



Peninsula Historian

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Pittwater Historical Society Inc.

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NEXT MEETING

SATURDAY 9 May at 2pm

Narrabeen Tram Shed Community Centre.

Jim Boyce will give a talk titled

"The School of Artillery, North Head".

See back page for more details.

FROM THE EDITOR

This issue has a couple of thoughts about the Anzac Day Celebrations, one from Jim the other from Clive Halnan, our Vice President.

Also included is the completion of Jim's article on 'Filling Stations' and three contribution from Phil Colman.

Bryant's series on Secret Sites continues and seems to be creating some interest.

Oh! And this is my last effort as Editor of the Peninsula Historian. We are still looking for someone to take on the responsibility.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

I am writing this a day before Anzac Day and feeling increasingly uneasy about the type of publicity for this occasion. There is no question that Anzac Day recognises an historically important event. It was

the first occasion that the Australian Army had been involved in battle and up to that time Australian troops had fought under the British flag, in South Africa and the Sudan. The centenary of any event is an important time to recognise the place in Australian History. In this case we are also recognising the part of Turkey, the adversary, in its sacrifice to maintain the integrity of its borders and its emergence from an ancient form of government into being a democratic state.

My unease and seemingly the unease of quite a few other people is how this event is being overtaken by commercial and political interests to the detriment of the recognition of the importance of the event in Australian History. Nearly by definition all the dates we celebrate, such as Australia Day, Anzac Day and Remembrance Day have an historical base. Even the Queens Birthday in June, which seems to be overdue for a name change after the fiasco surrounding the knighting of the Duke of Edinburgh, and locally we now have the Brookvale Show Day. Fortunately Woolworths were discouraged from pursuing an Anzac Day theme in the promotion of their range of fresh fruit and vegetables, as being "fresh in the mind like Anzac Day." However we do have "The Last Post Handicap" and "Battle of the Dardanelles Handicap" at Randwick, the latter presenting a bit of a mouthful for the race caller.

The commercial sponsorship of these events, such as the Target Camp Gallipoli, also appear highly questionable. If one was to trace the historical roots of this commercialisation, one would go back to the 1970's when the sponsorship industry started to seriously exert its power. At this point in time, sponsorship and event management became an intrinsic element in the marketing of a product

or service. Politicians and governments were not too far behind in realising how this could advance their own brand.

Most major commercial and governmental institutions now have an Events team, where one of their objectives is to present the institution and its leaders in a positive light and for the importance and aura of the event to have a strong association with those groups and people in the mind of the public. This is not to say that professionalism in event management is a bad thing but the reason for an event should not be lost in the phrase as in "All sizzle and no steak".

In some cases, not all, the historical substance of that event is lost and certainly any negative connotations are downplayed. The glorification of war and the human sacrifice that it involves, is a difficult subject and all too prone to political figures wishing to drape themselves in the national flag alongside uniforms. I think it is time we restored the balance of historical detail describing the positive and negative aspects of important moments and respect the dignity and integrity of its remembrance.

NARRABEEN BEACH PLANE LANDING

21st of November 1944, a Tuesday, saw the kids at Narrabeen Primary School, kids who'd endured 5 years of war-time lolly deprivation, enjoying an unexpected bounty, literally from the sky.

About 6 a.m., after a mechanical problem delayed a programmed early departure, Ansett Airways Lockheed Electra 10.B VH.UZP Ansalanta, skippered by Harry Frank Broadbent, "Jimmy", took off from Mascot on a flight via Archerfeld, then Rockhampton enroute to Townsville. On board were eight passengers, one RAAF officer, a Miss Corbett from Brisbane, and six allied service personnel, i.e. U.S. officers, members of General Douglas MacArthur's staff.

At 5000 feet, over Broken Bay, the starboard Wasp engine lost thrust. Broadbent applied full power to

the port engine and turned back to Mascot. Then the port Wasp engine failed, and with no close airport Jimmy made a forced landing on the hard packed sand of Narrabeen beach; approximately between the Sands Hotel and Narrabeen Surf Club. It was later surmised that sabotage was the probable cause for engine failure; sugar and sand was found in the engines.

