

THE OATLEY HERITAGE GROUP

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NEWSLETTER: May 2010

Meeting Dates and Topics

Friday 28th May, 2010. 10.30am Community Hall, Oatley Library, Letitia Street.

Topic: "Ron Sharpe. Sydney Opera House Organ Builder"

Friday 27th August, 2010. 10.30am Community Hall, Oatley Library, Letitia Street.

Topic: Characters of Oatley.

Jim Nicholson had one of the easiest mornings since he has conducted our meeting to elect Officers for the ensuing year. At our Committee Meeting the week before, we all indicated that we were willing to stand. Not one other person was nominated against any position and the elections were over and done with in a few minutes, thankfully because at that stage we were running well and truly behind time. Thanks once again to Jim for conducting the meeting.

Your Officers and Committee for the 2010 year are as follows.

President: Alec Leach. Vice President: Rafe Kowron. Secretary: Glenn Stevens.

Treasurer: Bernard Bogan. Archivist: Cliff Crane. Publicity Officer: Cliff Crane.

Committee: June Bennett, Moyia Kowron, Jan Crane, Margaret Forbes, Angelina Trimboli, Jean Woodward and Rodger Robertson.

Rodger Robertson reported on the progress that he has made with Cliff Crane's assistance in having our historical records lodged with Council. Together they presented a disc to Clinton Johnston, Council's Local Studies Historian. Initially, our topics will be available through our Library via the Computer. Ultimately the information will be available through the internet. As one of my ex bosses used to say if one performed well, "You are worth your weight in carrot juice", Rodger and Cliff.

Cliff Crane delivered a splendid résumé of Gordon Andrews. It covered Gordon's life, his immediate family and what life in general was about earlier last century. It was a well presented report. Cliff had posted up the fourteen pages he had prepared onto the wall for interested people to read over morning tea.

Whilst mentioning Cliff, he as Publicity Officer, has been responsible for providing information for the St George & Sutherland Leader's Supplement, "Georges River Magazine". The first issue was on Thursday 24th February. A full page spread titled "Village so fair". It is to be a monthly publication. Thursday 22nd April's edition highlighted the life of Edgar Britt, Jockey, who lived in Oatley in his younger days. He lived in the house that Jean Woodward owned, until recently, in Russell Street. Carrot Juice, Cliff, for two fine stories.. Apparently the magazine will be delivered monthly into Lugarno, Oatley, Mortdale, Peakhurst & Penshurst.

Although not a Heritage Group project, I'm sure no one will take exception to me publicising a book that Norm Windred has written titled "The History of St Joseph's Parish, Oatley".

I made mention of the book at our meeting and tried to emphasize how well the book was written and the subject matter in it. Should the Catholic Church require a sales person to sell the book? They need go no further than our Joyce Marks. She really summarised the contents of the book to the meeting and I would be disappointed if after the meeting Norm didn't sell some books.

They are available for locals, from the Parish Office. For the folk who sleep out of Oatley, Phone 02 9580 1864. Fax. 02 9586 3074 or Email: [oatleycc@bigpond.net.au](mailto: oatleycc@bigpond.net.au) They also list published by: St Joseph's Parish, PO Box 105 Oatley NSW 2223. Incidentally it's well worth the Twenty dollars (\$20.00) for a copy.

George Kendall, one of our inaugural members of the Group passed away on the 21st February. George had been in a Nursing Home for the past three years with alzheimers. My friendship with the Kendall family goes back to before I would have known. George's father drove my mother over to Nurse Leopard's to give birth to me back in 1937. We have always been good friends and I sadly began to miss him over the past three years as his health deteriorated. I prepared and read his Eulogy.

Our May meeting's topic, "Ron Sharpe Sydney Opera House Organ Builder" in itself is enough to create curiosity for us to attend the meeting. Rafe Kowron has been liaising with Ron. From what Rafe has said, it is going to be difficult to hold the talk and video to about the three quarters of an hour we usually plan on. Don't forget, Friday 28th May, at 10.30am.

What a Newsletter. After having problems with my Computer system, mainly working on my RANK Amateur Productions, it was decided to upgrade to the latest programme on the Computer. Everything went OK until I tried to enter the programme to activate the printer. Its one week later, Computer and printer are now in with the repair chap, who at the moment is no wiser than me, number two son and my competent friend Dave Moffat. Luckily I took a memory stick to the shop with me in case it had to be left. The laptop and my portable printer have come in handy again.

I hope to see you at the meeting.

Alec.