

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

Accessible Parking : Free Parking

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WELCOME EVERYONE

The number of COVID infections has grown and the situation can be very concerning and depressing. Don will keep Members informed of on-going developments regarding COVID and our Museum.

We just hope you are all surviving the situation and handling the **Lockdown** OK. Circumstances change frequently and we also hope that they improve soon. We just have to stay positive and follow instructions. It does get lonely at times, especially for those of us living on our own. Thankfully many of us can phone or email friends and relatives, order our supplies from the supermarkets, etc. TV is mostly good - we have the ABC, SBS, the commercial channels, and also Netflix and the other Streaming services to keep us informed and entertained - and not forgetting our trusty SMH.

Because we don't have any Tours or Visits to feature I've been going through past issues of our Cooranbean Courier to find some interesting items or occasions to write about. I've combined some of these in this issue and have also featured our **Lady of the Year** -

CONGRATULATIONS AND A VERY HAPPY 100TH (belated) BIRTHDAY ---- DOREEN PREBBLE

LIFE MEMBER Doreen Prebble OAM turned 100 in June and still recalls the happy times she had as a member of the Society over 20 years ago and has been a Life Member for a number of years. Doreen has received 3 telegrams from the Queen. She was born in Sydney in 1921 and came to the Coast about 1974.

Doreen still lives in her own home in Old Bar and does her own housework including cooking and ironing but because of her bad knees allows one of her daughters (74) to do the vacuuming. Doreen loves a coffee at the local cafe, plays Mahjong with a group of 8 and only needs her glasses to do hemming of the quilts she helps make. The other quilt girls call her "Mrs Hemming".

Doreen says she is the only pebble on the beach with an R. She also enjoys good health and leads a busy life. Again Doreen, a **Happy 100th Birthday** - what an achievement! (Narrated to Terrie Stoyel per phone conversation 5/08/21).

This seems to be the only photo we have of Doreen, from our **Courier of September 2002**. *"Happy Anniversary ... Member Doreen Prebble and her husband Ron celebrated 60 years of marriage on August 22nd. The couple were married at the Methodist Church Campsie in 1942. They have one son and two daughters, eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Doreen is an Hon. Life Member of the Society."*



.(Hope it's OK to reprint it here Doreen).

(Shirley, NewsletterEd)

And here is another centenarian --

1910 ESTEY PARLOUR ORGAN

"You are no doubt aware of the organ in the Museum. It is a 1910 Estey Reed Organ. We couldn't find an exact match on the Estey website but we're reasonably sure this would have been referred to as a 'Parlour' model, This was home entertainment over 100 years ago.

Our Estey is 100 years old - (Happy Birthday). We offered Bob Wilson, a visitor to the Museum, our sincere thanks for applying his expertise in restoring it to full 'playability'. Bob was a professional restorer but graciously gave his time to clean the organ and get it playing again. From him we learnt how to effect basic maintenance in order to keep it in good playable condition.

If any members can play the organ, come in and 'blow the cobwebs away'. Bob recently completed a restoration on a similar organ in an old church at Hill End. His next 'little job' was to join a small team of experts

who would be undertaking a thorough cleaning of the grand old organ at the Sydney Town Hall.

Estey Parlour Organ 1910 (cont'd)

Bob also commented favourably about our organ. We don't know much about it so more research would be required to establish the maker and year of manufacture. "



Jacob Estey, born 1814 in [Hinsdale, New Hampshire](#), ran away from an orphanage to [Worcester, Massachusetts](#), where he learned the [plumbing](#) trade. In 1835 he arrived in [Brattleboro, Vermont](#) at age 21 to work in a plumbing shop. He soon bought the shop, beginning a long career as a successful businessman. He died in 1890.

About 1850, Estey built a two-story shop in Brattleboro and rented it out to a small company that manufactured [melodeons](#). When the renters ran short of cash, Estey took an interest in the business in lieu of rent, eventually becoming sole proprietor. Despite having no musical talent or skills as an inventor, Jacob Estey grew the company into a great success, giving up the plumbing business.^[3] In 1855, Estey organized the first manufacturing company to bear his name, Estey & Greene—followed by Estey & Company, J. Estey & Company, Estey Organ Company—and finally, Estey Organ Corporation.

Jacob Estey saw the manufacturing and sale of these instruments, later known as [American reed organs](#), as a new business opportunity.

..... Wikipedia

(Ed's. note - there's a lot more interesting stuff about organs in Wikkipedia)

Here is Henry Kendall's 'Austral Months' poem for August -

AUGUST

*Across the range, by every scarred black fell,
Strong Winter blows his horn of wild farewell;
And in the glens, where yet there moves no wing,
A slow, sweet voice is singing of the Spring.
Yea, where the bright, quick woodland torrents run,
A music trembles under rain and sun.
The lips that breathe it are the lips of her
At whose dear touch the wan world's pulses stir -
The nymph who sets the bow of promise high
And fills with warm life-light the bleak grey sky.
She is the fair-haired August. Ere she leaves
She brings the woodbine blossom round the eaves;
And where the bitter barbs of frost have been
She makes a beauty with her gold and green;
And, while a sea-song floats from bay and beach,
She sheds a mist of blossoms on the peach.*

And I can't let September go past without reprinting "our Henry's" lovely poem about September in Australia --

SEPTEMBER IN AUSTRALIA

Grey Winter hath gone like a wearisome guest,
And behold, for repayment,
September comes in with the wind of the West,
And the Spring in her raiment !
The ways of the frost have been filled of the flowers,
While the forest discovers
Wild wings, with the halo of hyaline hours,
And the music of lovers.

September, the maid with the swift, silver feet !
She glides, and she graces
The valleys of coolness, the slopes of the heat,
With her blossomy traces ;
Sweet month, with a mouth that is made of a rose,
She lightens and lingers
In spots where the harp of the evening glows.
Attuned by her fingers.

The stream from its home in the hollow hill slips
In a darling old fashion ;
And the day goeth down with a song on its lips,
Whose key-note is passion.
Far out in the fierce, bitter front of the sea
I stand, and remember
Dead things that were brothers and sisters of thee,
Resplendent September !

The West, when it blows at the fall of the noon
And beats on the beaches.
Is filled with a tender and tremulous tune
That touches and reaches ;
The stories of Youth, of the burden of Time,
And the death of Devotion,
Come back with the wind, and are themes of the Rhyme
In the waves of the ocean.

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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 that is open for inspection every Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday from 10.30am to 2.30pm.

Our Grounds are open every day from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm 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!!!!** COPYRIGHT: Articles from this Newsletter may be reprinted by other groups without permission, providing acknowledgement is made of the original source and author, unless they are specifically marked copyright.

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