

# 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*

*May/June 2015*

*Volume 7 No 2*



The Waratah March crossing the Shoalhaven river. See story inside.

### **Meetings and Speakers**

**Thursday 14 May 2015**

**Dr David Stephens, 'Honest History',  
on Anzac and Anzackery**

**Thursday 11 June 2015**

**Merv Rosen, Maritime Museum on Bass  
and Flinders**

*Meetings at the School of Arts, Bowns Road Kogarah, start at 2pm. Enjoy the speaker, then 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.*

Find us on Facebook



## **Mondays at the Museum**

### **25 May – Angela Thomas**

Angela will be talking about her book *The Hanging of Mary Ann* which tells of the execution of a young 23 year old mother in 1855 who had inherited her father's farm and attacked her husband with a carving knife after she found he had been selling off her land and was bringing his 'fancy woman' to live in her house. It is said the public furore over this execution eventually brought agitation for the Married Women's Property Act.

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**

### **May 2015**

3<sup>rd</sup> Carole Tier & Ken Grieve  
10<sup>th</sup> Closed for Mother's Day  
17<sup>th</sup> Trudy Johns & Betty Reynolds  
24<sup>nd</sup> Betty Goodger & Janette Hollebhone  
31<sup>st</sup> Cath & Leo Sullivan

### **June 2015**

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  
NB Closed on Mother's Day – 10 May

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

## **Current Committee 2015 (\*denotes Executive)**

<b>President:*</b>	Beverley Earnshaw	Ph: 9546 1091
<b>Vice Presidents:*</b>	Vacant	
<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, Trudy Johns, Rodger Robertson, Adele Ryan, Carole Tier, Mavis Ward, Pat Young

### **Committee meeting venues**

**11 May 7.00pm** Beverley Earnshaw, 15 Hamer St., Kogarah Bay (9546 1091)

**8 June 7.00 pm** Gill Whan, 11 Dewrang Street, Carss Park (9546 4623)

**6 July 7.00 pm** Janette Hollebhone, 1 Meriel Street, Sans Souci (9529 7117)

## **Welcome to New Members**

**Jean Milner and Jo Spinelli**

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

## KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY AGM 2015

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2014/2015

I am happy to report that Kogarah Historical Society is growing, with a membership now at 121. Regular monthly meetings are held at Kogarah School of Arts, Bowns Road, Kogarah on the second Thursday of the month at 2 pm. Attendance is usually between 30 and 35. Meetings commence with a speaker followed by afternoon tea and a short business meeting. We are grateful to our secretary, Gill Whan, for arranging our program of speakers and also to Adele Ryan for publicity.

Our *Speakers* for the year were Lyn Cairncross, Ian Hoskins, Judith Godden, Bruce McLeod Sharp, Alan Brinkworth, David Bennett, Dr Garry Darby, Paul Brunton and Dr Edith Ziegler. More details can be seen on the program put out by our secretary, Gill Whan.

*Carss Cottage Museum* This year, 2015, is the sesqui-centenary of Carss Cottage, being 150 years since William Carss moved into the stone cottage which he built for retirement. Now a museum, the cottage continues to be the society's showpiece. This year the museum received 675 visitors which included 16 tour groups. The museum is staffed by volunteers and opens on Sunday afternoons from 1-5 pm in summer and 1-4 pm in winter and is open by appointment for school groups and tour parties. Bookings are taken by Janette Hollebone.

Our latest exhibition focusing on local veterans from *World War I* has aroused considerable interest. We received a grant of \$2000 from Kogarah Council to produce a book featuring the names of soldiers on the Carlton Honour Roll, which hangs in the Museum Foyer. Information about these men has not been easy to find as the events took place a hundred years ago and we are seeking information on men born about 120 years ago. The book is being written by a collective of members and edited by Beverley Earnshaw, the initial research having been done by Rosemary Maugham.

*Mondays at the Museum* is held five times a year. It begins with morning tea in the courtyard, after which patrons go into the museum or sit in the courtyard, weather permitting, to hear a speaker. They can later browse the collection. Adele Ryan is the convenor of this event. Thank you, Adele. We are sorry to lose the leader of our efficient catering team, Trudy Johns, who has given sterling service ever since Mondays at the Museum started. I am happy to report that Gilda Tilia will continue to cook the home made scones.

