

Kogarah Historical Society Inc

Carss Cottage Museum – Carss Park
Postal Address PO Box 367, Kogarah 1485
www.kogarah.historicalsociety.com.au

Patron: The Mayor of Kogarah

President: Beverley Earnshaw (9546 1091)

Newsletter

September/October 2014

Volume 6 No 4



Presentation of Life Membership to Dick Burghart, founding member of the Society and still a member. Pictured with daughter Bonnie and our President, Beverley Earnshaw

Meetings and Speakers

Thursday 11 September 2014

**David Bennett, tours with Veterans –
*The Battle of Mons, Day of WW1***

Thursday 9 October 2014

**Dr Garry Darby, Art Historian – *Colonial
Artists in Early Australia***

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 September 2014 – Bruce Shying

We enjoyed Bruce so much last year that we asked him back this year. He will tell us about Immigration under Sail. Bruce is the reason we are doing the Fish n' Ships tour on 30 October. He enthused us all, as a volunteer with the Heritage Fleet. As usual we will start at 10 am with morning tea in the courtyard and either listen to the talk there if the weather is suitable or 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. To reserve your place, ring Adele Ryan on 9529 6730 or leave a message on her answering machine.

Sunday Museum Roster

Sept 2014		October 2014	
7 th	Carole Tier & Ken Grieve	5 th	Gill Whan & Deirdre Schroeder
14 th	Mavis Ward & Mary Williams	12 th	Adele Ryan & Lawrie Corry
21 st	Trudy Johns & Betty Reynolds	19 th	Trudy Johns & Betty Reynolds
28 th	Betty Goodger & Janette Hollebone	26 th	Betty Goodger & Janette Hollebone

Hours **1 pm – 5 pm**. 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 2014 (* denotes Executive)

President:*	Beverley Earnshaw	Ph: 9546 1091
Vice President:*	Mavis Ward	Ph: 9546 5704
Vice President:*	David Martin	Ph: 9599 1867
Secretary:*	Gill Whan	Ph: 9546 4623
Treasurer:*	Cath Sullivan	Ph: 9579 6149
Public Officer:*	Janette Hollebone	Ph: 9529 7117

Committee Members: Beryl Butters, Lawrie Corry, Garry Darby, Trudy Johns, Adele Ryan, Carole Tier, Pat Young

Committee meeting venues

1 Sept 7.00 pm	Trudy Johns, 2/900-902 Forest Road, Peakhurst (9534 7737)
6 Oct 7.00 pm	Gill Whan, 11 Dewrang Street, Carss Park (9546 4623)
3 Nov 7.00 pm	Janette Hollebone, 1 Meriel St., Sans Souci (9529 7117)

Welcome to new member

Elaine Filewood

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

Lionel (Dick) Burghart honoured



Beverley and Dick with the Life Membership Certificate.

About 20 people gathered at Woollooware Shores for morning tea on Thursday 18 August to present Dick Burghart with a long overdue Life Membership of Kogarah Historical Society. Both Dick and Val Burghart were present together with Dick's sister Pauline and his niece, Dennis and May McDonald who were also foundation members of the Society, other old friends from the Society and Bonnie Scully, his daughter who had organized the morning for us. Dick has very low vision so it was a complete surprise as people introduced themselves and he rediscovered old friends.

Beverley acknowledged the contribution made by both Dick and Val in her presentation speech. She noted that they were founding members and that it had been thanks to the efforts of people like Dick, who had been an Alderman on Kogarah Council, together with Ken Cavanough, that Carss Cottage was set aside as a local history museum and placed in the care of Kogarah Historical Society. Dick had served on Kogarah Council from 1968 – 1979 and had been Mayor in 1978-79. Val had been a gracious Mayoress and the Society had enjoyed their hospitality on many occasions at their home in Kyle Bay.



Trudy Johns and Dick 'catch up' after many years.

