

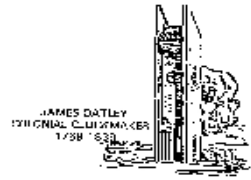


Hurstville Council

OATLEY HERITAGE & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 121, Oatley NSW 2223

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



Kogarah Council

2015 - President - Julian Sheen 9594-4888: Secretary - Bill Wright 9580-1064

Dear OHHS Member(s) NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2015: 20th ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Our progress of activities for the year continued with a good rollup of members and visitors to our Coffee and Chat morning at the School of Arts on Friday 31st July. It was an event where members could receive an update on the Society's activities and contribute suggestions and ideas.

We learned what progress had been made on some of the projects we are involved with. These include the declaration of the Oatley Park Lone Pine tree as an official war memorial, (progress is slow but steady); the project to refurbish the old war memorial at Oatley Public School (the federal grant was less than we hoped so we are looking at alternative funding and a modified design); and the important historical plaques project. The news here is that one of our members, Mr Kevin Brown has been in touch with us with news of the establishment of the Oatley Radio Theatre. Mr Brown's late wife Geraldine (Gerry) was the daughter of the original builders and owners Mr and Mrs Ken and Thelma Fidden of Rosa Street, back in 1942. They ran the theatre for the first ten years. Mr Brown told us that the cinema was designed by Aaron Bolot, an award winning architect of art deco buildings, especially cinemas. This makes the Theatre an even more significant building, one with regional importance.

John Whitbread displayed an excellent photo he has put together of a 1920s painting by Sydney Long of boatsheds on Oatley Bay. He and the artist have done a terrific job. Copies are available, contact John if you are interested in getting one (look on the net by the artist's name to get a taste).

You may remember that at the April Coffee and Chat I announced the death of long time and prominent Oatley citizen Mr Gordon Andrews. Very sadly, following a letter from their daughter Jeanette Grey we now have to record the passing of Mrs Jean Andrews just a couple of months after the death of her husband. We offer our sympathy to Jeanette and her family.

Some good news came in the form of gaining access to a wealth of archives from Oatley West Public School. We have been able to photograph large amounts of historical material, rolls, letters, minutes etc from before 1960 for our archives, and there is more to come. This is a real trove of local history.

Committee members Kevin and Winifred Wilcox are engaged in a project to record information on the shops and shopkeepers of Oatley. They are keen to hear from you if you have any photos or stories of shops in any part of Oatley. Catch up with them at the next meeting.

Cliff Crane reminded everyone that our next meeting (28th August) is an Anniversary Special. Come along to the RSL and hear from Cliff and Alex Leach stories of the early days of our society. And stay for lunch at the RSL as the celebration continues (contact Cliff).

Next Coffee and Chat is on Friday 30th October School of Arts (Oatley Library) starting at 10.15am. See you there.

Julian Sheen