

Kogarah Historical Society Inc

Carss Cottage Museum, Carss Park

Postal Address PO Box 367, Kogarah 1485

www.kogarah.historicalsociety.com.au

Patron: Kevin Greene, Mayor

President: Beverley Earnshaw

Newsletter

November/December 2019

Volume 11, No 5



James Cook's landing at Botany Bay – see article inside

Meetings and Speakers

Thursday 14 November 2019

Paul Brunton OAM, Emeritus Curator
Mitchell Library, Philip Parker King

Thursday 12 December 2019

Christmas Lunch at Mortdale RSL
12 midday for 12.30 pm. Visitors welcome

Meetings start in the School of Arts, Bowns Rd/Queens Ave at 2 pm with the speaker. This is followed by afternoon tea and a chance to mingle with other members, then a short business meeting. We aim to finish by 4 pm. Apologies for non-attendance should go to the Secretary, Gill Whan (9546 4623).

Find us on Facebook



Mondays at the Museum

25 November 2019

Botany Wool

We will welcome Leonie Bell, winner of the Ron Rathbone History Prize, to tell us about Botany Wool. It is the last meeting for 2019 so come and enjoy a lovely morning tea and then the speaker. Visitors are welcome. Lots to look at in the Museum after the talk.

We start at 10 am. Admission is \$5.00 which covers your home-cooked morning tea and gives you a chance to win our lucky door prize. For bookings please contact Adele on 9529 6730. Leave a message on her answering machine if she is not there.

Sunday Museum Roster

Opening hours 1pm – 5pm (summer hours)

November 2019

3rd Anne Williams & Barbara Davids
10th Gill Whan & Heather Campbell
17th Betty Goodger & tbc
24th Pat Young & Fiona Johnstone

December 2019

1st Wendy Agzarian & Elaine Filewood
8th Adele Ryan & Joe Spinelli
15th Betty Goodger & Gill Whan
22nd Miriam & Niver Rodriguez
29th Cath & Leo Sullivan

Problems: If you need to exchange days on the regular roster, please try to do so amongst yourselves, otherwise contact Wendy Agzarian (9774 3667) Emergency roster – Cath & Leo Sullivan (9579 6149), Robert McGarn (0425 706 579)

Committee 2019 (*denotes Executive)

President:*	Beverley Earnshaw	Ph: 9546 1091
Vice President:*	Adele Ryan	Ph. 9593 1898
Secretary :*	Gill Whan	Ph: 9546 4623
Treasurer:*	Cath Sullivan	Ph: 9579 6149
Public Officer*	Robert McGarn	Ph: 0425 706 579

Committee Members: Wendy Agzarian, Barbara Davids, Glynn Pulling, Rodger Robertson, Mavis Ward, Pat Young.

Committee Meeting Venues:

11 Nov 2 pm Pat Young, 25 Culver Street, Monterey (9593 1898)
9 Dec 2 pm Beverley Earnshaw, 15 Hamer Street, Kogarah Bay (9546 1091)
10 Feb 2 pm Gill Whan, 11 Dewrang St., Carss Park (9546 4623)

St George Concert Band

**Playing outside Carss Cottage on 3 November and 1 December
2pm – 4pm (weather permitting)**

Do come and *sing-along*, we will serve Christmas Cake and tea/coffee to accompany the band's Christmas selection of music.

James Cook prepares for a Scientific Voyage of Discovery

By Beverley Earnshaw

In the seventeenth century England was a major maritime power. The hundreds of vessels which comprised the Royal Navy ventured into every part of the globe. However, one thing that was impeding navigation was the inability to accurately calculate longitude.

The problem was first addressed in 1691 by the British Astronomer Royal, Edmund Halley, (of Halley's Comet fame) who suggested that calculations taken during The Transit of Venus could be used to calculate longitude and thus help navigation. The Transit of Venus occurred when the shadow of the planet Venus fell across the face of the sun and as time was approaching for the next Transit of Venus, due on May 23, 1769, the Royal Society, supported by the British Government, determined to mount a scientific expedition to observe it¹.