They had both served on the Historical Society's Committee and Dick had been Vice President from 1982 – 1986. They had worked hard and in a practical way to establish and set up the Museum and Val had been editor of the newsletter and researched and written articles for it.



Flowers for Val Burghart

Bonnie remembered being 'volunteered' as a child when the newsletter had to be produced. This would mean a trip to Council to use the Gestetner, ink and paper everywhere, waiting for ink to dry, collating, folding, enveloping and writing addresses by hand.

Beverley presented a framed Certificate of Life Membership to Dick in recognition of his continuing support over 44 years and in particular the efforts made in Council on the Society's behalf. These efforts had seen a humble stone cottage transformed into a museum of local history, which is now an important cultural icon, 'preserving the past for the future'.

Dick made a gracious speech of acceptance and thanks, in which he acknowledged Val and her contribution to all the achievements and the support that Bonnie gave to both of them. Beverley presented Val with a posy of flowers and the group then enjoyed a long morning tea with many exchanges and reminiscences.



From the Museum

CHARLES NUTTALL (1872-1934)



There is a large framed copy of a painting on the *Opening of First Federal Parliament by HRH the Duke of Cornwall & York, 9 May 1901*, which was held in the Royal Exhibition Building in Melbourne, executed by Charles Nuttall and hung above the fireplace in the Kogarah Room of our Museum. Surrounding the print is the heading: *Presented to the Kogarah Council by the following 1907 subscribers*. Listed down the sides are the names of the 8 Aldermen (including the Mayor), the Town

Clerk and the Hon J H Carruthers, and below are 37 names.

The Historical Picture Association commissioned Charles Nuttall to produce a painting of ‘the Opening’ with the purpose of depicting as many of the dignitaries as possible. Another group commissioned Tom Roberts to do a painting of the event and his painting is well known.

Artistic licence was used in both paintings. Roberts changed the arrangement of the dais and steps of the building to suit his evocative and impressionistic style. Nuttall arranged the parliamentarians in curved rather than straight rows in order to include more faces. He changed the massed chrysanthemums around the dais to spiky palms, and included George Reid who was absent because of illness. George Reid was NSW premier 1894-1899, and became our fourth Prime Minister (1904-1905). Reid was also appointed Australia’s first High Commissioner in London in 1910.

Charles Nuttall painted a mirror image of the event in oil on a canvas 12 feet by 8 feet. He began work on 19 August 1901 in a studio within the Exhibition Building, and the painting was unveiled on 19 June 1902. There are 343 recognisable portraits of local and international dignitaries. Charles organized sittings of the various subjects so he could make sketches, and we do have an A4 copy of the positioning with the people numbered and the name against that number so you can find where these important people were at the ceremony.

Nuttall’s completed painting was sent to Paris to be reproduced in photogravure by the art dealership of Goupil et Cie, the largest ever made on a steel plate, being 42 inches in length. The majority of prints carry the name of *Goupil* printed in the lower right corner below the image. You will find *Goupil & Co* underneath the print on our copy. Photogravure prints were produced by Mr James Greves, the well-known fine art publisher of New Bridge Street, London. King Edward VII viewed the painting before it was returned to Sydney where it was exhibited in July 1903 at McLean’s Gallery in the Haymarket.

Copies of this painting were reproduced and hung in public buildings, state and secondary schools, libraries, and in many Australian homes which helped keep Federation alive in the public’s mind at the beginning of the twentieth century. Patriotism was high. The original painting was returned to the Exhibition Building where it was on exhibition for many years. Eventually it was placed in the basement and became extensively damaged by damp. In the early

1980s, conservator Amam Siddique and his team spent two years restoring the painting. In 1960 Queen Elizabeth II returned Tom Robert's painting to Australia on permanent loan from the British Royal Collection, and it is now hung in Parliament House, Canberra.

