

# Kogarah Historical Society Inc

Carss Cottage Museum - Carss Park

Postal: PO Box 367, Kogarah 1485 [www.kogarah.historicalsociety.com.au](http://www.kogarah.historicalsociety.com.au)



Patron: Cr. Kathryn Landsberry

President: Gill Whan (0439 667 843)

## *Newsletter*

*November/December, 2024*

*Volume 16 No.5*



*Society Trip to the Sutherland Historical Society Museum  
Members inspected a Torch from the 2000 Olympic Torch Relay  
See Story Page 10*

### **Meetings and Speakers**

**Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>**

Kez Hasanic, ANMM – *The Lusitania Disaster*

**Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**

Our Christmas Party!

Meetings start at 2 pm in the School of Arts, Bowns Road/Queens Avenue, Kogarah, with the Speaker. This is followed by afternoon tea and a chance to mingle with other members. A short business meeting follows. Visitors are always welcome. Apologies for non-attendance at meetings should go to Adele Ryan (Ph.0444 566 329). If unanswered please leave a message.

***Ho Ho Ho! Christmas is Coming!  
And so is the Kogarah Historical Society  
Christmas Party!***

Where? Mortdale RSL, Macquarie St, Mortdale  
When? Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 12 pm  
Come and enjoy friendship, quizzes, prizes and a  
two course lunch with table wine for \$55 per person.  
Please book with Anne Williams Ph.0425 215 589  
or Adele Ryan Ph.0444 566 329.



**Museum Roster**

**November**

3<sup>rd</sup> Wendy Agzarian & Adele Ryan  
10<sup>th</sup> Pat Young & Cheryl Bell  
17<sup>th</sup> Jacki Colonelli & Gill Whan  
24<sup>th</sup> Adele Ryan & Helen Gould

**December**

1<sup>st</sup> Wendy Agzarian & Cheryl Bell  
8<sup>th</sup> Pat Young & Joe Spinelli  
15<sup>th</sup> Gill Whan & Fiona Johnstone  
22<sup>nd</sup> Miryam & Niver Rodriguez  
29<sup>th</sup> Closed

Emergency List: Anne Field, Heather Campbell, Cath & Leo Sullivan, Olga Sedneva  
(If you need to change your date, please try to do it with another volunteer. Otherwise,  
contact Wendy Agzarian on 0402 136 407 or Gill Whan on 0439 667 843)

**Committee (\* Denotes Executive)**

President*	Gill Whan	Ph.0439 667 843
Vice President*	Adele Ryan	Ph.0444 566 329
Secretary*	Gill Whan	Ph.0439 667 843
Treasurer*	Anne Williams	Ph.0425 215 589
Public Officer*	Robert McGarn	Ph.0425 706 579

Committee Members: Wendy Agzarian, Glynn Pulling, Beverley Earnshaw, Pat Young,  
Elaine Filewood, Helen Gould, Laurel Horton.

**Committee Meetings**

**November 11<sup>th</sup>** (Monday) Adele Ryan, 5 Endeavour St, Sans Souci Ph.0444 566 329  
**December 9<sup>th</sup>** (Monday) Gill Whan, 11 Dewrang Street, Carss Park (0439 667 843)

***Monday at the Museum***

**Don't miss the last for the year on 25 November. Christine Yeats will be our speaker on *Crimes and Misdemeanours in the St George area. (I wonder what she will find?)***

## Matthew Flinders' final and other journeys

The English seem to have a penchant for finding and digging up famous people long after their death. First the remains of Richard III found and identified under a car park and now Matthew Flinders under Euston Station. He was identified by a lead plate on his coffin which read "Capt Matthew Flinders RN. Died 19 July, 1814. Aged 40 years"



The remains of Flinders have now been returned to the village of his birth, Donington, in Lincolnshire and reinterred inside the 13<sup>th</sup> century Parish Church of St Mary and the Holy Rood. His father, grandfather and several other relatives are all buried in the church cemetery.

