

Kogarah Historical Society Inc

Carss Cottage Museum - Carss Park

Postal: PO Box 367, Kogarah 1485 www.kogarah.historicalsociety.com.au



Patron: Cr. Kathryn Landsberry

President: Phill Scott

Newsletter

May/June, 2025

Volume 17 No.2



Ostrich Farming and the Acclimatization Society, see story p.3

Meetings and Speakers

Thursday, May 8th

Bill Phippen OAM, Engineer & Author
*Kathleen Butler & the Building of the
Harbour Bridge.*

Thursday, June 12th

Kim Cadogan – *The History of
St. George County Council*

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.

Coming Day Tour

Our next Day Tour will be on Thursday 5th June to the Chau Chak Museum, part of Sydney University.

It has an extensive collection over four levels of antiquities, contemporary art and an Egyptian Mummy Room. After the tour you will have time to explore by yourselves at your own pace. Our light lunch will be at the café on level 2 with lift access.

Our 20 seater bus will depart Carss Park at 0930 for our guided tour starting at 1030.

The cost is \$35 for return bus and introductory tour. For bookings or enquiries contact Helen Gould Ph.0417 612 952.

Museum Roster

May

4th Robert McGarn & Anne Williams
11th Mother's Day closed
18th Cheryl Bell & Gill Whan
25th Adele Ryan & Jacki Colonelli

June

1st Wendy Agzarian & Helen Gould
8th Pat Young &
15th Gill Whan & Fiona Johnstone
22nd Miryam & Niver Rodriguez
29th Laurel & Bob Horton

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*	Phill Scott	Ph.0400 964 253
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

May 5th (Monday) Wendy Agzarian, 8/52 Menai Road, Bangor Ph.0402 136 147

June 9th (Monday) Pat Young, 25 Culver Street, Monterey Ph.9593 1808

Welcome New Members

This month we are delighted to welcome six new members to our Society.
Welcome Jennie Blythe, Tammy Hawkins, Josephine Ingham, Janice Westwood and Paul & Virginia Handel. We hope you have a long and enjoyable stay with us.

A Fashion for Feathers Acclimatization Societies and Sydney's Ostrich Farms

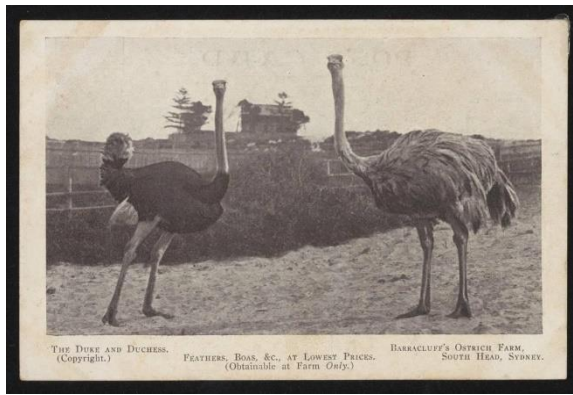
While the commercialization of ostriches originated in South Africa during the 1860s. Small numbers of wild birds were caught and kept in camps and paddocks to harvest their feathers. The popularity of ostrich feathers increased and ostrich farming spread to other parts of the world, including Argentina, Egypt, New Zealand, the USA and Australia. Ostrich farming developed in Australia during the late 19th century. Ostriches were just one of several bird species introduced into Australia under the auspices of the acclimatization movement. The colonization of Australia was closely linked with the introduction of non-native animals, birds and plants. Acclimatization societies, along with botanical gardens, zoological societies, landowners, businessmen and scientists promoted the 'rational exchange of aesthetically pleasing and "useful" flora and fauna' from the mid-19th century until the 1930s. Introduced species not only provided Europeans far from home with recognisable wildlife but offered economic prosperity through game and animal breeding programs, improved agriculture and recreational pursuits such as fishing and shooting. Today 'exotic' species, such as rabbits, carp and cane toads, are identified as pests and responsible for significant environmental degradation across Australia. Despite this, acclimatisation societies were formed out of the attempts by settlers to 'come to terms with their new lands [and] to find their place in the country'. The development of Ostrich farms in Sydney, with links to the Georges River area, reflects the attempt to integrate such acclimatisation ventures into the economic life of the colony of New South Wales.

