



OUR HISTORY

MAGAZINE of the ST GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

July - September 2017

www.stgeorgehistsoc.org.au

 Find us on Facebook

**GRAHAM ROSS
IN THE GARDEN**

**THE CATWOMAN OF
BEXLEY'S
MURDER MYSTERY**

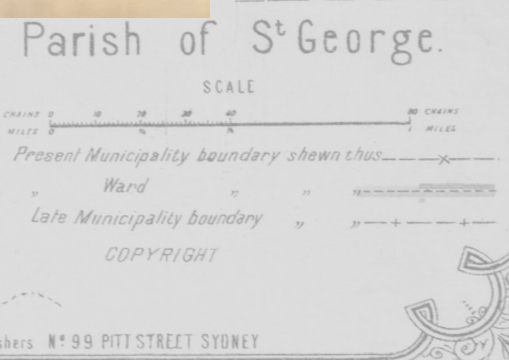
**FREE HISTORY
COURSES**

MAPS TO THE PAST



Proudly Sponsored by

**Bayside
Council**



Contents

Welcome.....	4
Calendar.....	5
President's Report.....	6
History Detective - Can You Help?.....	8
Minding Her Own Business: Colonial Businesswomen in Sydney.....	9
The History of Rockdale Opera Company.....	11
The Round Tower on Arncliffe Hill.....	14
Hidden in Plain View.....	16
Exhibitions at The Hurstville Museum and Gallery.....	18
Interview with a Local – Graham Ross VMM.....	19
Timeless Gardening Tips.....	21
Bayside Library Services' Map Collection – Part 2 of 3 *.....	22
Exhibition: We Are Here.....	27
Rocky Point Hotel – A Lucrative Investment.....	28
Anniversaries - August.....	29
Our War, Our Words – Summer 1917.....	31
For King and Country – April 1917.....	33
In the Courts.....	34
A Night At The Pictures.....	35
Recipes from the Past.....	36
St George Satire.....	37
How to Study History for Free.....	38
Book Extract – Patricia Carlon's Crime of Silence.....	39
Crossword.....	40
SGHS Publications.....	41
References.....	42

Front Cover Image – Alice Forscutt, the daughter of Reverend Charles Forscutt, became the principal of the Bexley Ladies College; she married the conductor of the St George Amateur Operatic Society, William Melleuish, in 1917. [1]

Front Cover Background – 1939 street map of Rockdale, NSW, showing administrative boundaries and physical features, scale [ca. 1:18,000]. [2]

Back Cover Image – Arncliffe Motor Service Station, circa 1930. [1]

St George Historical Society Inc.

The St George Historical Society Inc. was formed in 1961 with former Rockdale mayor, councillor and historian Ron Rathbone, OAM, as the inaugural secretary. First known as the Rockdale Historical Society, it was renamed in 1962 to serve the wider region.

The aim of the not-for profit Society is to conserve and encourage the recording of local history, raising awareness of the historical heritage of the St George District of New South Wales, Australia. The area includes the suburbs in the local government area of Georges River Council and part of Bayside Council, bounded in the east by Lady Robinson Beach in Botany Bay.

Office Bearers		
President	Mr Wesley Fairhall	(02) 9546-5555
Vice President	Mr Robert McGarn	mcgarnr@bigpond.net.au
Secretary	Miss Laurice Bondfield	(02) 9599-4274
Treasurer	Mr Fred Scott	(02) 9597-3243
Magazine Editor	Mr Barry Johnson	barry.johnson@live.com.au
Lydham Hall Committee	Mrs Gloria Henke, Mrs Joan Rankin, Mr Robert McGarn	(02) 9587-8307 (02) 9567-8641 mcgarnr@bigpond.net.au
Public Officer	Mr Robert McGarn	mcgarnr@bigpond.net.au
Publicity Officer	Miss Laurice Bondfield	(02) 9599-4274
Research Officer	Mr Barry Johnson	barry.johnson@live.com.au
Refreshments Officer	Mrs Ellen Endicott	
Lydham Hall Roster	Mrs Joan Rankin	(02) 9567-8641
Honorary Auditor	Mrs Joan Rankin	(02) 9567-8641

Welcome

We've been enjoying compelling presenters at our meetings and the trend will continue, with the details in the calendar on page 5. If you missed out, this edition begins with highlights, ranging from new research of the contributions of businesswomen and the Aboriginal people in colonial Sydney, to opera in Rockdale and a local landmark with origins in Ireland.

During our Annual General Meeting this month, committee elections will be conducted. I'm grateful to have served on the committee of the St George Historical Society Inc., volunteering alongside a fantastic group of people. Their efforts to further our mission, noted on page 5, will ensure the strong legacy of our society continues. If you would like to become more involved in our society, I encourage you to nominate for one of the positions on page 2. Our society's President, Wesley Fairhall, gives his own report on our recent history in this edition. I'm sure I speak for all members when I express thanks for his efforts to guide our society, including with the odd historical pun.

Our St George region is serviced by 3 library networks and 2 councils, offering a range of local contacts, resources and opportunities to assist with genealogy and local history queries. The exhibitions on page 18 and 27 are exciting, interactive highlights.

While periodicals and photographs are progressively digitised for online access, our councils also have an extensive map collection and Kirsten Broderick continues her detailed overview of a few special items on page 22.

There are two new features in this edition - an interview with a local, beginning with a popular gardener, on page 19, and a 'how to' guide on page 38 to begin (or continue) your study of history. I am keen to receive your suggestions for interviewees and 'how to' tips for future editions.

On behalf of the society, I extend a warm welcome to our newest members, **Gary Beehag** of **Heathcote**, **Anthony Gauci** of **Bardwell Valley**, **Diana Smith** of **Carlton**, and **Gillian Whan** of **Carss Park**.

As well as the print version of this magazine, we also publish a digital version in PDF format with clickable webpage and email links. It's accessible on most computers, tablets and smart phones and it's an environmentally friendly alternative. If you'd prefer to receive this new version instead, please let me know at barry.johnson@live.com.au

Do you have any local stories, newspaper clippings, objects or photographs that you've always wondered about? Please email me or let me know at our next meeting. We can help you reveal the answers from the past.

Membership renewals: a membership form for 2017/18 renewals is included with your copy of *Our History*. Please complete the form to ensure you have uninterrupted delivery of our quarterly magazine.

If you have renewed your membership to the St George Historical Society Inc. for 2017/18, thank you for your continued support. Please share your enjoyment by offering the form to a friend or family member to join us. We look forward to welcoming them.

Correction: On page 9 of the April – June 2017 edition, the caption for the photograph should read: 'Bob Mead (right) congratulates a winning jockey. Courtesy of Warwick Mead, Mead Archives.'

Barry Johnson
Editor

Calendar

Our meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month (except December and January) at 2pm at Level 3, Rockdale Library, 444-446 Princes Highway, 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.

Please update your calendars with our meetings for 2017:

- **15th July 2pm** Annual General Meeting
- **19th August 2pm** Guest speaker: Pauline Curby - "Independent Minds" centenary of St. George Girls High
- **16th September 2pm** Guest speaker: Therese Murray - 1956: The Year That Rocked Kingsgrove
- **21st October 2pm** Guest speaker: Kirsten Broderick, Bayside Council Local Historian
- **18th November 2pm** Guest speaker: Glen op den Brouw - A Liverpool Hero: Frank Hagney, Boer War Veteran

Special events:

- **17th July** – Christina Stead, the award-winning author, was born in Rockdale on this day. Visit her childhood home, Lydham Hall, built in the 1860s, at 18 Lydham Avenue, Bexley. The heritage-listed museum is open to the public on Sundays between 2pm – 4pm. Lydham Hall contains one of the finest collections of antique furniture and Willow Pattern China in Sydney, with our members serving as volunteer guides.
- **5th August** – Tempe House Open Day.
- **1st September** – Final submission date for entries in the Ron Rathbone Local History Prize of \$5,000, awarded to the author of the best piece of original research on any aspect of the history of the Bayside Council area. www.bayside.nsw.gov.au/ronrathbone
- **2nd - 10th September** – History Week historycouncilnsw.org.au/history-week/
- **4th November** – Tempe House Open Day.

President's Report

Wesley Fairhall

It is hard to believe an entire year has elapsed since the last time I wrote 'my piece' in this newsletter.

In my opinion, the Society has enjoyed a very exciting and busy year.... just ask any member of the Committee and you will be told so! We appear at last to have found our 'home' back where the Society began, the Rockdale Library/Town Hall complex. If you have not been able to attend a meeting this year, then do try and come along. Our meeting room is airy, modern and comfortable; if you arrive early, you can enjoy the panoramic view from the terrace...or just peer through the glass walls. Many thanks to Laurice for managing our staged return, ensuring we are no longer 'Romani' in Rockdale!

All members of the Committee have contributed, special thanks however must be made to Laurice for organising speakers, reviewing and initiating correspondence in addition to keeping the President 'on track'. Our Treasurer Fred has been ably looking after the Society's financial affairs. Members at the June meeting overwhelmingly voted in support of Fred's initiative to amend the Membership fees to \$15.00 Single and \$20.00 Family rates, which is consistent with like bodies and hopefully will see the Society's coffers better able to accommodate any unexpected financial contingency.

Laurice and Fred have taken the initiative of reviewing the Society's Constitution, which has become necessary due to changes required by the Commonwealth Charities and Not For Profit Commission as well as changes over time to the make-up of the Office Bearers. The Committee will provide feedback and members will be advised of the finalised constitution following consultation as required with the relevant stakeholders.

Barry has been much commended for his revamped 'Our History' magazine which has revolutionised the standard of our Society's literature. Bayside Council have been exceptionally supportive with professional printing and postage arrangements.

Joan, Gloria and Robert continue to facilitate tours by the young and 'young at heart' at the Society's museum Lydham Hall. In addition, they, Geoff and Heinze are also key to the success of the Open days, including the regular Sunday openings and special bookings for wedding photos and the like.

Finally, I would like to thank one of our newer members Olga, who has taken the initiative in projects such as designing excellent posters as ads for our monthly meetings, promotional activities at Tempe House plus a grant which I will mention below.

Since meetings resumed in February, members have been privileged to hear some excellent speakers as noted in the following summary:

February: Dr. Danoyiotis Diamadis provided an animated presentation about the book he co-wrote titled 'Selling the American Dream: the Greek Café and Milk Bar'. This evocative talk brought to life the evolution and history together with the eventual demise of the 'Greek style' cafes which were once commonplace in suburbia and regional centres;

March: Our member Anne Field spoke most sincerely about the research she undertook to publish her book titled *The History of Moorefield Racecourse* which covered the social history of this once well patronised venue from 1888 – 1951;

April: Dr. Catherine Bishop delivered a passionate address in relation to her book titled *Minding Her Own Business: Colonial Businesswomen in Sydney*. Her research ventured into the little known and hitherto underestimated importance of women in the success of many small business ventures in the mid- 19th century. Often these entrepreneurial figures were most competent managers and limited only by the social constraints of the time;

May: Leonie Bell entertained members with her Ron Rathbone Local History Prize publication titled: *Against the Odds; the History of the Rockdale Opera Company*. As Leonie had performed in some of this company's productions, her personal anecdotes in relation to the personalities and backstage theatrics made for a most entertaining talk.

June: Our scheduled guest speaker, Allan Powditch was unable to attend owing to an acute illness rendering him hospitalised. Fred Scott 'saved the day' in presenting a reading taken from one of the Society's early journals written by the late member Vince Saunders. The article concerned the unique (by Sydney standards) round tower of St. Francis Xavier's Roman Catholic Church, Arncliffe. The writer traced the design back to Celtic towers

constructed in Ireland between the 9th-12th centuries.

Some events and important achievements have occurred in 2017. The following are worth noting:

The first Tempe House Open Day on February 5th saw a steady stream of people through the property. Discovery Point resident and history enthusiast, Ross Berry conducted 2 walking tours of the house and grounds. Olga, Laurice, Bev Trott, Robert and I helped with information and book sales which generated about \$35.00 income for the Society. St. Magdalene's chapel was the venue for 2 classical musical performances, with the Ukrainian Soprano and Bandura player, Laryssa Kovalchuk being particularly outstanding. Olga staged a quilling workshop and the Marrickville Heritage Society also conducted book sales.

In April, the Society learned of the success of a Bayside Council grant application worth \$1,500.00. We will be hosting a mini-conference at some point in 2018, probably in the St. Magdalene chapel in the Tempe House Estate. The exact details are yet to be finalised, but the intent is to better connect with local historical/heritage and family history societies in addition to exploring 21st century challenges and opportunities such as demographic change, display and preservation of artefacts and much more; stay tuned!

The second Tempe House Open Day conducted on May 6th was held in conjunction with the Discovery Point Markets. Within the house the CamerART 2017 photographic exhibition, which formed part of the Bayside Art Awards, was staged. The Society mounted a display of drawings completed

by our late member Gifford Eardley. Another book stall generated almost \$40.00 in revenue.

Attendance on the day was estimated at 400+.

The Society was represented by Olga at the Heritage Fair held at the Gympie Tradies Club on May 13th. This was an excellent occasion to network with other historical/heritage or family history societies. Almost \$40.00 in book sales eventuated.

A Lydham Hall Open Day was held in May, which inadvertently coincided with Mother's Day. In consequence, attendance was poor. Nevertheless, an important lesson however was learnt in relation to when not to host events!

