

# COORANBEAN COURIER



RED COW INN COORANBEAN  
HENRY KENDALL COTTAGE  
WEST GOSFORD CIRCA 1836

## NEWSLETTER OF THE BRISBANE WATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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No. 5 Phone: (02) 4325 2270, (02) 4325 2689 - Fax (02) 4322 2587 2013  
Internet: [www.henrykendallcottage.org.au](http://www.henrykendallcottage.org.au) email: [info@henrykendallcottage.org.au](mailto:info@henrykendallcottage.org.au)

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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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***What's in this Newsletter?*** *Henry Kendall born, April 18th 1839*

### ***Around the Grounds***

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## **AROUND THE GROUNDS**

### ***Report on our Heritage Festival display, "Community Milestones" : Railways of the Central Coast***

Our Open Day on April 16th was a successful enjoyable day. Over 40 visitors inspected our Showcase display and collection of photographs and railway memorabilia. Amongst the historic artifacts was a large old platform trolley, a small stove from a Guards or Brake Van and a host of historic photographs and documents.

We're really grateful to Geoff Potter, Local Studies Librarian at Gosford City Library, for the loan of the wonderful collection of photographs and documents. Thanks also go to Mick Farrell for the loan of his great photos and Guards Van stove. These complemented very well the items, such as an old Railway Lantern, as well as the photos we had in our own Collection.

Guest Speakers were Bill Phitton from the NSW Railway Historical Society who gave a fascinating presentation about the building of the Hawkesbury River Railway Bridges. We were pleased to see our friends from Alison Homestead at Wyong, with Philip Morley giving an interesting talk about when the railway came to Wyong. Philip also gave us an update regarding the rebuilding of Alison Homestead.

Thanks also go to our Curator, Kreenah Yelds, for putting this display together, in which I had the privilege of assisting her. Thanks also go to Tracey Dillon for the mannequin appropriately dressed, Margaret Pearce for publicity, Edith Campbell, Jay Sider for the computer stuff, Brian James, and those members who assisted on the big day. A real team effort – thanks again everyone.

### ***Heritage Grant***

Self-propelling lawn mower, microwave oven, vacuum cleaner, chainsaw, toolbox have all been purchased. Secateurs and other tools will be bought with the rest of the Grant.

### ***June Outing***

The Bus trip to Old Government House at Parramatta is now on ***Friday, 28 June, leaving the Museum at 8.00 am.*** Lunch is planned at Rosehill RSL and then a visit to Elizabeth Farm.

### **Donation**

Two copies of the last issue of the **Gosford Star** Newspaper, dated 6 August 1992, before it was amalgamated with **The Central Coast Express**, have been donated anonymously. The **Central Coast Express** itself became the **Central Coast Express Advocate in 1995**. These copies have been placed in our Archives.

### **Bunnings BBQ**

David Benwell and Kate Rowland have very kindly agreed to take 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 make this offer. At least two other members will be required to help.

### **Street Stall**

Permission has been received from Gosford City Council to hold our Street Stall 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.

### **Guest Speaker**

Our May Guest Speaker will be **Elisabeth 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. This should be an interesting presentation and we're really looking forward to it.

### **Maintenance**

Quotes were received with one being accepted from Abode Maintenance for the painting of the roof capping on the museum. This has now been carried out and reports are that it looks good.

### **Anzac Day**

Many thanks to Frank Courts for putting our Flag up on Anzac Day. Frank and some friends paid their respects with a BBQ in the Grounds on this Special Day.

## Group Bookings

Group Bookings so far for May, June and July are as follows:

DATE	DAY	TIME	PLACE	ATTENDING
MAY	1 WED	11.00	SNRS SOCIAL & FRIENDSHIP CLUB	10 visitors
MAY	18 SAT (chairs)	2.00	WEDDING IN GROUNDS (Peter & Suchinda)	20 visitors
MAY	20 MON	2.00	TERRANOVA TOURS	40 visitors
MAY	22 WED	2.00	TREE TOPS	40 visitors
MAY	29 WED	10-10.30	ALL NATIONS	15 visitors
JUNE	3 MON	10.00	UMINA P/SCHOOL	110 students
JUNE	4 TUE	10.00	UMINA P/SCHOOL	110 students
JUNE	17 MON	10.30	FRENCHS FOREST TRESILLIAN	19 visitors
JUNE	18 TUE	10.30	ON COURSE TOURS	35 visitors
JULY	3 WED	12.30	TERRANOVA TOURS	40 for BBQ (Sam brings his own)
JULY	31 WED	12.30	TERRANOVA TOURS	40 for BBQ (Sam brings his own)

## 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.

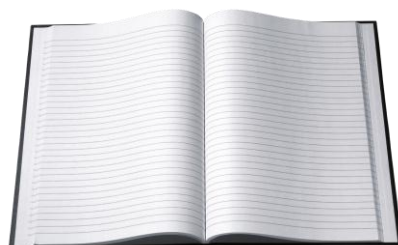
**Program 2013 - Please watch the Newsletter for updates**

