

COORANBEAN COURIER



RED COW INN COORANBEAN
HENRY KENDALL COTTAGE
WEST GOSFORD CIRCA 1836

NEWSLETTER OF THE BRISBANE WATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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June
2020

BRISBANE WATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Founded 1950

Henry Kendall Cottage and Historical Museum

Affiliated with Royal Australian Historical Society -

Museums Galleries Australia (MGA) - Museum Galleries (MGNSW) – National Trust

Disability Access : Free Parking

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Supported by :



WELFARE

We're sorry to hear that Ingrid Rode has had a few medical problems - our very best wishes Ingrid for a speedy recovery.

All the best also to anyone else who is not too well at present.

MEMBERSHIP**Note from Treasurer:**

Dear Members, there are still some members who have not yet renewed their membership for 2020. The membership fees per annum January to December are Adult \$20.00, Couple \$30.00, Student \$7.00. You can pay by EFT/direct credit to our bank account: BSB 062-690 Account No. 1021 5592 please include your name as reference. You can also pay by debit or credit card (Visa, Mastercard, American Express or EFTPOS) – please phone me on 0418 276 263 if you wish to pay this way and I will take down your details, or you can email details to treasurer@henrykendallcottage.org.au.

While the Museum is currently closed, we appreciate member's renewing as maintenance and utilities costs continue during the lockdown.

Do hope that everyone is well and coping in these troubled times.

We had a very successful Electronic Committee Meeting (via Zoom) on May 12th with all committee members participating and intend having our next Zoom E-Committee Meeting on June 9th.

GROUP BOOKINGS 2020 -

Just the same three bookings -

Thursday	12 November 2020	Tuncurry Coach Tours
Thursday	19 November 2020	Potter Travel EH12451
Saturday tbc	20 or 24th February 2021	Potter Travel EH12238

Will keep you informed of any changes or additions to this when the situation improves.

SOME PAST EVENTS : 10 YEARS AGO (2010)

BWHS

Here is some more information about what was going on in our Society ten years ago. Our Committee was - President - Shirley Rider : Snr Vice President - Elaine Fry : Vice-Presidents - Bob Rider, Joy Holmes : Secretary - Ros Ellis : Treasurer - George Boettiger : Committee - Fred Koch, Margaret Pearce, Ingrid Rode.

Public Officer - Ros Ellis : Publicity Officer - Margaret Pearce : Newsletter Editor - Shirley Rider : Hospitality - Ingrid Rode. Gosford City Council Mayor - Laurie Maher.

The major event of the year was our 60th Birthday. BWHS was founded in 1950 and acquired Henry Kendall Cottage in 1960.

There was an article in the Express Advocate about the electrification of the Railway Line to Gosford fifty years ago (1960), which featured Elaine Fry - a very big day for the Central Coast. "It was a day of celebration to mark the end of seventy years of nightmare steam travel through the Woy Woy tunnel with its horror of sulphurous smoke, soot, coal dust, grime and darkness."

Gwen Dundon's book ***A History of the Ferries on the Central Coast*** was launched at functions at Woy Woy Library and Alison Homestead. These functions were very well attended with BWHS members present at both. It was the seventh local history book published by Gwen.

Fund raising was carried out by having Street Stalls, Trading Table, Raffles, Bunnings BBQs, and Handicraft sales. A Grant was received for the purchase of a Computer, Projector, Cash Register, and Laptop Computer. We had a big working bee and sausage sizzle to thank those dedicated members who gave their time and efforts in a major clean up of our premises, when we closed to the public for a week.

Other activities and Social Outings included a cruise on the Lady Kendall and a visit to the Jewish Museum at Darlinghurst. Most of our committee attended a function at Maitland & District HS celebrating the opening of their new premises. We had visits from 82 coach tours and 8 school groups. Husband Bob and I represented BWHS at a display at Koolewong & Point Clare-Tascott Progress Association, of old photographs, maps, and plans, with stories of early settlers such as the Fagans.

PAST EVENTS - TWENTY YEARS AGO (2000)

BWHS - Our Committee:

President - Elaine Fry : Snr Vice President - Stan Fry : Vice-Presidents - Ruth Logan, Glenys Hill : Treasurer - Frank Chalk : Committee - Sylvia Marshall, Joan Dent, Yvonne Cobby : the Secretary Position is temporarily vacant and the Society is intensely looking for one.

Appointments - Newsletter Editor-Ruth Logan :Tours Officer-Harold Bryant: Research Officer-Helen Taylor : Street Stall Organiser-Winsome Andrews. Gosford's Mayor was Chris Holstein.

Of course the big event for 2000 was the Sydney Olympics! *(So difficult to believe that it was twenty years ago. It just seems like yesterday and who can forget the excitement of Cathy Freeman's winning race).*

The Games affected everyone in many ways and the memories will stay with us always. Planning (lots of it) was taking place in preparing for The Games and would involve many of us, with the media reporting constantly on all the preparations.

