

# OHHS

PO Box 121 Oatley NSW

<http://oatleyhistory.org.au>

## Presentation

Friday, 27 May at 10:15am in Oatley RSL Auditorium

I hope to see many members at Graham Fry's presentation of the *History of the Illawarra Railway*. Visitors are welcome.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CAR PARK DOES NOT OPEN UNTIL 10AM

## Coffee and Chat

In view of the understandable preference of members for morning gatherings and the fact that the Society is unable to access a suitable location for morning coffee and chats, at no cost, the Committee has decided to cease holding Coffee and Chats for the time being.

Instead, next year there will be five presentations, as follows:

- Late February (after the AGM), late April, late June, late August and late October.

Accordingly, if anyone would like to make a presentation on any subject with even a small link to Oatley, please let any member of the committee know. Even topics with broad local appeal (e.g. the Georges River) would be welcome.

## Plaques

- The Townson plaque, which was in place briefly in the Memorial Gardens opposite GRC College before being removed due to Sydney Water work in that vicinity, will hopefully be put back in the near future.



## Upcoming Events

**May 27**

Presentation: *The History of the Illawarra Railway*

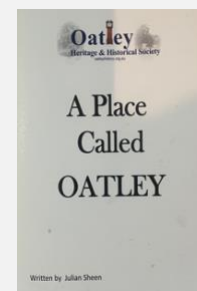
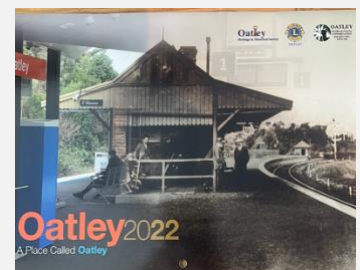
## 2022 Calendar

**A Place Called Oatley  
May**



**Needwood Forest**

## Recent Publications



The Committee has considered a number of options for new plaques, to utilise the grant received through David Coleman's office and is proposing the following plaques:

- Oatley Pleasure Grounds
- *The Needwood Walk* at the commencement of the walkway to Como (to commemorate Oatley's original name)
- *First Contact – Oatley* January 1788, hopefully to be located near the Hills Peak Lookout in Oatley Park

We are hoping to finalise all three this year.

## **The Oatley Grant Walk**

At this stage, this is now planned for Friday 7 October. Further details will follow nearer to the date.

### **Mr Russell Gibbs**

Russell Gibbs (1921-2002) was the founder of the Oatley Heritage and Historical Society. He presided over the inaugural meeting of the society in July 1995. This well attended meeting held in the Oatley Library set the direction for the group of local people interested in preserving the heritage of Oatley. The group quickly became known as the Oatley Heritage Group and Mr Gibbs remained the president over the first five, formative years. It was his drive and vision that ensured the continuation of the group into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Mr Gibbs' view was that the purpose of the Oatley Heritage Group was to "gather information, enjoy the past and let our children enjoy the future". It was his steady stewardship of the OHG that ensured its survival and progress.

For this reason, the Oatley Heritage and Historical Society, which evolved from the OHG, wishes to honour Mr Gibbs in some lasting way. The Society is seeking to mark his memory and his profound contribution to the Society; so we ask members to, as Russell would say, "put their thinking caps on" and come up with ways of remembering him.

If you have a good idea, please note it down and pass it to the president, secretary or any member of the committee.

## **Addresses for Newsletter**

I ask that those members who continue to receive their newsletters hand delivered to their letterbox, please advise our Assistant Secretary, Angie Sheinwald (0408 970 747) whether they still wish to receive their newsletters in this manner, to the address listed to you.

Lawrie Yeomans  
President  
May 2022