

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: Beverley Earnshaw (9546 1091)

Newsletter

July/August 2013

Volume 5 No 3



Part of the large audience at Carss Cottage for Monday at the Museum, listening to retired Detective Inspector Jim Counsel

Meetings and Speakers

Thursday 11 July 2013

Lyn Cairncross, Journalist and volunteer at Botanic Gardens on *Art in the Gardens*

Thursday 8 August 2013

Paul Brunton, Curator Mitchell Library –
Matthew Flinders: Indomitable Explorer

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. Apologies for non-attendance at meetings should go to the Secretary, Gill Whan (9546 4623). Visitors welcome.

Mondays at the Museum

22 July 2013 – Bruce Shying

Bruce Shying is our next speaker and his title is “Women at Sea” – no it is not about a state of mind! Bruce is an authority on all things maritime and he will tell us about notable women involved in maritime pursuits. 10 am for a delicious morning tea in the courtyard and then move into the Kogarah Room in the Museum for the presentation. Cost \$5 which also gives you the chance to win a door prize. **Please book** as space is limited and it helps with catering. Ring Adele Ryan on 9529 6730 (leave a message if she is not there) to reserve your place.

Museum Roster

July 2013

7th Carole Tier & Ken Grieve
14th Mavis Ward & Mary Williams
21st Trudy Johns & Elizabeth Emerson
28th Betty Goodger & Janette Hollebhone

August 2013

4th Gill Whan & Deirdre Schroeder
11th Adele Ryan & Lawrie Corry
18th Trudy Johns & Elizabeth Emerson
25th Betty Goodger & Janette Hollebhone

Hours 1 pm – 4 pm (winter hours). Problems, contact Gill Whan, 9546 4623

NB: This list is of regular roster days and volunteers and does not reflect any changes or swaps made privately. We need more 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 can help.

Committee 2013 (* denotes Executive)

President:*	Beverley Earnshaw	Ph: 9546 1091
Vice President (1):*	Janette Hollebhone	Ph: 9529 7117
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, David Martin, Adele Ryan, Carole Tier,	

Committee meeting venues

1 July 7.00 pm	Gill Whan, 11 Dewrang St., Carss Park (9546 4623)
5 Aug 7.00 pm	Beryl Butters, 36 Louisa St., Oatley (9580 6954)
2 Sep 7.00 pm	Trudy Johns, 2/900-902 Forest Rd., Peakhurst (9534 7737)

Welcome to new members

**Roy Sherlock, John and Leah Jarvie, Kerry Morris and
Beryl and Marshall Cole**

We hope that you have a long and happy association with the Society

Monday at the Museum – May 2013

Our organisers were surprised and delighted when over 50 people attended the May function. Too many to fit into the Kogarah room and we were grateful that it was a sunny, if cold, morning and we could stay outside and listen to the speaker. Where else could you have a backdrop like ours with a view through the trees to the Bay and the sound of bird calls.



Our member Jan Magrath brought no less than 25 people to the occasion and the Scottish influence was evident. Mr Carss' Scottish background has aroused some interest among the members of the Scottish Heritage Council.

Trudy, Elizabeth and Gilda did a sterling job in providing morning tea for everyone and the audience was in a receptive mood for the speaker.



What an interesting speaker he was. Former detective inspector Jim Counsel told us how he started life in Tasmania growing up on a mixed dairy and cropping farm in a small rural area and after school attending an Agricultural College. He worked on the family farm for a while and then came to Sydney working in the furniture industry, meeting his wife here (Mary accompanied him on Monday) and later they both returned to the family farm. After some time it was back to Sydney where he worked in the milk industry for some years and then joined the NSW Police Force where he clearly found his niche and stayed for the rest of his working life.

Jim described his career in the Police Force; training at Redfern Police Training Centre, stationed at Bankstown for some years and then becoming a Detective and being transferred to the Criminal Investigation Branch in the city where he worked on the Fraud Squad, Special Breaking Squad, Drug Squad and Homicide Squad. He was promoted and placed in charge of the Drug Squad investigating through a number of Task Forces, criminal activities in Sydney and Country areas of NSW. During this time Dr Victor Chang was murdered and he took charge of the investigation. We heard in detail the painstaking investigations that took place, the different theories put out by the media that all needed looking into, the patience necessary to track down the leads, the 'little bit of luck' that assisted, and the cooperation from other States and Asian countries that finally led to the arrest and conviction of the two offenders. It was fascinating and the audience had lots of questions and kept our visitors for some time after the presentation.



