

# Kogarah Historical Society Inc

Carss Cottage Museum – Carss Park  
Postal Address PO Box 367, Kogarah 1485  
[www.kogarah.historicalsociety.com.au](http://www.kogarah.historicalsociety.com.au)

**Patron:** The Mayor of Kogarah

**President:** Beverley Earnshaw (9546 1091)

## *Newsletter*

*November/December 2014*

*Volume 6 No 5*



*Captain Arthur Phillip. 2014 is the bi-centenary of his death and many believe his contribution to this nation has not been adequately acknowledged. We look forward to hearing Paul Brunton's views on 13 November.*

### **Meetings and Speakers**

**Thursday 13 November 2014**

**Paul Brunton**, Emeritus Curator Mitchell Library, *Captain Arthur Phillip*

**Thursday 11 December 2014**

**Christmas function at South Hurstville RSL**, see enclosure for details.

*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**

**24 November 2014 – Cassie Mercer**

Cassie Mercer from *Inside Australia* magazine is a descendant of Captain Starlight and we look forward to her talk on 24<sup>th</sup>, the last for this year. As usual we will start at 10 am with morning tea in the courtyard and stay 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**

### **November 2014**

2<sup>nd</sup> Carole Tier & Ken Grieve  
9<sup>th</sup> Mavis Ward & Mary Williams  
16<sup>th</sup> Trudy Johns & Betty Reynolds  
23<sup>rd</sup> Betty Goodger & Janette Hollebhone  
30<sup>th</sup> Cath and Leo Sullivan

### **December 2014**

7<sup>th</sup> Gill Whan & Deirdre Schroeder  
14<sup>th</sup> Adele Ryan & Lawrie Corry  
21<sup>st</sup> Trudy Johns & Betty Reynolds  
28<sup>th</sup> Betty Goodger & Janette Hollebhone

Hours **1 pm – 5 pm**. Problems, contact Gill Whan, 9546 4623

**The St George Concert Band with conductor Ed Starr, will play outside the Cottage on 9 November and 14 December from 2pm – 4pm. They attracted a number of people in October and it was a great afternoon.**

### **Committee 2014 (\* denotes Executive)**

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

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

### **Committee meeting venues**

**3 Nov 7.00 pm** Janette Hollebhone, 1 Meriel St., Sans Souci (9529 7117)  
**1 Dec 7.00 pm** Beverley Earnshaw, 15 Hamer St., Kogarah Bay (9546 1091)

## **Welcome to new members**

**Glynn Pulling and John McCormack**

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

# The Saints in Kogarah

## Part V

**St Paul** we have already met, when I wrote about St Paul's Anglican Church in Kogarah. We can read of his life in the Acts of the Apostles, marvel at the extent of his travels to spread the Gospel and listen to his inspiring words in the letters he wrote to the early Christians in Corinth, Ephesus, Galatia, Philippi and Thessalonica. Indeed much of our New Testament consists of his words.



*St Paul, one of the many depictions.*

He was arrested about 58 or 60 AD, but as a Roman citizen, claimed the right of a trial, so he was sent to Rome where he was executed about 67 AD during the reign of the emperor Nero.

Since he was a tentmaker, they claim him as their patron saint, while the rest of us revere him as a martyr to the faith. His feast day is celebrated on 29<sup>th</sup> June.

St Paul's Anglican Church in Kogarah served its parishioners from 1869 and nurtured St Andrew's at Sans Souci in 1902 and St Cuthbert's in South Carlton in 1908.

I had always wondered why Oatley had chosen St Paul as their saint and the explanation is that their mother church was not St Paul's, Kogarah.

In 1889 the (Church) Parish of St George had only two churches, St George at Hurstville and St Paul's at Kogarah. Then on 1898 St Peter's at Mortdale was erected and a separate Parish of Hurstville was set up, taking in Mortdale, Penshurst, Peakhurst, Oatley, Hurstville Grove, Oatley West and Beverley Hills.

St John's, on King George's Road, Penshurst was opened in a small wooden building in 1910. They had land at Oatley. A foundation stone was laid 29 July 1911 and the little weatherboard church of St Paul in Rosa Street, Oatley held its first service on 2 December 1911. It was replaced by a brick church in 1966 and consecrated in 1975.