Charles Nuttall was born on 6 September 1872 at Fitzroy, Melbourne and became a well-known illustrator and cartoonist. He had enrolled at the National Gallery school of design in 1895. His draughtsmanship developed under the drawing master, Fred McCubbin, but he was held back to a degree by his colour blindness. In 1905 he moved to America to work as a staff artist for the *New York Times* and returned to Australia in 1910 and continued to paint and draw, and to do illustrations for books and magazines. He died on 28 November 1934 at his home in South Yarra and was buried in Boroondara general cemetery, Kew.

Take a good look at the print in the Kogarah Room of Carss Cottage Museum when you next visit, and think about the history behind it.

Janette Hollebone



BELLEVUE

A One-time Locality in Kogarah

Bellevue means a beautiful view and no doubt was a selling point when a subdivision named Bellevue Estate was offered for sale. The land was situated on high ground between Carlton and Hurstville Stations, taking in the streets Augusta, Bellevue, Illawarra, Lancelot, Meade and Noble.¹

Around 1922, the Hurstville Congregational Church, in Woid's Avenue, was known as the Bellevue Church as it was close to the Bellevue Signal Box on the railway line.²

The Illawarra Railway had opened on 15 October 1884 with stations at Arncliffe, Rockdale, Kogarah and Hurstville. It was not until 1889 that a station was opened at Carlton. The residents of Bellevue had a long walk to either Carlton or Hurstville when they wanted to travel by train. They began to agitate for a station closer to home.

For several years there were promises of action. The Propeller reported on 16 September 1921 that the Railway Commissioners were delaying the building of a new station while they considered quadrupling the line and installing electricity. On 4 April 1924, the St George Call stated that the new station would be called Bellevue, commenting that it would "save residents many miles of weary walking"!

However, it was not until 25 October 1925 that the new station was opened and with a new name, Allawah. It is an Aboriginal word meaning rest, or stay or sit down.³

The name Bellevue gradually fell into disuse and is only remembered in a street name.

REFERENCES

1. *Notes from Beverley Earnshaw*
2. *Kogarah Municipal Jubilee 1885-1935 p.102*
3. *How & Why of Station Names meanings and origins, by John H. Forsyth 2nd ed 1982*

Betty Goodger

BOOK REVIEW

By David Martin

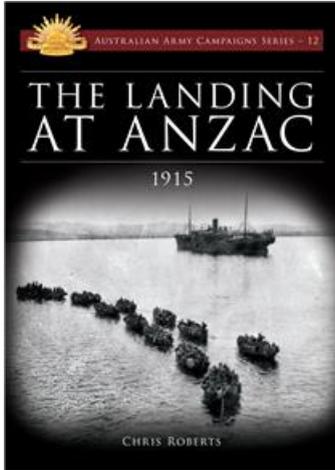
The Landing at Anzac, 1915

Chris Roberts

Army History Unit/Big Sky Publishing, Warriewood. 2013

192 pp., pb., rrp \$19.99

ISBN 9781922132208



This book makes quite a significant contribution to our understanding of an enormously important episode – in the opinion of many, the defining moment in Australia’s history, when its troops landed at Anzac Cove on 25 April 1915. If, however, you are keen to read descriptive passages of heroic deeds performed by Aussie ‘diggers’, then you will be badly disappointed. The author, Brigadier Chris Roberts (b.1945), a distinguished Australian career-soldier, who, amongst other things saw service with the SAS in South Vietnam, has produced a concise study which impresses with its scholarly approach. He examines events from the perspective of both the Anzac and Turkish participants.

He finds that in marked contrast to the Turks, whose troops were well-trained and led by competent, battle-hardened commanders, the Anzacs were essentially raw recruits who had been inadequately prepared for the landing by commanders ‘many of whom were as inexperienced as their troops’ (p.31). Consequently, despite the Anzacs having ‘an overwhelming superiority of 50:1 at the point of landing and outnumbering the defenders during the first four days’ (p.162), the Turks managed to contain the landing – indeed, ‘It was a points decision to the Turks by a fair margin’ (p.160). Singled out for special attention is Colonel Ewan Sinclair-MacLagan, the (English-born and trained) commander of the 3rd Australian Infantry Brigade, whose ‘pessimism was hardly conducive to the firm, confident leadership and flexibility in battlefield command required’ (p.69). If the Anzacs ever had any remote chance of achieving their strategic objectives, it was lost due to certain decisions made by MacLagan on the morning of the landing.