Within a decade of settlement, game animals had been imported into Australia. By the 1830s, deer, partridge, hares and sparrows had been introduced. Searching for new agricultural industries and economic opportunities, businessmen and scientists formed acclimatisation societies to gain financial and political support for animal exchange on a large scale. One of the founding members of the New South Wales Acclimatisation Society in 1861 was the auctioneer and politician, Walter Bradley (1836 – 1893). He was 'credited with having introduced the Skylark and Starling to Sydney and to have kept some of the first Ostriches'. It is claimed that Barracluff's Ostrich Farm, which reared birds to provide feathers for the fashion industry, was the earliest ostrich farm in New South Wales. Described as a 'pioneer of the ostrich farming industry in Australia', Joseph Thomas Barracluff (1861-1918) operated his ostrich farm between 1889 and 1918. He imported five birds and bought ten acres at South Head in Sydney where they 'thrived in the sand and bamboo clumps, which had been prepared for them until, in 1914, their number had increased to 100'. Barracluff had arrived in Sydney in 1884 from England and began selling feathers in a shop on Elizabeth Street opposite what is now Central Railway Station. When he established the ostrich farm on 11 acres of land at South Head the area was largely unpopulated. He reputedly fed the ostriches a ton of food a day, gathered from discarded food at markets, hotels and the railway Depot at Darling Harbour. By the 1890s, Barracluff's Ostrich Farm became a well-known tourist destination. Visiting the farm 'soon became a popular



Barracluff's Ostrich Farm: Display of ostrich eggs, feathers, fans & boas c.1900

excursion...[where] patrons could select feathers to be cut directly from the flock'. A small number of female staff were employed at the farm, under the direction of his wife Jane to create the feather products. Ostrich eggs, due to their size and beauty, were prized as ornaments and were finely carved, with some mounted in silver settings and displayed as decorative pieces. The farm was open 7 days per week, and it was possible to purchase ostrich feathers directly from the farm. Due to his enterprising and extroverted nature, people receiving 'a hearty welcome



The Duke & Duchess, Barracluff's Ostrich Farm, South Sydney, 1906, Postcard

from the proprietor and his pleasant wife' when visiting, and Barracluff ensured that his ostrich farm gained a high profile among business and social circles. This was further enhanced by the renaming of two of his ostriches 'Duke' and 'Duchess' in honour of the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall in 1901. As late as 1920, Barracluffs were still capitalizing on the popularity of the previous Royal visit and producing 'Prince of Wales design' feather fans.

Despite Barracluff's fame, however, an ostrich farm at 'Kimberley Park' in Hurstville operated by Captain John William James (1845–1903) is significant for being the first, although lesser known, commercial ostrich farm in New South Wales. The history of James' ostrich farm reveals insights into a unique early farming venture in the Georges River area, along with James' link to New South Wales Acclimatization Society's founding member, Walter Bradley.

By the beginning of the twentieth century ostrich feathers were a highly valuable and sought after commodity. Great Britain was the world's largest national importer of ostrich plumes, their value per pound being almost equal to that of diamonds. Feathers became a status symbol, and birds, including ostriches, were either bred or hunted to supply centres of fashion, including London and New York. In Australia the demand for ostrich feathers to adorn women's hats, clothes and fans was insatiable. Ostriches were first imported into Victoria in 1873 by the Melbourne Acclimatization Society and in 1881 brought to Gawler in South Australia. Thomas Williams, manager of the South Australian Ostrich Company Ltd. noted in 1887 that the successful domestication of the birds meant that a 'new industry was being established which was decidedly a money-making one and forthwith a rage sprang up for ostriches'. The demand for ostrich feathers was high as they could be harvested every six to eight months without any harm to the birds. Along with Ostrich farms in Sydney, several also existed in regional New South Wales at locations such as the Hawkesbury Agricultural College in Richmond, at a farm on 7,500 acres at Coonamble, and at Gilgandra by Messrs. Sanderson and Cairnes who had 100 birds by 1906. Ostriches were also farmed at Temora, Leeton, and at Yanco. The experimental ostrich farm at Yanco by 1913 had a flock of ninety birds.

