

Oatley heritage group
Annual General Meeting
President's Report.
Thursday 22nd February 2007.

Presented by; Alec Leach.

Do you realise that mid year our Group will be twelve years old? We have researched many topics and if we haven't touched on it yet, we are bound to eventually. Our aim is with the theme of Oatley and to record our living history for future generations.

It was decided at our last AGM, to revert to one Vice President. Cliff Crane stood aside, which allowed Rafe Kowron to be my Vice President. Thankfully Cliff still volunteered as a TEA LADY. We have had a good relationship with our Committee throughout the year. Some forceful discussions at times, however, we all had the same viewpoint, to present the meeting with factual and interesting material. Amazingly we always came away from our meetings in friendship. Thank you Committee, Special mention must be made to Glenn for being our Secretary and to Jim Forbes who was thrust into acting as Treasurer. Hopefully we have a nominee tonight.

Sadly over the last twelve months we have seen the passing of some of our members. To refresh your memories I'll list the ones of which I know. Marie Miller, Geraldine Brown. Our generation would have known her as Gerry Fidden from Oatley's "Radio" Theatre days. Ray Steven's wife Joyce, Graham Porter and just a few short weeks ago, Heather Dean.

We certainly have many Oatley Citizens who have received an Australian Honour. This topic was discussed well into the night after our last AGM. I believe I had to call a halt to it as the Tea Ladies were getting stropky because the biscuits were going stale.

In May for our topic "The Oatley – Como Walkway, Cycleway" we were fortunate enough to gain access to the minutes and documents of "The Old Rail Group" to compile our report. The Group consisted of Jan & Graham Austin, Noreen Whittaker & Milton Hill.

Jan, Graham & Noreen were in attendance. We showed our appreciation to them for their tireless efforts in achieving the Walkway, then we rounded the morning off with a short film of the Walkway.

Cliff Crane had the unfortunate mishap of having his computer crash when he was putting the finishing touches to his report on "Butchers & Bakers of Oatley" in August. He managed to recall the majority of the information that had not been given to him in writing. Cliff was unable to deliver his report and thankfully Rafe Kowron stepped in and did an adequate job.

I had the pleasure of making the report on "The Kogarah Municipal Band" for November. I was allowed to use the minutes of the Band going back to 1890. The Band was formed in 1888. Ian Bown, Bandleader, was patient in allowing me to film the Band's rehearsals and for me to be on stage with the Band to film their performance at the Kogarah Fair & Charity Bed Race.

We are entering another year. It is hoped that we may still maintain the same enthusiasm as our previous members have shown over the last eleven years. It's you who determine our topics and input. There's no magical someone outside the Group who will come forth with information we are seeking. We are the someone.

Thank you for your attendance at our quarterly meetings and for receiving my report tonight.