



# Our History

MAGAZINE *of the* ST GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2016



[www.stgeorgehistsoc.org.au](http://www.stgeorgehistsoc.org.au)



<http://bit.ly/29bI92C>



Proudly Sponsored by

**Bayside  
Council**

# October – December 2016

## Contents

Welcome.....	4
Events.....	4
Combat Cookery.....	7
Missing Persons.....	8
Our War, Our Words – October 1916.....	9
For King and Country – October 1916.....	11
In the Courts.....	13
A Night At The Pictures.....	15
Courageous Rescue Attempt after RAF Liberator Crash.....	16
Our St George Regiment.....	17
St George Satire.....	18
Crossword – St George's Streets.....	19
References.....	20
Membership Application / Renewal.....	23

**Front Cover Image** - Opening of Rocky Point Road on 15 February 1930 by Alderman Whitfield, Mayor of Kogarah; Honorable T.R. Bavin M.L.A, Premier of New South Wales; Alderman Barton, Mayor of Rockdale. [1]

**Back Cover Image** - Dr. Lamrock in a horse sulky in front of 26 Belgrave Street, Kogarah. [2]

Office Bearers		
President	Mr Wesley Fairhall	9546-5555
Vice President	Mr Robert McGarn	<a href="mailto:mcgarnr@bigpond.net.au">mcgarnr@bigpond.net.au</a>
Secretary	Miss Laurice Bondfield	9599-4274
Treasurer	Mr Fred Scott	9597-3243
Magazine Editor	Mr Barry Johnson	<a href="mailto:barry@stgeorgehistsoc.org.au">barry@stgeorgehistsoc.org.au</a>
Lydham Hall Committee	Mrs Gloria Henke, Mrs Joan Rankin, Mr Robert McGarn	9587-8307 9567-8641 <a href="mailto:mcgarnr@bigpond.net.au">mcgarnr@bigpond.net.au</a>
Public Officer	Mr Robert McGarn	<a href="mailto:mcgarnr@bigpond.net.au">mcgarnr@bigpond.net.au</a>
Publicity Officer	Miss Laurice Bondfield	9599-4274
Research Officer	Mr Barry Johnson	<a href="mailto:barry@stgeorgehistsoc.org.au">barry@stgeorgehistsoc.org.au</a>
Refreshments Officer	Ellen Endicott	
Lydham Hall Roster	Mrs Joan Rankin	9567-8641
Honorary Auditor	Mrs Joan Rankin	9567-8641

## President's Report

### Saturday July 16th, 2016

Well, it has been said that the only constant is change; how true a comment for our society. We have seen a President and Editor come and go, not to mention the pending forced move from the Sans Souci Library. With regard to Bernard and Garry, we acknowledge once more with heartfelt appreciation their contribution to our society and proactive involvement with the preservation of what remains of the St. George district's heritage, most notably Primrose House. Sadly we also lost through death, Robert Beehag in July last year, Robert was a long-time friend to our society.

Notwithstanding such upheavals, our society has been fortunate to continue to grow with an increase in our membership, which is most encouraging. We have been most fortunate to have the steady, efficient, competent and good-natured assistance of Laurice who not-withstanding wearing many hats has fortunately only the one head on which to don her Secretarial, Speakers' Coordinator and Publicity Officer roles. Well done good and faithful servant sums up Laurice's contribution quite nicely.

Have any of you received the July – September 2016 quarter newsletter? Well, what a treat it will be when the postman brings it. Our newly minted Acting Editor Barry has excelled with his inaugural production. I had flashbacks to the Wizard of Oz when I set eyes on the cover; remember what happened when Dorothy and Toto crossed over the bridge....yes brilliant technicolour...well in our case pleasant pastel shades....but what an accomplishment. Excellent work Barry.

Others for whom some public acknowledgement should be made include Ellen for her provision and amiable service of afternoon teas, Beverleys' Scott and Trott for the organisation and serving of afternoon tea at last year's Lydham Hall Collectibles' fair and help at Lydham Hall, Fred for his assistance with the website and other behind the scenes assistance. One of our newest members Olga should be recognised for her contribution through the purchase of a most excellent projector for the use of our society and for talks given by our members on behalf of our society to other groups. We hope to enjoy many years of viewing pleasure from this judicious and timely acquisition.

I would also like to mention the unstinting efforts of our members Joan, Gloria, Liz and Robert who volunteer to serve in the at times onerous role of Lydham Hall Management Committee persons. Thank you Robert for your preparedness to assist following Bernard's resignation. Special thanks also are extended to Jeff, Heinz and Richard for so ably and faithfully assisting the Committee members; your efforts certainly are appreciated by all members of our society and most especially, by the Management Committee personnel. I would personally like to thank Joan for her service as Honorary Auditor, for which I am most grateful.

Our society has been active in so many ways over the last 12 months, I will take this opportunity to briefly remind you of some of the memorable activities with which we have been involved. Hopefully all of you have had the opportunity to participate in one or more of the activities. I wonder if anyone present has been able to attend all of the following notable events?

In August Bernard conducted an Arncliffe walk which raised \$70.00, at our September meeting Garry launched his 'Dolls Point Digger' book which was the next day followed by the Collectibles' Fair at Lydham Hall which through stall holders' fees, afternoon tea sales, donations and raffle generated in excess of \$1,000.00. We are indebted to Bernard for his organisation of this momentous day.

In November, Garry conducted a Sandringham walk which helped flesh-out his newly launched book on the Baths and Boatsheds which once existed there. The walk netted \$200.00.

Our society's Christmas party was tastily celebrated via afternoon tea at Lydham Hall.

In March a couple of members had the privilege of attending long-standing member Alan Stahl's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration at Castle Hill. A splendid day was had by all.

Finally, I note the Society's contribution of \$769.23 to the Trove digitalisation of the *St. George Call* newspaper.

I will not elaborate further with regard to our guest speakers, as this would take too much time. Suffice to say there was a wide spectrum of topics covered which enabled members to be educate and engaged across many fronts; 'tis a member's loss to miss a meeting!

Thank you all for your attendance at meetings, support of our outreach and fund-raising initiatives and positive feedback, which is appreciated by all office holders.

Onwards and upwards during 2016-2017!

Acting President,  
Wesley Fairhall

---

## Welcome

Welcome to our final edition for 2016. During the society's AGM in August, new committee members were elected. The St George region is an important component of Australia's story and the committee members make valuable contributions to the preservation of this story. Thank you for your nominations. I am certain you will enjoy serving in these fulfilling roles.

In this edition of the magazine, articles about the ANZAC Centenary, local crime, anniversaries, cinema and satire continue. New features report on a local hero, thrifty cooking and our local regiment.

On behalf of the society, I congratulate all the entrants to the 2016 Ron Rathbone Local History Prize. especially the next generation of historians – our primary and high school entrants.. The entries research a range of topics, including opera, policing, biographies, sport and churches.

Originally built in 1891, Primrose House, the two storey Victorian hotel built in 1891 in Dolls Point, was recently submitted for listing on the State Heritage Register. Unfortunately, this submission was rejected, placing the site at risk if development proceeds. Please speak with your friends and local representatives to ensure this important piece of St George history can be protected.

