

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

March/April 2018

Volume 10, No 1



St Raphael's of Sth Hurstville. See inside for article by Betty Goodger and information on the new book written by Rosie Gould, about the church. The outside does not prepare you for the stained glass inside!

Meetings and Speakers

Thursday 8 March 2018

Photos, phonograph, films
& yes! The AGM

Thursday 12 April 2018

Patrick Kennedy, author, former
Paramedic – Long Bay Gaol

Meetings start at 2 pm in the School of Arts, Bowns Rd/Queens Ave Kogarah. 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

26 March 2018

Mary Saywell, Local historian

Mary will tell us about **Thomas Saywell and the Development of West Botany** which will be fascinating and provide more information about our area. We will stay outside for the speaker if weather permits, then as always you can check out the museum. Cost is \$5 which covers our delicious morning tea and gives you a chance to win a lucky door prize. **Bookings essential** as space is limited and it helps with catering. To reserve your place please ring Adele Ryan on 9529 6730 or leave a message on her answering machine.

Sunday Museum Roster

Opening hours 1pm–5pm. (summer hours)

March 2018

4th Carole Tier & Ken Grieve
11th Mavis Ward & Robert McGarn
18th Betty Goodger & Fiona Johnstone
25th Gill Whan & Heather Campbell

April 2018

1st Easter Sunday - closed
8th Adele Ryan & Joe Spinelli
15th Betty Goodger & Pat Young
22nd Miriam & Niver Rodriguez
29th Leo & Cath Sullivan

St George Concert Band will play on 18 March and 15 April.

Problems: If you need to exchange days with someone, please try to do so amongst yourselves, otherwise contact Wendy Agzarian (9774 3667) Emergency roster – Anne Williams (0425 215 589)

Committee 2017 (*denotes Executive) – AGM March 2018

President:*	Beverley Earnshaw	Ph: 9546 1091
Vice President:*	Pat Young	Ph. 9593 1898
Secretary :*	Gill Whan	Ph: 9546 4623
Treasurer:*	Cath Sullivan	Ph: 9579 6149
Public Officer*	Gill Whan	Ph: 9546 4623

Committee Members: Wendy Agzarian, Beryl Butters (Life member), Trudy Johns (Life member), Glynn Pulling, Robert McGarn, Rodger Robertson, Adele Ryan, Mavis Ward.

Committee Meeting Venues:

5 March 2 pm Gill Whan, 11 Dewrang St, Carss Park (9546 4623)
9 April 2 pm Adele Ryan, 5 Endeavour St, Sans Souci (9529 6730)
7 May 2 pm Beverley Earnshaw, 15 Hamer Street, Kogarah Bay (9546 1091)

Welcome to New Members
Fiona Johnstone & Anne Williams
We hope you enjoy your time with the Society

House keeping

Special General Meeting. This will be held prior to the AGM on 8 March at which time we will propose that the amended Constitution as circulated to you, be adopted. Members have received a draft amended Constitution and a summary of the proposed amendments in the last newsletter. The majority of these are those that are required by a Review of the Associations Incorporation Act (to acknowledge use of new technologies for example) and others are changes or updates relevant to the Society now. We will defer the ordinary general meeting until April to enable us to keep to our time of two hours for meetings.

Annual General Meeting. As always we welcome nominations to join the Committee. We need people with new ideas and a willingness to be involved in activities. Please think about it and if you are interested and want to discuss it, please contact Beverley Earnshaw or Gill Whan. Perhaps you would like to organise the Society outings for the year – tell us! The Committee meets once a month on a Monday afternoon. A nomination form is included with this newsletter.

The Treasurer's report is also included in this edition. Cath Sullivan has prepared it (as she has done for the last 16 years) and had it audited. If you have any queries please raise them with Cath before the AGM.

Newsletters. Betty Goodger has now updated the Index for our newsletters, Fred Scott has updated the website and as indicated in the previous edition, you can now access past copies of all newsletters on our website.