Over the Pittwater Road, there was a mass exodus of kids from the school who went to see the excitement. As well as a school-free morning they returned with pockets full of the "new" long, flat sticks of chewing gum, plentifully supplied by the U.S. officers.

The plane was piloted by Capt. Broadbent, very well-known then whose exploits included the 1931 solo Brisbane-Sydney-Melbourne-Adelaide flight, linking those cities by air for the first time. Then he flew, in 1935, a then record 3 days, 9 hours, 45 minutes round-Australia trip. In November of that year he bettered Kingsford-Smith's (Smithies) Croydon (England)-Darwin 1928 flight. He was lost at sea west off Portugal in 1958.

Phil Colman

THE HARP IN THE SOUTH - AND NARRABEEN

In 1946, Ruth Park was awarded first prize in the Novel Section of the Sydney Morning Herald Literary Competitions for her first book Harp in the South, published in 1948.

A wonderful story depicting the harsh and depressing life and lives of Surry Hills and Redfern during and after the depression, yet full of hope for those poor immigrants, so many Irish, who had come to this new land of milk and honey yet ended, for many, again at the bottom of the ladder.

Life, for most, centered around Riley Street, Sydney, and few ventured outside - lack of money, motivation, and ignorance of the wider world, and transport hemmed them in.

But there were exceptions. The Darcy family fill the background of the story, with the two daughters, Roie and the younger by 7 years Dolour. I have just been lent an original 1948 edition, where the original owner carefully inserted wonderful line drawings cut from possibly the original, published in serial form in the SMH in 1946, illustrating some of the highlights of this story, and there are Roie and her new husband Charlie running down the sand dunes in Narrabeen on their honeymoon ; the first time they'd seen the sea.



On this, their first trip away from Surry Hills, they went down to the Quay by tram, then ferry - "where the man with the mandolin, for threepence, serenaded them." Then by bus "As they rounded the bluff above Long Reef, a wondrous stretch of beach opened before them. The bus spun downwards into Collaroy, past a theatre like an exotic lime ice-cream" and then on to "Narrabeen Village". They stayed in "the tiny, square, pink cottage" on the beach front.

Years later, soon after Roie had died in childbirth, (in Poor Man's Orange, 1949) Charlie walked down memory lane to revisit "that little pink house where they had lived for that enchanted fortnight. The house looked shabby now. The stucco had faded "

Question. Does anyone know where that cottage was? I believe it did actually exist and perhaps Ruth Park actually lived in it. Note in the illustration the height of the sand dunes. I do know they were much bigger than now.

These books should be required reading today. The Harp in the South(1948), Poor Man's Orange (1949), Missus (1985). Missus, although nearly 30 years later, is considered as the first of the trilogy; it depicts the earlier lives of the Darcy parents. The line drawing comes from the 1946 serialisation of The Harp in the South in the Sydney Morning Herald.

Phil Colman

SERVICE STATIONS AND THEIR JOURNEY FROM TINS AND FUNNELS (Part 2)

WORLD WAR II

As war broke out in September 1939, it was immediately obvious, as a petroleum importer, that Australia had to review its storage facilities but this should have occurred at least 5 years before. It was immediately apparent that restrictions on the use of petrol and oil had to be put in place. An increase in price was contemplated and also a promotion of gas with a necessary alteration in car engines. Rationing was finally introduced in October 1940 with the objective of reducing consumption by 50 per cent. Rationing was conducted through a bi-monthly ticket system, which required purchase of ration tickets at a post office. As the war continued, the objective of 50 per cent was further reduced . Even after the war had finished rationing was still maintained and was only terminated in February 1950. The number of service stations on the Peninsula did decline over this period . During the war, nearly all petroleum tankers came from the Middle East and as part of the British Empire, our policies were very much coordinated with the British Government and the pressures on the UK both economically and in terms of petroleum supply, impacted on Australia.

1950 to 1970.

