

St. George Historical Society Inc. Bulletin

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL

JULY – AUGUST 2003 EDITION



Annual General Meeting
July 8th, 2003

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Meetings are held 8:00 PM the second Tuesday of the month (except January) in the Meeting Room 1st Floor, Rockdale Town Hall, Princes Highway, Rockdale. Members, please bring a plate. Visitors are welcome.

JULY - AUGUST EVENTS AGENDA

EVENTS

Jul 8th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Jul 20th CHRISTINA STEAD DAY

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm at Lydham Hall. 18 Lydham Avenue, Bexley, NSW 2207

\$ 4.00 for Adults \$ 3.00 for Concession/Pensioners \$ 2.00 for Children

On this day we celebrate the Birthday of Christina Stead our famous International Authoress who lived at Lydham Hall, our local Historic Building.

Light refreshments provided.

Jul 28th St. George Historical Society Inc. 41st Anniversary Bus Tour. \$20.00

We will be touring through Tempe, Marrickville and after lunch the tour will take us to view the Egyptian Room at Royal Arch Temple in Petersham.

The Egyptian Room originally formed part of the Royal Arch Temple in College Street, Sydney, until removed prior to the building's demolition in the late 1960s.

In 1979 the present Egyptian Room was classified and registered by the National Trust and is maintained under the responsible and dedicated care of the United Supreme Grand Chapter of Mark and Royal Arch Masons of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

As a working Lodge and Chapter Room it is much admired and greatly respected by the Masons who regularly use it, as well as those who frequently visit.

Meet at 9am Ormonde Parade Hurstville. Morning tea provided. Bring a Picnic lunch.

Enquiries and Bookings. Contact Dora Lenane 9181-2121 or Joan Fairhall 9546-5555.

Aug 13th

BUS TOUR – KOKODA TRACK MEMORIAL WALKWAY

\$20.00

Memorial Centrepiece

A Striking series of granite walls on which images from the New Guinea Campaign have been sand blasted.

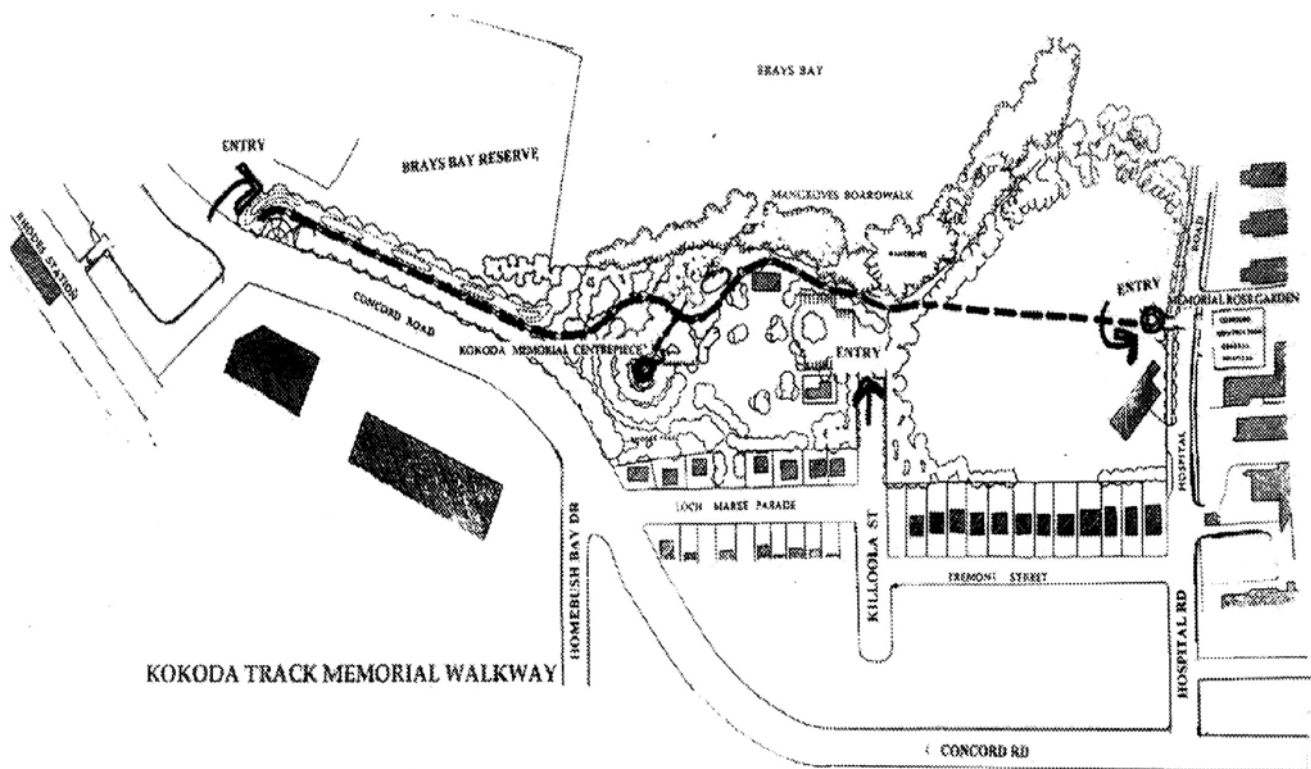
Water also forms an integral part of the Centrepiece, cascading along side the granite walls.

