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**MEETING NOTICE**

A meeting of the  
**Botany Historical Trust**  
will be held in the Mascot Library and George Hanna Memorial Museum  
2 Hatfield Street, Mascot  
on **Monday 5 August 2024 at 6:30 PM**

**AGENDA**

- 1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**
- 2 APOLOGIES**
- 3 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**
- 4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS ..... 2**
  - 4.1 Minutes of the Botany Historical Trust Meeting - 6 May 2024 ..... 2
  - 5.1 Planning, Development & Compliance Matters.....10
  - 5.2 President's Report - Robert Hanna.....12
  - 5.3 Local History Update .....14
  - 5.4 Local History Projects Report .....16
  - 5.5 Program and Activities for 2024.....19
  - 5.6 General Business.....22
- 6 GENERAL BUSINESS**
- 7 NEXT MEETING**

Meredith Wallace  
**General Manager**

**1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

Bayside Council acknowledges the traditional custodians: the Gadigal and Bidjigal people of the Eora nation, and pays respects to Elders past, present and emerging. The people of the Eora nation, their spirits and ancestors will always remain with our waterways and the land, our Mother Earth.

**2 APOLOGIES****3 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST****4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS****Botany Historical Trust****5/08/2024**

Item No	4.1
Subject	<b>Minutes of the Botany Historical Trust Meeting - 6 May 2024</b>
Report by	Cate Kloos, Administrative Officer - Libraries and Customer Experience
File	SF23/8746

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**Officer Recommendation**

That the Minutes of the Botany Historical Trust meeting held on 6 May 2024 be confirmed as a true record of proceedings.

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**Summary of Substantial Recommendations**

There were no Substantial Recommendations identified.

**Present**

Christopher Hanna, Senior Vice President and Chairperson  
Jacqueline Milledge, Vice President  
Richard Smolenski, Treasurer  
Warren Hensley, Committee Member  
Jennifer Muscat, Councillor

**Also present**

Laura Browning, Acting Manager Libraries and Lifestyle  
Natalie Funston, Senior Specialist Librarian  
Marta Gonzalez-Valdes, Coordinator Development Assessment

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The Chairperson opened the meeting in the Mascot Library and George Hanna Memorial Museum at 6.41pm.

## 1 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chairperson affirmed that Bayside Council acknowledges the traditional custodians: the Gadigal and Bidjigal people of the Eora nation, and pays respects to Elders past, present and emerging. The people of the Eora nation, their spirits and ancestors will always remain with our waterways and the land, our Mother Earth.

## 2 Apologies and Attendance via Audio Visual link

### Apologies

The following apologies were received:  
Robert Hanna, President  
Carole Nestor, Committee Member  
Jo Jansyn, Councillor

### Attendance Via Audio Visual Link

There were no Committee members in attendance via audio-visual link.

## 3 Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

## 4 Minutes of Previous Meetings

### 4.1 Minutes of the Botany Historical Trust Meeting - 5 February 2024

#### Committee Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Botany Historical Trust meeting held on 5 February 2024 be confirmed as a true record of proceedings.

### 4.2 Business Arising

There was no Business Arising.

**Note:** That Committee note that the Minutes of the Botany Historical Trust of Monday 5 February 2024 were received, and the recommendations therein be adopted by the Council at its meeting of 27 March 2024.

## 5 Reports

### 5.1 President's Report - Christopher Hanna

The President Rob Hanna was an apology to the meeting. Senior Vice President Chris Hanna presented the President's report on his behalf. The key points were:

- The sad loss of Alice McCann and Dr Peter Orlovich. Both served with dedication on the Executive and are missed.
- Application for grant funding to assist with changes to the Botany War Memorial
- A request to firm up dates for member excursions
- ANZAC Day wreath placements at Mascot RSL ANZAC Day service and Botany RSL dawn service.

Rob would like to amend the report to say that he is back on board and recuperating well.

Richard Smolenski read out the eulogy that he read at Dr Peter Orlovich's funeral. See attachment 1.

#### Committee Resolution

1. That the President's Report be noted.
2. That the report be amended to reflect that Rob is recuperating well.

Moved by Jacqueline Milledge  
Seconded by Christopher Hanna

## 5.2 Planning, Development & Compliance Matters

Planning, Development and Compliance matters were tabled for discussion with the BHT Executive.

- DA-2024/9 - 31 Colonel Braund Crescent, DACEYVILLE NSW 2032:
  - Revised plans accepted by Council
  - Reduced height of extension and removed dormer window
  - Porch to remain open
  - No issues raised by the BHT
- DA- 2024/17 – 160 King Street, MASCOT NSW
  - Supported by heritage advisor
  - New DCP doesn't encourage these types of additions
  - No issues raised by BHT
- DA-2024/54 - 150 King Street Mascot NSW 2020
  - Supported by Heritage Advisor – improvement
  - Still under assessment
  - No issues raised by BHT
- DA-2024/53 - 33 Banks Avenue Daceyville NSW
  - Old Marist Brothers site
  - Regional Development because of cost
  - Should be looked at mid-century in terms of heritage
  - Plan to incorporate heritage nature of existing buildings
  - BHT Executive would like to see the DA so they can provide a submission

### Committee Resolution

That the Committee notes the information provided about heritage related planning, development and compliance matters.

Moved by Councillor Jennifer Muscat  
Seconded by Richard Smolenski

### **5.3 Local History Update**

Christopher Hanna informed the Executive about Alison Wishart leaving Council. He thanked Alison for her work.

#### **Committee Resolution**

1. That the BHT Executive note the report.
2. That the BHT sends flowers to Alison Wishart to thank her for her support.
3. That the BHT requests that the Sir Joseph Banks Archaeological Artefacts and materials is to be returned into the Botany area to be available for Botany residents to access.

Moved by Richard Smolenski  
Seconded by Warren Hensley

### **5.4 Program and Activities for 2024**

#### **Committee Resolution**

1. That the Committee note the report.
2. That the date for the Nancy Hillier Lecture be corrected to 24 October 2024.
3. That 10 days before the AGM notification must be sent to general members to notify them of vacancies.
4. That Council provide information in the Community Newsletter about vacancies on the BHT Executive and encouraging interested people to join. Any existing members can nominate to be an Executive Member in accordance with the BHT Constitution.