Have you renewed your membership for 2016/2017? The membership fee, which supports the heritage of the St George region, is still only \$10. If you have renewed in the interim, we thank you and ask if you could share the magazine and attached application form with your friends, inviting them to enjoy the benefits of membership.

On a final note, I wish all readers a joyful Christmas season and a delightful beginning to 2017. I hope you can all share a story, photograph or memento linked with your local or family history with loved ones during Christmas lunch or dinner.

**Barry Johnson**  
*Editor*

---

## Events

Meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month (except December and January) at 2pm at Rockdale Senior Citizens Centre, 36 George St, Rockdale..

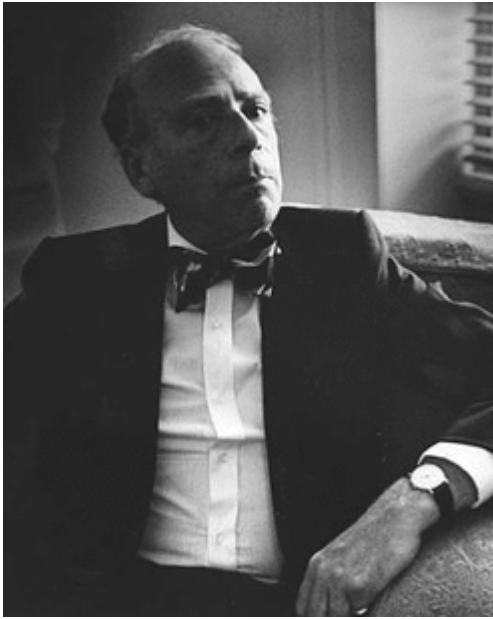
Visitors are very welcome to enjoy presentations by guest speakers, discuss local history with members during our afternoon tea. Please visit our website or Facebook page, check the Events pages of the St George Leader published on the Wednesday preceding the meeting or contact our Secretary, Laurice Bondfield on 9599-4274 to confirm the details.

- **Saturday 15th October 2016 2pm** – Monthly meeting. Guest speaker: Bob Mitchell "The Memory Man", one of only six full time professional oral historians in Australia.
- **Thursday 20th October 2016 6pm – 7pm** - Anne Field "The History of Moorefield Racecourse". Venue: Rockdale Library, Level 3, 444 Princes Highway, Rockdale. Book at <http://bit.ly/2cPzNVu>
- **Saturday 19th November 2016 2pm** – Monthly meeting. Guest speaker: Anne Field "The History of Moorefield Racecourse".
- **Saturday 18th February 2017 2pm** - Monthly meeting..



## Anniversaries – October

By Barry Johnson



**17 October 1917**

**Sumner Locke Elliott** (pictured) is born in Kogarah. Orphaned after the death of his mother during his difficult birth, he was cared for by his paternal aunt while his father served overseas with the AIF during WW1. After his father's return, a complicated custody arrangement ensued, impacting his schooling but stoking his imagination. His clever wordplay led to a career in script writing, providing plays adapted for theatre and radio. After serving with the military entertainment unit during WW2, he fortuitously ventured to America, arriving during the Golden Age of Television as drama was performed and broadcast live to home audiences. Eventually, pre-recorded shows became the new standard and Elliott transitioned once more as he wrote ten novels recounting his experiences of Australia and America. Rockdale City Library holds 4 of Elliott's novels, including the paperback and e-book editions of his Miles Franklin award winner, *Careful He Might Hear You*. [3]

**18 October 1917**

**Helena Sumner Locke** dies after complications during the birth of her only son, Sumner Locke Elliott (see above). Like her son, she was a successful writer, producing plays and short stories. She wrote tales of strong female protagonists in rural settings. These women were the domineering matriarchs of their families, responding with sardonic humour to the challenges of daily life. One of her short stories, *The Mountain*, is available to read on Trove, published in Perth's *Western Mail* on 20 November, 1909. Read the fast-paced romantic drama at <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/37403585> [4]

**1 October 1958**

**Norman Leslie Smith** died in Kogarah. Born in Enfield, Sydney in 1890, Smith was an apprentice mechanic when he married Harriett Russ at age 20. After he was injured during WW1, he became a car salesman for the Essex, one of the first affordable automobiles with a roof. As a marketing strategy for the popular American vehicle, he raced in hill climbs and between Australian capital cities, setting records and winning trials in an Essex during the 1920s. After performing stunt drives while wearing a business suit, he attempted a series of land speed records, achieving the world record of 264.06km/hour in 1932. [5]



*The Essex Automobile, sold between 1919-1932, priced at approx. \$25,000\* (inflation adjusted)*

## 6 October 1929

Leslie Ernest Favell, MBE, is born in Arncliffe. As a teenager, he batted for the St George District Cricket Club in the Poidevin-Gray Shield and AW Green Shield junior competitions. At age 18, he began his first-grade career at the same club. Playing for Australia, he toured internationally for 19 Tests, scoring 757 runs, including a century against India in Madras. While playing for South Australia, his exciting stroke-play in 202 matches resulted in over 12,000 runs, including a punishing opening partnership of 281 against New South Wales. After retiring, he became a radio commentator with the ABC and coached youth in cricket and football competitions. The phrase "It's just not cricket", now part of the vernacular in many cricket-playing nations, highlighting the importance of fairplay in the game. Donald Bradman, also a St George District Cricket Club alumni, associated Favell with this spirit, stating "He set an example in sportsmanship that has never been bettered by anyone who had played the game". [6, 7]



## 26 October 1971

**Hedwig Ross** died in Mortdale. After graduating from university in New Zealand, where the future prime minister, Peter Fraser, considered her a "wonderfully brilliant student", she became an

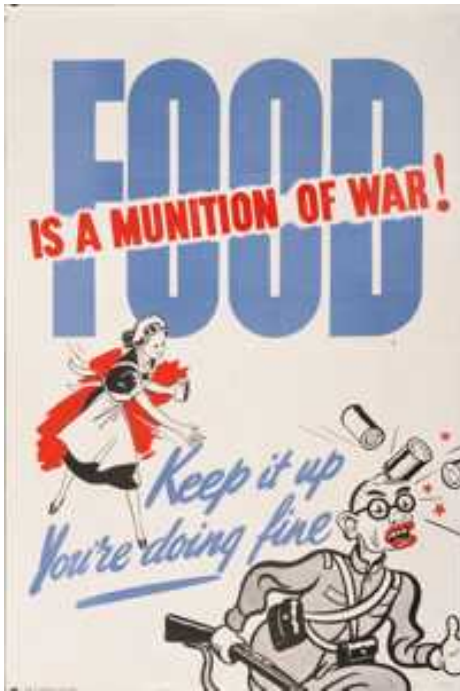


advocate of communism, selling literature which was considered seditious in the 1920s. Fined and expelled from her studies to become a teacher, she immigrated to Sydney. While teaching in a series of high schools, she supported the Australian Communist Party at meetings and in her writings, including the pamphlets *Hands Off China* and *Women's Path to Freedom*. She was particularly passionate about women's rights in the workforce, campaigning for wage equality and unfair dismissal protection during the Great Depression. [8, 9]

# Combat Cookery

By Barry Johnson

During World War 2, healthy, traditional home cooking was promoted as one of the many methods to raise morale and reduce waste as regulations to ration food and clothing were applied from 1942. The *Australian Women's Weekly* published the best 'austerity' recipes received from readers, awarding 1p to the winner each week. Covering all tastes, these recipes may provide a surprising addition to the Christmas dinner table in 2016:



## SWEDE CROQUETTES

1. Mix some cold mashed swedes with a quarter of their quantity of fine breadcrumbs, pepper and salt to taste, and 1 or 2 beaten eggs, according to the amount of swedes used.
2. Blend well, shape into croquettes, dip in egg, and then in breadcrumbs, and fry in boiling dripping.