In July this year Royal Navy pallbearers carried his coffin draped in a special standard with half Union Jack and half Australian flag to his final resting place. The Governor of South Australia was among the large numbers of people who attended the service. A full military and gun salute was held to welcome the return of Flinders to his birthplace. Inside the church is a stained glass window, in his memory, gifted by the Australian government 40 years ago. There is also a bronze statue in the village erected in 2006.

Flinders is a figure of national importance here, as evidenced by the many places named in his honour, a mountain range in S Australia, a major street in Melbourne, a university and statues in many cities. In Sydney of course we also have the famous cat "Trim" seated on the windowsill of the Mitchell library close to Flinders' statue.

It is interesting to note that his statues have not been the target for desecration as have so many others from the Colonial era and it is believed that his reputation has been preserved by his understanding of the humanity of Aboriginal people. He had been impressed by the bravery and intuition of Bungaree and took him on future survey voyages to negotiate with Aboriginal groups and tried to ensure that his crew always acted decently toward them.



As a young boy, Matthew was fascinated by the book Robinson Crusoe. This influenced his desire to explore, and against the wishes of his father, he joined the navy in 1789 when he was still a teenager. In 1791 he served under Bligh, as a midshipman on a voyage to Tahiti. This was after the mutiny on the *Bounty*. On the return journey they passed through the Torres Strait and Flinders drew his first maps. It was also where he had the first contact with Aboriginals who attacked the ship in four sailboats. They were repelled but Flinders was impressed with their skills shown in handling the boats and their weapons. After his return to England he was appointed as an Aide de Camp on *HMS Bellerophon* (1794) and saw action in a major battle, known to the British as 'the Glorious First of June' during the naval conflict between Britain and France in the French Revolutionary Wars.

He had had two years of sailing round the world plus experience in fighting but was still only 20 years old and still a midshipman. He heard of a planned voyage to take Captain John Hunter back to Australia to become Governor of NSW and to be responsible for new explorations of the Coast. Thanks to a good friend, Henry Waterhouse, who was sailing as second captain to Hunter, Flinders was appointed as first mate for the voyage. Waterhouse had been on the First Fleet so was also returning. On this voyage too was George Bass who had been apprenticed as a doctor on several voyages and joined as the ship's surgeon, although

not qualified. He had a servant boy with him, William Martin, who would later travel with Bass and Flinders on exploration trips. Bass became a close friend of Flinders.

Matthew Flinders met his future wife, Ann Chappelle before he left England again but would not marry her until he returned six years later. On this voyage too he organised for his 11 year old brother, Samuel, to join the crew as a volunteer, paid a small amount, but basically to learn about sailing. The father therefore had to say a sad goodbye to two sons.



They set sail on the *HMS Reliance* in 1795 and reached Sydney Heads after seven months during which time Flinders had been promoted to acting lieutenant and had been practising navigational calculation. A month after arrival Flinders and Bass suggested to Governor Hunter that they explore the coast south of Sydney. The only boat available was the dinghy from the *Reliance* which they named *Tom Thumb* and in it sailed south from Port Jackson across Botany Bay to the Georges River. They continued up the river discovering fertile soil in an area that later became Bankstown. After their return, Flinders took supplies in the *Reliance* to Norfolk Island but on returning teamed up with Bass again to explore a river believed to be south of Botany Bay but not on Cook's maps. Again they were in a small boat and called it Tom Thumb. Flinders charted Port Hacking River and further south named a lake Tom Thumb Lagoon later to become Lake Illawarra. The maps and charts from both voyages were sent to England and later appeared in an atlas of NSW, giving important recognition to Flinders.