The naval officer chosen by the Admiralty to take charge of this important scientific expedition was James Cook. Cook had already come to the notice of the Admiralty in August 1766 when on a previous voyage to Newfoundland he had taken readings of the eclipse of the sun and proved himself to be a man of exceptional mathematical and astronomical capabilities². He was ably qualified for the role, being a Master in the Royal Navy, and the Admiralty elevated him to the rank of Lieutenant.

For a major scientific undertaking, the choice of ship was vital. The first two vessels offered for the voyage were Royal Navy ships, the *Rose* and the *Tryal*. These were rejected by Cook as not having the capacity to stow the large quantity of provisions needed for the voyage. Therefore it was decided to purchase a 'cat-built'³ vessel. These ships were robustly built and distinguished for their great carrying capacity as they were built for the coal trade. A collier named the *Earl of Pembroke* was purchased by the Navy Board for £2293/17/6. It was built by Fishburne of Whitby and launched in 1768⁴. The Navy Board had it sheathed and fitted out for the long voyage⁵ and armed with six carriage guns (four pounders) and twelve swivel guns. She was registered on the Royal Navy list as a bark by the name of *Endeavour*.

To work in conjunction with Lieutenant Cook the Royal Society appointed the astronomer **Charles Green**⁶, formerly an assistant to the Astronomer Royal. Green was an astronomer of competence and experience who in 1763 had been sent by the Commissioners of the Board of Longitude to make observations at Barbados, seeking the best means to determine longitude. The Royal Society provided the instruments needed to observe the Transit of Venus, two reflector telescopes, a micrometer, two clocks and an astronomical quadrant. These were supplemented by a telescope belonging to Daniel Solander and another belonging to the Navy.

¹ Historic Records of NSW Vol.1 p.306

² Ibid p.305. *Cook's observations on the eclipse of the sun.*

³ Cat-built = bluff bow and broad stern

⁴ National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London per internet

⁵ HRNSW Vol.1 p.307

⁶ HRNSW Vol.1 p.312/313

Cook now had to assemble a competent and reliable team to sail with him. **Isaac Smith** (1752-1831), the nephew of Cook's wife, joined the ship as a 16 year old Midshipman. Cook did much to nurture him, training him as a skilled nautical astronomer and in turn Isaac assisted Cook in making survey plans and drawings. When Cook's men in the longboat were about to land on the shore of Botany Bay for the first time, Cook afforded Isaac the honor of being the first to step ashore. Isaac Smith was eventually raised to the rank of Admiral in the Royal Navy.

John Gore (1730-1790), nicknamed 'The Quiet Mariner', was initially third in command after Cook and **Zachary Hicks**. Gore was a valuable asset because he had been to Tahiti before aboard *HMS Dolphin* which discovered the island in 1766.

Richard Pickersgill had also sailed on the *Dolphin* voyage as a 17 year old midshipman. Now at age 19 he was on the *Endeavour* as Master's Mate.

Stephen Forwood (1737-1775) was appointed ship's gunner on the recommendation of Cook. Likewise **John Guthrey** was appointed boatswain. When Guthrey died during the voyage he was replaced by **Isaac Parker** (b.1741). Parker had made three previous voyages aboard slave ships before joining the *Endeavour* and in later years became a fierce opponent of the slave trade.

Forby Sutherland, an Able Seaman on the *Endeavour* and also the ship's poulterer, died of tuberculosis on April 30, 1770, just a day after the ship anchored in Botany Bay. He was the first white man to be buried in Australian soil.

Not all the crew proved satisfactory. **James Maria Matra**⁷ sailed as a Midshipman on the *Endeavour* and Cook noted that he '*was one of those gentlemen frequently found on King's ships that can very well be spared or to speak more planer (sic), good for nothing*'.

As word of the proposed scientific voyage became known, **Joseph Banks**, a Fellow of the Royal Society and already a botanical scholar of great renown, applied to join the expedition⁸. He was a man of independent means and his 'suite of scientific gentlemen' would consist of eight persons who would require rations only during the voyage. Permission was granted and cabin space created beside Cook's own quarters. Banks with his carefully selected team moved aboard.