The ostrich farm of Captain J. W. James in Hurstville was listed in the *Sands'* Directory in 1885 and 1887. It was located on Croydon Road, between Iliffe's Nursery (on the corner of Croydon Road and Stoney Creek Road) and the property of Alfred Gannon, Gannon's Grove. Born in Canada in 1845, James arrived in Sydney in 1874. He had trained as a Civil Engineer and prior to arriving in Australia had 'spent four years in Africa as Government engineer, in charge of the diamond fields' near Cape Town'. While in South Africa, James is reputed to have 'observed the importance that ostrich farming had attained, and, from his previous experience of this colony, concluded that ostriches might be successfully acclimatized in Australia...'. After his arrival in Sydney James purchased several ostriches that had been imported into New South Wales from South Africa in 1879.

The importer, Mr. Martin, had previously farmed ostriches in South Africa, and it was reported that his ostriches 'arrived in the colony from the Cape of Good Hope by the barque *Andromeda*, are now, we learn, in excellent health and exceedingly voracious... here really seems no reason why [his] enterprising scheme should not succeed, and ostrich farming become an established pursuit in New South Wales. It was noted in 1879 that 'Mr. Martin...proposes experimenting with ostrich-farming in the colony and will exhibit his pets at the International

Exhibition'. The imported ostriches were initially housed at 'Sunnyside,' in Randwick, the residence of the New South Wales' Acclimatization Society member Walter Bradley. Bradley was recognized for his interest acclimatizing a number of birds including 'English songbirds' in the colony of New South Wales, including importing goldfinches and linnets into New South Wales from New Zealand in 1878. It is not known when James purchased the ostriches from Walter Bradley. By 1881, however, they were residing at 'a farm which he purchased and prepared specially for their use in Gannon's Forest, near Cook's River...here [he] had 31 acres of land...[and] has devoted a great amount of capital and a great deal of energy to forming what he hopes to be the nucleus of a great industry'. By this time James had purchased two properties in the St George area, one at Croydon Road (near Gannon's Forest) and the other at Shipwright's Bay, Blakehurst. He subsequently built 'Kimberley Park' on Croydon Road where he and his wife resided from 1882.

Unlike Joseph Barracluff's ostrich farm, which was a full-time operation, James managed his farm while continuing to practice as an engineer. His wife assisted with the ostrich farm business by entering feathers into Agricultural Society shows. By 1884 James' was reported selling his ostriches to Queensland, successfully combining 'ostrich farming with civil engineering with the most gratifying results', and commanded high prices for his bird's feathers. The best quality feathers were obtained when ostriches reached maturity at three years of age. Each of the feathers were classed and named, with the large white plumes being the most sought after. Ostrich feathers sold in Adelaide in 1885 included 'Byocks (black and whites), Femina Grays (from the hen birds) Drab Grays, Short and Medium Blacks, and Prime Whites.



Dyeing of ostrich feathers, 1919

Shops existed to sell only ostrich feather products. Millers Feather Shop in Pitt Street Sydney was an example of this. Described as a 'paradise of feathers and boas,' Millers declared 'As a trimming, nothing can take the place of a good Ostrich Feather in a Lady's Hat. Ostrich feathers, along with plumes from wild birds, were the fashion industry's obsession by the late 1800s. James' sought to bring to the public's attention the financial benefits of farming this large bird for its feathers as early as 1881, when he was described as having 'nearly a dozen good healthy ostriches on a farm close to Cook's River'.

Despite successfully rearing them on a small scale at Hurstville and advocating broadly for ostrich farming in New South Wales over several years, James' did not continue with this business beyond 1885. The land at Hurstville was not particularly suitable for ostriches, as they were accustomed to drier climates, and the 'one drawback to full success with ostriches on the farm of Mr. James seems to be dampness and coldness of a location so near to the sea'. He had approached the Minister of Lands to purchase land in drier parts of New South Wales for ostrich farming, with saltbush, closer to their natural habitat in South Africa. However, this was not approved, and it was reported that 'Mr. James had to do the best he could with his birds on his small estate at Hurstville...he has the capital, the will, and the skill, necessary to the enterprise, but can't get the land. Is such a disability always to stand in the way of a promising industry?'

