

St. George Historical Society Inc. Bulletin

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL
APRIL - DECEMBER 2008 EDITION

Merry Xmas



Happy New Year

PRESIDENT	Mr. Bernard Sharah	(02) 9567 - 8989
VICE PRESIDENT	Miss Laurice Bondfield	(02) 9599 - 4274
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AUDITOR	Mrs. Joan Rankin	(02) 9567 - 8641

Meetings are held 2:00 PM the third Saturday 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.

EVENTS AGENDA

Dec 6th

Christmas Gathering

3:00PM

This year, for a change, we will be having this event at Sizzlers Restaurant, 1st Floor, 124 Princes Highway, and Corner Princes Highway & Jubilee Avenue Kogarah.

We shall all meet in front of the restraint at 3pm. Hope to see you all there.

For further enquiries please contact Gloria Henke (02) 9587 – 8307



SKERRICKS



We are pleased to report that our past member, Mrs. Norrene Burns, is extremely happy with her "Sea Change" to Avoca Beach.

She has now joined the local "Red Cross" and "The Lantern Club"

"Little Minnie" (her dog) enjoys socialising with her and her new friends, though she does object to the local rabbits and wild turkeys, (and that is not the drink).

She sends her love and best wishes for the season to all.



Mr. Geoff Rankin, our member, has improved greatly, since his illness. His improvement is due to lots of hard and tireless work by him and his wife Joan.

Our best wishes go to you Geoff and Joan.

VAL BEEHAG

Thud! I am jabbed in the ribs yet again. "Sit back. I can't see a thing!" Sadly, I won't have that experience again. After 18 years Val Beehag has stepped down as secretary of the St George Historical Society.

As president I have sat beside Val at meetings of the Society since 1990. Whenever I leant too far forward (and blocked her view) I would be told in no uncertain terms to sit back. No mucking around with Val - you know where you stand (or sit) - bossy, with a heart of gold.

Back in 1990 the Society was having a minor crisis - a number of committee positions had suddenly become vacant and we desperately needed a secretary to carry on. I organised a history walk which attracted a huge attendance (mainly because Ron Rathbone was the tour guide) and at its conclusion made an appeal to the gathering for someone to fill the positions. Needless to say, Val and her late husband, Noel, stepped forward. This was perhaps not surprising because Val and Noel had been involved in community and charitable work for many years and were always willing to pitch in.

Since that time Val has slogged away at being secretary, always writing to sick members and following up correspondence. For someone who stepped into the breach at a time of crisis she has been a faithful, reliable and dedicated committee member.

To give an example of her dedication and commitment, the day that Noel passed away Val still attended the Society meeting that same night.

While no longer Secretary Val will continue to come to meetings as long as she can climb those stairs, she tells me.

Val, our lovable former secretary, we thank you for the many, many years you have given to the Society and hope that you will continue to climb those stairs.

Bernard Sarah

President



Laurice Bondfield

Our new secretary is Laurice Bondfield, a life resident of Arncliffe and retired school teacher. Laurice has long had an interest in the history of the area and is a very capable person. Although a relatively new member, Laurice's input has been invaluable over the past year that she have been involved with the Society. We are very grateful that Laurice has taken on this role and extend to her our best wishes.

Bernard Sarah

President

BEXLEY SPRING FAIR

This event was held on August 30th, 2008 and our congratulations must go to Bexley Chamber of Commerce for their supreme effort in making this a fun day for all those who attended.

They catered for the entertainment of everyone, with a selection of stalls; this included a variety of food, clothing, plants, face painting and amusements for the children.

The St. George Historical Society and Lydham Hall had their usual book stall at this event and sold \$548.50 worth of books.

RONALD RATHBONE LITERARY AWARDS

The 2008 Ronald Rathbone Literary Awards, was presented at the Bexley Spring Fair.

The Literary Awards were established by Mr Ronald Rathbone, from the monies placed into a trust account as he never drew wages during his many years as Councillor, Deputy Mayor and Mayor of Rockdale City Council.

His wish for these awards to be given each year was to encourage people to research the history of the area.

The award for this year was won by Janette Pelosi. She wrote a book on “The Early Years of the Establishment of the Rockdale Volunteer Fire Brigade”.

She was presented with a cheque for \$5000.00



Unfortunately a presentation was not made this year to a children's entry, as was requested by Ronald Rathbone.

DEDICATION

Following the Ron Rathbone Literary Awards a dedication was made at the Bexley Spring Fair by Mr, John Flowers, the Mayor of Rockdale. The area at the closed end of Oriental Street is now known as “Rathbone Place.” In memory of the late Ronald W Rathbone OAM for his endless work for the community.

The event was attended by Mr Rathbone's sister Mrs. Elaine Morey and her husband.



FOR THE SAKE OF THE LAMBS

'Twas a sheep, not a lamb, that went astray

In the parable Jesus told -

'Twas a grown-up sheep that wandered away

From the ninety and nine in the fold.