A portion of Roberts’ book is devoted to an exploration of the question: did the Turks use machineguns to murderous effect against the first wave of Anzacs, as they landed on Gallipoli at about 4:20 am on the morning of 25 April? There is a popular conviction that this was the case. Roberts argues it is an example of myth-making, which he explains through the use of various primary and secondary sources - such as Albert Facey’s acclaimed autobiography, *A Fortunate Life* (1981). Facey provides the following description of his landing at Anzac Cove on 25 April: ‘I was attached to No.4 Platoon “D” Company [of the Eleventh Battalion]... We left [Mudros] harbour ... on the afternoon of the twenty-fourth of April... We were told that our ship would move as close as possible into shore but would keep out of range of the enemy’s shelling. [Our officer] said, “They will throw everything they’ve got at us as soon as they wake up to what we’re doing...” Suddenly all hell broke loose; heavy shelling and shrapnel fire commenced. The ships that were protecting our troops returned fire. Bullets were thumping into us in the rowing-boat. Men were being hit and killed all around me... The boat touched bottom some thirty yards out from shore so we had to jump out and wade into the beach. The Turks had machine-guns sweeping the strip of beach where we landed – there were many dead when we got there. Bodies of men who had reached the beach ahead of us were lying all along the beach and wounded men

were screaming for help. We couldn't stop for them - the Turkish fire was terrible and mowing into us. The order to line up on the beach was forgotten. We all ran for our lives over the strip of beach and got into the scrub and bush. Men were falling all around me. We were stumbling over bodies – running blind... We used our trenching tools to dig mounds of earth and sheltered from the firing until daylight – the Turks never let up. Their machine-guns were sweeping the scrub. The slaughter was terrible.' (Penguin edition, p.254).

However, there is a major problem with Facey's account: his service dossier indicates that he did not set foot on Gallipoli until 7 May 1915, two weeks *after* the initial landing. In other words, as Roberts points out, Facey's account is a fabrication! With the use of primary sources, Roberts reconstructs the event to demonstrate that not only did the Turks not have machine-guns overlooking Anzac Cove, but that they had positioned relatively few troops there and that their defences were not well prepared. And in the pitch dark at the time of the initial landing, the Turks could hardly make out what was occurring. Roberts: 'Exaggeration of the forces and weapons opposing them is not uncommon among soldiers, some of whom are apt not to allow the truth to interfere with a good story' (p.169). However, about 50 minutes later, in growing daylight, there was a very different outcome when four rowboats carrying 140 Australians of B Company, 7th Battalion, attempted a landing to the north of Anzac Cove, at the Fisherman's Hut. Positioned there were 80-odd Turkish infantrymen under the command of Second Lieutenant Ibradili Ibrahim. They were capable of delivering between 1000 and 1800 well-aimed shots a minute, which they set about doing in the three or four minutes that it took the Anzacs to row the final 200 metres to shore. In that time, 80 of them would be killed or wounded. (Having delivered their fusillade and out of ammunition, Ibrahim's 1st Platoon made a rapid exit, withdrawing inland.) In the meantime, the steam pinnaces that had been assisting the rowboats were using the machine-guns located in their bows to fire towards the shore. It was the sound of these guns that led some Anzacs to believe (mistakenly) that the Turkish defenders were using machine-guns from various sites to fire at them.

With the centenary of Anzac upon us, *The Landing at Anzac, 1915* is a timely publication that is well worth reading. It presents the reader with the opportunity to acquire an up-to-date expertise in a topic that is, arguably, central to an understanding of Australia's history.

