

THE OATLEY HERITAGE GROUP

President: *Alec Leach*
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Secretary: *Glenn Stevens*

Vice President: *Rafe Kowron*

NEWSLETTER: May 2006

Meeting Dates and Topics

Friday 26th May 2006. 10.30am Library Hall. Topic: The Oatley – Como Walk/Cycleway

Friday 26th August 2005. 10.30am Library Hall. Topic: Butchers & Bakers of Oatley.

If you are observant, you will have noticed the removal of Cliff Crane as a Vice President on our letterhead. It was decided at our Annual General Meeting that there was no need to have a back up Vice President. Cliff stood aside. When the position of Archivist arose, Cliff indicated that he would be prepared to accept the position. He assured us that this would not interfere with his TEA LADY position. Thank you Cliff for your assistance as Vice President. I know Cliff has ideas which he would like to implement in the Archival structure.

The results of the Annual General Election are as follows.

President: Alec Leach. Vice President: Rafe Kowron. Secretary: Glenn Stevens. Treasurer: Ray Stevens. Assistant Treasurer: Jim Forbes. Archivist: Cliff Crane. Publicity Officer: Alec Leach.

General Committee: June Bennett, Moyia Kowron, Jan Crane, Margaret Forbes & George Kendall.

Tea Ladies: June Bennett, Angela Trimboli & Cliff Crane.

Welcome to Jim Forbes who volunteered to assist in the Treasurer's position in the absence of Ray Stevens. Thank you Jim and thank you Angela for helping out with the after meeting cuppa.

We have had and do have some distinguished people in Oatley. One of our more interesting topics we have discussed was "Oatley Citizens who have received an Australian Honour".

We received correspondence from James Chiswell, outlining his brother John's OAM, for his contribution to the furniture industry. As James could not be in attendance, I asked Cliff Crane to read it My reason being that Jan & Cliff live in one of the Chiswell houses in Annette Street, next door to where James was brought up.

We were inundated with a variety of folk who had received honours. Too many folk to mention by name.

I felt proud to know we have had and do have so many worthy people in our midst. At 9.15pm I called for the subject to be closed as our tea ladies were getting stropy because the biscuits were going stale. Again we only scratched the surface. Sometime in the future we must discuss this topic again.

Marie Miller passed away on Friday 17th March. Marie regularly attended our meetings; she was active in the Oatley Catholic Church and was a long time resident of Annette Street. We extended our sympathy to Paul, Michael, Maria and families, from our group. I know Patricia & Kevin McGrath, long time friends, will miss Marie.

Geraldine Brown's name would not ring a bell to the average Oatley person, yet in the war years you would have known her as Gerry Fidden, the daughter of the Fidden family who built and operated the Oatley Radio theatre. Sadly, Gerry passed away on the 1st April. Gerry was versatile from issuing the tickets, Usherette and was capable of operating the projector if need be. Our condolences to Kevin & the Brown family.

Alan Fairley has recently written a book called "Being Green". It details The Oatley Flora and Fauna Society's - The First Fifty Years. Alan has kindly donated a copy of the book for our Group. Thank you, Alan.

I read this interesting item in the Opinion & Letters section of the Sydney Morning Herald.

"How do you know when you are old? When your dreams give way to regrets"

Keep dreaming.