On June 24th, I presented a Powerpoint address at the St. George Masonic Museum titled: *St. George Historical Society Inc: Preserving and Promoting Local Heritage*. My presentation formed one of about 5 mini-talks addressing local history matters. Following a pleasant luncheon, visitors could view the 1920s Masonic hall, replete with all the furnishings and symbolic references peculiar to the Masonic fraternity.

I once again thank all members for your continued support of the Society, even if you are unable to attend meetings or events. A special thank you to of you who can attend meeting or otherwise support our outreach and fund-raising initiatives.

Constructive feedback and ideas are appreciated by all office holders.

With all good wishes,

Wesley Fairhall - President

History Detective - Can You Help?

Via our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#), we receive a range of interesting queries regarding local and family history in the St George area, including three recent submissions you may be able to assist with. If you have any clues, please let us know, emailing me at barry.johnson@live.com.au or discussing the details at our next meeting.

1. There are 4 terrace homes in George St, Rockdale, numbers 20, 22, 24 and 26. Can you assist with information about the history of these homes and their residents?

2. In 1884, Edward Manicom Farleigh built a villa (pictured) at 14-18 Loftus Street, Turrella. In 1957, the site was converted to the Cairnsfoot Special School. Do you know more about its evolution?



3. On the back cover of our October 2016 edition, this photograph of 26 Belgrave St, Kogarah, with Dr. Lamrock in a horse sulky, was displayed (reprinted below). A former neighbour, living in number 24 until the 1950s, recognised the image and would like to discover more about the history of her family home, redeveloped and now the site of the Chemmart Pharmacy, as the St George Hospital expanded.



Minding Her Own Business: Colonial Businesswomen in Sydney

Catherine Bishop

For the first fifty years of white settlement, New South Wales was a prison. The majority of the non-Indigenous population was made up of convicts, ex-convicts, families of convicts, or members of the forces sent to govern them. As time went on the numbers of ex-convicts grew, as did those in the no-man's-land of the ticket-of-leave system. A ticket of leave allowed a convict to live independently in society although still nominally under sentence. This was necessary, in the opinion of the authorities, for the colony to develop.

Women were initially a very small percentage of the population. Although the influential Anglican missionary Samuel Marsden categorised all convict women as prostitutes, during the early years of the colony women made their living in a multitude of ways. As a new town, Sydney required the labour of all its residents, opening-up opportunities for those with an iota of entrepreneurial spirit. In this bustling and rapidly growing port, peopled by free, unfree and semi-free citizens, both laws and social conventions were negotiable. Convicts could not normally own property and had few legal rights, but if they were married, their wives could be granted land and a publican's licence in their own names, their husbands then being assigned to them as labourers. Under these conditions women ran myriad small businesses, including boarding houses and hotels. Ex-convict women and other free settlers also ran businesses, often exploiting their femininity to commercial advantage. Meals cooked by a woman and female companionship – both rare commodities in the colony – came at a premium.

The most famous of these early businesswomen was Mary Reibey (1777–1855), whose face adorns the Australian twenty-dollar note. She is celebrated for her business success, still regarded as remarkable today because she was a woman, but Mary Reibey's distinction lies in her wealth, not her sex. She was not unique in being a woman in business but was unusually successful and rich. In 1817, the year she turned forty, Reibey was estimated to be worth £20 000 – the equivalent of roughly three and a half million dollars today. In 1820, she owned property totalling a thousand acres. Such success and wealth were equally uncommon among men in business. Most colonial businesses were small-scale, family-run ventures rather than large, profitable enterprises, whether

run by men or women. Most just got by.

The 1830s saw the beginning of assisted immigration, which provided a labouring population of free men and women. It heralded the start of a period of transformation and consolidation from penal colony to self-governing settler society – from a large, unruly town to something like a city. Although Sydney's non-Indigenous population did not outstrip that of the rest of the state until the twentieth century, it was growing fast. Most people still lived in rural areas and smaller country towns, but Sydney had by far the biggest concentration of people in the colony. It was 'the administrative, commercial and industrial hub around which the rest of the colony revolved'. It was also a main port through which trade took place and the market where all the necessities and many of the luxuries of life could be found. Tea from Ceylon, spices from India, cloth from Manchester, pianos from Germany and books published in London and New York arrived in Sydney for distribution around the colony along with shiploads of immigrants.

Between 1836 and 1851 the structure of the population changed significantly, with greater proportions of women and children and fewer convicts as the years progressed. In 1828 the population of Cumberland County (what would now be Greater Sydney) was just over 25,000; five years later in 1833 it was nearly 36,000, and Sydney itself reached 15,000 the following year. In 1836 New South Wales boasted just under 80,000 European inhabitants – Indigenous people were not included in the census – and around half of these lived in the County of Cumberland. By 1840, there were 31,617 people in Sydney itself, with a further 26,491 in the rest of Cumberland County, while the total population of New South Wales in 1841 was just under 120,000.

In the 1830s Sydney's industrial and financial sectors developed. Of the twenty-one joint stock companies listed in 1842, eighteen had been formed after 1830. This was also a decade of industrial expansion; businesses grew in size, number and geographical coverage. Small businesses proliferated. Drought hit in 1838, and the early 1840s was a time of depression, with the end of the transportation of convicts to New South Wales in 1840 affecting the labour market. Many

people took advantage of new insolvency laws introduced in 1842 that allowed insolvents to keep property and continue trading while in debt. New South Wales ran on a system of promissory notes at this time, and one company's demise could take with it a multitude of others, all linked in a chain of IOUs.

In 1842 Sydney was officially declared a city, in spite of being 'little more than an unruly village of dusty poorly lit lanes and unhygienic dwellings', according to the City of Sydney Council's history. But this seems to have been exactly why it wanted to be a city – to be taken seriously, to claim the right to self-government and self-determination. Sydney felt like it was coming of age, but at least

one visitor in that year was somewhat less than impressed by its pretensions. Louisa Meredith, author of *Notes and Sketches of New South Wales*, enjoyed the availability of fresh fruit and fish at the markets but not the dust, flies and mosquitoes. She dismissed Sydneysiders' notions of a park, noting as she drove past Hyde Park that it was 'utterly destitute of trees ... merely a large piece of brown ground fenced in where there is a well of good water'. As for the people themselves, she felt the too many pubs were too well supported and the too few libraries not. She described the men as too busy to read and the women as paying 'more attention to the adornment of their heads without than within'.

***Minding Her Own Business: Colonial Businesswomen in Sydney* (NewSouth, 2015) by Catherine Bishop can be ordered direct from the following website:**

www.newsouthbooks.com.au/books/minding-her-own-business/

Catherine's research in Australia's businesswomen continues, with a new project exploring the lives of female entrepreneurs from the passing of the Married Women's Property Acts in the 1870s until 1984 and the passage of the Sex Discrimination Act. She is keen to hear the stories of the business lives of a grandmother, mother or aunt during this period. If you have a story to share, please contact Catherine via her website: catherinebishop.wixsite.com

Find more information on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/catherinebishophistorian



Pioneer Women's Monument, Jessie Street Gardens, Loftus Street, Sydney, 2015: 'Commissioned in recognition of the courage and endurance of our Women Pioneers and their vital role in the development of this country'. Courtesy of Catherine Bishop.

The History of Rockdale Opera Company

Leonie Bell

During our May meeting, Leonie Bell presented the history of the Rockdale Opera Company, based on her personal experiences and the research toward the essay, winner of the Ron Rathbone History Prize in 2016. This is an excerpt from her essay, the history of the venue for the company, the Rockdale Town Hall, prior to the recent refurbishment.

Rockdale Town Hall was a distinctive two storey red brick building, with a sandstone portico, balcony, and corner clock tower surmounted by a flag pole. It was designed by D.B. Gardiner and constructed in 1940 to replace the aging council chambers which had stood on the site since 1888.

The NSW State Government Office of Environment and Heritage described it as “a fine representative example of a late inter-war stripped classical building with functionalist influences”. [121] *

Initially there was some doubt as to the possibility of gaining the Town Hall for rehearsals in 1948, and Collins Hall in Bexley was proposed by Liaison Officer Rupert Orchard for rehearsals, at a cost of £1 per night for 12 rehearsals. However, Rockdale Town Hall has always been the main venue for music and stage rehearsals, generously provided rent-free by Rockdale Council. This graceful old lady has been the site of many civic occasions, meetings, musicals and theatre productions. In the 1950s it was the setting for regular Saturday night Scottish dances.

Whilst the polished timber floor was a delight to the Scottish dancers, it has been the bane of many a theatre goer. Opera lovers have long lamented the obstructed views due to a lack of tiered seating. Opera critic David Gyger, in a 1977 review of *La Traviata*, describes the venue scathingly but with a tinge of fondness;

“It lies in the direct flight path to Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport, has a flat floor which raises hell with sightlines, and minuscule backstage facilities, yet there is something intangibly right about Rockdale Town Hall as a venue for opera that

always makes the pilgrimage there worthwhile”.
[122]



4 February 1954 - Rockdale Town Hall is decorated for the royal visit of Queen Elizabeth II. (Photo by James Bell)

During matinee performances it was impossible to achieve total blackout due to large curtained windows along one side of the hall, and light leaking through the fly tower above the stage.

Backstage facilities were sparse. Behind the stage were two dressing rooms. One in the basement was used by the male chorus, the upstairs one shared by

male and female principals, with scant room for modesty. The female chorus had to be content with a curtained off area beside the main hall, which meant that talking was forbidden during performances and visits to the toilets had to be made on tiptoe through the public foyer.

Backstage facilities were very basic. There was no “tannoy” system for the crew to communicate with each other or call the performers to the stage. The Lighting Operator stood on one side of the stage and the Stage Manager on the other, relying on visual cues. Cast members in the dressing rooms had to listen hard for their cues or risk missing an entrance. On many occasions singers would faintly catch a bar or two of their entrance music and bound up the stairs to the stage in a panic, arriving breathlessly to make a hasty entrance.

The fly system, used to haul curtains and scenery into the fly tower above the stage, was a manually operated rope system. Occasionally the scenery would be stuck when a rope slipped from the pulley. This necessitated a heart-pounding climb by

a crew member, up the rickety ladder high above the stage into the dizzying void. Then the crew member clambered over the scenery bars suspended above the stage, to place the ropes back into position so that the curtain could be flown. [124]

Rockdale Council investigated the generation of income streams in connection with the Town Hall in 2001. They recognised the importance of the venue to local theatrical societies, but lamented its unsuitability for commercial hirers, whose usage could potentially offset the costs of venue maintenance. Although used extensively by amateur theatre companies, virtually no-one was hiring the venue.

The high cost factor was considered the most likely reason. Generally local people hired less expensive halls at commercial clubs such as the RSL or Leagues Club for weddings and parties, and Council realised it needed to define the role of the Town Hall in civic life.



September 1957 - The Governor of NSW, Sir Eric Woodward, and his wife, Lady Amy Woodward, attend a Rockdale Opera Company performance of The Barber of Seville. Photo courtesy of Rockdale City Library.

General maintenance and additional costs incurred by use of the venue by amateur theatre companies was estimated at \$150,000 per annum. It was decided that the 1992 Policy Governing Financial Assistance for Town Hall Rentals would continue, with free use of the hall for the Regals, Rockdale Musical Society and Rockdale Opera. The value of this support is highlighted by examining the cost of hall hire. The Town Hall cost \$750 for the first hour and \$150 for each successive hour in 2001, compared with \$100-\$250 at a club. The Opera Company also used Coronation Hall at Arncliffe for some rehearsals. This venue cost \$400 on a Saturday night.

Eventually, the City Services Committee of the Council decided that both venues were originally designed for live performances, and current usage was in accordance with this purpose. Commercial Licensed Clubs offered facilities that the council was unable to provide and therefore it was appropriate that private hirers used clubs. Rockdale Council viewed this support as Council's substantial "*donation towards cultural services*". [125]

In 2010 Rockdale City Council decided the time was ripe to refurbish the aging Town Hall, which had been the favoured venue of not only Rockdale Opera, but also the Rockdale Musical Society and the Regals Musical Society. Initial estimates from a 2010 report set a budget of \$4 million for the works, which would include a new roof, external refurbishment, a new lift to meet modern access requirements, refurbishing the seventies style foyer and improving amenities. [126]

Roof demolishing began as Rockdale Musical Society was in the final stage of rehearsal for its latest show. Disaster struck when asbestos was discovered in the ceiling, which was hardly surprising considering the age of the structure. The work site was immediately shut down by Workcover inspectors.

Consequently, the process of renovation took much longer than expected, but the building was finally reopened in November 2013. The art deco detailing had been sensitively restored, the hall enlivened with a light colouring to the walls, and a new audio system installed. During the renovation, the floor

and roof spaces were removed, enabling cables to be run underneath the new floor, something that would not otherwise have been possible. [127] The mechanisms for hanging and flying scenery were renovated to modern health and safety standards, although some of the scenery battens had been removed from the flytower, reducing the number of scenic elements which could be flown.

The area which had been used by the women's chorus as a dressing room for over fifty years, divided from the audience by a red velvet curtain and flimsy concertina partitioning, was at last separated from the auditorium by a solid wall, and converted into a bar area.

The Council was gratified to learn that the project was a finalist in the Australian Property Institute NSW Excellence in Property Awards for heritage projects. [128] Audiences and theatrical companies were delighted to find that the infra-structure had been updated to meet modern standards without marring the heritage look of the building.

