

St. George Historical Society Inc. Bulletin

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL

MAY - DECEMBER 2012 EDITION

Merry Xmas



50th Anniversary

Happy New Year

PRESIDENT	Mr. Bernard Sharah	(02) 9567 - 8989
VICE PRESIDENT	Mr. Wesley Fairhall	(02) 9546 - 1165
SECRETARY	Miss Laurice Bondfield	(02) 9599 - 4274
TREASURER	Mr. Wesley Fairhall	(02) 9546 - 1165
BULLETIN EDITORS	The Henke Family	(02) 9587 - 8307
LYDHAM HALL COMMITTEE	Mrs. Gloria Henke	(02) 9587 - 8307
	Mrs. Joan Rankin	(02) 9567 - 8641
	Mr. Bernard Sharah	(02) 9567 - 8989
PUBLIC OFFICER	Mr. Robert McGarn	(02) 9588 - 1097
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LYDHAM HALL ROSTER	Mr. Bernard Sharah	(02) 9567 - 8989
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 8th Christmas Gathering

2:00PM

This event will be held at Sizzlers Restaurant, 1st Floor, 124 Princes Highway, and Corner Princes Highway & Jubilee Avenue Carlton.

We shall all meet in front of the restaurant at 2:00pm. Hope to see you all there.

For Enquiries please contact Gloria Henke on (02) 9587 – 8307



VALE

We extend our deepest sympathy to our President Mr. Bernard Sharah, and his family for the recent passing of his father, after a long illness

We also offer our deepest condolences to our members Joan and Jeff Rankin and family on the recent passing of Joan's brother, Barry.



The following article is an excerpt from our October 1962 Bulletin in which the Rockdale Historical Society became the St. George Historical society.

So... this is very much "IN THE BEGINNING"



ROCKDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPONSORED BY ROCKDALE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

VOL. 1. NO. 1.

BULLETIN.

OCTOBER 1962.

53 Bruce Street,
BEXLEY.

12th October, 1962.

Dear Friend and Member,

The next monthly meeting of the above Society will be held as follows:-

DATE - FRIDAY EVENING NEXT, 19th October, 1962, at 8 P.M.

PLACE - COUNCIL CHAMBER, Rockdale Town Hall, Princes Highway,
ROCKDALE.

GUEST SPEAKER - MR. PHILIP GEEVES, F.R.A.H.S., will speak on
"Rockdale, its Beginnings and Development".

You are cordially invited to attend this meeting and to bring any interested friends.

J. I. SWANN.
President.

R. W. RATHBONE.
Hon. Secretary.

SWEEPING CHANGES AT SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING.

A most businesslike mood prevailed at the first Annual Meeting of the Rockdale Historical Society and a number of sweeping changes were made which it is hoped will strengthen it and enable it to expand.

First of these was a motion by Messrs. P. Geeves and G. Eardley that it change its name to the "St. George Historical Society" and extend its field of operations outside the Rockdale Municipality. This motion was hotly debated but finally passed by a substantial majority.

Mr. Geeves also suggested it was time the Society became affiliated with the Royal Australian Historical Society and the National Trust of Australia and the meeting agreed to these.

Mr. Napper said he felt next year's meetings should have papers on the history of Local Organisations, Churches and members' own historical research and this too was agreed to.

It was announced that the Financial Membership of the Society had grown from an initial 16 at the first meeting to 63.

The election of officers resulted:-

PRESIDENT: Mr. J.I. Swann.

COMMITTEE: Messrs. E. Downes.
I. Ryan

VICE PRESIDENTS: Ald. T. McCarthy
Mr. C.W. Napper
Mr. P. Geeves
Ald. R. Scott

G. Eardley
A. Christison.

HON. SECRETARY: Ald. R.W. Rathbone

ASST. SECRETARY: Miss E. Payne.

HON. TREASURER: Ald. C. Nairn.

A TRIBUTE TO JEAN ELIZABETH PREDDEY

By Jean's Grandson – John Mark Williamson

Gran lived right through the greater part of the 20th century and lived a century herself in doing it. This was a great achievement when you consider those times and how Australia was affected by world events in one form or another.

Gran's childhood was growing up while Australia was fighting for the Empire in World War One, quickly followed by the incredible Spanish Flu pandemic. We must remember there were no antibiotics in those days and Penicillin's discovery was another 10 years away. Gran would often tell us how her Father survived this pandemic, despite visiting and helping suffering families, because he chewed tobacco which she maintained killed the germs before they could get into his body!!!