James similarly had difficulty finding labour to treat the Ostrich feathers from his birds and prepare them for sale in the Sydney market. Unlike Barracluff's farm which employed staff, James had to send his feathers to regional New South Wales for processing which 'considerably militated against his reaping the full reward for his enterprise'. In addition, from mid-1885 to April 1887 James was working in Rockhampton, Queensland, as Town Surveyor and then developed a civil engineering business. The combination of these factors led to the unsustainability of his innovative

farming venture. By October 1885, the preliminary notice for the sale of 'Kimberley Park' was noted 'J.W. James Esq at Kimberley Park (late Ostrich farm)'

The household contents, horse, buggy, and farming implements of 'Kimberley Park' were sold in 1885. The subdivision block advertised for sale in August 1885, and after the sale James moved to 'Tanasari,' on the 'Georgetown' estate in Blakehurst. He then undertook gold prospecting near Cawarral, in regional Queensland, and in 1890 reported on coal deposits in Batavia, Java. By 1897 he was involved with the Caloola Creek Mining Company, installing machinery for its gold-mining operations. 'Kimberley Park' subsequently became the home of Hugh Patrick, a former Hurstville City Council Mayor, on four occasions. The surrounding estate was auctioned in September 1886 by Watkin and Watkin, who provided a special train on the day of sale. A total of 104 lots were offered for sale, fronting Taunton Road, Moore Street, Wellington Road, and Kimberley Road. Fred Thompson successfully auctioned most of the unsold lots in the estate, in May 1892.

While the 'Kimberley Park' ostrich farm sold, the industry continued in Australia. During the last few decades of the 19th century, the NSW Acclimatization Society continued to introduce 'useful' species while Walter Bradley was 'concerned only with those that could be hunted, fished or admired for their beauty'. By 1901 the bird species that had been introduced into Australia, aside from ostriches, included blackbirds, common mynas, goldfinches, greenfinches, sparrows, doves, and song thrushes. The total number of ostriches raised commercially worldwide also reached over one million by 1913. However, changes in fashion which took place during the First World War led to the demise of the industry. What had once been a highly commercial, popular, and versatile commodity declined rapidly in value. Social stigma became associated with wearing feathers and bird- protection organizations began to campaign against wild-bird plumage entering the London and New York markets. Although ostrich plumes were not targeted, the 'unfavourable publicity caused a decline in demand for ostrich feathers as a fashion accessory'. After the rapid 1914 slump, ostriches continued to be farmed in Australia but in much smaller numbers; most 'disappeared from Australian agriculture to zoos...[and] wildlife parks '. Other birds were released into the wild, with feral ostriches today still occasionally seen in South Australia.

James' ostrich farm was no longer in existence at the start of the 20th century, but Joseph Barracluff's farm continued until his sudden death in 1918. Today, a street and a park in Bondi bear Barracluff's name. The same cannot be said for Captain James, who despite his entrepreneurial venture into ostrich farming in the St. George region remains little known. During the 1920s his significance was acknowledged, with an obituary noting that 'shortly after the railway to Hurstville was opened up the deceased gentleman purchased the property known as 'Kimberley', in Croydon Road, from the late Mr. James, who was known as the ostrich farmer on account of being the first to introduce the ostrich to Australia for commercial purposes'.

James' ostrich farm was still within living memory in 1936 when *The Propellor* newspaper declared '...it is a curious and an interesting fact that an ostrich farm was once established in the Hurstville district; but for the vagaries of fortune this might have grown to proportions rivalling the ostrich feather business in South Africa. Who knows? '. While Acclimatization Societies in Australia had also significantly waned by this decade, throughout the 1920s naturalists continued to argue that non-native birds 'as eaters of scraps and destroyers of pests, were a boon in cities and towns'. However, the Commonwealth imposed a total ban on the importation of birds in 1927 and by 1938 the zoologist and conservationist, David Stead, had published an article entitled 'Tragedies of Australian Acclimatization' which declared that acclimatization was 'associated with many unwise, even utterly foolish and callous, introductions of exotic animals and plants'. Today Australia's introduced species continue to cause environmental and economic damage, along with extinctions of native Australian animals. Within this context, however, although not realized, James' foray into ostrich farming, along with that of the more successful Joseph Barracluff, reveal

the foundations of attempts to create fully domestic ostrich feather industries in Sydney and in New South Wales, representing an important, yet lesser-known aspect, of the state's history.

Claire Baddeley 15 April 2025

NB: The 57 references attached to this article are available on request.

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Kogarah Historical Society Inc.