Read the full essay on the Bayside Council website:

www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au/library/Pages/Library_RonRathbonePrize.aspx#2016

* To view the details of numbered references in this extract, please refer to the original full essay.

The Company's 2017 season continues with *The Gondoliers* by Gilbert and Sullivan opened on June 24, followed by a double-bill in November of Donizetti's *Il Campanello* and Puccini's *Suor Angelica*. Book at www.rockdaleopera.com.au/book-tickets.html

The Round Tower on Arncliffe Hill

Vincent M. Saunders

Our scheduled speaker for our June meeting was Alan Powditch, presenting details of the recent 'Centenary of Brighton-Le-Sands Public School'. Alan was unable to attend due to a sudden health concern, but fortunately, he is recovering well and we look forward to welcoming him at an upcoming meeting. Fred Scott, our society's Treasurer, presented this article by a former member of the society, published in the June, 1966 edition of our magazine.

Standing on one of the more dominant sites on the Forest Road ridge is St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Arncliffe.

The Church and particularly its Round Tower may be observed, in all their splendour, at almost any vantage point within and even well beyond the immediate district.

As they admire this marvel, few people may realise that the Arncliffe Church was second place of worship in Australia to incorporate the architectural form of the Round Towers of Ireland - edifices long famous for the association with the predatory raids of the Vikings in the days of yore.

St. Francis Xavier Church was opened to worshippers in 1931 during the sojourn of the late Mons. J. P. Rafferty. His inspiration led to an intensive study by Mr. C. Glancey, an architect of the famous of the Irish Round Towers at Waterford, Antrim, Cork, Lough Erne, Kilkenny, Tipperary and Glendalough.

Today it stands as Sydney's only church with a Round Tower and one of the few remaining in Australia.

Unique Monuments in the West

Although more familiar to Continental Europeans, the Round Towers of Ireland are a source of fascination for Antiquarians in Australia, with considerable research into their origin and functions now available.

Throughout Western Civilisation, with the exception of a few Round Towers in Scotland, the original 120 stone edifices are found only in Ireland. 100 are in varying stages of decay, while 20 are in good condition, from the foundations to the coping stone of the roof.

Located throughout the Emerald Isle, they exist either in isolation or detached from churches or other ecclesiastical structures.

The Round Towers are hollow stone cylinders, narrowing as they approach the summit, 40 to 60 feet in circumference at the base, 50 to 150 feet in height and divided internally into six or more storeys.

The top storey has three to six apertures with the others lit by a single aperture. The exception is the lowest level, accessed via a door elevated 8 to 30 feet above the ground level, possibly as a security measure.

Beginning in the 5th century, the Round Towers were a place of refuge from peril for Christian monks and their sacred items.

During these periods of unrest, it is believed the higher apartments were lit as a beacon, guiding allies, and as watch towers to observe local villages.

The Viking Raids

The Round Towers were particularly important during the predatory expeditions of Vikings, terrorising Scotland, England and France in some of the largest ships of the early Middle Ages. They began to spread throughout Ireland from 749 AD. Before an army could be raised to resist the raid, the pirates inflicted great havoc on monastic establishments, claiming any booty at hand before hurriedly returned to their ships.

Although used as a safe haven, it is not certain that this was the original purpose of the Round Tower.

Recent archaeological evidence supports the hypothesis that they may be remnants of a pre-Christian civilisation, possibly the Tuatha De Danaan, a Greek race settling in Ireland around the 9th century BC.

Another view contends the Round Tower is of Christian origin, constructed during a single period in history.

Origin of Round Towers

The 19th century Irish poet, Thomas Moore, representing the majority view of Antiquarians on the pre-Christian origin of the Round Towers,

wrote in *The History of Ireland* that the inspiration is Persian, with towers found in Baghdad (Persia) and Bhagalpur, the “silk city of India”, constructed during the Vedic period, bearing a strong resemblance to the Irish towers. The Round Tower has also been associated with fire temples, where a sacred flame was kindled by Zoroastrian magi in an elevated position, accounting for the raised doorway. The many apertures on the top storey were perhaps designed for astronomical observations, particularly to accurately determine the equinox and solstice.

Another hypothesis notes the similarity of the Round Tower with the turrets of Turkish mosques, and the summit, where the timing of the new moon and religious festivities were proclaimed using a trumpet with the mouthpiece on the side.

Archaeological research since Thomas Moore's writings appear to confirm pre-Christian origins of the Round Towers. In 1947, an inscription was uncovered during a dig in Karatepe, a late Hittite fortress in Cilicia, southern Turkey, indicating the Tuatha De Danaan had occupied this area centuries prior to migration to Ireland.

Karatepe was only a short distance away from Hierapolis in northern Syria. Lucian, an early Roman historian, wrote in *The Syrian Goddess*, that the pre-Christian temple was the principal source of the city's wealth: “For much money comes to them from Arabia and from the Phoenicians, and the Babylonians; the Cilicians too - nowhere else among mankind are there so many festivities and sacred assemblies.”

Lucian describes the main entrance where there were two pillars, 180-feet high, upon which a man remained for an entire week twice every year, climbing the stone with the use of a chain and reciting prayers for those bringing offerings of gold and silver.

As the De Danaans travelled west, these unusual edifices were constructed throughout Ireland as manifestations of worship to the now obscure Cult of Dionysus.



St. Francis Xavier Church [1]

An Enduring Source of Inspiration

Regardless of their origins, the Round Towers contributed to the spread of Christianity in Ireland as Keeps and Watch-towers in times of alarm, and as monastic Bell-towers in more settled times, summoning the populace to the house of God.

Locally, the Round Tower on Arncliffe Hill continues as a source of local pride - a rare representation of a unique style of ecclesiastical architecture in Australia with fascinating historical association with the Round Towers of Ireland, whose history has been obscured in the night of time.

Hidden in Plain View

Paul Irish

Aboriginal people are prominent in accounts of early colonial Sydney, and in June, Paul Irish discussed his book, *Hidden in Plain View: The Aboriginal people of coastal Sydney*, at Rockdale Library. This excerpt from the book describes the Aboriginal presence along the Georges River, including at Sans Souci.

In November 1900, a reporter from the Evening News caught the tram to Botany and walked the last few kilometres across the sandy scrub to the La Perouse Aboriginal settlement. He spoke with some of the fifty or so people living there in galvanised-iron huts, including the oldest resident, Lizzie Golden (formerly Malone). Lizzie spoke of how she had spent most of her life in the area, and how her people used to range ‘all up and down here and the head of the George’s River’ on their coastal beats. But this way of life, which had been such a stable feature of coastal Sydney Aboriginal life throughout the 19th century, was changing. Many of the stopover points on coastal Sydney beats were being abandoned. People such as Lizzie’s own son Charles Golden (c.1877–1919), who was a preacher for the newly established mission movement, and had married a western Sydney Aboriginal woman, were forging new links beyond the affiliated coastal zone. Sydney was also increasingly becoming home to Aboriginal people who had no previous link to the area. The scale of change was much faster and greater than at any time over the previous century, but there was no clean break with the past; nor were all of the changes forced. As before, the responses of Aboriginal people were informed by existing connections and practices, creating something new from what had come before.

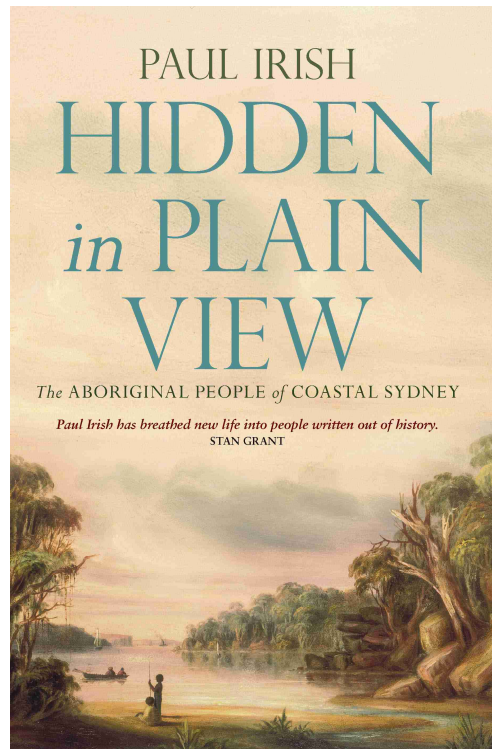
Since the early 1880s, La Perouse had been the main place in coastal Sydney where Aboriginal people could gain the assistance of the Aborigines Protection Board. Over the following decade this

had slowly but steadily enticed Aboriginal people to live there from across coastal Sydney. Most

Aboriginal settlements in the 19th century contained no more than ten or twenty people, but La Perouse rarely housed fewer than thirty or forty residents, and sometimes substantially more. Within a population of just fifty to one hundred across coastal Sydney, this left less and less people to populate other settlements, and by the century’s end most had closed. La Perouse grew at the expense of other coastal Sydney settlements in a time of increasing government and religious intervention, so it can appear to be the result of a deliberate policy of relocation. Historian Maria Nugent describes La Perouse in this period as a place ‘where Aboriginal people

from other metropolitan camps had relocated in the 1880s and 1890s when forced out of the city’, though she also notes that Aboriginal people reject this idea of relocation in their own narratives about the settlement’s origins. In a sense both views capture the complex dynamics at play, as Aboriginal people had limited alternatives but were nonetheless rarely forced to move. To see these processes at work, we need to zoom in and look at what happened to particular settlements in the decades after the Board was established.

In the 1880s and 1890s, Aboriginal settlements outside of La Perouse were increasingly vulnerable because of their small size. The Sans Souci settlement, for example, was virtually abandoned in 1886 after Theresa Fussell drowned while fishing with her European husband William at Kurnell. William could not work and look after their four children. He asked the landlord of the Sans Souci Hotel to look after two of them, and placed five-year-old Henry and three-year-old Lily in the Benevolent Society Asylum, intending that they would be fostered out while he contributed to their maintenance. The newly created foster care (‘boarding out’) system was not specific to Aboriginal children, but it aimed to sever contact



with birth families and establish the new guardians as the 'real parents' in the eyes of the children. If William's longer-term aim was to take back his children, the system worked against him, and his employer Frederick Holt further decreased his chances by informing the authorities that the children had been corrupted by their parents' drinking and should be placed with a 'respectable married couple'. Henry and Lily were soon fostered out to separate families, and it is unlikely that they came to live with each other, or with any Aboriginal people again. William died just a few months later. With only a few people remaining at

the Sans Souci settlement, the Board discontinued its assistance after 1890, which probably discouraged others from living there. An older Aboriginal man, Albert, continued to live at Sans Souci throughout the 1890s, occasionally joined by one or two others, but after his death the settlement fell out of use.

Hidden in Plain View: the Aboriginal people of coastal Sydney (NewSouth, 2017) by Paul Irish can be ordered from NewSouth Books from: www.newsouthbooks.com.au/books/hidden-plain-view/ or by calling (02) 8778 9999.



Aboriginal people at Kurnell in the 1880s. [1]

Exhibitions at The Hurstville Museum and Gallery

The Hurstville Museum and Gallery hosts permanent and temporary exhibits of curated selections of artefacts, photographs and audio and video recordings, concentrated on the history and culture of the St George region. 2 new exhibitions offer personal insights into daily life through the decades.

22 July – 15 October: All Things Great and Small. Objects have stories, but does the message depend on the object's context and the viewer?

Explore a curated selection of items once belonging to locals. Some were part of daily life, others were enjoyed on special occasions. See the great and small in our history, including bicycle lamps, a meat mincer, a manicure set, a boudoir doll, a typewriter. Become immersed in the imaginative tales by the Hurstville Discovery Writers Group and share your own memories of these evocative items.

21 July 6.30pm: Official Opening. Meet the contributors at the unveiling of this new local

history exhibition, with drinks and nibbles provided. RSVP for free entry at www.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au/HMG

Oh my, is it Monday? - Do you remember the good old days, when Mondays were washing days? The washing machine (below) is a Syracuse Easy twin tub model from the 1940s, on display in our collection. One tub was for washing, the other for spinning and draining. The electric motor made laundry less labour intensive.

Share your memory with us!

Visit the exhibition and share your memory of a 'washing day' and peg it on our clothes line. If you can't come to the Museum & Gallery, send in your memory by email or mail to share with visitors.

The Hurstville Museum and Gallery is located at 14 Macmahon St, Hurstville, one block east of Hurstville Central Library. Call (02) 9300-6444, email museumgallery@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au for more information.



Interview with a Local – Graham Ross VMM

Barry Johnson



Graham Ross, a favourite amongst gardeners throughout Australia with his appearances on *Better Homes and Gardens* and his 2GB *Garden Clinic* radio program, has a personal connection with St George. In a recent interview, he reflects on the region and its influence on his life.

Graham, what were your earliest connections with St George?

I was born in Bexley North, living there until I was 21. I studied at Bexley North Primary School and then Kogarah High School.

Did you have an interest in gardening at that early stage in your life?

Definitely. I was experimenting with growing everything from sweet peas to roses. Although other kids didn't seem interested in plants, I wasn't deterred, enjoying 'chores' like mowing the lawn and experimenting with pruning methods.

Were you able to continue gardening in the region after you graduated?