St Paul's at Rosa Street, Oatley (circa 1940s)

From 1929 to 1946, the Rev. W. J. Siddens was Rector and he had in his charge, not only St Paul's, Oatley but also, St Peter's Mortdale, St John's Penshurst, Holy Trinity Peakhurst, All Saint's Oatley West, St Bede's Beverley Hills and the Cottage Church at Hurstville Grove. (We will learn its story in a later article.)

I cannot resist this quotation from a history of the church:

*It is worthwhile pausing here to consider the very hectic life of our Rector in the 1930s and 1940s with the centre of worship at each of the seven suburbs comprising his parish. Sunday services meant a very tight schedule for the Rector. It was not uncommon for the congregation of St John's, Penshurst, where the last service of the day was usually held, to sing hymns until the Rector made his rather rushed appearances to deliver his sermon, after having traveled at breakneck speed from his previous centre. He would often leave a service to be completed by a layman, and, vestments fluttering, hasten to the next service, already begun.*

One of my fellow exercisers, at my Monday class, told me the same story as her father was a church warden at Holy Trinity, Peakhurst and used to "hold the fort" for the Rev. Mr Siddens.

The following timetable is from the “Church Messenger” of 4 November 1945:

9 am	All Saints, Oatley West	4.15 pm	Holy Trinity, Peakhurst
10.10 am	St Bede’s, Beverly Hills	7 pm	St Aiden’s, Hurstville Grove
11 am	St Peter’s, Mortdale	7.30 pm	St John’s, Penshurst
2.30 pm	St Paul’s, Oatley		

Did each congregation hear the same sermon? I can’t help but wonder.

Fortunately, in 1947, the Parish of Mortdale, Oatley and Oatley West was established, comprising only three churches, and by 1955 St Paul’s Oatley was a separate parish.

The congregation worship in a handsome A-Frame brick church on the corner of Rosa and Neville Streets. At a recent meeting of the Oatley Heritage and Historical Society, we were shown the Font and Lectern which are memorials to Oatley men who gave their lives during the Great War of 1914 –1919.

**B Goodger**

**References:**

AUSTEN, Norman J. *A History of the Church of England in Oatley from 1889 to 1975.*  
 WEATHERBY, Noelene L. *St John the Baptist Church, Penshurst, NSW – a History. 1982*  
*Oatley Writes 1983*



## Trivia Quiz

### Decimal Currency in Australia

1. Why were all banks in Australia closed for three days in February 1966?
2. If you had one of each new note and one of each new coin on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1966 - how much would you have?
3. The men on the first \$2 bill were? And it was what colour and why?
4. The first \$5 note did not appear when decimal currency started why? Whose portraits were on the note and when were they first issued?
5. Whose portrait is on the \$100 note?
6. What were the first decimal currency note forgeries and when?
7. Banknotes in Australia are polymer. Since what date and why?
8. When were the \$1 and \$2 notes replaced by coins and why?

Answers:

1. The introduction of decimal currency- they had to convert their bank accounts to the new currency.
2. 1c, 2c, 5c, 10c, 20c, 50c, \$1, \$2 \$10 \$20. Total is \$33.88
3. John Macarthur (wool) and William Farrer (wheat)- seen as it replaced the £1 note that was green.
4. Sir Joseph Banks and Caroline Chisholm. It appeared in 1967 and was not in original set as there was no non-decimal equivalent note.
5. Astronomer John Tebbutt and Douglas Mawson the Antarctic explorer.
6. 1967 the \$10 bill. 7. 1988 a commemorative \$10 note was issued and in 1993 the \$5 followed by others in 1994, 1995 and 1996. They last longer and have better security features.
8. The coins would last longer and the printing of notes was uneconomic (they only lasted a few months before needing replacement). \$1 replaced in 1984 and \$2 in 1988.



Kogarah Historical Society now has a Facebook page, all the latest news and interesting historical photos.





## Tea for Three

Kay Brookes of Carss Park made Jan Williams and me feel we had been transported to another era as we sipped our tea from the Royal Albert tea service and enjoyed the iced lemon sponge, mince pies and little cakes set out on the embroidered table cloth while listening to stories from her interesting life.