Coordinator of MAM, Adele Ryan, thanked D.I. Counsel on behalf of us all and Betty Hickman won the lucky door prize. An excellent morning.

Gill Whan

Mary and Tony Garsia, and the crowd (having eaten all the morning tea)

ALBERT NELSON CLARKE, 1896-1985, ARTIST

By Janette Hollebhone

In the 1970s St Georges Leagues Club published in their Journal, Albert N Clarke's sketches of buildings he drew in the St George area of Arncliffe, Bexley, Kingsgrove, Tempe, Brighton-le-Sands, Rockdale and the Kogarah Municipality. Those included in the Kogarah Local Government Area are:

Carss Cottage built for William Carss 1865

West Maling built for Albert Bythesea Weigall 1889

Tottenham House built for Azarius Cook 1896, designed by son, Roland (demolished 1972)

Torwood, Ramsgate built by Thomas Wilson for John McCall 1892

St George Cottage Hospital 1894, designed by C H Halstead (demolished 1970)

Ellesmere, built by George Hughes for William Rust (home of Joseph Carruthers, Premier)

Kogarah High School built 1891 (building destroyed by fire 1973)

St Paul's Church, Kogarah, built 1869

Avoca built for English family (football link with Mullarkey family, house demolished)

In the list above it is interesting to note so much of our local history has already been lost by demolition, and in one case by fire.

There were sixteen sketches in the St George area published in the St George Leagues Club Journal from 1970-1972. They do not appear to have been published in book form. Betty Goodger did a Book Review which was published in our Newsletter November/ December 2006 on page 11 where she listed the sixteen sketches. We do have a folder in our library at Carss Cottage with the loose pages from the Journal marked "St George Sketchbook by Albert N Clarke".



Albert Nelson Clarke was born in Eastbourne, Sussex, England in 1896 and came to Australia in 1914 at the age of 19.

Albert studied art at Sydney Technical College, the Royal Art Society under James R Jackson and Dattilo Rubbo and at the school of J S Watkins, Pitt Street, Sydney.

He did many beautiful sketches around Sydney, Windsor and wherever there were great landmarks that caught his eye, which were published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* in the 1940s. There was an exhibition of his water colours, small oil paintings and drawings at the Murdoch's Art Salon in 1946. The State Library in Queensland also featured his art in an exhibition in 1954. Later exhibitions were held by the Royal Art Society and the Australian Art Society.

As author and illustrator, Albert published *Pen Points of Old Sydney* and *Historic Sydney and NSW*.

Albert moved to Randwick in 1960 where he recorded many historic and interesting buildings in his illustrations in brochures, booklets and magazines, and there were many more exhibitions of his works, all signed Albert N Clarke.

The Randwick & District Historical Society published an article *Albert N Clarke 1895-1985, An Artist with a Sense of Randwick History* by Ellen Waugh in their Winter 2012 Newsletter. The following paragraphs taken from this article are of great interest:

Albert Clarke, however, was also well known in Sydney, when, with a group of other artists including Douglas Pratt, Pixie O'Harris and Walt Sabine, his work was exhibited on the Watsons Bay wharf on weekends and holidays. This project grew in importance when Norman Lindsay's wife opened an exhibition at Anthony Horder's Gallery, of works by eighty of the wharf artists.

Albert Clarke became a Vice President of the Watsons Bay Easter Festival, where the President was Tony Marinato, the Watsons Bay restaurant owner who encouraged the artists on the wharf.

Albert Clarke died in his flat at South Coogee just before his 90th birthday in 1985.

AN OLD KOGARAH COTTAGE

Many of the old houses that gave Kogarah its character are fast disappearing. Although we can do nothing about saving most of them (and some of them are not worth saving), it is important that we have a record of what was there in the past.