A voyage in the *Reliance* to Cape Town in 1796 to obtain supplies for the colony allowed Flinders to sit an examination and apply for promotion as a full Lieutenant – this was confirmed the following year. In 1797 Bass had been sent to chart the south coast including Van Diemen's land – he returned convinced by the strong currents and high seas that water separated it from the NSW Coast. This was confirmed when Governor Hunter sent Flinders and Bass in 1798 on another expedition to prove this. The Strait when confirmed was named Bass Strait and the two returned to Sydney in 1799 after 4 months.

In 1800 Flinders had been in the navy for ten years and away from England for five. He had continued to write to Ann Chappelle, had achieved much and was still only 26 years old. He sailed back to England but still had ambition to return and continue exploration and charting. He had the patronage of Joseph Banks and this plus knowledge that two French ships had applied for passports to explore Terra Australis convinced the government to commission him. He chose *HMS Investigator* and fitted out the ship taking with him all early maps including Cook's maps and journals, astronomical and surveying equipment, sextants and chronometers. He married Ann Chappelle in 1801 but although he hoped she could sail with him to Port Jackson, this was against the rules and she was left behind when the *Investigator* finally started its journey in July.

It restocked at Madeira and Cape Town and in December saw the south-west tip of Australia. Flinders continued east and reached King George Sound and an inner harbour called Princess Royal Harbour where they stayed for four weeks, mending leaks, going ashore for firewood and water and resurveying the area while the scientists aboard collected botanical samples and noted and recorded the wild life.

Part of Flinders' orders from the British government had been to find out if a strait separated New Holland (WA) from NSW giving a new route to the Gulf of Carpentaria but this of course was not found. They continued along the coast naming Port Lincoln, Spencer Gulf, Kangaroo Island and many other places usually after British naval figures, others after officers and members of the crew, and still more after his family and friends.

Flinders reached Sydney in May 1802 and left to resume the expedition in July, this time with Bungaree and Trim the cat, accompanied by the ship, *Lady Nelson*. They went North along the East Coast, through the Barrier Reef and continued to Torres Strait and into the Gulf of Carpentaria. The *Lady Nelson* was sent back to Sydney as it was a liability, due to its poor sailing and slowness. After

five months the *Investigator* was leaking badly with timbers rotting and was hardly seaworthy. They continued but avoided the shore to stay clear of breaking waves. Places were again named as they proceeded, charting islands and observing evidence on land of previous occupation, structures found indicating it may have been an Asiatic peoples.



In March 1803 Flinders headed for Timor to repair and replenish ship and crew. They returned to Sydney via the West Coast a distance of 8000 km thus establishing that he had indeed circumnavigated Terra Australis.

Throughout the voyages there had been encounters with the French, also trying to be the first to circumnavigate, with Aboriginal groups who were not always friendly and where Bungaree had been of assistance and with Malays collecting trepang (sea cucumbers). The *Investigator* was not deemed fit for the trip back to England and Flinders left Sydney in July 1803 in *HMS Porpoise*. It foundered on a reef and Flinders and some crew rowed the 1200 km back to Sydney to seek help for the remainder left on an isolated reef. He left again on the *HMS Cumberland* ensured that the crew of the *Porpoise* were rescued and headed for England, but the ship was forced to seek assistance at Mauritius. England was again at war with France – Flinders had a passport from the French which gave protection to ships on scientific expeditions but it was for the *Investigator* and he was accused of being a spy and arrested. He was detained for six years on Mauritius but eventually treated well and he was able to send charts, maps and letters back to England, letters to Sir Joseph Banks suggested that the Southern Continent should be called Australia.

He was released in 1810 and returned to his wife Ann who had waited all these years. They had one daughter in 1812 also called Ann. He was however in poor health and died in July 1814 from kidney disease, aged 40 years, only a day after the publication of his book, 'A Voyage to Terra Australis'. There are many books with detailed accounts of his voyages and the Mitchell library holds original copies of the *Atlas to Flinders' Voyage to Terra Australis* as a portfolio that accompanied the book and includes engravings of 16 maps, four plates of views and ten plates of Australian flora. His achievements are of special interest in South Australia and the lead plate from the coffin will come back to Australia, and be on display in Adelaide. A descendant of Matthew Flinders is the director of Flinders University's Art Museum and has arranged donation of her great, great, great Uncle's pocket compass. The University is hoping to mount an exhibition of artefacts this year.