President's Annual Report 2024-2025



This was a year of consolidation as well as enjoyable activities. At the start of the year the Committee again reviewed the Strategic Plan and developed a Plan of Action for 2024. Many of our goals have been achieved but there are still areas to work on, mainly increasing the number of visitors and volunteers. We have continued to meet with other societies under the Forum co-ordinated by Laurel Horton. There have been three meetings this year with valuable exchanges of information. Our latest publication *Reluctant Pioneers* by Beverley Earnshaw OAM sold out and has been re-printed.

Membership – has remained steady at around 100. Nine new people have joined us, but we also lost valued member, Peter Orlovich who assisted the society many times as an archivist and was a member of the Geographic Names Board, Bernice Curtis, a founding member and former secretary and Kevin Skelsey, an expert on antiques who we also enjoyed listening to as a speaker.

We had to make the decision at the end of 2024 to increase membership fees to cover costs. Many organizations now only offer on-line newsletters but we are committed to continuing to produce hard copies for those who do not have digital access.

Newsletters - We are always looking for contributors. Beverley Earnshaw is our Editor and researches and writes articles. Other people who have contributed are Claire Baddeley, Jackie Colonelli, Robert McGarn, Phill Scott, Anne Williams, Wendy Agzarian and Gill Whan

Society Trips- This year our trips for members, all meticulously arranged by Helen Gould, were to the newly reopened Lydham Hall for a talk and tour, the Sydney Cricket Ground enjoyed by all, Hyde Park Barracks where we were very impressed with their self-guided displays and Sutherland Historical Society's Museum to enjoy morning tea and a talk and tour around their new home.

Georges River Council – We have taken up the option of extending the lease on Carss Cottage Museum until December 2026. There has still been no significant action on maintenance for the Cottage and we are now promised another Heritage Assessment with a view to applying for a Heritage Grant. The letter from the General Manager also thanked the Society for the work it does in caring for the Cottage. Minor maintenance has been forthcoming. The demolition of the Carss Park pool resulted in the sewerage line to the Cottage being cut and a portable toilet being installed outside until the problem was rectified.

Our submission in 2024 to remain on the Seniors Reference Group which entitles us to use the School of Arts without charge was successful but there will be another review this coming year. The President has attended the meetings, the most recent one had an excellent workshop on Palliative Care. Glynn Pulling who represents us on the Seniors Advisory Group has attended all their meetings and kept us informed on the issues raised and discussed. These range from Council's Social Justice Strategy, protection of the identity of children, people with disabilities and issues around dementia.

The Society had a stall at the recent Seniors Expo organized by Council and held in both Marana Hall and the Civic Theatre. The range of different organizations offering support in many areas and others offering activities was impressive. We talked about the Society and handed out brochures and our program of events to numbers of people visiting, many of Chinese origin, the Carss Park leaflet translated into Mandarin was very popular. We connected with other stall holders and exchanged information, all in all a worthwhile day (and there was a mobile coffee van with free coffee!)

We successfully nominated Elizabeth Corry for a blue plaque which has been installed on Elizabeth Corry Reserve. Each year Council invites nominations and chooses five to receive a plaque.

Kathryn Landsberry has been our patron now for two years and has supported all our major events. She was re-elected in the November 2024 Council elections together with Natalie Mort (another great supporter) and Oliver Dimoski for Blakehurst Ward.

Grants – Thanks to a grant from **Museums and Galleries NSW** under the *Lights on, Doors Open Stipend Program* we were able to balance our budget this year. The grant of \$2000 could be used for recurrent expenditure which was unusual but very welcome. Where possible we look for grants to support projects and have applied to Georges River Council for a grant to purchase another display case for the Museum. We also received a Volunteers Grant of \$1000 from the Dept of Social Services applied for through the Cook electoral office. We purchased a new printer/copier for the Museum which is proving to be very useful.

The Museum – This is always a source of pride. Wendy Agzarian continues to improve the displays and Neil Gould has been tireless and spent many hours in photographing and finding information for the new Cottage Website which we launch today.

Laurel Horton went through the Cottage library and in consultation with a working group decided on which books to de-accession. She has now re-organized and clearly labelled our books under categories and they are much more accessible.

Laurel and Wendy Agzarian also set up our new exhibition on ‘education in the early days’ called **School Ways, School Days**, supplying many of the items themselves. We entered it for an Imagine Award, unsuccessfully, but it meant our name and the exhibition received publicity. Jim Gainsford wrote an excellent article on it for the Leader.

