

*We acknowledge the traditional custodians of Hunters Hill
and show respect to Elders past and present.*



www.huntershillmuseum.org.au

"Bunk"

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

**Museum is open
10am to noon
Monday to Friday**

"Gladys' painting has
now returned home"

These are the words of
a generous donor of a painting to the
Society, Mr Isaac Hermann. Gladys
Mary Owen was born 1 July 1889 in
Hunters Hill, the daughter of Sir Langer



Owen and
Mary Louisa
Owen. She
studied art in
Sydney, Lon-
don and Eu-
rope. She was
Foundation
Secretary of

the local branch of the British Red Cross
Society (1914-1927), an executive mem-
ber of the Victoria League and Vice
President of the Women's Loyalty
League.

In 1918 she was appointed O.B.E. In

Museum acquires painting by local artist

1924, her paintings were accepted by the
Spring Salon in Paris and by the Royal Insti-
tute of Painters in Water Colours. She was a
member of the Australian Water Colour In-
stitute and held several exhibitions.

Gladys wrote book reviews for the Sydney
Morning Herald and was employed full time
by the ABC as talks editor. In 1937 she was
appointed a Trustee of the Public Library of
New South Wales. She was married to a well-
known architect, John Moore (also a water
colourist).

Gladys died in Edgecliff on 18 July 1960. It
is intended to display Gladys's painting on
the Art Wall shortly. **Tony Saunders**

*Pictures: Gladys Mary Owen and
Summer Landscape*



Is history BUNK?

The name of our newsletter goes
back to the days when Gil Wahlquist
was president of the Historical Soci-
ety and no doubt reflected his sense of hu-
mour. But, as they say, a change is as good as
a holiday, so **we're inviting members to sug-
gest a new name.**

What did Henry Ford mean by those words?
In May 1916, with war ravaging Europe and
Americans debating whether the country
should become involved, Henry Ford defend-
ed his belief in non-intervention. To Charles

N. Wheeler of the *Chicago Tribune*,
Ford said: *"History is more or less bunk.
It is tradition. We don't want tradition.
We want to live in the present and the
only history that is worth a tinker's
damn is the history we make today.
That's the trouble with the world. We're
living in books and history and tradi-
tion. We want to get away from that
and take care of today. We've done too
much looking back. What we want to
do and do it quick is to make just histo-
ry right now."*

What Ford meant and
explained in later years
was that written history
reflected little of people's
day-to-day existence.

*"History as it is taught in
the schools deals largely
with wars, major political
controversies, territorial
extensions and the*

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Hunters Hill Historical Society Inc Office Bearers and Committee 2020- 2022

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Hunters Hill

Suddenly I thought today
Shut in my stove-heated room
Of the sarsparilla's sway
Lavish of its purple blooms,
And the green waves never still
By the wharf at Hunters Hill.

Mossy rocks that draw the sun
Nunlike ferns, secluded, sweet –
Motorboats that swiftly run:
Seagulls with their rosy feet.
Cloudy Island, sky lines pale,
And a tawny dipping sail.

Creeping o'er the bridge at Ryde
Lingering plumes of engine smoke,
Spurring wind and rolling tide
Naked buds that whitely broke
From their dominions of green,
Shy – yet longing to be seen!

What a gift our memory is!
Something held – when miles
away –
Of a land that sunbeams kiss
Leaning o'er a dancing bay.
Bringing honey-heaps of bloom
To a close, stove-heated room!

M Forrest

The Lone Hand magazine, Sydney

1 December 1917

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like. When I went to our American history books to learn how our forefathers harrowed the land, I discovered that the historians knew nothing about harrows. Yet our country depended more on harrows than on guns or great speeches. I thought a history which excluded harrows and all the rest of daily life is bunk and I think so yet."

But as the *Chicago Tribune* in a subsequent libel trial revealed, Henry Ford, as brilliant an engineer as he may have been, was ignorant of history and more than likely first uttered the phrase "history is more or less bunk" to distract from his own shortcomings.

How the boronia got its name

*"Because the fragrance of your deeds,
Has sweetened many a sad soul's doom
Has ministered to many needs,
I send you sweet Boronia bloom
Ella McFadyen, 1906*

Boronia Park owes its name to the plant Boronia, of which there are 160 species. However, there are very few, if any, specimens to be found now in the 24-hectare Lane Cove Riverside Reserve.

The Boronia is a flowering plant with a distinctive sweet fragrance. Most of the species are endemic to Australia. They grow in forests and woodlands and only rarely in rainforests or arid areas.

How the plant got its name is an intriguing story. It was first described by the English botanist James Edward Smith, a contemporary of Joseph Banks, in 1798. Smith named it after Francesco Borone (1769-1794), a young Italian botanist, who was an associate of his.

It seems Borone, while on a botanical expedition in Greece, was killed when he accidentally fell from a window in Athens, apparently while trying to collect a plant. The Boronia species was named in his honour.

No doubt, the Boronia was widespread in Boronia Park at one time. The reserve is home to a number of endangered ecological communities and provides a valuable habitat for a range of native animals including several threatened species.

A rare variety of wild mushroom is known to grow in the area and attracts many fungi followers. **Chris Schofield**

Ghostly goings on

A ghost has apparently moved to Gladesville but the local police have not been able to capture it. For several weeks rumours have been current in that suburb that a strange sight had confronted various residents, who happened to be passing at night along the lonely road which leads from the ferry wharf to the town. The spectacle, it was said, looks like the shape of a man who was draped in a white gown with only his white face and staring eyes visible.

Police officers were sceptical, but they decided to allay the misgivings of the people by holding an all-night vigil. In fact, two constables spent three full nights on duty in the ghost

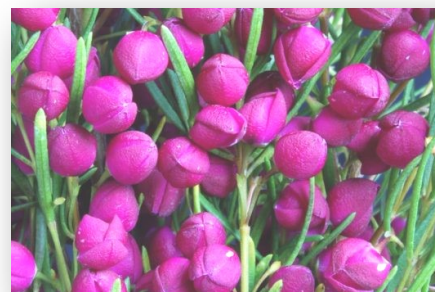
area. But no apparition came to make them tremble. The police are not in the humour to repeat their feat of crouching under a hedge in the cold and biting weather throughout the night, and they declared their belief that a white cat which lives somewhere in the neighbourhood was mistaken for a ghost.

Newcastle Sun, 16 June 1921

There are 133 species of boronia, 127 endemic to Australia. Here are three of them:



Brown Boronia



Plum Bells



Magenta Stars

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