The Irish Patriarch of Kogarah*, who lived in *The Homestead*, Station Street (now Jubilee Avenue) Carlton was interviewed while in his 90s. One of Mr English's memories was of the first fight between Larry Foley and Sandy Ross, when a great supper was given in his house the night after the encounter. The English family spoke about the faded green ribbon sash which had pride of place on the wall of the drawing room as Larry Foley was the wearer of The Green and Sandy Ross was the Orangeman.

When I came across the following article in the *Barrier Miner* (Broken Hill), Saturday, 21 July 1917 p7, I found it was repeated in major country town newspapers all over Australia.

ANECDOTES OF "LARRY" FOLEY.



National Library of Australia

nla.pic-vn3797456-v

Larry Foley on left with Jack Thompson between 1871 & 1906

Jack Thompson was Foley's friend and business associate, often his official second at fights

BORN AMONG THE GOLD.

Larry Foley, the last of the bare-knuckle fighters, and the man who made the true art of Australian boxing, was born on Christmas Eve--on the Turon River--and within half an hour after his birth gold was struck, and the great lead with its wealth was opened (says the "Sun").

The first event happened at 3 p.m., and Foley, senior, was announcing the event to all and sundry, who were invited to come in and wet little "Laurie's head"--(it was not until he grew up into mature life that he became known as "Larry")--when the red flag was hoisted, and an excited miner dashed into the shanty with a bucket full of washdirt and a billycan containing nuggets. It was a double event that was celebrated that day.

"Here's to the young Foley--may he prove a gold mine,' said the lucky miner, tossing the gleaming dirt on to the counter.

"Take it out of that!" said Foley, sen., not to be outdone. "Here's to the new gold mine--may it prove as good as a Foley."

By the time the lucky digger and the happy father had ceased shouting out the whole community was rubbing its sore heads, wondering which was the most important--the discovery of a rich gold mine or the birth of a champion pugilist.

At any rate, it was from fighting, and not from gold mining, that Larry Foley made his money. He tried both.

THE CLAIM-JUMPERS.

When the gold rush at Gulgong broke out in the 70's Larry Foley was the proprietor of a hotel, the Australia, at the corner of Campbell and Elizabeth streets. This was shortly after his second fight with Ross the Orangeman, when he cleaned him up in 28 minutes, instead of 140 [sic] rounds, as in the previous fight. He had only been in the hotel a few weeks, but when he heard the call of the gold rush he took down his signboard, got a few hefty mates together, and started off over the mountains. The claim taken up was on the Wait-a-While lead.

Foley's party bottomed on a duffer. But though they were disappointed, they kept it to themselves. Their quietness was misinterpreted, and the rumor got about that they had picked up the Wait-a-While lead, and that Foley was knocking the gold out of the face with his bare knuckles.

At that time the goldfield was overrun by some of the most capable scoundrels in Australia. More often they jumped on the unfortunate digger before they jumped his claim, and Commissioner Browne ("Rolfe Boldrewood") had all his work cut out settling disputes.

A party of ten decided to jump Foley's claim. They did not know Larry. Within five minutes after they had set foot on the claim one had a rib broken, another had a fractured jaw, a third was fast asleep--and the rest were making for the Happy Valley as fast as their legs could carry them.

THE HOD AND THE TROWEL.

The claim proved a hopeless duffer, and Foley gave up digging and took to building. The old Royal George Hotel, in Mayne-street Gulgong, which still stands, was one of the buildings on which he worked, carrying the bricks and mortar and building up the walls himself.

In the intervals of working he tried out any man who thought he was good enough, and had many a mill behind the mullock heap on the Black Lead. He met G. V. Brooke at Gulgong when he played in the great Bark Theatre; probably the largest bark building ever erected in Australia. It was possibly from the great tragedian that Foley got his love for acting.

By Janette Hollebone - To be continued

Vale Eric Thompson

It is with deep regret that we advise the recent death of Eric Thompson after a lengthy illness. Eric and his wife, Meg who predeceased him in 2009, were long time members of the Kogarah Historical Society and regularly participated in Society activities. They had lived in the area for many years and are survived by a son and two daughters to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

R I P

A ROYAL VISIT

By B.Goodger

No, you didn't miss it. This one happened in 1870, on 5th October!

Just as schoolchildren lined the route for the Queen in 1954, so they did in 1870. About 36 pupils of Kogarah Public School lined both sides of Kogarah Road (now Princes Highway). Their school was in "the only decent building in the district, a small Church of England stone structure. All around was bush and the dusty road was stirred only by an occasional wood cart carrying fuel to Sydney or a market gardener homeward bound".

