

COORANBEAN COURIER



RED COW INN COORANBEAN
HENRY KENDALL COTTAGE
WEST GOSFORD CIRCA 1836

NEWSLETTER OF THE BRISBANE WATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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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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AROUND THE GROUNDS

Working Bee Report

Despite dire weather predictions the day turned out fine and sunny. But unfortunately only a few members contributed their time and efforts to our Working Bee. This was a disappointing effort.

Members ! This is your Society, Museum and Cottage. We have to look after them. Sadly we don't have a cleaner any more and there aren't any 'good fairies' around to do the cleaning, weeding, dusting and so on. We just have to work as a Team and all do our bit to keep us functioning well - most of the work falls to our Committee and a few other dedicated members. So, how about it members! Even an hour or two would help. Thanks very much to those members who did support our Working Bee and we did accomplish a few tasks. Storeroom 2 was cleaned and tidied, making room for contributions to our October Street Stall. An inventory of the contents of Storeroom 3 was carried out giving us a better idea of what we will save and what will be disposed of.

Another dedicated member, Jay Sider, worked on the much needed outdoor furniture. Benches were added to the far outdoor table and the whole lot painted green – looks great.

Dusting was carried out in the Cottage and the Museum and more sorting and weeding of files was carried out in the Archives Room. We hope to begin some weeding of unwanted and out of date books and journals etc. before long. Pizza was provided for Lunch to keep our energy up.

Let's hope we get more support at our next Working Bee.

Volunteer Expo

Margaret Pearce and Tricia Scott represented BWHS at the CC Volunteer Expo at Niagara Park Neighbourhood Centre on Wednesday, May 15th and reported that the day was well-attended. with the Press, a Radio Station and GCC Mayor Lawrie McKinna also present. So it was a good day.

June Outing

Don't forget the coming Bus trip to Old Government House and Elizabeth Farm at Parramatta on ***Friday, 28 June, leaving the Museum at 8.00 am sharp.*** Lunch will be at Rosehill RSL and then on to Elizabeth Farm. Contact Margaret Pearce to book.

Street Stall

Our Street Stall will be held on Thursday, October 10. Please start bringing in unwanted items NOW – start de-cluttering! Tricia, Margaret and Beverley will inspect and price the articles for sale. You can leave them on the special bench in Storeroom 2 or leave them in the front Office with a Duty Member and they will find their way to Storeroom 2.

Bunnings BBQ

David Benwell and Kate Rowland have taken over the responsibility and organising of our Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings on Saturday, June 15. This is a very big job and it's great of David and Kate to do this. If you're not one of the helpers and you're shopping at Bunnings on that day, please drop in for a yummy Sausage Sizzle.

Guest Speaker

Guest Speaker at our Autumn Gathering on May 21st was ***Elizabeth Roberts*** from the ***Convict Trail***. The Convict Trail follows the route of the 240 km Great North Road, built between 1826 and 1836, and some of the brilliant engineering work created by hundreds of convicts can be seen. Elizabeth gave a very interesting presentation with plenty of questions being asked.

There was also a particularly tasty afternoon tea, including delicious prawns, dips, savories, cheeses, cakes. Thanks to those members who supplied our afternoon tea and helped set up. Winner of our Lucky Door Prize was Ray Arens.

It was a very enjoyable social gathering – sorry if you missed it; try to make our Winter Gathering in July when Ed Tonks, Local Historian, will be our Guest Speaker.

Comings and Goings

It's nice to see Edith back from her overseas trip – she seems to have had a great time. Margareta is visiting Sweden this month, Tracey Dillon is in Europe somewhere, and I'm off to Canada to see daughter Nicole and her family. Bob is "holding the fort" and looking after the animals.

Newsletter

The July issue of our ***Cooranbean Courier*** will be in the capable hands of Jay Sider and whoever he can coerce to help him while I'm away. I'll be back about the end of July. Don't forget contributions to the *Courier* are always welcome. See Jay or Edith during July but I'll be back on deck in August.

Wedding

A charming wedding took place in our Grounds on May 18th, on a lovely Autumn day. Suchinda (the bride) and her two attendants looked beautiful in traditional Thai outfits and Peter the groom and his attendant looked very handsome too! Peter and Suchinda donated their attractive marquee to BWHS as a thank you for using our Grounds for their wedding. Undoubtedly we'll find this very useful.

Group Bookings

Group Bookings so far for June and July. Note the big school groups on June 3 and 4. More about them in **August Cooranbean Courier**.

