

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

For

The Oatley heritage groups

Annual Meeting, held on Thursday 24th February 2005

Would you believe that we have been an active Group for nine years? When Russell Gibbs rounded us up to see if we would be interested in forming a Group to record our living history, I thought we would take a couple of years to accomplish for what has happened in Oatley that would be worth recording. We are still digging into our history and I hope you will see that you and your families have something worthwhile to record in the foreseeable future. Yes we have covered some subjects in depth and others we have merely scratched the surface.

We have covered four diverse topics in the past year. Our last February "Personalities of Oatley Organisations" was a good example of merely scratching the surface.

May, had us discussing "Musicians of Oatley". My vivid recollection of the morning was Kevin Wilcox recalling his son as a drummer being in a band called "The Noise". Another Group called themselves "Tuesday", imagination for a name, practice day. The morning improved from there on and some talented people were remembered.

Peter Orlovich, Archivist for early records for Kogarah Council, gave us an enlightening talk at our August meeting. He brought along folders of early letters from residents. The first folder I opened happened to be from Jack Stevens, Ray, our Treasurer's father and Glenn our Secretary's, father in law. We bought our house from the family. It was strange to see our address written so long ago. Together with Alison Grellis who maintains current archival records, both are only too willing to help anyone who may wish to research any project.

I am indebted to a friend; Dave Moffat and his friend Geoff Richardson, for helping me produce the "Pictorial look at Oatley – Como Rail Bridges" in November. Dave's expertise in operating the editing programme and Geoff's late fathers 8mm footage of the bridge and the opening ceremony of the new one, made it acceptable.

Tonight. Elections, I hope the committee you elect will be as devoted as our outgoing one. Glenn on a couple of occasions has found errors in my reports, yes, after June, my wife, had minutely perused them before handing them over. Its reassuring to have that back up. Jim Tennent ably filled in for Glenn in May, it was appreciated by me. To all Committee members, my thanks for your efforts.

Finally, in my absence, thank you, to whoever drew the short straw to read this tonight.