This year's speakers at *Mondays at the Museum* have been Wendy Cornish, John Johnson, Dr Lorna Barrow, Bruce Shying and Cassie Mercer.

There is always room for more helpers on the Museum Roster on Sunday afternoons. Most come bi-monthly, three attend once a month and we have vacancies both on the permanent roster and as back up when somebody is ill or away. The work is pleasant. The St. George Concert Band plays outside the museum on the second Sunday of the months in summer. We do not open on Public Holidays or Mothers' Day. During the year tour groups and school groups visited the museum. School groups in particular are labour intensive.

*The bi-monthly newsletters* have been typeset by Gill Whan and sometimes by Beverley Earnshaw. They are printed by Cliff Lewis Printing, and Mavis Ward folds and despatches them. We have a diversity of contributors and would like to receive more articles from members. Local history, family history, reminiscences of old Kogarah identities, Kogarah's sporting champions, war heroes &c can all make good reading and contribute to the social history of Kogarah. This year the contributors to our newsletter have been, Pat Young, Paul Brownlow, Beryl Butters, David Martin, Janette Hollebone, Roger Robertson, Betty Goodger, Gill Whan, Beverley Earnshaw, Cath Sullivan, Bonny Scully (nee Burghart) and Margaret Brown.. The Historical

Trivia page is created by Roger Robertson.

Copies of the DVD containing the Society's past newsletters, scanned by Roger Robertson, are now available for sale at \$10.

**Enquiries from the Public** were answered by Betty Goodger and Janette Hollebone.

On May 22, members visited Old Government House at Parramatta for the Miss Fisher Costume Exhibition, after which they visited the historic St. Johns Church.

On October 16 members did the 'Fish'n'Ships Tour, inspecting the Heritage Fleet and taking a cruise on a Heritage Vessel.

**History Alive!** a set of six children's books based on true events in Australian history is now available. The titles are *Australia's Greek Pirates, Paddy Tuffy and the Hairy Goat, Kidnapped by the Whale Hunters, The Convict Slave Girls, The Young Gold Diggers and Animal Adventurers*. We offer these for sale on our Website and have installed PayPal. We are endeavouring to find retail outlets

I wish to thank those volunteers who contribute so much towards the running of the society: Gill Whan our secretary, treasurer Cath Sullivan, Betty Goodger who looks after the museum library and files and answers enquiries. We are grateful to Mavis Ward for organizing a very successful Christmas Party at Kogarah RSL.

We thank Janette Hollebone for her leadership in preparing the School of Arts for our monthly meetings, David Martin who sets up the room and the afternoon tea things and Garry Darby who sets up the electronic equipment.

Adele Ryan looks after Mondays at the Museum and also our advertising. Carol Tier looks after gifts for the speakers, Lawrie Corry helps at the Museum and David Martin helps with school visits. They are valued committee members. Marjorie Pritchard keeps the museum beautifully clean and neat. We invite and encourage more members to come forward to assist in running the society and new ideas and suggestions are always welcome.

I regret to report that six of our members died during the past year. They were Muriel Lloyd aged 100, Dorothy Jones, Barbara Lapsley, Norm Clapham, and Val and Dick Burghart.

I especially acknowledge the work of Val and Dick Burghart who were founding members of our Society. On August 18, 20 society members attended a morning tea at Woolooware Shores Retirement Village where we presented Dick with Life Membership of the Society. We also acknowledged the work of his wife, Val, in the setting up of the Museum and presented her with a posy of flowers.

David Shaw has once again been our honorary *auditor* and his help is appreciated.

I thank all the members of the committee for their support during the year and especially I thank the members for their loyalty and attendance, for without the members there could not be a society.

I look forward to Kogarah Historical Society growing in strength and reputation during the coming years. The text of this report will be published in our next newsletter.

**Beverley Earnshaw**

### **Date for your Diary**

**Saturday 31 October 2015 - 12 midday – 5pm**

Kogarah Historical Society and the Scottish Australian Heritage Council celebrate the Sesquicentenary of Carss Cottage and the life of William Carss.

Open Day at the Cottage, Pipe Band, Scottish Dancers, Explore your Scottish Ancestry, Artists demonstrating, Afternoon Teas and much more. More program details in the next issue.

