

COORANBEAN COURIER



RED COW INN COORANBEAN
HENRY KENDALL COTTAGE
WEST GOSFORD CIRCA 1836

NEWSLETTER OF THE BRISBANE WATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Vol. 36 Postal Address: 25- 27 Henry Kendall St., West Gosford, 2250 June
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BRISBANE WATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Founded 1950

Henry Kendall Cottage and Historical Museum

Affiliated with Royal Australian Historical Society -
Museums Australia-Museum and Galleries Foundation-National Trust

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Supported by Gosford RSL Leisure Living

AROUND THE GROUNDS

Welfare

Our hard-working Snr Vice-President and Publicity Officer, Margaret Pearce, is 'out of commission' at present. We wish her a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing her 'back on deck'.

Working Bee

About 20 wonderful people turned up on Saturday, May 19th, for our Working Bee. We have to rely on our volunteers to help carry out the necessary work and it's not always easy to find members who can give their time and efforts.

Edith, Ingrid, John (and wife Kerry), Margareta, David, Bob, Shirley, Jay, David B, Robyn (and husband Robert), Bruce, Kreenah, Tracey, Kathleen, Jim, Ros, Trish (and husband Neville also dropped in), all did a great job and it is much appreciated

A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO YOU ALL!

Storeroom 1 (museum) received a very big de-cluttering, clean, vacuum and tidy, courtesy of Edith, Margareta, Tracey, and Kreenah. We can actually find things now and it looks so much better. Jay will be doing some nice new labels.

John and wife Kerry, Trish, & David did a magnificent job on the centre driveway garden. It was weeded, newspaper was put down and then the mulch. It looks really great, the best it's been for a long while. Jim and Ros weeded and swept around the cottage, David Benwell brought along his ride-on mower, and did quite a bit of mowing, the grass looks neat, lush and green.

Elaine, Robyn (and husband Robert) attacked the walls, floors, and fittings in the Toilet Block and made a vast improvement. Jay, Bob and Shirley de-cluttered, tidied and vacuumed in the Archives Room, vacuuming in the Slab Shed was completed by Bruce, and Ingrid even 'braved' any stray redback spiders by cleaning out the 'country dunny', and made sure we were all fed very well. Kathleen was on duty in the front office and helped out in other ways – everyone worked well as a team and it was felt that we achieved a lot.

Lunch was 'yummy' Pizzas from Nick's Pizzas in West Gosford Shopping Centre, salads and sweet things from our Hospitality expert, Ingrid, and a nice cake from Kerry (John's wife). Ingrid again showed her expertise in the hospitality area and presented it all very nicely. We feel sorry for those who couldn't make it – the weather was kind and we had a great day, both workwise and socially.

Fairview Homestead Excursion - June 10th

– for those of us going with David Benwell – 8.15 sharp from HK Cottage – on way back from Fairview to Mangrove Community Hall we will do a drive-by of “Woodlands” at Somersby, featured in our article in recent issues of Cooranbean Courier regarding Pioneering of the Citrus Industry

Grounds – TAFE Visit

Michael from TAFE Horticultural Department visited recently. He was quite impressed with our trees and has offered to name and label them. We're very grateful to Michael for his offer and thanks to Kreenah, and Trish for arranging it all.

Volunteer Expo, Niagara Park, May 16th

This was attended by Margaret, Margareta, and Trish. Attendance was down from last year, we had only one enquiry, and it appears to have been a bit of a non-event but at least we presented 'our face'.

2012 Program

Check out our **Coming Events**. The next item on our program is a trip to Newcastle Museum on **Tuesday June 19th**. There are some interesting exhibits and entry is free. We're going by train, getting on at Gosford, Woy Woy, or whatever station suits you better.

