

*Oatley heritage group
Annual General Meeting
President's Report
Friday 29th February 2008.*

Presented by: Alec Leach

Looking back over the last twelve months, I consider we have touched on a variety of topics.

To round off our Election night in February, we had a showing of a DVD titled "Aspects of Oatley". I compiled it from material supplied by our members.

"Chemists of Oatley", our topic for May, brought back many memories. Jan Robinson reported on her father, Alan Dunsmore. Cliff Crane, on Terry O'Connor & Pat Mullane. Three men, who ran good honest businesses, and were an asset to our community, all taken well before their time.

I was a little apprehensive when Oatley Park was chosen for the topic in August, however, in my opinion it was one of the best we have undertaken for years. It captured Oatley Park from a human side. We had a cross section of reports from Joyce Marks and Dorothy Walker outlying the war years. Bill Stewart gave an interesting observation about the *Elaeocarpus Reticulatus* (Blueberry Ash). Len Rootes read a letter by his friend from Grafton about general cycling in Oatley without covering Oatley Park. We didn't know at the time, it was the last report we would receive from Ray Stevens. His report highlighted the many activities of the Park. We rounded the evening off with a DVD I had compiled on the Park in general.

For the second time since the Group has been active, we looked into the history of 1st Oatley Bay Sea Scouts, in November. I had it in the back of my mind for over two years after Arthur England, then Rex Roberts, loaned me images. Arthur's from 1940 when the original Group was formed and Rex's covering the sixties and seventies. The majority of these photos were taken by Peter Eden who when contacted, sent a report from Queensland. Together with Margaret Rudd and myself we covered the 1980's. I incorporated the late Joyce Cowell's report of November 1995, with Peter Eden's, email to round off the report.

It seems every year I have had to report the passing of some of our members. This year is no exception. It is with sadness I acknowledge that Kevin McGrath, Lorna Yeomans and Ray Stevens passed away.

It is hoped that you have enjoyed the presentations put forward to you by our committee over the past year. We have suggested topics for the coming year. If adopted by the meeting tonight, there will be another interesting year ahead.

Thanks to my executive and general committee for the support you have given me throughout the year.