The team consisted of **Daniel Solander** (1733-1782), a Swedish botanist who had been cataloguing the natural history collections at the British Museum. He gained leave of absence, and with his assistant, **Herman Sporing**, joined Banks' team. Solander and Banks were lifelong friends and Solander actually died of a stroke at Banks' home in Soho Square in 1782, aged 49.

Herman Sporing, (1733-1771) was a former surgeon and one of four 'gentlemen of the faculty' aboard the *Endeavour*. He was employed by Banks as a naturalist, secretary and artist but his most useful talent was his ability to repair scientific instruments.

Before the invention of photography, scientists depended on artists to record their discoveries. **Sydney Parkinson** (1745-1771) went with Banks as an artist and botanical draughtsman. He is said to be the first European artist to set foot on Australian soil and the first to draw the authentic Australian landscape. He made at least 1300 botanical drawings before he died at sea on January 26, 1771. Banks also engaged **Alexander Buchan** as a botanical artist. Buchan proved to be an epileptic and died when the ship reached Tahiti thus

⁷ Later, Matra was influential in establishing the convict colony in NSW.

⁸ HRNSW Vol.1 p.313

imposing a much heavier work load on Parkinson. Banks also engaged **James Roberts** and **Peter Briscoe**, tenants from Revesby and two Negro servants, **Thomas Richmond** and **George Dollin**. These eight members comprised Banks' 'suite of scientific gentlemen'. Of the botanical party only four were to survive the voyage, Banks, Solander and the two Revesby men.

Banks financed his own expedition to the extent of £10,000 and it was said ...
'No people ever went to sea better fitted out for the service of natural history. They have all sorts of machines for catching and preserving insects; all kinds of nets, trawls, drags and hooks for coral fishing. They even have a curious contrivance of a telescope, by which when put into the water you can see the bottom at great depth, when it is clear. They had many cases of bottles with ground stoppers in several sizes to preserve animals in spirits⁹ ... salts ... waxes etc.'

In contrast to this, Cook was forced to requisition the Admiralty or Navy Board for every commodity.

The *Endeavour* sailed from Plymouth on August 26, 1768 carrying two distinct scientific parties, one astronomical and one botanical.

B.Earnshaw (to be continued)

⁹ Australian Dictionary of Biography: Banks Sir Joseph by L.A.Gilbert



No history awards in 2020 – instead, the Society is holding a competition for children, as below. Please help us to publicise this to schools in the area.

Sailing with Captain Cook



A Competition for Primary Schools in the Georges River Area

To commemorate the 250th anniversary of the arrival of Captain James Cook at Botany Bay.

Entries in three categories

Infants/Kindergarten – draw a picture

Lower Primary/Upper Primary – essay “Sailing with Captain Cook”

Prizes

Winners in each category \$50 each and \$100 to School library

Top ten entries \$10 each

Certificate of participation to all entrants

Entries open at beginning of school year 2020, close 9 April

Further details info@kogarah.historicalsociety.com.au or 9546 1091

Fact sheets supplied to schools who wish to participate.

Mayor Hanigan and the Influenza Epidemic

(This is part 2 of the winning entry by John MacRitchie in the 2019 History Awards)

A week later, the *St George Call* recorded the death in France of one of the three Kogarah soldiers praised by the Council in 1917, Quarter-Master Sergeant Ernest Tidmarsh DCM, of the 17th Battalion. The soldier had not died in action: he was a victim of the pneumonic influenza epidemic sweeping through Europe in the aftermath of the Great War. A verse in tribute to him was published: “Just as the Joy Bells were ringing/In Paris, our brave lad passed away.”

Nor was Tidmarsh the only local soldier to succumb to the new strain of influenza. Driver Fred Congdon of Kogarah and Sergeant Walter Richmond Johnson of Hurstville were two others who made it through the war, only to die before they could return to Australia. From late 1918, troopships returning from Europe were quarantined at North Head as a sensible precautionary measure. Here, too, influenza had its victims, among them Hector Hicks, son of Alderman Thomas Hicks of Botany, who died there in December 1918. He had been en-route to Europe when his troopship had put in to New Zealand, and it was suspected that he had picked up the virus there. On the cessation of hostilities, the troopship had returned to Australia without getting further than Auckland, immediately going into quarantine. A memorial cross to him stands in the third quarantine cemetery at North Head.



