

<i>Month & Year of Topic</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Written & Spoken Presenters</i>
February 2009	Reserves in Oatley. Part2 Within Kogarah Council	Alec Leach

Reserves in Oatley

Presented to the *Oatley heritage group's* Annual Meeting . Friday 27th February, 2009.

Compiled and presented by: Alec Leach.

There are six Reserves and two that are classified as Gardens which are located in Oatley within Kogarah Council's control.

I will begin with the Oatley Memorial Reserve and Gardens, The Douglas Cross Gardens and then followed by the remaining Reserves.

Oatley Memorial Reserve

Fortunately for the Oatley people, the area originally used as the railway line between Oatley and Como was not sold off after the line was regraded in 1905.

From the south it begins at Neville Street, is flanked by Oatley Parade and Oatley Avenue and is bordered to the north by Frederick Street.

There are two playgrounds. A formal one at the southern end, whilst at the northern end, together with swings, is a wooden train that is popular with children of all ages.

The Oatley ANZAC Memorial is located beyond the running track and basketball fields.

The Memorial was moved from its original location on the corner of Neville and Letitia Streets in 1962. This area then became the Oatley Memorial Reserve.

Beside the Memorial are a Canon, Propeller and an Anchor, they depict the three armed services.

The Canon is a 25 pound field gun used in the British and Commonwealth armies during World War 11 and was used by Commonwealth forces until the 1970's.

The Propeller came from a Caribou aircraft attached to the 35 squadron serviced in Vietnam in 1967.

The Anchor is an Admiralty pattern adopted by the Royal Navy in 1830. In recent years, this type of anchor was used in Sydney Harbour as channel navigation buoys and buoys to tie ships in the Harbour.

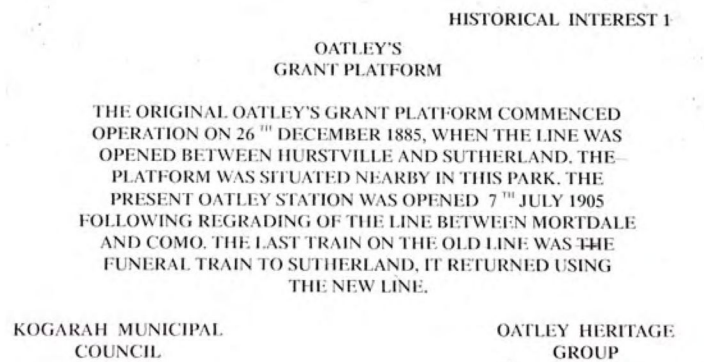
See Attachment 1.

Although it cannot be fully authenticated, local research has revealed that the anchor was originally from the HMS Rattlesnake. She was a 144foot Frigate sailing ship, 1833 to 1860. HMS Rattlesnake was converted to a survey ship in 1845 and made discovery voyages to Cape York, Torres Strait and New Guinea, from 1846 to 1850. Her Captain being Owen Stanley who in 1849 first saw what is now the Owen Stanley Ranges in New Guinea.

Towards the northern end of the Reserve shaded trees take over from the grassland and a rotunda is located within easy access from Frederick Street,.

The Oatley Memorial Gardens is located on the northern side of Frederick Street and extends to Hurstville Road. It too is flanked by Oatley Avenue & Oatley Parade. A plaque beside the pathway leading to the station

from Frederick Street, instigated by the Oatley Heritage Group, details how this section of land was originally used and luckily never developed.



The area is dotted with trees. while mid way is a fountain. Strategic paths lead from Frederick Street to Oatley Station. One cuts across the park from the Oatley Hotel, whilst another caters for the College students from Oatley Station to the College.

Douglas Cross Gardens.

The Douglas Cross Gardens were opened by the Premier of New South Wales, the Honorable R.W. Askin on the 10th May 1969. Douglas Cross was recognised for his long service, as an Alderman and Parliament service in the N.S.W. Legislative Assembly, as a Liberal representative for Kogarah and Georges River.

He was born in 1892 and passed away in 1970.

Before going to World War 1, Doug was a Carpenter and Joiner. He served in World War 1 between 1916 and 1919.

Between 1941 and 1970, he was an Alderman on Kogarah Council, serving as Mayor for several years.

Douglas entered state politics in 1948 as a Liberal member for Kogarah and was defeated in 1953.

In 1956 he was elected to the seat of Georges River which he held until 1970

Renown Reserve.