# The Saints in Kogarah

## Part VIII

### St Martin

St Martin was born in Pannonia (now part of Hungary), son of a Roman soldier. He too became a soldier. He lived from c.316 to 397. While in Gaul (now France), in the bitter winter, he shared his cloak with a beggar. He experienced a vision of Christ, wearing his cloak, and left military life to become a monk. Though he continued to live humbly as a monk, he was made Bishop of Tours in 372. He set up other monasteries and is credited with taking Christianity to rural areas, rather than the towns. He was one of the most popular saints in the Middle Ages.

His feast day is 11 November. In Roman times, this was the feast of Bacchus or the Vinalia, so the early Christians absorbed it into their celebrations, but made St Martin the patron saint for drunkards - albeit with the hope of care and rehabilitation! In France, 11 November was also the time of a great goose fest, so the goose was called St Martin's bird. His emblem is a globe of fire over his head, or a goose.

St Martin's Anglican Church, Blakehurst is a daughter church of St Mark's, South Hurstville.

*"A Sunday School at Gold Street was established as early as 1935 and in 1945 a Building Committee was formed".*

In the 1940s land on the corner of Gold and Stuart Streets was bequeathed for a church. The Reverend Mr W.A.Brice, Rector of St Mark's, South Hurstville, asked Mrs Doris Harrington to start a Ladies Guild at her home in Blakehurst. Both she and about 18 other ladies who lived in Blakehurst were already members of the Ladies Guild and Mothers Union of St Mark's. They



*St Martin's Anglican Church, Blakehurst*

met and planned fetes and other events to raise money while the husbands cleared the land of the tea-tree scrub that covered it. Several fetes were held on the site.

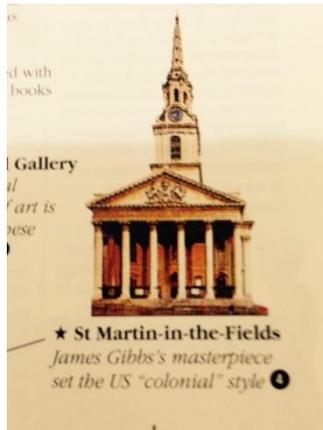
A Church Hall was built first; the foundation stone being laid by the Archbishop of Sydney, the Most Reverend H.W.K. Mowell on 18 February 1951. St Martin's was opened in the church hall on 5 October 1952 and used until the new church,

was opened in 1964. The foundation stone, above the door, reads:

To the Glory of God  
This War Memorial Church of St Martin  
was dedicated by  
The Most Reverend H.R. Gough O.B.E., M.A., D.D.  
6 September 1964

In 1952, the Harrington family went on a trip to England, armed with a letter of introduction to the Rector of St Martin's-in-the-Fields, in Trafalgar Square, London. This had been supplied by a local man who knew the Rector. So Mrs Harrington visited and was shown over the historic church, which was undergoing restoration at the time. The Rector asked her to call again before returning to Australia and he presented her with an oval shaped stone, showing a mounted man, and a plaque, *"This piece is from the Church St Martin-in-the- Fields, London. Restored 1952."*





It is hard to image Trafalgar Square in London as once being on the outskirts of London. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century it was called Charing Cross and there has been a church on the site since the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The present church was designed by a Scottish architect, James Gibbs, and completed in 1726. The design became a model for the Colonial style of church building in the USA and has been much copied.

In 2006 archeologists working on the site of St Martin’s-in-the-Fields, discovered a burial site and dated the bones of a man who lived at the end of the Roman occupation of Britain, about A.D.400, thus making him a contemporary of St Martin. Nearby, Saxon pottery was found, indicating the next era in British history. The graveyard of St Martin’s-in-the-Fields is the resting place of Nell Gwynne, the painters William Hogarth and Joshua Reynolds and other people famous in the history of England.

I like to think as people enter for a service in St Martin’s, Blakehurst, that their eye may fall on that little piece of stone that links their church with one in London where worship has continued for eight centuries.

**B. Goodger**

**References:**

With grateful thanks to Mrs Barbara Bennett for her memories of her mother’s part in the history of St Martin’s  
 Notes from St Mark’s, South Hurstville  
 Eyewitness Travel (Guide to) London 2006 pp 101-102



**Trivia Quiz**

All answers start with “A”- several questions have many answers but get as many as you can!  
 There may be none?