While going through all this, Gran was educated at Arncliffe School and, in her teen years, she achieved her "Cap and Gown" from the London School of Music the equivalent of a Diploma or Degree in music today. From this Gran went on to teach music at St. Francis Xavier School at Arncliffe.

No TV! These were days of early radio. Radio in Australia was growing rapidly and becoming popular. Gran became a featured singer on station 2UW in Sydney with a very fine Mezzo Soprano voice. She continued to use this gift later on with choir singing in her local church at Bexley as well as in the Billy Graham Crusades of 1957 and 1968.

As Jean grew into early adulthood with her three sisters, they all became, as was the fashion of the times "flappers", which in turn introduced Jean to her favourite jewellery "Pearls". The fashions have changed many times since, but the love of pearls never stopped for Gran.



Gran, was also at this time being courted by her husband to be, George. Over the six years of courtship Jean and George were very much into the life that was going on around them in "happening Sydney". They went on a "joy flight" with Charles Kingsford-Smith in his famous "Southern Cross" aircraft above and around Sydney; they were at the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in 1932 when Captain De Groot pushed past them on his way to beat Premier Lang cutting the ribbon to open the Bridge — exciting times in Sydney in those days.

After their marriage in 1932 they moved into their new home built on the Preddey Estate in Bexley. This was the start of 55 years of happy and exciting events including the birth of their daughter, Gloria.

When the 2nd World War started, George immediately built a very sturdy backyard air-raid shelter equipped and even fully stocked for a long stay if necessary. George never did anything by halves. When the first siren sounded across Sydney announcing the Japanese submarine attack in Sydney Harbour, George rushed out to his warden duties in the streets of Bexley. Jean and her young daughter, Gloria, meanwhile dressed and hurried to the shelter... only to find it already full of neighbours, so much so, they couldn't even get in themselves!

For the last 20 years or so Gran lived with Gloria and John at Blakehurst.

A large part of her life evolved around her church activities, teaching Adult Sunday School at Bexley. Using this gift of teaching Gran was a Counsellor at both Billy Graham Crusades in Sydney, guiding enquirers regarding the decision they had made for her beloved Lord Jesus.



Gran also taught Scripture at various schools in the area around Bexley. It was during this time she picked out a young gentleman, Peter Ferguson, as a possible future husband for her Grand-daughter, Kate.

Up until 2 years ago Gran was still taking Bible studies in her home at Blakehurst where she lived with Gloria and John.



A few weeks after Gran fell and broke her leg at Blakehurst she moved into Huntingdon Gardens at Bexley.

While there Gran turned 100 and received so many letters from some very important people round the world, including the Queen of course, that we were all humbled to be there and to have been part of her life.

During her stay at Huntingdon Gardens each staff member bestowed so much love, time and very personal care on her that we shall be forever grateful.

As I close this tribute to a great and loving Mother, Grandmother and Great-Grandmother I will read one of Gran's favourite Psalms

Psalm 100 – Psalm of Thanksgiving

- 1 Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands!
- 2 Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.
- 3 Know that the Lord, he is God: it is he that has made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
- 4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.
- 5 For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting, and his truth endures to all generations.

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We deeply regret the delay in informing you of Mrs. Preddys' passing, as we only recently heard about it. She was an exceptionally dear lady and long-time member of our Society. Many thanks to her family for providing us with this information to share with you.

2012 Ron Rathbone Local History Prize

Rockdale City Council would like to thank and congratulate all the entrants in the 2012 Ron Rathbone Local History Prize

- Charles Henry Davis, The Red Resident of Sans Souci
- Dr Panayiotis Diamadis, Hellenism by the Bay: the Hellenic presence within the City of Rockdale (this entry is available in the Local History Room of Rockdale Library)
- Beth Dias, Rise and Shine: the nature of the challenge
- Jean Jehan OAM, 'Through the shop window': History of Rockdale Office Furnishers Pty Ltd & the Shepherd family, 1932 - 2012
- Adamo Valentino Maisano, Pemulwuy, the Dreamtime Warrior and the city on Botany Bay
- Therese Murray, 'The Kingsgrove Slasher': St George's own Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde, 1956 - 1959
- Karen Pentland, My long, long lost Cousin ... Henry Kinsela
- Chris Sim, The mystery and history of platform one, Rockdale