Moved by Councillor Jennifer Muscat  
Seconded by Richard Smolenski

## **5.5 General Business**

### **Committee Resolutions**

1. That the BHT accept the nomination from Nathan Brown as general (non-Executive) member.
2. That the BHT note the general items discussed.
3. That the discussions about the Grant for the Botany War Memorial is to carry over to the next meeting.
4. That outstanding actions from previous meetings carry over to the next meeting.

Moved by Councillor Jennifer Muscat  
Seconded by Richard Smolenski

## **6 General Business**

### **6.1 ANZAC Day**

- Cllr Muscat appreciative that Matt Thistlethwaite MP spoke about a female 1<sup>st</sup> World War veteran.
- Little Bay Dawn service is a good service
- Chris attended the ANZAC day service at Mascot War Memorial. The Botany Historic Trust was called, instead of Chris' name but before Chris could get there to lay the wreath, someone else had done it.

## 6.2 Dr Peter Orlovich

- The BHT would like to do something to honour and remember Dr Peter Orlovich such as a Dr Peter Orlovich History Award for Mascot and Botany history, or name a room at Eastgardens or Rockdale Library after him. Or investigate a collaboration with UNSW to commemorate Dr Orlovich, similar to Nancy Hillier Lecture.
- Eulogy for Dr Peter Orlovich to go in minutes.

### Committee Recommendation

1. That Council recognise female veterans in naming places.
2. That there be research and investigation into whether there are female veterans on the War Memorial to ensure proper recognition.
3. That Council clearly labels flowers at the ANZAC Day services with the representative's name.
4. It be noted that the new railings at the cenotaphs are much appreciated.

### Committee Resolution

1. That discussion in relation to recognising Dr Peter Orlovich to be added to the Agenda for the next meeting.

Moved by Jacqueline Milledge  
Seconded by Richard Smolenski

## 7 Next Meeting

That the next meeting be held in the George Hanna Memorial Museum at Mascot Library at 6:30pm on Monday, 5 August 2024.

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 7.48pm.



**Attachment 1: Rob Hanna's Eulogy for Dr Peter Orlovich**

I regret I am not able to be here today to farewell Peter. Health issues have currently restricted me to home base.

Until his retirement earlier this year due to his declining health, Peter was probably the longest serving member of the Botany Historical Trust Executive Committee. In fact, Peter was a foundation member of the Executive. Peter was appointed for his skills as a professional archivist and his excellent knowledge of local historical and heritage matters.

I was a foundation member of the BHT, and joined the Executive some 15 years ago. In my time on the Executive I not only became a friend of Peter, but also was one who appreciated his passion, commitment, professionalism and crusader for the management, classification and preservation of the archives of the City of Botany Bay, incorporating the former Municipalities of Botany and Mascot. Peter also had access to the minutes of the Botany Progress Association which advocated for the establishment of the Municipality of Botany in 1888.

Although I was a student of history, it was through Peter I gained a more thorough understanding of the preservation of historical archives, and their many uses in interpreting the history of those times. Our archives are our primary source of historical documents. Imagine how our knowledge of our history and heritage would have suffered without the preservation of the Magna Carta, or the journals and ship logs of early European navigators from the 15<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

Through the recent turbulent year, including council amalgamations, Peter pursued with a passion his crusade to have the archives of the City of Botany Bay preserved and stored in such a way as to allow access to them for historical research. Peter's perseverance on these matters largely overcame the bureaucratic obstacles that were often put in his way.

Peter's role as an academic archivist at the University of New South Wales should also not be overlooked. In the early years of my executive membership I enrolled in and attended one of Peter's archives courses, from which I gained a greater understanding of the preservation, storage and uses of archives.

Peter's passing will leave a significant loss to the functioning of the BHT, its goals and its achievements. Peter has left a legacy that hopefully will last, and it is up to those of us still on the Executive to ensure that it continues.

As President of the BHT I will ensure that Bayside Council takes steps to honour Peter's service in an appropriate way.

Farewell Peter. I shall miss your friendship, your knowledge and your contribution to our history and heritage. May you rest in peace in the knowledge that you will not be forgotten.

Rob Hanna

President  
Botany Historical Trust

**Attachments**

Nil

## 5 Reports

**Botany Historical Trust****5/08/2024**

Item No	5.1
Subject	<b>Planning, Development &amp; Compliance Matters</b>
Report by	Cate Kloos, Administrative Officer - Libraries and Customer Experience
File	SF23/8746

**Summary**

This report provides information regarding planning, development and compliance matters relating to heritage properties.

**Officer Recommendation**

That the Committee notes the information provided about heritage related planning, development and compliance matters.

**Background**

The following DA and its status are summarised below for the BHT Executive's reference.

<b>Application Number</b>	<b>DA-2024/128</b>
Property Address	1-3 Fremlin Street Botany - Heritage Item 204
Property Title	Lot
Applicant	Bayside Council
Proposal	Demolition of existing amenities building, driveway and landscaping works at Sir Joseph Banks Park.
Notification Period	17 June to 15 July 2024
<b>Status</b>	Further Information Received

**Marina Theatre update**

- Action #31 from BHT meeting on 6 November 2023:  
Council to provide a formal response to BHT motion 6.1 from the BHT meeting held on 7 August 2023 regarding the BHT Executive's support of the examination and assessment to restore the Marina Theatre in public ownership under the control of Bayside Council as community asset.

The director of City Futures advises that Council has not listed the property for acquisition and there is no identified community need for it. Accordingly, Council is not collecting funds through Developer Contributions or any other avenue, and there is no other funding source available to Council to purchase the property and to

restore it.

- Action #32 from BHT meeting on 6 November 2023:  
Council to confirm when the development consent for the Marina Theatre expires.

The Coordinator Development Assessment Development Services advises that the development consent expires on 13/12/2025.

**Financial Implications**

- Not applicable
- Included in existing approved budget
- Additional funds required

**Community Strategic Plan**

- Theme One – In 2032 Bayside will be a vibrant place
- Theme Two – In 2032 Our people will be connected in a creative City
- Theme Three – In 2032 Bayside will be green, resilient and sustainable
- Theme Four – In 2032 Bayside will be a prosperous community

**Risk Management – Risk Level Rating**

- No risk
- Low risk
- Medium risk
- High risk
- Very High risk

**Community Engagement**

Not applicable

**Attachments**

Nil

## **Botany Historical Trust**

**5/08/2024**

Item No	5.2
Subject	<b>President's Report - Robert Hanna</b>
Report by	Cate Kloos, Administrative Officer - Libraries and Customer Experience
File	SF23/8746

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### **Summary**

The BHT President, Robert Hanna, provides an update to the BHT Executive Committee.