Fortunately yes, I completed a Park Administration,

Horticulture, Green-Keeping and Agronomy course in the 1960s at the Ryde School of Horticulture, now the Northern Sydney Institute on TAFE, giving me an insight into the many disciplines within the broad term 'gardening'.

Genealogy has become very popular recently, with digital archives and genetic testing making research much easier. Have you found any surprising discoveries?

While I developed a fascination with gardening from an early age, it didn't seem to run in the family. During a chat about my favourite topic with my grandmother, she told me about her brother and my great-uncle, Thomas Hay V.C.O., V.M.H (1874-1952). He was the Superintendent of Hyde and St. James's Parks and the gardens at Buckingham and Kensington Palaces and Marlborough House, London, during the reign of King George V and Queen Mary.

His son, my uncle, was Roy Hay M.B.E. V.M.H. (1910-1989), one of Britain's first media gardeners presenting radio shows, editing *Gardener's Chronicle* (now *Horticulture Week*), and authoring gardening guides and dictionaries.



A poster for the home front from the British Ministry of Agriculture. [4]

He was credited with founding the World War 2 “Dig for Victory” campaign for Prime Minister Winston Churchill, encouraging British residents to adapt community allotments, lawns and flower gardens into vegetable patches to supplement food rations. Instructional leaflets were distributed, boosting morale with the therapeutic and practical pleasures of gardening.

When you completed your studies, did you stay in St George?

I worked for a decade as the Head Gardener in the Parks and Gardens department of Rockdale Municipal Council (now Bayside Council). We maintained Scarborough Park, the Bexley North Shopping Centre fountain, Peter Depena Reserve, Kyeemagh Reserve and Rockdale Park. We were proud to be the first NSW Council to introduce the Plant a Tree Week, giving trees to householders in 1962 and adding a green touch to many local streets over the next 5 years.

Were there particular flowers and plants?

We were the first to introduce the native Ivory Curl tree (*Buckinghamia*) into Council parks. Roses are universally loved and we planted thousands during my period with the team. I particularly enjoyed maintaining those colourful planting beds.

After your time with the RMC, what happened next?

I had just married Sandra and we planned to live in Bardwell Park, having loved the area, for the childhood memories, friendly locals and the ideal conditions and occasional challenges for green thumbs, from the sandy soil at Brighton Le Sands,

to the heavy clays of Kingsgrove. But in 1970 I was invited back to Ryde as a teacher, where I could educate the next generation of horticulturists about best practice, particularly the careful use of pesticides on food crops.

Reflecting on your own experience as a teacher and the legacy of your two uncles, it must have been exciting to see a growing interest in the general public for gardening knowledge.

We started with Q&A sessions which quickly expanded into dedicated programs on radio and television, with magazine articles, books and garden tours soon following.

The Chelsea Flower Show, now in its 105th year, sees more and more world class gardens created by Australians and on display to a global audience, including our 2016 tribute to war veterans. The poignant sea of over 300,000 red poppies was viewed by the Royal Family.

In 2011, I was very proud to receive the Veitch Memorial Medal, awarded for outstanding contributions to the advancement of horticulture, from the Royal Horticultural Society, the same society my uncle worked so closely with.

Has St George featured recently in your travels?

On Australia Day in 2015, I returned as the Australia Day Ambassador at Peter Depena Reserve in Dolls Point, speaking at the special citizenship ceremony where the Rockdale Citizen, Young Citizen and Sportsperson of the Year were announced.

Read more about Graham on the Garden Clinic website: www.gardenclinic.com.au



Queen Elizabeth II viewing the red carpet of poppies outside the Royal Hospital in Chelsea. [5]

Timeless Gardening Tips

Barry Johnson

Noted by Graham, gardening remains a popular pastime. Fortunately, there are seasonal tips that endure, including this advice from T. Milner of Arncliffe in July, 1904:

The successful cultivation of most garden and flower seeds requires considerable art and attention (especially in raising the seeds), and their management until well established. It is absolutely necessary where flower seeds are to be sown that the ground should be thoroughly sweet and worked to a good pulverised condition. Great care should be taken that the seeds are not sown too deep; those of small seeds should be only covered slightly with soil, and indeed some will be better (mignonette for instance) if pressed on the loose soil, it being afterwards well pressed with the back of a spade, and kept moderately moist. The larger seeds such as Lupins, Sweet Peas, etc., may be set about one inch deep. Small seeds, like dust, should not be covered at all, but simply pressed on the soil. It is rarely that amateurs make a success of seed sowing, and we have seen, in our travels, where good seeds are lost for want of attention at the right moment. We notice

amateurs sowing choice flower seeds in boxes on shelves under shade trees, and forgetting to water them when germinating, only to find in a few days the seedlings dried off or drawn up with the shade, and spoilt. Seedlings require plenty of light, but they will not stand the blazing sun, high winds or pelting rains. The simplest and best method for success is to make a bed 2 feet wide and as long as required for the number of varieties. If the top inch of the soil is run through a sieve with a medium sized mesh it will be an advantage, then sow the seeds in rows 4 inches apart; water them daily and if needed, shade them from the hot sun during the day time with calico or scrim, and with ordinary attention, success, is assured.

Sow the following vegetable seeds : — peas, broad beans, carrots, lettuce, turnips, radish, leek, parsley, beet, mustard and cress. Put in early potatoes where there is no frost. Plant Jerusalem artichokes. Sow under cover, tomato, capsicum, egg plant and cucumber seed. Zinnia, sunflower, dahlia, mina lobata, coxcomb and amaranthus can be sown outside.[29]



The gardens at Scalabrini Village, an aged care facility on Harrow Rd, Bexley. Built in the 1880s, "Dunvegan" was originally the home of John McLeod, with the stone lions once guarding Sydney Town Hall. [1]

Bayside Library Services' Map Collection – Part 2 of 3 *

Kirsten Broderick, Bayside Council Local History Services Specialist

Maps are useful to show these changes, but sometimes they work best in conjunction with aerial photographs and this is a case in point. The map shows two neat parcels of land marked “Kogarah Golf Links” and “Barton Park”. The aerial photograph below shows that land in 1955. The work on the diversion of the river is complete and the airport almost built. But the photo shows what the map does not: that is, the extent of the environmental devastation wrought on North Brighton. What is marked “Kogarah Golf Links” on the map is just muddy swamp land in the photograph. The next aerial photograph is taken over a decade later, in 1969. The airport runway has been extended into Botany Bay but the park land to the north of Muddy Creek is still recovering. Incidentally, these maps and photos also show why the boundary between the former Rockdale Council and the former Botany Bay Council bisected the airport in such a seemingly arbitrary manner: the boundary between the two councils was the original course of the Cooks River.

Bayside Library also holds some early street directory maps. H.E.C. Robinson Pty Ltd published a *Street directory of Sydney & suburbs* for years. Unlike today's street directories, the Robinson ones divided their maps into Council areas. The two maps below are both Robinson street directory maps of the Municipality of Rockdale, the first one circa 1900, the second one circa 1930. Just a glance at them is enough to demonstrate how much the area grew and changed in during this period, especially along the train line. In fact, in the circa 1900 map there was no station between Rockdale and Arncliffe, the circa 1930 one shows Banksia Railway Station. In 1900 Frederick Street ran right across the railway track; by 1930, the overpass had been built. Both maps show the tram route from Rockdale Station to Brighton-Le-Sands, the second map also shows the route of the short-lived Arncliffe to Bexley tram (it operated between 1909 and 1926). In the earlier map there is a “Cricket Ground and Racecourse” marked on Bay Street, just behind Brighton Hotel



1955 aerial photograph, Bayside Library Photograph Collection.

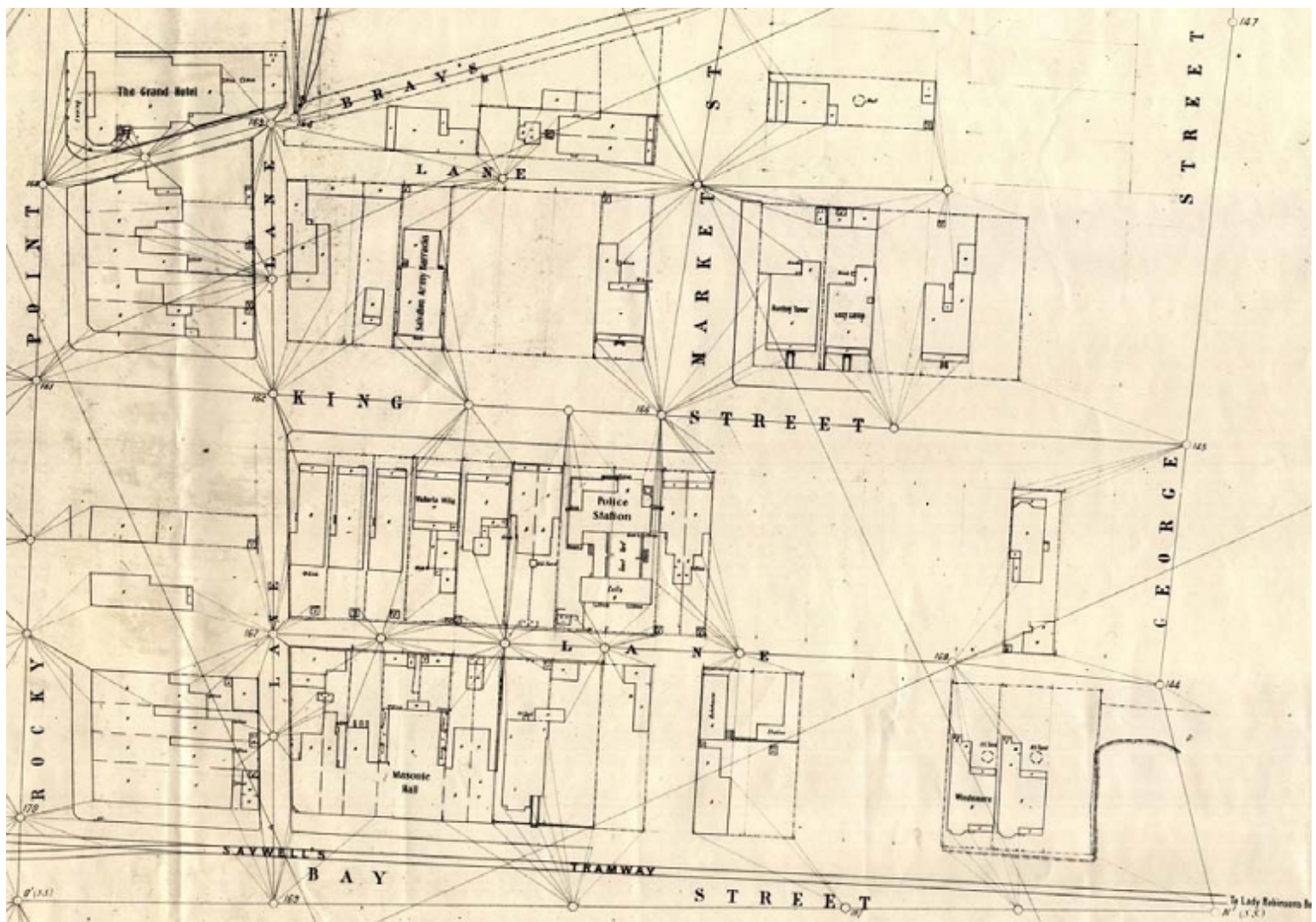


1969 aerial photograph, Bayside Library Photograph Collection.

and baths. These were long gone by 1930. Hopetoun Ward is clearly marked on the first map; by 1930 there would be a Hopetoun Park as well. Just under twenty years later (in 1949), Rockdale Council would amalgamate with the neighbouring Bexley Council and instead of Arncliffe, Hopetoun, Rockdale and Scarborough Wards, the new municipality would be divided into wards one to five. By then Hopetoun Park had been renamed Gardiner Park. There is now nothing in our Council area to remind us of the seventh Earl of Hopetoun, the first governor-general of Australia.