Winners: Dr Panayiotis Diamadis and Therese Murray

2012 Ron Rathbone Junior Local History Prize

Rockdale City Council would like to thank and congratulate all the entrants in the 2012 Ron Rathbone Junior Local History Prize

- Hugo Anderson and William Beretov-Millar, Lydham Hall
- Isaac Andrews, The History of St Patrick's School
- Kiara Baggetto, Lydham Hall
- Max Baggetto and Mitchell Green, Lydham Hall
- Lingge Bai, Lydham Hall
- Rosie Balasas, Lydham Hall 1855
- Wil Bates, St Patrick's School history
- Dylan Beretov, Lydham Hall
- Katarina Brkic, Rocky Point Road Catholic School
- Nicholas Buckingham, St Patrick's School
- John-Kirt Cadornigara, Lydham Hall
- Eileen Cai, My 150th birthday
- Johnie Carino, Lydham Hall
- John Andrew Caspe, St Patrick's School
- Carlos Castaneda, The school behind me
- Emilio Castaneda, Olden days poem
- Lara Chaanine, St Patrick's Kogarah in 1862!
- Johnny Chalkiotis, The beginning of my school days at St Patrick's in the Rockdale area
- Jenny Chang, Lydham Hall
- Richard Chen, History of Saint Patrick's Catholic School, Kogarah
- Gemma Clarke, My life in 1862
- Kaelani Cowley, Life in 1862
- Tarun Cross, Most known brick in the school
- Maximus Da Silva, My story
- Stephanie Da Silva and Esabella De Los Reyes, Lydham Hall
- Adrian Dell, My life as a tree
- Anika Deshpande, Lydham Hall

- James Dyet, St Patrick's School history
- Marlene Eder, The roots of St Patrick's in 1862
- Bailey Excell, Establishment of the first Rockdale school as told by the teacher's dog
- Catriona Farrelly, Lydham Hall
- Charlette Ginu, Lydham Hall
- Meaghan Grove, Rocky Point Road Catholic School
- Alyssa Gurung and Karissa Siourounis, Lydham Hall
- Ida Haghighatpajouh, Rocky Point Road through my eyes
- Abbey Hoy, Ronald William Rathbone
- Alyssa Jessing and Julia Kukeski, Edithville
- Alana Jones, The joys of George
- James Kalatzis, History of St Patrick's
- Costa Kambourakis, Hi, my name is Tree
- Nicholas Kambourakis, Lydham Hall
- Nicole Karafilis, Life as a dog in 1862
- John Kohen, St Patrick's Primary School
- Leon Kolyvas, The life of a chair in 1862
- Renata Konya, Lydham Hall
- George Koutsodimas, Lydham Hall
- Earl Kwok, Sydney Airport
- William Kypreos, Lydham Hall
- Christian Langlaver, Lydham Hall
- Gabriella Leavai, Lydham Hall
- Andrew Lee, 150th year anniversary writing
- Rachel Lee, Thomas Saywell's tramway and the making of Brighton-Le-Sands
- Xavier Lepine, Lydham Hall
- Portia Love, Lydham Hall
- Max McNamara and Marcus Michail, Lydham Hall (upstairs and kitchen)
- Manusha Mahesan, A million years as a tree
- Kuda Mandu, Lydham Hall
- Dahlia Martin, St Patrick's School
- Carmellina Mhando, Lydham Hall
- Brianna Mikhail, St Patrick's School history
- Luke Montedoro, History of St Patrick's Primary School
- Andrew Morakeas, The church bell
- Tony Mrencevski, School days at Rocky Point Road School
- Danielle Napier, History of St Patrick's School!
- Andrew Noujaim, The school behind me
- Joshua Nunn, The tale of a pebble
- Mihit Pala, My life at St Patrick's in 1862
- Ashlee Pasfield, My job
- Nicholas Pasfield, Lydham Hall
- Natasha Pejic, The roots of Rockdale
- Georgia Robinson, 150 years ago there was a tin roof
- Joshua Robinson, St Patrick's School
- Eric Rong, Rockdale Town Hall
- Peter Roufas, St Patrick's School
- Joshua Saoumi, St Patrick's Kogarah history
- Jerikk Sebolino, St Patrick's School history
- Jessica Semsarian, Bing! Bing!