With the return to peace time normalcy in 1950 , the pent up demand for car ownership expanded quickly. With the growth in the population not only through natural increase but also through immigration, the Sydney Metropolitan area expanded into an area more accessible by car. The opening of the Spit Bridge and Roseville Bridge in 1924 and the Sydney Harbour Bridge in 1932 had opened up the Peninsula to such family expeditions as the “ Sunday Afternoon Drive”.

The Post War period saw a much greater use of the car to visit the Northern Beaches. As a result multi brand service stations grew in number not only with the major oil companies such as Shell, but also, Esso and BP, which in 1954, threw off its previous identity , as the Anglo- Iranian Oil Company. This company had had joint venture with C.O.R. (Commonwealth Oil Refineries), an Australian petroleum company, which had had its bowsers out on Australian roads, some of which, had been on the Peninsula. There were other international brands that began to appear such as AMOCO (American Oil Company) and Total (France) and Ampol, an Australian company that was very active in sponsoring sporting and cultural events.

1970 to 1990.

While a movement to one brand outlets was continuing apace, the major events of the 1970's were the two oil shocks of 1973 and 1979. The key organisation in these two major increases in the price of oil was OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries). The increases in petrol at the pump had obvious consequences on the national economy and impacted on car usage .By the beginning of the 1980's, the service stations on the Peninsula were totally one brand. Ever since 1956 with the arrival of television, national brand advertising favoured the larger companies and the number of petroleum brands began to taper down. In this period there was a rapid development in outdoor signage and the development of a corporate architectural style that reinforced the corporate colours and logo. There was the pylon outdoor sign as well as

accompanying smaller signs. There was the gradual disappearance of automotive maintenance from service stations to locate in specialised outlets located in designated industrial areas such as Brookvale, Cromer, Warriewood and Mona Vale.

In the 1960's and 1970's, the Peninsula saw a reaction to the dominance of foreign oil companies. Ampol, founded in 1936 and who became a listed company in 1948, aggressively pursued this line. The company developed into the one brand service station era but it finally succumbed to a takeover by Caltex in 1995. Ampol as a brand has not completely disappeared as its products are still marketed by Caltex, but its last service station disappeared from the streets of Belrose , in the early 2010's.

THE PRESENT

Since 1990, the smaller independent service stations have joined groups such as United, Metro and Prime and while not great in number , are distinguished by having a work shop which most of the majors have dispensed with some years ago. During the 1960s as shopping areas proliferated, each small collection of suburban shops were accompanied by a service station which also had a work shop. These outlets have largely disappeared or changed their focus and Cromer Heights and Kentwell Road, Allambie come to mind in that respect.

The major alteration in the service station market on the Peninsula has been the entry of Coles and Woolworths, dating from 2003. Both of these supermarket giants, entered into arrangements with oil companies, Coles with Shell and Woolworths with Caltex. In doing this, they substantially increased the size and product range of packaged goods available at the outlet, and linked purchases to their supermarket operations. These outlets are staffed by employees of the respective groups, while the oil companies lease the land to the retailers.

The other majors have also increased the presence of these facets of their operation, with BP having its 2Go outlets and Caltex with their Star Marts.

Meanwhile Mobil entered into an arrangement with 7 – Eleven, where the outlets are primarily 7 – Eleven in their signage , with Mobil given a lesser exposure. The crucial difference with these service stations is that they are franchised outlets.

In a broader sense, the 21st Century has seen the gradual decline of a local presence in service stations as the car repair and maintenance component has either gone to a small number of independent outlets or now a specialist sector of the automotive sector removed from service stations.

The Peninsula now has 36 service stations which is a substantial decline from the 1970s. Ownership structures have changed as have the mix of products and services.

This history is more a work in progress and members are encouraged to forward their stories of local service stations, their activities and their personalities. As with other histories I have endeavoured to provide turning points in the history of these outlets and the way their character has changed over time. Unfortunately, although they are still called service stations, staff of the major groups, are not expected to know anything about automobiles and expect the customers themselves to pump the gasoline.

Jim Boyce

THE WAY IT WAS

Kenny Lloyd, now of Gunnedah but a classmate of mine in the early 1950's at the, then, Narrabeen Primary School, opposite the fire station on Pittwater Rd, tells of his paper run.