One thing society members can do is to visit these houses when they come on the market and are open for inspection. They can be photographed for the society's records, or better still, the Estate Agent has probably produced a glossy brochure containing a good quality professional photograph of the house. Some old houses have an interesting history which stands to be forgotten if it is not written down.



One such house is *Bringa*, 266 Princes Highway, Kogarah Bay formerly the site of the Alloma Kennels. It is an old Californian Bungalow, once tuckpointed, and with a stone verandah. It was almost obscured when the highway was widened in the early 1950s but the interior has been completely refurbished. The backyard has an access gate on to the Carss Park reserve.

In the 1930s and 40s the premises were occupied by Mr Edward Newton MacCulloch, an elderly gentleman who bred prize-winning cocker spaniels. His pedigreed pups were often advertised in the Sydney Morning Herald with the address "Alloma Kennels, Princes Highway, Kogarah LW 5854". In the 1950s "Mr Mack", as he was fondly known, used to walk the streets exercising a number of cocker spaniels on the leash. His white beard and shoulder length grey hair identified him as quite a character.



Small vignettes about Kogarah's past are always welcome and I urge members to visit these houses when they are open to the public. This is not intrusive and please ask the agent for a brochure. He generally has plenty. There are many small anecdotes yet to be recorded.

Beverley Earnshaw

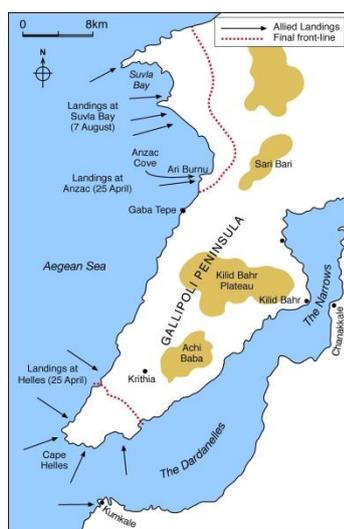
Corrections: In the write up of Show and Tell, the editor made a mistake in the item on visiting Port Arthur. Graeme and Deirdre had not met in 1955 - Deirdre was visiting with her family.

Email for Mavis Ward in the Committee list should be mavisward@tpg.com.au My apologies.

FROM THE HONOUR ROLL OF OUR WORLD WAR I 'DIGGERS'

Sidney Noel Rust (born 16 February 1898) was living with his mother, Ellen Branwhite, in their home 'Beach Haven', in Carlton Crescent, Kogarah Bay, when war broke out in 1914. At the time he was working in a saw-mill. (Back then the building industry and associated occupations were the largest sources of local employment.) By mid-1915, Sid was determined to volunteer for overseas service with the 1st Australian Imperial Force (AIF). What was probably decisive in him reaching that decision were reports circulating about heroic deeds being performed by Australian troops at Gallipoli, following on from their landing of 25 April, at what has subsequently come to be known as Anzac Cove.

Over the next 5 months there occurred a 'spike' in the number of enlistments throughout Australia. The army was keen for men, aged 18 and upwards, to sign up - with the qualification that those who had not reached 21 (the then legal age of consent) needed to have the written consent of their parents. Not only was Sid well short of his 18th birthday but, understandably, his mother was opposed to the idea. So her son lied. Giving the false name of Sidney W Jackson and claiming to be 21 years and 3 months, on 8 May he fronted up at the army's Liverpool Camp and signed on for overseas military service with the AIF, for the standard 'duration of the war plus four months'. An examination by army doctors determined that he was not suffering from any 'disease or physical defect calculated to unfit him [sic] for the duties of a soldier'. At five feet five inches (1.65 m) he was a touch below average height, and weighed in at 139 lbs (63 kilos). Not surprisingly, within two months, Sid was tracked down by his mother, at Liverpool, where he was undergoing basic infantry training. Yet somehow he managed to talk her around to providing the military with written consent for him 'going to the [battle] front'. This was despite him still being seven months short of his 18th birthday – a fact which was withheld from the authorities.