Newsletter from other Societies. We receive a number of magazines and newsletters from other Historical Societies which will be of interest to you the members.

They are available to look at in the School of Arts at General Meetings and we hope to have them on display at the Museum eventually. They include:

Canterbury and District Historical Society Newsletter
St George Historical Society Magazine
Sutherland Shire Historical Society Bulletin
Scottish Heritage Council newsletter
Bankstown Historical Society Quarterly Journal
Founders Magazine – First Fleeters
Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS)
History Magazine from the RAHS
Monumentally Speaking from the Boer War Association

Subscriptions are now due. Sorry to raise this again but we need your support as members. A renewal form was sent out with the last newsletter – there are also forms at the Museum and they are available at General Meetings. Still only \$15 per annum single and \$20 for a couple, which gets you our newsletter, either posted or emailed (your choice) and free entry to Carss Cottage on Sunday afternoons plus invitations to other events.

Calendar of events for 2018 is included with this newsletter.

KOGARAH'S AMAZING ACHIEVERS

Sumner Locke Elliott – Actor, Scriptwriter, Author

The Laurels, at 45 English Street is one of Kogarah's most historic houses. Built in 1887 for Elizabeth English, the house has undergone many transformations as it was modified for different uses, firstly a family home, followed by a Rectory, a private school, a private hospital, a hostel for working girls, a children's home and finally a retirement village.



For several years during and after World War 1, *The Laurels* was a private hospital supervised by Nurse M. Anderson, the district nurse attached to Kogarah Cottage Hospital. In October 1917, a successful young writer, Helena Sumner Elliott (nee Locke) was admitted as a maternity patient. Her husband, Henry Logan Elliott, a freelance journalist, had been dispatched overseas with the Australian Imperial Force. On October 17 she gave birth to a son and the following day she died of eclampsia. The baby was named Sumner Locke Elliott and in the absence of his father he was left in the care of his mother's six sisters, all of whom had different ideas about his upbringing.

The Aunts were Lillian, a Labor activist and suffragette who raised him from infancy, Agnes a Christian Science practitioner, Blanche an actress, Annie a nurse in the military and Jessie who was to launch a fierce court battle for his custody.



In spite of family disagreements about his education, he was sent for lessons in acting, elocution and music, but from an early age the boy began to show a talent for creative writing. Given a toy theatre, he began to create plays which he performed for the family. At 14 he won a playwriting competition, and was cast in the ABC Children's production of *Mr Midshipman Easy* which ran for eight months.

At the age of 17 he joined George Edwards Productions as an actor and scriptwriter. These were the days before television when families would gather around their radios in the evenings to listen to serials, dramas and 'soap operas' churned out one after the other. George Edwards Productions was at the forefront of serials, and would present up to six programs an evening, most of which were broadcast on radio 2UW. In the absence of photocopiers, Elliott, the scriptwriter, would stand and dictate the dialogue to several typists at once. There was no pre-recording and scripts were handed to the players who performed them live in front of the microphone. Elliott earned a good living scripting radio serials by day and in the evenings he filled a variety of roles in Doris Fitton's Independent Theatre. In 1937 the Independent Theatre staged the first of seven plays written by him.

When World War II broke out, Elliott was drafted into the Army but rather than being sent overseas was posted to an army supply camp at Mataranka in the Northern Territory. To alleviate the boredom of life there, he wrote the play *Rusty Bugles* which gave an accurate account of army life in the hot dry conditions of the Northern Territory. This was eventually produced in Sydney in 1948, but after several performances, the NSW Premier, Jack Baddeley, closed it down because of its excessive cussing and profane language. With the script 'cleaned up', however, the play ran for two years to popular acclaim.

In 1949 he arrived in New York where the television industry was booming and there was a need for writers with scriptwriting skills. He wrote and adapted some 50 plays for mainstream television and in 1955 took out American citizenship. In the 1960s as demand for TV scriptwriters slowed down, he moved to California as a screen writer.