## SAVORY PIE WITH CARROT ROUNDABOUTS

Ingredients: one pound chuck or skirt steak, 1 onion, 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce, 1 sheep's kidney, 1 tablespoon flour, 1 dessert spoon finely-chopped parsley, salt and pepper, water.

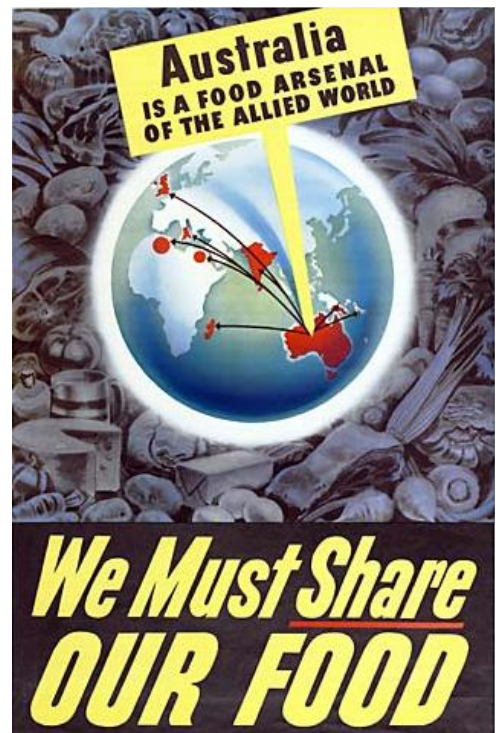
1. Cut steak into 1in. squares and roll in seasoned flour, skin and slice onion and add to meat.
2. Soak kidney in warm water for 30 minutes, remove the skin and chop finely.
3. Place all in saucepan, add water and sauce and simmer gently

for 1½ to 2 hours.

4. Place in pie-dish, add chopped parsley, and allow to cool before covering with carrot pastry.
5. Carrot Roundabout: Make short pastry in the usual way, roll thinly, brush with milk, and sprinkle thickly with grated carrot and chopped parsley.
6. Roll up as for swiss roll, cut in slices, and cook in overlapping layers on the meat for 15 minutes in hot oven.

## FRUIT SALAD PUDDING.

1. Make a fruit salad of apples, pears, bananas, passionfruit, orange, or all fruits in season.
2. Cut up fruit very small into a saucepan, add enough sugar to sweeten, and 3 tablespoons of water to about 3 cups salad.
3. Bring to the boil, and have ready this mixture to cover with:
4. Melt in a saucepan 1 large table-spoon butter.
5. Sift 2 tablespoons flour into it, and stir till quite smooth.
6. Gradually add 1½ cups milk, stirring all the time.
7. Let it boil till quite thick, then pour into basin and add 1½ tablespoons of sugar, ½ teaspoon vanilla, and break in 2 eggs, one at a time.
8. Stir well until there are no lumps in it.
9. Put fruit salad in piedish, and pour mixture over.
10. Bake in a moderate oven 40 minutes. [10, 11]





# Missing Persons

By Barry Johnson

Each year, over 35,000 people are reported missing in Australia. While most are quickly reunited, over 1,500 people are still missing after 3 months. As time passes, their lives and the mysteries of their last sightings pass further into history. In 1998, the Arncliffe Uniting Church created a Garden of Hope and Remembrance to support those affected by the disappearance of a loved family member or friend. The local congregation's achievement received national attention in a feature story on the ABC's *Compass* television program. Since the broadcast, similar gardens have been constructed throughout Australia.

- The National Missing Persons Coordination Centre (<https://www.missingpersons.gov.au/>) hosts a searchable index of missing persons reports and details of support services. Please take a moment to review the photographs and details of some of the people reported missing in the St George area. If you have any information which may assist to locate these people, please call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. [12]

Lazaros ANASTASSIADIS

Alias: Laz Anastis

Last seen: Arncliffe NSW

Year of birth: 1967

Age now: 48

Height: 177cm

Build: Slim

Hair: Brown

Eyes: Green

Lazaros Anastassiadis was last seen on 2 April 1998. Lazaros was last seen wearing a red flannelette shirt, black shorts and black sneakers.



Stephen MITCHELL

Last seen: Peakhurst NSW

Year of birth: 1971

Age now: 44

Height: 185cm

Build: Medium

Hair: Brown, Grey

Eyes: Blue

Stephen Mitchell was last seen on Tuesday 20 March 2007 when he left his sister's house in the Sydney suburb of Peakhurst.





## Our War, Our Words – October 1916

By Barry Johnson

During World War One, letters sent by Australian volunteers serving overseas were often forwarded to newspapers for publication. These letters were a combination of travel writing, experiences in battle and reflections about the friends they served with and the family members waiting for their return. 100 years later, these letters still provide valuable historical insights.

**Captain Charles David McIntosh**, a railway clerk born in Brightwater, New Zealand and living in Princes St, Bexley, enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force at the outbreak of the war. A letter written to his parents in October 1916 was published in *The St George Call*, explaining French daily life and customs. His note of the differing attitudes to alcohol are still accurate in 2016 (despite a century of inflation now preventing the purchase of a glass of wine for a single penny) :—

'Summer is with us at last and the heat is pretty trying, though the glass probably isn't over 80°, and is excellent for the ripening grain crops, which are splendid. Last Sunday we had a good look at the wheat, etc. Went a few miles inland to play a cricket match. A pair of mules in a wagon took us to a ground about the size of Judd's, beautifully grassed, and trees all round — you could hardly picture a prettier spot. It was what they call a farm 'home paddock' in Australia. Had a pleasant game, though we were too strong for the other side. One generally meets some ex-county players in these games, often over age and out of form.



Got home in time for a band concert in the park for a Belgian Fund. Quite a success. Six o'clock closing seems to have agitated the public mind quite a lot; notice that it easily topped the poll. Here the cafes close at eight for the military and nine for everyone else. There are many more cafes here than there would be hotels in a town of the same size in our country, but not nearly the same consumption. Almost everybody seems to drink and to smoke, but all the beverages are so light, and consumed in so much smaller glasses, that it is quite rare to see anyone drunk. Wine is the principal beverage. Since the war beer has been regarded rather as a Bosches' drink, and whisky is mostly referred to as 'pas bon' (no good). All the drinking is done sitting at tables. The French man gets his 1.5d beer or 2d glass of wine and yarns with his mate for perhaps an hour over it, so that whilst the cafes often seem to be full, the turnover is not nearly what would be done in a small hotel in Australia.

Many of them are about equal to, a small lolly-shop business, and the proprietress has to do sewing or some other work to pay the rent. One of the townees are in the lace factory business. Everywhere you see girls going to work, or carrying home bundles of it. In the factory the machines make the lace in rows, that is, 1/2 inch lace would be made a yard wide, representing 72 rows. These have to be separated by hand, hence a great deal of home work can be done.