Rose Garden Entry Area

A peaceful and beautiful entrance, featuring two semi-circular Memorial Walls amongst beds of roses. On the walls are plaques dedicated to the memory of individuals who served in the war. The Rose Garden is linked to the walkway by the Bruce Kingsbury V.C. Path.

Stations

Places of significance in the New Guinea Campaign where important battles were fought or events occurred. There are a total of 22 Stations along the Walkway, each providing historical accounts and images of the New Guinea Campaign.



After a picnic lunch we will visit Concord Heritage Museum then back to Hurstville.

Meet at 9am Ormonde Parade Hurstville. Morning tea provided.

Enquiries and Bookings. Contact Dora Lenane 9181-2121 or Joan Fairhall 9546-5555.



SKERRICKS



Sydney Morning Herald, Wednesday, May 25, 1925

MR. J.H. CLAYTON

The death took place at his residence, Myee, Forest-road, Arncliffe, on Monday, of Mr. John Horatio Clayton. Born in 1855, a son of the late Joseph Richard Clayton (an old Pynnont resident, and one-time treasurer of the City of Sydney), Mr. Clayton was educated at Fort-street School and the Sydney Grammar School. He early took to law, succeeding to the practice of the Hon. Richard Driver, and practicing for about 45 years. Mr. Clayton was a president of the Sydney Cricket Ground for many years, and Vicepresident of the Metropolitan Rugby Union until that body ceased to exist, president of the New South Wales Junior Cricket Association, and honorary secretary of the Sydney Grammar School Old Boys' Union. He was a member of the old Osborne cricket team, and the McQuade Cup, won by the team, is still in the possession of the family. Mr. Clayton was also Mayor and alderman of Rockdale for many years. He is survived by two sons and four daughters, namely Mr. H.J.R. Clayton, solicitor; Dr. H.J. Clayton, of Macquarie, and formerly superintendent of the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital; Mrs. J.L. Hudson, of Hobart; Mrs. T. V. Nicholls, of Emerald Vale, Yetman; and two unmarried daughters.

MRS. ALBERT J. FORTESCUE

The death occurred recently of Mrs. Albert J. Fortescue, of Benambra, Loftus-street, Arncliffe. Although never enjoying robust health, Mrs. Fortescue had entered enthusiastically into the social work of the St. George district since her arrival in Arncliffe from Tallangatta, Victoria, 21 years ago. During the war her efforts on behalf of the soldiers were untiring; and in association with the local branch of the Red Cross movement, she did much to add to the comfort of the Australian soldiers at the front. For six years Mrs. Fortescue was vice-president of the local branch of the society. She is survived by two daughters - Mrs. Arthur Ayers and Mrs. Norman Guess.

The funeral took place at Woronora Cemetery, Sutherland, and was largely attended. The employees of Geo. F. Fortescue and Sons. Ltd. of Arncliffe, marched in front of the hearse to the Arncliffe station, and four of the oldest employees acted as pall-bearers from the train to the grave. The service at the graveside was conducted by the Rev. R.H. Pitt-Owen, of St. David's Church of England, Arncliffe.

The chief mourners were Mr. Albert J. Fortescue (husband), Messrs. N. Guess and A. Ayers, (sons-in-law), Mr. Frank Burton (brother), Messrs. A. and G. Burton (nephews), Mr. G.E. Fortescue, Mayor Rockdale (brother-on-law), Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Ford, Mr. and Mrs. W. Rea, Mr. J. Wheller, and Mrs. Calcraft, Others present included Messrs. W.. Judd and V.C. Saywell (representing board of directors of Geo. F. Fortescue and Sons Ltd., and Mr. J. McHugh, secretary of the firm.

Sydney Morning Herald, Thursday, August 25, 1927

LA PEROUSE

To the editor of the herald,

Sir, - In your address given on the 23rd to members of the Royal Australian Historical Society, mention is made of a number of places where the fame of the French navigator La Perouse is still cherished. It is perhaps not generally known that an Alaskan glacier bears his name. The late Mr. Charles Hedley, when recounting his experiences far north within the Arctic circle, described a wonderful scene he had witnessed where the La Perouse glacier reaches the sea gives rise to massive icebergs which float away into Behring Sea. So the name of the navigator is known to the ends of the earth.

A.M. COOK

Aug. 24

The Orange Leader, Monday, November 11, 1940

CURIOUS WILLS.