PS: 940.426 ROBE Chris Roberts, *The Landing at Anzac 1915*, can be ordered from Kogarah Library (from Ashfield or Marrickville Libraries).



Len Reynolds Reserve, Sans Souci

This small green park is at the corner of Vista Street and The Promenade and for many years was simply known as Vista Street Reserve.

Len Reynolds had represented Barton Electorate from 1958 to 1960 and from 1969 to 1975. He died on 14 July 1980. When I wrote about his career (in KHS Newsletter September/October 2008 p.5) I noted that the Kogarah Council had discussed honouring his memory by naming a park for him. At the time I had not found any further information,

However I found Councillor Susan Gainsford had moved a motion in Council on 6 July 1981 and Vista Street Reserve became Len Reynolds Reserve.

Betty Goodger

Dates for your Diary

History Week 6 – 14 September 2014. Theme: The Great War.

11 September – Kogarah Historical Society acknowledges History Week with our speaker David Bennett who will talk about The Battle of Mons – Day 1 of WW1. 2 pm, School of Arts.

16 September – 5.30 pm for 6 pm at Kogarah Library. Launch of the book *Baths & Boatsheds, the history of the waterfront community at Sans Souci 1895-1965* by Garry Darby. All welcome. Refreshments served.

27 September – 2 pm – 4 pm - Sans Souci Waterfront History Walk.

Led by Dr Garry Darby, Historian and Author. Cost \$10. (Proceeds to Kogarah and St George Historical Societies). Meet at Sans Souci Tidal Baths, Water St, Sans Souci at 2 pm. Finish at 4 pm with afternoon tea at St George Sailing Club (own expense).

Flat, easy walking along the waterfront in Sans Souci Park, to the old punt ramp and on to the George's River Sailing club.

Bookings: (Limited to 20 people) Garry Darby, - 9583 9916 or garry@garrydarby.com

12 October 2 pm – 4 pm – St George Concert Band playing outside Carss Cottage Museum. A good time to visit. Don't forget, members get free entry to Museum.

30 October – 9.30 am – 1 pm - Fish n Ships Tour.

Kogarah Historical Society's tour of the Heritage Fleet starting at the Maritime Museum – meet at two large anchors. Flat closed shoes recommended for the tour.

Transport: Travel by train to Central then light rail to Pyrmont Bay, return from fish market by light rail.

1. Morning tea on board Tall Ship *James Craig* followed by tour and commentary.
2. Board heritage vessel *Harman* for harbour trip to Heritage Docks and Workshop at Rozelle.
3. Boat to Sydney Fish Market where tour finishes and we have lunch (booking made but own expense).

Cost \$25. Bookings Mavis Ward Ph: 9546 5704 or mavisward@tpg.com.au

Trivia Quiz

By Rodger Robertson

European Countries- We are familiar with the capitals of UK, France Germany Italy etc but there are some less well known countries around Europe that we should know about. So here we look for your knowledge of the lesser known capitals of Europe- in some cases only new countries. And a couple are maybe not in Europe but....!

The capitals of the following please?

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Switzerland; | 2. Croatia; | 3. Serbia; | 8. Albania; | 9. Moldova; | 10. Latvia; |
| 4. Estonia; | 5. Luxembourg; | 6. Romania; | 11. Lithuania; | 12. Bosnia & Herzegovina; | |
| 7. Montenegro; | | | 13. Belarus; | 14. Bulgaria. | |

1. Bern 2. Zagreb 3. Belgrade 4. Tallinn 5. Luxembourg 6. Bucharest 7. Podgorica 8. Tirana 9. Chisinau 10. Riga 11. Vilnius 12. Sarajevo 13. Minsk 14. Sofia

The Saints in Kogarah

Part IV

St Cuthbert was once the most popular saint in Northern England. He was an Anglo-Saxon, born about 634 A.D. and was a humble shepherd until he became a monk. He was eventually the Prior of Lindisfarne in 664 and Bishop in 673, and was revered as a man of great holiness, humility and prayer. ¹

Lindisfarne or Holy Island is an island off the east coast of Northumberland and became a centre of Christian learning. It was destroyed by the Vikings in 875. Readers who watch TV programs on SBS would have recently seen views of the island and the ruins still standing.

