



www.huntershillmuseum.org.au

“Bunk”

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

Diary Dates

2019

Museum Open

10am to noon

Tuesday to Friday

Mondays by appointment

Meetings at Museum

22 Alexandra Street

Hunters Hill

Thursday 2 May

GENERAL MEETING

In the Council Chamber

Hunters Hill Town Hall

Commencing 10.30am

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

GUEST SPEAKER

RAE McLINTOCK

Sydney's Living Museums

Talk will cover Hyde Park Barracks, Museum of Sydney, Vaucluse House and Elizabeth Farm

Farm

To name a few

Was scion of Hunters Hill family shot by a sniper?

Intrigue surrounds the untimely and tragic death of a member of one of Hunters Hill's most illustrious legal families.

The incident dates to World War One and concerns 34-year-old Guy Owen Manning. Born in 1881, Manning attended The King's School, Parramatta. He went to Port Moresby in 1901 to take up a position as an assistant to the administrator of British New Guinea. In the ensuing years, he acted as a local magistrate.

In 1907, Manning resigned from the administration and worked as a land clearance contractor on rubber estates. However, five years later, he left New Guinea and returned to Sydney where he married.

At the outbreak of World War One, in 1914, he was granted a commission in the AIF. As a second lieutenant, he was despatched again to New Guinea. With the Germans surrendering their territory, Manning was promoted to captain and, because of his previous local experience, was appointed OIC native affairs. In February 1915, he was made District Officer, which required extensive travel.

In June of that year, he was returning from an inland trip on his motorbike. When he failed to arrive, a soldier who had been accompanying him turned back to find Manning lying on the ground injured and being attended to by natives from a nearby mission. By the time more help arrived, Manning had succumbed to his injuries, probably a fractured skull suffered when he fell off his bike. He was buried at Kavieng European Cemetery in what is now Papua New Guinea. He left a wife and baby daughter.

Official records in Australia state he was killed as a result of a motorcycle accident.

The truth, however, may be somewhat different. A contemporary newspaper cutting from New Guinea, held in an Australian War Memorial file, has in handwriting on it: “Killed 1915 – shot by a sniper”.

While there is no specific evidence to

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VISIT TO MUSEUMS DISCOVERY CENTRE CASTLE HILL

10.30AM TUESDAY 14 MAY

This is a private tour of the Deep Collection overflow storage area of the Powerhouse Museum - items which are rarely seen.

There is a limit of twenty attendees for this tour and we have been told there is little in the way of stairs to negotiate. The tour lasts approximately 1½ hours. We suggest you bring your own lunch and drinks as there is no cafe, but there is a lunch area. We should return home about 1.30pm.

If you don't have transport, car pooling will be available from the museum leaving at 9.30 am.

Cost is \$20 per person including morning tea before the tour starts.

Contact the museum at contact@huntershillmuseum.org.au or 9879 9443, or Tony Saunders on 9817 1432.

Payment of \$20 must be made when booking. Cheque or cash to museum or bank transfer to Westpac account Hunters Hill Historical Society BSB 032-185 Account No. 501130 and quote your name.



*Guy Owen Manning.
See story on right.*

HUNTERS HILL HISTORICAL
SOCIETY INC

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2018-2019

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support this assertion, it is known that a German officer, Leutnant Hermann Detzner, and some 20 native police, evaded capture in the interior of New Guinea for the entire war. Who can say whether Detzner or another German who had managed to avoid surrender had aimed a shot at Manning, causing him to come off his motorbike? A year later, in 1916, his older brother, Major Charles Edye Manning, also a former King's School student and barrister, was killed in action on the Somme in France. He had earlier been wounded at Gallipoli.

Their father was Charles James Manning, a supreme court judge. He lived at Merilbah in Alexandra Street. He didn't live long enough to learn the fate of his two sons, but his widow, Mrs Emily Manning, did. It is likely she paid for the stained-glass window in All Saints' Anglican Church in Hunters Hill which honours their memory. **Chris Schofield**

World champion swimmer was a Sabraon boy

Bernard Bede (Barney) Kieran was born in Sydney in 1886. At thirteen, after the death of his father in a train accident, he became delinquent, wouldn't go to school and stayed out all night and his mother had him committed to the nautical school-ship *Sabraon*, moored off Cockatoo Island. Under the influence of a mentor he took up swimming and at 16 became a carpenter's apprentice. He trained in the Sutherland Dock on Cockatoo Island.

Keiran's brilliant swimming career began in 1904 while swimming for the Sabraon Club, where he finished second four times to the champion Dick Cavil and beat him in the 880 yards and mile in record time. Coached by Robert Craig, by April 1905 Kieran had won six State and Australasian freestyle titles and set world record times for 200, 300, 400, 500, 1000 yards and the mile. In June 1905 Kieran was invited to Leeds by the Royal Life Saving Society. Owing to unfamiliar-

ity with lifesaving events, he wasn't successful in the King's Cup, but won every other race he entered. He set new records in Scotland and Ireland and gave diving displays.

Kieran then went to Sweden, where he won four events and set a world record for 500 metres at an international meeting. Then back to England, where he won the 500 yards title in record time.



In November 1905 Kieran returned to a hero's welcome in Australia following his world-wind tour. After winning three international titles in Brisbane he died on 8 December after an appendicitis operation. His career had lasted just two years. Amid widespread expressions of public grief – many recalling the sculler Henry Searle – he was buried in the Catholic section of Gore Hill cemetery, and a monument to the 'Champion Swimmer of the World' was erected by public subscrip-

tion.

He is commemorated by the Kieran Memorial Shield, awarded annually to the champion State in the Australian swimming championships.

'His sun went down while it was yet day.'

A couple of columns about St Malo

A little bit of Hunters Hill history may be found in, of all places, Castle Hill.

On display at the Museums Discovery Centre are two timber columns which adorned the front veranda at St Malo, a single-storey sandstone villa which once overlooked Lane Cove River.

Built around 1856, St Malo was situated on land which is now occupied by the northern approach to Hunters Hill overpass. It originally stood on the 200-acre "Figtree Farm" purchased by Didier Joubert in c1847 from the ex-convict and successful colonial business-woman, Mary Reibey.

With the death of Didier Joubert in 1881, the family continued ownership of the property. Joubert's youngest daughter, Rose Du Boise, a well-known Sydney socialite, moved back there after her husband died.

Mme Du Boise purchased six of the ten Greek Revival fluted columns which first

graced Burdekin House in Macquarie Street, Sydney, built in 1841 for wealthy merchant Thomas Burdekin. Burdekin House was demolished in 1922 to make way for a new St Stephen's Presbyterian Church.

In the late 1940s St Malo came under threat with plans to build an expressway through Hunters Hill and new bridges at Figtree and Gladesville.

A campaign to save the house was unsuccessful and it was demolished in 1960-61. The columns were again on the move; the National Trust found a use for two on the stage of the Old Courthouse Theatre at Scone. The remaining four stayed with the National Trust until acquired by the His-

toric Houses Trust's Sydney Living Museums. Sydney Living Museums stores some of its artefacts at the Museums Discovery Centre. The two of its columns on display there may look a little battered and perhaps not as elegant as they were in the 19th century but that is hardly surprising after surviving two house demolitions. **Chris Schofield**

Picture: The columns on St Malo.