Renown Reserve is situated at the end of what was the north western arm of Oatley Bay. Judd Street marks its northern boundary, whilst Panorama Street and Park View Avenue Penshurst to the east. Mountbatten Street defines the western boundary. The Hillcrest Avenue dip through the gully is its southern most boundary.

It was named after the First World War Battle Cruiser, HMS Renown. She was 750 feet long with a displacement of 37000 tons fully loaded. HMS Renown commenced duty in September 1916. After World War 1 she served in the Atlantic Fleet until undergoing a major refit prior to World War II. During World War II she acted as an escort to Ark Royal together with other operations. At the end of the War she was paid off and was sold and scrapped in 1948

The Reserve until recently was known as Renown Park.

It is used primarily as a playing field. Football is played in the winter months and cricket during the summer. Facilities containing dressing rooms, a kiosk and public toilets are located on the eastern side of the reserve.

From Renown Reserve, access to Moore Reserve is by way of a tunnel under Hillcrest Avenue..

Moore Reserve

Moore Reserve was the western arm of Oatley Bay. Before reclamation began, it was tidal, covered in a forest of mangroves. Initial work began in 1955 when a causeway was built across the north western arm of Oatley Bay. From 1955 to 1967 mud dredged from Oatley Bay was used as fill behind the causeway. From 1967 until 1970, building materials, refuse and old cars were used to consolidate the mud. Between 1970 and 1975, the area was used as the Municipal rubbish tip. It has now been transformed into parkland.

Moore Reserve is the second largest Reserve in the Kogarah Municipality being 14.2 hectares in area or approximately 35 acres.

Within Moore Reserve were two smaller parcels of land. One known as "Binnawie Reserve, was bounded by Blanche, Louisa & Asquith Streets, Oatley .The other was Seymour Street Reserve, bounded by Seymour Street & West Crescent Hurstville Grove Reclamation to acquire the required land for Moore Reserve began in 1936. and took until 1977 to complete. (Plans were put on hold during World War 11.)

The thinking of the day was that mangroves bred mosquitoes, therefore it would be beneficial to have them removed and utilise the area by making it into parkland.

It was named after Guy Moore who lived on the corner of Ada & Neville Streets Oatley. Born in 1888, he conducted a book shop in Pitt Street Sydney.. To gain the recognition of having this Reserve named after him, Guy had been involved in public life for years and to recognise his devotion to preserving natural flora and fauna. In the early 1920's he became involved in the "All Australia Party," being a spokesman for the St. George district. In turn this party became the United Australia Party, (U.A.P.) and today's Liberal Party. From 1932 to 1941 he was an Alderman and Mayor on Kogarah Council in West Ward. Guy was Chairman on the St. George County Council for three years, receiving a citation from the Council. His interest in conservation drew him to the then Forestry Advisory Council, later becoming the National Trust. In later years he was made a life member.

Towards the northern end are wetlands which treat storm water before it is allowed into Oatley Bay.

The wetlands.: After consultation with a local citizens Committee, Kogarah Council in 1998 began to transform the northern end of Moore Reserve into the wetlands of today. The task was completed in 2001.

It basically treats the storm water in four steps. Firstly, solid material is removed by a pollutant tank. Secondly, the water enters the settling sediment area which slows down the flow of water and allows heavy metals to settle. The third stage is the nutrient take up area. The water passes through a shallower section filled with reeds and sedges. (A coarse glasslike plant growing on wet ground) The plants take up the nutrients from the stormwater and use them for plant growth. The final stage is when the stormwater flows into a deeper section of the wetlands. Here sunlight and the wind break down bacteria that remains in the water. From there the cleansed water is piped into Oatley Bay.

For a detailed report see Attachment 2 by Grahame Pepper.

A cycle/walkway is provided around the perimeter of the reserve with various exercising stations. Barbeque facilities and picnic tables are located towards the southern end. Toilet facilities are located on the south western side.

A short walk from the Reserve is the West Crescent boat launching ramp and pontoon.

Walking access to the Reserve is obtained from Renown Reserve through a tunnel under Hillcrest Avenue and West Street, Hurstville Grove. There are four access points around the Oatley perimeter. All pass through natural bush land.

Steps lead to a path in Louisa Street from the end of Wonoona Parade East. A path is located at the southern end of Louisa Street, where Asquith and Frederick Streets meet. Another track from Ada Street adjacent to number 36 with rough steps, joins up with the Louisa Street path. The southern most point is from Kitchener Street, access road.