DATE	DAY	TIME	PLACE	ATTENDING
June 3	Mon	10.00	Umina P/school	110 students
June 3	Mon	1.00	Glengara Ret. Vill.	10-18 seniors
June 4	Tue	10.00	Umina P/school	110 students
June 12	Wed	10.30	Eastwood snr cits	visitors
June 18	Tue	10.30	On-Course tours	35 visitors - guide required
July 2	Tue	9.45	Eloura Waters Ret. Village	14-18 seniors
July 31	Wed	12.30	Terranova Tours	40 for BBQ (Sam brings his own)

Umina P/School visit

Umina P/School visited our complex on Monday and Tuesday - June 3 & 4 - 110 students each day. It was a busy, interesting time and the students seemed to really enjoy it. Members Margaret Pearce, Edith Campbell, Ros Ellis, Brian James, Frank Courts, Tricia Scott, Bob and Shirley Rider, were all on duty to guide the students around and answer the many questions asked. It was a lot of fun and students and members all enjoyed themselves.

Museum Duty

Would Duty Members please confirm with Margaret Pearce, our Duty Roster Officer, when they are on duty. Upcoming Tours are published in the Newsletter but this is issued monthly, usually on the first Wednesday of the month. Group Bookings can still come in or be altered after that date. A list of Bookings is in our Staffroom and is progressively updated. Please make sure that, if you suddenly find that you can't do your museum duty, you contact Margaret (or Bob or Shirley Rider if Margaret is unavailable) to advise of this. It only takes a phone call! If a Duty Member just doesn't arrive it means having to try to contact that member and/or then having to organize another member to fill in.

Roster

Margaret Pearce reports that our Roster is starting to look a bit "thin", with a few members travelling, on holidays, or otherwise not able to continue at present. If you wish to go on the Roster please let Margaret know. If you haven't done it before, you would be with experienced member/s who would "show you the ropes". It's quite interesting and a nice little social occasion.

Cleaning

We're again in the position where we don't have a regular cleaner so now we have to work as a Team and all do a little cleaning when we can. There are plenty of microfiber cloths, brooms and a brand new vacuum cleaner which is easy to use (don't fight everyone, you can all have a go!). Of course if any member would like to be our volunteer cleaner once a month you would be much appreciated; just contact Edith. A suggestion has been made in the past and again recently, that we have a card system for our cleaning tasks, with a card for each particular job/s. Members can check to see what job/s are currently required, and after they have been done the card goes to the back. That way the same jobs are not always being done and others overlooked. What do you think of this suggestion?

Curator

Our Curator, Kreenah Yelds, recently represented BWHS by attending a Museums Australia Conference in Canberra, and this is her report.

While proudly waving the Brisbane Water Historical Society flag - the annual Museums Australia National Conference held in May in Canberra was an excellent and very busy program hosted by several iconic venues including the Canberra Museum and Gallery, the National Museum of Australia, the National Film & Sound Archive, the National Gallery of Australia and the National Convention Centre to name a few – this year's theme was 'How People Work: People, Industry and Nation'.

The MA Conference attracted over 500 delegates, including leading museum professionals from around the world. Sessions explored working in museums and career paths, working together and collaborations, the business and sustainability of museums, and telling Australia's stories in the 21st century. Indigenous themes were well represented as were the national networks and key museum activities such as technology, exhibitions, collection care and preservation, accessibility and cultural diversity. International speakers examined work in Asia and the Pacific, relating Australia to our region. The conference was preceded by the Regional, Remote and Community Museums Day. Meetings for the Museums Australia Council, the Council of Australasian Museum Directors and Museums Australia National Networks were also held, creating a true hub of museum activities. A lively social program (that defied the overnight minus zero temperatures), a substantial trade show, and, a busy schedule of excursions to institutions in the national capital all contributed to an outstanding conference in this year of Canberra's centenary.

Woy Woy Railway Tunnel

The main Northern Line between Sydney and Newcastle was constructed in two distinct stages and in the earliest years was worked as two separate railway systems.

The line between Strathfield junction and the Hawkesbury River was opened on 5 April 1887, with the terminus being on the southern bank of the Hawkesbury River. The line between Newcastle and the northern bank of the Hawkesbury River (near present day Wondabyne) was opened in January 1888. A large sandstone ridge formed a natural barrier to railway construction and a lengthy tunnel through the ridge was required to allow construction of the railway line to continue towards the Hawkesbury River. Woy Woy Railway Tunnel was built approximately 3.2km south of Woy Railway Station.

