

# 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**

### ***Annual General Meeting***

Our AGM will be on Tuesday, March 19th at 1.00 and all positions will be declared vacant. Only financial members will be able to nominate anyone for positions on the Committee or to vote at the AGM, or to accept a position on the Committee. Nomination and Proxy forms are available from the Office. If you wish to nominate for any position yourself, or you want to nominate any other members for any of the positions, just ask any of the members on duty for more forms if required. Give completed forms to Secretary Margareta Tauni or put them in her folder in the Archives Room. Nominations are due a week before the AGM - **Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**.

### ***Subscriptions***

A reminder that Annual Subscriptions are now due. If you haven't paid them already please pay ASAP to our Treasurer, George Boettiger. Fees are :

\$15.00 for singles

\$25.00 for doubles living at the same address

\$ 7.50 for children

No further Newsletters will be sent to unfinancial members after April.

### ***Agenda for Annual General Meeting – March 19<sup>th</sup> 2013***

President welcomes Members and Visitors, and Gosford City Council's Mayoral representative, Deputy Mayor Bob Ward, who has kindly consented to be Scrutineer for the election of our new Committee.

- Reports from retiring Committee and appointed Officer
- All Committee positions declared vacant
- Election of new Committee

### ***Guest Speaker***

Guest Speaker for our AGM will be Patricia Skehan. Patricia is a noted author and Historian and has visited us in the past. She's the author of

*Eadith : Dame Eadith Walker, The Walkers of Yaralla, and Where the Blue Wattle Grows.* It's nice to have her back again.

**Outing – Grossmann House – Thursday, February 28.**

We had a very enjoyable day at Grossmann House at Maitland and Miss Porter's House at Newcastle West. Morning Tea was on the way, at Kurri Kurri, where we were able to view many of the murals that have helped to promote this town.

Grossmann House is owned and operated by the National Trust. It is beautifully furnished and maintained and we had interesting knowledgeable guides who added to the experience. A delicious lunch was at Mayfield Diggers Club before we went on to Miss Porter's House. This is also a National Trust House, quite different to Grossmann House. It is an Edwardian Terrace House and contains over 100 years of collectibles. The two Porter sisters lived there all their lives – Hazel living until 1997 - and visiting it is like being in a 'time warp'. It seems as if there is still someone living there. Nothing appears to have ever been disposed of so furnishings and artefacts come from all periods during this 100 years. It is quite a social history.

Our driver from Coastal Liners took us for a nice little tour around Cook's Hill and Merewether before we headed home. A very pleasant day and the rain held off until we were nearly home.

**RAHS, Hunter Chapter, Convention at Wollombi**

Edith, Ron and Margaret Pearce, and I were fortunate in being able to attend this Convention at Wollombi. It was an interesting day with some Power Point displays, entertaining presentations, and another day with delicious food! It rained all day but didn't spoil the day even though we couldn't go on a walk through delightful Wollombi. We all reached home safely (and dry) too.

**Kariong Family Festival, Sunday, March 17, 2013.**

BWHS are participating again this year by operating a stall. The Festival attracts a lot of people so it's a good opportunity for us to really promote BWHS.

**Rotary Raffle**

This was drawn on February 12, 2013. Results are :

Winner - Open order for \$3 000 - W Browning, T/No. 9784  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - B & B (2) at Quay West Resort - A Graham, T/No 22165  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - 2 nights (2) at Allamanda Retreat - L. Gilmore, T/No. 10058  
4<sup>th</sup> Prize - Small Appliance Pack/ Retravisio - R Sherman, T/no. 10686

Thank you to all those who sold tickets particularly David Benwell and Kate Rowland who sold 3 books! A sterling effort! We made \$800.

### ***Heritage Grant***

Approval was received to complete the sterile zone around HK Cottage, under an existing Grant. Work has been carried out successfully, with pebbles laid, and it all looks very neat and tidy.

***Now to bring you up to date with all the other things that have been happening.***

***Long Time Member*** Beryl Beauchamp has finished working as a Duty Member. She has been about 18 years 'on the job'! Those members who have had the pleasure of doing Duty with Beryl, or who have otherwise met her, have enjoyed her company, her dry wit, her sense of humor, her dedication to our Society, and just for being such a nice person, will miss her greatly. Please visit us as often as you like Beryl for a little chat and a 'cuppa'.

### ***Welfare***

Sorry to hear that Katherine Baker is not too well. Best wishes for a speedy recovery Katherine, and to any other member who is not well at present.

***Railway Trolley*** – an historic railway trolley has been donated by Mrs. Linda McTaggart, In memory of her late husband, John McTaggart. It was used to transport produce by members of Mr. McTaggart's family at Gosford Station. More details as they come to hand.