The French are noticeably polite, and no one would ever dream of hurrying you over a drink or a meal. When you are introduced to a better-class Frenchman he takes his hat right off, and isn't in a hurry to replace it. I've seen in the street a top-hatted gentleman raise his hat and bow like a courtier to a French private of his acquaintance. There doesn't appear to be any social barrier between officers and men in their army. Their billiard tables have no pockets. My opinion is it's to preclude the possibility of a player even accidentally 'potting' his opponent's ball. Best wishes to all." [13, 14]

**Private E.W. Carr**, son of Alderman T.J. Carr, writes to his parents from the battlefields of the River Somme in France, exhibiting the sardonic sense of humour typically associated with the ANZACs :-

"Thanks for telling me about the garden. Would you like to hear about mine? Well, looking out of the door of our "cottage" you would see a lovely bed of thistles, Scotch and otherwise, beyond that the scene would surpass your imagination. The remains of a wheatfield, long since abandoned, well decorated with shell holes. Fritz, the gardener, likes to give us a change, so from day to day he adds a few more shell holes. On the right you would see some timber and more shell holes and debris. On the left it is more interesting, for there in the sap is the gas alarm gong.

Between us is the creek (sounds better than drain), which has a history of its own, for the other day a fatigue party working in it dug up a shell (it wasn't a young one either), for to say the least if it had blown up it would have shifted the creek. We call them "Duds" when they fail to explode. I have described our front garden. Last night Fritz sent us "somme" new plants, and planted them too, right in front of the door amongst the thistles. I don't care for them much because they filled our houses with smoke. These plants don't grow in Australia and are called whizz-bangs. At night the panorama is superb, cheap concerts in the moonlight, and Fritz supplies us with beautiful rockets.

Suppose you have seen the casualty lists which were heavy in our battalion. We took German trenches, and after holding them eleven hours the order came "retire". That order had to be repeated before it was



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E00019

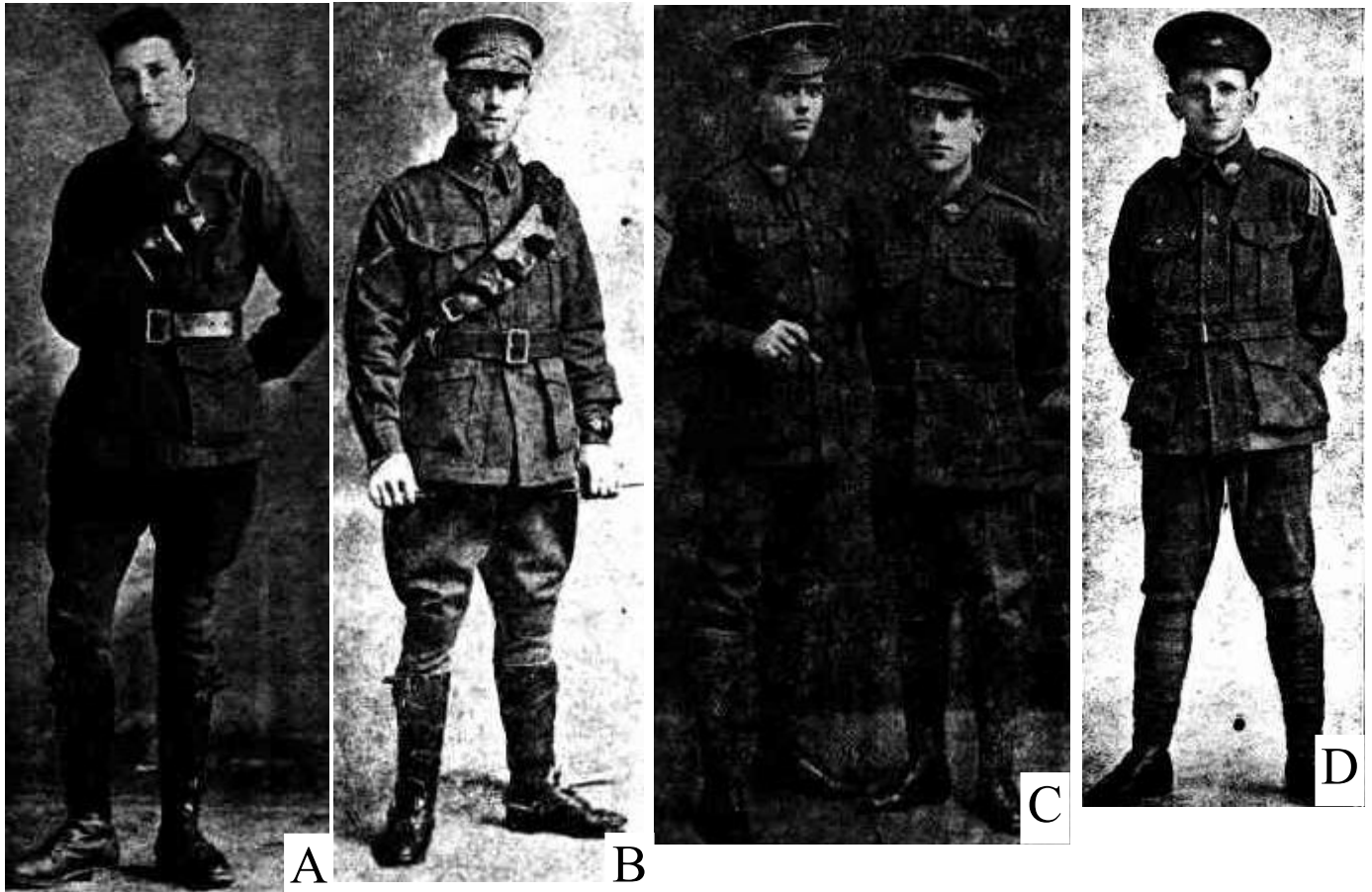
obeyed. Jack McGregor was wounded in the early part of the battle. David Anderson is among the missing, and several of my mates are wounded. Herb Carter was in the first wave and reached the trenches safely, his mates on either side of him were shot down. He joined a party of seven with bombs and was sent into another ravine to our flank to a group of Huns who were endeavouring to make mischief, and so far none of that particular party have returned. They have been posted as missing. I am looking on the brighter side of things — although I have lost so many mates that it hurts me to think about them, for they did their bit.