Street maps are very useful for an overview of the area or for tracking changes, particularly street names changes, but they do not show individual lots or houses. Some of the maps in our collection are much more detailed. The Metropolitan Water Sewerage & Drainage Board created plans known as “Detail Sheets” to show sewer mains. As well as containing details of pipes and drainage, they often also show the position of buildings, of transport infrastructure such as rail and tram lines, and sometimes geographic features such as waterways. Bayside Library holds copies of a number of these Detail Sheets. Below is a section of an 1899 plan of Rockdale that shows Rocky Point Road (now the

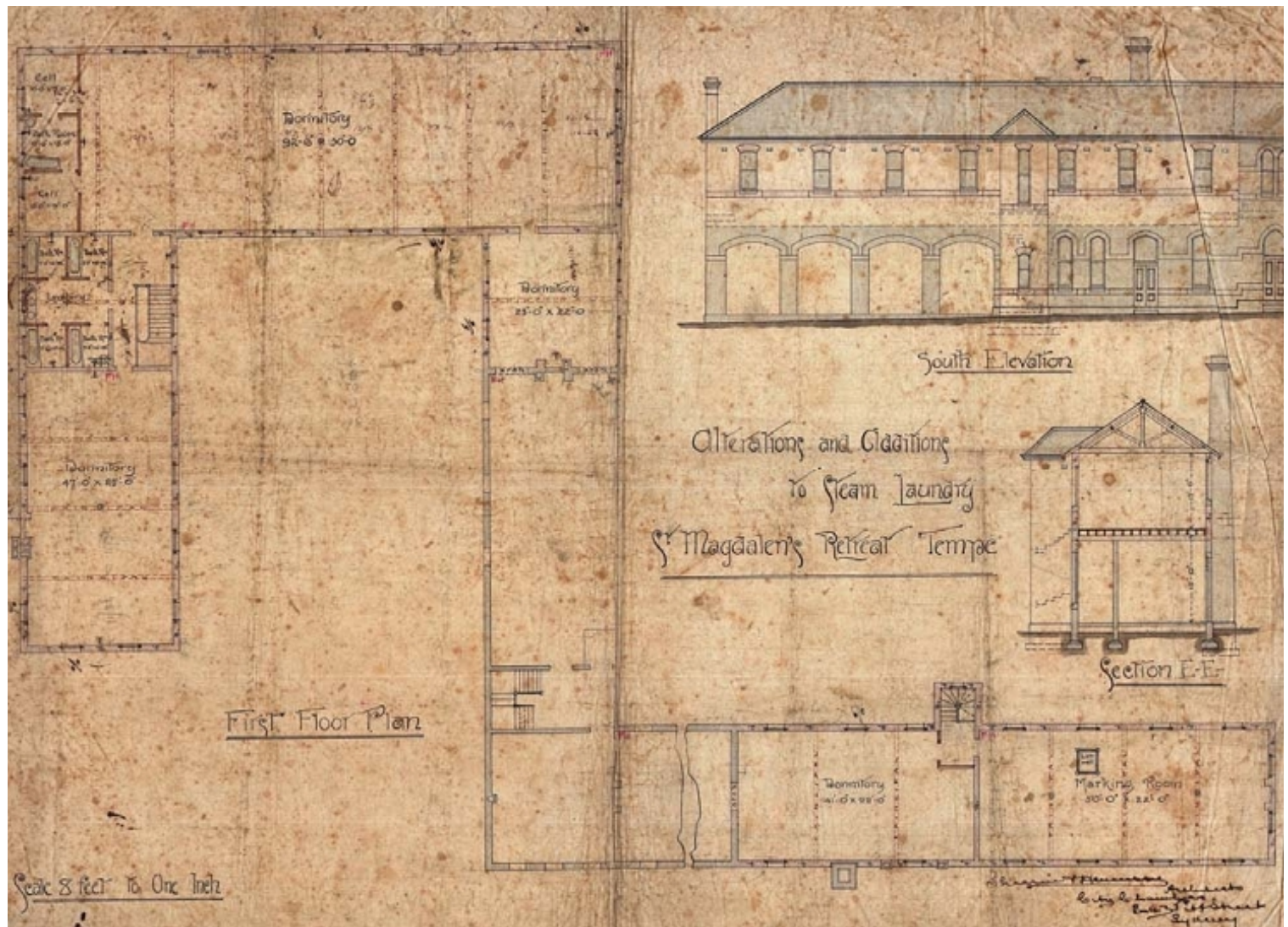
Princes Highway), the Grand Hotel (this would be the original building, not the Art Deco building that now stands on the same site), the location of the Salvation Army Barracks and the Police Station in King Street as well as houses that have been built. Sometimes even house names were recorded on these Detail Sheets. On this plan you can see houses named “Hunting Tower” and “Cozy Camp” on King Street and “Windemere” on Bay Street. Also shown on Bay Street is the Masonic Hall and the route of Saywell’s Tramway. These plans are often used by people wanting to find a date for when their house was built.



Detail from: N.S.W. Dept. of Public Works, Sewerage Construction Branch. *Rockdale Sheet No. 50*. Sydney: N.S.W.: Sewerage Construction Branch, 1899.

People seeking more detail often really need architectural plans. While the library holds many maps, it holds almost no architectural plans. However, it does hold some of interest, for example, plans drawn up by Sheerin & Hennessy Architects in 1893. These plans were donated to the

library by the Office of Environment & Heritage; the plans had been given to them by members of the Stuart family. Stuart Bros Builders were the Sydney building firm that worked under the direction of Sheerin & Hennessy Architects to build additions to Tempe House.



Sheerin & Hennessy Architects. *Alterations and additions to steam laundry, St Magdalene's Retreat Tempe*. Sydney, N.S.W. 1893.

After the Sisters of the Good Samaritan purchased Tempe House in 1884, they turned the home originally built by Alexander Brodie Spark into a convent. Tempe House was renamed St Magdalene's Refuge (although it was often referred to as 'St Magdalene's Retreat') and the sisters accepted unmarried mothers and "fallen women" into their care. Accommodation was built for these women as well as a massive laundry where they could work. It is the plans for the accommodation and laundry that were given to the library.

An article published in *The Australian Star* newspaper (5 April 1894) described the completion of the "The Tempe Refuge" and relates how:

The inmates of the refuge do laundry work on a gigantic scale, and a visit to the place

will reveal mechanical appliances at work that are the latest departures in the art of ironing collars and shirts and so forth ... The inmates, who were attired in neat dresses, were seen at work in charge of the Sisters. The total number of inmates is 75, consisting of women of all ages.

There is a great deal of information available about Tempe House and its history; but it is much harder to find the stories of the women who found themselves working in its laundry. An article in the *Catholic Press* (20 June 1896) describes that laundry as:

A vast apartment fitted with troughs, 22 in all, each provided with taps for hot and

cold water, where the clothes are washed by hand; boilers in which they are boiled by steam; apparatus for rinsing and blueing; and wringers working by machinery. ... From the second drying room [where clothes were hung to dry in wet weather] a door opens into an ironing room. ... The next room, a very large one, is the mangling and folding room. ... Further on, however, one of the larger rooms is fitted up for hand-ironing, in which a large number of children are engaged. The irons are heated in an adjoining room, which is provided with two great stoves constructed for the purpose, and heated by a furnace which is fed with fuel from a shed outside,

where one of the penitents is stationed.

The article stresses that the “penitents” are there voluntarily and are free to leave. It goes on to say:

Contentment is the general rule, and the Sisters describe their charges as so “good” that there is little trouble in looking after them. They are now 80 in number, and eight nuns are sufficient for the management of the institution. A nun remains in charge of each room in which the work is being done, and in cells adjoining the dormitories, and commanding a view of them through windows in the partition walls.

These cells can be clearly seen on the plan held by Bayside Library:



Detail from Architectural Plan drawing: Sheerin & Hennessy Architects. *Alterations and additions to steam laundry, St Magdalen's Retreat Tempe*. Sydney, N.S.W. 1893.

The library also holds a photograph of the laundry. With the plans, the photo and the newspaper articles all available, it is a great shame not to have a first-hand account of one of the women actually working in the “gigantic” laundry.

Read part 3 – homes, subdivision plans and planning scheme maps – in our next edition.

Exhibition: We Are Here

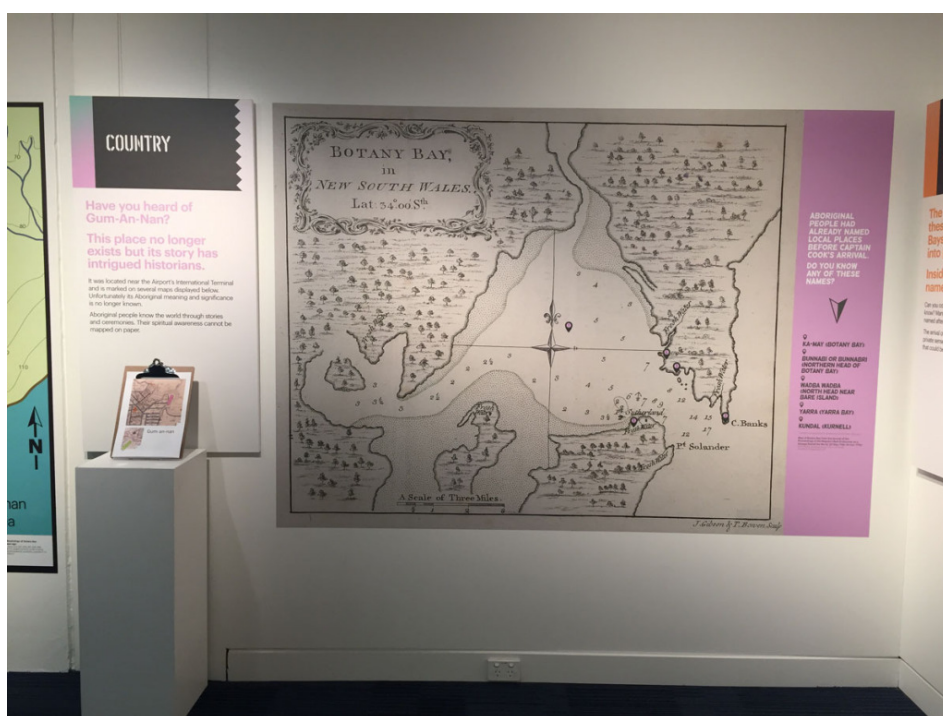
Kirsten's article highlights the power of maps to explain our past, using some of the unique in Bayside Council's map collection.

In a new exhibition, study some of our other historic maps, specially enlarged to reveal the tiniest details, including pre-road walking tracks and dugouts believed to be built during WWII. See Botany Bay when it was dry land mass criss-crossed by rivers. Ponder the shelved plan to move

Sydney Airport to Towra Point in the Sutherland Shire.

Interaction is encouraged, with sticky notes allowing you to leave a personal memory or insight on a special place.

Curators will lead guided tours during the exhibition at Mascot Library & George Hanna Memorial Museum, 2 Hatfield St, Mascot, closing on 25 November, 2017.



Rocky Point Hotel – A Lucrative Investment

Barry Johnson

In February, 1860, a local landmark was available for purchase:

BY ORDER OF THE MORTGAGEE.

THE ROCKY POINT HOTEL,

Now licensed and in full trade, together with 18 ACRES OF LAND, more or less. Also, A SNUG FARM AND HOMESTEAD, adjoining, of about 9 acres, more or less.

Title, unquestionable; for particulars apply to JAMES HART, Esq., solicitor. Elizabeth-street. Terms, at sale.

Mort and Co. have been instructed by the mortgagee to sell by public auction, at the rooms, Pitt-street, at 11 o'clock, on WEDNESDAY, 15th February.

A snug property consisting of 27 ACRES, more or less, in the parish of St. George, on the ROCKY POINT ROAD, and upon which are the following improvements:-

That snug country road-side inn, the ROCKY POINT HOTEL, now licensed and in full trade, and doing a very good business.

THE HOUSE is a hardwood building, with weather-board front, brick chimneys and shingled roof, containing front verandah, bar, two parlours, spirit and wine stores, three good bedrooms, and kitchen. There is a detached range of wooden buildings, consisting of six-stall stable, one of which is fitted with milk-bail, and a fowl-house; also, other out-offices.

Attached to the hotel are 18 ACRES of land, at the JUNCTION OF THE ROCKY POINT AND KUGGERAH* ROADS, with a large road frontage, and extending back to, and having a similar FRONTAGE TO PATRICK MOORE'S WHARF.

The land is enclosed with a three-rail fence along the road, and a two-rail fence on the side boundaries leading down to the swamp and there is a quantity of fencing stuff on the ground. About six

acres have been cleared, part of which is now under cultivation. There is also a small VINEYARD IN FULL BEARING.

ALSO a remarkably SNUG LITTLE FARM, of about nine acres, adjoining the above. It is enclosed, the road frontage with a three-rail fence, and the other sides with a two-rail fence. About two acres are now under market garden produce, and there is a comfortable little cottage upon it, also, a well of good water.

To be sold in one or two lots, to suit the convenience of purchasers.

This snug property is distant about eight miles from Sydney, and about four miles beyond the Cook's River Dam. It adjoins that WELL-KNOWN PROPERTY, PAT MOORE'S FARM, immediately at the junction of the Rocky Point and Kuggerah Bay Roads, and consists of some of the very best land in the parish.

Apart altogether from the profits of the public-house, which are considerable, any industrious family who might be disinclined for that line of business would here find a comfortable homestead and all the means of a LUCRATIVE INVESTMENT, combined with the healthful pursuits of a country life. The land is good, the access to Sydney markets easy and quick, so that the cultivation of green crops, fruit, and vegetables, in connection with dairy produce, would yield a most profitable return.

The above are now in the market for positive sale.

PLAN on view at the Rooms, where every information can be obtained. [6]

In May 1860, Thomas Pendergast was granted a publican's license for the hotel [7] and in September 1862, the hotel was sold for £450 [8].

* Kuggerah - when the railway was established in the region in the 1890s, the current name, Kogarah, was used.

Anniversaries - August

Barry Johnson

2 August 1961

John Braidwood Dooley passes away in Kogarah. Born in 1884, Dooley sheared sheep and mined for gold in country NSW in his youth, and at 20, became a union organiser, arbitrating for protected wage rates and working conditions. For the next two decades, he rose through the Labor movement, serving in a variety of union roles, including two years as the President of the Railway Workers' Industry branch. He remained a labourer after an aborted business venture, before becoming a Senator for NSW, preselected by the Australian Workers' Union.

He served in the Federal Government for seven years during the Depression of the 1930s. During his term, he lobbied for the redistribution of wealth, believing this would lead to an increase in the minimum wage and fund new employment, fearing that "distress amongst the poor breeds communism and social disorder".