***Bridal Display*** – the handsome uniform that was very kindly loaned to us by Sandy Hunt-Sharman, has been returned to her. Sandy lent us the beautiful wedding dress that was worn by her mother, Jean Kirkness, and a Royal Guards uniform similar to the one worn by her father, Bennett Hunt-Sharman. Our Bridal Display will be dismantled in late March – it will be sad to see it go but we have to prepare for our **Heritage Festival display**, which is .....

***“Community Milestones”***. Our proposed display is in the planning stage but it will be focusing on **Railways of the Central Coast**. Railway Research is underway and our display will probably include quite a few photographic items. Geoff Potter, GCC Local Studies Librarian, has offered to assist us in this venture.

An **Open Day** for our display will be on April 16<sup>th</sup> with Geoff Potter as a possible guest speaker and maybe another one or two speakers. Mrs. McTaggart and others will be invited to join our Members.

## **Group Bookings**

Group Bookings so far for March and April are as follows:

<b>DATE</b>	<b>DAY</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>PLACE</b>	<b>ATTENDING</b>
Mar. 5	Tues.	10.00-10.30	Berkeley Village	15
Mar. 5	Tues.	2.30	Treetops Resort	20
Mar. 6	Wed.	1.30	Wednesday Wanderers	15
Mar. 6	Wed (	9.30 (12.00	Henry Kendall H/S - Special Ed.	2 groups x 9
Mar. 7	Thurs.	10.30 (finish about 11.30-11.45)	Crows Nest Probus Talk required, bringing own M/Tea	TBA
Mar. 7	Thurs.	1.30	Everglades Probus	30-35
Mar. 11	Mon.	10.30-11.00	Wallsend Pensioners	30-35
Mar. 13	Wed.	10.00	Wesley Family Day Centre Terrigal	12 URN requ.
Mar. 20	Wed.	1.30	Treetops Resort	25
Mar. 24	Sun.	9.15	Rhapsody of the Sea	TBA
Mar. 25	Mon.	10.00	Terranova Tours	40
Apr. 8	Mon.	11.00	Happy Wanderers	30
Apr. 8	Mon.	2.00	Terranova Tours	4
Apr. 18	Thur.	2.15	Radiance of the Sea	TBA

Bookings are being received also for May and even later in the year.

## **Museum Duty**

Would Duty Members please confirm with Margaret Pearce, our Duty Roster Officer (or Bob or Shirley Rider if Margaret unavailable), 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.

**Program 2013 - Please watch the Newsletter for updates****March**

- Sun 17                      **Kariong Community Fun Festival**
- Tues 19, 1.00            **AGM – Guest Speaker, Patricia Skehan**  
Subject : *Lest We Forget, Memoirs of an Old Soldier*

**April**

- Tues 16                    **Open Day - Heritage Festival 'Community  
Milestones' : Railways of the Central Coast**

**May**

- Tues 21, 1.00            **Autumn Gathering – Speaker – Scott Levy, ABC**
- Sat 25, 9.30              **Working Bee – Storeroom 2 & 3 (maybe more)**

**June**

- Sat 15                      **Bunnings BBQ**

**July**

- Tues 16                    **Winter Gathering – Soup and Rolls - Speaker**

**August**                      **Outing –****September**

- Sat to Sun 7-15            **History Week – Theme – 'Picture This' – Use of  
Photographs and Pictures in Recording History**

**October**

- Thurs 10                   **Outing – Cockatoo Island, Sydney**

**November**

- Sat 2, 9.30                **Working Bee - Spring Cleaning**
- Tues 19, 1.00              **Spring Gathering**

**December**

- Tues 10, 12.00            **Christmas/Birthday Party**
-

**Audit** – An Audit has commenced of all the items in the Museum. As you can imagine this is going to take a lot of time and work by many of our dedicated members.

**Picture** - An unusual picture has been donated to our museum. It is made of wood, carved letters, and painted in parts – of Henry Kendall's poem "The Last of his Tribe". It's a beautiful piece of artwork and we thank the artist, Mr. Eric Lysaght very much. A letter of Thanks has been sent.

Our President, Edith Campbell, will shortly be doing a little travelling, and Curator Kreenah Yelds is having a few days off soon. Have a nice holiday, Edith and Kreenah, we'll miss you.

New Member Lisa Glanville is still helping with the museum and cottage cleaning. It's great to see our valued items being dusted regularly and cleaning carried out as quite often many small museums suffer from a "dust problem". Keep up the good work Lisa.