**Gill Whan**



*Wrecks of the Porpoise, & Cato, 200 miles from Land.*

*This 19<sup>th</sup> Century engraving depicts the wrecks of the vessels 'Porpoise' & 'Cato' on a remote reef 200 miles from land. Note the flag flying upside down to signal distress.*

*Source: The National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London*

## Volunteers are Needed

**The Society needs helpers who will occasionally volunteer their skills. A volunteer does not have to come on the Committee, but is someone who is willing to help out.**

What can you do to help? Can you fill in when someone is away or sick? Can you help on Sunday afternoons at the cottage? Would you like to learn how to set up the sound and Power Point System for the Thursday meeting? Our treasurer still needs an assistant. Have you any skills or talents we don't know about?

Many hands make light work. Do come and join the happy band of KHS Volunteers.

Ring Gill 0439 667 843 or Wendy 0402 136 147



---oo0oo---

## Do you Remember?

Years ago, going to the Blue Mountains or for a holiday, maybe taking an overseas or interstate visitor meant always buying one of the few souvenirs of the mountains. Apart from the lovely plaster cast of the 3 Sisters covered in shells, there weren't any 'Made in China' souvenirs or fridge magnets [we may not have had a fridge], but the one to buy was the 'Mountain Devil'.

These little thorny seed pods are from the plant *Lambertia Formosa* and are endemic to New South Wales and grow prolifically in the Blue Mountains. As they looked devilish with their 'horns', they were made into little devils with some wire, a few pipe cleaners and some red felt. They became very popular and a big tourist attraction to buy for a memory of a holiday.

The Society did not have one in its collection, but as nothing is ever thrown out at my place, I have now found one to put into the Toy Cabinet in the Carss Cottage Museum.

*Wendy Agzarian*



---oo0oo---

## Museum Calling

At the last committee meeting it was suggested that the Carss Cottage Museum might have to close on some Sundays unless more volunteers are forthcoming. The museum roster operates over a two month period of eight weeks, or nine if there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday. Ideally, a volunteer would only have to attend once every two months. To do this, we need eighteen volunteers. At present we only have twelve and some are doubling up. Will you consider helping? It is only six times a year when you will spend a pleasant afternoon engaging with the visiting public.

## THE ODDFELLOWS – KOGARAH’S OLDEST HALL

There were eighteen entries for our 2023 Essay Prize covering a wide diversity of subjects. The longest entry received came from Bob Horton who wrote 72 pages entitled ‘*Kogarah 1880-1920, A Vibrant Community*’. The Subject dealt mainly with the social history and the social life experienced during Kogarah’s early development. We have no room to reproduce 72 pages, but printed below is a small vignette which focuses on the use of Kogarah’s first hall, *The Oddfellows Hall*. Situated at the corner of the present day Regent Street and Princes Highway, the hall was built in 1885 as a Lodge Room and was the forerunner of other facilities such as *Kogarah School of Arts*. For many years it served as the scene of meetings, dances, parties, concerts, ‘smokos’, and fund raisers, as well as the Lodge Rooms for which it was built.

Below are some extracts from Bob’s heavily researched essay –

### KOGARAH 1880-1920 A VIBRANT COMMUNITY

#### A COMMUNITY HUB

The development of present day Kogarah owes much to the magnet created by the railway line opening in 1884, the loser being the original village of Kogarah at the junction of Rocky Point Road and Kogarah Road (now Princes Highway). Kogarah became a Municipality in 1885. It became a centre for community activities. These were organized by churches, lodges and various clubs. The events were held in four major venues, the I.O.O.F.Hall, the School of Arts, Brett’s Hall and the Rechabite Hall.

