



Peninsula Historian

Newsletter of the Manly, Warringah &
Pittwater Historical Society Inc.

VOLUME 8 No. 1

January 2015

ISSN 1835-7628

FROM THE EDITOR

And yes it's still me.

However we seriously do need someone to take on this responsibility. A working knowledge of Desktop-Publishing is necessary but I will be happy to help someone to get into the swing of the task and I can also pass on the software (or should I say app) which I have been using. Also the banner heading, etc. will be passed on so they do not have to be created every edition.

We are still looking for material to use in the Peninsula Historian. Surely there are members out there who have interesting stories to tell, interesting anecdotes, queries of an historical nature around the Peninsula or other ideas which could be used.

Come on! We cannot rely on just one or two members to fill the pages of the Historian month by month.

This month Gloria has added to the tale of her wartime experiences at North Head and Jim has added articles, while included is another of the articles about past presidents by George Champion and sent by Barbara Davis.

Please note that the January meeting of the society has had to be cancelled. We do apologise for the late notice but the situation was not of the society's making.

Subscriptions for 2015 are now due. A renewal form is included with the hard copy of this edition it can also be printed from the email edition or by down-loading from the web site.

www.mwphs.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As we enter the new year, we have a number of major objectives and if people think I have missed some important targets, do not hesitate to email me or contact me to discuss how we can correct that oversight.

One of the areas where I would like to place some energy is the statement of Historic Themes that each council is encouraged to maintain. Unfortunately the NSW Government in setting out the 38 themes, gives little indication as to how the Statement should be prepared for the greater understanding of the public. To have a Statement that has 38 sections would miss the point about the inter-relationship of these themes and how a combination shapes the character of a particular historic period. There are events such as the discovery of gold in 1851 and the beginning of each World War that determine the start and end of historical periods.

The atmosphere of the period that follows, not only shapes social activities but also the buildings in which we live, work and enjoy our leisure moments. These themes then influence the design of heritage items be they natural, or man-made in the form of structures or movable

artefacts. Each heritage item sheet recording the aspects of that item, is required to identify the historic themes that are present but have little clarification as to how a historical period or a series of historical periods had an influence on that heritage item. An example of this, is how the kitchen of a heritage house has changed over time, not only has technology of the kitchen changed but also the family usage and the presence of employees in the form of a cook or maid.

The relevant NSW Government theme is Domestic Life but to leave it at that seems to miss the point as to how the function of a kitchen has changed and the complexity of usage patterns. That unfortunately is one of the great weaknesses of the present heritage system as it is only basically concerned with the facade of the building. I am not arguing for the removal of the dishwasher and the microwave and the return of the wall separating kitchen from the home sitting area in a heritage home, but a recognition that the history of the Australian home is only partly connected to a heritage system.

For the public to be engaged with the manner in which local government administers heritage, there needs to be a far greater clarity of the system. The present system has little definition in terms of funding, expenditure and administrative priorities. For a start, it would be beneficial that a description of functions and department positions accompany a heritage review. In this day and age, with digital technology, this should be available on a council website, as well links to further explanatory material. The reason why I think it is a priority for the Society, is that all three councils with which we are connected, are in the process of addressing this important document, the Statement of Historic Themes.

Although we still seem some distance from having a Museum for the display of historical artefacts of the Peninsula. We are certainly getting a far greater recognition of the importance of Movable Heritage. There is even the greater recognition that such a Museum would be a flagship amongst several other ships of the fleet. There are historical collections of movable heritage all over the Peninsula, not the least of which are in the various surf clubs. All sporting clubs have some measure of a

collection of artefacts and this is also true of the vast array of community organisations that dot the area. Most these organisations have been active for over a generation (25 years) gradually we are assisting in the establishment of a system that has some substance. As a society we are uniquely placed to help that process.

The third priority for 2015, is the beefing up of our own Society. We need to address a younger audience and we need a stronger management team. This is not to say the present Executive Committee is not doing its job but we are spread too thinly. There needs to be a stronger interchange of ideas and an input from people of different ages and backgrounds. We are all interested in history both local and in relation to specific activities. Increasingly I am interested in the organisation of public administration and would love to unearth the records of the Progress Associations these represented communities up and down the Peninsula. These preceded the council in Warringah and they also had an Annual Congress, not quite on the scale of the recent G20 but substantial. Doubtless there are other activities that need their activities celebrated.

I hope you all had a Happy Christmas and can look forward to a prosperous new year.

PITT STOP

William Pitt the Younger [1759-1806], former British Prime Minister, was advised by his doctors to cure his gout by drinking a bottle of port a day. He died from cirrhosis of the liver, aged 46.