When out scouting I climbed a pear tree and Fritz the gardener evidently saw me, for every time I tried to get down Fritz went "pit, pit pit" against the trunk of the tree just below my toes, and made me climb up again quickly, until at last I got desperate and jumped down and chanced it." [15, 16]

## For King and Country – October 1916

By Barry Johnson

During World War One, the local newspaper, *The St George Call*, published photographs and brief biographies of local volunteers to the Australian Infantry Force when they departed for foreign battlefields. The portraits published in October and November, 1916 were:



A. Gunner Albert George, of Denison Street. Arncliffe, serving with the 13th Reinforcements, A.I.F., 1st brigade. Wounded in France, 17/7/16. [17]

B. Private Harold Lean, son of Mr. and Mrs. B. Lean, Rosa Street, Oatley, now at the front. [18]

C. Privates John G. Hubbard and Victor Berghofer, 17th Battalion. Both boys have seen severe fighting in France [19]

D. Private W. B. Tate, No. 5459, 17th Reinforcements, 4th Battalion, A.I.F. Born at Kogarah and attended Kogarah Public School throughout his school days. Left for the front on April 14. [20]



D. Nurse Allan, of Massey Street, Kogarah, and her two sons. Private Joseph Allan (on the right) wounded at Lone Pine, and invalided home. Private Walter Allan (on the left), wounded in France, now in Hospital at Glasgow, Scotland. [21]

E. Lance Corp. A. Powell, Pte. C. Haydon, Pte. H. Harris, Pte. W. Knight. Sitting—Pte. G. Congdon, Lieut. H. Congdon, Corp. L. Congdon [22]



## In the Courts

### By Barry Johnson

A range of offences are committed each day in St George, requiring police and local courts to administer justice. *The Leader*, the St George local newspaper published each Wednesday, reports on the high-profile and most sensational instances, including recent violent crime involving handguns and knives, the sentencing of Roger Rogerson and Glenn McNamara to lifetime imprisonment for a drug-related murder and the conviction of a former department director in St George Hospital for indecent assault. A century ago, local newspaper reports also highlighted the most scandalous crime. In the St George Police Court during the last quarter of 1916, these cases were reported in *The St George Call*:

- L. R. Moore was fined 40/- and 6/- costs after his car overturned while driving with two passengers. He was intoxicated and driving while disqualified. [24]
- Two days after Christmas, James McGregor, of Mortdale, was fined £1 with £2/8/0 costs after his wife fled to a neighbour's residence during an argument. McGregor pursued her, confronting the neighbour, William Thomas Davis, with "perfumed" language. McGregor denied the offence, claiming that his wife "is not right mentally. She raised a knife to me". He stated that Davis advanced threateningly toward him, demanding that he remove his clothes. The conflicting stories were resolved in Davis' favour by two witnesses. [25]

### Sandringham Tram Fatality

The Acting-City Coroner, Mr. Jamieson held an enquiry on Wednesday into the circumstances surrounding the death of Henry Douglas on October 22.

Mr. L. Gannon appeared on behalf of Sydney John Hughes, who was present in court. The Tramway Department was represented by Inspector Goodyer.

Constable A. H. Harrowsmith said that on October 21, he saw Sydney John Hughes at Sans Souci. He said to Hughes, "Douglas is in a serious condition, and I am going to take you to Kogarah Police Station."

Hughes replied, "I am very sorry for him. It was his own fault. I used to go to school with him, and would not hurt him. The mob were on to me at the hotel, and Jim Hiliare went for me. I knocked him out. The deceased then came up, and shook hands with me. Jack Douglas came up and punched me on the nose. I went into the tram, and just as it started the deceased came running up, and got into the car with me. He made a hit at me, and I pushed him away with my hand. He fell off the car." The same evening, at St. George Cottage Hospital, the dying depositions of deceased were taken.

In the course of his depositions, Douglas said, "I was getting on a tram, and I was on the footboard. I could not exactly say whether I was pushed off the tram. I did not fall off the tram. Sid Hughes was with me. I can't say what occurred. Sid Hughes and I did not have a fight. The others were arguing. I did not do anything to Hughes, and he did not do anything to me."

Arthur Douglas, a member of the A.I.F., and a brother of deceased, said that there was a row at Sandringham on the evening of October 21. Deceased mounted the footboard of a tram. Hughes also got into the tram. When the tram had gone about twenty yards, Hughes hit deceased, and then drew back his hand, and either bit or pushed him, and he fell off the tram. Deceased was holding on to the tram with both hands, and did not fall until he was knocked off. Deceased fell sideways under the tram.

Robert Ernest Odd,, a consulting engineer, living at Sans Souci, said he was a passenger by the tram. He saw Hughes boarding the tram. He appeared anxious to get away from deceased, who was pursuing him. Deceased attempted to board the tram, and said in an aggressive manner, "Get off the car." Both men appeared to be under the influence of liquor. Deceased made a grab and a hit at Hughes. The latter warded the blow off his arm, and might have pushed deceased. Witness could not say for certain what caused deceased to fall under the tram. Witness said to Hughes, "If anything serious has happened to this man you are probably to blame." Hughes answered, "I was trying to get away from the man, and he was after me."

Herbert Humphries, the conductor of the tram, said he saw Hughes get into the tram, and when the car had

gone about two car lengths deceased chased the tram and jumped on to the footboard of the leading car. A few seconds later he saw him fall. The tram pulled up, and he found deceased lying face downwards, with his feet towards the motor and his head near the leading car wheels.

Charles Philip Young, the driver, of the car, corroborated the conductor's evidence. He said the car was travelling at about five miles an hour at the time.

Several witnesses gave evidence as to the amount of drinking that was going on at Sandringham on the evening in question.

Florence Maude Huegill and her husband (John William Huegill) were both passengers by the tram. Their position enabled them to have a clear view of the occurrence. They both stated that deceased made a hit at Hughes, and he put his arm over his face to protect himself. The deceased appeared to lose his balance and fall.

Sydney John Hughes said that deceased got on to the footboard of the tram in which he was riding, and said, "You are the man I want; come and have a piece of me." He then made a hit at witness, who said that he did not either strike deceased or push him off the tram.

The verdict was that Henry Douglas died from injuries received through being run over by a tram after having been pushed there from by Sydney John Hughes. Hughes was committed for trial on a charge of manslaughter at the Darlinghurst Quarter Sessions. Bail was fixed at two sureties of £50, or one of £100.  
[26]

## A Night At The Pictures

By Barry Johnson

# Kogarah Pictures

DERBY STREET, KOGARAH

Monday, October 9

## Little Mary Sunshine

A Pathe Drama of 5000ft. that will suit young and old.  
Don't forget to bring the children.

Thursday, October 12

## His - Brother's - Wife

A World Film of 5000ft.

Friday, October 13

The Film that raised the Nation

## Battle cry of peace

Showing how America would fall. (One night only).

Saturday, October 14

## Triangle Again

Double Star Again

## STRANDED

Also showing the 2000ft. Comedy

## Bubbles and Troubles

Each Night a Varied Programme in addition.

## Popular Prices, 6d. and 9d.

Chairs One Shilling

One. The film was overtly propagandist, urging citizens to enlist and support an impending war effort. The plot highlights the cunning of foreign enemies, masking their true intentions and military abilities by infiltrating America with pacifists. These protesters weaken the resolve of citizens, resulting in the failure of national defences as foreign powers, markedly resembling Germans, invade. Former president Theodore Roosevelt volunteered an entire regiment of active US marines as extras in the film.

**Stranded** was dramatic comedy starring DeWolfe Hopper, the Broadway star, as Watts, an actor struggling after his group's manager embezzles the production's earnings. Before auditioning for new roles, he consoles the group's trapeze artist as she recovers from a broken arm. To return to the stage, he concocts an act, masquerading as a Shakespearean director and father of the trapeze artist. He negotiates with business owners to fund a production of *Romeo and Juliet*, starring local actors. During auditions, the trapeze artist falls in love with the show's sponsor, a wealthy community leader. When the former manager returns to blackmail Watts, they quarrel and Watts is fatally shot. In a final act, he escorts the trapeze artist down the aisle to her marriage. [27]

Films premiering in St George in October 1916:

**Little Mary Sunshine** was a surprisingly graphic morality tale produced by Balboa Studios in California. Mary, a 5-year-old girl, is abandoned by her father after he murders her mother during a drunken rage. Mary hides in a car, owned by Bob, a young man celebrating with his friends on the eve of his wedding. Shocked by his drunkenness, Sylvia, his fiancée, cancels the wedding. Shortly afterward, Bob discovers Mary and befriends her. Upon hearing her tragic story, he pleads for Sylvia's forgiveness. They marry before adopting Mary. Despite the short running time of 45 minutes, the encouragement to bring children might be ill-advised.