#### **The foundation stone of the Independent Order of Oddfellows’ Hall was laid in 1885.**

*“ 1885/11/20. Some two months ago the foundation stone of the Oddfellows Hall, Kogarah, was laid by Mr Gibbes, M.L.A. and on Wednesday evening a tea-meeting and concert was held by members of the Captain Cook Lodge, I.O.O.F.,M.U., to celebrate the opening ... Between 300 and 400 persons sat down to tea (two relays being necessary). After tea a concert was held. Several subscriptions to the building fund were handed in and the concert and tea will realise £25. The new hall will be a great public boon to Kogarah.”*

#### **Two years later improvements were planned :-**

*“1887/7/26 TENDERS will be received up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> August for building two Ante Rooms and lining the Ceiling of the Oddfellows’ Hall, Kogarah”.*

#### **In April 1886 tenders were invited for the ‘Erection and Completion of Buildings for a School of Arts’.**

*“The foundation stone was laid on 24<sup>th</sup> May, 1886. The building is to be two storeys high, the upper part being intended for a librarian or caretaker’s residence. The ground floor entrance hall will be 10 feet wide. A hall with stage, ante-rooms and retiring rooms will comfortably seat 400 persons. There will also be a library, office, room for Council Meetings and a kitchen. In the evening a banquet was given in the Oddfellows’ Hall at which was a good attendance. The band of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment supplied music.”*

#### DANCING DOWN THE YEARS

The 24<sup>th</sup> of April, 1899, saw: *“The opening of the Mascotte dance was held last Wednesday night in the Oddfellows’ Hall. The evening passed off splendidly. The next dance will eventuate on Wednesday next week.”*

**La Mascotte was a tune for a Waltz Varsoviene, which dates in the U.S.A. from 1885.**

And on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April, 1905: *“A Quadrille Party was held on Friday last in the Oddfellows Hall. About 30 couples enjoyed the programme till after midnight to the accompaniment of Mr Quail’s music. The singing of Mr J.Keough of Sydney, was amusing and highly appreciated. The evening closed by singing Auld Lang Syne en figure.”*

**The Quadrille is a dance fashionable in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century Europe and its Colonies, like English Country dancing with two rows of dancers facing one another. Latterly danced to a medley of opera melodies.**

### **CONCERTS – ENTERTAINMENT FOR ALL PERFORMED BY ALL**

**Concerts during the latter period of the 19<sup>th</sup> century were few and far between, whether the cause was the recession of 1890-1900, or that venues, being modest in size, could not attract large audiences, those that are reported have a certain quality.**

In July 1886 in the *“ODDFELLOWS HALL, Kogarah, Great Success of Peoples Concerts. Tonight, tonight, and every Friday. Change of Programme weekly. Prices – 6d and 1 s.”*

#### **Also**

*“ODDFELLOWS HALL, Kogarah. The BALMAIN ROYAL AMATEUR MINSTRELS will perform tonight. Proceeds in aid of School of Arts Kogarah. Commencing 8 o’clock. Admission, 2s and 1s, children half.”*

In August, 1886: *“At the Oddfellows Hall, Kogarah, on Thursday night, Mr Courtney Smith gave a lantern entertainment. The subject was ‘Sketches and Adventures in the West Indies, Spanish Main, United States and Canada.’ Proceeds were divided between St George Band of Hope and the Rest Haven Ladies Committee.”*

And in November –

#### **Lynch Family Bellringers**

(organized 1887)

**TONIGHT, FRIDAY, Oddfellows Hall, Kogarah  
Considerable success still attends the above company on  
their suburban tour, and audiences appear as highly  
pleased as ever.**

In April, 1902: *“Last Wednesday Evening the Hibernian A.C.B.Society tendered a Smoke Concert at the Oddfellows Hall, Kogarah, to Bro.Dwyer, past secretary. A presentation made by Bro.Holohan, President of the Lodge, to the guest consisted of a handsome silver tea set, suitably engraved. Amongst the many entertainers of the evening were Messrs Coombes, Gandon, O’Brien, ... Julian, Hegarty and a host of others.”*