VIEW FROM THE DRAWING OFFICE, NORTH HEAD

(Extract from Gloria Carroll's diary in 1942/1943)

The view from the Drawing Office was delightful, being an elevated position. To the north one could follow the coastline as far up as Palm Beach then swinging westward was the great

stretch of Frenchs Forest with Manly nestling into the foreground.

The harbour was always lovely on the sunniest or cloudiest day with various ferries and launches continuously plying to and fro. On weekends, pleasure craft and big yachts added to the beauty of this scene.

From the barrack's veranda, looking down at Manly on a still summer evening, one could easily imagine it to be a glimpse of fairyland, with soft glowing lights (wartime brownout) reflected on the placid harbour, the outlying hills faintly silhouetted in a misty grey cloak backed by the star-sprinkled twilight sky.

WWII seemed to be on another planet and not on our doorstep.

My roommate and I would often admire the untiring beauty of this scene and Nance, with her flair for journalism, would wax poetic on the often overlooked marvels of nature and our country. She was a great friend and we got on so well together because Nance was an imaginative talker and I a good listener.

We often spent our Sunday afternoon stand-down roaming around the bush tracks or water edges, talking of shoes and ships and sealing wax – walking through the Quarantine grounds at that time always proved a successful jaunt as the place was deserted during the war years and there were many interesting things to see.



View from the Fairfax Track on North Head. -Photo Bill Slessor

It was almost like a ghost town and the queer old gravestones we came across added to this effect.

The inscriptions and epitaphs were pathetic real life stories on the brave pioneering days and many a time a lump came to the throat as we read of the tragedies which befell some of the immigrant would-be settlers of this country in its civilized infancy. Naturally Nance could weave a romantic tale around these half-told histories and let her imagination run riot. Perhaps she sometimes hit upon the truth of these people's lives and anyway it always made good listening.

Editors Note.

The places which Gloria is writing about are at the WWII defence complex on North Head, Manly which became the School of Artillery after WWII until 1998. It is now managed by the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust which also manages other places such as Cockatoo Island. There is an information Office in the buildings where Gloria served but this office is soon moving to a new Centre farther onto the Head at North Fort. There are laid out self guided walking tracks and, on Sundays, guided tours of the gun emplacements and the linking tunnels. Well worth a visit for the history and the views. This area is in addition to the Q-Station.

A Memorial Walk there, also has a section devoted to Gallipoli with a 'Lone Pine' grown from a seed of the tree at Gallipoli. (See later article).

LOST NEW YORK

The New York Times carried a story (4/12/14) on a book "Lost New York" by Nathan Silver, which dwelt on a theme that I had referred to in the November issue of the newsletter. The issue being the mass of detail we have about heritage listed buildings and the paucity of detail regarding the staff and users of the building in question. In that case it was the 3 institutions on North Head, but in the case of Mr Silver, he believes that "landmarks were more than the sum of beautifully rendered architectural details; they were vessels of human history." How a building was used and by whom were almost as important to him as what the structure looked like.

"Lost New York" was originally published in 1967 and Mr Silver is now gearing up for its updated 3rd Edition. We have several books in our archives that deal with prominent landmarks of Sydney, e.g. the GPO, Strand Arcade and the

QVB and all could do with the treatment that Nathan Silver gave to the stories surrounding the landmarks of New York. Hopefully, the Nathan Silver of Sydney will emerge to complete the picture of the history of Sydney and more importantly to us, the history of the Peninsula.

Jim Boyce

TREES IN HISTORY

I have written about the place of the Cook Pine in the history of Australia but it is worthwhile re-treading that path for a moment. The Cook Pine was first encountered by Captain James Cook in October 1774 in New Caledonia, where they are native, and a few days before he landed at an uninhabited Norfolk Island. There he met the Norfolk Island Pine, which has become a symbol of a beach side suburb or town around Australia from Coolangatta to Geraldton. However people did not forget the Cook Pine, for at the opening of Centennial Park in 1888, the first tree planted was a Cook Pine in honour of James Cook. It seems possible that the Cook Pines in the gardens of the Manly Cemetery and Whitehall (Corner of White Street and Woodland Street) were planted with the same motive, as both are well over 100 years old. It is not known whether the nurseries of Sydney then anticipated a similar response to commemorate Cook in 1988, but if they did they did not tell the councils on the Peninsular. What transpired was a planting of over 500 Cook Pines in the belief that they were Norfolk Island Pines. What should happen now is a recognition of the Cook Pines as having a history associated with Captain Cook but removing them where the integrity of a mass of Norfolk Island Pines is compromised. The Cook pine has a number of quirks which make it difficult to locate in a park setting but its place in Australian history is unmistakable.