During his period as a senator, he stated "I have given a life of service to those with and for whom I have laboured, realising by practical experience what it all means to endeavour to lighten the burdens of those who toil".

He supported trade protectionism and increased investment in non-profit public works. He lived modestly at 78 Arcadia Street, Penshurst, rejecting calls to increase parliamentarian's salaries. He was survived by six daughters and two sons. [9]

26 August 1963

Elizabeth Matthias passed away in Peakhurst on this day. Born in 1882, Matthias and her father settled in New York when she was 13, after her mother died. Her teenage years were influenced by



John Dooley's parliamentary photograph (National Library of Australia - nla.pic-vn4764557)

her uncle, a successful merchant. He was selected by the president of the United States to serve as foreman of an investigation of the infamous prison, Sing Sing. He also provided substantial funding for the probe.

After graduating high school, Matthias returned to Sydney, becoming involved in socialist groups, before joining the Industrial Workers of the World to raise funds to support the families of men imprisoned under the War Precautions Act. In response to World War I, the powers of the Australian Government

were broadened as "enemy aliens", particularly residents with German or Hungarian heritage, were scrutinised, and activities which may hamper the war effort were restricted. This included censorship, influencing the conscription debate, as protesters, including John Curtin, the eventual Prime Minister during World War II, were arrested. In speeches and writings, including as editor of *Solidarity*, a newspaper published by the Industrial Labor Party, she roused women toward socialist ideals, leading protests against conscription and capitalism, which she saw as the "cause of poverty and misery in society".

After the war, she protested in worker strikes as a delegate in the Australian Labor Party. With WWII eminent, she aided European refugees and supported the destitute in hostels and hospitals, becoming a familiar figure in Bankstown.

At age 77, she received the British order of chivalry, the M.B.E., for her contribution to improve the welfare of the poor, particularly women.

The Bankstown Women's Health Centre on Jacobs St was named Betsy Women's Refuge in her honour. [10]

16 August 1983

Philip Leslie Geeves passed away in Kogarah on this day. Born in Bexley in 1917, Geeves quickly showed an aptitude for languages, especially German. After completing high school, he became a radio announcer until the outbreak of World War II, enlisting in the Australian Army Reserve. He was deployed to the Middle East and New Guinea as a technical intelligence officer before returning to Australia to assist with the construction of the a long-range weapons range at Woomera, South Australia. After the war, he studied in the U.S. Army's School of Military Government, leaving with a fixation for historical study, inspired by the popularity of the subject in America. In Australia, he returned to radio as a program director, collaborating with local business and the Foreign Affairs Department to create foreign language programs for the post-war influx of European migrants.

Guided by a former high school teacher, he

authored a series of local history titles, including *Rockdale : its beginning and development*, *Philip Geeves' Sydney*, *A place of pioneers: The centenary history of the municipality of Ryde*, *Local history in Australia: a guide for beginners* and *The dawn of Australia's radio broadcasting*.

He was Rockdale Council's historian and a member of the St George Historical Society Inc., advocating for our local history with his wife, Leona. He wrote over 100 scripts for ABC radio and television programs and produced daily radio segments about 'Moments in History' and Sydney's history, receiving the Medal of the Order of Australia in 1980 after becoming a fellow of the Royal Australian Historical Society.

He was a grandson of Yeoman Geeves, the first postmaster of Rockdale. [11]

Selected titles written by Phillip Geeves are available in the local history section of Rockdale Library.



Philip Geeves on-air as a radio announcer at 2CH in 1936 (State Library of New South Wales - 35814)

Our War, Our Words – Summer 1917

Barry Johnson

James George Hughes was a brass finisher living in Harris St, Sans Souci with his mother when he enlisted in the First Australian Imperial Force in 1915. He received the Distinguished Service Medal in 1917 after the battle to liberate the German-held town of Bapaume in northern France. His citation reads: "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Although wounded, he took command of his platoon and handled it with marked skill. He set a fine example to his men. He was again wounded."

Upon receiving the award, he writes home in a letter published in *The St George Call*, mentioning his brother, Cec (Cecil Hughes), a railway worker also serving in the A.I.F.:

At present I am in England, having a good time. Another chap and myself were sent over from France to receive our D.C.M., with which we were invested yesterday (3/6/'17) by the King.

My word it was a memorable day to me. Never saw so many people in my life.

Was sorry I could not get Cec down, as I did not know in time. At present I have ten days leave of absence, and am thinking of going to Scotland tomorrow.

Will send the medal home in a few weeks, I want to take it to France to show my pals. This is the first time this has been done in public, so you can see it was a great day. Was only back with the Battalion a week when I got word of it.

Am going up to see Cec to-morrow morning if possible. Have been out to the hospitals to-day looking up, some of the wounded lads. Saw Wally Jarvis yesterday. He has not been to France yet. Tell mother not to worry about me at all. [12]

In 1918, his brother was seriously wounded. They both served for over 3 years, and were invalided home at the end of the war.

Leslie Moncrief Crawley, 22, was a clerk living with his parents in Victoria St, Kogarah when he enlisted in 1915. He fought on the Western Front, writing from France in 1917. He mentions Clive Stanley Hohnen, a sheet metal worker from Frederick Street, Rockdale, severely injured

months before, and John Harvey Dunkin, a telephonist of Gray St, Carlton, wounded during a mustard gas attack in France, 1918.

We left Egypt on the 17th June, and had a nice six days' trip in the boat. It was a very uneventful voyage. We were rather crowded and did no work at all. We had to wear life belts the whole of the time, in case some submarines tried to give us a bath. We had lifeboat drill every day.

We landed at Marseilles about 3.30 p.m. on Friday afternoon, and went into camp there for the night. We entrained about eleven o'clock on Saturday morning and travelled day and night till midday on Monday, and are now in sight of the English Channel, but are still over 100 miles away from the firing line, though at night we sometimes hear the sound of the big guns being fired. We will not be here long as this is only a rest camp for forces when we arrive in France.

The train trip was a never-to-be-for-gotten sight. After being used to nothing but sand for so many months, and to arrive here and see the beautiful green fields and mountains, and houses with their pretty gardens, was like waking from a long sleep.

All through the south we were passing vineyards and wheat fields. The grass is up to the knees of the stock and is full of red poppies and other wild flowers. There are not many horses about, but the cattle are the best I have ever seen. We passed several old places that had fallen to ruins.

The daylight lasts until after nine o'clock so we had plenty of opportunity to see everything. One of the prettiest pieces of scenery was some we saw the first evening. We were passing along through heavily timbered country and every now and then we came to the river Rhone - a beautiful broad stream. Rising up from the stream was a range of mountains behind which the sun was setting in a bank of clouds. On a mountain spur there was a statue, and below this was a very large residence with avenues leading up to it. On the river there was a string of barges, and a little further

on was a suspension bridge. The roads are all white, and they look well amongst the green country.

On the farms hay cutting is in progress, most of the work being done by old men and women. We used to stop for about an hour, three times a day, to have our meals. The people made a great fuss of us, and we used to have a great time trying to understand each other. A lot of them know a lot of English.

We used to have a crush at night, but some slept in the corridor and another chap and I were between the seats on the floor, and the rest on the seats. After being used to the hot dry weather for so long, we find it rather cold here, especially as it is raining.

We did not get to Paris, but went round it on Sunday night sometime. On Monday, it rained nearly all day. We reached our destination in the afternoon, and just after we got off the train, there was a very heavy shower. We went to a big shed and had our

tea. We left there about eight and marched out to our camp. We had to march through the town to reach the camp and we arrived there about 9.30 p.m. There was plenty of mud and water on the ground.

We were put into tents as soon as we reached there. All the tents here have floors in them, which enabled us to keep dry. We had a drink of tea and then got into bed to have a comfortable sleep again, as we had not had our clothes off for three days.

There are a lot of English soldiers here who have just come over. This is a very pretty place that we are in now. There is a good Y.M.C.A. and canteen here, and commodities are very cheap too. I learnt the value of the French money quicker than the Egyptian.

John Dunkin is with us now. I have also seen Clive Hohnen the night before we left Egypt. [13]

He returned home at the end of the war.



Eleven members of the 20th Battalion, stationed in the same tent in Heliopolis, northeastern Cairo, Egypt. From left to right in the back row, Clive Stanley Hohnen is third and George Alexander Aldworth, of Rockdale, is seventh. From left to right in the front row, Leslie Moncrief Crawley is first and Aubrey Clare Chandler, of Kogarah, is fourth. Both Pte Aldworth and Pte Chandler died 6 months after this photograph was taken in January, 1916. (Australian War Memorial - P08607.001)

For King and Country – April 1917

Barry Johnson

During World War I, 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 July and August, 1917 were:

A - Private Frier Douglas Duncan, son of William Thriepland Duncan and Caroline Isabella Frier Duncan, was a salesman, born in Kogarah Bay and living in Carlton Park when he enlisted at age 20. 18 months later, on 3rd December, 1916, he was manning a Lewis machine gun while drafted into the 56th Battalion. He was killed in the Somme Valley in France during the Battle of Flers. Upon hearing of his passing, Nellie Ladd, a friend in Kogarah, wrote "When the Roll is called up yonder, I'll be there." [14]

B - Sapper Jack Walker, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Walker, was an engineer living in 'Cosy Camp' on Rocky Point Rd, Sans Souci when he enlisted with the 4th Field Company of Engineers. At the time

his photograph was published, he was convalescing in England. [15]

C - Corporal George Norman Olds, M. M., son of Alderman G. G. Olds, of Rockdale served in the 20th Battalion. Leaving Sydney in June, 1915, he fought at Gallipoli in the Charge at Mouquet Farm. He led his platoon into action in the last charge at Pozieres, France, where he was wounded. He was recommended for the Military Medal for conspicuous bravery. His citation reads: "Wounded prior to the battle, he continued to carry out his duties and took part in the attack. He organised a number of men and took them to the front line, also making several trips to retrieve bombs and water, all while under an intense artillery barrage fire. Lance Corporal Olds displayed the greatest gallantry and devotion to duty." [16]

He was killed on 27th, March, 1917 at Lagnicourt in Bullecourt, a village in France, fortified and heavily defended by the German army. A group portrait of other local members of the 20th Battalion appears on the previous page.



In the Courts

Barry Johnson

While the language and the currency differed, the "thin blue line" is regularly tested, as crimes, often petty, are prosecuted in the St George Police Court and colourfully reported in *The St George Call*. During the first third quarter of 1917, Lady Justice dealt with these local cases [17-22]:

- For travelling on a season ticket that had been issued to her mother, Miss D. Belcher was fined £1 and 17/- costs. The offence occurred on the Sans Souci tram.
- John Somerville was charged with having crossed the railway line. Fined £1 and 6/- costs.
- Hurstville Council proceeded against Robert C. Gardiner for selling milk which was adulterated. The analysis showed a deficiency equivalent to 7.8 added water. Fined £5, with 79/- costs.
- Roy Breedon, 28, was charged with using indecent language at Hurstville Station. Fined £3- or 2 months.
- George McNamara and Harold Sparks were each charged with stealing a pair of clippers from Hairdresser Houghton, of Carlton. The result was a fine of £5 each, and in reply to a request for time to pay the Bench replied that it was better for him to have given "time" than "time to pay."
- C. D. Edmondson, Butcher, of Railway Parade, Kogarah, was the informant in a case against J. A. Saunders, of Kogarah, for the alleged theft of 11.5 lbs. of weather-beaten sausages, valued at 1/- (nice sausages).
Const. Langworthy gave evidence of arresting accused, with the cargo aboard. Edmondson deposed to the ownership, and denied any authority given to accused to remove them. They were put away for a poultry grower.
Harold Alpine Jones, the Busy Butcher's Business Manager, gave his version of the story, and after Saunders had stated that he had taken the stuff as he had previously done (thinking it useless), the Magistrate adjourned the case for a week.
- Joseph Sylva, a milk carter, was charged with mixing his master's money with his own. The

master was Stanley Francis Cooper, in business at Brighton, and the amount of the deficit ran over £9. Defendant, who conducted his own case, reserved his defence, and was committed for trial.

- W. A. Hannon, residing at Short-Street, Carlton, was called upon to answer several charges relating to the possession of sundry tools, cocoa, tea, corned beef, candles, matches - in fact the court-room was transformed into a miniature ole clo' shop.
After Const. Harrowsmith had given his evidence in two of the cases, the accused elected to go before a jury, and was committed for trial.
- Three young men from the Sans Souci district - one Haggleton, and a pair of Quinces - were charged with being concerned in the temporary borrowing of a rug from a motor car that was standing outside the Sea Breeze Hotel, Tom Ugly's Point. From the evidence it appeared that the rug was taken from the car while the occupants were having afternoon tea. When the loss was discovered the car chased the sulky and picked it up at Blakehurst, with the rug underfoot.
Mr. Chas. Westbrook, Junr., witnessed the departure of the rug, and was responsible for the appearance of Const. Kincead, who took the matter up.
One of the Quinces owned up to taking the rug, but the others denied any knowledge thereof.
The result was that Sydney Quince passes into His Majesty's possession for a moon. The other two sparkle a fiver each.
- Arthur Ward had a charge against Alfred Foster and J. W. Leatham for alleged assault and robbery. The alleged offence was apparently groundless, as the magistrate dismissed the case.
On the other hand, Foster and Leatham proceeded against Ward for assault. All parties were local residents, and had a little argument in the back yard of the "Blue," at Hurstville. In two consecutive blows Ward accounted for his adversaries, and this slight occurrence brought fines and costs against Ward to £5/15/0.