Born in 1922, Kay grew up in Dumbleton, now Beverley Hills. Her parents migrated from England, her father in 1912 and mother in 1913. Her mother was a skilled seamstress and worked at Mark Foy's making dresses 'to order' for individual clients. Her father after building a house for his parents and then himself, ran a service station. The two lived on opposite sides of Sydney. Courtship conducted from Dumbleton was difficult. Her father would walk to Hurstville, go by train to Central, walk to Circular Quay, take a boat across the harbor and a tram to Crows Nest. After marrying, they lived at Dumbleton and Kay remembers that her grandparents would occasionally visit, travelling by horse and sulky. The roads were rough and steep and they would stay a few nights after such a long journey.

There were three Brooke girls, Kay was the oldest. She attended Hurstville Domestic Science School and then St George Girls and after finishing school trained as a radiographer through St George Hospital. It was the time of the Colombo Plan and seven girls were brought to Australia to St George Hospital to be trained as nurses. They were 17 years old. Kay's mother invited all seven to live at their house, 10 girls in the one house, and they stayed for three years. Under the Plan, they had to return to their country for at least one year then they were free to travel anywhere. Some returned to Australia and found excellent positions and Kay is still in touch with them. One is in charge of Maternity at North Shore Hospital and Kay is regularly rung and asked to knit more tiny outfits for the 'preemie' babies at North Shore. She has lost count of how many sets she has done. Kay changed jobs from time to time, she suffered from bronchitis and the mountains were recommended – she worked at the Hydro Majestic and her boss was Mark Foy, so both mother and daughter worked for the same person at different times.

Kay's sister Gwen married Alf Leone and came to live in Carss Park in 1952 after buying two blocks of land in 1948. In 1986, Kay built her house next door and both looked after their mother until her death in 1992 at age 97 years. Both sisters inherited their mother's talents with a needle and the house is full of examples of tatting, embroidery, crochet and knitting. In addition to babies layettes, Kay knits tiny rabbits (700 to date), stuffed with tontine so that they are washable, small enough for babies hands to grasp. They are sold to raise funds for St George Hospital.



Kay was a friend of May Grieve, a familiar name to members of the Historical Society, and used to drive her and other girls to choir practice at the Plymouth Brethren church in Joffre Street where she would help May prepare supper and wash up.

She remembers the circus which used to come to Todd Park every other year. She became friends with the owners, two brothers, and as she was a keen gardener used to go down to collect elephant dung for her garden. One particular day the owners decided to deliver her a load of dung, the same day that she had some important visitors for lunch!

The circus put on a free show, including afternoon tea, for the Carinya Caring Centre which is run at St Marks in South Hurstville. Kay has volunteered at that Centre for the last 30 years, helping with lunches etc, and also playing the piano for them.

Sister Gwen died in 2007 and the house next door is now sold, some of Gwen's possessions were donated to Carss Cottage Museum. Kay at almost 92 years is just recovering from a major illness but has a posture many 20 year olds would envy and has a constant stream of friends visiting. And why wouldn't they? She is a real charmer.

**G. Whan**

## Book Review

By David Martin

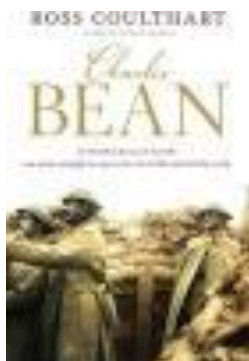
*Charles Bean`*

Ross Coulthart

Harper Collins. October 2014.

416 pp., pb., rrp \$45.

ISBN 978-0-7322-97879



Charles Bean (1879-1968) was born at Bathurst in the central west of NSW. His father, Edwin, was an Englishman and a headmaster, and in 1889 he returned with his family to England where Charles would attend an English Public School and then Oxford University. Thus it was that he received a very English education, and for the rest of his life he spoke with a standard English accent. Just like his father before him however, because of a modest academic record, he was precluded from pursuing the type of career he had planned and so, in 1904, 25-year-old Charles returned to an Australia of which he had only vague childhood memories, to try his hand at various professions – initially the law, education (very briefly as a classics teacher at Sydney Grammar, where his father had also taught), before settling on journalism. In 1908 he became a reporter with the *Sydney Morning Herald*. Following the outbreak of war, he was chosen in a ballot of the Australian Journalists' Association to be their country's official war correspondent, to accompany the AIF overseas. From late 1914 Australian newspapers would have available to them for publication, reports written by Bean about the AIF, first in Egypt and then on Gallipoli and, later, the Western Front. In confirming his appointment back in 1914, the Minister for Defence had also raised with Bean the possibility of him writing an official history of Australia at war – and with that in mind, he would fill about 120 diaries with detailed entries. From late 1917 he moved away from reporting to collecting material in preparation for the history. In October 1919 Bean began writing *The Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-1918*, which he thought would take about 5 years; the eventual 12-volumes would not be completed until 1942. In addition to being editor of the series (which contained approximately four millions words), Bean personally wrote the two volumes on Gallipoli and the four on the Western Front. It was thanks to his representations that the Australian War Memorial was established in Canberra. He was also responsible for the setting up of the National Archives of Australia in 1943 – its motto 'When in doubt, preserve' originating with Bean.