And out on the hilltops and out in the cold

'Twas a sheep the good Shepherd sought

And back to the flock and back to the fold

'Twas a sheep that the good Shepherd brought.

Now why should a sheep be carefully fed

And cared for still to-day?

Because there is danger if they go wrong

They will lead the lambs astray.

For the lambs will follow the sheep you know -

Wherever they wander, wherever they go

If the sheep go wrong, it will not be long

Till the lambs are as wrong as they.

So, still with the sheep we must earnestly plead

For the sake of the lambs today

If the lambs are lost, what a terrible cost

Some sheep will have to pay!!

ANONYMOUS

ANNE OF GREEN GABLES

2008 marks the 100th Anniversary of the publication of the Anne of Green Gables Series of books by Lucy Maud Montgomery. Because of this we decided to share this original article and additional information.



The modest farm home is just part of a site that also includes an extensive program to interpret Montgomery's time and the lifestyle of rural PEI in the early 1900s. Imagine the charm of a guided evening walk through the Haunted Wood often described by Montgomery in her novels.

THE REAL STORY BEHIND ANNE OF GREEN GABLES

"So many women say to me that they were brought up on the Anne books, that I think they have a certain nostalgic vale", says Mollie Gillen, author of a book about the woman who wrote Anne of Green Gables.

But Mrs. Gillen, who grew up in Australia, had never read any of the famous Anne girl's books until after she went to Canada as a war bride." The Anne books had a very big vogue here, but I was introduced to the Pollyanna books for some reason, and the Australian ones - Nora of Billabong, and Seven Little Australians" she said this week back in Sydney for a holiday with her family.



Her book, "The Wheel of Things" (Harrap), the story of L. M. Montgomery, which will be released here soon, was a 1975 Literary Guild choice, The 200 page book began from an article Mrs. Gillen wrote for the Canadian women's magazine, "Chatelaine", when she was associate-editor and staff writer.

"This was an assignment in 1973 to do a story on L. M. Montgomery and then I had so much material it seemed a good idea to do a new biography; there had been only a very slight one done before. I got the whole book written and ready to submit and then I found 30 letters that she had written to a man in Scotland, full of all kinds of interesting quotations, and comments, and filling in quite a big gap in her life. And so I had to more or less re-cast the book in a great rush."

The letters, now in the Public Archives in Canada, covered a 40 year correspondence L. M. Montgomery had with a Scottish pen friend. "It was just a pen-friendship, but she did open up to him because her husband (a Presbyterian minister) was not compatible and I think this was an outlet for some of her unorthodox views. She talked about what she thought about education, her attitude to religion... re-incarnation, spiritualism and anything to do with natural beauty. She was always raving about flowers and the sea and so on, and of course, she chatted on about her two sons. She was very interested in poetry too, and would rather have been a great poet than anything else. I think she knew she never could, but was always striving for it."



L. M. (Lucy Maud), but always known as Maud, Montgomery (1874-1942) grew up on Prince Edward Island, the setting of *Green Gables*., near Cavendish. The house of a cousin where she used to visit has been turned into a *Green Gables* tourist museum, with those famous "puff sleeve" dresses in an upstairs bedroom decorated as Anne's.

"A lot of Anne of *Green Gables* was modeled on her own childhood. If you read her letters, you find her repeating incidents that she has made use of in the book for either Anne or Emily, almost exactly the same," Mrs. Gillen said. "Her mother died when she was only very small and her grandmother brought her up. I think she must have based the strict 'Marilla' somewhat on her grandmother. None of the characters of course, were taken directly from real life but a lot of incidents were."

Like Anne - L.Montgomery - did become a teacher. Later she worked as a newspaper woman in Halifax before going home to look after her grandmother. "She didn't marry until her grandmother died and she was by then about 36. She had been more or less secretly engaged to the Rev. Ewan Macdonald for 6 years. He wasn't the sort of man that she thought he would be. She chose him without really loving him, because she was the age she was, and she thought that as he was a well-educated man with a similar social background, they would be compatible. But he turned out to be suffering from melancholia and was more or less manic-depressive and she had a very tough time of it. The only romance in her life had been with a local farmer. She didn't think his social background was good enough, but she might have been happier with him."

Anne of *Green Gables*, the story of the red-haired orphan who goes to stay with Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert, at *Green Gables*, was written about 1906 and rejected half a dozen times.

"She then thought to heck with that and threw it in the clothes room. And then she was rummaging around there, looking for something and she fished it out, and thought she'd shorten it into a serial and, as she said, earn 30 to 40 pounds for it. When she started re-reading it, she thought 'it isn't half bad, I'll try once more. This time, they took it.'"

While the L. M. Montgomery books are still perennial best sellers, she grew "awfully fed-up with Anne" according to Mrs. Gillen. The Emily, Pat of Silverbush and Jane Stuarts series books were attempts to get away from the Anne sequels, loved and demanded by readers and publishers. She also wrote a lot of short stories ("very contrived, romantic and comic") and poetry ("sentimental and concerned with nature", while her two sons were small.

