

COORANBEAN COURIER



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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 & Galleries of NSW – National Trust

Disability Access : Free Parking

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Welfare

Best Wishes for a speedy recovery to anybody suffering the aches and chills of Winter Colds and Flu. Hang in there!

Parramatta Trip – Friday, 12th June

This trip is proving popular but there are still some seats left – check with Margaret, 4384 3271.

We'll be leaving HK cottage at **8.30 Sharp**. Morning Tea somewhere around Pennant Hills and lunch at Rosehill Bowling Club. We're really looking forward to this trip as, by all accounts, Judith Nunn is a good storyteller and has a good historical knowledge of the area. \$69. Look forward to seeing you then!

Working bee – CLEANING! Saturday, June 20th

Don't let the name scare you off – many hands make light work! It has to be done now and again – dust gathers – it has no respect for our precious collection. Things start to get a bit untidy after a while too so hence a Cleaning Bee. We'll start about 9.30 am – if you can't do all day whatever time you can spare will be very much appreciated. All day Tea, Coffee and biscuits, and a nice free lunch of BBQ chicken and salads for our willing workers! Hope you can make it!

Storms

The cottage roof stayed on during the wild storms – just lost a few shingles that have been collected for replacement. No damage to the cottage, Museum or out-buildings. Lots of branches have been stacked outside waiting for a Council pickup. Many thanks to all the members who helped in the cleanup. There is still a branch waiting for the SES to cut down at the front of the property blocked off by tape. It's also been blocking off the mailbox but the obliging mailman has been delivering the mail right to our office door every Wednesday.

Name Tags

Jay Sider has done some attractive newly designed Name Tags for anyone who has lost theirs or just fancies a nice new one. See Jay or a Committee Member.

Trading Table

There are lots of Winter things like beanies, mittens, scarfs, gloves, and other ideas to keep you warm. Come in to have a look.

Books

More copies of ***The Wreck of the Maitland*** have been obtained for sale in museum.

New Member

Welcome to new member Fiona McLennan. Hope you enjoy your time with us Fiona.

Tractor

Tricia has spoken to Brian Hopkins from the Machinery Club to see how they are going with our Tractor and advises that at this time they are still cleaning and getting it ready for the paint job. They are also cleaning and repairing the motor which we thought was a lost cause but it looks as if there may be a chance they could get it going. There was a lot of water in the motor, so it will be touch and go as to whether they can get the motor to turn over - at the moment things are moving so it hasn't seized up completely. We'll keep our fingers crossed that they may get it going; if not it will look good after the paint job. We need to find a name for her, or him. Any ideas?

Photo Exhibition at State Library

Is anyone interested in a train trip to the city to see a display of photos at the State Library, called **Crowd Source** (also called **Secret Sydney**). The photos were taken in Sydney in 1880. We could have lunch at the **Café Trim** at the State Library. It would need to be late July or early August. See more information on Notice Board. Let Edith know if you are interested

*Open: 4 April 2015 – 23 August 2015 Venue: Exhibition Galleries
In the 1880s Arthur K Syer strolled through the streets of Sydney with his parcel-wrapped, hand-held 'Detective Camera', which allowed him to take photographs without the subject's knowledge.*

The informal nature of Syer's photographs — low camera angles, blurred movement and an absence of careful composition — give 1880s Sydney a cinematic quality. The gestures and poses of the street can be sensed.

These images provoke us to put ourselves in the crowd, and compare the lives of 1880s Sydney-siders with our own experience of the city.



Meetings

Don't forget that we are meeting on Saturdays now so hopefully those members who couldn't get here during the week can now make it on a Saturday.

Interesting Items in our Museum

Some time ago we ran a series in the Courier of ***Interesting Items in the Museum*** and I think it's about time we did another! To start this again I found a model of the Clipper ship ***Thermopylae*** in the museum so did a little research on Google and discovered some really interesting information and photographs. The ship was named after the battle of ***Thermopylae*** in 480 BC between 300 Spartans and 700 Thespians, from the writings of the Greek Herodotus.

Thermopylae, the great rival of ***Cutty Sark***, was the most famous vessel constructed at the ***Hood Yard*** and was said by many to have been the finest clipper ever built. It was described in her day as the pride of the British merchant marine and justly regarded by contemporary mariners to have been the fastest sailing vessel ever launched.

Thermopylae was specifically designed for the intensive demands of the China tea trade but spent most of her working life as an Australian wool clipper.



Thermopylae was an extreme composite clipper ship built in 1868 **Launched:** August 1868
Designer: Bernard Weymouth, London
Builder: Walter Hood
One of a series of vessels built in Aberdeen for the local White Star Line of George Thompson & Co.

On her maiden voyage, ***Thermopylae*** sailed from Gravesend to Melbourne in just 60 days, breaking records on each leg of the journey - only steamers had previously matched such speed. All of George Thompson's Aberdeen White Star Line vessels were noted for their handsome appearance; green hull, gilded scroll work and white masts, yards and bowsprit.

Thermopylae had a white and gold figurehead of the Greek hero Leonidas, the King of Sparta, wearing Greek armour, helmet, shield and sword.