A Night At The Pictures

Barry Johnson

Our cinemas in Beverley Hills and Hurstville feature films from around the world, using technology to create a 3D experience. A century ago, moviegoers enjoyed the silent silver screen, with black-and-white films shipped from Hollywood to Derby St in Kogarah.

Highlights of the cinema in July 1917 [23]:

Pots and Pans Pegg - Starring Gladys Hukitte in the title role as a lady-help in a series of adventures. Tormented by the son of the house, a debauched man about town, she is also wary of his father, a scheming millionaire, infatuated and planning to sell State secrets to a foreign enemy. Peggie outwits the dastardly plans while playing matchmaker for the daughter of the house and a very ineligible young man.

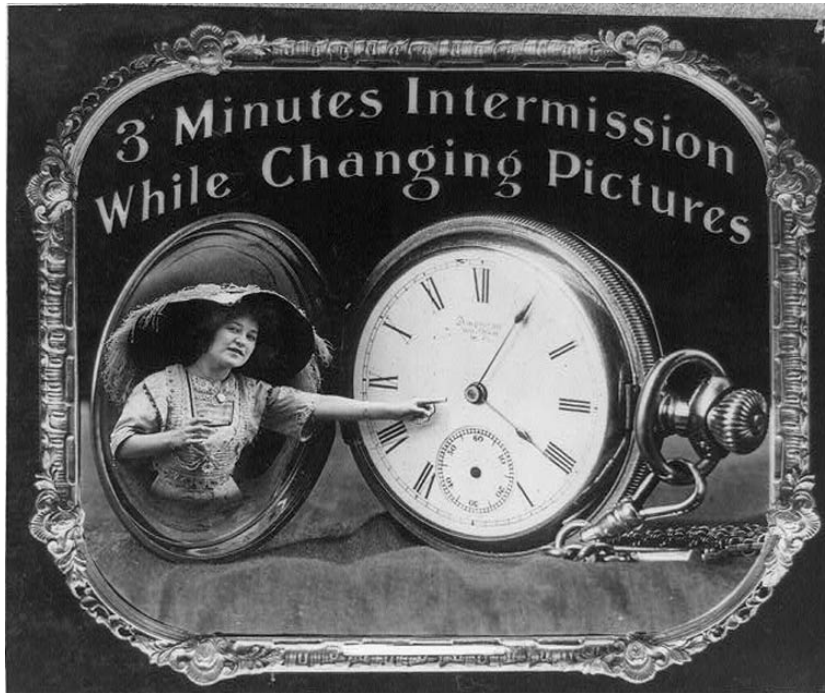
Nanette of the Wilds - *Variety*, the entertainment

industry magazine, was scathing of this 50-minute "exceedingly cheap, unadulterated melodrama" in a review - "the picture is a bad baby, which even Miss. Frederick, playing the daughter of a bootlegger, cannot rescue." Her co-star and soon-to-be husband, Willard Mack, was a Canadian Mountie pursuing the villain as he smuggles whisky from America into Canadian lumber camps. A double murder mystery is "thrown in for good measure as Mr. Mack overacts with unimpressive close-ups". Regrettably, the film has been lost.

Apartment 29 – opening with Bobby David, a playwright, determined to change the opinion of a critic, Stanley Ormsby, after his new play is panned as implausible. Bobby places an apparently dead couple in apartment 29, luring Stanley to the scene as the police arrive. Bobby conveniently offers to hide Stanley at an actress's home but she confesses to the murders, implicating the critic. As the police

arrest Stanley, Bobby reveals the elaborate ruse, impressing the critic as he rewrites his review of the implausible.

The Shielding Shadow - The 3rd of a 15-chapter serial featuring an acrobatic heroine on a series of adventures, aided by the Shadow, one of film's earliest superheroes, as they battled foes including a giant octopus. When the Shadow wore his cloak of invisibility, only his burning eyes, hypnotising the unwary, hinted at his mysterious presence.



Sweetheart of the Doomed - Louise Glaum, one of the silent screen's most popular sirens, plays Honore Zonlay, a femme fatale, jaded after a romantic betrayal in her youth. Seeking revenge, she seduces her betrayer's uncle, Gabriel Durand, an army general, with plans to break his heart. During their engagement, she meets another officer, Paul

Montaigne, genuinely falling in love. Paul accepts her indiscretions but as they plan to elope, the general discovers the truth, ordering Paul into a deadly wartime mission. When Honore discovers Paul's fate, she rushes to her mortally wounded fiancé, praying after arranging for a chaplain to marry them before he dies. Miraculously, he survives and they "live happily ever after".

Her Fame and Shame - Produced by Keystone Studios, this slapstick comedy features pratfalls and a chaotic plot. In a greasy diner, a band of travelling entertainers try to eat and run. In response, the unhappy waitress doesn't demand payment, instead quitting, raiding the cash register and paying to join them. Her furious father chases them to their circus tent, determined to return with his daughter and his cash. This 25-minute amusement still exists, available at www.amazon.com

Recipes from the Past

Barry Johnson

While the most delicious recipes can be closely guarded family secrets, occasionally, local recipes are revealed to a hungry audience. For your next culinary adventure, why not try a taste from the past?

Meat Extender - January 1944

Stuffed Meat:

Stewing steak or boned mutton shoulder, 1 3/4 lb.
Root vegetables, 3/4 lb.
Onions, 4.
Dripping, 1 tablespoon.

Stuffing:

Soaked, stale bread, 6 oz.
Parsley, chopped, 2 tablespoons.
Onion, grated, 1 tablespoon.
Mixed herbs, 1 tablespoon.
Dripping, 1 tablespoon.
Salt, 1 teaspoon.
Pepper, shake.

Method:

Squeeze out all the water from the soaked bread, combine with other ingredients.
Beat the meat with a rolling pin, spread over the stuffing, roll up and tie with a string.
Meat and dripping in a saucepan, and fry the meat till brown.
Add the vegetables cut into medium-sized pieces, and the onions.
Fry for a few minutes. Add stock of water to just cover and simmer for two hours.
Serve two thirds with vegetables and gravy made from the thickened liquid.
Serve with mashed potatoes and a salad of raw shredded cabbage and beetroot. [24]

Tomato Jam - March 1940

Wash and stem the fruit, place in cooking vessel, crush sufficient of the fruit to start boiling, and reduce the whole to pulp by boiling for half to three-quarters of an hour. Strain all the pulp through a 1/4-inch mesh sieve, and weigh. Add 3/4 lb. sugar for each lb. of pulp, and bring to the boil. The cooking time cannot be stated definitely, there being many influencing factors. Fast boiling for approximately an hour to an hour and a quarter will

produce the desired consistency.

As tomato jam made to this recipe is inclined to be insipid, the addition of a little acid in the form of citric or tartaric or pineapple, etc., is a decided improvement. The addition of acid should be done when the jam is about half cooked, and at the rate of 1 oz. to 25 lb. of pulp. Lemon juice may be substituted for tartaric, and if it is desired to use the whole lemons, they should be cut up into very thin slices and boiled for half an hour before being added to the jam. Apple pectin added to tomato jam has proved a decided success, supplying bulk, combination and acid in one. [25]

Caramel Marshmallow Crunch - March 1956

Base:

4 Weet Bix (or similar breakfast biscuits).
3 oz. brown sugar.
4 oz. (1 cup) self-raising flour.
1/2 level teaspoon salt.
1 cup coconut.
4 oz. Copha shortening.

Method:

Crush Weet Bix finely and place in a basin with sugar, sifted flour and salt and coconut. Mix well. Add melted Copha (it should be warm, not hot), and mix through evenly.
Press into a greased sandwich tin (7in square or 8in round).
Bake in a moderate oven 20 minutes.
Stand tin till mixture is quite cold.
Top with marshmallow and ice with thin chocolate icing if required.
Once set, cut into squares or finger lengths.

Marshmallow:

6 oz. (3/4 cup) sugar.
1 level tablespoon gelatine.
3/4 cup water.
1/2 teaspoon vanilla.
Pink colouring.

Method:

Combine sugar and gelatine in saucepan. Mix in water and stir till boiling. Simmer 3 min. Cool, then add vanilla essence and beat till thick and fluffy.
Colour pale pink if desired. [26]

St George Satire

Barry Johnson

The editorial cartoon, a satirical response to community issues, has existed since the early 18th century. These early examples from 1907 are surprisingly familiar, resembling the present-day artistic styles and highlighting enduring concerns.

The Croydon Rd Controversy (right)

Parson - "My good fellow, why the need for such language?"

Bullocky - "Look here guvnor, when I'm on the Bexley side of this ere bloomin' Croydon-road it's o'right, but when a cove gets on the Hurstville stretch it's enough to make a poor man weep. Blame the Council wot borrered the repairin' money for Stoney Creek road — don't blame me." [27]

Frustrated residents petitioned council aldermen about the state of roads in Bexley. The onus to install water and sewerage pipes and remove tree stumps from roads was inconsistently enforced between land speculators, subdividing the suburb, and the council.



Showery St. George (right)

Miss Light - "Lovely locality this St. George district."

Miss Dark - "Yes, mud and slush everywhere; I see they intend to grow potatoes in the Hurstville Streets, cabbages and wheat in Kogarah, and turn Rockdale into a second Venice. Nice place indeed." [28]

As St George contained highly productive agricultural land, the impulse to till the soil was encroaching on business centres. Regent St, Kogarah, once a "fine thoroughfare, appeared to be open to farmer aldermen". A council motion led to ballasting (adding gravel along the verges) of those streets, deterring "the vegetable tribe waving their green heads as they sowed wheat and corn."



How to Study History for Free

Barry Johnson

Before you take the plunge into a formal course at TAFE or university, there are free, online options to aid the local historian or genealogist. These self-paced courses are freely available for history hobbyists.

Indigenous Studies: Australia and New Zealand

4 video lessons with accompanying text and quizzes exploring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Maori history, society, culture, language and demography.

The course opens with the arrival and settlement of both Maori and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The second module begins with European discovery, colonisation and the formation of Colonial Governments.

The third module examines the impacts of colonisation from the mid-1800s until the late 20th century.

Finally, a contemporary overview of the dominant cultures of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Maori peoples is provided.

Sign up at: www.open2study.com/node/2181

Genealogy: Researching Your Family Tree

Discovering our ancestors is often the beginning of a love for history, captured in the popular television show, *Who Do You Think You Are?*, featuring celebrity guests following clues to reveal the stories of their ancestors.

In this course hosted by Glasgow's University of Strathclyde, you'll develop an understanding of basic genealogy techniques and how to communicate your family history. Effectively find and analyse sources and explore the potential of DNA testing. Add broader context to your family history and record and communicate your research to friends and family.

The course duration is 6 weeks, with 4 hours per week.

Sign up at:

www.futurelearn.com/courses/genealogy

Archaeology: from Dig to Lab and Beyond

This introduction to archaeology examines the exciting discoveries in England's Vale of Pewsey, near Stonehenge and Avebury.

Take a guided online tour of the Vale, a relatively untouched site compared to its famous neighbour, Stonehenge.

You'll investigate how and where to dig, collect, record and store precious finds and take a closer look at what you can learn from a discovery once you've found it.

One of the most intriguing finds is a burial site and you'll examine the archaeological methods employed in the study of the dead. Learn how to interpret skeletal remains to reveal the individual's life, health and occupation.

The course duration is 2 weeks, with 3 hours per week.

Sign up at:

www.futurelearn.com/courses/archaeology

Big History

Journey through nearly 14 billion years of history in 5 modules, spanning six hours of study, designed for high school students.

The course begins with the universe, started with a burst of energy. As it developed over billions of years, stars were born and new complexities emerged, setting the stage for radical change.

Continue into our solar system, with the birth and death of stars leaving an aftermath of matter, gas, and clouds of dust. Through gravity, accretion, and random collisions, new complex forms of matter grow to become galaxies, the Earth, and living organisms.

Next is the diversity of life on Earth. From the mysteries of its emergence to its survival as change leads to species extinction, including many of the dinosaurs.

Module 4 focuses on humans. Our knack for gathering, preserving, and sharing information, using these skills to create entirely new forms of complexity and make us the most powerful force of change on the planet.

The final module asks what 13.8 billion years of history can tell us. How does knowing so much about the past influence how we think about the future?

Sign up at: www.bighistoryproject.com/home

Book Extract – Patricia Carlon's *Crime of Silence*

Patricia Carlon, the 'cat woman of Bexley', was a popular crime thriller author during the 1960s, particularly successful in Britain. The fast pace of her murder mysteries, inspired by a childhood love of Agatha Christie's Miss Marple, led this local author to write 14 novels which found a new audience in the 1990s in Australia and the United States during a new publishing run.

Crime of Silence begins with the kidnap of George and Annie Winton's daughter. After paying the ransom and avoiding police involvement, they hoped to forget the episode. One year later, Evan Kiley, a journalist, confronts George, blaming him for allowing the kidnappers to repeat their crime, taking Evan's son. Guilt ridden, he joins Kiley to pursue the criminals and rescue a new child.

An extract of the book, available at Sans Souci Library and from Soho Publishers, was published in the *Australian Women's Weekly* in 1966.