Ernest Tidmarsh

At the end of year meeting of Kogarah Council, encomiums were made to Mayor Hanigan's character. It was the general opinion that he had been the most tactful Mayor the Council had possessed: “all the Aldermen spoke in a highly eulogistic manner on the way he had conducted business”. The Mayoress, too, came in for praise.⁹ George was re-elected Mayor in February 1919, and clearly was seen to be the right man to lead the district through the perturbing days which lay ahead.

In the St George district, concern about the influenza epidemic began to surface in late 1918. The Illawarra Suburbs Medical Association informed Rockdale Council in December 1918 that they could count on their members' assistance in combatting any epidemic which might take hold.¹⁰ Local newly-weds Annie and Herbert Hobbs postponed their intended honeymoon in New Zealand owing to the seriousness of the epidemic which had gained a footing there.¹¹ In another straw in the wind, Rockdale pharmacist Oscar H Lofberg began to advertise Lofberg's Pain Powders, good for a wide range of ailments, which, he promised, would take away the pains of influenza.¹²

⁹ *St George Call* 28 December 1918, p5.

¹⁰ *St George Call* 28 December 1918

¹¹ *St George Call* 7 December 1918.

¹² *St George Call* 7 December 1918.



Two examples of inhalators from 1918. Archives
New Zealand

At the Kogarah Council meeting of 23 December 1918 it was noted that the Local Government Department had written to Council advising that the Council's General Fund might be used for laying in a stock of masks and preparing to fight the pneumonic influenza outbreak. The Mayor was requested by the Council to take steps to have an inoculation depot established at Kogarah.¹³

Australian authorities were well aware that the rest of the world was being ravaged by the epidemic, and were conscious that they had some time to prepare. It was hoped that quarantine efforts would succeed in keeping it out entirely. Inoculation Depots were opened, and mass inoculation began, using a vaccine developed by the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories. The Kogarah Inoculation Depot carried out 4,162 inoculations in its first week.¹⁴

Although the medical authorities were optimistic about the benefits of inoculation, later research has suggested that it was of only very limited effectiveness in dealing with the 1919 strain. Inhalation devices were placed in shops and public buildings, and again claims were made about their efficacy, but it transpired that they were worse than useless in combatting the spread of influenza.

At a special meeting of Kogarah Council held on 6 January 1919, Mr Bardsley, the Kogarah Health Inspector reported back from a meeting of Health Inspectors held in the city. He advised that Council were to call a public meeting inviting Red Cross workers to block out the municipality in such a way that suitable persons could patrol each street twice a day. Cards were to be sent out to each household, and in the event of sickness in the house the card was to be put in the window. Red Cross personnel would then know that that household was in need of relief. The Red Cross were to see to the distribution of bedding and blankets in case of necessity.¹⁵

Maritime quarantine slowed the arrival of the influenza to Australia, but did not prevent it. The first cases in Australia occurred in Melbourne in early January. New South Wales was unable to enforce border controls, and officially declared an outbreak on 27 January 1919. Public gatherings were banned. Schools and places of entertainment such as cinemas and theatres were closed compulsorily - the Queen's Theatre, Hurstville announced it was closed until further notice, as did the Subway Pictures, Carlton. Churches were briefly closed, but allowed to re-open in mid-February. *The Call* felt that there could be no harm in allowing open-air picture shows; "it would be quite time enough to close when a case of sickness had been reported in our district."¹⁶

The district did not have to wait long. The *St George Call* reported on 15 March 1919 that pneumonic influenza had broken out in St George. There had been cases in Rockdale, Kogarah and Penshurst "on the Hurstville side of the railway line". This would mean "rather a trying time" for the Councils' Health Inspectors, who were required to enter the buildings

¹³ Kogarah Council Minutes, 23 December 1918, no 1383.