In December: *“The Committee of the St George Friendly Societies Demonstration held a Smoke Concert at the Oddfellows Hall, Kogarah, on Friday evening last, about 60 Committee men being present. Songs, recitations, clog dances and phonographic selections enlivened things during the evening. Various games were indulged in by those present, the material being kindly lent by the Loyal Captain Cook Lodge M.U.,I.O.F.*

### **CHURCH EVENTS**

In September, 1886: *“The anniversary of the establishment of the Free Church of England, Kogarah, was celebrated by a tea, public meeting and entertainment at the Oddfellows Hall on Monday evening last. The chairman explained the reasons for the establishment of the church. It was erected as a temporary expedient for a number of people who were determined to no longer worship at St Pauls Kogarah. A programme was of sacred music, with a reading and recitation and the ever beautiful solo ‘Before the Throne’ sung by Miss Melville.”*



In August, 1887: A Congregational Church Service was held at the Oddfellows Hall, Kogarah.

In October, 1895: *“A meeting of the parishioners of St Georges, Kogarah, was held on Monday evening in the Oddfellows Hall, to consider the appointment of an incumbent. It was resolved to point out to the Primate the necessity of having a pastor young, strong, earnest and able to undertake the duties of the parishes of Kogarah, Hurstville and Rockdale.”*

## **LODGES**

August, 1888: **L.O.L.No.221 JUBILEE KOGARAH** *“The lodge held its first anniversary on Friday evening, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 1888, in the Oddfellows Hall, Kogarah. In its first year the lodge has a membership of 40. Miss L. Galvin opened the concert with the song, ‘Daddy’, Mr A Peake sang ‘Grandmother’s Chair’, Misses L and A Galvin sang the duet ‘Hark it is Fairy Music’, Master C.E.Russell recited, followed by ‘Only a Dream’ by Miss Foskett.... Then followed a comic song ‘To much of a name’ by Mr E J Peake. It was amusing without being vulgar ... the Misses Foskett sang a delightful duet ‘The Nightingale and the Rose’ ... The singing of God Save the Queen concluded the proceedings.”*

**Whilst ‘Masonic’ in the form of its meetings and the use of regalia, the Loyal Orange Lodges in Australia appear to have had their own character, Protestant, Christian, working class, politically to the left and loyal to Britain. Missing in its history appears to be, unlike Scotland and Ireland, the parading of fife and drum marching bands. Protestant clergymen from many denominations appear to have been part of it. Curiously the great Orange anthem, *The Sash my Father wore*, was not part of the concert, but ‘Grandmother’s Chair’ is –**

*And how they titter’d! How they chaff’d!  
How my brother and sister laughed,  
When they heard the lawyer declare  
Granny had only left me her old arm chair.*

July, 1906: **DAUGHTERS OF ERNE (Ladies) L.O.L., 335** *“A meeting was held in the Oddfellows Hall, Kogarah, on Wednesday night, June 20<sup>th</sup>, Sister Mrs J McFarlane, W.M. presiding over a well packed meeting. The DAUGHTERS OF GORDON L.O.L. 345 paid an official visit, headed by their W.M. Bro. Moremon. Refreshments were provided. The tail-less donkey caused much laughter.”*

## **POLITICS – FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL ISSUES**

July, 1886: *“A meeting of the inhabitants of St George was held in the Oddfellows Hall last evening, for considering lighting the locality with gas. The Mayor of Kogarah, Mr E Hogben, said he would be pleased to see the district lighted by gas. Mr J H Carruthers said that the traffic in the thoroughfares of the district had increased to such an extent that the darkness was a great source of danger to the public. If practicable, such gas should be supplied from local works, to be erected either by municipalities interested or by a public company to be formed amongst the ratepayers and residents.”*