- Nicholas Shao, The School
- Katrina Simon, Lydham Hall
- Neha Sobin, Lydham Hall
- James Stavroulakis and Enrique Venegas, Botany Bay
- Jennifer Taniela Segura, How I see Rocky Point Road
- Liam Thomas, Moorefield Racecourse
- Ruby Thomas, The first classroom in the Rockdale area through the eyes of a wooden seat
- Samantha Torpey, Botany Bay - then and now
- Valentina Triulcio, Back in time
- Flynn Varley, Life as a gumtree
- Matthew Zoumpoulis, St Patrick's School history
- Zoe Zoumpoulis, Life as a spider, 1862

Primary School Category

Winner: Eric Rong

Highly Commended: Earl Kwok

High School Category

Winner: Rachel Lee

Highly Commended: Jenny Chang

Special awards made to students at St Patrick's Primary School, Kogarah, in recognition of their outstanding support of the Local History Prize in the year of their 150th anniversary

Outstanding entry from a Year 4 student: Renata Konya

Outstanding entry from a Year 5 student: Eileen Cai

Outstanding entry from a Year 6G student: Ashlee Pasfield

Outstanding entry from a Year 6W student: Zoe Zoumpoulis

SELECTED PIECES FROM THE LOCAL PRESS.

- "Politeness on the part of officials at Carlton Station would be greatly appreciated by travellers - the railways are for the people and not the people for the railways".

St. George's Advocate 10th March, 1899.

- "A person might as well try to resurrect a dead mother-in-law as get satisfaction at our local telephone exchange".

The Propeller 14th April, 1911.

- "The condition of Durham Street, Hurstville, has damaged Dr. McLeod's motor car."

The Propeller 14th April, 1911.

- "Hoodlums and Hobbledehoes interfered with a function at the Hurstville Hall".

The Propeller 11th August, 1911.

- "Mr. Koonin, the Russian Exile, will give a lecture on 'How I escaped from Russia' - illustrated with pictures".

The Propeller 12th May, 1911.

Source: 1962 Rockdale Historical Society Bulletin

Christmas Like it Used to Be

In the first issue of our local newspaper for 2007 the following article appeared. It illustrates Christmas in Australia from the point of view of our senior citizens.

I located the author, Ron who will be 87 next month, and obtained his permission to reproduce it here. He advises that his youth was spent in Gladesville and when he married he and his wife built their dream home in Panania both places being suburbs of Sydney, NSW.

Things have changed so much since I was a young bloke. I'm wondering just who I can blame.

Only been one Nuclear bomb tested lately so we can give them a miss but surely someone must be ready to come clean and admit they've made a bit of a blue somewhere.

Look at the weather these days. Yes I know it was always hot at Christmas and New Year and you could count on that but not anymore. Nowadays it's either too hot or it's cold. And it's seldom wet which is a bit of a shame. Can't blame the AWB (Australian Wheat Board) for the changes or North Korea or any of New South Wales Cabinet Ministers no matter how much Right or Left Wingers may want to do.

And it's 2007 so no longer can Y2K shoulder anything. Remember when we entered the Twenty-first Century. Remember how everything was going to get out of kilter and clocks would stop, computers would all die and we'd run out of food and water. It was surprising to wake up on January 1, 2000 and find the fridge was still running and the car started. What the devil to do with the cupboards full of Baked Beans and the baths full of fresh water. Still we got over that one.

But Christmas doesn't seem to be like it was when I was young or any of you readers who are a bit long in the tooth. Can't remember how many years it's been since I woke up on Christmas morning to the sound of toy trumpets or saw a Three Wheeler Bike. Not too many dolls or prams about either.

Maybe it's the pill. And I wonder if they still make buckets and spades. All boys and some girls too, got a bucket and spade at Christmas. And what about the Christmas Stockings. Yes I've seen a few but they're not like they used to be with that little bundle of lollies in the toe and the useless little coloured tube with coloured paper streamers coming out of its top. Everybody got a Stocking even if they didn't ask for one.

And look at all the chooks about these days. When I was a boy you only saw a chook on Christmas Day. And they were baked in a real oven with real fat and basted and full of home made stuffing full of breadcrumbs and herbs. Chooks weren't grilled on a rotisserie or spun around in a Microwave and didn't they taste good.

