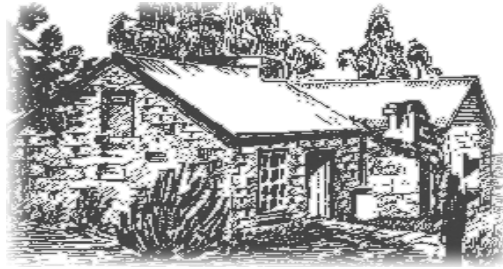


# COORANBEAN COURIER



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 & Galleries of NSW - National Trust

*Disability Access : Free Parking*

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### ***What's in this Newsletter***

#### **AROUND THE GROUNDS**

- Welfare : p2
- Report - Regional Museum, Windsor p2,3

#### **COMING EVENTS**

- Program p3
- Group Bookings : Roster : Thank You Cards p4,5
- NPWS Award p6,7
- The Shipbuilders of Brisbane Water Photo Exhibition p7
- Committee p8

## **AROUND THE GROUNDS**

### **Welfare**

Neville Scott has had his operation and Tricia reports that all went well. We're very glad to hear that he's doing OK.

### **Report on our trip to Windsor**

*We thank Peter Rae for his report on our very enjoyable trip to Windsor on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> June, and we have pleasure in including it below.*

Last Friday BWHS organised a bus trip to the Hawkesbury Regional Museum and the adjacent Howe House; both proved to be very interesting. 24 members including two from the 'Dharug and Lower Hawkesbury Historical Society' thoroughly enjoyed the day. Coastal Liners provided the transport and the driver gave lots of informative comment and quite a few jokes along the way. We stopped for morning tea at the Cumberland State Forest picnic grounds at West Pennant Hills.

We arrived at the museum in Windsor around 10.15 am. This is the only publicly run, professionally staffed museum in the wider Hawkesbury area, which includes the Blue Mountains, Penrith, Hills, Blacktown (pre-amalgamation) local government areas. The smartly dressed employees and volunteer staff welcomed us and were on hand to provide additional information.

The museum featured numerous multi-media exhibitions, combining artifacts, photographs, scale models, maps and video with simple, easily understood written information. Most displays were presented in crisp, bright perspex cases standing on white plinths, while a few older display cabinets were suitably utilised to exhibit some pieces. The interior of the museum presented a bright, very uncluttered open feel, with high ceilings and predominately white walls, some were featured with suitably coloured displays or with murals.

Windsor is one of Australia's oldest settlements and the various exhibitions traversed from the earliest times, subjects were diversified from the first great Hawkesbury flood, river traffic, through to the war years and more recent times.

### *Windsor Report (cont'd)*

We were given a guided tour of the adjacent Howe house, built between 1827 and 1837, which gives an atmosphere that takes visitors back to those days. The below ground cellar, kitchen and servants' quarters were particularly fascinating.

Lunch, included, was at the Windsor RSL and was excellent. While special diets were catered for, most people enjoyed the extra lean and thinly sliced roast beef and vegetables followed by a mini fruit pavlova (much better than average) for dessert. About an hour was spent with good food and good conversation. We were delivered safe and sound back to West Gosford at 3.45pm.

All round a great day was had, with many thanks to Margaret Pearce for the organisation.

If this trip is anything to go by, our next outing should not be missed.

### **COMING EVENTS - PROGRAM**

July	- 16	1.00	<b>Winter Gathering – Soup and Rolls Guest Speaker – Joan Patrick who will talk about the research she has been doing on Manly.</b>
August			<b>Change of Exhibition Display</b>
September -10			<b>History Week Open Day - we will acknowledge the invaluable work of the CWA Northumberland region with the 'More Than Tea and Biccies' exhibition</b>
October			<b>Outing - tba</b>
November - 19 <sup>th</sup>	1.00		<b>Spring Gathering</b>
End of November			<b>Change of Exhibition Display</b>
December – 13 <sup>th</sup>	11.00		<b>Christmas/Birthday function</b>

**Group Bookings**

July 13	Wed.	10.30	Charlestown Com. Probus - Guided Tour & Urn	30 visitors
July 28	Thur.	10.30	Closebourne Village, Morpeth - Guided tour	20 visitors
Aug. 16	Tues.	10.30	Green Point Probus	tba BBQ & Urn
Aug.18	Thur.	11.00	East Gosford Probus	20 visitors