**His Brother's Wife** was a melodrama driven by implausible twists. Concerned for her Richard, her ill husband, Helen Barton arranges a holiday to Saranac Lake, a picturesque medical retreat in New York State's Adirondack Park. To pay for the trip, she negotiates with Howard, a mysterious pawnbroker from Australia. As he attempts to seduce her, she confesses her true need for the money. Saddened and embarrassed, Howard gives her the money as a gift, then returns to Australia. After explaining the encounter to her husband, his suspicions cause the relationship to break down. After the separation, Helen pursues a career in the theatre, becoming a star actress in a play she wrote about her meeting with Howard and the eventual consequences. At the opening night, both Richard and Howard are coincidentally in the audience. In their surprise, Richard begs for forgiveness and Howard, the mysterious Australian, sails home again.

**The Battle Cry of Peace** was filmed in 1915, months before the USA entered the hostilities of World War

# Courageous Rescue Attempt after RAF Liberator Crash

By Barry Johnson

During our July 2016 meeting, Laurice Bondfield presented a letter describing the exploits of Mr. Gordon William Knowles. He was a member of the St George Volunteer Motor Transport Ambulance Service during World War 2. While serving at the Rockdale Ambulance Station, Mr. Knowles responded to an aircraft crash.

The newspaper accounts throughout NSW reported the incident:

“Immediately after takeoff from Mascot Airport, twelve men, including senior Royal Naval Officers, were killed when an RAF Transport Command Liberator airplane crashed into a concrete bridge spanning Cooks River North, Brighton, early on the evening of the 19th July 1945.

Up to a late hour eleven of the bodies had been recovered. A terrific explosion shook the neighbourhood when the plane struck the bridge. Residents two miles away said houses trembled and doors and windows rattled. Some eye witnesses said that the plane exploded in mid-air, but generally it was thought the explosion occurred when the craft first struck a clump of trees, the tops of which were cut as though by a knife.

The tragedy occurred in the midst of a vast expanse of parkland. Immediately it crashed, the plane burst into flame, and the wreckage burned for several hours. Great clouds of smoke brightly tinted by the flames belched upward from the river. The tragedy was marked by heroic efforts of a civilian, Gordon Knowles, 25, of West Botany Street, Arncliffe, and a fireman who were among the first to arrive and who made valiant efforts to bring bodies to the bank of the river.

Risking his life, he crawled along a bridge girder and plunged into the river when he saw the body of one of the victims. While doing this, a flare from the wreckage exploded, striking him in the head. He gamely stuck to his task however, and brought the body ashore. With the assistance of a fireman and two other civilians he succeeded in bringing two other bodies to the bank of the river. The wreckage was burning fiercely and the heat was terrific. The glow in the sky from the fire could be seen for many miles. Knowles gave up his heroic efforts only when he fell exhausted as a result of burns, immersion and carbon monoxide poisoning. He is still in a serious condition, recovering from burns and shock.”

The Royal Shipwreck Relief Humane Society of N.S.W. citation noted:

“The courage and utter disregard of personal safety, repeatedly entering petrol-flaming water, displayed by Mr. Gordon Knowles is deserving of the highest praise.”

The Commander-in-Chief of the British Pacific Fleet (Admiral) Sir Bruce Fraser wrote to Mr. Knowles:

“Besides the crew, the aircraft carried a number of Royal Navy men who were personally known to me and I want to thank you on behalf of the Royal Navy in the Pacific for your very gallant action and disregard of your own personal safety.”

Mr. Knowles received the George Medal, Royal Shipwreck Relief Humane Society Gold Medal for Conspicuous Courage and the Order of St John Bronze Life-Saving Medal. In November 2014, these medals were sold to a private collector for \$11,000. [28]





# Our St George Regiment

By Barry Johnson

On a balmy morning in Cairo, the 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion formed in the Australian Infantry Force during World War One. Five years later, the regiment of volunteers marched under their own banner, bearing the Union Jack and their Company Colours - light blue over dark blue, serving as a militia unit in the St George region while continuing to support families with full-time jobs. Brief periods of inactivity resulted from the political challenges after WW2, including community sentiment to the proposal of compulsory military service and training, coupled with financial and resource restrictions. While many other units adapted their banners to the the Kings Colours, the 45<sup>th</sup> Regiment proudly carried their original banner until they disbanded in 1960.

In September, the centenary of the initial formation of the regiment was commemorated at St Paul's Anglican Church in Kogarah. It follows a ceremony in 2009, 100 years after the regiment's disbanding at the end of WW1 when a commemorative plaque was erected in Mortdale Memorial Park. [29, 30]



# St George Satire

By Barry Johnson

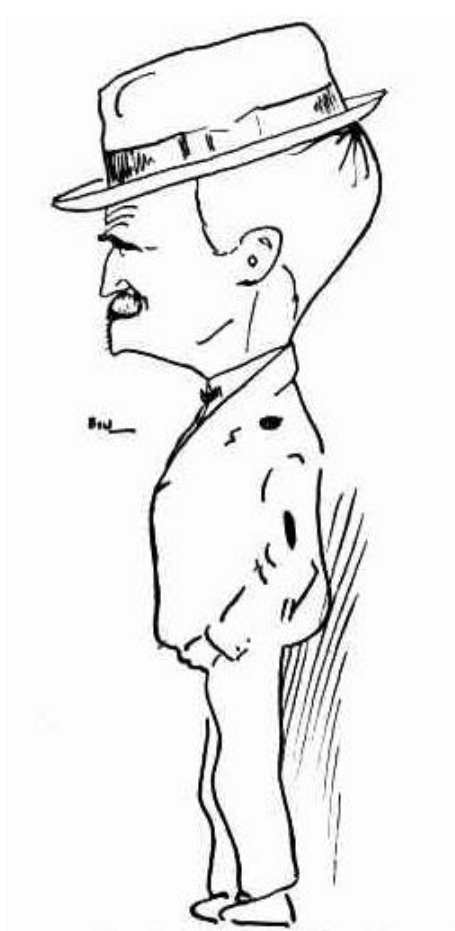
The editorial cartoon, satirically commenting on community issues, has existed since the early 18th century. Our earliest examples are surprisingly familiar, resembling the present-day artistic styles and highlighting enduring concerns.

The competition for council rates involves surf and sermons:



The Rev. Gentleman: "Yes, my lad, I notice they've raised the rate at Sutherland, and I suppose this means further facilities for surf bathers and a decrease in Church attendance. Oh !" [31]

Alderman George Willison enjoys the dubious honour of political satire:



A man of many virtues in this picture you may see,  
Among them we may mention he's an easy found J.P.  
The Bexley ratepayers like him, he suits them to a T,  
Does George Willison.