Progeny of our lovely Quisqualis shrub is now gracing our back fence so we should see an attractive display there in the future. Thanks to John Rousch for striking and transplanting it.

Big thanks to Brian McCafferty for disposing of our unwanted chemicals, old paint tins etc. by taking them to the Council cleanup. Brian took away about 30 containers of different Hazardous substances in a variety of old dangerous containers. And it poured rain the whole time. A fantastic job and we're very grateful.

Big Thanks also to Norman Allan for taking a trailer load of rubbish from the Workroom and Storerooms to the Tip. Hard work loading all that stuff that was in an eyesore pile near the workroom. Norman was also responsible for putting a roof over Big Bertha. Great work Norman.

On the following pages are the Annual Reports from our President, Edith Campbell, Margaret Pearce, Publicity Officer, and Shirley Rider, Newsletter Editor.

## **BRISBANE WATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.** **PRESIDENT'S REPORT – AGM 19 MARCH, 2013**

I am happy to present this report of our activities since our last Annual General Meeting in March 2012

### **Meetings**

This year was an experimental year. As was decided last year, we changed format to a more informal meeting with a speaker 4 times a year – Summer, Autumn, Winter, Spring. To this we added a speaker following the AGM, Heritage Festival in April,

History Week in September and our Christmas/Birthday Celebrations in December. We also had a couple of outings which left 2 months without an activity. We have decided to follow the same pattern this year but to have four outings so that there is something on for members every month. Thanks to Margaret Pearce for all the time she spends in finding interesting speakers for the meetings.

11 Committee meetings were held during the year.

### **Outings**

Over the past year, we have had 3 outings.

In June we took a cheaper trip by train to the newly renovated **Newcastle Museum**. Towards the end of the year, we had a trip to **Hyde Park Barracks**, Sydney, and our most recent trip was North again by bus to visit two National Trust properties - **Grossman House** (and its twin Brough House) in Maitland and the much smaller but fascinating **Miss Porter's House** in West Maitland. During our morning tea stop in Kurri Kurri, our bus driver also took us for a drive around the town to look at the many historical murals on the walls of buildings.

### **Special Functions**

**Heritage Festival** was held in April and spread over 2 days. The theme was The Citrus Industry on the Central Coast and the work of Garnet Adcock and his influence on the citrus industry. A display was organised by Kreenah Yelds and a talk on the subject was given by Geoff Potter, Local Studies Librarian, Gosford City Library. Other interesting speakers over the two days speaking on aspects of the Heritage of our area were, Phillip Morley, Elaine Fry, Gwen Dundon and Kay Williams.



**History week** in September was on the theme of Threads – They Wore What. Tracey Dillon organised a wonderful exhibition of historic wedding dresses and other wedding memorabilia and we were fortunate to have as speaker Madelaine Sweeney from Cavalcade of History and Fashion in Sydney who presented a power point talk on the historic clothing in their collection. We also saw a DVD of the collection from Grossman House in Maitland. This activity received a lot of interest from the public which was greatly helped by publicity and a photograph in the Express Advocate.

**Our Christmas Party** in December was most enjoyable despite the rain. Luckily we all fitted on the verandah! Margaret Pearce arranged the entertainment which was David Crawford's 'Good Old Daze Dance Band' and Heather Williams and her helpers provided a wonderful lunch. It was nice to be able to welcome some of our older members as well as some past members who attended. At each of these functions Ingrid Rode coordinated all the lunches and afternoon teas. Thanks to Ingrid for all her work.

In November, we had a visit from the **Gosford Bush Poets** and had a very pleasant and relaxed afternoon listening to old poems as well as some original contributions from the poets themselves.

### Visits to community events

During the year, we had stalls at a number of Community activities. This has the dual purpose of promoting an interest in history in the community as well as giving publicity to the Cottage and Museum. This year we have attended **Nostalgia Day** at Gosford Regional Gallery, **Volunteers week** activity at Volunteers Central Coast at Niagara Park, **Kariong Community Fun Festival** and **Beach Farm Markets**.

During the year, Edith Campbell spoke about the history of the Cottage at a meeting of the **Kariong Rotary Club** and Shirley Rider spoke about the history of the **Fagans and the Cottage** at the Christmas meeting of the Koolewong and Point Clare Progress Association. Three of our members also attended the **Annual Conference** of the **RAHS** at Wolli Creek in October.

**Central Coast Tourism** organises networking meetings regularly during the year and we are usually represented by two of our members at these meetings which keeps us up to date on what is happening in Tourism on the Coast.

## Fundraising activities

Much of our income comes from visitors to the Museum and ongoing activities such as raffles and of course our successful trading table. We also had three special fundraising efforts this year.