Sid Rust sailed for overseas as a private in the 2nd Infantry Battalion. On 4 November 1915 he landed on Gallipoli, just as it was hit by freezing temperatures and blizzards. Six weeks later, only days before the Australians were withdrawn from the peninsula, he was evacuated to the island of Mudros suffering from frostbite. After a brief period of hospitalization, he sailed with his unit for France, disembarking at Marseilles at the end of March 1916. Thereupon he was retrained to operate mortars, upon completion of instruction being deployed to the front line as a member of the Light Trench Mortar Battery. On 21 July he was wounded by the explosion of a High Explosive shell, necessitating evacuation to a hospital in England. His medical notes read thus: 'Shell wound causing severe damage to left hand with loss of 2nd

and part of 1st phalanx of thumb. Wound of [right] thigh muscles just above knee and over right side of back'. In February 1917 he was repatriated back to Australia, for two months of recuperation. Then, in June, he was discharged from the army. It must have been a great relief to his mother.

Sid resumed civilian life as a bread carter. But April 1918 found him reapplying for enlistment into the AIF and, despite having lost a finger and part of his thumb, on 1 May he was passed fit by the military doctors. (Since enlisting back in 1915, he had grown an inch and put on 11 lbs.)

But this turn of events was just too much for his mother. This time she intervened directly with the military, armed with a birth certificate which demonstrated that her son had still not achieved his 21st birthday, and therefore required his mother's consent – which she was now withdrawing. Sid's enlistment application was then marked 'Cancelled / Under Age / Parents Refuse'.

According to his AIF dossier, Sid Rust's last known address, in 1968, was 160 Bexley Road, Earlwood.

If you would like to read Sid Rust's original AIF personnel dossier, it can be viewed on-line, by going to the National Archives of Australia site and selecting 'First Australian Imperial Forces personnel dossiers' – then for 'Name Search' type in 'Rust' (for World War I), followed by his AIF service number '2464'.

David Martin

Ed Note: This is the first in a series of biographies of Diggers on the WWI Honour Roll researched and written by David Martin. We will feature one in each edition of the newsletter in the lead up to the commemoration of the Centenary of WWI in 2014, climaxing with the Centenary of ANZAC in 2015.

Historical Teasers

1. How many gold medals did Australians win at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games?
2. What animal featured on the 2 cent coin?
3. Who was the subject of the 2003 Archibald Prize winning portrait?
4. In what year was gold first discovered in Victoria and NSW to begin the "Gold Rush"?
5. What song played during Scott and Charlene's wedding on *Neighbours*?
6. The landmark *Katu Tjuta* is also known as what?
7. A) Chiko Roll B) Lawn Sprinkler C) Plastic bank notes D) Dual flush toilet E) Wine Cask?
Which innovation was not Australian.

Answers:

(1) 2—Steven Bradbury & Ailsa Campbell; (2) Filled neck lizard; (3) Richard Flanagan; (4) 1851; (5) Suddenly; (6) The Olgas; (7) Lawn Sprinkler.

Ed Note: Thank you to Janette Hollebone for Historical Teasers. She has produced 20 of them and is now handing over this task to Roger Robertson.

Congratulations to Heather Joynes OAM, who has received a Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division for service to arts and crafts, particularly embroidery. Heather used to attend Mondays at the Museum and was also a speaker on embroidery and on Mother of Pearl. She has been a member of the Society for many years. She has been a member of the Embroiderers Guild NSW since 1965 and has written seven books on the topic. In addition she worked as a volunteer with the Conservation Department at the Australian Museum and says that a highlight in that role was working on a cape from Hawaii, collected by Captain Cook.

Heather had two reasons to celebrate in June, not only did she receive an OAM but she also celebrated her 90th birthday.

THE FIRST GREEKS IN AUSTRALIA

By Beverley Earnshaw

In recent years the demography of Kogarah has changed from a community that was predominantly Anglo-Saxon to one that represents many nations of the world. In particular we have seen a large Greek population move into the district, but the Greek presence in Australia is nothing new because the first Greeks to come to Australia arrived in 1829.



A convict transport bound for NSW

When the convict transport *Norfolk* arrived in Sydney on August 27, 1829, on board were seven Greek pirates transported as a group. They came from the Greek Isle of Hydra, a barren rocky place about 100 km south of Athens where for years the men of Hydra had made a living from the sea. But by the 19th century mariners and ship-owners along the Mediterranean Coast were finding it hard to make a living because the large British and French cargo ships had moved into the Mediterranean and were taking business away from the small local vessels.