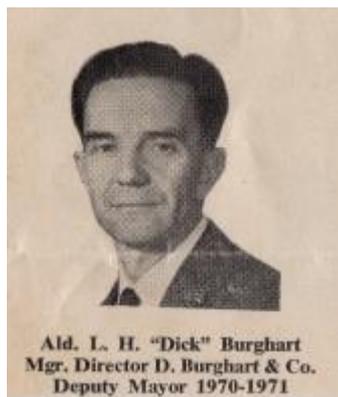
1. In Greek what is “A”, in Hebrew? In Russian? In Morse code? in Aviation terminology the word for A?
2. US Presidents – surname starting with A?
3. Name States of USA that start with A?
4. Name countries in UN that start with A?
5. Monarchs of England and Great Britain that start with A?
6. PMs of Australia that start with A?
7. Sydney metro stations starting with A?
8. Australian Test cricket captains starting with A?
9. Continents starting with A

Answers:

1. Alpha, Alef, A, dot dash, alfa.
2. John Adams (1797-1801), John Quincy Adams (1825-1829), Chester Arthur (1881-1885)
3. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas
4. Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan
5. Alfred the Great and Queen Anne
6. Abbott
7. Allawah, Amcliffe, Alarmon, Ashfeld, Asquith, Auburn
8. Warwick Armstrong 1920/21
9. Africa, Asia, Americas, Antarctica? Australia? – depends on definition of continent.

## Vale - Lionel Herbert (Dick) Burghart

### From Beryl Butters



Our good friend and supporter, Dick Burghart passed away peacefully at Goodhew Gardens, Taren Point, on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2015 aged 94. He was predeceased by his wife Val, who passed away on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2014. In a recent telephone conversation with my husband, Norm, he said he was ready to go himself as he missed Val terribly and was nearly blind himself. Both were founding members of the Kogarah Historical Society

Dick was a returned serviceman and was present at the first and many subsequent bombings of Darwin. He served on seven council committees as well as being council representative on the \$12-million St. George county council committee and represented council twice at state local government conferences.

The Kogarah Residents and Ratepayers Association (K.R.R.A) was formed in 1965 under the leadership of Ken Cavanaugh, with Dick as an active member. They were responsible for a new Council building, Kogarah, Oatley and South Hurstville libraries, Allawah, Oatley and Kogarah senior citizens, the tunnel underpass joining east and west Kogarah and not least, Kogarah Historical Society and the museum in Carss Park,



*Dick and Val Burghart's  
wedding in 1950*

Dick and Val together with longtime president of Kogarah Historical Society, Jeff Veness, formed a longtime friendship and worked tirelessly for the Historical Society. The society had very little money – so everything was done on a shoestring and done voluntarily. Thanks to Gwen Coxhead and her bequest, money is not such a worry now although we always need more volunteer workers.

Kogarah Historical Society was responsible for the formation of the Australia Day Committee (the first local council celebrations)- Dick was a representative.

Norm and I met Dick and Val about 1968. They were good friends who affected our lives so much. We mourn Dick's passing and send our sincere sympathies to the family.

## Trove

The workshop on How to get the best out of Trove, given by Garry Darby, was an eye-opener. What a wonderful facility. We put in the name of William Carss and immediately found a report of the Stirling Castle arrival in Sydney in 1831 with names and professions of all the people on board, including William and Helen. Other gems found:

*Empire, 9 February 1855 p7  
DAY OF SALE, MONDAY, 11th February, at 12 o'clock.*

*MR. CHARLES NEWTON has received instructions from Mr. WILLIAM CARSS, who is about to leave the colony, to sell by auction, at his Rooms, Pitt-street, on MONDAY, 12th February, at 12 o'clock, the above mentioned properties [3].*

This indicates that William Carss intended to leave the colony, we have not yet found out if he did so and returned or changed his mind. Our Carss Cottage was built by him between 1863 and 1865.

# THE WARATAHS

## A Recruiting March, 30<sup>th</sup> November to 17<sup>th</sup> December, 1915

Following the evacuation of Gallipoli, a recruiting march was organized at Gilgandra in the central west of NSW. Called the 'Coo-ee March', 30 men set off from Gilgandra on October 10, 1915. By the time they marched into Sydney on November 12, 1915 their numbers had swelled to 263 men. They had marched 320 miles, supported by towns along the route. This set off a wave of patriotism and 10 like recruiting marches are recorded.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

RELAWM1 2471

The second march began in Nowra, where a camp was set up at the Showground with an officer, Captain Ernest Blow of Kiama, to lead the 50 men who enlisted in Nowra. Inspector William Anderson of Wollongong took his annual leave to be the organizing secretary for the entire march. The men were given an overcoat, a kit bag and a white hat, which distinguished them as they marched. **The Waratahs**, as they were named, set

out on November 30, 1915 with their red and white Waratah Banner held high. They were farewelled by State MLA, Mr Morton and after a long walk of 100 miles they reached Martin Place on December 17, where Mr Morton was again there to welcome them. The aim was to collect 120 recruits.

