

# **THE OATLEY HERITAGE GROUP**

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## **NEWSLETTER: November 2005**

### **Meeting Dates and Topics**

***Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2005. 7.30pm. Library Hall***

*Topic: Celebrating the Centenary of Oatley School of Arts. Guest Speaker: Peter Orlovich.*

***Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2006. 7.30pm. Library Hall***

*Topic: Oatley Citizens who have received an Australian Honour.*

Both Rafe Kowron and Cliff Crane took us behind the scenes of some of Oatley's citizens who stood for Parliament over the years. I was particularly interested in Cliff's report about the late Jim Bradfield. Dorothy (Mallard) Walker's report on her father Hedley, which was incorporated in "Oatley Writes," the book compiled for the Oatley 150<sup>th</sup> Celebrations has been included in our material.

Congratulations to Betty and Charles Small on celebrating their sixtieth Wedding Anniversary on the 14<sup>th</sup> September. A very complimentary photo and story of them was published in the Leader on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

The week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> October marked the beginning of the Centenary of Oatley School of Arts. Roger Morris, Associate Professor at UTS and President of the NSW Association of Mechanics Institutes and School of Arts, presented a very interesting talk on the history of School of Arts in St. George and Sutherland Shire. Our Group was well represented. There was an excellent display of photos depicting Oatley in the early days. Many of the photos I could recognise, having originally come from our Archives.

There was a special activities day on the Tuesday for children under 5 years. I wasn't allowed to go, even when I put on a tantrum.

On the 13<sup>th</sup>, Thursday night, the actual Centenary of the School of Arts, Paul Brunton, Senior Curator at the Mitchell Library, State Library of N.S.W. was the guest speaker. He delivered a captivating talk on the very early history of Australia. Telling of how the Dutch explored and mapped different sections of our coastline in the early sixteen hundreds. Why didn't I have a history teacher like Paul, when I was a "student"? We had a cake, with 100 (3) candles that Margaret Lowther, our local Librarian, blew out and we toasted to "Memories of and the future of the School of Arts".

At our November meeting, we will round off the Centenary of the School of Arts by recalling some of its uses of the past century. I will deliver an introductory paper and Peter Orlovich, Archivist, will speak. This is the second time Peter has spoken to us. If you missed him the first time, you missed an enlightening speaker.

I know we will only touch the tip of the iceberg when we discuss "Oatley Citizens who have received an Australian Honour", at our February meeting. There is a website for you internet folk who may be able to help out. It is "It's an Honour" <http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au/>.

Christmas is nearly upon us. Hopefully we may look to a healthy, happy a prosperous year ahead.

Which reminds me. Did you hear of the bloke, who was so poor, he couldn't pay attention?

Merry Christmas, I hope 2006 brings you good health and you are rich enough to pay attention.