Ross Coulthart is well credentialed to write about a war correspondent. A journalist himself, he has been awarded five Walkley awards for his investigative reporting, including the Gold Walkley: he has worked for the *Sydney Morning Herald*, ABC's *Four Corners* and Channel 9's *Sunday*; at present he reports for the Seven Network's *Sunday Night*. And in a wide ranging career, he has also been an 'embedded journalist' in war zones, in Iraq and Afghanistan. In his new biography of Charles Bean, Coulthart focusses on the difficulties his subject encountered as a war correspondent, and this is intertwined with an explanation of how the *Official History* was written. It is a book about how the history of arguably the most important period of Australia's past was constructed, by a journalist who morphed into the nation's official historian. Coulthart does a good job, providing us with a sound insight into what proves to be a complex topic.

The person who emerges from the pages of Coulthart's biography is quite a shy and humble individual. Whilst not formally a member of the AIF, as an official war correspondent Bean was fitted out in a uniform like that of an officer, and he was embarrassed to be saluted by the troops.

He ignored a direction to also wear the ‘Sam Browne’ leather belt worn by British officers - to which, in an earlier age, swords had been attached - because ‘it is to me all that is worst of the snobbishness of the British Army. It is the secret of the British Army system that officers should be as unlike to and different from their men as possible’. Although increasingly fascinated by Australian ‘diggers’, he was uncomfortable in their presence and chose to socialise with senior officers. A product of the upper-middle class of the period, Bean also harboured its prejudices, against Catholics (thought to be lazy) and Jews (considered self-promoting, especially in the case of General John Monash). He was ‘extraordinarily brave’ in the way he constantly faced death by going into the forward trenches – unlike most other war correspondents who chose to stay in rear areas, well clear of danger, content to base their reports upon official military communiqués. Coulthart: ‘the risks Bean took to be faithful to his craft were breathtaking’; he ‘made it his role to visit every battle scene as close as possible to the moment it happened, and often during a battle’. He was an extraordinarily dedicated, hardworking journalist. He had an obsession with truthfulness and accuracy, which manifested itself in newspaper reports containing an enormous amount of detail – but much of which was unnecessary and made for dull reading. Nevertheless, despite such a predisposition, he was prepared to compromise his journalistic ethics if he believed it would be of benefit to the war effort. Coulthart: ‘Charles Bean admitted he rarely needed to be censored at all, almost certainly because he chose in his wartime newspaper stories not to criticise how the war was going’. But in Bean’s defence it should be said that had he been so bold as to be critical, without doubt his reports would have been heavily censored.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

A05381

Charles Bean in the AIF camp at Mena Egypt

Early in the war Bean learned that, for a journalist ‘embedded’ in the AIF, ‘honest’ reporting could be an unwise policy. When it was decided to ship 132 Australian troops home from Egypt for bad behaviour, Bean took up a suggestion from General Bridges that he write an article explaining the reason. His story, which appeared in Australian papers on 21 January 1915, drew attention to ‘a handful of rowdies’, ‘wasters’ who were giving the AIF a bad name. This produced a ‘vociferous response’ from the troops, as a result of which Bean was subjected to ‘abuse and threats’. Apparently such was ‘the blowback’ that, in future, he refrained from writing stories about serious disciplinary problems within the AIF. For example, not only did he refrain from producing a report about the Wassa Riot (involving as many as 2500 Anzacs) that occurred in Cairo’s ‘red light’ district on 2 April 1915, but when it came to writing the *Official History*, Bean devoted just a single sentence plus two footnotes to the episode. When it relocated to Europe, the AIF drew attention to itself with its very high desertion rate, which Bean chose to ignore.