The marchers stopped along the way at Berry, Kiama, Albion Park, Dapto, and Wollongong's northern suburbs. By the time they reached Kiama on Day 3, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, they had a roll of 67. There, 26 men presented themselves, but only 19 were passed as medically fit, making the total 86.<sup>1</sup>

The Waratahs were met at Loftus by the President of Sutherland Shire, Cr E.W.Hyndman, and local dignitaries. The town of Sutherland was decorated and the men received a hearty welcome. They were entertained at a banquet after which there was a recruiting meeting.<sup>2i</sup> They camped overnight at Lobb's Hall.



*Marchers leaving Kiama*

When they set off for Kogarah, Hurstville and Rockdale the next morning, December 16, their ranks had swelled to 117. Rain had begun at Helensburgh and kept on to the end but the men were welcomed, fed and entertained all the way.

The Mayor of Kogarah, Alderman J. Crawley, greeted them at Tom Ugly's Point where a banner featuring a boomerang on a white background and bearing the word 'Maroomba', the Aboriginal word for 'Good Luck', was stretched across the road. Bags of fruit, soft drinks and cigarettes were handed around and the pupils of Blakehurst Public School serenaded them with patriotic songs.

On Woniora Road, the Hurstville Band, Cadets, Boy Scouts and decorated motor cars joined the procession. They marched to Hurstville Railway Square where 1000 children were lined up to meet them. Then off to Carlton where they were met by the Mayors of Kogarah and Rockdale and escorted to Kogarah Superior Public School *'where the official welcome was to be recorded. There were crowds lining the footways, and cheers, coo-ees, waving flags and other*

*signs of welcome. It was unfortunate that the rain came down just at the time the procession was passing along, but the children seemed to revel in it'.*

Sandringham School came by tram to join more than 1000 children that formed three sides of a square, the fourth being the Waratahs.

Kogarah and Rockdale each looked after half the contingent for the night. After dinner there were short recruiting meetings at both Kogarah and Rockdale, after which the men attended the picture shows. Where did they bed down? The newspaper does not say, but thanks were offered to Mr P.J.Moore for '*all the conveniences at the racecourse*'. Perhaps it was used as it would have had enough space to accommodate over 100 men.

The men broke camp at 7 am. They were given a flag and light refreshments at Arncliffe. '*Tempe school children cheered the recruits who made light of the heavy rain as they approached St.Peters Town Hall*' where they were served breakfast. They reached Martin Place 'punctually' and after more speeches they took a train to Liverpool to the military camp.

Some effort was made to keep the original group together. In April 1916, more than half of the men left on HMAS *Makarmi* as reinforcements for the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Battalion<sup>3</sup>. About 60 men were sent as reinforcements for the 16<sup>th</sup> Regiment.

A book has been written by a member of the Nowra Historical Society : *The Waratahs: South Coast Recruiting March 1915*, by Alan Clark. It was published in 1994 but a new edition is planned for November, 2015<sup>4</sup>. Mr Clark has traced the life of about 80 of the Waratahs, but none of them are from the St.George District. It will be most interesting to see what else he has discovered in the next edition of his book. Kogarah Historical Society will be sure to order a copy.

**B.Goodger**

#### **References:**

- <sup>1</sup> Shoalhaven Chronograph Vol.28 No.3 November 2, 1915 p.3
- <sup>2</sup> St.George Call December 18, 1915 p.4
- <sup>3</sup> *The Waratahs: South Coast Recruiting March 1915*, by Alan Clark 1994.
- <sup>4</sup> Oaks Historical Society Newsletter December 2014



Harper's Mansion

## **Trip to Berrima**

**Thursday 28 May 2015, leaving at 9 am**

**Bus will leave from Carss Cottage, end of Carwar Avenue.  
Parking on street and in Swimming Pool car park is unlimited.**

We have space for 20 people in the Community Transport bus. Travel time to Berrima is 90 minutes, we will stop for coffee and other facilities at Mittagong McDonalds before going to the Berrima and District Museum around 11.15 am.