The schooner *Heracles* was owned and operated by a Hydra man, Captain Damianos Ninis. It had always been involved in the grain trade with Russia, and when he lost that, Ninis turned his ship into a privateer. She mounted 17 guns, carried a large crew and was a swift sailer able to outrun the heavier British and French cargo ships. The *Heracles* engaged and defeated several British merchantmen in armed combat and plundered their cargoes. Britain would not tolerate this form of aggression and sent out the warship, *Cygnets*, with orders to sink it. When the *Heracles* came under fire it put up a gallant fight, until subject to the relentless pounding of the *Cygnets*'s guns, it broke up and sank. Only seven members of the large crew were rescued and in the absence of any form of communication and the language barrier, the men's families back on Hydra would have believed they were dead.

Those rescued were taken to the British Colony of Malta to stand trial for piracy. On February 12, 1828 they were found guilty and sentenced to *transportation beyond the seas*. People convicted of crimes in any Colony of the British Empire were taken first to Britain and eventually placed aboard the transports bound for New South Wales or Van Diemens Land.

When they arrived in NSW their names taken by the Colonial Muster Clerks were recorded as CAPTAIN DAMIANOS NINIS, GHICAS BULGARIS, ANDRONI TU MALONIS, JORGHIS VASSILACHIS, JORGHIS LARIZZOS, NICHOLAS PAPENDROS, and COSTANDIS STROMBOLIS.

Some Greek speaking Australians have challenged these names but it must be remembered that the Greek prisoners did not write or speak English and the Colonial clerks spoke no Greek so could only write the names as they heard them.

Captain Ninis was a ship's carpenter by trade and was assigned straight to the Government Dockyard, but where could the Principal Superintendent of Convicts place six non English speaking mariners in an agricultural community? He finally sent them to work as farm labourers for the Macarthurs who had large land holdings at Parramatta and Camden Park. The

Macarthurs had been growing grapes for their domestic consumption since the 1820s but in 1830 they were moving the vineyard to a new and larger site.

Field work was not easy for men who had always made their living from the sea. They were assigned to the vineyard with no Greek speaking



Watercolour by Emily Macarthur titled *Vineyards at Camden*.

people to tell them what to do, but back in Greece they had seen vineyards and they tackled the job in a way which astonished the British Colonists. After planting the cuttings they built wooden trellises to support the vines just as the wine growers of Southern Europe had been doing for centuries. The vineyard flourished, the yield was good and William Macarthur was delighted. The concept, totally new to Australians, attracted curious visitors and was taken up by other wine growers. Sir Thomas Mitchell even wrote about it in his diary. But in the official account of the Macarthurs' vineyard, there is no mention of the convict labourers who established it.

It was seven years before the Greek Government discovered that some of its citizens were incarcerated in New South Wales and demanded their return. Meanwhile the Greeks in Australia were doing all right. Larizzos was married. They all kept accounts at the Camden Park Store. Those records still exist and they show Larizzos buying shoes for his wife. But now they had to go back to Greece. William Macarthur organized steerage passages for them aboard the *Duchess of Northumberland*, at £25 per head paid by the Government, but being sailors, they wanted to work their passages back but still have the money. A lot of correspondence on their behalf exists in the archival records. Five did work their passages back. There was some delay with Larizzos, but finally he left his wife and joined the crew of the *Medora*, a small vessel carrying Colonial produce. The *Medora* was short of hands when it left and it was wrecked off Rio Real in South America but the crew was saved.

Manolis and Ghicas Bulgaris decided to stay. Bulgaris married an Irish immigrant girl and they moved to the Bombala District where they raised a large family. The Australians could not cope with his name and even in the official records he becomes known as "Jiggers" Bulgaris. Manolis continued working for the Macarthurs. He had a responsible job as a shearer and foreman of the Macarthurs' wool press. Camden Park records show him earning big money for the time. When most were earning £50 a year, he was earning £375. And on July 15, 1854 Manolis became the first Greek to be naturalized in Australia.