He decided to try his hand as a novelist. His first novel, completed in 1963, was the semi-autobiographical novel, *Careful He might hear You*, based on his own turbulent childhood. It gained immediate acclaim and in Australia won the Miles Franklin Award. The NSW Film Corporation helped to finance its production into a full length movie in 1983, an enterprise which grossed \$2,431,126 at the Australian box office.

Even though he was an expatriate writer, he maintained affection for the country of his birth. He received the Patrick White Literary Award in 1977. Sumner Locke Elliott died in New York on June 24, 1991 of colon cancer. He left a legacy of 13 novels, 30 plays and countless radio plays, serials and adaptations from both modern works and the classics.

An outstanding achiever, Sumner Locke Elliott was born in Kogarah.

Beverley Earnshaw



The Aggrandization of our Jubilee Council

Beverley Park was once a festering spread of swamp land until it was reclaimed by dredging in the 1930s and subdivided. In 1935, faced with a new estate containing a grid of newly laid roads, the 12 Aldermen of Kogarah's Jubilee Council could not resist perpetuating their own names in these yet to be named streets. (Burgess, Carroll and Stubbs Streets were already there.)

The grand entrance to the estate with its flower beds down the centre was named Battye Avenue after the Mayor of Kogarah, J.C.S.Battye. The surrounding streets were named after his fellow Aldermen, E.T.Marx, N.R.Bertram, P.J.Ferry, R.W.Harslett, N.J.Lobb, E.H.Trollope, H.J.Poulton. When they ran out of streets to name they honoured their remaining colleagues with parks, thus Todd Park, Arrowsmith Park, Bell Park and Moore Park came into being. Leighton Park was named after the current Town Clerk.

A public auction of home sites took place on Saturday, February 2, 1940.

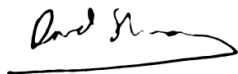
B. Earnshaw

KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR 2017-2018

EXPENDITURE:	\$
Energy Australia	631.34
Telstra	787.66
Insurance and Affiliations	601.00
Museum Cleaning & Post Box	1,299.42
Museum Expenses & book purchases & Trove contribution	5,505.52
Donations and Catering and Coach Trips	819.00
Petty Cash	200.00
Newsletters and Postage	1,337.61
Administration, Equipment and Publications	6,446.75
Total	17,628.38

INCOME:	\$
Annual Subscriptions	1,475.00
Museum Admission - Sundays	1,025.65
Groups, Mondays at the Museum, Christmas Lunch, Outings	3,517.75
Publications, book sales	1,132.64
Thursday raffles	658.00
Interest from IBD	1,800.00
Grants	10,928.00
Total	20,537.04

Signed



David Shaw
CPA 1443198

NB: Originals held by Secretary

From my calendar:

*I want my children to have all the things I couldn't afford
Then I want to move in with them.*

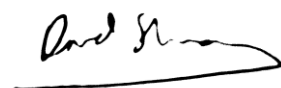
KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

RECONCILIATION STATEMENT 2017-2018

Balance at Bank as at 1 February 2017	10,431.66
Add Income to 31 January 2018	20,537.04
Total	<u>30,968.70</u>
Less Expenditure from 31 Jan 2017 – 31 Jan 2018	17,628.38
Total	<u>13,340.32</u>
Bank Balance as per statement 31 January 2018	13,340.32
Fixed Deposits at St George Bank	60,000.00

I have audited the records of Kogarah Historical Society Inc. and in my opinion the records are well kept and the financial statements drawn up for the period 01-02-2017 to 31-01-2018 reflect fairly the position of the organisation.

Signed



David Shaw
CPA 1443198

NB: Originals held by Secretary



The Society has written to the Georges River Council suggesting that the South Street Reserve, formerly named for John Abraham South an early Kogarah Pioneer, be called after Nurse Edith Blake, the only Australian nurse to die in World War 1 as a result of enemy action.