We collaborated with Hurstville Museum & Gallery to put on an event with the Artist in Residence. Participants had a talk at the Artist’s residence and then came to the Museum for one of our special morning teas and a tour.

During 2024, under the Electoral redistribution, Carss Park became part of the Federal electorate of Banks. David Coleman is the Member and has already visited the Museum and invited us to contribute something on the Society for his monthly newsletter.

We ran a very successful Open Day to mark History Week in September 2024 and are currently planning another for April.

Volunteers have been very generous in donating their time to talk to or show groups around the Museum. We had visits from Mortdale Primary School (104 children), St Raphaels school, two visits from groups with Activist Transport, St George Community Transport, Balmain Probus Club, Care Gateway Benevolent Society and Community Wheels Parramatta..

Apart from members of the Committee, people who have donated their time at the Museum include Miryam and Niver Rodriguez, Bob Horton, Cheryl Bell, Jackie Colonelli, Fiona Johnstone, Barbara Kibble, Merlene Carr, Janice Latham and Margaret James.

Mondays at the Museum continued to attract good audiences, Speakers were, Ralph Scrivens, *Bush poet*, Beverley Earnshaw OAM on *The Sunday School Movement* (a record crowd came), Bruce Watts about his book *Curious Eyes*, Annette Ruhotas on *The Australian Red Cross* and Christine Yeats on *Crimes and Misdemeanours in the St George Area*.

School of Arts – Meeting attendances have been consistently over 30 which is excellent. Our home cooked afternoon teas have become legendary. Robert McGarn, Glynn Pulling, Niver Rodriguez & Neil Gould, our technical expert, prepare the hall. Miryam Rodriguez welcomes visitors and afternoon teas are served by a number of people, mainly Pat Young, Helen Gould and Laurel Horton. Other people assist at big events – Merlene Carr, Judy Reynolds & Barbara Kibble come to mind (I will have left out someone), they are all much appreciated. Our speakers were **Dr Virginia Furner**, *Florence Nightingale*; **Christine Hill**, *The Journey of Tom Thumb II*; **Garry Darby**, *The Chinese*

Market Gardens at Kogarah; Martin Treloyn, Australia's Aviation Icon, The Southern Cross; Lt Col Christopher Holcroft OAM, The History of Australian War Correspondents; Claire Baddeley, The Curious Case of Captain James' Ostrich Farm; Laurel & Bob Horton, The History of Rockdale & Kogarah and Kez Hasanic on The Lusitania Disaster.

The Committee –Committee meetings are something to look forward to. They all take a turn on the Museum roster for Sundays. Adele Ryan continues to look after publicity, membership and MAM; Anne Williams deals with our finances and is smiling this year because we balanced the budget; Laurel Horton is a superwoman, she does so many things and Beverley Earnshaw has again produced our excellent newsletters. Helen Gould organizes your Society trips, Pat Young sends out the newsletters and we rely on Glynn Pulling for many practical jobs and Robert McGarn to take minutes and often represent us at different functions. Wendy Agzarian organizes Museum tours as well as displays and cataloguing. Elaine Filewood has attended meetings when she can despite her challenging health problems. Fred Scott runs the Society website and Neil Gould has developed a website for Carss Cottage Museum. I thank them both and all the Committee who are incredibly generous with their time and friendship.

This is my last meeting as President and I have enjoyed my time in that role. We know by attendances that you enjoy the meetings and newsletters but please, I urge you to do what you can to bring in new people which will ensure the Society continues to flourish. Thank you for your support and friendship over the last five years – I wish you all and the Society success and happiness in the future.

Gill Whan, March 2025.

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The Society's New Website

Our new website featuring details of items on display in the Museum was well and truly launched at the AGM. Neil Gould, to whom the Society is extremely grateful, gave an excellent presentation on how to access the information.

Visitors to the Cottage can get into the site through a QR code. If searching on the web you can use the URL of carsscottage.historicalsociety.com.au, but there are also two shortcuts to the Carss Cottage site on the KHS main site.

From the main menu select Publications > Photographs > Buildings > Carss Cottage or follow the link on the Carss Park Museum page.

Thanks are due to both Neil and Fred Scott who is the KHS website manager.

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Trivia Quiz

Can you name the Capital Cities of the following countries?