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### **Officer Recommendation**

That the President's Report be noted.

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### **Background**

At last, I return to my BHT duties and activities due to my recent health issues. My thanks to Chris Hanna, the Senior Vice President, for chairing the last two Executive Committee meetings during my absence. I also wish to thank other committee members who assisted Chris during this period.

Sadly, with the passing of Dr Peter Orlovich, the Executive will miss his significant contribution to the BHT's activities, particularly in his attempts to preserve and have access to the archives of the City of Botany Bay and its predecessors. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend Peter's funeral, and I'm extremely grateful to Richard Smolenski for reading my short eulogy on that occasion.

I also note the passing of Alice McCann during my absence from BHT activities, and also regret not being able to attend her funeral. I wish to record my appreciation for the long and passionate service that Alice gave to the BHT as its former Senior Vice President.

My immediate priority will be to push on with the alterations to the Botany War Memorial, and in seeking a grant from the NSW Government to assist with the costs of any restoration work.

As we approach the September local government elections, we should remember that our terms of membership on the Executive Committee will expire, and a new Executive Committee will need to be elected at our Annual General Meeting later this year. I hope all current Executive members will consider their commitment to the BHT, and consider remaining on the Committee.

We also need to find a suitable replacement on the Executive for the late Peter Orlovich. Someone hopefully with Peter's expertise in archives preservation and administration. Peter's position was a Council appointed one, and I am hoping we can consider and recommend some appropriate recommendations later this year.

### Financial Implications

- Not applicable
  - Included in existing approved budget
  - Additional funds required
- 

### Community Strategic Plan

- Theme One – In 2032 Bayside will be a vibrant place
  - Theme Two – In 2032 Our people will be connected in a creative City
  - Theme Three – In 2032 Bayside will be green, resilient and sustainable
  - Theme Four – In 2032 Bayside will be a prosperous community
- 

### Risk Management – Risk Level Rating

- No risk
  - Low risk
  - Medium risk
  - High risk
  - Very High risk
- 

### Community Engagement

Not applicable.

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### Attachments

Nil

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## Botany Historical Trust

5/08/2024

Item No	5.3
Subject	<b>Local History Update</b>
Report by	Cate Kloos, Administrative Officer - Libraries and Customer Experience
File	SF23/8746

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### Summary

An overview of activities relating to Local History by Bayside Council Local History Librarians in the past three months.

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### Officer Recommendation

That the BHT Executive note the report.

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### Background

#### Local History Research Requests

From 1 April until 30 June there were 60 Local History research requests: 6% complex, 15% medium and 40% simple requests. A complex enquiry takes more than three hours to answer. 25 of the requests related to the former Botany LGA.

#### Local History Staff – update

- We welcome Laura Daaboul as the Local History Librarian who is based at Mascot 4 days a week and 1 day at Rockdale. Laura replaces Alison Wishart who has left Council to take up a Local History Librarian position at Woollahra Library.
- A temporary Local History position has been approved to cover Kirsten Broderick who is on long term sick leave. The position will be based at Rockdale and will work with Laura on providing Local History services to the Bayside community, including the running of the Ron Rathbone Local History Competition Awards.
- Their projects will include digitisation and increased access of the collection, exhibitions, and the AMAC house move.

#### Collection storage - update

- Reports that were part of the Nancy Hillier collection are being catalogued to allow better access to the collection.

### Ron Rathbone Local History Competition

- Entries for the Ron Rathbone Local History Competition closed on 18 July 2024. Judging will take place during August.
- The winners will be announced at the Ceremony in September 2024.

### Local History Talks

- Dr Peter Hobbins gave a talk at Mascot Library based on his 2023 Ron Rathbone Local History Competition entry *Mascot's miracle: the 1971 airliner collision that nearly took 240 lives*. 29 people attended the talk.

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### Financial Implications

- |                                      |                                     |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Not applicable                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Included in existing approved budget | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Additional funds required            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

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### Community Strategic Plan

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Theme One – In 2032 Bayside will be a vibrant place                    | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Theme Two – In 2032 Our people will be connected in a creative City    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Theme Three – In 2032 Bayside will be green, resilient and sustainable | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Theme Four – In 2032 Bayside will be a prosperous community            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

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### Risk Management – Risk Level Rating

- |                |                                     |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| No risk        | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Low risk       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Medium risk    | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| High risk      | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Very High risk | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

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### Community Engagement

Not applicable.

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### Attachments

Nil

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## Botany Historical Trust

5/08/2024

Item No	5.4
Subject	<b>Local History Projects Report</b>
Report by	Cate Kloos, Administrative Officer - Libraries and Customer Experience
File	SF23/8746

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## Summary

An overview of Local History Projects.

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## Officer Recommendation

That the BHT Executive note the report.

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## Background

### Historical Markers

- 5 successful nominations have been chosen and have been endorsed by Council on 26 June 2024:
  - Tempe House
  - the former Sir Joseph Banks Hotel
  - Botany Public School
  - Bexley Public School
  - Wilson's Farmhouse
- It was decided that as well as displaying plaques at the locations, the plaques will also be displayed at Eastgardens and Rockdale libraries.

### Exhibitions at Mascot Library

- The exhibition *Home Sweet Home: Botany and Mascot 1920s - 1960s* was deinstalled from 3-7 June 2024 and 90 items were returned to Hurstville Museum and Gallery. The feedback on the exhibition in the visitors' book has been positive.
- Patrick Cremin, the Arts and Culture Officer at Bayside Council, and Cate Kloos installed an exhibition of photographs from the 2023 Bayside Photographic competition in the exhibition space. The photographs will be on display from 24 June 2024 until the end of the year.



**Notice of Motion: Women in War**

We are investigating obtaining quotes for a consultant to undertake research into Bayside women who served. We also have projects underway with library staff who are creating lists of the names of women who served in WWI and WWII.

**Oral History Project**

There are no updates for this projects.