Road access is from West Crescent and turns right at the tee intersection at the bottom of the hill near the boat ramp.

Oatley Pleasure Grounds

Oatley Pleasure Grounds is situated on the corner of Russell and Annette Streets. From Russell Street the reserve is adjacent to number six and has its longest boundary in Annette Street finishing beside number twenty. Oatley Bay, a tributary of the Georges River marks its eastern boundary.

Over half of the reserve is covered in native trees; the remainder lends itself to parkland, a swimming enclosure and the Headquarters of 1st Oatley Bay Sea Scouts.

Playground equipment is located in three different locations and a toilet block is situated in the north western corner of the parkland.

The Pleasure Grounds, prior to Kogarah Council acquiring ownership, was in private hands. Harry Lindmarsh established a boatshed and hire boats. Hartland's improved the facilities by establishing a zoo and a controversial wine bar. Kogarah Council purchased the Pleasure Grounds in 1934 and promptly shut down the wine bar. By the early 1940's the hire boats were sold and any remaining remnants of the complex was removed.

The swimming enclosure originally had a wharf with a diving board, netting extending for about 57 metres or 63 yards to the last rock before a boatshed. Before the time when people were aware of development issues a house appeared beside the reserve and the swimming enclosure was reduced to what today is only good as a safe training area for the Cub Scouts in kayaking.

1st Oatley Bay Sea Scouts built their Hall basically in two stages. What is now the boatshed was opened in 1961 and the main hall in 1967. A report titled "1st Oatley Bay Sea Scouts" was delivered to this meeting in November 2007.

Charles Street Reserve.

From the western end, Charles Street Reserve begins at the corner of Letitia, Herbert and Charles Streets, between number 92 Letitia Street and number 2 Herbert Street. The Reserve is split in two by Rosa Street and after descending steps fronts Annette Street beside number 33 and 35. There is a childrens playground at the Annette Street end.

Charles Street Reserve is approximately 1 acre in area or 2.4 hectares.

At the top of the steps off Rosa Street is a bench seat. From there, glorious views of Oatley Bay, Connells Point, Kangaroo Point and Bald Face may be seen.

As many of the streets in Oatley have female and male names, Charles Street Reserve is named after Charles Cecil Griffiths who bought the original Oatley grant of 300 acres in 1881.

Oatley Point Reserve.

Oatley Point Reserve has two entrances; the easier of the two is from the end of Herbert Street adjacent to number 46. A small car park is provided and a level walking track proceeds beside Oatley Bay to the junction of the Georges River and Oatley Bay. The other entrance is at the end of Algernon Street beside number 2A.

A childrens playground is located beside the roadway. The track proceeds beside number 2A and is steep when descending to the lower area. Minor tracks gain access to the cliffs beside the Georges River before linking up with the track from Herbert Street.

Oatley Point Reserve is approximately 3 hectares or 7.5 acres which is covered in native trees and ferns. Between the Herbert Street and Algernon Street levels is a bank of Hawkesbury River sandstone cliffs with a quaint cave located about sixty metres along the track from Herbert Street. The shoreline is of a rocky nature with approximately five metre cliffs dominating the Georges River.

Oatley Point is defined by an Island rock at the junction of the Georges River and Oatley Bay. It is approximately fifteen metres in diameter and about five metres high.

When Griffiths and Co were planning the layout of Oatley after the 1881 purchase of the 300 acres from the James Oatley estate, it was agreed between them and Council that Oatley Point Reserve would be established.

A slightly more detailed report titled: "Oatley Point Reserve" was presented to the November 1995 meeting of this Group

Acknowledgments

Information on the:- Anchor, Propeller & Canon. Oatley RSL ANZAC Memorial
Wayne Mudge, Cliff Chapman, Gary George and the internet.

Renown Park

Initial Information:- Jim Nicholson, then the internet.

Guy Moore

Clinton Johnston
Local Studies Historian
Kogarah Council Library

Moore Reserve Wetlands.

Grahame Pepper.

Attachments.

Information on Anchor, Propeller & Canon. Oatley RSL ANZAC Memorial.
Wayne Mudge.

Moore Reserve, Wetlands.
Grahame Pepper.

References

Kogarah Heritage Inventory: SHI Number 1870267. Moore Reserve.

Kogarah Historical Society Newsletters. January 1974 – December 1975. Reminiscences of the Possum Ward.
Elaine Howard.