

THE OATLEY HERITAGE GROUP

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NEWSLETTER: FEBRUARY 2006

Meeting Dates and Topics

Thursday 23rd February 2006, 7.30pm, Oatley Public Library, Hall.

Topic: Oatley Citizens who have received an Australian Honour.

Friday 27th May 2006, 10.30 am, Oatley Public Library, Hall.

Topic: The history of the Oatley, Como Walk/ Cycleway.

Peter Orlovich, presented us with another interesting talk relating to his work as the Archivist at Kogarah Council. Peter gave us examples of correspondence between different ratepayers. I should have made notes along the way; I didn't because I was too engrossed in Peter's presentation and later I couldn't define accurately each example to re quote.

We have a copy of the Kogarah Council's correspondence Peter & Sister Ann Stedman compiled on the Oatley School of Arts. It consists of an eighty eight page folder with letters between the School of Arts Committee, Oatley Public School and Council from 1905 until 1969. I hope it is treasured by future generations as it is with us.

Hurstville City Council conducted the International Volunteers' Day for 2005 on Monday 5th December. We had been invited to nominate a member from our Group to be honoured. The nominee had to reside in the Hurstville Municipality. We had no hesitation in nominating Rafe Kowron.

Rafe has been involved in a voluntary capacity in various projects for nearly fifty years. To give you an idea listed are some of his interests over the years. Working from our group, he has been Vice President for nearly five years. Rafe for the past four years has been and is still a Director of the Oatley RSL and Community Club. He has been a tutor on public speaking to the children at Mortdale Public School for the past eleven years and with his wife Moyia, co founded the Oatley Flora and Fauna Society. The list keeps going; you can see why we had no hesitation in nominating Rafe. We enjoyed the evening and were pleased to see Rafe receive a Certificate of Appreciation.

I had an unexpected visitor call to deliver stamps for our Group just before Christmas. It was Robyn Halls, daughter of the late Jack Elliott who lives at Bomaderry (Nowra). It was pleasing to receive feedback that the Newsletter is read and appreciated by the next generation. If you are on the mailing list and haven't sent a book of stamps in for awhile, please make the effort and send one.

Together with the Annual Elections we will be discussing Oatley Citizens who have received an Australian Honour. To open, we will be recognising our latest recipient, John Campbell who received a medal of the Order of Australia (OAM). The topic has been favourably received by our members who now sleep elsewhere. Margaret and James Chiswell from Batemans Bay hope to be in attendance at the meeting and make a contribution. We will have to start the meeting on time to have the Elections and leave enough time to discuss the many worthy people who have been honoured over the years.

I heard this Chinese saying on the radio one night. It has had me wondering whenever I think of it.

"A busy man is seldom wise. A wise man is seldom busy"