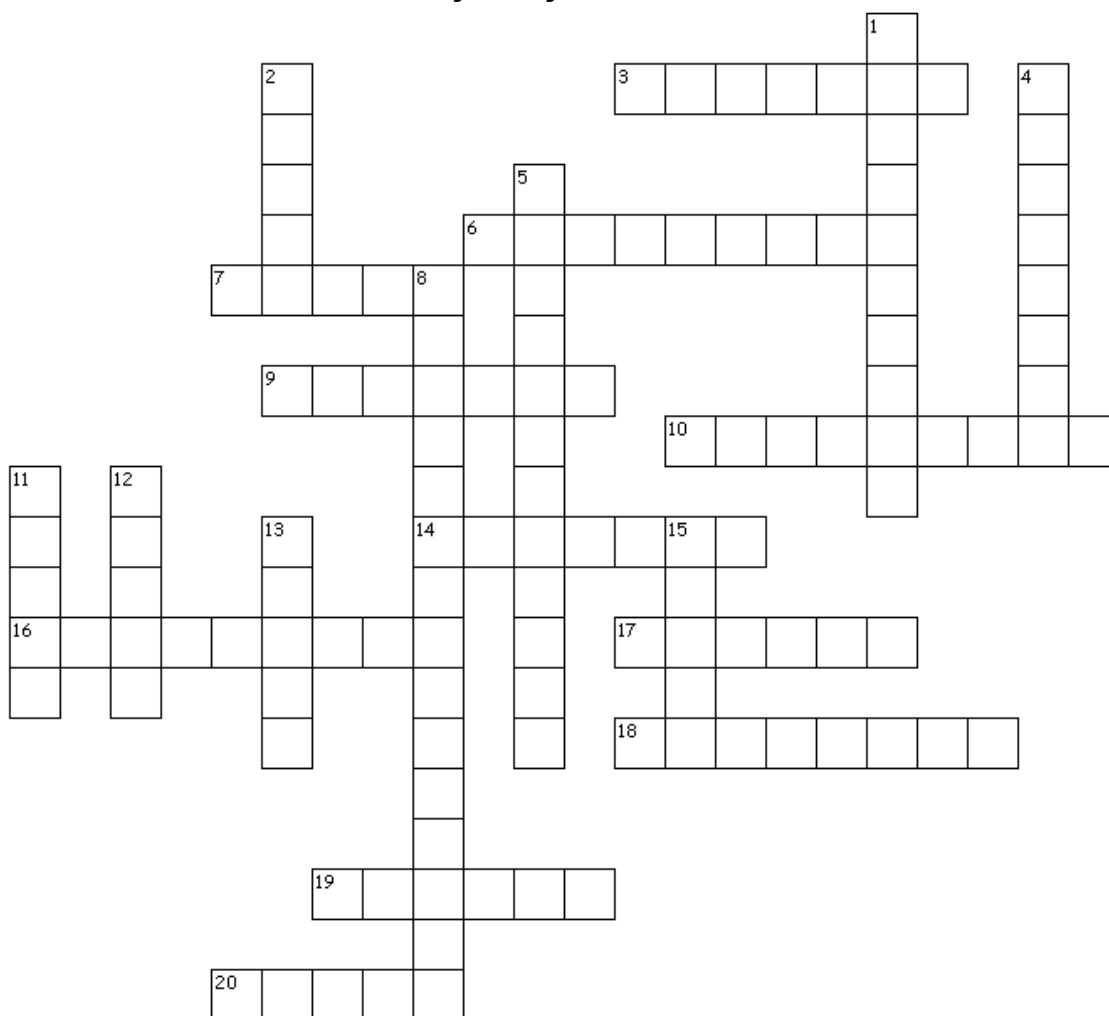
For Bexley Council 'lections he chased Neville up the Poll  
Which shows that in a race he's a sturdy little soul;  
We find him straight and open, there's nothing of the mole  
About George Willison.

He'll sell a block of land or a house to you he'll let  
And in rushing round to find them he'll make his pony sweat;  
If it's possible to suit you he will do it you can bet  
Will George Willison.

Thought by some to have no chance when lor Bexley he ran,  
He's a 'Peach' of a variety you find very hard to can;  
So he finished going strong, now he's known as Alderman  
George Willison. [32]

# Crossword – St George's Streets

By Barry Johnson



## Across

3. Common abbreviation for Australia (7)
6. Southern California's home to the stars (9)
7. Greek for "welcome stranger" (5)
9. Holmes (drive) Commander of the Australian force in New Guinea, killed in France in 1917 (7)
10. Horatio Nelson's victory in 1805 (9)
14. Golf club, originally part of Bonnie Doon Golf Course (7)
16. British Minister for War during WW1, formerly Bismarck St (9)
17. Sir Garret Wolseley's exploits in this war (6)
18. Adversary of 10 across (8)
19. (Place) aircraft from this manufacturer can be spotted at the nearby airport (6)
20. Constellation of stars, associated with the zodiac sign of Sagittarius (5)

## Down

1. Ancient name for Scotland (10)
2. 2nd wife of Sir Joseph Carruthers, N.S.W. Premier 1904 – 1907 (5)
4. Aboriginal word for "reeds growing in water" (8)
5. Named about the home of francophile Alderman James Crawford's home on Napoleon St (12)
8. Queen and Consort of King Edward III (9)
11. Captain James Cook's botanist (5)
12. Surname shared by a local alderman serving from 1925-28 and a beloved English poet (5)
13. Named on the 50th anniversary of Victoria's ascension to this royal rank (5)
15. Aboriginal word for blue gum tree (5)

Answers on page 21

## References

1. Opening of Rocky Point Road (1930). Retrieved from <https://www.flickr.com/photos/state-records-nsw/10968657525/>
2. Ellis, A. (n.d.).
3. Roe, J. (2014). Elliott, Sumner Locke (1917–1991). Retrieved from <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/elliott-sumner-locke-14903>
4. Andrews, B. G. (1986). Locke, Helena Sumner (1881–1917). Retrieved from <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/elliott-sumner-locke-14903>
5. Daw, E. D. (1988). Smith, Norman Leslie (1890–1958). Retrieved from <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/smith-norman-leslie-8481>
6. Whimpress, B. (2007). Favell, Leslie Ernest (Les) (1929–1987). Retrieved from <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/favell-leslie-ernest-les-12479>
7. ESPN Sports Media Ltd. (n.d.). Les Favell. Retrieved from <http://www.espnricinfo.com/australia/content/player/5220.html>
8. Sullivan, M. (2005). Ross, Hedwig (Hettie) (1900–1971). Retrieved from <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/ross-hedwig-hettie-13176>
9. Hearn, M. (n.d.). Biographical Register: Ross. Retrieved from <http://workinglives.econ.usyd.edu.au/ross.html>
10. Recipe Contest. (1942, November 14). *The Australian Women's Weekly*, p. 26.
11. Australian Government (Department of Veterans' Affairs). (n.d.). All in - 'living with war'. Retrieved from <http://www.wv2australia.gov.au/allin/livingwar.html>
12. Commonwealth of Australia (National Missing Persons Coordination Centre). (2015). Retrieved from <https://www.missingpersons.gov.au/>
13. From The Front. (1916, October 7). *The St George Call*, p. 5.
14. Australian War Memorial. (1916, August 22). E03072. Retrieved from <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/E03072/>
15. From The Front. (1916, October 14). *The St George Call*, p. 3.
16. Australian War Memorial. (1916, December). E00019. Retrieved from <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/E00019/>
17. For King and Country! (1916, November 18). *The St George Call*, p. 1.
18. For King and Country! (1916, October 21). *The St George Call*, p. 1.
19. For King and Country! (1916, October 28). *The St George Call*, p. 1.
20. For King and Country! (1916, October 7). *The St George Call*, p. 1.
21. For King and Country! (1916, November 11). *The St George Call*, p. 1.
22. For King and Country! (1916, November 4). *The St George Call*, p. 1.
23. For King and Country! (1916, November 18). *The St George Call*, p. 1.
24. St George Police Court. (1916, October 7). *The St George Call*, p. 5.
25. St George Police Court. (1916, December 30). *The St George Call*, p. 2.
26. St George Police Court. (1916, November 4). *The St George Call*, p. 8.
27. Advertising. (1916, October 7). *The St George Call*, p. 4.
28. Noble Numismatics Pty Ltd. (2014). Australian Hist. Medals. Retrieved from <http://www.noble.com.au/auctions/lot?id=331669>
29. Wikipedia. (2016). 45<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Australia). Retrieved from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/45th\\_Battalion\\_\(Australia\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/45th_Battalion_(Australia))
30. Monument Australia. (2010). 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion. Retrieved from <http://monumentaaustralia.org.au/themes/conflict/multiple/display/22197-45th-infantry-battalion>