St Cuthbert died there in 687 on March 20. Eleven years later his body was moved to a new shrine and was venerated as incorruptible. In 995 his body was moved to Durham Cathedral and again when a new Cathedral was built in 1104 and again in 1828. His tomb was a popular place of pilgrimage. **His feast day is 20th March.**

The story of St Cuthbert's Anglican Church, South Carlton, is told by Beverley Earnshaw in her book celebrating its centenary, so I will include only a few facts.



St Cuthbert's is the second church nurtured by the mother church, St Pauls, Kogarah. In 1907 "residents of Blakehurst and friends of the Church" held a meeting and decided to build a church in their district. They began fund raising and bought land in Park Road, part of an original grant to

William Barton . (Barton obtained considerable land in the St George area between 1837 and 1854, but is remembered chiefly because his son, Edmund, became our first Prime Minister.)

The foundation stone was laid on 11 April 1908 and the building officially opened on 15 August 1908. Even before that a Sunday School had been held on 2 August! At that time the area was known as **Langlea**. I have not yet established the origin of that name. The church was enlarged in 1927, following the architect's original plans and consecrated on 16 September 1951.

In 1921 St Andrews Sans Souci and St Cuthbert's Langlea separated from the mother church and became the Provisional District of Sans Souci and Langlea. In 1925 St Cuthbert's separated from St Andrews and became a parish in 1951. In 1971 it became the Parish of South Carlton, the place name of Langlea having dropped out of use.

By 1922 a church hall had been built and the Education Department used the hall for kindergarten classes while the South Carlton Public School was being built. Indeed it was not until 1927 that the pupils finally left the hall for the school in Jubilee Avenue.

Our Society has a strong link with St Cuthbert's. Our first President, Mrs Doris Hatton, donated two stained glass windows in 1963 in memory of her son, Dr Leslie Hatton and when her second son, Arthur, died in 1980, she and her daughter, Dr Joan Hatton, donated two more windows.

St Cuthbert's stands today on busy Park Road, still serving its parishioners as it has for more than a century.

Betty Goodger

REFERENCES

1. St Cuthbert's South Carlton 1908-2008, by Beverley Earnshaw 2008
2. The Oxford Book of Saints

Lizzie Thorp nee Bard

By Bonnie Scully nee Burghart



George Frederick Thorp and
Lizzie Bard, 1885

Lizzie Bard, and twin brother Harry, were born on August 30th, 1866 in England at 31 Low Street, Great Chesterford, Essex. Parents Frederick George Bard (1836-1884) and Eliza nee Starr (1834-1918) already had five children and another two daughters were to follow. Frederick was a farm labourer and struggled to earn enough money to keep his large brood fed and housed.

By fourteen years of age, Lizzie was working as a general servant for Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Mast and family in Eastborne Terrace, Cambridge. However, she was looking for adventure and when offered the job as a maid to a family living in Sydney, she jumped at the chance.

On 17 October 1883 when the sailing ship 'Selkirkshire' left Plymouth, seventeen year old Lizzie Bard was on board. In later years, she related stories to her grandchildren about the voyage ... one time, whilst trying to retrieve the hat that had blown off her head, she nearly fell overboard, being saved in the nick of time by one of the crew.

When reaching our shores in the January of 1884, she was disappointed to be told that the family who had promised her a job, had engaged someone else. Being a lone single young girl with no money, her only option was to go and live with brother William and his family, on their farm in Goulburn. William and a brother Dudley, had immigrated around eight years earlier.