¹⁴ *St George Call* 15 March 1919, p2.

¹⁵ Kogarah Council Minutes 6 January 1919.

¹⁶ *St George Call* 15 February 1919, p3.

and take the temperature of afflicted cases. By the 19th there were cases reported from Mortdale, Oatley and Peakhurst.¹⁷ Mayor Hanigan arranged for special life insurance to be taken out by Health Inspector Bardsley.

¹⁷ *Propeller* 21 March 1919, p2. To be continued.....



Trivia Quiz

By Rodger Robertson

The Olympics Quiz

1. How many Summer Olympics have been held in the Southern hemisphere and where and what year?
2. What event did Herb Elliot win in 1960?
3. From what lane did Perkins win the 800 m swimming race in Barcelona?
4. The "Lithgow Flash" real name was?
5. Why was Dawn Fraser expelled from the Olympics?
6. Ian Thorpe's nickname was the ...?
7. Name the first Australian to win a gold medal- what event where and when?
8. Who lit the flame at the two Australian Olympics?
9. Who won the 1956 5000m and 10000m for men?
10. In 1936 Australia only won one bronze medal? Who got it and for what?

Answers

1. Melbourne 1956, Sydney 2000 and Rio de Janeiro 2016
2. 1500m
3. 8- the last of the slowest qualifier
4. Marjorie Jackson
5. Stealing a flag- or removing it from a flagpole outside the Emperor's palace in Tokyo- she was suspended for 10 years.
6. Torpedo
7. Edwin Flack Athens 1896 in 800m and 1500m
8. Ron Clarke Melbourne 1956 and Cathy Freeman Sydney 2000
9. Vladimir Kuts from Russia
10. Jack Medcalf for the triple jump

Historical Markers

Each year Council considers nominations for the placement of historical markers, one in each ward. This year they included, William Curry VC MLA, the English family and the Ellesmere camp in Sans Souci where Aboriginal people lived. Nominations for 2020 open on 4 November and we would welcome your suggestions. At present we propose to nominate Sunnyside but are not limited to one nomination.

What's On

Georges River Art Prize 2019 which was opened on Friday 25 October pm at Hurstville Museum and Art Gallery will be on exhibition until 30 January 2020.

Grandma Elopes, Sunday 3 November, 5.00 pm in St George Bank Auditorium, 16 Montgomery Street, Kogarah. – it was hard to resist this title which features the Australian Macedonian Theatre of Sydney and Georges River Voices presenting the premiere of an original musical theatre drama. The script is bilingual. Tickets \$15, Concession \$10 Bookings through Dushan 0425 231 335.

National Maritime Museum – New exhibition on William Bligh. We have previously had a speaker on William Bligh discussing his character. This exhibition offers a radical new take on Bligh, telling the two sides of the story and asking you, the visitor to decide if he was a hero or villain by casting a vote at the end of your visit. Open until 2 February 2020.

Royal Australian Historical Society – Lecture – *The Little Barbershop of History: A social History of Australian Men's Hair.* 4 December, 1.00-2.00 pm at History House, 133 Macquarie Street. Free.

State Library of NSW – Exhibition – Dead Central. Thousands of people travel through Central Station every day, but how many know what once lay beneath it? Dead Central takes you back to the 19th century to rediscover a place you thought you knew. The haunting story is told through a 35 minute audio recording using your mobile phone or device. Fascinating and well worth a visit. (If you don't have a mobile, there is a script intended for people with sight difficulties – I used that). Open until May 2020.

Tour of Garden Island

Thursday 21 November starting at 10 am

The heritage tour is run by the Naval Historical Society and will include the Kuttabul Memorial, the chapel and the top of the Captain Cook Dock. It will take approximately 1 ½ hours finishing about 12.15 pm. There is no café in the vicinity. It does involve quite a lot of walking and some stairs. Sensible footwear is essential and you should bring a bottle of water as well as appropriate weather gear.

It is a secure area which means names of individuals will be provided to the tour guides beforehand and photo ID will be necessary on the day.

The cost is \$20 payable when you book.