However this article was written in admiration of another pine tree, the Aleppo Pine. Aleppo is, or was, a lovely old city in northern Syria. Val and I have spent several days in Aleppo marvelling at its antiquity and the hospitality of its people. The Aleppo Pine (*Pinus Halepensis*) was a well known tree, planted

originally by the Moors from Morocco to Iran. More central to our story, it was planted at Gallipoli and the branches and trunks were used to shore and define the trenches by the Turkish army. There were also Turkish pines at Gallipoli, which were native to the area. Seeds of both these trees found their way back to Australia care of 2 soldiers, a Sergeant Keith McDowell and a Lance Corporal Benjamin Charles Smith. Both had collected pine cones from the trenches after the battle of Lone Pine (a Turkish Pine tree). Smith's cones were Aleppo pines and one survived which is now outside the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. McDowell's Turkish Pine trees were first planted at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne. Trees have been successfully propagated from these cones and they have been presented as living war memorials to schools and other organisations throughout Australia and New Zealand.



An Aleppo Pine

Trees have history and symbolism and the knowledge of that enriches our culture. While

we acknowledge the importance of Anzac Day on the 25 April, two humble trees continue to remind us of its place in the history of Australia.

Jim Boyce

MONTAGUE THOMAS ARCHIBALD WEDD

According to Monty, his association with the Manly, Warringah and Pittwater Historical Society began when Charles McDonald approached him in the street one day and asked him if he would consider standing for the Presidency of the Society. Fortunately, Monty agreed to stand and was first elected as President from 1967 to 1972 and again from 1973 to 1975. For his outstanding contribution to the society he was made both a Fellow and Life Member in 1976.

Monty was born in Glebe on 5 January 1921 and in 1949 he married Dorothy Charlotte Jewell at Randwick. They had four children, Sandra, Justin, Warwick and Deborah.

Although he had to leave school at a fairly early age because of the 1930s depression, Monty continued to study at every opportunity to develop his skills in the field of commercial art. His persistence led to a most successful and well known career. He produced many cartoons and comic strip characters as well as illustrated books, which had a great appeal, particularly for school children. One of his best known cartoons was "Dollar Bill", which was used extensively in connection with the campaign to introduce decimal currency into Australia in the 1960s.

Besides his artistic skills, Monty had a keen interest in military history as well as local history.

In about 1960 the family moved to a house in Narraweena where Monty established his own military museum and had a Bren-gun carrier in his front garden. This museum later became the nucleus for his much more extensive "Monarch Military Museum", which he built at Williamstown after he moved there in 1987. This museum, which opened in 1988, became a regular tourist attraction for people locally and from overseas. Monty, who was an ex-service man, brought a democratic and progressive style of leadership

to the Society which was much appreciated by the membership. Monty had that happy knack of being able to get along with anyone. He was highly respected in the local community and elsewhere.

It was because of Monty that Shelagh and I decided to join the Society in 1975, although we had attended several meetings before this. Monty encouraged us to write about local historical matters and his support was always there.

I particularly remember Monty for his great sense of humour. Year after year he was called upon to give the Australia Day address at the top of Beacon Hill, which Shelagh and I always enjoyed. There was considerable debate in the 1970s as to whether or not Governor Phillip ever actually climbed Beacon Hill. As Monty and I climbed the hill together one year he quietly said to me, "I don't think Phillip ever climbed this hill, do you George?" I replied, "I don't think so either, Monty."

Monty was a great believer in the Society having one or two dinners a year as he maintained that it helped to cement good relations among members. He was right and the yearly dinners were always most successful and supported by large numbers. Even when he moved to Williamstown, Monty and Dorothy never failed to travel down from Williamstown to attend our annual dinners.

In 1993 Monty was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the community as an historian and illustrator.

Monty died in a nursing home at Fingal Bay on 4 May 2012, aged 91 years.

There was something about Monty Wedd, which was very special.

George Champion.

If you are viewing this Peninsula Historian through our web site but have not yet paid your membership fee, may we respectfully remind you that producing the web site and the Peninsula Historian costs money and we rely on subscriptions to meet those costs and the costs of promoting the society.

THE FERRY CLIPPINGS OF WILLIAM HENDERSON

The Society has been extremely fortunate to receive a donation of this bound book of clippings from June Henderson, a daughter-in-law of Captain Henderson. June now lives in Golden Beach on the Gold Coast in Queensland and enquired if we were interested. A speedy email resulted in the book arriving superbly packaged by June.