**Vacation of AMAC House**

- A draft business case has been prepared, which outlines options for alternative storage locations.
- As the redevelopment of the Botany Aquatic Centre has been delayed by 12 months, AMAC House will now be demolished in July 2025. This gives Bayside Council more time to investigate alternative storage locations and resource the project to move the collection.
- As previously advised, the Botany RSL sub-branch will need to find a new home for their archives, which are stored at AMAC House. A Botany RSL representative is meeting with Bobbi Mayne to discuss removal of Botany RSL materials.

**Interpretive signage for Botany Bay Council 2016**

- Most of the sign panels of the Victoria Cross Interpretive signage that was fabricated for Botany Bay Council in 2016 are now in deteriorated condition. The signs are scattered around Daceyville and Pagewood areas.
- We received 2 quotes for the replacement panels for the 17 signs and requested that any renewed panels will provide increased durability and longer useful asset life. The manufacturer can photo anodise these signs in aluminium in full colour and mount them to the existing stands to ensure longer asset life.

**Financial Implications**

- Not applicable
- Included in existing approved budget
- Additional funds required

**Community Strategic Plan**

- Theme One – In 2032 Bayside will be a vibrant place
- Theme Two – In 2032 Our people will be connected in a creative City
- Theme Three – In 2032 Bayside will be green, resilient and sustainable
- Theme Four – In 2032 Bayside will be a prosperous community

### **Risk Management – Risk Level Rating**

- No risk
  - Low risk
  - Medium risk
  - High risk
  - Very High risk
- 

### **Community Engagement**

Not applicable.

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### **Attachments**

Nil

## Botany Historical Trust

5/08/2024

Item No	5.5
Subject	<b>Program and Activities for 2024</b>
Report by	Cate Kloos, Administrative Officer - Libraries and Customer Experience
File	SF23/8746

## Summary

An update on the 2024 BHT program will be provided to the Committee.

## Officer Recommendation

1. That the Committee discuss and recommend activities for the 2024 program.
2. That the Committee confirms Tuesday 10 December 2024 is the date of the BHT Christmas Function.

## Background

The objective of the BHT is to promote, educate and celebrate Bayside's local history.

## Financial Implications

- |                                      |                                     |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Not applicable                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Included in existing approved budget | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Additional funds required            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

## Community Strategic Plan

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|--|-------------------------------------|
| Theme One – In 2032 Bayside will be a vibrant place                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Theme Two – In 2032 Our people will be connected in a creative City    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Theme Three – In 2032 Bayside will be green, resilient and sustainable | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Theme Four – In 2032 Bayside will be a prosperous community            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

## Risk Management – Risk Level Rating

- |                |                                     |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| No risk        | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Low risk       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Medium risk    | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| High risk      | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Very High risk | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

## **Community Engagement**

Not applicable.

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## **Attachments**

BHT Program and Activities for 2024 [↓](#)

BOTANY HISTORICAL TRUST - PROGRAM AND ACTIVITIES FOR 2024						
Month	Date	Time	Activity Type	Description	Location	Outcome
February	Monday, 5 February 2024	6:30pm	Meeting	BHT Committee Meeting	Mascot Library	
	Monday, 19 February 2024		Event or media release	Launch of Historical Markers program		
March	Monday, 18 March		Opening	Ron Rathbone Local History Prize opens		
April	Sunday, 21 April 2024	2:15pm	Event	ANZAC Day March - Mascot RSL	Mascot Memorial Park	
	Thursday, 25 April 2024	6am	Event	ANZAC Day Dawn Service - Botany RSL	Boralee Park, Botany	
May	Monday, 6 May 2024	6:30pm	Meeting	BHT Committee Meeting	Mascot Library	
	Saturday, 11 May 2024	10am	Talk	Local History Talk with Peter Hobbins	Mascot Library	
	Wednesday, 29 May 2024		Newsletter	BHT Newsletter		
	TBA		Viewing	Opening/viewing of new display of Botany Mayoral chains and chair	Botany Town Hall	
June			Exhibition launch	Our Bayside Photography Competition 2023	Mascot Library	
July	TBA		Announcement	Historical Markers that will be installed in Bayside		
	Thursday, 18 July 2024	5pm	Closing	Ron Rathbone Local History Prize closes		
August	Monday, 5 August 2024	6:30pm	Meeting	BHT Committee Meeting	Mascot Library	
September	TBA		Function	Ron Rathbone Local History Prize Award		
October	Thursday, 24 October 2024		Lecture	Nancy Hillier Lecture	Botany Town Hall	
November	Monday, 4 November 2024	6:30pm	Meeting	BHT Committee Meeting and AGM	Mascot Library	
December	Tuesday, 10 December 2024		Function	Christmas Function	Mascot Library	
	TBA		Newsletter	BHT Newsletter		

## Botany Historical Trust

5/08/2024

Item No 5.6  
Subject **General Business**  
Report by Cate Kloos, Administrative Officer - Libraries and Customer Experience  
File SF23/8746

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### Summary

Executive Members are invited to table general business items for discussion.

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### Officer Recommendation

- 1 That the BHT accept the nominations from Alison Wishart and Tina Workman as general (non Executive) members.
  - 2 That the BHT note the general items discussed.
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### Background

The General Business items to be discussed include:

- a) Nomination received by Alison Wishart and Tina Workman for new non-executive memberships.
- b) Application for a grant for the Botany War Memorial (deferred from last meeting).
- c) Update on outstanding actions;
  - o There are 50 actions from previous meetings
  - o 45/50 have been actioned and are now closed
  - o 5/50 actions are in progress. Updates on these actions will be discussed at the meeting.
- d) Recognition of Dr Peter Orlovich.
- e) Randwick & District Historical Society Inc. newsletter has been received for the BHT and is attached FYI.
- f) Other items

### Financial Implications

Not applicable   
Included in existing approved budget   
Additional funds required

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## Community Strategic Plan

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|--|-------------------------------------|
| Theme One – In 2032 Bayside will be a vibrant place                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Theme Two – In 2032 Our people will be connected in a creative City    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Theme Three – In 2032 Bayside will be green, resilient and sustainable | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Theme Four – In 2032 Bayside will be a prosperous community            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
- 

## Risk Management – Risk Level Rating

- |                |                                     |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| No risk        | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Low risk       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Medium risk    | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| High risk      | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Very High risk | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
- 

## Community Engagement

Not applicable

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## Attachments

- 1 Actions from BHT meetings [↓](#)
- 2 Randwick & District Historical Society Inc. newsletter [↓](#)