Before the amalgamation of the Councils there had been a motion to rename the area (the small parcel of land on the corner of South and Montgomery Sts) Shunde Gardens. We believe that given its proximity to St George Private Hospital it would be appropriate to name the area for someone of the medical profession who served in World War 1.

SAINTS IN KOGARAH

Part XII

ST RAPHAEL

St Raphael is one of the archangels, along with Michael and Gabriel, classed as angels of superior rank. He was venerated as a healer, as the angel who moved the healing waters of the pool in Jerusalem.

He became the patron saint of guilds of healing. His feast day was once celebrated on 24 October, but the three archangels are now celebrated together on 29 September



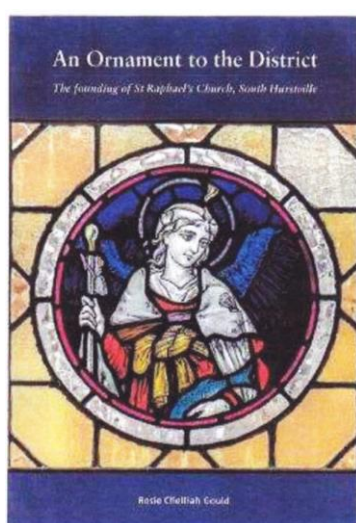
ST RAPHAEL'S CHURCH,

84 George St, South Hurstville.

“Evidence suggested that it was Archbishop Michael Kelly who bestowed the name ‘St Raphael’s’. ..It is a reasonable conjecture that his intention was to have the three churches in the area (in Hurstville, South Hurstville and Bexley) named after the three archangels in the Bible – Michael, Raphael and Gabriel. St Michael’s (built in 1885) already stood in Hurstville, St Raphael’s (completed in 1928) was built in South Hurstville, and St Gabriel’s would eventually be built in Bexley in 1954 to complete the trio of archangels.”

When I began this series on the history of the churches in our area, I envisaged a hunt through all sources to obtain my facts, a task I enjoy. So imagine my delight when I found there was a lady in the process of writing the history of her own beloved parish church, saving me many hours of toil. I attended the launch of her book recently and recommend it wholeheartedly to you.

The quote above is from her book, entitled; *An Ornament to the District. The Founding of St Raphael’s Church, South Hurstville.* The author is our Society member – Rosie Gould.



She begins with a puzzle! The foundation stone has the date, 21.10.1928, but she believed the church had been built in 1933. Her meticulous research revealed the answer. In 1928, the parish priest (of St Michael’s Church in Hurstville) Father Morris, bought four lots of land in the Florida Estate, South Hurstville, with his own funds, as the Parish did not have sufficient funds at the time. It was hoped to build a school to serve the children of the area, one which could also be used as the church. The plans went ahead; the land was transferred to the Church, and the school opened in 1928, ready for the first pupils of 1929. The architect designed the building so that ‘The sanctuary and four church pews could be shut off from the schoolroom during the week by lowering roller shutters to floor level.’ The author notes that you can still see evidence of the old roller shutters if you look!

The date of 1933 refers to September, when the Parish of South Hurstville was proclaimed, separated from St Michael’s of Hurstville.

The building is deservedly on the Heritage Register of Kogarah. It has beautiful stained glass windows by the famous John Radecki, whose work can also be seen in St Patrick's, Kogarah, St Declan's, Penhurst, and St Joseph's, Rockdale.

A copy of Mrs Gould's book is in our collection at Carss Cottage and copies can be purchased from the church for only \$20. The book contains much more than a detailed history of St Raphael's Church and school for Mrs Gould gives us the perspective of what happened before 1928 in our country and what was happening in the rest of the world. And the illustrations are a delight.