- | | | | |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1. Austria | 2. Finland | 3. Bangladesh | 4. Monaco |
| 5. Cambodia | 6. Kazakhstan | 7. Iceland | 8. Brazil |
| 9. Canada | 10. Morocco | 11. Ukraine | 12. South Africa |

1. Vienna: 2. Helsinki: 3. Dhaka: 4. Monte Carlo: 5. Phnom Penh: 6. Nur-Sultan:
7. Reykjavik: 8. Brasilia: 9. Ottawa 10. Rabat: 11. Kiev: 12. South Africa has 3 capitals,
Cape Town, Pretoria and Bloemfontein

This presentation was made by Janice Latham at our “Show & Tell” following the AGM in March, 2025.

AUSTRALIA’S FIRST COMMERCIAL 707 V-JET

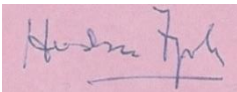


November 1958 – Qantas’ 1st 707-138 EBA with engineers (including my father George Latham)

– **Under Construction at Boeing, Renton** (Seattle, Washington, USA)

1959 – Delivery flight VH-EBB - This new jet left Seattle June 30th and arrived in Sydney on July 2nd. Flight time = 18hrs, 49mins. Virtually halved times of the previous propeller driven Super Constellations!

Knowing that my father, George Latham, was going to be one of the Qantas engineers on this historic flight, my aunt gave him an autograph book to pass around on that flight. This book contains a collection of 55 signatures and comments from those on board.



Some examples...

- Sir Hudson Fysh (a co-Founder of Qantas in 1920)
- Captain Eric Robinson (pilot who landed this flight in Sydney)
- Captain RJ Ritchie (lead role in building of fleet and network, also became GM)
- Boeing President Seattle - Boeing test pilot - Boeing flight test engineer - Boeing performance engineer
- Pratt & Whitney Aircraft representatives
- Radio engineer
- Qantas security
- Qantas airframe and avionics engineers
- Qantas Passenger Service Manager
- Qantas photographer
- Press ... representatives from twelve media outlets.

1959 - Qantas’ inaugural commercial trans-Pacific flight VH-EBA left Sydney for San Francisco, via Nadi and Honolulu on July 29th.



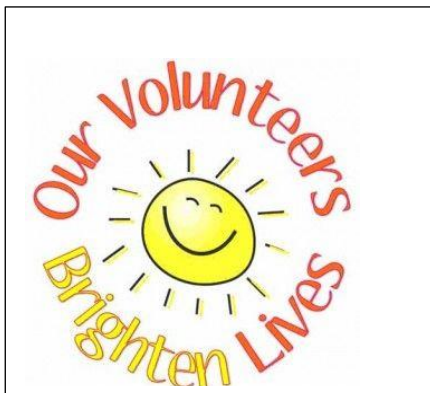
Qantas was the first airline outside the United States to fly Boeing 707s after Pan American Airways. Australia’s location was a catalyst for improving flight times and costs across vast distances.

The Boeing 707 fleet expanded rapidly, marketed as Boeing V-Jets, from the Latin ‘vannus’ meaning fan.

As a senior engineer my father made many related international trips over the years, including to California in 1957 (where my brother was born and I still recall visiting Disneyland), as well as to Seattle

Washington for most of 1965 where my brother and I attended elementary School.

.2007 – EBA was purchased by Qantas Founders Museum, restored and flown to Qantas Founders Museum, Sir Hudson Fysh Drive, Longreach, Qld 4730. **Phone** (07) 4658 3737 **Email** info@qfom.com.au



Come and Join the Team!

We still have room in our happy band of volunteers. We need people willing to fill in if someone is away or sick. Would you like to serve on the Museum Roster, just one Sunday every eight weeks? Can you help at Mondays at the Museum or with the tour groups? Can you cook, research, write an article for the newsletter or help our Treasurer?

Many hands are needed to keep our Society running smoothly. Talk to someone on the Committee.

New Research Tool from the Royal Society

The Royal Society (formerly called *The Royal Society of London for improving natural knowledge*) is the oldest continuously existing scientific academy in the world. Founded in 1660, it was granted a Royal Charter by King Charles II.

Since 1665 the Society has been publishing a journal, *Philosophical Transactions*. This is now the oldest and longest running scientific journal in the world.