***From 1<sup>st</sup> September we will acknowledge the invaluable work of the CWA Northumberland region with the “Not Just Tea and Biccies” exhibition.***

Sept. 5	Mon.	11.00	New Heights Church	10 visitors
Sept.16	Fri.	2.00	Stuart Coaches	40+ visitors
Sept.22	Thur.	10.30	Blacktown National Snrs Urn	20 visitors
Nov. 16	Wed.	3.30	Shellharbour Coaches	50 visitors
Dec. 23	Fri.	11.45	Cardwell Coaches	30 visitors

**Roster**

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 Roster please let Margaret know (4384 3271) and 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 Edith or Shirley)

**Thank You Cards**

We have received some delightful Thank You Cards from students of the Central Coast Adventist School who visited HK Complex on 9<sup>th</sup> June. Thanks to our guides on that day - Edith in the Museum, Shirley and Fiona in the Cottage, and Brian in the Slab Shed. We're glad the students had a good day, we certainly enjoyed having them.



## **NPWS Award**

*In 2015 a Gosford Council grant was auspiced by the Brisbane Water Historical Society to enable members Dora and Peter Rea to present six years of their research work on Broken Bay/Hawkesbury River Ferry Tours.*

*In Broken Bay is an old fortification called West Head Fort (WHF). Research started on this site about five years ago, when a small group of like-minded interested people, including Peter and Dora came together, they called themselves WHAT the 'West Head Awareness Team'.*

*Once protecting the river route to the Hawkesbury Rail Bridge plus the entrance to Pittwater and Brisbane Water, WHF has lay all but forgotten for the past seventy years, out of sight to all but a few 'boaties'. Ordinance consisted of 4.7" naval guns, however, the most fascinating thing about the fort was the 150 m long inclined railway which ran from Commodore Heights down to the guns. Virtually all trace of this railway has disappeared along with any photographs or drawings. Gradually the old fort gave up its secrets to WHAT and this public awareness prompted a proposal to make the site accessible again.*

*Dora and Peter worked with the Royal Australia Artillery Association and with 93 year old Jack 'Bluey' Mercer who was 18 when he was stationed at WHF in 1941. Bluey's fantastic memory provided details of the way the railway looked and how it worked. This allowed Peter to complete new drawings of the railway and he also compiled a record of on-site photographs.*

*The first recognition of all this work came to WHAT via a 2014 NSW Heritage Award. This was followed by the Minister for Heritage and Environment, Rob Stokes, highlighting the WHF work in a speech to NSW Parliament. The Member for Gosford also endorsed the individual research work of Dora and Peter in another speech to Parliament.*

*At a West Head open day in November 2014, Peter had the opportunity to personally talk with Minister Stokes about his proposal to have a working diorama and model built. 18 months later the Minister and Peter unveiled the completed two working models at Commodore Heights directly above the old fort's gun emplacements. Also opened that day was the reconstructed soldiers track which for first time in 70 years allows safe public access to the site.*

## ***NPWS Award (cont'd)***

*The ultimate concept for Dora and Peter's work is to present local/Australian history by combining dioramas, models, graphics, historical and site photos with video, to create multi-media, interactive exhibitions. A meeting held on 7 June at Bobbin Head indicated NPWS would be seeking funding to allow this final stage of the project to proceed.*

*Footnote: On Friday 17 June, Peter was in Sydney undertaking further research when Dora phoned him to say an envelope had just been hand delivered which contained two individual NPWS Awards for 'Outstanding Achievement'.*

*Dora and Peter wish to thank all those who have provided so much support for their work and those who continue to do so.*

*If you haven't already done so, take a look at their website;*

*[4hresearch](#)*

## **Bunnings BBQ**

Our very successful sausage sizzle was held on 13<sup>th</sup> June and raised about \$1 000. Loads of people were out enjoying the sunny day and feasted on the sausage sandwiches. All the helpers worked hard but Danny and David did an absolutely magnificent job cooking the snags. Very tasty they were too!

**The Shipbuilders of Brisbane Water Photo Exhibition**, is still on display until August. It celebrates the industrious shipwrights who toiled at Kincumber, Davistown, Daley's Point, Empire Bay, Blackwall and Terrigal from 1829 until 1953.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to step back in time and see an important part of local maritime history.



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<b>HONORARY SOLICITOR:</b>	Maxine Andronicos Taperell Rutledge, Lawyers	

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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 Historical Museum Complex, West Gosford.

**NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME!**

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