## Actions from BHT meetings

Item	BHT meeting date	Endorsed date*	changes by Council	Action required	notes	status
<b>open items:</b>						
20	1/05/2023	28/06/2023	none	Rob Hanna to investigate further organising a BHT Excursion through Macquarie Street Sydney and his suggestion to lead a heritage walk through Banksmeadow.		open
34	6/11/2023	28/02/2024	none	Rob Hanna to write to the Botany RSL sub-branch and to the Minister for Veteran's Affairs seeking their input for the proposed changes to the Botany War Memorial.		open
44	5/02/2024	27/03/2024	none	The Manager Libraries and Lifestyle agreed to investigate opportunities for Local History talks on Saturdays in future and report back to the BHT.	There are competing priorities and limited resources for several Council embraced projects. This initiative requires the BHT to lead.	open
45	6/05/2024	26/06/2024	none	That the BHT requests that the Sir Joseph Banks Archaeological Artefacts and materials is to be returned into the Botany area to be available for Botany residents to access.		open
47	6/05/2024	26/06/2024	none	That Council recognise female veterans in naming places and that there be research and investigation into whether there are female veterans in the War Memorial to ensure proper recognition.	Program to be scoped and costed.	open
<b>closed items:</b>						
1	1/08/2022	7/12/2022	none	Bayside Council digitises and makes available on the Council website its archives so that they are more accessible to the public	11/11/22 The Local History team applied to the NSW Government for a \$3,000 grant to conserve, digitise and make accessible World War I memorabilia relating to Alfred and George Benham, who lived in Tenterden Road, Botany. 2/23 received grant for \$1,000. 20/3/23 Council will fund the shortfall of \$2,000. 17/7/23 Bayside Libraries have used \$25K in funding from SLNSW to digitise the reel to reel films and 217 audio cassettes in the collection. These items will be added to the website (via the catalogue) in FY23-24. 09/10/23 Bayside staff met with IT specialists regarding digital preservation and access software. They will provide advice on this project.	closed
2	7/11/2022	7/12/2022	none	Old Botany Station: Council advocate to the Minister for Families and communities and liaise with Land and Housing Corporation to transfer the ownership of the locally heritage listed Old Botany Police Station to Bayside Council, after refurbishment, to ensure that it can be used for community purposes.	SF22/6206: Bayside Council Notice of Motion from 24/5/23: That Council advocate to the Ministers for Planning and Housing and The Hon Michael Daley, Attorney General and Member for Maroubra, and liaise with NSW Land and Housing Corporation to transfer the ownership of the locally heritage listed Old Botany Police Station to Bayside Council after conservation and refurbishment works are complete, to facilitate its use for community purposes. On 12/7/23 Ron Hoenig advised that the Land and Housing Corporation is investigating the potential for a subdivision of the site to allow for the old police station to be managed separately to the seniors living social housing units that are presently part of the same title.	closed
3	7/11/2022	7/12/2022	none	Alison Wishart invited Peter Orlovich to come into Rockdale Library and look at the rate books and valuation books that Council holds as he was concerned about the potential loss of the valuer-general's records about the value of properties in the North Botany/Mascot municipality.	14/11/22 Alison wrote to Peter with examples of Botany Valuation books and invited him to come into the office and view the copies if he wanted to. 20/03/23 Alison spoke to Peter. He does not need to come into the office to view the digitised books but wants to write a short report for BHT on the distinctions between the early rate books and the valuation books (which commenced after the Valuer-General's dept was established in NSW in 1916).	closed
4	7/11/2022	7/12/2022	none	BHT recommends that current and future exhibitions are made available online to increase public access.	12/22 Approved by Council 15/03/23 Alison has continued to meet with Christian Roach almost fortnightly to follow this up. He has all the content he needs for the "Swimming" exhibition. 18/7/23 Content for the "Swimming" exhibition is available on the Bayside Council website.	closed
5	7/11/2022	7/12/2022	none	Can photos of former Botany Mayors be displayed, permanently or in an exhibition?	2/23 The 8 photos of former Botany Mayors and aldermen will be brought to the next BHT meeting so that the BHT can have a look and decide on what to do with them. Photos were brought to BHT meeting on 1 May 2023.	closed