**The Street Stall** in October was extremely successful, surpassing even last year with our takings on the day amounting to \$1500.00 Thanks to Ingrid Rode who coordinated the event and spent many hours sorting and pricing items. Also thanks to all those who contributed items and those working on the day.

**Bunnings Sausage Sizzle** We were once again back on a weekend which is much more successful than the Friday of the previous year. Thanks once again to Ingrid for the organising and purchasing of the food and also to all the helpers.

**Rotary Raffle** - This year we doubled our income from this Raffle to \$800.00. Thanks to Bev Blockey for her excellent salesmanship and to all the people who sold tickets for us.

## Grants

During this year we have received three grants.

1 A '**Legs Up**' **Grant from Museums and Galleries** to enable Edith Campbell and Shirley Rider to attend a course on the use of the Mosaic Software in preparation to update our database.

2. **Volunteers Grant** from the Federal Government to purchase tools and storage for grounds maintenance as well as a new microwave and vacuum cleaner. These items will be available shortly

3. **Heritage Grant from Gosford City Council** to create a 'sterile zone' around the cottage as suggested by the Heritage Architect report received in 2010. This completes the work we have been doing over the last few years to solve the problem of damage from the rising damp that was affecting the walls of the cottage.

## Group Tours

There were 56 Group Tours last year which is a little down again. However we did have a lot of visits from Cruise ships docked in Newcastle. They do a 'History and Wildlife Tour' including our Cottage with a visit to the Australian Reptile Park.

The visitors seem to enjoy their visit so we hope these will continue.

The schools visits are also down again. We believe the cost of buses is affecting this and schools are having to reduce the number of excursions they are running. As an alternative, we have decided to offer to visit the schools with a box of artefacts that fit in with the

areas of the syllabus being taught. Schools would be asked for a donation to the Museum and this would reduce the cost to parents. Previous visits of this nature have been very successful.

### **New Banner**

To identify the Society and promote the cottage and Museum at events and Fundraising activities such as those mentioned above, we have a new Banner showing both the Cottage and

Museum as well as information about our opening times.

Thanks to Brian McCafferty and Jay Sider for helping in the planning and design of this banner.

### **Curator**

We are very grateful for the work of Kreenah Yelds over the past twelve months. Her current project is to do a complete inventory of the artefacts in the Museum and then to update the database. This will make our records more detailed and accurate as well as making it much easier to do research. Thanks to those who are assisting her with this and we would be glad to hear from anyone else interested in helping with this project.

### **Mosaic Museum Software**

So that we can more effectively keep our records, we have ordered the new version of the Mosaic Software that was used by Edith Campbell and Shirley Rider in their training last year.

### **Research**

We often receive requests from people for information about the history of the area as well as research for our own displays which we do from time to time. Shirley Rider has been coordinating this. We are also grateful for the work of Joan Patrick who is doing an oral history project with Mr Colin Margin about the Margin family, manufacturers of soft drink, cordial, ice-cream and ice in Woy Woy.

### **Website**

We are still having problems with the updating of our website.

One of our new members last year did some updating for us but due to other commitments he is unable to continue on a regular basis. He has recommended the use of Word Press – a free web builder - to update the website which is easy to use and we hope this will be installed soon. In addition, our original host, Announcelt, has gone out of business. We understood that we were to be transferred to another company but have recently found this has not happened. I have had several discussions with the other company and hopefully we will soon be back 'on air' again.

In the meantime, the Website is still available to the public with information about the cottage, our opening hours and our contact information and is still being accessed by people.

### **Grounds/Maintenance**

We have a wonderful group who are regularly keeping our grounds in order. Not only mowing and whipper snipping but any kind of gardening and minor handyman duties as well as cleaning out the workshop, cleaning gutters and anything they see needs to be done.

Special thanks to Norman Allen who has built a roof over our tractor, Big Bertha in order to protect it from the weather. Thanks also to Neville Scott for his help with electrical problems.

Other maintenance done this year included repairs to the roof of the workroom and Storeroom 2 building and a new section of concrete in the path near the ladies' toilet to replace a broken section.

In this report, I have mentioned people who have been involved in coordinating various events but this is only the tip of the ice-berg. So many people have been involved in all our activities. The small things like moving chairs, cleaning up, dusting artefacts, selling raffle tickets, are all vital to the smooth running of the society's activities.

I would particularly like to thank the committee for their support and their hard work. I would also like to thank all of you for the ways in which you have supported the society during the year. Thank you also for supporting our activities. We can't get interesting speakers without an audience or have outings if we can't fill the bus so thank you for all your support and help. If there is anything you would like to be involved in – please let someone on the committee know. The phone numbers and email addresses of the committee are on the back page of the Newsletter.