A more important explanation that emerges for his sympathetic treatment of Australian troops has much to do with a journey Bean himself had embarked upon, starting out his adult life as an Anglophile and developing into something of an Australian nationalist who, whilst retaining strong links with Britain, developed into a strident critic of the British establishment. This was accompanied by Bean’s growing admiration for the Aussie digger which would see him, in his capacity as official historian, actively engaged in the development of the Anzac legend. It helps explain why Bean was prepared to quickly pass over, or ignore, incidents that were incompatible

with the image he was cultivating.

The Battle of Fromelles of 19/20 July 1916 can be used for a case study to demonstrate how Bean functioned, both as journalist and historian. It was the occasion for the most catastrophic 24 hours in Australia's military history, in which the 14<sup>th</sup> Brigade suffered 5533 casualties, including about 2000 killed. The British authorities attempted to conceal what was, in effect, a 'bloody holocaust', by issuing a brief official communiqué which simply referred to 'some important raids ... in which Australian troops took part. About 14 German prisoners were captured'. (Later, in his diary, a furious Bean asked the question: 'What is the good of deliberate lying like that?') A report sent out by the Reuters newsagency (which was little more than an arm of British propaganda) simply expanded upon the communiqué, under the headline '... Australians in attack... Germans demoralised'. Bean only heard about Fromelles the following morning and immediately drove there, to find No Man's Land strewn with thousands of bodies. He quickly composed a brief report with the headline 'Temporary success', designed to trick the British censor. As with other such reports, Bean left the crucial details until his very last sentence: 'The losses amongst our troops engaged were severe'. Coulthart comments: 'Bean's anger over the lies told at Fromelles was a turning point in his growing disillusionment about not being able to give a truthful account to his Australian readers during the war'. Bean would include in the *Official History* an account of the battle which ran to hundreds of pages. He makes it quite clear to the reader that Haig and the British command were responsible for allowing a doomed attack to proceed: 'it is difficult to conceive that the operation, as planned, was ever likely to succeed'. Yet Haig had left the final decision to attack to his commanders nearer the action, who included three Anzac generals - McCay, White and Birdwood – and, apparently, they made no effort to intervene. Coulthart: in the *Official History*, 'Bean ... bent over backwards to exonerate McCay ... whom he had come to respect', and Bean 'arguably had a blind spot when it came to ... his friends Generals White and Birdwood'.

The main theme of Coulthart's biography is Charles Bean's struggle to tell the unadulterated truth to the Australian public about what its troops experienced during the First World War. During the course of the war, as a journalist, he was stopped from writing what he wanted by the British censor. Subsequently he set about rectifying this in the pages of the *Official History*. But in that major undertaking Bean was compromised by his personal friendships with some of the Australia's leading commanders and by his Anzac legend agenda. Coulthart is very effective in most of his analysis. However he is not a trained historian, and where he falls down is with Bean's most enduring legacy, the Anzac legend: Coulthart's exploration of that is lacking in depth.

***Ross Coulthart's Charles Bean is available for borrowing from Kogarah Library.***



### **Note for Researchers**

The National Library of Australia in conjunction with the State Library of NSW is working on the digitization of the NSW Government Gazette 1832-2001. Won't this be a wonderful resource for all forms of historical research?

The digitization of the St George Call 1914-24 is on schedule and should be available on Trove by the end of the year.



# A Mixed Blessing?

## Memories from Beryl Butters

The Bathtub was invented in 1850 – The Telephone was invented in 1875.

*Just imagine being able to sit in the bath for 25 years without the phone ringing!*

Alexander Graham Bell's patent for the telephone, issued by the patent office on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 1876, has been called the most valuable patent ever issued.



In the 1930's my father was one of the few owners of a telephone –it was necessary for his business. The phone was a wooden one and hung on the wall. My Mother was very kind taking messages for neighbours and letting them use the phone.

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War my mother was in the NES and our telephone was the contact for the chief warden who lived nearby. I remember well the night the Japanese midget submarines entered Sydney Harbour. We were woken up by the phone ringing and the message coming through coded ORANGE. Of course at Lakemba we were quite a distance from the city so were not regarded as in real danger.