B. Goodger



Jan William's Journey – Member Profile



Jan William's journey has taken her from Kundibakh near Taree to Wingham, Cathcart, Allawah, Lismore, Lithgow and finally Carss Park. She has downsized from her first home in Carss Park and now lives in a unit at Bayside (Carss Park) retirement village with direct access into the Park – she is often first in line when the coffee shop in the park opens.

Jan's parents both grew up on farms near Wingham but met in Sydney where they were both working – Jan's mother, Christina McDermott, as a scullery maid for Dame Edith Walker from historical Yaralla Estate and her father, Reginald Harris, in a bottle shop. They married at the Free Presbyterian Church in Castlereagh Street and her father then took up Crown Land at Kundibakh. He built a slab hut for the family. They had cows and two horses, no other transport, no electricity. When the cows were milked, the churns were taken, balanced on horseback, to the milk truck.

Two children were born, Margaret in 1931 and then Jan in 1933. If they visited their grandparents Jan and her mother would be on one horse and Dad and Margaret on the other. Jan's grandparents on her mother's side were Free Presbyterians and Jan was brought up in that faith which meant strict observance of the Sabbath. When a third child arrived, a boy who was named Malcolm, Jan's mother refused to go back to the slab hut and they moved to Wingham around 1936 into a rented house. It was the Depression and there were no jobs. Her father finally found one in a sawmill and was working out in the bush cutting logs for sleepers on a Sunday when a log rolled, causing a large branch to fall and killing him outright. Her mother was 26 years old and was left with the three children, 7 and 4 years and 18 months. She received little sympathy from her parents because he had been working on the Sabbath. She did however receive some compensation and was able to build a house in Wingham but when her father had a stroke, she and Jan moved to the farm to look after them. Margaret was sent to Taree to live with an Aunt and attend school there. Later after the grandfather died, grandmother came and lived with Jan and family in Wingham. Jan remembers that her grandmother was a marvellous gardener and they had a big backyard with vegetables, chickens, fruit trees etc.

Jan and her sister both went to High School Taree having won a State Bursary which Jan puts down to them being reasonably intelligent but also very poor. Her mother did receive a widow's pension but at one stage told Jan that she had considered putting them in an orphanage. What a different story that would have been. After High School Jan went to Teacher's College in Newcastle – she remembers the choices of careers as limited, the bank, a nurse or a teacher. She emerged qualified in 1952 and was then under a bond for three years but at least she knew she had a job. Her first posting was to Cathcart with instructions to get the train to Bombala and then the bus. It was a two teacher school and Jan taught kindergarten and years 1, 2 and 3. After two years she was transferred to a school at Mascot and shared a house with two friends at Roselands. The friends introduced her to Bob Williams who was teaching at Arncliffe. They were married in 1956 and moved in with Bob's father at Allawah. After his death they continued living there, both working and Jan taught for seven years at Carlton Central School near Bexley then was promoted to Deputy Mistress at Lugarno, a first, according to the Inspector who said she would become a role model for other women. So Jan almost immediately became pregnant and had her first son, David. After 'accouchement leave' she returned to work but after giving birth to a second son, Stephen, gave it up to enjoy time with the children. Bob meantime was being promoted and was made a School Inspector and transferred to Lismore for nine months after which they were moved to Lithgow. Jan remembers Lismore as a cold unwelcoming place but Lithgow even with its coal dust had fantastic people. Wives of school inspectors were not allowed to work but Jan found a job at a Convent – a case of the Presbyterian teaching the Catholics.

At age 40 years she developed hearing sight and balance problems and was eventually found to have a tumour pressing on the cerebellum. It was benign and was removed at Prince Henry's hospital but not completely and in the operation a major nerve was cut and she was left with facial palsy. Two months in hospital then and a year later another operation transplanted a muscle into the face to allow some movement but leaving her with an ongoing disability.