"Her surviving son, a doctor in Toronto, feels that her poetry was naive but he thought that her most distinct feature was her sense of duty. Her religious views were rather rigid, but she was able to evoke a real sense of warmth in the family"

Source: *A Staff Reporter Sydney Morning Herald 12th August 1976*

Note: *Reprint of this article from St. George Historical Society Bulletin September 1987.*

Images placed into original article sourced from Internet.



Lucy Maud Montgomery's books on Anne Shirley

#	Book	Published	Anne Shirley's age
1	Anne of Green Gables	1908	11—16
2	Anne of Avonlea	1909	16—18
3	Anne of the Island	1915	18—22
4	Anne of Windy Poplars	1916	22—25(US&Canada)
	Anne of Windy Willows	1916	22—25(Other Countries)
5	Anne's House of Dreams	1917	25—27
6	Anne of Ingleside	1919	34—40
7	Rainbow Valley	1919	41
8	Rilla of Ingleside	1921	49—53

Related books in which Anne Shirley plays a lesser part

Chronicles of Avonlea	1912
Further Chronicles of Avonlea	1920

The prequel of Anne of Green Gables was written by Budge Wilson, with authorization of heirs of L. M. Montgomery.

Before Green Gables	2008	0—11
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Anne of Green Gables is a bestselling book by Canadian author Lucy Maud Montgomery published in 1908. It was written as fiction for readers of all ages, but in recent decades has been considered a children's book. Montgomery found her inspiration for the book on an old piece of paper that she had written at a young age, describing a couple that were mistakenly sent an orphan girl instead of a boy, yet decided to keep her. Montgomery also drew upon her own childhood experiences in rural Prince Edward Island. Montgomery used a photograph of Evelyn Nesbit, clipped from an American magazine and pasted on the wall above her writing desk, as the model for Anne Shirley, the book's main character.

Since publication, Anne of Green Gables has sold over 50 million books, more books than *Gone with the Wind*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. In fact, Anne of Green Gables has sold nearly as many books as *The Da Vinci Code* (57 million). The only Twentieth-Century English-language novelists whose work has sold more copies are J.R.R. Tolkien, Agatha Christie, J.D. Salinger, and Dan Brown. In addition, this widely loved book is taught to students around the world.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne_of_Green_Gables

OLD FASHIONED VALUES

We met and we married, a long time ago.
We worked long hours when wages were low.
No telly, no wireless, no bath — times were hard,
Just a cold water tap and a walk up the yard.
No holidays abroad, no carpets on floors,
We put coal on the fire and never locked doors.
Our children arrived to fill in those days
And we brought them up without any "State Aid".
They were quite safe to play in the park
And the old folk could go for a walk in the dark.
No valium, no drugs, no L.S.D.
We cured most of our ills with a good cup of tea.
If you were sick you were treated at once
No fill in a form and "come hack in six months".
No vandals, no muggings, there was nothing to rob,
We felt quite rich with "a couple of bob"!
People were happier in those far-off days,
Kinder and caring in so many ways.
Milkmen and paper boys used to whistle and sing,
A night at the pictures was our only mad fling.
We all had our share of trouble and strife,
We just had to face it, that's the pattern of life.
But now I'm alone, I look back through the years,
I don't think of the bad times, the trouble and tears.
I remember the blessings, our home and our love,
and that we shared them together ... I thank God above.

(AUTHOR UNKNOWN)



Source: Internet

**ST GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.
YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2008.**

INCOME

Cash at Bank 30/6/2007	\$3,961.45
Membership Subscriptions	\$ 530.00
Donations (General)	\$ 180.00
Donations-Closure Hurstville Society inc.	\$6,288.00
Sale of Books	\$ 448.50
Tours/Walks	\$ 30.00
Bank Interest	\$ 47.30

EXPENDITURE

Bulk Postage	\$ 178.90
R.A.H.S Conference	0.00
R.A.H.S. Subscription 2007/08	\$ 94.00
R.A.H.S. 2007/08 Insurance	\$528.00
Bexley Street Stall Hire Table	\$ 12.50
Office Fair Trading	\$ 65.00
Xmas Gifts. Caretaker & Printer	\$ 33.18
Stationery	\$ 43.89
St. George Historical Society Index Launch	\$ 52.19
Filing Cabinet Purchase	\$342.00
Balance in Bank 30/6/2008	\$10,188.77
Unpresented cheques written Back	(\$ 53.18)

TOTAL INCOME

\$11,485.25

TOTAL EXPENDITURE

\$11,485.25

I have examined the books presented by the Treasurer Mr Wesley Fairhall & am satisfied the figures present a true & accurate account of the financial affairs of St George Historical Society Inc. as at 30th June 2008

J Rankin