--

Winton said, "Kiley? I don't remember . . ." then as the staccato speech cut across his own words he broke in himself. "The 'Galaxy'? I don't give interviews to the Press."

The staccato speech was louder. He listened for a moment, then said, "I don't discuss my daughter with anyone. I've nothing . . ."

The other voice drowned his, in anger this time, and in pleading. "I guess you can come on out," and put the receiver down. He reached for the phone again and dialled quickly.

He said, "Jack? Can you remember an article in the 'Galaxy' about someone called Evan Kiley? Some land? A new bridge? A highway? Give me what you can remember."

He listened in silence, till finally he said slowly, "Thanks. No, I can't tell yet if I want it followed up. Leave it for the moment and I'll let you know."

The bungalow was quiet with the early hush of morning and when he padded on to the carpeting of the big bedroom, Annie was still in the same position, white shoulders bare above the rim of sheet and her long hair a flame of red across the pillow.

He said almost diffidently, on a rising note of gentle inquiry, "Annie? We'll have visitors in one hour. Seven thirty. We're going to talk about

Victoria's going . . ."

"This man - his name's Kiley - wants to talk about it."

"Why?"

"Because his son has gone. So he says. I didn't know whether to believe him or not. It could be a trick. He's a newspaper man, but he told me some details about himself and I rang Jack Haines - he filled me in. Kiley owns some land that's become valuable - worth sixty thousand. The Press has spread the story. Still . . . I don't know. But you'd better get up."

He knew how she felt and he couldn't help her. He knew, as he left her and stepped under the shower, that all she could think of - all she would think of till Kiley had told his tale, and maybe all she would be able to think of for ages after, was half of a week eight months before. She'd remember nothing else, not their first meeting or the long way they had both come since then - himself from behind a hotel desk to owner of a chain of motels, and Annie from a grocery in the near slums to a well-to-do matron in a luxury home on the Gold Coast.

He towelled himself dry and opened the window, so that the drumming of the tropical downpour sounded louder still and a glitter of raindrops splashed through the wet gold of the flyscreen on to the white-painted windowsill.

Before he went downstairs he looked into the nursery, but three-year-old Victoria was still asleep. Annie was already on the sun veranda, wearing a yellow patio suit.

She asked, without looking up, "What did this chap tell you?"

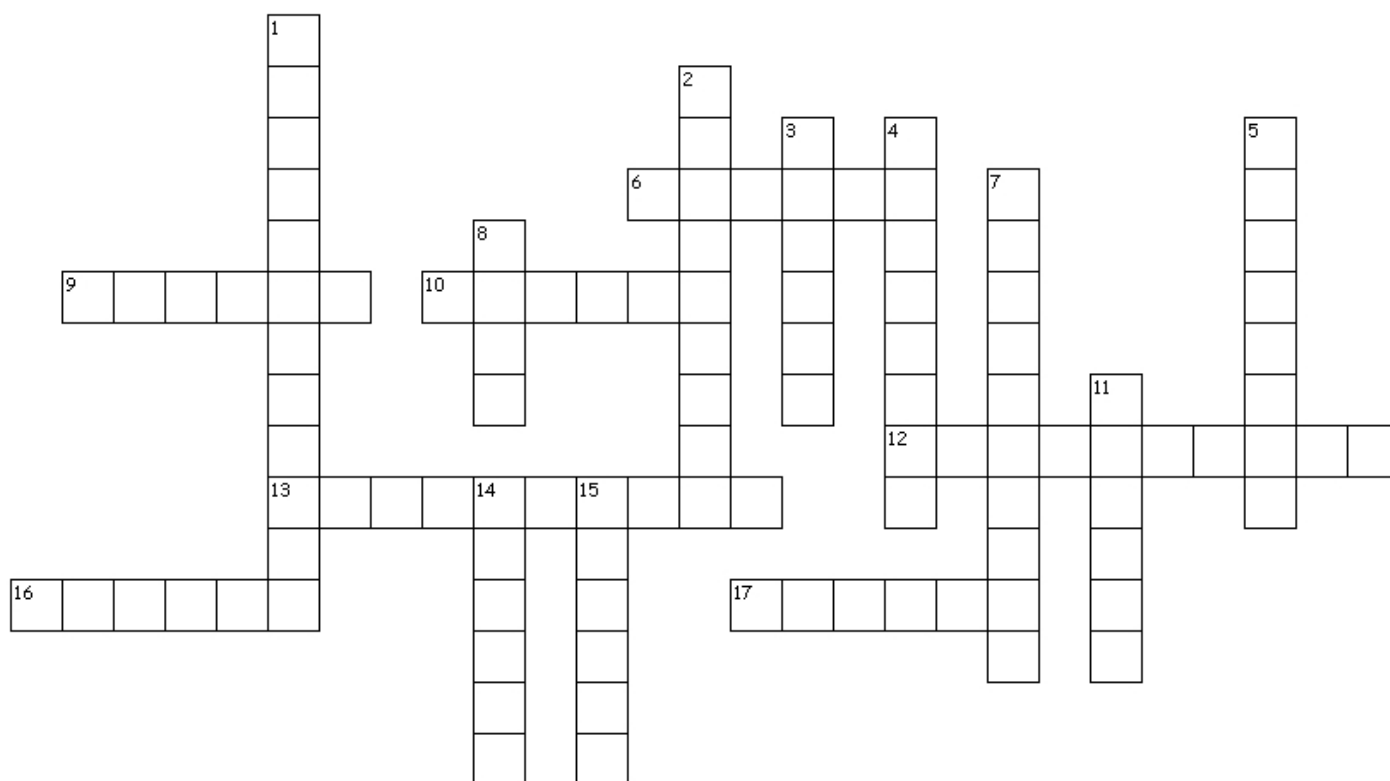
"Just that his boy had gone and he's to be contacted today. "He knows - I expect any pressman would - about the rumours."

"It's got to be a trick, it's just got to be, because if it isn't . . ." then she fell silent again.

He was lost in memory and knew she was, too. Memory of endless debates, endless whispering, endless decisions made and rescinded and made again, all boiling down in the end to silence.

And now? If the unknown man of the phone was to be believed he and Annie could have become criminals by their silence, as surely as if they had committed some crime with their own hands against Kiley's child.

Crossword



Across

6. Both a botanical fruit and a culinary vegetable, this ingredient is ideal for a 1940s jam
9. A Rockdale Council historian
10. Washing day
12. The opera worthy of a pilgrimage
13. Our society's museum
16. The colonial businesswoman adorning our \$20 note
17. Don't pair this fruit with a rug

Down

1. A siren of the silver screen
2. This native tree first bloomed in our parks
3. An engineering Sans Souci local
4. Our local Venice
5. One of Kogarah's earlier names
7. Arncliffe's link to the Emerald Isle
8. The camp on King St
11. Our local cat woman
14. A familiar figure in 1890s Sans Souci
15. One of many gallant WW1 local veterans

Answers on page 43

SGHS Publications

The Society has many books and pamphlets for sale, documenting the history of many regions, people and events in the St George district, including in well-researched books by Ron Rathbone.

Items can be purchased at Lydham Hall, 18 Lydham Avenue, Bexley on most Sundays from 2pm to 4pm, or can be obtained by contacting Mrs Gloria Henke on (02) 9587 8307.

- The Kogarah to Sans Souci Tramway \$2.50
- Saywells Tramway 1887-1914 – Rockdale to Lady Robinson’s Beach \$2.50
- The Arncliffe to Bexley Steam tramway \$4.00
- Our Heritage in Stone \$4.00
- All Stations to Como \$4.00
- Tempe and the Black Creek Valley \$4.00
- Early Churches of the St George District \$4.00
- Early Settlers of the St George District – Volume 1 \$4.00
- Early Settlers of the St George District – Volume 2 \$4.00
- The Illawarra Railway – Hurstville \$4.00
- Rockdale Beginning and Development \$12.00
- Christina Stead by Jennifer Gribble \$10.00
- History of the Rockdale Uniting Church – 150 Years Anniversary (1855-2005) \$15.00
- Kingsgrove The First 200 Years by Brian Madden \$20.00

Books by R.W. Rathborne:

- A Village Called Arncliffe \$25.00
- Brighton Le Sands \$25.00
- Cameos of Bexley \$25.00
- The Bexley Book \$15.00
- The Glen Village – its first 25 years \$7.00
- The Sans Souci Peninsula \$26.00
- The Lydham Hall Booklet \$6.00

References

1. Rockdale City Library. (2016). Aurora Montage. Retrieved from <http://library.rockdale.nsw.gov.au/Montage/Gallery.aspx>, accessed 16 June 2017.
2. H.E.C. Robinson Ltd (1939). Robinson's indexed street directory maps of Sydney and suburbs. Retrieved from <http://catalogue.nla.gov.au/Record/1761548>, accessed 16 June 2017.
3. Rockdale City Library. (2016). Ron Rathbone Local History Prize. Retrieved from http://www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au/library/Pages/Library_RonRathbonePrize.aspx, accessed 16 June 2017.
4. Home Sweet Home Front. (2011). *Dig For Victory*. Retrieved from http://www.homesweethomefront.co.uk/web_pages/hshf_dig_for_victory_pg.htm, accessed 16 June 2017.
5. Twitter. (2016). *The Royal Family on Twitter*. Retrieved from <https://twitter.com/RoyalFamily/status/734801082384277504/photo/1>, accessed 16 June 2017.
6. Advertising. (1860, January 24). *Sydney Morning Herald*, p. 7.
7. Publican's Licenses Granted. (1860, May 17). *Empire*, p. 3.
8. Property Circulars. (1862, September 20). *Empire*, p. 5.
9. Robin Gollan and Moira Scollay, 'Dooley, John Braidwood (1883–1961)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, adb.anu.edu.au/biography/dooley-john-braidwood-6001/text10249, published first in hardcopy 1981, accessed online 16 June 2017.
10. Verity Burgmann, 'Matthias, Elizabeth (Betsy) (1882–1963)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, adb.anu.edu.au/biography/matthias-elizabeth-betsy-7526/text13129, published first in hardcopy 1986, accessed online 16 June 2017.
11. Carol Liston, 'Geeves, Philip Leslie (Phil) (1917–1983)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, adb.anu.edu.au/biography/geeves-philip-leslie-phil-12530/text22549, published first in hardcopy 2007, accessed online 16 June 2017.
12. From The Front. (1917, July 21). *The St George Call*, p. 6.
13. From The Front. (1916, September 2). *The St George Call*, p. 8.
14. For King and Country! (1917, July 21). *The St George Call*, p. 1.
15. For King and Country! (1917, August 11). *The St George Call*, p. 1.
16. For King and Country! (1917, August 18). *The St George Call*, p. 1.
17. St George Police Court. (1917, July 21). *The St George Call*, p. 5.
18. St George Police Court. (1917, July 28). *The St George Call*, p. 3.
19. St George Police Court. (1917, August 11). *The St George Call*, p. 6.
20. St George Police Court. (1917, August 18). *The St George Call*, p. 6.
21. St George Police Court. (1917, September 22). *The St George Call*, p. 3.
22. St George Police Court. (1917, September 29). *The St George Call*, p. 6.
23. Advertising. (1917, July 7). *The St George Call*, p. 4.
24. Meat Extender Recipe. (1944, January 28). *The St George Call*, p. 1.
25. Tomato Jam. (1940, March 29). *The St George Call*, p. 3.
26. Betty King Kitchen. (1956, March 8). *The St George Call*, p. 8.
27. That Croydon-rd Controversy. (1907, June 1). *The St George Call*, p. 1.
28. Showery St. George. (1907, June 6). *The St George Call*, p. 1.
29. Garden Gleanings. (1904, July 2). *The St George Call*, p. 8.

References for the article *Bayside Library Services' Map Collection* on pp 22-26:

- All journal and newspaper articles referred to can be found on Trove: www.trove.nla.gov.au.
- There are numerous online and print resources on Tempe House, the Arncliffe Sewage Farm, the diversion of the Cooks River and Sydney Airport. A good place to start for all four is Ron Rathbone's book on Arncliffe: R. W. Rathbone, *A Village Called Arncliffe*: Arncliffe, NSW, 1997.
- For more information on Moorefield Racecourse see: Anne Field, *The History of Moorefield Racecourse*: Kogarah, Sydney, 2016.
- All of the maps in this article are from the Bayside Library Service Local Studies Collection housed at Rockdale Library, 444-446 Princes Highway, Rockdale. For more information, or to view any of these maps, please contact Kirsten Broderick: kirsten.broderick@bayside.nsw.gov.au or 9562 1821.

Crossword answers

Across - 6. TOMATO; 9. GEEVES; 10. WASHING DAY; 12. LATRAVIATA; 13. LYDHAMHALL; 16. REIBEY; 17. QUINCE;

Down - 1. HONOREZONLAY; 2. IVORYCURL; 3. WALKER; 4. ROCKDALE; 5. KUGGERAH; 7. ROUNDTOWER; 8. COZY; 11. CARLON; 14. ALBERT; 15. HUGHES;

Copyright © 2017 by St George Historical Society Inc.

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

MOTOR

ARNCLIFFE
SERVICE

STATION

PHONE
KOC
1502



Mobiloil

CARS FOR HIRE

BREARLEY

MOTOR & GENERAL ENGINEERS



Mobiloil

TURNING & FITTING

SUN
MOTOR OIL

VALVE
3