This will be the last edition of the newsletter for people who have not renewed their membership for this year. We will be sending a reminder letter to those who have not paid but if there is no response, then sadly we will remove your name from the mailing list. Membership is good value, only \$10 for an individual and \$15 for a couple. We hope you will decide to stay with us.

DIRK HARTOG (1580-1621)

First European explorer to touch Australian Shores

Australians revere Captain Cook, the first European sea captain to set foot on the east coast of Australia. Other European navigators had visited the Australian continent over the previous 150 years but their landings took place on the west coast.

The first recorded explorer to touch Australia's shores is the Dutch navigator, Dirk Hartog. Dirk Hartog was born in Amsterdam in 1580. In 1616 he was appointed to the Dutch East India Company as skipper of the *Eendracht* on its maiden voyage to the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia). It was a handsome ship with a large crew but as it waited to sail in the bitterly cold winter of 1615/1616 twenty-one crew members and eight soldiers deserted by walking ashore over the ice. The ship sailed on 23rd January 1616 as part of a small fleet. It carried ten money chests each containing 80,000 pieces-of-eight. On the 27th August the fleet left the Cape of Good Hope on the last leg of its voyage to the Indies. The intended route was to sail eastward for 1000 Dutch miles (c.7400 km) before turning northward to Indonesia. At this time the *Eendracht* became separated from the rest of the fleet in bad weather.



As it was hard to calculate longitude in the days before the invention of the marine chronometer, the *Eendracht* sailed too far and fell in with the west coast of the Australian continent. On 25th October 1616 the ship anchored near a large island at the mouth of Shark Bay, the most westerly point of the West Australian coast. The island is now called Dirk Hartog Island and is the largest island in Western Australia. Sailors came ashore at a point which is now called Cape Inscription.

Dirk Hartog left a record of his visit in the form of an inscription on a flattened pewter plate which he nailed to an oak post placed upright in a fissure on the cliff top. This was not an unusual thing to do. In the days before radio, radar, or any navigational aid or tracking device, it was customary for sea captains to leave some record of their visits to remote places as a record of where they had been. If the ship then disappeared, such markers were a help to those sent to search for it.

Twentieth century school children were told that the plate simply said *Dirk Hartog, Eendracht, 1616* but in reality the plate contained a much longer inscription. In translation it read :-

1616, 25 October, is here arrived the ship the Eendracht of Amsterdam, the upper-merchant Gillis Miebaais of Liege, skipper Dirck Hatichs of Amsterdam; the 27th ditto set sail again for Bantam, the under merchant Jan Stins, the uppersteersman Pieter Dookes van Bill, Anno 1616.

Dirk Hartog only remained at the island for two days before sailing for Bantam in Java, visiting trading centres in the East Indies and delivering the chests of money. The *Eendracht* returned to Zeeland in the Netherlands on 16 October 1618 with a cargo of aromatic wax, silk and other exotic goods.

Dirk Hartog died in Amsterdam in 1621 but his pewter dish remained on the island until 2nd February 1697.

Towards the end of 1696 William de Vlamingh in the ship *Geelvink* was sent by the Dutch Government in search of a Dutch vessel, *Ridderschap*, thought to have been wrecked on the coast of New Holland.

At the island in Shark Bay, Vlamingh's sailors discovered Dirk Hartog's pewter dish. The wooden post to which it had been attached was still standing, though leaning over, and the plate had fallen near it. Realizing its significance, Vlamingh replaced it with one of his own. He copied Hartog's inscription and added a record of his own visit to the island. He took the original back to Batavia where it remained in possession of the Dutch East India Company until that company's liquidation in 1799. The plate was returned to Holland and is now in the collection of the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam.

Cape Inscription on Dirk Hartog Island is of particular significance within the Shark Bay World Heritage area. Today the island is renowned for eco-tourism. Its beaches provide a breeding ground for the loggerhead sea turtle and green turtle and its scrubland is a haven for the white winged fairy wren.

Dirk Hartog's pewter dish is the oldest record of a landing by Europeans in Australia. The Hartog Plate is the oldest known artefact of European exploration in Australia still in existence and is evidence of the first confirmed visit by Europeans.