Please make your bookings with Cath Sullivan or Gill Whan

We will travel to Garden Island using the bus from York St (behind the Queen Vic building) No 311. Details of a lunch venue to be provided at November meeting.

Murphy's Law: The other line always moves faster! (*Ain't that the truth*)

An Old War Veteran – Allenby Commyns

In the 19th Century the land across Georges River from Rocky Point was known as ‘Commyns Point’. It was originally named in honour of Allenby John Commyns (also known as Commins), a retired veteran of the NSW Artillery.

The ‘A’ Field Battery is the oldest permanent unit of the Australian army. Before 1870 each of the major ports in Colonial Australia was defended by the British Garrison Troops of the Royal Garrison Artillery. At the end of 1871 the British unit was withdrawn and the Colonial Government acted to provide a permanent military force to provide coastal artillery.

‘A’ Battery NSW Artillery was formed in August 1871. In 1885 it was sent to the Sudan and 14 years later was sent to the Boer War as part of the second contingent from New South Wales. The NSW Contingent numbered 177 men consisting of seven officers and 170 other ranks, and 148 horses. Five of these men were veterans of the Sudan campaign.



After the Boer War, on 27th April, 1904, Commyns married Ann Esther Stockdale, widow of Walter Moyse, at St.Pauls Redfern. It was a second marriage for both and they lived in Ann’s home, Broughton, at the corner of Vista and Endeavour Streets, Sans Souci. Allenby played an active part in local affairs, especially in the newly opened church of St.Andrews Sans Souci. Allenby Commyns died on October 6th, 1943.

The attached photograph is signed “*Yours sincerely, A.J.Commins, 80 & 8 mths, sept 1938*”.

By B. Earnshaw



Oatley acts in WW2

This is from a KHS Newsletter of 25 years ago, contributed by Lil Leach “Oatley Writes”

As the full impact of the war began to be felt in Australia and the enemy came closer to our shores, it was soon evident that Oatley would have to be prepared, as we were the second danger point in Sydney – the Como Bridge being the only link by rail to the south coast.

Steel and coal needed for munitions had to be transported by rail from Port Kembla. The National Emergency Service was formed – two classrooms at Oatley School were transformed into a hospital ward. Beds and sheets and medical supplies were bought from the proceeds of regular Friday night dances and raffles. The “Post” as it was referred to, was occupied by a roster of ladies in four hourly shifts, all week long, night and day. The men were made wardens keeping lookout for anything on the river. A plate on their houses indicated they were wardens and each Sunday a siren would sound and then the all clear just to keep people familiar with the sounds.

Other people contributed to the war effort in their way. Mr Frank Aitken of Oatley put his car up on blocks and didn’t use it during the war to help conserve petrol. His wife Eileen (a member of KHS) organised dances for the troops stationed at Oatley Park and for the locals. (In 1942 the 26th Field Company Royal Australian Engineers transferred to Oatley Park after the Unit was washed out in Carss Park)

The Red Cross, already a small active branch, were tireless in the efforts, knitting and sending food parcels to the boys overseas. Retired elderly men made camouflage nets.

It was a time of “togetherness” in the community.

The Irony of it

A familiar sight in George Street, Sydney, two centuries ago were horse-drawn buses. They were well patronized, especially at lunch-time, when hordes of office workers would travel home to inner city suburbs such as Redfern, Broadway and Chippendale for lunch. Sydney Tramway and Omnibus Corporation operated a large fleet of these buses from 1870. When this photo was taken, in 1899 **electric trams were on the verge of taking over**. In fact, the cable grips had already been erected, although the electric lines hadn't yet been installed. The city block in this picture, located between Market Street and the Town Hall, was dominated by the newly-completed Queen Victoria Markets.