The book itself has over 200 pages of clippings starting on the 2 January, 1901 and finishing on the 19 July, 1919. While many of these clippings are the activities of the ferries, including mishaps and disasters of various kinds, there are number of advertisements promoting the pleasures of Manly.

There seem to have been several collisions between a ferry and small vessels and we have the proceedings of the Court of Marine Inquiry to give details of the eventual findings.

We also have an advertisement promoting, what is described as "The Sensation of the Year" where Professor Royal was to ascend in his balloon "The Cloud Clipper" and then leap into space from a height of 2000 feet (600 metres). Unfortunately, it is not clear as to what the good Professor had with him, when he launched himself into space, but it is hoped it was more than an umbrella.

Most of the clippings are from the metropolitan dailies, such as the "The Australian Star", "The Daily Telegraph", "The Sydney Morning Herald" and "The Evening News" but sometimes we have "The North Shore and Manly Times". Unfortunately the clippings are yellowing and many are in a fragile state but nonetheless the book is a remarkable record of a certain period.

Jim Boyce

GOVERNMENT CUTS AGAIN



I was near a breakthrough but the grant money ended.

90 YEARS AGO THE SOCIETY WAS FORMED

And

First performance of 'Rhapsody in blue' – Gershwin.

Stanley Baldwin resigns as British Prime Minister, Ramsey McDonald forms first Labour Government but has to resign again later in year and the Conservatives re-elected.

Petersburg renamed Leningrad but changed back in 1991.

(Swedish colonists built the fortress Nyenskans at the mouth of the Neva River in 1611, in a land then called Ingermanland. This was inhabited by the Finnic tribe of Ingrians. They built the small town called "Nyen" here.

Peter the Great intended to have Russia gain a seaport so it could trade with maritime nations Arkhangelsk, on the White Sea to the north and closed to shipping for months during the winter was hardly suitable.

On May 12, 1703, during the Great Northern War, Peter captured Nyenskans, and replaced the fortress closer to the estuary 5 km inland from the gulf. On Zayachy (Hare) Island, he began the Peter and Paul Fortress, which became the first brick and stone building of the new city.

The city was built by conscripted peasants from all over Russia. A number of Swedish prisoners of war were also involved in some years under the supervision of Alexander Menshikov and tens of thousands of serfs died building the city.)

First Winter Olympics. Held in Chamonix, France.

Lenin's remains placed in mausoleum in Red Square, Moscow.

Ice cream cone rolling machine patented. U.S. patent No. 1,481,813 issued to Carl R. Taylor from Cleveland. He described it as a "machine for forming thin, freshly baked wafers, while still hot, into cone shaped containers" for ice-cream. Multiple dies were designed on a turntable, such that when formed, the cone had time to cool and harden before rotating into position for release. The machine was arranged beside a batter baking machine which provided the supply of the hot, flat wafers.

Greenwich Time Signal – 'the Pips' – first broadcast.

Johnny Weissmuller swims 100m in record time of 57.4 seconds.

He was a sickly child who took up swimming on the advice of a doctor. He grew to be a 6' 3", 190-pound champion athlete, undefeated winner of five Olympic gold medals, 67 world and 52 national titles and holder of every freestyle record from 100 yards to the half-mile.

Mahatma Gandhi was released from jail.

Greek Parliament declares Republic.

Trial against Hitler begins, Sentenced to 5 years hard labour for treason in the Munich Uprising but released later in the year. During his time in prison he wrote Mein Kampf

First foreign language course on American Radio.

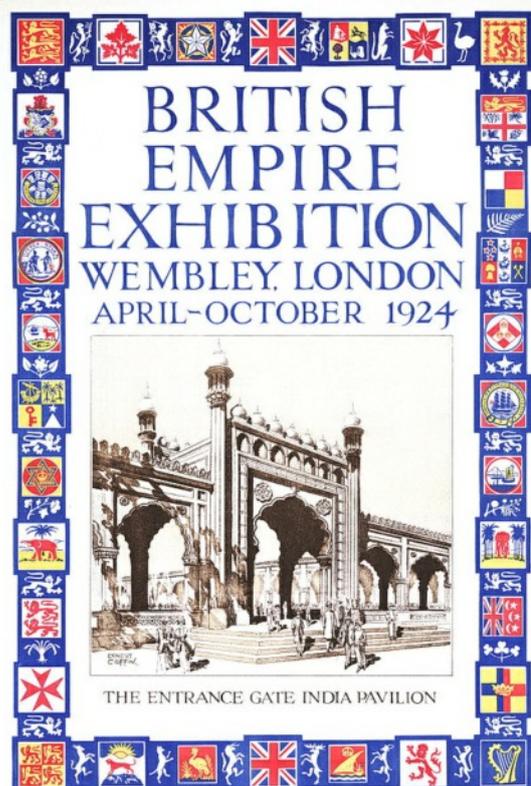
Bernard Shaw's 'Saint Joan' premiered.

