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# "Bunk"

"History is more or less bunk".  
HENRY FORD, Chicago Tribune, 1916

## A treasure trove of Australian history and culture

Members of the Historical Society took a trip to Castle Hill on Tuesday 14 May to visit the Museums Discovery Centre, a collaboration between the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Australian Museum and Sydney Living Museums. The centre stores everything from plant and insect specimens to planes, automobiles and all sorts of gadgets that were in use in a less technical age. We only had time to explore one of the warehouses during our two-hour guided tour, but we saw things long forgotten, like the x-ray machine we used to put our feet in to see if our new shoes fitted properly. According to our guide, who knows what damage customers and staff alike suffered from the x-rays? Then there was the machine that

made the Supreme rat and mice traps. The company has been going since 1929 and has made over 100 million traps to date.

Aeroplanes and buses? Yes, they have those, and a standout item is the restored tram hearse used in Newcastle until 1949. It was the working-class custom for the funeral to begin from the deceased's home, and arrangements were made to convey the coffin to the nearest tram route. Another vintage artefact is the original Harry's Café De Wheels van that used to be at Woolloomooloo. Being a wheeled vehicle, it had to be moved every two weeks, so they solved the problem by removing the wheels.

Afterwards, Chris Schofield thanked our hosts for a very enjoyable and informative tour.

### Diary Dates 2019

**Museum Open  
10am to noon  
Monday to Friday**

**Meetings at Museum  
22 Alexandra Street  
Hunters Hill**

**Thursday 27 June  
WINTER LUNCH**

**In the small dining room  
At the Hunters Hill Club  
12 for 12.30**

**Order your meal at the bar**

**GUEST SPEAKER  
TONY SAUNDERS  
*Childhood Memories  
of War-Torn Britain  
1939 to 1945***

**PLACES ARE LIMITED**

**Phone Tony Saunders  
98171432**

**Or**

**Hunters Hill Museum  
98799443**

**ATTENDEES WILL BE  
GIVEN A COPY OF  
A BRIEF HISTORY OF  
HUNTERS HILL**



The original Harry's Café De Wheels



Hearse tram

## Council launches new history booklet

Chairman of the Mostyn Family Foundation Richard Mostyn, historian Beverley Sherry, Mayor Mark Bennett and president of the Hunters Hill Historical Society Chris Schofield at the launch of *Concise History of Hunters Hill* by Hunters Hill Council on Monday 27 May.

More details on back page.



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### Hunters Hill Historical Society Inc

#### Office Bearers and Committee

2018-2019

President Chris Schofield

Vice President Pat Cox

Secretary Tony Saunders

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### NEW HISTORY BOOKLET

In 1978 Roy Stuckey, the general manager of Hunters Hill Council produced a booklet called *An Abbreviated History of Hunters Hill* to tell residents and visitors of the heritage and history of one of Sydney's oldest settlements. Forty-one years later, Hunters Hill Historical Society decided to produce a modernised version complete with pictures of people and buildings from the Society's archives.

The text of the booklet is taken from Dr Beverley Sherry's essay on Hunters Hill in the *Dictionary of Sydney*. Publication of the booklet was made possible by a generous donation from The Mostyn Family Foundation. The booklet is a companion piece to the Society's previous publication, *Hunters Hill Heritage Walks*.

## Two poets and their links with Great North Road

Arguably, the two best Australian bush poets of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Andrew Barton Paterson and Henry Lawson never lived in Hunters Hill. However, they certainly had many associations with adjoining suburbs such as Gladesville, Ryde and Abbotsford.

Henry Lawson died at Great North Road, Abbotsford (opposite Abbotsford Public School) in 1922 and 'Banjo' Paterson lived, for many years, just off the Great North Road\*, Gladesville in the house 'Rockend', owned by his maternal grandmother.

This paper will concentrate mainly on Paterson's association with life in Gladesville.

Andrew Barton Paterson, called 'Barty' by his family, was the eldest child of Andrew and Rose Paterson and was born just outside of Orange in NSW on 17 February 1864. Lawson was born on 17 June 1867 at Grenfell, NSW. Both poets lived parallel lives with their lives forever linked with Jules Archibald, the owner of the "Bulletin" and the person who later gave his name to the Archibald Portrait Prize.

In 1874 Barty and his cousin Jack moved to Gladesville with his maternal grandmother, Emily. She was a very educated woman, of French origins and had moved to Gladesville following the death of her husband, Robert Barton, who had died in 1863. Robert was buried at St Anne's Church at Ryde, as was later Emily herself and her daughter, Rose (Barty's mother).

Emily introduced her grandsons to poetry and the French language. The house was named 'Rockend' and today is the fashionable restaurant known as the Banjo Paterson Cottage Restaurant.

Banjo started High School at Sydney Grammar School in January 1875. Here he was introduced to a world of wealth, privilege and education by his beloved grandmother. She hosted many garden parties where well-connected

children of wealthy families became his mates. Gregory Blaxland (Blue Mountains), Judge Windeyer and Edward Betts, Assistant Superintendent of Gladesville Hospital and grandson of Samuel Marsden were all good friends of Emily Barton. Betts later became Mayor of Hunters Hill (1905-1912) and Treasurer of the Sydney Turf Club In

1882 Paterson joined the legal firm of Herbert Salwey and was admitted as a solicitor in 1886.

Banjo's grandmother bought four more adjoining lots to increase the size of 'Rockend' to almost five acres. She died in 1909 and as said before, was buried at St Anne's in Ryde. At this time, his sister Flo and

her lawyer husband, Edwin Lumsdaine bought 'Avondale' at No 76 Wharf Road, Gladesville. Later Edwin became Rector at Christ Church, Gladesville. Banjo's mother Rose also lived at 'Rockend', and when she died there in 1893 at the age of 49 was buried with family at St Anne's, Ryde. After his mother's death, Ban-

jo cared for his three younger sisters and rented properties in Wharf Road.

Paterson wrote "The Man from Snowy River" whilst living at 'Rockend'. Jack Riley, a bushman from Corryong in Victoria claimed to be the legendary hero of the poem, a claim never denied by Paterson!

In later years Paterson and his wife lived their lives in the Eastern Sub-

urbs. He died in 1941 and was cremated at Northern Suburbs Crematorium in North Ryde. **Ross McBride**

#### References

City of Ryde – "Gladesville Heritage Walking Trail"

Grantlee Kieza – Banjo ABC Books 2018

James Knight – Henry and Banjo, Hachette Australia 2015

\*Now Victoria Road, Ed.

**Pictures: Rockend, Banjo Rd Gladesville c.1890; Memorial to Henry Lawson in grounds of Abbotsford Public School.**



### We host walk for French visitors

On Thursday 4 April Greg and Jan Griffiths hosted fourteen French students and their French teacher on a walk around our suburb, capturing the legacy of the "French Village". From all accounts they thoroughly enjoyed what Hunters Hill has to offer. The walk finished at *Le Village* where they had the opportunity to converse in French with the waitress while ordering lunch. Another walk for students will be organised soon.