The family moved to Carss Park in 1976, a three storey house so that Bob, who was then the School Inspector at Lakemba could have an office at home. He took six months at half pay so that they could have a trip with their boys, then 10 and 8 years and they went to Europe. Bob who was a great reader had planned the trip in detail visiting all the historical highlights, a fantastic trip according to Jan. Bob continued as a school inspector until he retired in 1988 but then went as an itinerate teacher to help children with behavioural problems and Jan got very involved in those activities. Bob passed away in 1996.

Her boys both did Science degrees. David met his wife also a scientist when he was at Cambridge having won an 1851 Exhibition Scholarship to do his doctorate there. They now both work at the ANU and have two children. Stephen teaches Physics at Sydney Grammar, is married with one child and lives nearby.

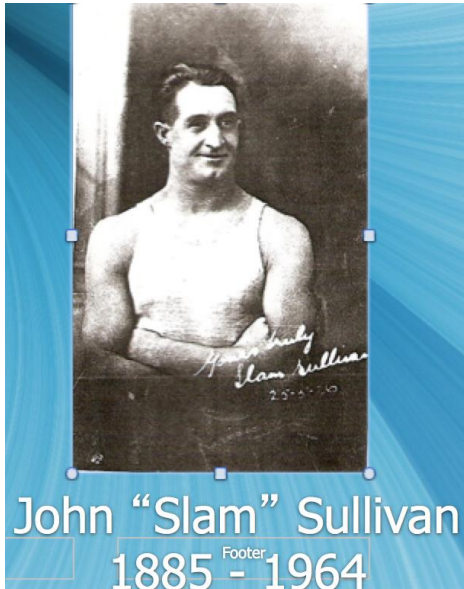
When I met Jan in Carss Park she was involved in everything, Neighbourhood Watch, U3A where she had French, German and Gardening groups meeting at her house, meditation, a theatre group, the Fellowship of Australian Writers (FAW) and now of course the Historical Society and also a Labor Women's group. She has had a series of health problems, can no longer drive but remains cheerful and in touch, planting lemon trees for the retirement village and coming to our meetings when she can.

Gill Whan

Thank you Jan for telling your story – we are always keen to have contributions for the newsletter from our members and welcome your submissions for publication.

John “Slam” Sullivan

Slam Sullivan was an Oatley resident from the 1920s to 1964. At a meeting of the Oatley Heritage Group, Christine Talbot told the story of Slam Sullivan and the Oatley connection. Christine’s father was a friend of Sullivan during his time at Oatley.



Slam Sullivan was most famous for his training of boxers in the 1930 and 1940s.

He was born in Wales in 1885 but came to Australia 1913. The nickname was because of his punching ability to silence any “loudmouths”! But more than this he was also a fast runner and clearly a good athlete in his early days in Cardiff. He worked training boxers and other athletes in Cardiff. Two young boxing friends of Slam purchased tickets to New York to further their careers in 1912 but they travelled on the ill-fated “Titanic” and were lost in that tragic sinking.

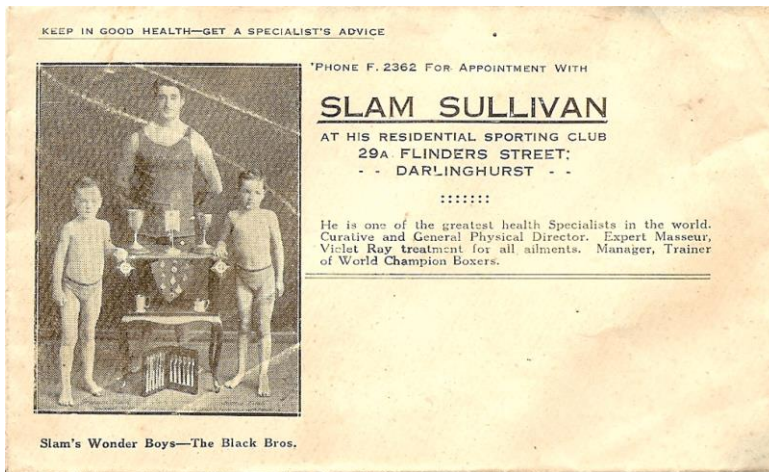
It was a surprise to everyone who knew him in Australia to find that he had been married and had two children whom he left in Wales after his wife died and he came to Australia. The children were brought up by

Slam’s wife’s sister and a few years ago Christine Talbot, using the internet, found Slam’s great granddaughter living in Wales.