Tubular steel golf club shafts approved for championship play.

MGM formed.

The first book of crossword puzzles appeared in 1924, published by Simon and Schuster. It was an 'odd-looking book' with a pencil attached. The book was an instant hit and crossword puzzles became the craze of 1924.

British Empire Exhibition at Wembley, London. King George V opened the exhibition on St George's Day, 23 April 1924. The British Empire was 58 countries at that time, and only Gambia and Gibraltar did not take part. It cost £12 million and was the largest exhibition ever staged anywhere in the world - it attracted 27 million visitors.



J Edgar Hoover appointed as head of FBI.

Daimler and Benz merge to form Mercedes-Benz. (*An Agreement of Mutual Interest* - which was valid until 2000 - was signed on 1 May 1924 between Karl Benz's, Benz & Cie., and Daimler Motoren Gesellschaft, which had been founded by Gottlieb Daimler and Wilhelm Maybach.)

"Original Jelly Roll Blues", but usually shortened to "Jelly Roll Blues", is an early jazz fox-trot composed by Jelly Roll Morton. He recorded it first as a piano solo in Richmond, Indiana, in 1924, and then, two years later, with his Red Hot Peppers in Chicago, titled as it was originally "Original Jelly-Roll Blues". It is referenced by name in the Shelton Brooks composition "Darktown Strutters' Ball" of 1917.

Ford Manufactures 10 millionth Model-T Ford automobile.

South Africa all out for 30 in 48 minutes against England who went on to make 503-2 in one day.

First photo sent by radio across the Atlantic.

The top films were - 'The Great White Silence' (UK), 'Greed', 'The Iron Horse', 'The Last Laugh' (Germ.), 'The Navigator', 'Sherlock Jr.', 'The Thief of Baghdad'.

Operetta 'Rose Marie' opens to rave reviews.

Malcolm Campbell broke the land speed record for the first time in 1924 at 146.16 mph (235.22 km/h) at Pendine Sands near Carmarthen Bay in a 350HP V12 Sunbeam.

Statue of Liberty declared National monument.

Last Rolls-Royce Silver ghost sold in London for £985, (about ten times the yearly salary of an average professional), this was truly a car for the upper classes. A few survive, meticulously preserved, to this age. The insured value of each is around US\$35 million.

Hubble announces existence of other galaxies.

Compiled by Bill Slessor



Manly, Warringah and Pittwater
Historical Society Inc.
Established 1924

Patron

Alan Ventress BA DipLib

President

Jim Boyce

Secretary & Membership Secretary

Diana Farina

Treasurer

Barbara Davies

Minutes Secretary

Clive Halnan

Archivist

Vacant

Postal Address

PO Box 695 Manly, NSW 1655

www.mwphs.com

Our Officers can be contacted, by email,
through our web site.

Manly Warringah & Pittwater Historical Society Inc.

Membership Renewal Form (1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015)

Title: Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms (please circle)

Name:

Age group (please tick): 10 – 18 19 – 50 51 – 70 71 – 85 86 – 95

[Note: this information is required for insurance purposes; if two persons included in this application fall into different age bands please tick both boxes]

Address:

State

Postcode

Phone: (Home)

(Bus.)

(Mobile)

E-mail:

Signature:

Date:

MEMBERSHIP FEES	\$20 Single	\$25 Household (2 persons) or Organisation
SUBSCRIPTION:	\$.....	including emailed copy of the Peninsula Historian
VOLUNTARY DONATION:	\$.....	
TOTAL:	\$.....	

PAYMENT METHODS

- **By cheque or money order**

Please make payable to 'MWP Historical Society Inc' and mail with the completed Renewal Form to:

**The Treasurer
Manly Warringah & Pittwater Historical Society Inc
PO Box 695
MANLY, NSW 1655**

[DO NOT MAIL CASH. If paying in person place cash, cheque or money order in an envelope together with the completed Renewal Form)

- **By Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)**

<i>Account Details:</i>	<i>Commonwealth Bank, Manly</i>
Account Name:	MWP Historical Society
BSB Number:	062-197
Account Number:	00907384

[If paying by EFT please ensure that you enter your name in the 'to account description' box and confirm your payment by sending an email to the Treasurer at treasurer_mwphs@hotmail.com. This is essential for your correct identification and is particularly important if your payment is made through a Credit Union)