



“Bunk”

“History is more or less bunk”-
HENRY FORD, Chicago Tribune, 1916

Diary Dates 2015

Museum Open
10am to noon
Monday to Friday

Meetings at Museum
22 Alexandra Street
Hunters Hill

THURSDAY 23 JULY
LUNCH AT
WOOLWICH PIER HOTEL

Please Note:
The June General
Meeting has been
postponed to Thursday
23 July at the Woolwich
Pier Hotel
12 for 12.30pm
for lunch and a talk by
Tony Saunders
On Captain Joseph
Horatio Amora

From the mid-1800s to 1902 Joseph Horatio Amora was a mover and shaker in Sydney. Ship and ferry captain, Honorary Consul for a number of countries, jailbird, he was mentioned in newspapers over 150 times. There is even a Hunters Hill connection via Charles Jeanneret. He was one of the colourful gentlemen of his era. Come along and hear his story.

Kylie's other love

One of Australia's most noted literary figures, Kylie Tennant (1912-1988), lived in Hunters Hill for over 20 years from 1953 to 1976. She undoubtedly loved



this area and the location for her last novel, *Tantavallon* (1983), was set in the suburb. Her passion for protecting the environment extended to her written support for the local green group, Battlers for Kelly's Bush, in their fight to prevent development there. Prior to moving to Hunters Hill, when her husband, Lewis Rodd, was appointed principal of the primary school, Kylie and her family were located at the fishing village of Laurieton on the New South Wales North Coast. It is here over a period of 11 years where her love of the environment and her chronicling of the world around her came to the fore. Not far south of Laurieton is a spectacular part of the coast known as Diamond Head in what is now part of Crowdy Bay National Park. The quartz-rich headland, which sparkles in the sunlight, overlooks an untamed shoreline of rocks and beaches. Here she encountered a reclusive farmer, called Ernie Metcalfe, known to locals as “the mad hermit of Diamond Head”.

She vividly captured the spirit of Ernie and the surrounding landscape in a semi autobiographical book, *The Man on the Headland* (1971). In it, she described Ernie, whom some called a “feisty, rugged bushman”, as the “most sociable of men” and of Diamond Head, she wrote “anyone who comes there is filled with a wild resolution to stay forever”.

Ernie became a friend of the family. He used to venture from his seclusion to visit them, to play chess with husband, Roddy, and to borrow classical books. Through this friendship, Kylie with

her first baby spent time at Ernie's remote home, using it as an opportunity to think and write and enjoy the sun and the sea. It resulted in Kylie and her family buying some nearby land from Ernie to build a slab hut which they used as a holiday retreat. Apparently, she insisted on paying what she believed was a fair price of sixty five pounds for the land.

With her environmental sensitivity, she was quick to criticise sand mining activity in the immediate area and the damage it caused to the surrounding dunes. Even after relocating from Laurieton, Kylie and her family retained the hut. Ernie is said to have travelled down to Sydney to see them. However in 1976, she donated the hut and land to the national parks authority.



The historic hut still stands today where it is an attraction for visitors to the park.

Incidentally, Kylie lived for many years in Garrick Avenue, Hunters Hill, next door to another famous writer, Nancy Keesing. After Ernie died, Kylie wrote about her son visiting Diamond Head. She said he told her: “You were right about Ernie. He's still there. If I did not turn round, Ernie could be heard talking of the weather and the birds”.

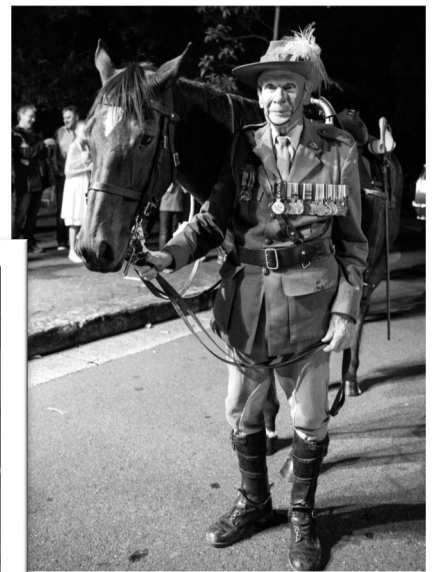
Kylie concluded: “Diamond Head shines now with a more splendid light. It is not every day that a headland takes to itself the soul of a man”. *Chris Schofield*

Anzac Day Centenary

The Governor, His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) was the principal guest at the Anzac Centenary Service held at Hunters Hill Town Hall on the evening of Friday 24 April. Federal Member Joe Hockey and State Member Anthony Roberts were also welcomed by Hunters Hill Mayor Richard Quinn. The ceremony began with a parade of serving members of the ADF, veterans and RSL members.



Images of Hunters Hill Anzac Centenary 2015



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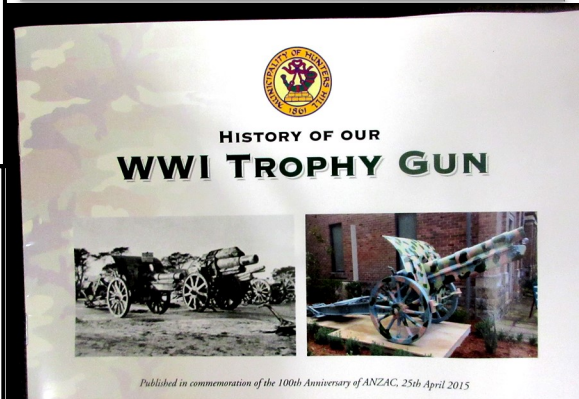
Jan Griffiths

Bob Mostyn

Jean Pritchard

Paula Ramsay Southcombe

Honorary Auditor Bob Love



This booklet, **HISTORY OF OUR WWI TROPHY GUN**, was produced to tell the story of the Krupp Howitzer cannon, captured in north east France in 1918, and presented to the Hunters Hill Municipality in 1922, in recognition of its contribution to the war effort.

It is available from Hunters Hill Council for \$10.



WWI GUN FINDS A FINAL HOME

The WWI German howitzer, believed to have been captured by 20th Battalion AIF at La Motte Farm on 3 October 1918, has been restored and placed in a specially constructed garden next to the Hunters Hill Museum. The record of the gun's history and its renovation were overseen by the Military Memorabilia Restoration Advisory Committee 2014—2015.