2012 was a busy and productive year. Thanks to everyone for the part you played in making this possible and we look forward to an enjoyable and successful year in 2013

**PUBLICITY OFFICERS REPORT Y/E 31/12/12**

We have scraped in on budget for the year's advertising despite soaring costs.

We have had the usual generous amount of free editorial from "Express Advocate, Mangrove Mountain News, Multi Arts Conf. And The Senior" and also the Radio Stations 2GO and Radio 50+.

Brochures have been distributed to branches of Central Coast Tourism, Shopping Centres, Libraries, Motels, Schools and Bus Companies.

Problems with the updating of the Website have been experienced, and should be solved very shortly now that updating is much simpler.

I have been Guest Speaker at several other organisations, with more for the future.

Various members and myself have attended the majority of the Tourism Networking Nights, which has proved to be a good way of spreading our message.

Signed     **Margaret Pearce**     **Publicity Officer**     3/3/2013

## **NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT – 2012**

I have pleasure in presenting my ninth Newsletter Editor's Report. Thank you most sincerely to these Members who have assisted me in the processing of *Cooranbeen Courier* on the first Wednesday every month; your help is very much appreciated.

- Jay Sider for his help in the production of the *Courier*, maintaining the Membership list, and printing of the envelopes.
- Brian James and Bob Rider for their assistance in the folding, stapling, and stuffing of envelopes.

Thank you also to the members who have contributed to the Newsletter.

During the past year the *Cooranbean Courier* has been issued to over 80 members, and 35 copies have been sent to other Historical Societies, Museums, and local media. Email has been used where possible to distribute the *Courier* which is a good saving on postage charges. Extra copies are printed also to be available in the museum.

***Around the Grounds*** provides the opportunity to keep Members informed by Reports on recent activities in our Society, such as the Welfare of Members, Social Outings, Special Displays and Events, Maintenance and Conservation, and to introduce new Members. Group Bookings each month are listed for Members' information.

Our ***Program*** for the coming year is included. This gives details about proposed events such as Social Outings, the Heritage Festival, History Week, our Street Stall, Bunnings BBQ, other special events, and Guest Speakers associated with some of these. This is updated every issue.

Details of current Committee Members, our Patrons, and Honorary Members are listed as well as General Information about our Society.

Thank you for allowing me to continue as your Newsletter Editor again this year and for your support and contributions. I hope I will continue to carry out the duties of Newsletter Editor.

*Shirley Rider*  
*Vice-President*  
*Newsletter Editor*

*March 2013*

**TEN YEARS AGO****BWHS Newsletter March 2003**

It's interesting to look back ten years and note that many of the members elected to the committee and appointed positions are still members. There also seemed to be more members participating in BWHS activities.

Our elected committee then comprised:

President	- Elaine Fry
Snr Vice President	- Margaret Pearce
Vice Presidents	- Glenys Hill, Frank Chalk
Treasurer	- Roma McAlister
Secretary	- June Ashton
Asst. Secretary	- Joy Holmes
Committee	- Fred Koch, Sylvia Marshall, Barbara Wyndon-Soeter

There were also a number of appointed positions :

Tours Organiser	- The Committee, Public Officer – Ron Pearce
Newsletter	- John Hill, Glenys Hill

Seven members on a Social Sub-Committee

Two members on a Fund-Raising Committee

Four members on a Research Committee

Naturally some members who were in elected positions also served on more than one sub-committee along with members who only served on sub-committees.

**THIRTY YEARS AGO****BWHS Newsletter March 1983**

The AGM was held on February 15 ... Stan Fry was elected as President (10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year) and Elaine Fry filled the position of Secretary (11<sup>th</sup> year). There were other long serving members on the committee. Fred Koch was made a Life Member of the Society and Honorary Builder of the Museum. The profit from the Kibble Park stall on Australia Day was \$62.25. One of our members Joy Kingston participated in an ordination service for Reverend Miriam Anne Howard as the first female minister at the Uniting Church in Gosford (indeed of any church in the local area). ... A coach load of Royal Historical Society members visited the Cottage with Stan Fry escorting them on a tour of the area, wrapping up in a 'Thank You' tea held at the new Museum, with 72 people present. Numbers were also excellent at the event of the last group tour to Lake Macquarie, when TWO coaches were needed. ... A family picnic day was announced for March 27<sup>th</sup> to be held in the Museum grounds

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<b>AUDITOR:</b>	Mr A C Westbury	
<b>HONORARY SOLICITOR:</b>	Mr W Rutledge	4323 3333

**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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