Imagine how hard it was if you needed a doctor urgently. How hard it was if you found you had to come home late and couldn't contact your folks. You weren't just able to phone up and TALK or arrange to go out. How things have changed. What a time saver!

Norm, who had his own plumbing business, relates how when he had to get inspectors out to inspect work he had to find a phone to ring up. He would drive looking for a phone and more often than not it would be out of order; so he would have to drive on to find another one – how frustrating and what a time waster. We had the phone on at home but I couldn't contact him for any emergencies.



During my long stay in hospital I was amazed to find patients, nurses, nearly everyone, had mobile phones. They were always using them either to ring up, or

one of many other things these phones can do. We have just seen hundreds of people queuing overnight outside shops to buy the latest Apple Iphone 6. How many extra things does it do than Apple 5?



I have a very good friend who was in Japan for 25 years as a missionary. When she first went out in the 1960's she had no verbal contact with home for ages. Now they all have very small phones which show photos of those to whom they are talking.

When our daughter, Julie, went to work as a teacher on a property hundreds of miles from Broken Hill in the 1980's there were only two mail deliveries per week and the only way we could make verbal contact with her was to make a phone call, only on a Friday, via the Flying Doctor's hook up.

One of the greatest inventions has led to one of the most powerful monopolies and ultimately, to the most important personal device owned by nearly every Australian.

### Remember the Fifties?

A takeaway was a mathematical problem

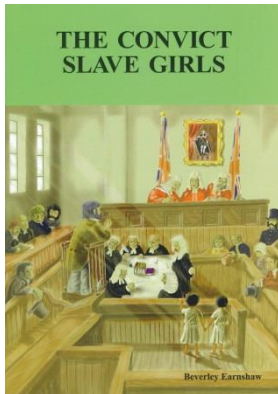
A Big Mac was what we wore when it was raining

Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green

Fish didn't have fingers in those days

Indian restaurants were only found in India

Water came out of the tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol for it they would have become a laughing stock!



## The Convict Slave Girls

Our hard working President/Author has now completed Book 4 of the series of children's books being written for primary school children. 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 4** –tells the story of Constance aged 10 and Elizabeth aged 12 who were real people. They were the only two female children ever transported to New South Wales. There were many convict boys sent from Britain to the Australian Colonies, but no girls. Constance and Elizabeth were slaves in Mauritius when they were convicted of attempted murder. But the tragic incident would not have happened if only they had been able to read.

The book describes their experiences aboard the small trading ship, *Dart*, their sojourn in the Parramatta Female Factory, their assignment as needlewomen to two fashionable young ladies and their efforts to watch the Governor's ball which ended in disaster.

**Books 1, 2 and 3 are still available.**

**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 19<sup>th</sup> century, and encounters the antics of a big feral goat and **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, by mailing in your order, or **you can now purchase them through our website using PayPal.**

Cost \$7.50 plus \$1.50 for postage (single book).



## Vale Val Burghart

It was only late August when we enjoyed morning tea with Val and Dick Burghart and we were saddened to hear less than two months later that Val had passed away. She was a founding member of the Society, serving on the Committee and working with Dick to set up Carss Cottage Museum. She was editor of the newsletter, taking classes in typing in order to pound out the articles, some of which she researched and wrote. She also printed off the newsletters on an old Gestetner, whenever staff at Kogarah Council would let her use the machine! In addition to all her work for the Society, she was Lady Mayoress during Dick's term as Mayor in 1978/79, assisted in running the Burghart business, was involved with the P & C at Blakehurst Primary and High School and the Girl Guides and enjoyed gardening, crochet, knitting, embroidery and cooking – her sponge cakes were known as 'the best' – not to mention that she brought up a family. Members who knew her in the early days remember 'a live wire', a hard worker and someone you could rely on to get things done.

Now she is gone and we say farewell to a great lady and send our deepest sympathies to Dick, to Vic, Bonnie and Julie and to all her family.



## SOUTH STREET RESERVE

It is with alarm that Kogarah Historical Society has learned of Kogarah Council's proposal to rename the South Street Reserve at Kogarah. This is the small park opposite St George Private Hospital, on the corner of South and Montgomery Street. The proposal, we understand, is to rename the reserve Shunde Gardens and relocate the statue of Bruce Lee from the Town Square to this place.

