



FOUNDED 1961

# “Bunk”

“History is more or less  
bunk” - Henry Ford,  
Chicago Tribune, 1916

## Douglass Baglin honoured

### DIARY DATES

**Museum open** 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. 2nd and 4th Sundays of month. At other times by request

**Meetings at the RSL Hall**, corner Ady and Alexandra Streets Hunters Hill.

**Thursday, 28 June, Noon for 12.30 p.m.** Sausage sizzle and guest speaker. At the RSL Hall, corner Ady Street and Alexandra Street, Hunters Hill.

Mr. Frank Arbalestier, president of the Hunters Hill RSL sub-branch, will speak on the history of the RSL in Hunters Hill.

**Thursday, 23 August, 7.30 p.m.** Annual General Meeting. RSL Hall, corner Ady Street. Speaker to be announced.

**Tuesday, 15 September to Saturday 22nd.** History Week display on Woolwich School at the Museum. Jan Griffith 9427 2973 is convenor

**Thursday, 25 October, 7.30 p.m.,** General Meeting, RSL Hall. Guest speaker Gregory Blaxell.

**Monday, 3 December, 7 p.m. for 7.30** Christmas celebration at Sportsies

Douglass Baglin, whose photographs were one of the major factors in saving Hunters Hill from developers, was honoured in the Australia Day awards.

His award read as follows:

*BAGLIN, Douglass Hinton Award: Medal of the Order of Australia*

*Date granted: 26 January 2007*

*State: NSW Suburb: Mudgee*

*Citation: For service to the community as a photographer of the Indigenous people, plants and wildlife of Australia, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands, and of historic buildings, particularly in the Hunters Hill district.*

Strangely, this was unreported in Hunters Hill.

Doug is now a resident of Mudgee and the local paper, the *Mudgee Guardian*, ran a full coverage of Doug's honour. We reprint their story.



*Douglass Baglin at home  
Mudgee Guardian picture*

Mudgee's Australia Day MOAM recipient, Douglass Baglin, was presented with his medal yesterday (Thursday May 10). The ceremony took place at Government House, Sydney and was conducted by Her Excellency, the Hon Marie Bashir, Governor of New South Wales. Mr Baglin was recognised

for his many years of service to his country, community and to the world as a photographer and caption writer.

Mr Baglin was Australia's official photographer at the America's Cup Challenge in 1967 and the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race. He has photographed indigenous people, plants and wildlife of Australia, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands. He has also taken many photographs of Catalinas and other sorts of aircrafts.

Born on June 25, 1926 at Bondi, Mr Baglin became a cadet with the Maritime Services Board before enlisting as a trainee pilot in the RAAF. World War II finished before he received his wings and he returned to Sydney. Encouraged by eminent film producer Ken G Hall

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### More than just a gun out the front—hear the history of Hunters Hill RSL at our daytime sausage sizzle

Bring your friends to the Society sausage sizzle and day-time meeting in June. The sizzling meeting will be held at noon on Thursday, 28 June at the RSL Hall. The charge is \$10 per person which will include sausages and onions, bread roll, salad, white and red wine, orange juice, tea and coffee. In charge will be the legendary chef Graham Percival. The meal will be followed by a talk by Frank Arbalestier, president of the RSL sub-branch, on the history of the RSL in Hunters Hill. This will be of great interest, to veterans and their relatives..

**RSVP TO JOCELYN GLENCROSS 9817 2212 BY MONDAY, 25 JUNE**

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF  
HUNTERS HILL INC

ABN 72012103152

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to pursue his love of photography, Mr Baglin built a dark room in his parent's house and began selling his photographs to newspapers and magazines, including the Australian Women's Weekly.

In 1949, Sir Edward Hallstrom invited Mr Baglin to accompany an expedition into the Jimmi Valley, New Guinea - the first visit to the region by Europeans. The stills and 16mm film taken by Mr Baglin remain an important contribution of anthropological knowledge of New Guinea.

Mr Baglin took every opportunity to explore the country, recording built heritage, people, landscapes and Australian oddities.

During this period he was retained by the Indian Government to similarly record regional India on film.

He has illustrated and published more than 70 books.

#### Officers for 2006-2007

*President* June Beck

*Vice President*

Bob Mostyn

*Treasurer*

Graham Percival

*Secretary*

Jocelyn Glencross

*Committee*

Jan Griffiths, Bob Love, Erin Watson, Gil Wahlquist

## Meggitt's: pioneers in manufacturing

Former factory manager Les Osborne remembers when Banjo Paterson Park was filled with the hustle and bustle of the pioneers of manufacturing in Australia.

The Gladesville octogenarian ran Harold Meggitt's vegetable oil operation from 1950 until 1972, shortly before it closed. Only now, however, has the site which was so important to the evolution of the area been recognised with the unveiling of a plaque by Ryde Council Mayor Ivan Petch.

The site was once covered in grain silos, a mill and storage tanks for the edible linseed oil it produced. There was a constant movement of about 12 semi trailers a day, delivering about 120 tonnes of seed to the mill.

The oil would be extracted and then shipped out on tanker-trucks and barges. Farmers bought the remaining oilcake meal to fatten up their dairy herds. Before Australia grew its own linseed, the company bought grain from India, Argentina and Canada, off-loading it on its own wharf on the Parramatta River.

"Everyone in Gladesville knew Meggitt's," Mr Osborne said. "When we got a big shipment, we would go around to get extra hands to off-load it."

The founder, Harold Meggitt, was a philanthropist who was made a Life Governor of Katoomba Hospital and the Ryde District Soldier's Memorial Hospital. He pioneered a generous profit-sharing scheme, dubbed by newspapers in the 1940s as "The Crackpot Plan that Works".

Shareholders were paid a 4.5 per cent dividend, then all remaining profits were shared 50-50 between the shareholders and the employees.

From the cleaner to the foreman, every employee would receive the same annual share of the profits.

When Harold Meggitt died in 1949, his son, Clive, continued the scheme.

In a tribute in a Sydney newspaper, the shareholders wrote: "We are aware of the benefits resulting from maximum efficiency, no waste, no go-slow and no strikes in 21 years".

The employees also paid tribute to their "Chief" who had twice turned down generous offers to sell his business, "because the deal would have meant selling his workmen".

Harold Meggitt's ethos was carried on by his son, Clive.

"It was a friendly and co-operative place to work," Mr Osborne said.

Historian Gregory Blaxell said council bought the site and with State Government financial aid developed the area for passive recreation.

**THIS STORY APPEARED IN THE NORTHERN DISTRICT TIMES ON 23 MAY, 2007**

The Meggitt family home still stands at the foot of Serpentine Road, Hunters Hill. The Meggitt boys attended Malvern College, Ernest Street, Hunters Hill.



*Les Osborne stands in Banjo Paterson Park, where a plaque to commemorate Meggitt's factory was unveiled by Ryde Mayor Ivan Petch.  
Northern District Times*