Contractor George Blunt commenced work on the tunnel in March 1884. The tunnel proved to be a massive undertaking and was then the longest in Australia, being 1.79km long. It required 10 000 000 bricks which were drawn by a steam locomotive to the tunnel mouth where another crane unloaded them. Even though explosives were used the tunnel was dug laboriously, shovel by shovel, without the help of modern mechanical engineering aids, a remarkable engineering feat.

The engineers started at both ends and missed the mean centre by only a few centimeters. The spoil on the Woy Woy end was dumped on the mud flats on the route of the railway line and built the causeway from the site of the station to the bridge over Woy Woy Creek. The spoil on the other end of the tunnel was dumped on the Wondabyne foreshores.

During construction a tramway was built between Brisbane Water (at Woy Woy) and the site of the tunnel (4 km) to convey materials which had been landed at Woy Woy by boat.

There was a 'navy' camp near the Mullet Creek portal and there were never less than 600 men at work on the tunnel during the five years it took to build. The settlement was clustered on the flat – at the foot of what is now known as Bull's Hill – and on the hillsides. Most of the present day comforts were missing but there were very few restrictions such as taxes, closing times, and compulsory unionism. However, on the job there was definitely no room for the loafer. Men in the tunnel worked by candlelight. The bricklayers building the inner wall of the tunnel packed the space between the brickwork and the excavated wall with rock. Inspectors armed with canes constantly scrutinized the work and, if a space was left into which the point of a cane would enter, they would order it to be more tightly packed.

Hundreds of men fed at the eating houses which were log tents with wooden poles for seats. To cater for the thirst of the workmen there were

Woy Woy Tunnel (cont'd)

three hotels at the tunnel site, one on the flat, another near the tunnel mouth and one on top of Sugarloaf Hill. There were two police constables and, except for a drunken row when one or two of the men could be chained to a log till they sobered, the police lived at peace with the men encamped.

An unusual aspect of the tunnel is that the Newcastle-end portal is more southerly than the south-end portal.

The tunnel was opened at a ceremony on 17 July 1886, some 18 months before the opening of the line to Mullet Creek.

The line was completed through between Sydney and Newcastle with the opening of the massive bridge over the Hawkesbury River in 1889.

References:

Woy Woy Railway Tunnel. –NSW. Dept. of Environment & Heritage, 2010.

Swancott, Charles. – *Good old Woy Woy.* Sydney : 1970?

PROGRAM 2013 - Please watch the Newsletter for updates

<u>June</u>	Sat 15	Bunnings Sausage Sizzle
	Fri 28 8.00	Outing – Old Government House, and Elizabeth Farm, Parramatta. Lunch at Rosehill RSL
<u>July</u>	Tue 16	Winter Gathering – Soup and Rolls - Guest Speaker – Ed Tonks, Local Historian
<u>August</u>	Fri 16	Outing, Car Pooling – Roses to Go Warnervale – (Lunch at ‘Warnies’)
<u>September</u>	7-15 Sat to Sun	History Week – Theme – ‘ <i>Picture This</i> ’ – <i>Use of Photographs & Pictures in recording History</i>
<u>October</u>	Thur 24	Outing – Cockatoo Island, Sydney
	Thur 10	Street Stall – William Street Plaza
<u>November</u>	Sat 2, 9.30	Working Bee - Spring Cleaning
	Tues 19, 1.00	Spring Gathering
<u>December</u>	Tues.10, 12.00	Christmas/Birthday Party

Recipe Book

Bev Blockey is still after your tried and true favourite recipes for our proposed **Recipe Book**. She needs your recipes if this book is to ‘get off the ground’. If not your own - often we have recipes that were our mother’s or grandmothers’, or they have been in the family for a long while. Well, dig them out! They will make a delightful little book of recipes which can be a fund raiser for our Society. It will be fun – go to it!

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PLEASE NOTE:

All correspondence should be forwarded to our actual street address of 25-27 Henry Kendall Street, West Gosford, 2250 - unless otherwise noted.

Brisbane Water Historical Society Inc. owns and maintains Henry Kendall Cottage and Historical Museum at 25-27 Henry Kendall Street, West Gosford, which is open for inspection every Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm.

COACH / GROUP VISITS are always welcome, any time day or night, out of hours BY APPOINTMENT, Phone (02) 4325 2270

The Society's Meetings are held in the Henry Kendall Cottage and Museum Complex, West Gosford.

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME!!!!

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