He used to live at 434 Pittwater Road, just near the school and near Devitt Street. Surrounding his house the Macleans had a wine bar, news agency and post office.

"In the mornings the paper truck would drop off the papers and the bang of them hitting the pavement

would wake me up, and I would go over to the paper shop and help them roll the papers, and then go on the paper run with a bloke called Cec Abrahams, in an Indian Motor Bike, with a side car - and me. You don't believe it but the paper run went from Stuart Street. Collaroy to Mona Vale Cemetery. I used to hand Cec the papers. Archie Maclean took over driving in a T-Model Ford when Cec went into the army. The Macleans were a pioneer family at Narrabeen owning the paper shops at Narrabeen Terminus and Narrabeen."

For some reason we kids all knew Kenny Lloyd as Savalloyd!

Phil Colman

SECRET SITES

ICE SKATING RINK

Up until the mid-1970s there was an ice skating rink in Narrabeen. The rink has now been demolished and the site is currently occupied by a Woolworths Supermarket.

Do you have any information about the ice skating rink? Please write (MW&PHS, PO Box 695, Manly 1655) or email your response to jimboyce37@gmail.com.

Where is this Secret Site?



Do you have any information about this Secret Site or previous Secret Sites including data, reminiscences, references (internet, publications, etc.) then please write (MW&PHS, PO Box 695, Manly 1655) or email your response to jimboyce37@gmail.com.

The answer will be revealed in the next edition of the Newsletter.

Bryant Lavaring

PREVIOUS SECRET SITES



Hi Jim

I learnt to swim in the Avalon Beach Rock pool in the early 1950s (climbing over rocks just to access the pool in those days!). Later I got my Bronze Medallion in 1966, completing my time swim in the pool and then as Chief Instructor put future candidates through for their time swims in the pool. So I'm pretty sure I recognise your Secret Site as the Avalon Beach Swimming Pool, listed by the National Trust.

All the best

Geoff (Searl)

MANLY REMEMBERS

COMMEMORATING 100 YEARS OF ANZAC

LEST WE FORGET

How do you view this day? Do we take it so much for granted? Forgive the trite:- *"The war to end all Wars"* the oft rejoinder – echoes *"it did not"* dubbed the Great War, soon the First World War soon came WW II. We barely pause for Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, before and after Japan China and conflicts across the African states. Skip expletives War Happens. with all its dreaded scenes. The Great war means to Australia, New Zealand, the

shift from fledgling to Nation the path to world respect and no less than remarkable self Esteem the pith of Peaceful Endeavour.

This day 2015 culminates a year of anticipation since as began last July the dawn of heart to not forget Gallipoli seeded of the Outbreak to Conflict attributed to the assassination of Ferdinand Archduke of Austria in Sarajevo. Needs one looks at the map of the Dardanelles ties it to the alliance of Britain France and Russia made to play by incursions to Serbia and Belgium to whose defence Russia moved but was held back by blockade of the Black Sea. An apologetic sketch to lessen the poignant brunt of Gallipoli as defeat – the core of strategy made sense execution was another issue.



The conflict was one of aligned multi-powers: on one side Austria Hungary, Germany, Italy, with sizeable armies at ready; the other Russia, Britain, France with but the core of regular soldiers, turning to Commonwealth where Australia and New Zealand nurtured loyal commitment to the mother country - dubbed the Allies. Off stage the Ottoman Empire, dominant through the nineteenth century, was the tactical barrier to the ties between the allies. Britain

to honour to its treaty with Russia sent the navy to relieve the Russian Fleet penned up in the Black Sea to be repulsed at the Bosphorus.

Provoked when there were no radios, TV, Internet, only newspapers, Local government, town criers to spread the word, the British, Australian and New Zealand Governments set to at once seed across the people to flock to the rallying points the recruiting centers. So faced the shock of reality unprepared to set alight the fervor of patriotism to go to arms instantly to form an army of sizeable force in numbers.