One of those pupils, whose father was the teacher, recalled in 1927, they were "sent to gather flowers from the surrounding bush, and then, having stripped the adjacent lands of their native beauty, boys and girls were lined on opposite sides of the seldom travelled road. By and by a four-horse carriage, attended by orderlies, drove down the centre. It was the Duke of Edinburgh (Prince Alfred Ernest Albert, second son of Queen Victoria), on his way to Sans Souci."¹

HRH Alfred
Duke of Edinburgh



I was most intrigued for I knew the dramatic story of the attempted assassination of Prince Alfred at Clontarf on 12th March 1868. He recovered and sailed back to England in April 1868. A wave of remorse and indignation caused the local citizens to set up Prince Alfred Hospital – later Royal Prince Alfred. Could it be a mistake? An elderly man's memory at fault?

But I found the date 1870 in the Sans Souci Park Plan of Management² and finally looked at the SMH for 6 October 1970³ to find a paragraph:

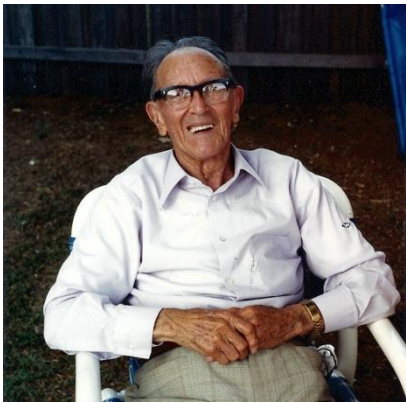
The Duke of Edinburgh. Yesterday his Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, accompanied a party of gentlemen on an excursion to Sans Souci. His Royal Highness drove his four greys and was followed by eight or ten tandems. The weather was delightfully fine; and the party having spent a very pleasant day in pigeon shooting, returned to the Union Club about dusk.

I then found that the Duke, commanding his ship the Galatea, had paid other visits, informally, without ceremony. He came in January 1869 to dedicate the two hospitals that had been built commemorating his escape from death. (Prince Alfred in Sydney and one in Melbourne). His final visit began in September 1870 and it would appear he enjoyed this visit.

REFERENCES

- 1 KHS Newsletter November 1978 p.7 Two Visits, by Hugh Stone
- 2 Kogarah City Council Sans Souci Park Plan of Management 2011 p.61
- 3 SMH 6th October 1870
- 4 Australian Dictionary of Biography Vol 4 pp 128-9
- 5 RAHS Journal Part I 1955 p 19 The Attempted Assassination of the Duke of Edinburgh

Editor's note – Members who heard Judith Godden talk about Lucy Osburn at the July meeting will be interested to know that Prince Alfred was looked after in hospital by the new Lady Superintendent of Nursing, Lucy Osburn.



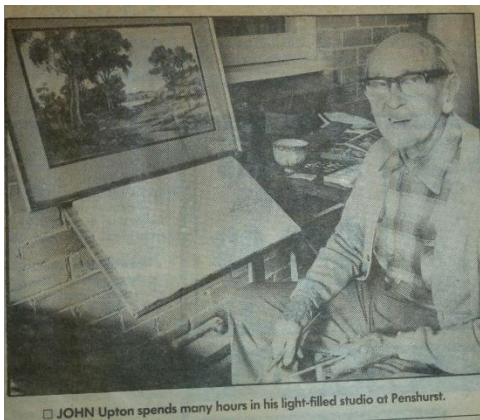
Museum receives a gift

By Gill Whan

The Society received a lovely surprise recently. The family of the late John Upton - artist, through Kathleen Upton his daughter-in-law, donated a beautiful watercolour of Carss Cottage to the Museum. Our newsletter (black and white) does not do justice to the painting so you will have to come to the next meeting (September 13) or visit the Museum to see it.

It was my pleasant task to visit the studio of Judith Upton, married to John's grandson, and a successful artist in her own right, to pick up the painting. She told me how John had seen her potential when looking at her drawings and had taught her to paint. She uses all mediums now and particularly likes portrait painting.

John Upton was well known in the district and painted until he was 92 years old. He was a founding member of the St George Art Society where he began by using oils but switched to watercolours and gained recognition as one of St George district's finest watercolourists.



He loved landscape painting, the country scenes, gum trees, broken down shacks, and won numerous competitions and "highly commendeds". After his death in 1987 the Upton family facilitated the John Upton Watercolour Award which is presented annually by St George Art Society. The trophy is a John Upton painting and the winner's name is engraved on the back and held for 12 months. Winners also receive a framed replica to keep. There are many well-known names among the winners.

John was born in Strathfield but lived most of his life in Penshurst, marrying his childhood sweetheart, Ethol who pre-deceased him in 1973. He was a man with many talents (he performed with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra at 15 years old) but chose to pursue drawing and painting. In early adult life he worked at Anthony Hordens and used to sketch on the way home in the train focusing on people and places in the 1920s and 30s. Later he went into the nursery/market garden business with his father. The nursery was in Penshurst and they focused on carnations, roses and chrysanthemums, became experts with carnations and won many prizes.

He retired from business in the 1960s but continued working as both artist and teacher. He taught from home and many of his pupils have gone on to win their own awards, including the John Upton Award.

We will have a lasting memory of his talent for the local community to enjoy and we thank Kathleen and the family most sincerely for their generosity.

Ref: Sincere thanks to Judith Upton for providing information.