They have two exhibitions at present, one on Anzac and one on the German Internees who were there during the Second World War. The Museum has a new extension and from all accounts is very interesting. After lunch, if time permits we will have a quick look inside the Anglican church designed by Blacket, drive past the Berrima Gaol and Courthouse (save those for another time) and then tour Harpers Mansion which is run by the National Trust. (I understand there is a very nice NT shop there and an interesting maze in the garden). We will leave at 3.30 pm and hope to be back around 5 pm.

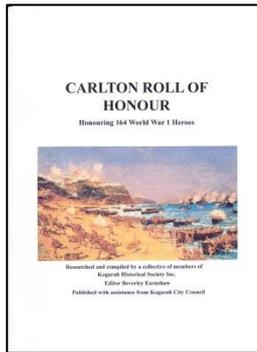
Cost is \$35 which covers the cost of the bus, entry to the Museum and to Harper's Mansion. Coffee and lunch at own expense.

**Bookings through Mavis Ward 9546 5704 – members and friends welcome.**

## Anzac Commemorations



Poppies in Penrith Park



The Society was well represented at an Anzac Eve informal function in the Kogarah Library on Friday 24 April. Several members of Kogarah Historical Society and other groups read selected letters, diary extracts and newspaper reports from WW1 – informative, moving and occasionally humorous.

Beverley Earnshaw, our President was able to read the introduction to the Society's latest publication on the Carlton Honour Roll, which has been a collective effort in research on the names on the roll and a major effort on the part of editor, Beverley Earnshaw.

The book was produced with the assistance of a Community Grant from Kogarah City Council and is available for purchase through our website using PayPal or from Carss Cottage Museum. It can also be ordered by mail. The cost is \$15.

Our exhibition at Carss Cottage Museum on World War 1 continues and has received many positive comments. Of particular interest is the souvenir flag displaying flags of the allies in WW1 and the 'Dead Man's Penny', a medallion awarded to the Next of Kin of all personnel who died in the war. It was issued from 1918 to the 1930's to Next of Kin in Britain and the Empire.



## Life in Forster Street, Blakehurst 1929 – 1987

By Pat Morand (nee Dowd)

I was born at 149 Oxford St, Paddington in January 1927. My brother, Jack, was 15 years older than me, my sister, Eileen, 3 years older and brother, Richard, 16 months younger. My mother wanted to get her children away from the "Riff-Raff" in Paddington. Mother's younger sister was "well off" so she gave her £10 deposit on a block of land in Forster Street, Blakehurst, which she paid off gradually.



As my father, Alfred John Dowd, was a World War 1 Veteran he was entitled to a War Service Home, and as a result they were able to get our family home built. We moved there when I was about 2 years old. There was one other house in the street where Watsons, a Scottish family from Dundee, lived. My mother was born in Chelsea in London. Thus our home was named "Chelsea" and the Watsons' "Dundee".

We had a wonderful childhood in Forster Street. My mother planted fruit trees, peaches, plums, apricots, figs, apples and mulberries. We had chickens for fresh eggs and meat. Mother used to get a Chinaman from the gardens to chop off a chicken's head for her to cook. I can remember her sitting on the back step plucking it. My Dad worked in Sydney for the Fresh Food and Ice Co. so was always late home.

The surrounding bush was my delight. I used to wander through looking for wild flowers. In the spring there were "Donkey Orchids" and I would bring home a little bunch of flowers. I guess this was the beginning of my love for Australian plants. In later years my husband and I became members of The Australian Plant Society. We lived in Hurstville Grove, another lovely bush area, for 27 years before retiring to Forster in 1987.



Pte A J Dowd, wife and son Jack

After my father died in 1981, my brother Jack continued to live in the house in Forster Street. Jack was a Veteran of the Second World War. He was taken prisoner in Singapore and spent 3½ years in Osaka, Japan, before liberation after the atom bomb was dropped. Jack moved to Forster and I was able to take care of him in the last months of his life. He died in 1987.

Our home in Forster St, Blakehurst was sold to the Education Department. Blakehurst High School was at the back of the property in what we used to call “Hunters’ Paddock”. When I last looked it seems that our home was the only one in the street to be demolished.