Hopefully the short in all its omissions, faults is thought provoking yet opens the panorama of sentiments where this day 100 years on Manly joined across the world in reverence for those who left home to preserve their way of life only never to return. The enormity of the events in all their shadows of destruction on one hand and bright dawning of what was to emerge enhanced the now firm community faith in our homeland as that of the free, whose mutual respecting goes far beyond class or kin, knows not boundaries, looks to tolerance, as a people peace loving quiet Australians New Zealanders.

The critical ingredient has been bypassed in gathering to reverence the giving for All were volunteers. For all time it is more to our society as the part of our way of life, the best of laws , the rules of practice is what people do because willing choose so it to do. Our forebears could not be diverted from the rush to defend all they held dear. That patriotic determination did change the world to a better place. Power factions without freedom of peoples were dissembled to make way for alliances to underpin the striving away from conflict.

So we might pause a moment to think again of the War to end all wars, look close at the meaning of WAR: a situation in which two or more countries or groups of people fight against each other over a period of time and over the differing integration between them, consequent they cannot put to rest except in futility. As we cast about us in Manly across the vast brown land we echo the vista the heroes strived to form a place with room for all to endeavour in peace.

After the great war divisions across the globe diminished, replaced by meeting in tolerance for common ground not war. After all it was the war to set the path for the end to wars from across the street across oceans let us all be mindful. At Manly the Monument by the Mitchell family in memory of Alan has been our place for reflection and dedication: We owe so much to so many it is the place to refresh and go home to a better day. Leaders reflect - volunteers are the sacred blessing.

Clive Halnan

HISTORY TALK APRIL 2015

Paul Lancaster gave a most interesting talk on the careers of doctors who had been swept up in the turmoil of World War One. All had graduated from the University of Sydney with some exceptions. Paul gave a brief overview of their academic training and their hospital experience, much of which was in Sydney. However there were exceptions who acquired their practical training in England before 1914. There were a number of biographies that Paul was able to condense into bullet points that illustrated their experiences , before, during and after World War 1. Doctors, such as Moran, illustrated the wide range of interests they had involved themselves in over the years.

As with all good talks, it started the hares running to know more, particularly how doctors, nurses and other medical staff were organised in the 1914 – 1918 War. There were stretcher bearers, such as Tom Richards, who were active in No Man's Land in rescuing injured soldiers and carrying them back to the Aid Post, just behind the trenches where a medical officer could make a quick assessment and render early treatment. A casualty was then taken to a Dressing Station to have immediate surgical or medical treatment before being transported to a Casualty Clearing Station. The next stop was the General Hospital , which in most cases was at Abbeville, where the Australian general Hospital was located. Depending on the wound, one was

either repatriated to an English hospital via Hospital Ship or shipped to a more specialised medical facility, as often was the case, as mental illnesses became more recognised.

There is a another story as to how medical treatment and technology changed over the years of the war. Those doctors who went into the war, rapidly acquired skills that were unknown prior to the war. Hopefully we can get Paul back to expand on this theme.

Jim Boyce

FANCY THAT

Australian Football was invented by Tom Wills and Henry Harrison - both were born in Sydney. Tom played the Aboriginal game of *Mangrook* as a child and it is believed the native game inspired the rules he initially proposed. The game then took hold in Victoria, and was largely rejected by Sydney.

A kangaroo being chased by a dog may jump into a dam. If the dog gives chase, the kangaroo may turn towards the dog, then use its paws to push the dogs head underwater in order to drown it.

MEETING 8 May 2015

The School of Artillery at North Head slowly became established from 1946, capitalizing on a number of buildings that had been constructed prior to WW2.



The Vietnam War accelerated its development having to cope with a complement of approximately 250 soldiers. The technology of artillery was also changing rapidly which impacted on the school. The closure of the School in 1996 completed an interesting chapter in the history of North Head. The Talk will expand on the phases of development of the School, the governmental processes that brought it about and it's personalities such as Frank MacAskill, who was also a prominent member of our Society.



Manly, Warringah and Pittwater
Historical Society Inc.
Established 1924

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Postal Address

PO Box 695 Manly, NSW 1655
www.mwphs.com

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

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