6	7/11/2022	7/12/2022	none	NSW Government Blue Plaques Heritage Program Nomination: Alison Wishart asked members to think about places in Botany that are associated with significant people that could be nominated.	Cr Jansyn recommended Botany Public School as it's the oldest school in NSW	closed
7	7/11/2022	7/12/2022	none	BHT members are invited to place their expression of interest in taking home photo boards from the "The Way We Were" exhibition	Stephen Terrill from the library team sent out emails to all interested people with information on how to pick up the photos before 17 January. 6/2/23 Jacqueline enquires when she can pick up the photo that she reserved 18/2/23 photo has been taken by Jacqueline, no photos remaining	closed
8	7/11/2022	7/12/2022	none	Cab vouchers for Peter Orlovich to get home from BHT meetings need to be organised		closed
9	6/02/2023	22/02/2023	none	Investigate DA 2023/5 - building at 2,2A and 4 Bay Street, Botany as it's located within the Botany Township Heritage Conservation Area	10/2/23 Bobbi Mayne sent information about the DA to BHT Executive Members 13/3/23 Reply received from Rob and forwarded to planning team 16/3/23 Christopher Mackey confirms that comments will be considered	closed
10	6/02/2023	22/02/2023	none	The Committee strongly supports Council to investigate and take action for non-compliance in development consent conditions issued by the Land and Environment Court for 1637 Botany Rd, Banksmeadow including "La Perouse" Façade	In Council meeting from 22/2/23 it was resolved that Council investigates and takes action for non-compliance in development consent conditions issued by the Land and Environment Court.	closed
11	6/02/2023	22/02/2023	none	Modifications to DA MDA-2023/7 for 1170 Botany Rd, Botany are not supported by the Committee	In Council meeting from 22/2/23 it was resolved that Council not support the modifications to this DA.	closed
12	6/02/2023	22/02/2023	none	The Committee requests Council to provide an update on what is proposed for the site adjacent to the BP Service Station on Botany Rd. This is a vacant site, DA for McDonalds was submitted and not approved.	In Council meeting from 22/2/23 it was resolved that Council provide an update on what is proposed for this site.	closed
13	6/02/2023	22/02/2023	none	Suggestion to change name of FB posts from "Flashback Friday" to "Flashback Favourites"	8/2/23 Alison Wishart advises that "Flashback Friday" is a widely used term on social media. They will continue using this name and try to email them to BHT members on alternate Fridays.	closed
14	6/02/2023	22/02/2023	none	Leonie Bell's talk about Stannumville to go ahead, no preference on date	15/03/2023 - Talk scheduled for 5 April 2023 at 2pm. Flyers printed and mailed to BHT members. Publicity has commenced.	closed
15	1/05/2023	28/06/2023	none	Council to confirm the date and booking for the 2023 Nancy Hillier Lecture in consultation with the Lecture Planning Committee.	17/7/23 - Lecture scheduled for Saturday, 2 November 2023 at 6pm at Botany Town Hall	closed
16	1/05/2023	28/06/2023	none	Alison to arrange for copies of the study guide for "Sixty Thousand Barrels" to be available in Bayside Libraries.	A hard copy of the study guide is now available at Eastgardens, Mascot and Rockdale libraries.	closed
17	1/05/2023	28/06/2023	none	Alison to provide a list of the oral histories on growing up in the Botany Bay area to be shared with the BHT Executive Committee at the next meeting.	completed - a list of 78 oral history interview is available for distribution to the BHT	closed
18	1/05/2023	28/06/2023	none	BHT President to write a formal letter on behalf of the BHT to Clarrie's family to express sincere and heartfelt sympathy of long term BHT Member Clarrie Jones' passing.	Rob Hanna posted the letter on 6/6/23.	closed
19	1/05/2023	28/06/2023	none	Bayside Council to investigate the process in adding Flight Sergeant Oscar Patrick McFadden's name's to the Botany War Memorial.	Bayside has investigated and provides a fact sheet about updating war memorials from OVA. There are others, besides Oscar McFadden, whose names should be added to the Botany War Memorial. She report provided.	closed
21	1/05/2023	28/06/2023	none	Peter Orlovich to email everyone a copy of the report about Botany sub-branch RSL archives that he prepared some years ago.	Botany RSL to retrieve documents that are currently stored at AMAC House due to the upgrade to Botany Aquatic Centre and subsequent demolition of AMAC House.	closed
22	1/05/2023	28/06/2023	none	Cr Jansyn to provide a copy of Bayside Council's General Manager's update on the former Botany Police Station to the BHT Executive.		closed
24	7/08/2023	23/08/2023	none	Carole Nestor to ask Moira if she would like to join BHT Executive	Moira declined due to her existing commitments	closed
26	7/08/2023	23/08/2023	none	Rob to verify that all people nominated for War Memorial at Booralee Park have lived in Botany area, verify the spelling of their names, and that they died as a result of their war service		closed
27	7/08/2023	23/08/2023	none	Bayside Council to organise updated War Memorial plaque for Booralee Park once Rob has finished his research about people to be added		closed
28	7/08/2023	23/08/2023	none	Bobbi Mayne to provide update on the development of the Marina Theatre on Gardeners Road		closed
29	7/08/2023	23/08/2023	none	BHT Executive members would like to have each other's contact details for easier communication outside of meetings. Cate Kloos to circulate.	Distributed contact details of Executive members that agreed to this on 23/11/23	closed

33	6/11/2023			Council to provide information about the penalties for non-compliance of the development consent including removal of the historic façade at the Banksmeadow shops (1637-1647 Botany Road Botany, DA-2017/11243)	In the absence of a robust condition requiring the façade to be retained, Council is not in a strong position to take compliance action so no penalties for non-compliance were issued.	closed
32	6/11/2023			Council to confirm when the development consent for the Marina Theatre expires.	Bobbi updated BHT at meeting on 5/2/24.	closed
36	6/11/2023			Alison Wishart to investigate AI software to create draft transcripts for oral history audio recordings. Once finished call out for volunteers to correct draft.	Alison Wishart provided information via email to BHT Executive on 23/01/2024.	closed
39	5/02/2024			That Council investigate the age of Mascot Ambulance station and whether there are heritage controls or considerations for the station.	Alison Wishart provided information via email to BHT Executive on 23/02/2024. Further to this, Christopher Mackey advised that Mascot Ambulance Station is not listed as a heritage item in the Bayside LEP, therefore there are no heritage related development controls that would restrict re-development on the site.	closed
30	7/08/2023	23/08/2023	none	Rob Hanna to contact Ron Hoenig's office to schedule a tour to Parliament House.	Rob has contacted Ron Hoenig's office twice re tour of Parliament House for BHT members.	closed
43	5/02/2024			That the date of the BHT AGM is changed to Monday 4 November.		closed
37	5/02/2024			That Council provide an update on the status of the proposal for 776, 792-794 Botany Road & 33-37 Henry Kendall Crescent, Mascot and if the BHT can have time to provide a formal submission.	update provided to BHT in email from 13/3/2024.	closed
38	5/02/2024			That the Executive decide whether to make a submission for 776, 792-794 Botany Road & 33-37 Henry Kendall Crescent, Mascot.	As exhibition period has closed, it won't be possible to provide a formal submission any longer.	closed
40	5/02/2024	27/03/2024	none	That the application for a Grant for the Botany War Memorial will be added to the agenda for next meeting.		closed
42	5/02/2024			That Council updates the Botany Historical Trust membership form and removes the need for BHT referees.	Membership form has been updated and the need for BHT referees has been removed.	closed
41	5/02/2024	27/03/2024	none	That Council review the catering in consultation with the BHT Executive for 2024.		closed
31	6/11/2023	28/02/2024	none	Council to provide a formal response to BHT motion 6.1 from the BHT meeting held on 7 August 2023 regarding the BHT Executive's support of the examination and assessment to restore the Marina Theatre in public ownership under the control of Bayside Council as community asset.	Response provided to BHT at meeting on 5 August 2024.	closed
46	6/05/2024	26/06/2024	none	That 10 days before the AGM notification has to be sent to general members to notify them of vacancies.	Noted and will be included in the AGM process.	closed
49	6/05/2024	26/06/2024	none	That Council clearly labels flowers at the ANZAC Day services with the representative's name.	Noted	closed
50	6/05/2024	26/06/2024	none	That discussion in relation to recognising Dr Peter Orlovich to be added to the Agenda for the next meeting.	Noted and actioned.	closed

