

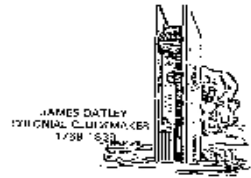


Hurstville Council

OATLEY HERITAGE & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 121, Oatley NSW 2223

<http://www.oatleyhistory.org.au>



Kogarah Council

2016 - President - Julian Sheen 9594-4888: Secretary - Bill Wright 9580-1064

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2016

We can look back at OHHS, 2015 with satisfaction, it was our 20th year.

Our achievements last year include a full program of presentations at the Oatley RSL and three successful Coffee and Chat sessions at the Oatley library (School of Arts).

The presentations featured an exploration of one of Oatley's historic building, Queen's Hall led by Cliff Crane and Alec Leach in May. In August we celebrated in style our 20th anniversary. This program was a walk down memory lane to remember those energetic people who set up our society in 1995. Cliff and Alex told the story of the early years of OHHS which is now developing a history of its own. The presentation was followed by an excellent lunch attended by 65 people.

In November I presented my research into the life of the first man to be given title to land in what became Oatley – Dr Robert Townson.

Led by Kim Wagstaff and Rodger Robertson our major project, the installation of a number of historic plaques in Oatley, made significant progress with the preparation of several priority sites. The first, the restoration of the old war memorial outside Oatley school was about to get under way when the year ended. This important work was carried out in conjunction with Oatley Public School and government agencies.

This year our well-attended Annual General Meeting was held on 26th February. Reports on 2015 activities were given by the out-going secretary, treasurer and president. An election of office bearers for 2016 was held with the following result.

President: Julian Sheen; Vice presidents: Rafe Kowran and Rodger Robertson; Secretary: Bill Wright; Treasurer: John Whitbread; other

committee members: Betty Goodger, June Bennett, Graham Lalchere, Kim Wagstaff. The meeting welcomed Mr Laurie Yeomans to the 2016 committee.

Graham Lalchere took up the duties of Public Officer, June Bennet continued the role of hospitality at our coffee and chat sessions and John Whitbread accepted the position of hard-copy archivist. Our guest speaker was Bryan Pirie from Oatley Lions. Thank you to all these people.

In the year to come we look forward to presentations on war service homes in Lloyd Street Oatley (May), the use of sandstone as a building material (August) and the experiences of Oatley school children in the 1950s (November).

Our coffee and chats will continue in April, July and October – watch the Newsletter.

Initiatives in 2016: Plaques: We intent to place plaques at the School of Arts building and with the support of our member Mr Kevin Brown at the Radio Theatre; both in Letitia Street. We also expect to place plaques at the castle in Oatley Park and on the approach to the Oatley Como walking bridge. Many other sites are under consideration as funds become available. Your suggestions for possible sits are welcomed.

Local History awards: we plan to sponsor Local history prizes for primary children who do research into evidence of the local past.

Graham Lalchere tells us that NSW Land and Property Information have digitised indexes that are now available online and can be accessed through the Spatial Information Exchange (SIX) website. Talk to Graham for more details.

Kim Wagstaff will lead a walk in the Lime Kiln Bay area on Saturday 19th March. It will start at the corner of Acacia Street and Waterfall Road at 3pm and will focus on the story of stormwater entering the bay. Learn about how the area has changed with the development of land in the catchment area.

Julian Sheen