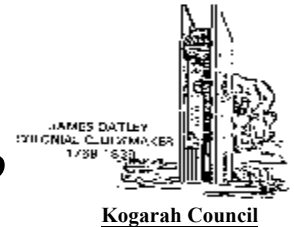




Hurstville Council

OATLEY HERITAGE GROUP



P.O. Box 224, Oatley NSW 2223
banjopaterson@iprimus.com.au

2011 - President - Cliff Crane 9580 3269

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – AGM FRIDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2012

2011 has, I think, been another reasonably successful year in the ever-evolving development of Oatley Heritage Group.

Alec Leach finally said “enough is enough” and after 10 or 11 years as hard-working President passed the baton of Presidency to yours truly – in accepting nomination as President I stated simply that my tenure would be limited to 1 year only, and I have confirmed I will not be accepting nomination for re-election. At the election of office bearers and committee members I will happily agree to nomination as a committee member if someone sees fit to nominate me.

Bill Campbell, Graham Lalchere and John Whitbread came on as new committee members for 2011 and have made various and considerable contributions to the Group, while our other continuing “personnel” have maintained their interest and enthusiasm, contributing to a year that saw many changes. Unfair as it may be to select any individual for special comment, it would be inappropriate not to mention the very special contribution of Rodger Robertson who not only continued and expanded the Group’s involvement with all local schools, but was a large contributor to the success of the Group’s stall at the October Lions Village Festival, and having taken over as Publicity Officer in furnishing material for publication in the monthly local supplement to the Leader newspaper – all those articles were excellent.

Although somewhat sadly missing the greater intimacy of the old Library Hall meeting place, the new accommodation in the RSL Club to house our larger meeting attendance has seemed to work out well. We were most fortunate to have as our first presenter in our new meeting place Christine Talbot to give her wonderful presentation on the life of John “*Slam*” Sullivan. That meeting, like the August and November meetings – with topics “Doctors of Oatley” and “Ex-service-women and men of Oatley” – were not only well attended, but very well received. Attendance in each case exceeded 80.

During the year I have spoken on local radio 2NBC at 4.45 pm on the fourth Tuesday of each month about aspects of Oatley’s history and heritage. Only once have I had comment to me by anybody who has heard any of those talks – from a person I’d primed to listen! ... has anybody present today heard any of those talks?

A highlight for the Group in 2011 was being chosen Community Group of the Year and the posthumous award to our inaugural President Russell Gibbs as special volunteer in the St. George Community Awards competition under the auspices of Mark Coure, state member for Oatley.

Your outgoing committee has chosen as research/presentation topics for the remainder of 2012 – May - “*Oatley Ex-service women and men at War*” August – a presentation by Michael Flanagan, long time Oatley Newspaper proprietor on “*Newsagents of Oatley*” November - “*Real Estate Agents of Oatley*”..

2011 has seen the end of the long and successful “secretaryship” of Glenn Stevens, whose contribution to the Group has been most valued – fortunately Glenn has indicated she’ll accept nomination to the Committee where her contribution will continue to very considerable.

The sub-committee looking at pros and cons of possible incorporation of our Group has not yet finalised its work, but it is hoped the matter will be presented to a Special General Meeting later this year or at the 2013 AGM.

Our Treasurer, Bernard Bogan, informs me that the Group’s bank account at this stage holds \$3,420.01 (at1/1/2012).

The “membership” of the Group – including many who now live remotely and cannot join us at meetings – now exceeds 200 persons.

Inevitably, with a group made up mainly of “mature” membership, we experience illness and sometimes passing of friends and loved ones in our group – to all those who have been so affected, particularly over the last year, we extend our sincere condolences.

To the new members who have joined us in 2011 – another great big welcome.

I have very much enjoyed working with the 2011 committee members and have appreciated their unqualified support and contributions.

I thank Oatley Heritage Group for allowing me the satisfaction and pleasure I have experienced as your Group President for the past year.

Lastly, I extend my good wishes and confidence in the incoming Executive and committee for the coming year.

Cliff Crane

24 February 2012