<b><u>May</u></b>	Tue 21, 1.00	<b>Autumn Gathering</b> - Speaker – Elizabeth Roberts, Convict Trail
	Sat 25, 9.30	<b>Working Bee</b> – Storeroom 2 & 3
<b><u>June</u></b>	Sat 15	<b>Bunnings Sausage Sizzle</b>
	Fri 28 8.00	<b>Outing</b> – Old Government House, Parramatta and Elizabeth Farm
<b><u>July</u></b>	Tue 16	<b>Winter Gathering</b> – Soup and Rolls - - Guest Speaker – Ed Tonks, Local Historian
<b><u>August</u></b>	Fri 16	<b>Outing, Car Pooling</b> – probably <b>Roses to Go</b> , Warnervale – (still under consideration)
<b><u>September</u></b>	7-15 Sat to Sun	<b>History Week</b> – Theme – ‘ <i>Picture This</i> ’ – <i>Use of Photographs &amp; Pictures in recording History</i>
<b><u>October</u></b>	Thur 24	<b>Outing</b> – Cockatoo Island, Sydney
	Thur 10	<b>Street Stall</b> – William Street Plaza
<b><u>November</u></b>	Sat 2, 9.30	<b>Working Bee</b> - Spring Cleaning
	Tues 19, 1.00	<b>Spring Gathering</b>
<b><u>December</u></b>		
	Tues.10, 12.00	<b>Christmas/Birthday Party</b>

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***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 tried and true 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!



## THE TWO BRIDGES

*At our recent Heritage Festival Special Day we had a very interesting presentation by Bill Phitton from the NSW Railways Historical Society about the building of the two Hawkesbury Railway bridges. Following is a summary of this great achievement.*



Opening of First Bridge 1889

The First Bridge opened in 1889 and enabled people to travel some 2,880 kms from the top to the bottom of Australia with two breaks of gauge on the Victorian and Queensland borders. The Union Bridge Co. of New York was awarded the contract to construct the bridge in 1885. The bridge had seven spans of 416 ft (127 m) each. 6,320 tons of steel were used for the spans. The piers were concrete below water and sandstone masonry above. Five piers were sunk between 150 and 160ft (46 to 49 m) and pier no. 6 went 162ft below water ; considered an engineering feat.



Hawkesbury River Railway Bridges, original and replacement under construction, circa 1945

Through the 1920s and 1930s, many design faults and problems became evident. By 1925 the original loading of the bridge was considered inadequate and in 1925 it was decided to strengthen the deck. The work took nearly six years, between 1926-31 and numerous problems were experienced with the pin-jointed construction of the trusses which, while easy to assemble, were difficult to maintain and strengthen. In 1937 and 1938 serious cracks developed in a number of piers and divers confirmed major construction faults with the piers below the water line, with the stability of the bridge causing major concerns. It was found unsafe and trains were slowed down to a walking pace during the war.

Design and construction of a replacement bridge commenced in 1939, due to concerns that the original bridge would not hold up to extra loading and traffic caused by transport demands of WWII. The old bridge remained in operation until the new one was completed. The design, foundation work and fabrication of the new bridge were undertaken by the NSW Government Railways and over 500 men worked on the project, with six dying during construction. A plaque commemorating the lives lost is at the southern end of the bridge, at the northern portal of the 1946 tunnel through Long Island.

The Second Bridge opened July 1946 and was also considered a technical achievement at the time of its construction, with its large riveted steel trusses and its footings still being among the deepest in the world. It remains the longest purpose built rail bridge in the NSW network.



The First and Second Bridges



<b>PATRONS:</b>	<b>The Earl of Gosford and Mr. Lawrie McMcKinna, Mayor of Gosford City</b>	
<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	Edith Campbell	4329 5212 <a href="mailto:e.cam@bigpond.com">e.cam@bigpond.com</a>
<b>SNR VICE PRESIDENT &amp; PUBLICITY OFFICER:</b>	Margaret Pearce	4384 3271 <a href="mailto:rpearce31@bigpond.com">rpearce31@bigpond.com</a>
<b>VICE PRESIDENT &amp; NEWSLETTER EDITOR:</b>	Shirley Rider	4322 2911 <a href="mailto:rider@smartchat.net.au">rider@smartchat.net.au</a>
<b>VICE PRESIDENT:</b>	Brian McCafferty	0431 866190 <a href="mailto:brian.mccafferty@y7mail.com">brian.mccafferty@y7mail.com</a>
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	Margareta Tauni	4332 5408 <a href="mailto:marg_tauni@hotmail.com">marg_tauni@hotmail.com</a>
<b>TREASURER:</b>	George Boettiger	4382 4882 <a href="mailto:jorgenb@bigpond.com">jorgenb@bigpond.com</a>
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBER:</b>	Bob Rider	4322 2911 <a href="mailto:rbrider32@yahoo.com">rbrider32@yahoo.com</a>
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBER:</b>	Tricia Scott	4369 2796 <a href="mailto:neville.scott6@bigpond.com">neville.scott6@bigpond.com</a>
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBER:</b>	Bev Blockey	4369 0069
<b>PUBLIC OFFICER</b>	Ros Ellis	4392 6672 <a href="mailto:rosellis13@hotmail.com">rosellis13@hotmail.com</a>
<b>CURATOR:</b>	Kreenah Yelds	0409664325 <a href="mailto:kreenahyelds@bigpond.com">kreenahyelds@bigpond.com</a>
<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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