In 2021 the Society planned to transition its four hybrid research journals to open access. This has happened and all Local History Societies have now been told how to access the scientific papers published by the Society since its inception. Thousands of such papers were read before the society and are now on line along with a Keyword Search Function. The articles are indexed. Those relating to Australia are in the majority. The wide variety of subjects covered includes geology, fossils, astronomy, meteors, botany, the environment, icebergs, sanitation et al.

In 1896 Robert Etheridge Jnr et al enlightened the audience *On the Occurrence of a submerged forest, with remains of the Dugong at Shea's Creek near Sydney*. In 1912 Ernest Andrews delivered a lecture on *Beach Formations at Botany Bay*.

To access this interesting and valuable research tool enter **Royal Society of NSW Research Guides** then **Bicentennial Bibliography** and the 214 page index will appear.

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Red Alert!

Have you renewed your membership? About one third of our members have not done so. Cost is \$20 per adult and \$30 per couple. Those wishing to receive the newsletter by post are asked to add \$5 to cover postage. Fees can be paid at the next meeting or paid directly into the Society's Bank Account, BSB 062 253 A/c 00900831

What's On

- May 8th Thursday: Bill Phippen OAM, Engineer/Author. *Kathleen Butler & the Building of the Harbour Bridge.*
- May 26th MONDAYS AT THE MUSEUM. Alice Ghirime, Solicitor: *Accommodation Issues in Retirement Villages & Nursing Homes.*
- June 12th Kim Cadogan: *The History of St. George County Council.*
- June 14th StGeorge Historical Society Annual Dinner 6.30-9pm at Scots Club Cost \$50.
- Tours organized by StGeorge Community Transport -**
- May 7th Wednesday: Lunchbreak Concert: Chamber Music, Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Free entry + Bus \$20.
- May 9th Friday: Symbio Wildlife Park, Helensburgh. Entry \$35 + Bus \$20
- May 15th Thursday: Bundeena Ferry Ride & Lunch. Cost \$4.55 on ferry (concession passes must be shown) + Bus \$20.
- May 19th: Monday: HARS Aviation Museum, Albion Park. Entry & Tour \$20 + Bus \$25
(To book on line – harvey@stgct.org.au. Click >here< to see the upcoming social outings and find the booking form. Those without a computer can book by ringing 9585 3000.)

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Mondays at the Museum

Helen Zerefos OAM entertained and delighted the audience at Carss Cottage on March 24th, 2025. Helen was born in 1937 at Scone NSW to Greek parents, coming to Sydney in 1945. She was dux of her school and gained a diploma in Fashion Design, as well as studying piano and singing. In 1962 she was chosen as a member of 'Revue 20', an elite resident choir of 10 boys and 10 girls who sang and danced in over 200 TV shows for Channel 7*.

In 1964 Helen joined the cast of 'Bobby Limb's Sound of Music'. She won the 'Search for a Star Quest', first prize being a Qantas trip around the world. She and her brother, Bill, set off, one highlight of the trip was visiting her parents' birthplace in Greece and being asked to give a concert. They went on to USA and Hollywood and visited Paramount Studios, seeing many famous stars including a very handsome Elvis Presley. Back home, and for the next 3 years she worked at Channel 10 on the TV show 'Barry Crocker's Say it with Music'.

Helen has had a distinguished 56 year career. She chose to remain in Australia and appeared in over 600 TV shows and several thousand stage shows, both theatre and concerts. Meantime, her family owned 'Paul's Hamburger Shop' at Sylvania where she was required to help out when needed, often in full makeup and hair styled ready to perform at the Operas House that evening. A major highlight for Helen was the 1986 Royal Gala Concert, where she sang for Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip at the Sydney Entertainment Centre.

Helen's mother suffered with Alzheimers for a long time. As she nursed her mother through this debilitating disease she became interested in research for Alzheimers and performed many concerts, donating all proceeds to Alzheimers Research. At MAM Helen told the audience she has been diagnosed with early Alzheimers.

A donation of \$253.65 which includes Helen's fee has been sent to NeuRA (New name for Research in Neurological Disorders) at Randwick, with a letter to Prof. Matthew Kiernan AM explaining the donation. Helen is such a professional and engaged everyone with her amazing recollection of people she had worked with and fun stories from behind the scenes.

Anne Williams

*For a complete article on Revue 20 see KHS Newsletter Vol.4 No.2 May/June 2012