\* date item went to Council meeting



**RANDWICK & DISTRICT  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.**  
*Newsletter*

Founded in 1957 by Neil Pillars

June 2024



*Vocalist Theatre 737 Anzac Parade, Maroubra Junction, NSW*  
<https://cinematreasures.org/theaters/39807/photos/383578>

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*RDHS Committee Members and Office  
Bearers for 2024*

**President** Christine Yeats  
**Vice-President** Hazel Brombey  
**Secretary** Christine Jennett  
**Treasurer** Vacant  
**Committee**  
 Charles Abela  
 Peter Kahn  
 Ash Kingston  
 Judith Neville

Museum Acquisitions Margot Phillips  
 Volunteers Contact Hazel Brombey  
 Newsletter Editor Hazel Brombey  
 Website Judith Neville

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*Contributions for the Next Issue*

The editor would like to thank the  
 volunteers, researchers and contributors  
 who make this publication possible  
 Contributions for our September 2024  
 issue are due 12 August 2023  
 randwickhistory@outlook.com

*Disclaimer*

Views expressed editorially or by  
 contributors to the newsletter are not  
 necessarily those of the Randwick &  
 District Historical Society Inc

*~ Society News ~*

You will find a report of our  
 Annual General Meeting on  
 page 5. If you would like to obtain a  
 copy of the Annual Report, it's  
 available for collection at our  
 Heritage Centre or contact the  
 Secretary.

Our front cover photo depicts the  
 Vocalist Theatre. Where Pacific  
 Square now stands was once home  
 to the Vocalist Theatre which  
 opened in 1939 and later became  
 part of the Eastern Suburbs Cinema  
 Chain. It was demolished in the  
 1960s.

We would like to welcome our new  
 Secretary Dr Christine Jennett to our  
 committee,

Many thanks to our retiring  
 Secretary Judith Neville for her past  
 service. Judith is our webmaster and  
 has kindly offered to continue on in  
 this capacity.

Many thanks to our retiring  
 Treasurer Jan Gallagher for her  
 meticulous book keeping over the  
 past three years.

Welcome to new member and  
 volunteer Hazel Allen

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~ *From the President* ~

**W**elcome to this issue of the RDHS Newsletter. In this issue you will find an article about Lyster Ormsby, the inventor of the surf lifesaving reel. This was an Australian innovation, invented by Lyster in about 1906, who was associated with the Bondi Surf Bathers' Life Saving Club (BSBLSC). The BSBLSC was Australia's first recorded surf lifesaving club. On 10 March a Blue Plaque was unveiled on the Club's building in a tribute to its legacy of community service since its formation in 1907.



In the last Newsletter I reported on an important RDHS initiative – informal Local History Research Project meetings where members can get together to discuss their particular projects. Our first session 12 February went very well and I am delighted to announce that our next session will be held in the Society's rooms on 17 June at 1.00pm. RDHS member Deb Campbell will be speaking about the Rise and fall of domestic science education for girls: the experience of Randwick Girls' High School 1913-1965. By the mid 1930s there were reportedly 18 domestic science schools in NSW but following the 1962 introduction of the Wyndham Scheme in 'the death knell of domestic science was sounded'. If you wish to attend please phone or email us – (02) 9349 3572 or randwickhistory@outlook.com.

If you have a local history research project that you would like to discuss with members at a future meeting please contact the Secretary, Dr Christine Jennett [cjennett@ozemail.com.au](mailto:cjennett@ozemail.com.au).

Have you ever wondered about the history of your house – who owned and who once lived there? The RDHS is planning to offer some beginners' workshops later in the year where we will introduce you to some of the easily accessible resources – many available online – to help you trace the history of a house or a property in the local area. We will be calling the workshops "Who once lived in my house?" We will let you know more about these sessions in the next issue of the Newsletter. In the meantime we would love to hear from you if you would like to attend the workshops.

**Christine Yeats  
President R&DHS**

~ *Should They Stay or Should They Go?* ~



Captain Cook's Statue  
Randwick

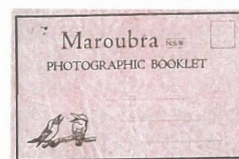
This contribution considers the current debates about the place of monuments, such as the statue of Captain Cook in Hyde Park, which reached a recent high point during the Black Lives Matter protests across Australia in mid 2020. While removing contentious statues from public view may address concerns about their unwanted presence, we must ensure that the contested history they embody is not also erased from society's memory. We need to develop an acceptable framework for dealing with such monuments within their historical context. Ultimately, there is no single answer to the question: should the vestiges of flawed historical narratives stay or go? It depends on the circumstances of each case. But some things are clear. There is a need for Australia to redress historical and current wrongs against First Nations people.

**Christine Yeats**

**Vol 28 (2021): Statue Wars: Protest, Public Histories and Problematic Plinths**

~ *Our Latest Donations* ~

- ◇ *A History of the Anzac Rifle Range, Malabar*  
by Nathan Scudder, 1976  
Donated by Hazel Punton
- ◇ Old photos of Maroubra  
Donated by Susan Collins
- ◇ Randwick Historical Society/ Signed Visitors  
Book from Bare February 1964- January 1972 (Bare Island then resumed by  
National Parks & Wildlife Association).  
Donated by Greg Bond



### ~ 67th Annual General Meeting ~

The 67<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on Saturday 16 March 2024 in our rooms. Fourteen members were in attendance.

Apologies were received from Matt Thislethwaite MP, Marjorie O'Neill MP, and Mayor Phillipa Veitch.

The following persons were declared elected (unopposed) for three of the four office bearer positions of the Randwick and District Historical Society for 2024-25. No Nomination was received for the position of Treasurer.

President: Christine Yeats, Vice-President: Hazel Brombey,  
Secretary: Christine Jennett, Treasurer: Vacant

The following four people were declared elected (as Ordinary members) of the Management Committee, Charles Abela, Peter Kahn, Ashley Kingston and Judith Neville. There is currently one vacancy on the Management Committee.

Following the formal proceedings, the President introduced the guest speaker, Angela Phippen, who spoke about *The Letters of Rachel Henning*.

After the conclusion of the meeting, all were invited to afternoon tea.