The archives of Somerset House contain many curious wills. Here, for example, one may examine an identity disc which was taken from the body of a stoker killed in the last war. Scratched faintly upon it are his last bequests. Then, by way of contrast, there is the will of a Mrs. Frederica Cook, who needed 95,940 words to dispose of her comparatively small fortune. Every day, for over 20 years, she added a paragraph or two to the swelling total. The result she eventually had bound in four large gilt-edged volumes, so she must have thoroughly enjoyed herself..... One of the shortest wills ever made was inscribed on an eggshell. Others have used book covers, strips of bark, and even a petticoat. - Sir Gervais Rentoul in "Sometimes I Think"

Spotted this in the Sydney Morning Herald 12.4.1882

STEAD John Sandwell, aged 74 years at his residence Bellevue Hill, Plains of Waterloo, Ramsgate, Kent England, beloved father of Messrs. Edward, Rich and Samuel Stead of this city.

Samuel Stead was David George Stead's father in other words grandfather of Christina.



NOTICE



Currently Mrs. Bettye Ross, one of the St. George Historical Society Inc. Research Officers is compiling an Inventory of all of the Articles that have been published in every society Bulletin since the start of the society.

Apart from this our aim is to store a complete set of Bulletins at Lydham Hall.

If any member has copies of Bulletins that they no longer wish to keep, we would appreciate it if you could donate them to us so that we may complete our collection.

To donate Bulletins contact Mrs. Betty Ross (02) 9589-0229 or Mrs. Gloria Henke (02) 9587-8307 or bring them to any Society Meeting or bring them to Lydham Hall, 18 Lydham Avenue, Bexley on any Sunday between 2:00pm and 4:00pm.



NOTES FROM 1996

by Bettye. Ross

LYMERSTONE HOUSE - 22 Hillcrest St. Tempe was built for Richard Way a Solicitor later owned by the Railways then purchased by the Sisters of Mercy. It is privately owned now and being faithfully restored. Way Street is the first street running parallel to Hillcrest St. on the south. The street running eastwards almost opposite Hillcrest St. is called Lymmerstone St.

Coming back in southerly direction after turning right from Hillcrest Ave. into Unwin's Bridge Rd. pass the first corner and you come to the Tempe's First School (on right side of the road) an old stone building still stands and other nearby stone homes lend claim to Tempe's early quarry sites.

Looking eastwards Botany Bay and Mascot Aerodrome can be seen from higher points though takeoffs are not directly over Tempe. Princes Highway was previously called Cook's River Road. In 1770 Captain James Cook rowed up the Cook's River as far possibly as where the Highway now crosses it, thus giving his name to the River. Across the other side of this Highway were mainly brickworks providing Tempe's main industry. Such Brick makers those days were the Cooks, Goodsells and others. A number of children drowned in these brick pits. Today they are covered with modern buildings and the Alexandria Canal runs at their rear. Today at the back of possibly Toyer St. at the bottom of Collins St. there is a huge cliff of rock and at its base there were two tennis courts, these have recently been demolished and the roadway appears to have been extended into the clearing and a rather secluded block or blocks of land extending down to the Railway line look as if they are in readiness for building upon. Across the Railway line from this clearing is an Industrial area but it used to be the Gumbranorra Swamp and there is quite a large canal running through it with a great number of palms growing in and alongside it towards the Rail line Marrickville to Sydenham.

Turning right from Unwin's Br. Rd. into Collins St. you can see some of the stone houses on the right hand side of the road. As you turn into Collins St. on the left corner is an old shop with a huge Goldenia Tea sign still on the side. Across the opposite corner from this shop is a Church and next door is Hurlingham built for Fred Gannon, Solicitor whose family moved to Cook's River area 1840's. There were many social gatherings and pigeon shoots on this large estate.

Continue southwards down Unwin's Br. Rd. and No. 125 is Nelson Lodge built 1853 for William Wells, publican of Lord Nelson Hotel, Millers Point, and later owned by Arthur Aspinall one time headmaster of Scots College, is being carefully restored.

Further down on the right is another old Stone Cottage still in Unwin's Bridge Rd. and also some very unusual, architectural sights. It is in this area Geoff Croft's home stands. It is quite possibly the oldest in the area.

Gannon St. runs from Princes Highway to the base of Unwin's Bridge Rd. just before arriving at Tempe Station.

Sources: *NSW State Rail, How & Why of Station Names*, n.d.

St. George Historical Society,
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Ed. Gifford Eardley, Mascot Press, 1965

Frances Pollon, Original Manuscript by Gerald Healey.
The Book of Sydney Suburbs,
Angus & Robertson, n.d.

Marrickville Municipal Council, Marrickville Heritage Study

The Campsie News & Lakemba Advance, Cook's River
The History of its Early Homes & Bridges, 25.2.1970

Gemmell W.,
And So We Graft from Six to Six, The Brickmakers of New South Wales,
Angus & Robertson 1986

Horton L. and Halls T.,
St. Peters Anglican Church Cooks River, 1988