Dangerous Crossing

Article from the Sydney Morning Herald, 13 November 1935

Method of Control Sought

One of the most dangerous road-crossings in the metropolitan area is the intersection of Hillcrest Avenue and Belmore Road (now King Georges Road) Kogarah. It is at the foot of two hills, with another hill in Belmore road which is a main road with much traffic from the western suburbs to the south coast. Accidents occur almost daily at the intersection. The Kogarah Council has been informed by the Department of Road Transport that the Department's officers are unable to suggest practical methods to eliminate the danger of accidents.

One alderman at the last council meeting stated that people living nearby were in a nervous state through the screeching of brakes and narrow escapes from accidents. Property owners were finding it difficult to let houses near the intersection.

The Mayor (Alderman Batty) said that a controlling authority should be set up to watch dangerous places on metropolitan roads. There were so many different types of danger signals that motorists did not know where the most dangerous sections were.

A conference will be held between the departmental officials and council representatives at the intersection to try to evolve a method to lessen the danger.

NB: One wonders just how many cars were on that stretch of road in 1935 compared to today

Six degrees of separation!

It seems we may be assisting descendants of William Priestly Macintosh to get to know each other. Macintosh is of course our famous sculptor who lived in English Street Kogarah. William had a brother John Dugald Macintosh who went to the United States in 1886. He trained to be a stone cutter and worked on buildings in New York City and the State capital of New York. Recently John Dugald's great granddaughter, Jean Macintosh Mankamyer wrote to get copies of our book on Macintosh and there were several emails between us to organize this. (In fact it was quite a saga.) Since then we have received two other requests for the book from great grandchildren of William in Lismore and Wollongong and we are putting them in touch with the American descendants.

A nice story and shows that our website has been invaluable in letting people know about us and our resources.

Howard Matthew, Co-Artistic Director of Shopfront Contemporary Arts & Performance Centre in Carlton is looking for information on their building on Carlton Parade which dates back to the twenties and was known as Hazeldene Hall. He is keen to connect with local people who have memories of the building before it became a theatre for young people in the late seventies.

Howard can be contacted through ad@shopfront.org.au or 9588 3948 if you would like to help.

Member Profile

Lawrie Corry will be a familiar face to members (silver hair and very brown eyes) as he is a regular attendee at our meetings and Mondays at the Museum, is a Trustee for the Society and



has been on the Committee for several years. He joined the Society in 2006 following in the footsteps of his mother, Elizabeth Corry, of Aboriginal heritage, a founding member of the Society, an activist in the local area and so well regarded that Council have named a reserve for her. It is at the end of Wyee Street.

Lawrie was born at 12 Souter Street, Kogarah Bay in 1931, the second youngest of 11 children of Elizabeth and Cyril Victor, always called Vic. His father was originally from the UK and came to Australia as a migrant in 1912, during which time he met Elizabeth who came from the Dubbo area. Vic had served in the army in England and was still an army reservist so when WW1 began he was recalled to England to serve in the 29th Division. Relationships were on hold until after the war. He returned in 1919 and Elizabeth and Vic were married in 1920, living first of all in Wellington where Vic worked on the railways. The family moved to Penshurst and then to a War Service Home at Souter Street in Kogarah Bay (the home was featured in Houses and Heritage) where they lived for over 50 years.

Lawrie went to Carlton South and Carlton Public Schools and then Hurstville Tech. He remembers his childhood with pleasure, sharing many of the adventures described by Graham Knowles in his article written for this newsletter. He recalls taking orders for Hot Cross Buns around Kogarah Bay for Poole's bakery and delivering them on his billy cart. Carss Park was popular and Lawrie remembers going for a swim on Christmas morning, and taking a she-oak tree home with him to decorate as a Christmas tree (no questions asked about how he got it) He played soccer and cricket in his youth and still watches it but hates the way the soccer players and sports people in general behave these days.

He left school at 15 years and worked at Johnston's dairy at Kogarah Bay for two years, milking cows and also doing deliveries. Then (to the Editor's surprise) he became a pastry cook apprentice graduating into a pastry cook and even decorating wedding cakes. He worked in Kogarah where everything was cooked in a wood oven and later went to a pastry shop in Carlton, then to Ormonde Parade in Hurstville. While visiting friends in Katoomba his eye was caught by a girl who was also visiting friends. This was Margaret who lived in Auburn and whom he married in 1957, which means they have been married for 55 years! They moved to Chippendale where they lived for 10 years and then bought a block of land at Picnic Point and built the house where they still live. At this time Lawrie decided to leave the pastry business and went back to his roots in Carss Park, working for Stewarts Motor Services and subsequent owners on the Princes Highway where he stayed until he retired. He and Margaret have four children, three boys and a girl, two are married and they have 5 grandchildren. All live in the Sydney area so there is a close relationship.

Lawrie loves gardening and is particularly fond of Bonsai and orchids. He has started to record his memories with the help of his daughter and we hope that we will be allowed to hear some of those in the future.

Gill Whan