Whilst some might think the park was named because of its location 'south' of something, this area and street were named after John Abraham South, an important pioneer of Kogarah.

John Abraham South was born in Middlesex, England, in 1832 and came to Australia in 1853. From 1854 to 1858 he worked a market garden at Randwick but moved to Kogarah in 1862. He opened a grocery shop and general store on Rocky Point Road (now Princes Highway) in 1865. He also did roadworks and in 1869 sued the Rocky Point Road Trust for £51/3/- for labour and material he had used in repairing Rocky Point Road.

In 1868 he took over from William Blake as Kogarah's second postmaster and the Post Office was moved to his store. He continued as postmaster until 1884 when his son, T.E.South succeeded him.

In 1880 he was part of a deputation that waited on the Minister for Works, Mr Lackey, to lobby for the route of the Illawarra Railway to be via Georges River and Coal Cliff to Jervis Bay.

John Abraham South was elected an alderman on the first Kogarah Council in February 1886 and served consistently 1886-7, 1890-92, and 1906-08.

In those days there was a bakery run by Thomas Moon in a building adjoining his store. In 1892 (or earlier) the Souths took over the bakery and it was operated by son, John Samuel South, after which the business was passed down in the family. The Souths were still delivering bread locally by horse and cart right into the 1940s.

In 1895 John Abraham South died and his widow sold the large tract of land owned by him to become part of St George Hospital.

The corner block was used by the Railway Commissioners as part of the Kogarah to Sans Souci Steam Tramway and this was transferred to Kogarah Council in 1940. But by this time the area was known as *The South Street Reserve*.

We hope that the name of John Abraham South, an important pioneer of Kogarah, will continue to be remembered in the very place where he lived and worked.

*Beverley Earnshaw*

### **'Wanted' – Memorabilia**

We will be changing the Exhibition at Carss Cottage Museum, on Monday 17 November. 'Then and Now' will finish and the next one will commemorate WWI.

If anyone has any WWI memorabilia that they could loan for the display, we would be very grateful (not medals). It will be treated carefully and of course returned at the end of the Exhibition. Photographs will be copied and returned immediately. Please contact Beverley Earnshaw if you can help (9546 1091).

We could also do with some help to put up the exhibition so if you can volunteer an hour or two on Monday 17 Nov from 10 am please let Beverley know.

## XMAS GREETINGS FROM THE MILKMAN (1922)

### From the Milk-Can

In wishing you all Christmas cheer,  
I overflow the "measure"  
In wishing you a bright New Year,  
Your friendship still I treasure.  
For years soon "churn" and quickly "pail"  
(The milk-can has no leisure),  
But yet I grin and never fail  
To serve you is a pleasure.  
Like wings of dawn I float around,  
Before the stars are paleing.  
And be it wet or I am drowned  
The milk is never ailing.  
And so to you the "cream" of cheer,  
With "butter" days and sunny,  
And more to you: An "Ice" New Year  
O'erflowing "milk" and "money."

*With compliments from Dewhurst's Cranbrook  
Dairy, Blakehurst*

**All Milk from Cow to Customer**

In 1922 and for many years on, milk was delivered to the front door or front gate early in the morning, poured in the billy or jug left out overnight. On Saturday morning, the milkman would call to collect what was owing for the week. At Christmas he obviously hoped for a bit more generosity!

The grandson of the milkman, Reg Dewhurst, donated this piece of deathless verse to Kogarah Historical Society. His grandfather was Herbert William Dewhurst whose address was Woniora Road, Hurstville in 1924<sup>1</sup> on the north side of the road. His Cranbrook Dairy would have been "near the junction of King Georges Road and Princes Highway"<sup>2</sup>.

Since those days, Woniora Road, which begins near Hurstville Railway Station and once ran almost to Tom Ugly's Point, has been realigned, as it neared the Highway and absorbed into the modern streets.

### **B. Goodger**

References:

1. *Sands Directory of Sydney and Suburbs*
2. *The History of Blakehurst*, by Gwen Coxhead et al. 1982

*Christmas Greetings (2014) and very best  
wishes for a peaceful and happy 2015 from  
President, Beverley Earnshaw and the  
Committee.*

*We hope to see you at the Christmas function  
on 11 December.*

