

THE OATLEY HERITAGE GROUP

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NEWSLETTER: November 2010

Meeting Dates and Topics

*Friday 26th November 2010 10.30am Community Hall, Oatley Library, Letitia Street.
Topic. " History of Oatley Pleasure Grounds."*

*Friday 25th February 2011. 10.30am Community Hall, Oatley Library, Letitia Street.
Elections. Annual General Meeting*

At our August meeting, the topic was "Characters of Oatley". I reported in our last Newsletter the passing of Charles Small. I thought it would be a fitting tribute to Charles to read his own life story which he wrote for the "Good Time Together", the official Newsletter of the Oatley Uniting Church Adult Fellowship. Titled "A profile of Charles Montgomery Small". There's no doubt that he was a character and a well respected member of our community. Rafe delivered what would have been a difficult presentation of the late Marilyn Chapman. Marilyn was tragically run over in June. She was a lady who was known more so in the Oatley West district. My thanks to Rafe for firstly suggesting we pay tribute to Marilyn and then compiling and presenting a report that brought out her character. Lastly, I presented a profile on Sadie Minchin. Jack Marks provided me with some interesting snippets beforehand. These were improved on by members after my presentation. It was good to finish on a jovial note.

Again I have to report the passing of another of our members. Rayma Papworth died on the 10th August. Rayma was very, very active within the Catholic Church. Likewise, with the Oatley RSL Youth Club and in her spare time would organise tours with a club formed from Qantas ex workers. When I was researching "Oyster Farmers of Neverfail Bay", Rayma, together with Robbie Derwent, provided the information of who lived in Wyong Street in the early postwar years.

Rayma (Roelandts) grew up in the valley, being the youngest of eleven children. Our sympathy is extended to Keith and their family.

I omitted to mention in the last Newsletter, that as we are now limited to a fixed number of pages we may print free at the Library, we are looking at means of holding our limit whilst still expanding our membership. If folk have a computer and are connected to the email system, we could email your Newsletter to you rather than by snail mail. It would ease the load and will allow for new non computer folk to receive a hard copy. Should you wish to be included on our email mailing list please confirm at the address above. Committee members will receive a separate email together with the committee meeting date.

As previously reported in the August Newsletter, Rodger Robertson and John Whitbread have been negotiating with Oatley Public School for us to get involved with a local history project. This materialised in late August and early September. We had four outings with year four. It took in Oyster Farming and Farmers in Wyong Street and the Georges River, a short history on the Como Bridges and finally a stop off at the plaque commemorating the four folk, Janet & Graham Austin, Noreen Whitaker and Milton Hill who instigated the Oatley Como Walkway/ Cycleway.

This was followed by four of our long time residents of Oatley. Joyce Marks, Glenn Stevens, Dorothy Walker and Jim Nicholson who addressed the classes on separate occasions. Each one was enthusiastically received. However, I believe that Rodger and John were nearly kept in for being late

to School after one of the talks because they arrived an hour late. They thought they were on time and arrived to hear Joyce Marks receiving warm applause at the conclusion of her talk. My thanks to everyone who participated, we know our efforts were appreciated by the Teachers and I know for those who participated, they enjoyed their involvement.

*This photo was taken on one of the outings
at
Como Bridge.*



During all of this, Rodger Robertson's Mother passed away in Darwin. Rodger returned for the last walk at 2.00pm, having arrived from Darwin at 6.30am. Our sympathy to Rodger and my thanks to him for organising what has proved to be a successful venture.

Oatley Senior Citizens celebrated their 40th Anniversary on Sunday, the 19th September, at the Oatley RSL. June & I were kindly invited to attend a wonderful luncheon and entertainment by Brian Letton. Below is a photo of ladies who are in their nineties, clustered around the 40th Anniversary cake.



If you have received your Newsletter by Email, you will be viewing these photos in colour. Snail mail, I'm sorry the Library doesn't cater for colour. Be thankful we are allowed to keep getting our copies for free. To be added to our Email mailing list, don't forget, send your confirmation to my address above.

Another year has flown past. Yes, I'm getting you to think about Christmas. It won't be long after you receive this Newsletter that you will be writing to Santa. Please ask him for good health and happiness for the ensuing year.

Have a merry Christmas and I hope you keep participating in the Group's activities during 2011. We again shall be heading off to Dolphin Point, Burrill Lake, to hibernate for most of January. On our return we will be off to Goolwa in South Australia for their Wooden Boat Festival to be held at the end of February. Don't worry, we will stand up to the pressure.

Merry Christmas.

Alec.