*Pat Morand*



## Honest History: Anzac and Anzackery

Our guest speaker on Thursday 14 May is Dr David Stephens, secretary of *Honest History*, a Canberra-based group established in 2013. It is a loose coalition of individuals with a diverse range of interests, and includes academic historians and others. Its president is military and social historian, Professor Peter Stanley, a joint winner of the Prime Minister’s Prize for Australian history. Its distinguished supporters include the University of Melbourne’s Professor Stuart Macintyre, Walkley Award winning journalist, Paul Daley, Professor Joan Beaumont, also a joint winner of the Prime Minister’s prize and winner of the NSW Premier’s Australian History prize, and Associate Professor Clare Wright, winner of The Stella Prize.

*Honest History*’s aim is to encourage an interest in Australia’s history, one which is informed and balanced. Its mottoes are ‘Not only Anzac but also ...’ and ‘Neither rosy glow nor black armband ... just honest’. Dr Stephens says the motto is to indicate that, while Anzac is clearly important to Australian history – ‘not so much because of what we did in war but because of what war did to us’ – so, too, are many other strands of history from political to cultural, environmental to economic.

According to Dr Stephens, the history of our nation should not just celebrate certain aspects with the intention of making everyone feel good. ‘Our history’, he argues, ‘has confronting aspects as well as ones deserving commemoration. There are sinners, rogues and wastrels as well as men and women of principle and achievement, things worth celebrating and others worth regretting – and sometimes worth forgetting. There are also things that we have done our best to forget which we should remember.’

A major concern of *Honest History*, says Dr Stephens, is that, because of the centenary of Anzac, Australians will come to believe that our military history is all that matters. There are parts of our military past that are well-deserving of commemoration, particularly the impact on survivors and their families, but this should not be at the expense of a broader understanding of our past.

‘The title of the talk I will be giving at Kogarah says Dr Stephens, is “Anzac and Anzackery” and I want to distinguish between dignified commemoration, commemoration that takes account of the broader context of our military history, and the sort of shouting, overblown, sometimes jingoistic commemoration – even celebration – that we look like being subjected to over the next few years. That second form of commemoration is what our group and others have come to call Anzackery.’

## Show and Tell 2015

Our Annual Show and Tell held on the day of the AGM invited members to talk about something of interest or with a particular memory for them.



Harvey Langford

Harvey Langford had his Great-grand mother's cookbook from 1855 – Mrs Mason's Cookery. The recipes reflected the early years when Syllabub and Haunch of Venison were regular items on the menu and a 'Good Common Cake' had 9 eggs and required beating for one hour!

Janette Hollebhone displayed a book on the Purity of Pitmans, a method of shorthand that she had come to love **and** she confessed to actually buying books written in shorthand for leisure reading! Most of us had no idea one could buy such things.



Janette Hollebhone



Betty Goodger

Betty Goodger displayed a book 'Memories of Kogarah High School O.D.' (Opportunity for the Deaf) a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Book published in 2014. Kogarah High School had a special unit for deaf children which was started in 1964. It selected students from different areas to attend and was successful in taking its students past the barrier of year 10 until in 1997 a deaf student became the first dux of the school. The Society has a copy of the book in the library.

Pat Young had just returned from a trip to Broken Hill and had learned of the attack by Turks that had been made on the annual Manchester Unity Picnic train on New Year's Day 1915. Two turbaned Turkish men had put an Ice Cream cart near the track arousing no suspicions and suddenly produced rifles and fired as the open carriages went slowly past. Ten people were hit, three people died, the first being a 17 year old girl. The incident had profound repercussions on the treatment of 'aliens' in Australia.



Picnic Train, 1915



Beverley Earnshaw

Beverley Earnshaw reminded us that in WW1 it was not only servicemen that suffered. 121,000 horses had been taken overseas and only one came back. She read a moving poem by Trooper Bluegum 'The Horses Stay Behind'.

Gill Whan had a postcard, sent by her father to his mother in June 1928 when he was migrating to Canada. He was sailing on a ship called the Empress of Australia.



Gill Whan



Jan Magrath

Jan Magrath brought back memories for many by showing ration cards from World War 1 and 11. She also had a plaque in the shape of Australia, fashioned by a soldier who had been stationed in Tarakan, Borneo to watch for Japanese military movements. The plaque had been made from metal taken from a wrecked enemy plane. Jan explained that boredom had been a problem as all the soldiers had was a machine gun and occasional food drops. One of them had been a jeweller and he had instructed the group on how to work with the metal, just to pass the time.



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