Thermopylae (cont'd)

In the 1890s, after more than 2 decades as a China tea clipper and then an Australian wool clipper, ***Thermopylae*** was sold by her Aberdeen owners to a Canadian company. She was put on the rice and timber carrying trade between Rangoon and Vancouver. Despite shortened masts and being cut down to a barque rig in July 1893, and her crew reduced from 35 to 20 men, she continued to make speedy passages. On one occasion she crossed the Pacific in 29 days, a world record at that time, and on another kept level for 3 days with the Canadian Pacific steam liner ***Empress of India***, which was capable of 16 knots.

In 1897 she was sold to the Portuguese Navy as a training ship and renamed ***Pedro Nunes***, after a 16th century Portuguese Mathematician and Geographer. The vessel was converted to a coal hulk and finally sunk by gunfire as target practice on 12th October 1907. In June 2003 a group of professional Portuguese divers found the remains of ***Thermopylae*** about 30 metres down on the seabed off Lisbon. The hull is mainly buried beneath the sand but enough is visible to identify her as ***Thermopylae***.

What an incredible ship with a fantastic history! “We will never see her likes again.”

...(Ref: Wikipedia and other sources through Google)



The model of the ***Thermopylae*** in our museum is a Revell Kit model – a very nice one. We think it entered our Collection about 1962 but we have no information as to who made it up or donated it.

PROGRAM 2015**June 12th - Friday - Outing - Parramatta History trip**

With Judith Dunn of Past Time Tours, looking at historic places in Parramatta. **8.30 am sharp at HK Cottage.**

June 20th - Saturday - Working/cleaning bee - 9.30 at HK Cottage & Museum. Biscuits, Tea & Coffee all day – Lunch of BBQ chicken and salads

July 18th - Saturday – Winter Gathering - 1.00 – a Home made Soup and Rolls Lunch which will be welcome in cold July. Our Guest Speaker will be Marie Riley. Marie has spoken at our functions before and is always interesting, so put it in your diary.

August (date TBA) Outing to the new CC Interactive War Exhibit in Tatura Ave, Gosford (near Showground). Followed by lunch – any suggestions for somewhere interesting and reasonably priced? We will travel by Car Pool.

September 12th - Saturday–History Week 2015 Open Day – 10.30-2.00
Free event - Gold Coin donation welcome – Light Lunch and Refreshments provided.

Special Guest Speakers on the day include **Emeritus Professor Richard Waterhouse**, FAHA FASSA University of Sydney, whom we have had the pleasure of listening to before. We are also fortunate to have as our second speaker, **Michael Kilminster**, PhD candidate and sessional academic at the U. of Newcastle. Michael is also the 2015 Seymour Scholar at the ANU and a National Archives of Australia-Australian Historical Association Postgraduate Scholar for 2014-15. Michael's research investigates Australia's Eastern Mission in 1934, the nation's first overseas diplomatic mission. Described to the House of Representatives as 'a Mission of friendship to our neighbours', it investigated opportunities for expanding Australia's trade to Asia, and promoted Australia's interest in friendly relations with Asian nations, as well as tracking down facts on other countries' culture, economics and politics.

Theme : Both of our guest speakers will be a wonderful complement to the upcoming temporary exhibition titled - War Nationalism and Identity "**Soldier On**", (August 1st until October 31st), that will highlight what efforts were made at home to keep the fires of prosperity burning during times of peace and conflict in WWI and WWII.

October 5th – Labor Day Long Weekend Monday – Bunnings BBQ.

October - Date tba – **Visit to the Powerhouse Museum Complex at Castle Hill** – more information later.

November 21st – Saturday at 1.00 - Spring Meeting

Guest Speaker – Robyn Abernethy CEO Central Coast Tourism

December - Date tba – Christmas Party

GROUP BOOKINGS – June–November 2015

June	4	Thur.	10.00	Terranova Tours	46 visitors
June	9	Tue.	2.00	Woodlands Retirement Village, Cherrybrook	Talk 12 visitors
June	12	Fri	10.00	Terranova Tours	35-46 snrs & host - Guided Tour
June	17	Wed.	10.00	Peats Ridge P/School +Parents+Teachers	Yrs 1 & 2 - BBQ required for lunch
July	22	Wed.	2.00	Kiama Scenic Tours	33 snrs + host & driver
July	24	Fri.	1.30	Blue Mountains Walkers	12 visitors (approx)
Aug.	24	Mon.	10.30	Coastal Liners (Oatlands Probus)	40 visitors
Sept.	17	Thur.	2.00	Asquith Probus (Comealong Tours)	40 visitors) – Talk
Sept.	28	Mon.	12.00	Terranova Tours	40 visitors
Oct.	22	Thur.	11.45	Cardwell Coaches Tour	30 visitors + 2 crew
Nov	19	Thur.	tba	Probus of Umina	tba visitors -URN

Roster

Upcoming Tours are published in our Newsletter which 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 Front Office and is progressively updated. Our Duty Roster Officer, Margaret Pearce, will advise those members on the Duty Roster.

If you wish to go on the Duty Roster please let Margaret know (4384 3271). You would be with experienced members for your first few duty days and then always with one or two others. Members find it interesting and a nice little social occasion.

Museum Duty

Would Duty Members please confirm with Margaret when they are on duty. Please make sure that if you suddenly find that you can't do your museum duty you contact Margaret (or Shirley 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.

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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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