31. Topical Taps. (1910, January 15). *The St George Call*, p. 1.
32. Topical Taps. (1914, October 10). *The St George Call*, p. 1.
33. Rathbone, R. W. (1989). *The origins of the street names of the Municipality of Rockdale*. Rockdale Municipal Council.

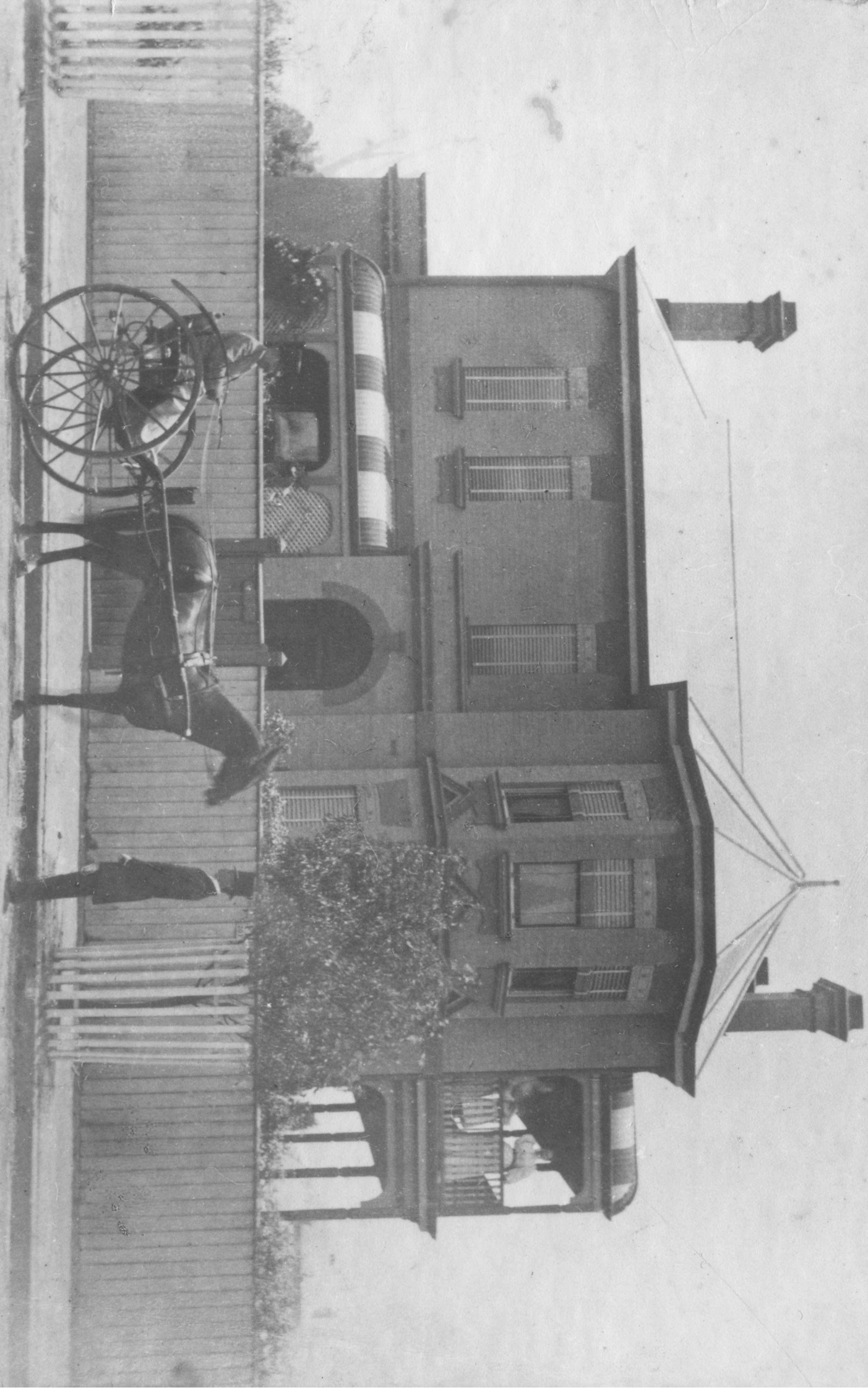
#### Crossword answers

Across 3 AUSTRAL; 6 HOLLYWOOD; 7 XENIA; 9 GENERAL; 10 TRAFALGAR; 14 NIBLICK; 16 KITCHENER; 17 SOUDAN; 18 NAPOLEON; 19 BOEING; 20 ORION;

Down 1 CALEDONIAN; 2 ALICE; 4 TURRELLA; 5 FONTAINBLEAU; 8 ALEXANDRA; 11 BANKS; 12 KEATS; 13 QUEEN; 15 COORA;

**Copyright © 2016 by St George Historical Society Inc.**

All rights reserved. Unauthorised reproduction in whole or part is prohibited without written permission.





ST GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc  
ABN 13 303 397 074

**Membership Application / Renewal**

Members of the SGHS enjoy:

- Advice with personal research from our members.
- One year's subscription to Our History - the society's quarterly magazine.
- Free admission to monthly talks of historical interest.

Please note: All membership fees are due on 1st July.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms (*circle*) Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Given Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Magazine delivery (*tick preference*) ☐ Email/electronic ☐ Post/printed

**No Joining Fee**

<b>Single membership (incl. GST)</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>Family membership (incl. GST)</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>

Payment may be made by cheque or money order:

payable to **St George Historical Society Inc**  
and forwarded to **The Treasurer**  
**St George Historical Society Inc**  
**3 Godwin Street**  
**BEXLEY NSW 2207**

or by direct bank deposit to:

Account Name **St George Historical Society**  
BSB **062 119**  
Account No **0090 3599**

Please reference the deposit with your name to identify the payment.