



"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 29 October
10am for 10:30
GENERAL MEETING
and afterwards
Speaker: Betty Willis
Historical Tales of
Ryde District

Our Xmas Function
will be held at
Il Bolognese
Italian Restaurant
Boronia Park on
Monday 7 December

KEEP THIS DATE FREE!
You will receive an
invitation in early
November

Art work recalls Kelly's Bush campaign

One of Hunters Hill's most significant historical events was marked in art form in the Harbour Sculpture 2015 exhibition at Clarkes Point Reserve. One of the outdoor exhibits, entitled "Stand", drew on the Battlers for Kelly's Bush campaign in the early 1970s when a group of local women joined with construction unionists to prevent the area from being developed through the implantation of the world's first Green Ban.

"Stand" created a linkage to the idioms of taking a stand and a stand of trees. Artist Leanne Thompson described her concept, saying: "An intimate circle of trees at Clarkes Point formed the basis for a sculptural installation to be placed among the trunks, amplifying and unifying the vertical lines with abstracted human forms."

She further explained the political context of her work: "To stand together is a symbolic territory of solidarity that requires energy and will to create. Making a stand defines individuals by their intrinsic values. If a successful stand could be made here, then great hope and help is given to cases elsewhere in the future."

"My hope was that the work reverberated with recollections of the Battlers for Kelly's Bush and provided the potential for us to see that we can all make a difference and enact change if we step up to the challenge." *Chris Schofield*



OCTOBER SPEAKER

Betty Willis grew up in Mary Street, Hunters Hill, and went to school at St Joseph's in Gladesville Road. She has been with Ryde District Historical Society for 15 years, was Secretary for 10 years and President for two years. She will talk about some of the history of Ryde, and the Society's three main publications - *Historic Ryde*, *Women of Ryde* and the latest - *Ryde Goes to War: 1914-1918*, as well as the origins of the street names of the Ryde district.



Top: Willandra is the headquarters of the Ryde District Historical Society and the City of Ryde Art Society. It was built around 1845 by James Devlin. Bottom: James Devlin 1870

HUNTERS HILL HISTORICAL
SOCIETY INC

ABN 72012103152

Address Mail To
The Secretary

Hunters Hill Historical Society Inc
PO Box 98 Hunters Hill NSW 2110

Phone 98799443

Email:

museum@huntershill.nsw.gov.au

Editor: Ian Adair

Hunters Hill Historical Society Inc

Officers for 2015–2016

President Chris Schofield

Vice President Pat Cox

Treasurer & Public Officer

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Committee

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2015

When I look back over those past 12 months, it can be seen that we

were occupied with another busy and interesting schedule.

An outstanding achievement has been the contribution of a number of members to ensuring that the Museum has been open regularly through the year on Monday to Friday morning.

Our main events have been the two First World War-themed exhibitions – the first was Hunters Hill and the Great War last August followed by Conflict and Compassion in April. Other speakers have reflected a variety of historical subjects. Events have included a guided tour of Riverview College, a stall at the Moocooboola Festival and our Christmas function at Grandview Chinese restaurant.

Progress continues to be made with the major task of digitising our extensive photo library as well as adding to our oral history collection with recorded interviews with significant local residents. We have also organised the transfer of some

older oral history tape recordings to a more modern digital CD format.

We have bought a new computer and updated our software as well as incorporating the two redundant senior broadband computers into the society's network. This means we now have three top class connected computers upon which to work and to store digital images and documents.

An improved sound system was purchased plus a set of computer speakers. We have also invested in a new "open" sign for the front of the Museum plus a new banner which will be displayed from time to time on a street pole outside the Town Hall. All this was made possible with expenditure from our funds and the assistance of a council grant of \$800.

Work is progressing in the installation of the second tranche of plaques in Hunters Hill, this time mainly to the west of the overpass. This has been made possible with generous funding from the Mostyn Family Foundation.

We have compiled and distributed quarterly editions of our Bunk newsletter which is now available in digital as well as printed form. These newsletters provide an interesting insight into the Society as well as publishing articles on aspects of local history.

The coming year promises more advances and improvements – and enjoyable times – in the life of the Society. **Chris Schofield**

Early Days Across The Water



The municipality of Lane Cove today encompasses the suburbs of Lane Cove, Lane Cove North and Lane Cove West, St Leonards, Riverview, Longueville, Northwood, Greenwich and Linley Point. Before 1895, Lane Cove covered the land from Middle Harbour to Hornsby. The region became the borough of North Willoughby in 1865, the Lane Cove River Ward in 1876 and finally the Borough of Lane Cove in 1895.

All of the North Shore was originally called Hunter's Hill. The region was a very large forest where the formidable Cammeraygal aborigines hunted game and fished the river (Lane Cove River), which has its mouth east of Greenwich Point and its headwaters at Thornleigh.

The name 'Lane Cove' was first used by Lieutenant William Bradley in his survey of the north side of the Harbour. This was just seven

days after the First Fleet arrived in the Harbour in 1788. No-one knows exactly who Lane Cove was named after. Lieutenant Bradley was following some of the Cammeraygal clan who quickly paddled their craft away from them.

In April of 1788, the first recorded European stepped onto the North Shore. This was Lieutenant Henry Ball who trekked north from Manly Cove, traversed west and walked back to the Harbour via Greenwich. He reported that some of the high ground would be suitable for farming.

It was not until Valentine's Day in 1790 that Lieutenant Ralph Clark stepped ashore at the river's entrance. His intention was to establish trading with the Cammeraygal for Lane Cove's timber, plentiful fodder and shells for making lime. The primary lure of the Lane Cove region was timber for houses and for shipbuilding. When the timber was felled, the cleared land would be developed as grain fields and orchards.

John Hunter, second captain of the Sirius, surveyed and sounded the lower reaches of the Lane Cove River up to where the river swings north and begins to narrow. He was accompanied by Bradley.

Four years after Clark made contact with the Cammeraygals, the first land grants were made. It was not the colony's prime acreage... and they went to non-commissioned officers and privates in the NSW Corps. These grants were generally not occupied by the owners – indeed many of them were cancelled because they were not improved. Others were exchanged for land elsewhere, sub-leased and sold. **This is an edited extract of a talk given by Kay Leiper of the Lane Cove Historical Society on 27 August.**

OPEN DAY CLIFTON

7 WOOLWICH ROAD

The gardens of this historic home will be open to visitors from 9:30am to 12 noon on Wednesday 14 October. Morning tea will be served.

The cost is \$30, and proceeds will go to the **L'Arche Community**, an international charity dedicated to the support of people with intellectual disabilities.