And in September, 1915 : *“An enjoyable evening was spent last Saturday, at the Oddfellows Hall by the members and friends of the Kogarah Ladies Working League. The Mayor of Kogarah, Ald. J Crawley, referred to the splendid work the League was doing in making clothes and comforts for our boys at the front.”*

**Bob Horton**

*In 1919 a new dance, ‘The Tickle Toe’, was introduced. It was described as “one of the current popular dances representative of the acme of vulgarity and indecency” ... its origin was in ragtime and jazz*

## The Society's Trip to Sutherland Historical Society's Museum

(See picture front cover)

On 29 August, 2024, 16 Society members went to see the new Sutherland Shire HS Museum. The Museum had to move from its previous location in Sutherland to its new home at 88 Venetia Street, Sylvania, a former childcare centre. We were keen to see how the society had organised its large number of items/exhibits. Morning tea was provided before the tour which took at least 2 hours. Several Guides were on hand, wearing Society tee shirts. Our group was divided into four and visited four sections, each with their own guide.

1. The Indigenous era prior to European settlement.
2. The arrival of Captain Cook.
3. The early 19<sup>th</sup> century agricultural era showing many large agricultural machines in the grounds.
4. The modern suburban era with household items & details of suburban life e.g. kitchen & wedding items.

The museum has large grounds & storage sheds on the side with more exhibits. The Sutherland Historical Society has recently been given a grant to erect an additional shelter outside where groups can meet.

(The Museum is open Tuesday 12 to 4 pm, Thursday 9 to 1 pm & Saturday 9 to 1 pm or by appointment. The entry fee is \$5.00.)

Many thanks to Helen Gould for organising the trip.

**Robert McGarn**

---oo0oo---

## Open Day at Carss Cottage Museum



*Anne & Helen – who couldn't resist the silver helmet!*

We marked History Week at Carss Cottage with a very successful informal Open Day on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.

The weather was kind and the people came to enjoy free entry to the Museum, a sumptuous afternoon tea and an opportunity to browse our Bring and Buy stall and pick up a bargain. Visitors included Councillors Kathryn Landsberry, and Natalie Mort, both great supporters of the Society.

Our volunteers excelled themselves – Anne Williams, Helen Gould and Janice Latham organized the stall the sold heaps! Laurel Horton, Barbara Kibble and Layla served the home cooked afternoon tea (several contributors).

Bob Horton and other members helped Showcase the displays inside, particularly the

*School Ways, School Days Exhibition* – indeed Bob entertained the children and had them singing along with him. The members supported the occasion well. We also had new visitors including one family from Parramatta who spent the afternoon with us.

We all enjoyed the occasion and a big thank you to everyone who helped.

**Gill Whan**

## What's On

- November 14** At the School of Arts. **Kez Hasanic ANMM** -- *The Lusitania Disaster*.
- November 25** Mondays at the Museum, **Christine Yeats**, Archivist & Researcher – *Crimes & Misdemeanours in the St.George Area*.
- November 3** Lydham Hall opening – Singalong with St.George Brass Band at 11.30 am and again during the afternoon.
- March 20** **ADVANCE NOTICE** – the Society's first outing for 2025 will be to ANSTO at Lucas Heights. There will be bus transport from Carss Park. For more details including cost, please see next newsletter.  
**SAVE THE DATE.**
- November/December** At National Trust property, *Lindesay*, 1 Carthona Ave, Darling Point, 19<sup>th</sup> Century mansion built 1834. Tours most Wednesdays 10 am & 11 am. Entry \$15, Concession \$12. More information Ph.9363-2401.
- Trips arranged by St George Community Transport:**
- November 8** Friday. *War Museum at RSL Anzac Village, Narrabeen*.  
Bus \$15 + \$20 for tour and morning tea.
- November 11** Monday. *Bundeena Ferry and Lunch* -- also on Friday **November 15**.  
Bus \$25 + \$4.15 on ferry (no opal card).
- November 21** Thursday. *Berrylicious Strawberries Thirlmere*.  
Bus \$25 + \$22 for fruit picking.
- November 26** Tuesday. *Dangar Island Lunch*.  
Bus \$25 + \$5.50 each way on ferry.
- December 11** Wednesday at 1 pm. *Jesus Christ Super Star* at Capitol Theatre Sydney.  
Bus \$15, ticket \$88 to be prepaid immediately.

