

Russell Gibbs.

Russell Gibbs was a long-term Oatley resident having moved to Annette Street in 1931 at the age of ten. Later he moved to Letitia Street and finally Dinjerra Crescent. Russell became very involved with such matters as the Masonic movement, local scouts and the local school P&C. When he retired, he became a volunteer at Oatley library and worked with Kogarah Council in support of the "Oatley Local History Project" in the early 90s.

In 1995, following his interest in local history, Russell Gibbs founded the Oatley Heritage Group assisted by several local people. The Group met regularly and produced reports on a number of local history topics; these were placed in Oatley library. Meetings were held in the school of arts room behind the library; this facility as well as photocopying privileges were negotiated by Russell.

Russell Gibbs was president of the Oatley Heritage Group till 2001; he died in 2002. In 2013 Norma Gibbs accepted a Community Award given to Oatley Heritage Group for its work to increase awareness of local history and make history come alive, particularly for children.

As part of Russell's legacy Oatley Heritage Group became Oatley Heritage and Historical Society in 2014.

Russell Robert Gibbs
Salesman
Dob 29 5 1921 d 23 Jun 2002

MILITARY
AIF 1940-1945
Royal Australian Artillery, Australian Coastal Defence
New Guinea, Celebes, Borneo
1996 Life member, Secretary Anti Aircraft Regimental Association
Member Royal Australian Artillery Association
Member Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society

MASONIC
Init L. Penshurst No 365 1946 at Hurstville
Foundation Steward L. Ashlar No 767 1948
WM Ashlar 1955
DGIW Dist 25 1960-62
Affiliate L 381 1972

WM 381 1979
Conf rank PJGW 1970, PSGW 1992

Secretary St George Lodge of Instruction 1974 – 1980
Preceptor 1985 -1988

UGL Committee Foreign Correspondence from 1982

UGL Official Lecturer From 1983

COMMUNITY
Volunteer Hurstville Library, Oatley Branch
Oatley Historical Society
Foundation President