It was here that she met the handsome George Frederick Thorp (1863-1931) and they married on July 21st, 1885 at St. Nicholas' Anglican Church. Lizzie and George had three boys and three girls; sadly two boys died in infancy. About 1893/4 the family moved to Sydney where George worked at various jobs and Lizzie ran a boarding house in Glebe.

The family moved to 15 O'Connell Street, Newtown where their youngest child (my grandmother Olive) was born in early 1900. Soon after this they took up residency at 9 King Street Newtown and the house still stands today.

Work was hard to find so their teenage son George headed off to Western Australia where more opportunities were on offer, his father followed soon after. George junior became, like his paternal grandfather Thomas Thorp, a skilled carpenter and set up a successful building company in Perth, which his descendants still operate today. Lizzie taught her girls how to cook, sew, knit and crochet and daughters Ivy and Vida worked as seamstresses at Mark Foy's. She and Olive worked from home as dressmakers.

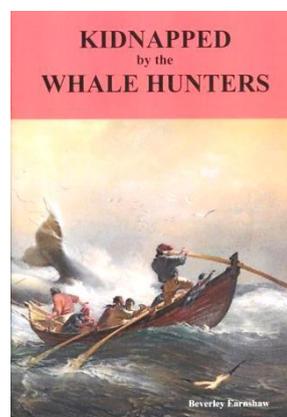
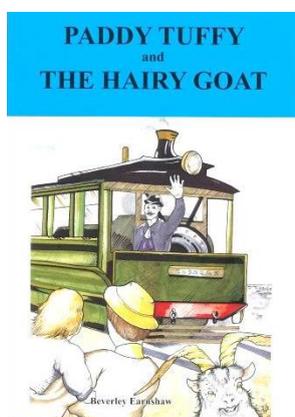
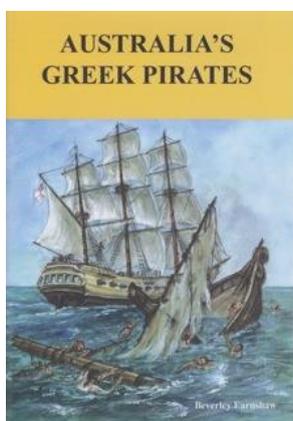
In 1918 daughter Olive married John Henry Campbell, they lived in Burwood prior to purchasing a newly built house in Berna Street, Canterbury. But tragedy was to strike the young family two days after Christmas of 1927 when John Henry died from injuries sustained whilst rescuing a man who had got into difficulties whilst swimming at Brighton-le-Sands. Olive was left a widow with four little girls and another on the way - their son was born six months later.

Lizzie moved into Berna Street to assist in raising the young family. My mother told me she was kind and loving which helped soften the blow of losing their beloved father; her sense of humour, the telling of many yarns and singing songs, kept them entertained.

It seems that Lizzie had a lively personality and was a very social lady, having a constant flow of friends visit for afternoon teas. She kept in regular contact, not only with her brothers and their families here but also sisters and brothers in England, writing and receiving long letters, many of which I have.

On the morning of Thursday July 6th 1939, Lizzie passed away peacefully at Berna Street. She was laid to rest with husband George, (who had pre-deceased her in 1931), in Woronora Cemetery and is close to her son in law John Henry Campbell and daughter Olive (Val Burghart's mother) who died in 2003 at the age of 103 years.

Thanks Bonnie for sharing the story with us. This story resulted from our contact with Bonnie (pictured on our cover) who told us of a tradition whereby each generation of her family had made a crocheted rug. Lizzie Thorp's rug was in the Museum and we have now returned this so that Bonnie has five generations of rugs, from Lizzie, daughter Olive, grand daughter Valerie (Val Burghart), great grand daughter Bonnie, and Kristy a great great grand daughter.



Pictured are the first three of the six books being written for primary school children by Beverley Earnshaw, for the Society. The project under the general title of History Alive has been partially funded by a Cultural Grant from the NSW Government, administered by the Royal Australian Historical Society.