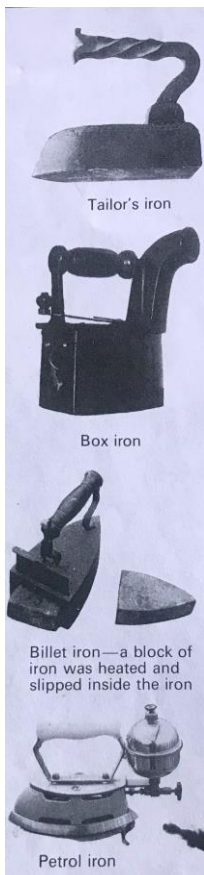


Photo from the Tyrell Collection glass plate

Now we await the opening of the 'light rail' down George Street and of course the old Victoria Markets have become the Queen Victoria building.



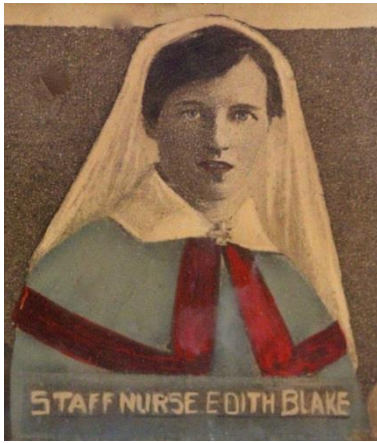
At the Museum



The Museum has a good collection of Irons displayed in the kitchen area. Irons were an essential in every household from early times. Washed, wrung out or mangled, clothes had to be ironed, and for many years every home had several *flat irons* which were heated on the stove or in the fire itself. The housewife protected her hands by using an iron-holder, (the Editor's mother used to spit on the sole to see if it was hot enough and always had two on the go!) It always had to be wiped clean on a rag but if the housewife owned a *box iron* there was less chance of smuts ruining the clean wash. Hot coals were placed in the box iron. It could be bought with a right-hand or left-hand chimney and when it began to cool, the housewife would swing the iron to and fro or step outside into the wind to make the coals burn more brightly.

Then there was the *gas iron*, normally only available in towns, much superior to the flat iron because it could be kept at a steady heat; a flexible pipe brought the gas to a number of small jets which were lit like a gas stove. Another successor to the flat iron was the petrol-pressure iron working on the same principle as the gas iron but the fuel in this case was petrol supplied to an adjustable jet from a small container attached to the iron itself.

A Success Story



We are delighted that our proposal to rename the small reserve opposite St George Private Hospital after Nurse Edith Blake has been successful. The name change has been gazetted and approved.

It has been a long process. In 2014 we heard that South Street Reserve was to be renamed “Shunde Gardens” and the statue of Bruce Lee to be moved there. We felt this was not appropriate and wrote at the time to Council and Councillors to say so.

The proximity of the land to the Private Hospital suggested that it should be named for a person of the medical profession, a doctor or nurse who had given significant service in World War 1 and after research by our President, Beverley Earnshaw, on eligible candidates, we decided to nominate Edith Blake.

In May 2017 we met with the then Administrator, John Rayner and followed up with a letter seeking support for a name change. No action was possible at the time due to the amalgamation and inaugural Georges River Council election in September 2017.

The centenary of WW1 was approaching and in early 2018 we had our exhibition up at the Museum commemorating among others, Edith Blake, the only Australian nurse to die in World War 1 as a result of enemy action. We wrote again to Council. This was in February 2018.

We received support from a number of people, particularly Peter Orlovich, a member of the Society and also on the Geographical Names Board, Chris Minns MP, John McCormack and Councillor Nick Katris. Lobbying continued through 2018 as several suggestions had been received, however, in December the Community and Culture Committee of Council recommended that the name be proposed and this was adopted at the Council meeting on 17 December which was addressed by Beverley Earnshaw. It was then open for the public to comment on and after this it went to the Geographic Names Board. Again it was published for comment and groups such as the Kogarah Progress Association supported it. Finally it has been gazetted and we await information from Council on the type of signage to be erected and when this will happen. A long time coming but a good result.



I can hardly believe that we are saying this:

**A happy Christmas to you and yours
and a good New Year**

**Please join us and celebrate the festive season at the
annual Christmas lunch on Thursday 12 December at Mortdale RSL
Club. Quizzes, prizes, two course meal with wine, soft drink and coffee.**

12 md for 12.30 pm. Bookings through Cath on 9579 6149. \$30.00 ph.