Bendigo Bank opened a very welcome branch at East Gosford on 5th August 2000.

Wyong Historical Society invited BWHS members to their 21st birthday party on 23rd September at Alison Homestead.

We were planning to host an Open Day at the Museum to celebrate our 50th Birthday, with a sausage sizzle and a white elephant stall *(always fund raising! ...Ed.)*

A future Coach Tour was being planned also and would be a 2 1/2 hour cruise on the Lane Cove River, from Darling Harbour to Hunters Hill on the paddle-wheeler, and included a BBQ lunch.

In April there was a Fire Drill and instructions on other emergency procedures at the museum. Smoke alarms were to be fitted, and instructions were given on the use of fire extinguishers, fire blankets, and what to do in the case of phone threats.

The theme of the Heritage Festival in April was "Our Sporting Heritage" and included a display at our museum of 'Sporting Photos of Yesteryear.

The Guest Speakers at our monthly General Meetings included Ed Tonks, Pat de Carle, Marie Andrews, Harold Hitchcock, Patricia McDonald, and Bob Sennett - (these were diverse Guest Speakers on a variety of subjects.)

BWHS - Twenty Years Ago (cont'd)

A 3-days coach trip was being planned for October to the Blue Mountains and Yerranderie. The tour includes a guided tour of Yerranderie, the Zig Zag railway, 2 nights accommodation at the Big Trout Motel at Oberon, 2 cooked breakfasts, two dinners, picnic lunch, all morning teas, all sightseeing tours and all venue fees. Cost \$357 twin share, \$77 single supplement.

Our September Newsletter informed us that the tour cost had ben reduced to \$279 twin share, single supplement \$70.

(Those were the days! ...Ed.

A Spring social get-together was planned, with Barry's Spit Roasts and a fashion parade (don't know about that) - cost \$15.

Well, we were enjoying plenty of activities then! (....ed.)

End of the Fagans

Keith Compton, the only grandchild of George and Agnes Fagan, died on 22nd May, 2000, aged 78 years. He was the last descendant of Peter Fagan who built Cooranbean Cottage. ...

George and Agnes Fagan had only one child, named Erina (Ena) who married Frank Compton, a builder, in Randwick. Keith was their only child. After Keith's parents were married they came to live at Gosford at "Oakhaven" on the banks of Narara Creek at West Gosford. George Fagan died when Keith was three years old, so the Comptons lived there with Keith's grandmother Agnes. The property covered what is now the Gosford RSL Club and associate complexes.

Keith Compton raised fine horses, entered shows and trained as a racing steward. He travelled extensively to country districts. The Fagan family has been involved with fine horses and racing for over a hundred years.

Keith Compton was later appointed Chief Stipendiary Steward of Trotting in NSW and was then living in Randwick. After he retired, he moved to Gosford, and resided in Showground Road, Narara in 1976. He was now the Track Supervisor at Gosford Race Club. Later he moved to Wyoming where he passed away after a short illness. (Newsletter, July 2000)

TWO SONNETS BY HENRY KENDALL*REST*

1868

*Sometimes we feel so spent for want of rest,
We have no thought beyond. I know to-day,
When tired of bitter lips and dull delay
With faithless words, I cast mine eyes upon
The shadows of a distant mountain-crest,
And said "That hill must hide within its breast
Some secret glen secluded from the sun,
Oh, Mother Nature ! would that I could run
Outside to thee ; and like a wearied guest,
Half blind with lamps, and sick of feasting, lay
An aching head on thee. Then down the streams
The moon might swim, and I should feel her grace,
While soft winds blew the sorrows from my face,
So quiet in the fellowship of dreams."*

TWO SONNETS (cont'd)A MOUNTAIN SPRING

1868

*Peace hath an altar there. The sounding feet
Of thunder and the 'wildering wings of rain
Against fire-rifted summits flash and beat,
And through grey upper gorges swoop and strain ;
But round that hallowed mountain-spring remain.
Year after year, the days of tender heat,
And gracious nights, whose lips with flowers are sweet,
And filtered light, and lutes of soft refrain.
A still bright pool. To men I may not tell
The secret that its heart of water knows,
The story of a loved and lost repose ;
Yet this I say to cliff and close-leaved dell ;
A fitful spirit haunts yon limpid well,
Whose likeness is the faithless face of Rose.*

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PUBLIC OFFICER:	Jim O'Harae	

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 that is open for inspection every Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday from 10.00am to 3.00pm.

COACH / GROUP VISITS are always welcome, any time day or night, out of hours BY APPOINTMENT, Phone (02) 4325 2270. Our Grounds are open every day from 10.00 to 4.00 for visitors to stroll around and view our outdoor exhibits. The Society's Meetings are held in the Henry Kendall Cottage and Museum Complex, West Gosford. NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME!!!!

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