Book 1 tells the true story of the first Greeks to come to Australia, transported as convicts in 1829 after being arrested for piracy by the British in the Mediterranean.

Book 2 is the delightful story of Paddy Tuffy who drove the first Sans Souci Steam Tram. He meets the working men of the 19th century, and encounters the antics of a big feral goat.

Book 3 is the true story of an 8 year old boy kidnapped from the Sydney docks in 1811 to work on a whaler

All are available from the Society either at meetings, at the Museum or by mailing in your order. Cost \$7.50 plus \$1.50 for postage (single book).

From The Propeller, 17 May, 1912, p.1

Cocky Bennett, Mrs Bennett's 115 year old parrot at Tom Ugly's Point is actively engaged collecting money for the St George Cottage Hospital. A money box was placed on its cage last June and up to the end of December he had collected £20/19/7. Since then he has collected another £15.

A featherless, 'stuffed' Cocky Bennett who died at 119 years is on display in the Kogarah Room at Carss Cottage.

B. Goodger



Member Profile

Helen Darby is a familiar figure at our meetings, usually accompanied by Garry, her husband. Helen's involvement with the Society goes back to 1988 when she joined with her mother, Enid Boughton whom some of our members will remember. Helen Elizabeth McIlroy was born in Moree, the only child of Donald and Enid McIlroy. They moved to Sydney in 1941 when Helen was two years old and lived on the Princes Highway, 2 doors from St Paul's Anglican Church.

Helen remembers that she started Sunday school at St Paul's at age 3 years and she is still attending today – that must be a record. She went to Kogarah Infants and Primary School and then Kogarah Home Science, before that lovely building burned down. She did physical culture and ballet through St Pauls and also played tennis, which was where she met Garry at aged 15 years.

She left school at 14 years after completing the Intermediate and went to Farmer and Company as an apprentice hairdresser graduating at age 18 years as the leading apprentice NSW in ladies hairdressing. The Governor, Lt General E W Woodward presented her with a bronze medallion in a ceremony at the Town Hall. She must have been good, she was even called to Kirribilli House to do the hair of a visiting dignitary. After she left Farmers she managed "Vanity Fair" in Montgomery Street, eventually purchasing the business which grew to have 10 staff working there. She sold the business when the children came along.

She and Garry married at St Pauls in 1962. Two houses were made into one on the Princes Highway and they continued to live there. They had two children, Cassandra and Matthew and are now proud grandparents of 4 girls and a boy. The big move came to Sans Souci, in the year 2000 and Helen was packing up between attending the Olympics every day.

As her children grew up she went back to work, variously as Assistant Supervisor at Danebank Tuckshop, part time hairdressing, looking after an antique shop and then a complete change, a new career with Ansett Airlines until their collapse and redundancy. After that she worked in the 'Pen' shop in O'Connell Street for 5 years and then Peters of Kensington specialising in Pens again. I had no idea the price of a pen could be up to \$15,000!

The whole family has enjoyed worldwide travel, some holidaying – the first time with two very small children – some associated with Garry's business and some where he was lecturing. This included on the QE2 and the Crystal Symphony cruise ship. After retirement Helen helped Garry with his business and is still a busy lady. She has two big passions. The first is ballet, she has subscribed for 52 years and had the same seats, first at the Tivoli, then Her Majesty's and now the Opera House. The second is her membership of the Royal Agricultural Society. She has attended every Easter Show since 1946, always with family, Mum, Garry, children and now grandchildren too. As well as Kogarah Historical Society, she is a member of Botany Bay Family History, Secretary of Monterey Probus, likes cooking (which is much appreciated by the KHS Committee as Helen now takes a turn hosting a meeting) and gardening.

We have enjoyed this opportunity to get to know Helen and look forward to her continuing participation in the Historical Society.

Gill Whan