Slam’s first job in Australia was at a swimming pool in Brisbane. The pool and complex was associated with the famous Australian swimmer Dick Cavill who invented the “Australian crawl” swimming stroke. Its name was later changed to “freestyle”. The swimming complex was used to train people in lifesaving techniques and there were carnivals using and testing these techniques. In one carnival, several events were cancelled as the Queensland Ladies Swimming Association would not permit mixed carnivals.

In 1919 and 1924 Slam was the trainer and masseur for the NSW Rugby team when they toured Brisbane. He then moved to Oatley and built a house in Annette Street on Oatley Bay. At that time his house would have been remote and with few neighbours. He built a simple fibro shed right on the waterfront (it was reportedly under a few centimetres of water during king tides) and this shed had a boxing ring and another room where boxers under his training would live. A local resident at the time reported that the training group would go running in the local streets as part of their routine and they would be joined in their runs by others. Joyce Marks, a member of Oatley Heritage Group, recalls the group of very large Negro men running around the streets. She was permitted to join them in this activity but was never allowed to go down to the Gym! Slam trained boxers for the well-known Jimmy Shaman troupe who would go throughout the country performing and many will remember them at the Royal Easter show challenging all comers to fight a round or two.

On the front of his Oatley property he grew vegetables and had fruit trees. Slam would mix and crush these fruits into juices for his boxers as part of their diet. He had proposed to make the venue a “health farm” particularly with a swimming pool being constructed in Oatley Bay and the Bay with oysters as part of the attraction!



Slam also ran a gym in the city and trained a number of boxers there. The most famous were Young Halliday, Wally Hancock and Billy McAlister. These men held various championships in Australia. He was especially renowned for bringing high quality Welsh boxers to Sydney and promoted fights between the Welsh imports and the best of his local

talents. He organised a fight between Young Halliday and Billy Morgan from Wales at the Leichhardt Stadium in May 1930. This fight was broadcast over 2KY.

In 1934 the Daily Telegraph reported that Slam had “entertained a large party of visitors from the city amid the picturesque surroundings of Oatley Bay”. Slam was promoting his American boxer Jack Portney during his tour of Sydney and Portney lived and trained at Oatley during his stay in Australia.

On a more local level the depression saw many young men turn to boxing to make a living. Slam promoted fixtures at the Carlton Stadium just a few miles from Oatley where bouts were held in front of paying audiences.

In 1938 the Empire games were held in Sydney and Slam was contracted to train and assist the Welsh boxing team. His efforts were rewarded when Denis Reardon won Gold in the boxing.

Slam was a masseur to Sir Frank Packer when Frank was a boxer (he won the 1929 Amateur Boxing Championship) and Slam would also take oysters from Oatley Bay to Sir Frank in the 1940's and 50's. This generosity was reciprocated when Slam became ill in the early 1960s. Sir Frank and another business man that Slam had assisted, admitted him to a hospital in Potts Point. He died in September 1964 and was buried in the Woronora cemetery in Sutherland.

Christine Talbot, then a young girl remembers some details but interestingly Slam's few belongings and photos were collected and saved by her father. She discovered them on her father's death in 1996 and has now written a short history of Jack “Slam” Sullivan.

Rodger Robertson



Closing Date for Entries into the Local History Prize 8 March 2018.



Email your entry to info@kogarahhistoricalsociety.com.au or post to PO Box 367, Kogarah, 1485. Inquiries to B Earnshaw (9546 1091) or G Whan (9546 4623)

The Museum will be closed on Easter Sunday 1 April.



Wishing all our members a very happy Easter.