To book a tour please ring 9585-3000. St George Community Transport is now encouraging patrons to book their tours on line. The booking form will be found on [Buses@stgct.org.au](mailto:Buses@stgct.org.au) .

---oo0oo---

## Trivia Quiz

### Phobias – what do they mean?

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Agoraphobia    | 6. Lepidopterphobia |
| 2. Arachnaphobia  | 7. Jurophobia       |
| 3. Acrophobia     | 8. Rhytiphobia      |
| 4. Claustrophobia | 9. Venustraphobia   |
| 5. Hemophobia     | 10. Xenophobia      |

Answers:

1. Places from where escape may be difficult: 2. Spiders: 3. Heights  
4. Confined spaces: 5. Blood: 6. Butterflies: 7. Cheese  
8. Getting wrinkles: 9. Beautiful women: 10. Strangers or foreigners.

## 2024 Historic Markers

The Society was delighted that our nomination of Elizabeth Corry for a historic marker, was successful. Each year the Georges River Council selects five people or places of historical and cultural importance to be acknowledged with a distinctive blue plaque. There are now 29 in the Georges River area.



Elizabeth Corry was a founding member of the Kogarah Historical Society but so much more than that. She was of Aboriginal heritage and was an advocate for the rights of Aboriginal people. She worked voluntarily for the Bush Brothers, a branch of the Anglican church, and the Aboriginal Foundation located near Central Railway in the 1950s. She was also an active member of the Kogarah Bay Progress Assn. She helped establish the Barton Women's Auxiliary of the St George Hospital and the Kogarah Bay Branch of the Labor Party – she was given life membership of both.

She had 11 children and in later years had an invalid husband to nurse but this did not stop her from her charitable activities. As a member of the Ladies Guild of St Cuthberts Church she always contributed homemade jams and pickles for fund raisers.



*The tree planting. Lawrie & Diane Corry on right.*

She was on the Metropolitan Parks and Reserves Committee and campaigned for the acquisition of Parkside Drive Reserve, the extension of Carss Park and the preservation of a small reserve at the end of Wyee Street in Kogarah Bay. Fittingly in 1984, the reserve, which is at the end of Wharf Rd, Mayor St and Wyee St, was named as the *Elizabeth Corry Reserve* to honour the sixty years of community service she had given to the district.

She died in 1983 but her name lived on in the Society through her son, Lawrie Corry, who was an active member for many years. In 2015 the Society arranged to plant a tree on the Reserve in Elizabeth's memory. The tree was donated by the Corry family and was said to have been propagated from seed brought back from Gallipoli. Lawrie and two of his children attended the small ceremony. Now the Reserve will also have a plaque which will say:

*Elizabeth Corry  
1889 – 1983*

*Founding member of Kogarah Historical Society and community advocate for Aboriginal rights and recreational spaces.*

Four other plaques will be put in place in due course honouring:

**The founder of the Oatley Flora and Fauna Society**, Rafael Skowronski 1930-2022 – marker in Oatley Park.

**2NBC Radio**, started in 1983 and was Sydney's first community radio station to broadcast 24 hours a day, featuring music and community language programs in the Georges River area - marker at Narwee Baptist Church where it broadcast from for 35 years.

**St George District Cricket Club** – established in 1911 – marker at Hurstville Oval.

**Sunnyside**, heritage listed house at 186-88 Princes Highway, built around 1870, saved from redevelopment several times – marker outside the property.

*Gill Whan*