Train times are – departs Woy Woy at **8.30**, stops at Koolewong, Tascott, Point Clare and arrives Gosford at **8.42**, departs at **8.51**, reaches Narara at **8.54**, then on to Niagara Park, Lisarow, Ourimbah, and arrives at Civic at **10.16**. Get in the second last carriage, or meet at the Museum entrance at **10.20**. Parking will probably be a problem at Gosford and Woy Woy but should be easier at the smaller stations. When we get off at Civic, we only have to walk a very short distance to the museum. There is a Café there where we can have morning tea.

After we leave the museum we can 'do our own thing', walk down the pleasant waterfront and have some lunch at any of the numerous cafes, and get on the train at the Newcastle station. Of course if you don't want to do this you can rejoin the train at Civic any time you like. This is a cheap outing-\$2.50 on the train for seniors, museum entry free, and you only have to pay for your own morning tea/lunch. Can't get much cheaper than that!

New Book

Copies of “Hawkesbury River Boats and People”, by Jean Purtell, have arrived and are on sale for \$20 from the Front Office. Reports so far indicate that it's a very enjoyable read.

Street Stall

Items are starting to come in for our Street Stall in October. After our very successful one in October 2011 we know that the earlier we start collecting items the better. We had a large collection of bric-a-brac, books, CDs, DVDs, plants and so on and we raised quite a bit. So do some de-cluttering and give us your unwanted items. **Let's have another successful Street Stall!**

Duty Members

Please make sure that if you suddenly find that you can't do your museum duty you contact Margaret (in charge of the Roster) or another Committee Member to advise of this. **It only takes a phone call!**

COMING EVENTS - PROGRAM 2012

JUNE	19	Outing to Newcastle Museum (details in this N/L
JULY	17 1.00	Winter Gathering – Soup and Rolls Lunch followed by Guest Speaker (TBA)
AUGUST	(TBA)	Outing/Bus Trip to ... (TBA) Start on History Week Display -selection, dismantling of current display, erecting etc
SEPTEMBER	8-16	History Week – Theme : Threads – History and meaning of Clothes/Fashion Spring Gathering
OCTOBER	26	Street Stall – Stall No. 2 William St Plaza (TBA) Musical Afternoon
NOVEMBER	(TBA)	Outing/Bus Trip (TBA) Bush Poets
DECEMBER	10	Christmas/Birthday Gathering- HK Grounds (to be confirmed)

Other Activities – Possible other Stalls etc (such as Beach Farm in Sept)

Here is the last part of the interesting Paper presented at a Society meeting (c.1960s) by Harold Robinson, a son of Charles Robinson, who established 'Woodlands' a large country home with a mixed orchard of citrus and other fruits. The 'mountain area' referred to is presumably the Mangrove Mountain area. The 'eighties' and 'nineties' would be the 1880s and 1890s. Good reading!

PIONEERING OF THE CITRUS INDUSTRY IN THE MOUNTAIN AREA (continued)

By H S Robinson

My observations on a visit to California in 1914, convinced me that specialization was the only thing and on my return I had several consultations with the Under Secretary, Mr Valder, Mr W J Allen, Dr Darnell Smith and others on this subject, and with some success, for later Officers were appointed to the Citrus, Stone and Pome fruits, and also to the vegetable section, these changes continued with the result that our Agricultural Department is now well ahead of those in other States.

Later, with Mr Henry Parry, a start was made to organizer growers in this district which linked up with the NSW Fruit Growers Association, later to become the Fruitgrowers Federation, this Association has done much to help the Citrus Industry and had many prominent men on the committee, which included John Neild, Sam Fagan, W E Kirkness and several big citrus men.

Many of the old methods of handling and preparing fruit for market have changed, it was everyday procedure for pickers to stand on ladders and throw the fruit direct into the cart, careful handling was unknown, especially in the Cumberland and Hills districts, the fruit was carted into the shed, the shafts were then tipped up and the fruit placed in cases from the tail of the cart, and graded by eye, should the fruit be too high or low, a false row was made in the pack, sometimes two or three different sizes would be placed in the case.

