



Hurstville Council

OATLEY HERITAGE & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 121, Oatley NSW 2223

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



Kogarah Council

2019- President - Julian Sheen 9594-4888: Secretary - Bill Wright 9580-1064

OATLEY HERITAGE AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2019

The attendance at our Annual General meeting was remarkably good with nearly 50 members attending and all committee positions nominated beforehand or filled from the floor. I wish the new committee well, particularly our new committee member Carol Harland. We were pleased to see our local member Mark Coure who joined us to make a presentation grant of \$2000 which will go toward such activities as installing, refurbishing and replacing local historic plaques.

I hope those who attended enjoyed the story I put together from local newspapers about Oatley in November 1918, the last month of World War I. I hope the experiences of our local people came to life; I know many local names that were mentioned were recognised by those present. It was surely a monumental period. Now we look to the future with our first Coffee and Chat of the year coming up on Friday 26th April. The venue will be the RSL hall with a 10am start time, and remember the coffee is free. Some of the things we will feature include the display of our Real Estate picture which was left out in the rain then miraculously recovered. Conservator Caroline Whitley has done a terrific job of restoration. Another feature will be Alec Leach's recollection of the 1946 shark attack which killed a 14-year-old girl in Oatley Bay, do you remember it? He also has information and pictures of the 1961 capture of an eight-foot tiger shark in Oatley Bay. 'Jaws' was back in Oatley! Don't forget to bring along your own memorabilia to share and discuss.

The Committee agreed to mark our great Secretary Bill Wright's recent Banks Electorate Community Award by hosting him for lunch in the RSL Oatmill Café after our Coffee & Chat meeting and we're sure many members will want to be involved. We will arrange for an area of the Club exclusively for our lunch and you'll be able to order from the \$15 special lunch menu or Oatmill's other menus and pay on the day. We'll need to give numbers to Oatmill Café so please let Cliff Crane know if you're going to attend the lunch – banjocrane@gmail.com or 9580-3269 before Wednesday 17th April.

Talking of memorabilia, if you have photos or other articles of a local historic nature that you would like to donate to our society, we would be very happy to store them for you. Storage will be in the storeroom of the RSL hall. We plan to arrange

for a person, perhaps a research student, who will come and catalogue our archives so they will be safe, properly recorded and well organised.

Our next presentation session will be Friday 24th May in the RSL Community Club (10am). Cliff Crane will present a session on Oatley Bushwalkers of Yesteryear. He will share with us his depth of knowledge on the proud history of bushwalking and exploration that Oatley people have participated in over many years.

The 2019 Oatley calendar with which we were involved was a great success. Sales were up and for our contribution we returned a profit of \$385. Planning for the 2020 calendar is underway and we plan to return to a past theme of “*Then and Now*” photos. Rodger Robertson is searching our records for suitable antique photos, different from the last ones of course, and Shaun Keys-Burn of Oatley Flora and Fauna will take the “*Now*” pictures.

Talking of planning, we have created a subcommittee – Cliff Crane and myself - to produce a booklet for publication in 2020 to mark the 25th anniversary next year of the beginning of the Society. A large part of the booklet is expected to present the history and development of the Society itself, particularly the contribution of “*the pioneers*” of the original Oatley Heritage Group, as well as edited versions of some of the topics researched and recorded over the years. We may call on you for your input into the story of our society, particularly the early years.

A sub-committee –Cliff Crane and Lawrie Yeomans, with me as *ex-officio member* – is also undertaking a review of the Society’s Constitution with a view to changes being put to a Special General Meeting to be held on the same date as our February 2020 Annual General Meeting. This review is mainly to tidy up some purely administrative shortcomings, and membership views on any ‘*non-administrative*’ matters will be sought well ahead of the February 2020 meeting.

I hope to see you at this year’s Anzac Day march – NOTE: **it’s on Sunday 14th April** - starting outside the RSL at 2pm. I will lay a wreath on behalf of the Society.
Julian Sheen

The St George Call (26 November 1910)

GOOD NEWS FOR OATLEY.

Yielding to the solicitations of Kogarah Council, the Lands Department have decided to withdraw from sale or lease a three-acre block at Oatley Point, on the foreshores of George’s River, and at the foot of Herbert-street, a principal avenue. The Council will now make application for this block as a public reserve, as it is the only waterfront block in the locality by which the public ‘can gain access to Oatley township from the water, the rest being occupied by private residences.