Beverley Earnshaw

Australian National Maritime Museum Visit

On Thursday 2 May, members of KHS met at the light rail tram at Central Station for our outing to Darling Harbour and the Australian National Maritime Museum.

When we alighted from the tram, we walked past the Welcome Wall, taking time to rejoice in the name of one migrant we are particularly happy to welcome, our Secretary, Gill Whan!

Our conducted tour was booked for 10.30 am and we were blessed with our guide, Lewis, whose enthusiasm took us on a leisurely walk to some of the highlights of the Museum. We saw exhibits on exploration, immigration, American whaling, beautiful ships and boats, such as that of Kay Cottee in which she made her courageous solo circumnavigation of the world, (and we can proudly claim her as a St George girl), the evolution of our modern swimming costume, and much more, ending with a display of photographs of the Antarctic.



The Endeavour replica

After a sumptuous lunch, a few hardy souls stayed on to inspect some of the ships tied up at the wharf. For myself, I enjoyed another visit to H.M.S Endeavour, relishing the fact that my size was a great advantage, while my taller companions would have developed a permanent stoop in the cramped quarters. Our last visit was to the splendidly restored ship, James Craig, where the luxurious cabins

provided for the Captain and his wife, and the first class passengers, were a contrast to those of the earlier migrants.

Once again, a rewarding and enjoyable outing for our members.

Betty Goodger



Member Profile

Leo and Cath Sullivan are a familiar sight at our meetings. They have been Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer for a number of years and are regularly on the Museum roster on a Sunday.

Leo Sullivan is of Irish stock and was born in 1927 at his Grandfather's federation style house on the corner of Forest Road and Mimosa St, Bexley. It was home to a family of eight, including grandparents, parents and three brothers. Leo did his primary and secondary education at the Marist Brothers High School, Kogarah, going to 4th year which was unusual at that time.

After school, under his father's guidance he became a pharmacy apprentice at Kogarah Pharmacy situated on the corner of Regent and Premier Sts Kogarah. Also on the staff was John Lean who became his mentor and life-long friend. At that time apprentices did a year at the pharmacy and then went on to University, part-time. Leo graduated from Sydney University as a pharmacist in 1952.

Kogarah Pharmacy had several branches and the Board promoted Leo to manager of the Carlton branch. John Lean was already manager of the other branch at Ramsgate.

Leo's goal was to open his own pharmacy which he did at Yagoona West in 1954, taking on his younger brother Paul as an apprentice. Paul went on to successfully graduate in both Pharmacy and Law. During 1958, the family of now four moved to 13 Lachal Ave, Kogarah. He closed the Yagoona West business in 1973. By this time, his parents had died and brothers had married and Leo moved temporarily to Bexley and then back to Kogarah, in Gray St.

Early in 1975, he had the good fortune to be invited to become Chief Pharmacist at Randwick Chest Hospital, thus joining the public service. In the late 1970s the hospital treated patients sometimes called "boat people". They were refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and nearby regions, who were suffering, in particular, from tuberculosis. Leo says that they were beautiful people in both features and disposition. The methadone program was also part of his duties.

The Chest Hospital was incorporated with the Prince of Wales Hospital in the 1980s and Leo resigned in 1985 and then worked part-time, relieving in many public institutions, including North Ryde and Rozelle psychiatric centres and other times in Long Bay, Parramatta, Silverwater and Mulwala prisons. He never had to stay overnight!

During this period, he also became a volunteer driver for St George Community Transport, a gratifying experience which lasted over 20 years. Cath also became involved as a volunteer.

Leo is a keen tennis player, in fact both Cath and he are still playing regularly. This is where he met Cath who also introduced him to Kogarah Historical Society. Much to his surprise the President at the time was John Lean who he had not seen for several years.

In 1997 Cath and Leo were married in St Patricks Church Kogarah, moved to Oatley and they have lived happily ever after.

Leo Sullivan/Gill Whan

The editor would be delighted to receive biographies or stories about your family, from members. If you would like to contribute please let Gill Whan or Beverley Earnshaw know. Don't forget also that we are keen to have photographs to put in the 'Then and Now' exhibition.