Fortunately this sort of thing has long passed and many important improvements such as the formation of packing houses has been made possible by the introduction of machinery.

While in California I purchased two fruit sizers, each of these machines is capable of sizing over a thousand cases of fruit a day, they have enabled the grower to change from the old square pack method to what is now universally known as the diagonal pack.

These machines separate the various sizes into bins, the difference in the size of the fruit being only one eighth of an inch, and each case of that size would contain exactly the same number of fruit.

Bud selection was another forward move and ensured the purchase of trees, obtaining not only the required variety being true to name but also true to type, and budded from trees of regular bearing habit.

This improved the type of Navels more than anything else, previously a case of fruit might contain oranges of all sorts of shapes, some perhaps with rosettes the size of a five shilling piece, but few, if any, of the uniform shape of today.

Cutting back to rejuvenate old trees was also an idea from California, there in 1913 they had the heaviest freeze on record, many trees were killed while others were affected by frost right down to the barrel.

The Arlington Heights, and other ranches as they are called there, arranged for an Australian, Mr C Bogue Luffman, who happened to be in England to go over, to see and to treat the trees as best he thought fit.

He pruned many of the badly frosted trees by different methods and, as I happened to be in Riverside about the same time, I was particularly interested in the work which was of inestimable value to the growers of the Gosford District nearly thirty years later.

Mr Luffman had for many years been in charge of the Burnley Horticultural College, a short distance out from Melbourne, an old personal friend, he has had a great deal of experience of the Paradise Stock, used chiefly as an apple stock, and from him I got the idea of working some oranges on the Trifoliata stock, this stock often has a tendency to dwarf the tree, but it greatly improves the flavour of the fruit.

Cutting back, or heavily pruning a citrus tree, is not of recent practice, shortly after my return from America, I cut back the original planting of Parramattas on *Woodlands*, also the Emperor Mandarins, the former afterwards carried prolific crops, but as the Irrigation Area Navels were then coming into bearing the prospects for seedling varieties did not look bright, nor would the public pay high prices for mandarins when they could obtain an over size navel (mostly skin) but free from seeds, at a more reasonable price. More recently, hundreds of acres have been so pruned in this district, and has resulted in putting many thousands of pounds into growers' pockets.

It may be of interest to this Society to hear that Somersby derived its name from the birth place of the late Charles Robinson, it is situated near Spilsby in Lincolnshire, England.

This sketchy survey of the development of the fruit industry in this district would be incomplete without some reference to the production which has taken place over the period to which this paper refers and while it is not possible to give exact figures, it may be of interest to quote from some figures supplied by the Gosford Co-operative Citrus Packing House, which covers a ten year period from 1942 to 1952.

The quantity of fruit packed by that Society alone was approximately three million cases.

It is estimated that this output represents about 28% of the fruit grown in the district, and enables one to form some idea of production, the volume of which is over one million bushel cases of fruit per annum.

In one season this Co-operative Society's output was 373,000 bushels.

The magnitude of plantings and production reached since the first experimental planting, has made this district the largest citrus area in Australia.

The industry has also played its part in the development and maintenance of this town and district, it has made its mark throughout Australia and other lands by the quality of its product, its reputation is an enviable one, it is also providing the livelihood of thousands of persons who are directly or indirectly concerned with it. May it never look back.

Time Line of Important dates relating to the Citrus Industry in our local area.

1824	The first fruit was grown by Frederick Hely
1841	Oranges sent to Sydney Markets
1888	The first major planting of citrus at Somersby
1889	Railway between Sydney and Gosford completed
1921	Jusfrute Ltd established by Colonel Garnet Adcock
1969	Central Coast Citrus Marketing Board developed the brand name CENCO
1982	Jusfrute factory closes
1988	Government tariffs are reduced on imported fruit

The Australian Government reduced tariffs on imported juice in 1988. It became cheaper to import juice from overseas than to use Australian fruit. The price of oranges dropped in 1991 and many orchards closed down.