You always had a hot dinner on Christmas Day with crispy baked potatoes and pumpkin and lots of gravy and that was always followed by the Christmas Pudding usually cooked in a cloth in the laundry copper and if the family was flush there were always some threepences to collect. Surprising what a threepence would buy when we were very young too. And there was always a cake too with Almond Icing and Silver Cashews. Has anyone seen a Silver Cashew lately?

Yes I know we live in a hot country where Christmas comes in summer but it still doesn't seem the same with prawns and oysters and cold salads on the table.

Santa has changed too. Remember when you wandered through a heap of cardboard caves in one of the big stores to see the old gentleman. Remember when he asked you if you'd been good and actually put your name in a book. He never asked you to have your photo taken with him either and there were never any Elves or a Mrs. Santa about. Maybe in those far off days they were too busy at the North pole.

And where are all the Cowboy and Indian Suits these days. Don't kids play 'Bushies and Bobbies' any more? My grand-children tell me Nintendo is the go these days and so they never go outside and have a street game of cricket with a tennis ball and a garbage tin as the wicket. Still if they did they'd probably get run over. Nintendo is beyond me and I'm far too old for Street Cricket so I guess I am part of the changes too.

If those few lines bring back memories to you then you have to admit that like me you are getting a little long in the tooth. Maybe some of the changes were overdue but that chook tasted good didn't it.

At least we can still wish our friends, and our foes too a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and mean it, so maybe things haven't changed that much after all. Ron

Source: Story located on internet at <http://tww.id.au/christmas/memories.html>



ST GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

CASH BOOK RECONCILIATION AS AT 30TH JUNE, 2012

Cash Book balance as at 30th June, 2011	\$ 9,564.03 cr
Add Cash Receipts 1/7/2011-30/6/2012	<u>\$ 917.61</u>
	\$10,481.64
Less withdrawals 1/7/2011-30/6/2012	<u>\$ 9,897.46</u>
<u>CASH BOOK BALANCE AS AT 30THJUNE 2010</u>	<u>\$ 584.18cr</u>

CASH BOOK RECONCILIATION TO STATEMENT AS AT 30TH JUNE, 2012

Balance as per Bank Statement as at 30th June, 2012	\$ 624.06cr
Add outstanding deposits	<u>\$NIL</u>
Less unrepresented cheque 000264 (G.Henke) Written Back	<u>\$ 39.88</u>
<u>CASH BOOK BALANCE AS AT 30TH JUNE, 2012</u>	<u>\$ 584.18cr</u>

TERM DEPOSIT COMMONWEALTH BANK

Principal invested 5/8/2011 at 6.2% interest		\$9,000.00
Interest on maturity 5/2/2012	\$418.89	
Less Less withholding tax	<u>(\$194.00)</u>	
	\$224.89	<u>\$ 224.89</u>
NB Withholding Tax refunded		
Re-invested 5/2/2012		\$9,224.89
Interest rate 2.70%		
Maturing 5/2/2013		

ST GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2012

INCOME

Cash at Bank 30/6/2011	\$ 9,564.03
Membership Subscriptions	\$ 360.00
Donations General	\$ 10.00
Sale of Books	\$ 125.00
L.H.M.C.Bexley Steet stall	\$ 12.50
Tours/Walks/Open Days	\$ 190.00
Bank Interest	\$.11
Withholding Tax Refund	\$ 194.00
Deposit Banked in error	\$ 26.00

EXPENDITURE.

Bulk Postage	\$ 65.50
R.A.H.S Subscription	\$ 108.00
R.A.H.S. Insurance	\$ 550.00
Bexley Street Stall	\$ 25.00
Office of Fair Trading	\$ 49.00
Xmas Gifts Care taker/Printer	\$ 64.86
Misc Postage	\$ 8.35
Stationery	\$ 3.50
Refreshments	\$ 22.75
Transfer to Term Deposit	\$9,000.00
Adjustment to deposit	\$.50
Cash at Bank 30/6/2012	\$ 624.06
Less Chq 000264 written off	(\$ 39.88)

<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>\$10,481.64</u>	<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>\$10,481.64</u>
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I have examined the books presented by Mr. Wesley Fairhall (Treasurer) and am satisfied the figures present a true and accurate account of the financial affairs of St. George Historical Society inc as at 30th June, 2012

J. RANKIN
AUDITOR