### *The Letters of Rachel Henning*

Angela Phippen (RAHS Affiliated Societies Committee) has had a long career. She was the SAG librarian for many years and is now a local studies librarian and a well known speaker.

In the mid 1850s, the story of Rachel Henning's voyage to Australia is told through the letters she wrote to family and friends. Rachel's letters to her sister in England describe the country, and the way they lived, in a personal, day-to-day record that gives a clear picture of the country and the way settlers lived.



She displays the prejudices and attitudes of middle-class Englishwomen of the time - not always sympathetic to our 21st century views - but also shows the courage and practicality necessary to the survival of even the richest settlers in a remote region sometimes cut off from contact with the outside world for weeks at a time, and subject to the extremes of the Australian climate.

To read the original letters see: [www.gutenberg.net.au](http://www.gutenberg.net.au)

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### *Email Received*

I found the article by Ash Kingston in the March Newsletter on the CARD family most interesting. I remember Ken CARD when I was a teenager, playing chicken with the vehicles on Torrington Road. As youngsters we all knew Ken.

The road was not complete then, the 399 bus only travelled down and came up The Corso on its return journey .

With regards  
Mrs Ruth Negus

### *'Helping' the needy in early Maroubra*

**I**n **October 1893**, the Read family were on the verge of starvation. 80 year old George William Read, his son, daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren aged just two years and three months, were living at Maroubra Bay in a tent not sufficient to keep out either wind or rain. They wandered the streets begging for food.

'Help' was at hand. The authorities stepped in. The family was split up. The aged man was sent to the Liverpool Asylum. The husband and wife were charged with being destitute.

The magistrate said he did not care about sending the woman to gaol, and recommended that she, with her infants, be admitted to the Benevolent Asylum; but as to the husband, he had no alternative but to order him to a month's imprisonment.

**Source:** A Pitiabale Case, *Armida Express and New England General Advertiser (NSW)*, Friday, 27 Oct 1893, page 4.

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It's hard to believe that the way they used to 'help' a man was to give him a jail sentence. He wasn't breaking into people's homes and stealing to feed his starving family - just begging for food. So jail. Within the Law he fits the definition of "Destitute" - "No visible means of support". I hope we are a lot more humane nowadays.

*Submitted by Rusheen Craig, Member*



~ *A trip down Memory Lane, R&DHS 1992* ~

**Garden Party held to raise funds for restoration of Blenheim House**

**O**n 16 February 1992 the R&DHS held a garden party at *Rathven*, the Heritage listed home of gastroenterologist Dr Terry Bolin and his wife Robin. This was to raise funds for the *Friends of Blenheim House*. Among the many supporters of heritage restoration were Jack Thompson, Greta Scaachi, the Mayor of Randwick John Buchanan & Vincent Messina, the Chief Planning Officer of Randwick Municipal Council.

*Rathven*, The six-bedroom, six-bathroom Italianate colonial villa sits on a 2117 sqm block in St Marks Road.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rathven,\\_Randwick](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rathven,_Randwick)



~ *A Date for your Diary* ~

Saturday 17th August 1pm

**Vonnie Young Auditorium, Level 1, Lionel Bowen Library, Maroubra**

Judith Dunn, RAHS Councillor will speak on the topic  
*Crimes of Convict Women.*

Judith Dunn OAM, FPDHS is a tour guide and sought-after public speaker, who received an Order of Australia medal for services to history and heritage.

Judith holds a Parramatta and District Historical Society Fellowship (FPDHS) for researching and recording Parramatta history.

~ *The Surf Lifesaving Reel - an Australian Invention* ~



**Photo:** Powerhouse Museum

In 1906 Lyster Ormsby of the Bondi Surf Bathers Lifesaving Club built a model of a Life Saving Reel from a cotton reel and two bobby pins with a portable horizontal reel for the rope. The first full-size reel was built by Sgt John Bond of Victoria Barracks in Paddington; and was improved on in the same year by Sydney coachbuilder G Holding whose final design was used until 1993.

Countless Australian lives were saved by a life saver using a reel, line and belt. The legend goes that the first person to be saved by a lifesaver using a reel, rope and belt was an eight year old boy whose name was Charlie Kingsford-Smith, who later became a famous aviator. The rescue methods pioneered in Australia have been used throughout the world.

Although Lyster Ormsby did not have children, his family have left a long and enduring legacy in the Randwick area. Many of the them lived and contributed to our local sporting community in various ways. His great nephew Lloyd Gore Ormsby (1912-1987) in 1944 married Beryl Gillespie (1924-2020). They lived in Bishop's Avenue Clovelly and later purchased and raised their family at 50 Bundock Street, Randwick.

Their family carried on with Lyster Ormsby's dedication, continuing a major contribution to local sports. His great great nephew Richard Ormsby is a former player and coach of Coogee Junior Rugby Union Club, 'The Seahorses' and was presented with their award of Life Membership. A long time member of the Coogee Surf Life Saving Club, Richard in 2000 was an official and also swam in the inaugural 2.4 Km *Around Wedding Cake Island Swim*. He joined Randwick & Coogee Amateur Club in 1984 and has volunteered for over 40 years as both a competitor and official. His dedication was recognized in 2008 with the award of Life Membership.



Richard Ormsby's son Michael joined Randwick & Coogee Amateur Swimming Club in 1985 and in 1985 & 1986 competed in the Annual Swimming Carnival in the 6 years & under races. As a seven year old he was awarded the Most Improved Swimmer Trophy in 1988. He swam for the club in many Local, State and National events.

Michael Ormsby, along with his father was an official and also swam in the 2000 inaugural 2.4 Km *Around Wedding Cake Island Swim*. He represented the Coogee Surf Life Saving Club at many events including *State & National Surf Belt Championships* and as an *Open Water* Competitor. He competed successfully during the 1990s in the *WA Rottnest Channel Swim*.

Lyster Ormsby would be amazed at the changes over the last 118 years in Life Saving equipment and techniques now used since his simple invention that saved so many lives.

While lifesaving competitions still include the use of the reel, it was phased out of active service for rescues in 1994. Now '*Rubber Duckies*' (inflatable boats with outboard motors) carry out over 50% of all rescues.

**Sources:**

Powerhouse Museum Archives

*Coogee Surf Club : a century of vigilance & service*, Joe Seddon, 2008

*Randwick & Coogee Amateur Swimming Club, 1896-1996*

Ormsby family records

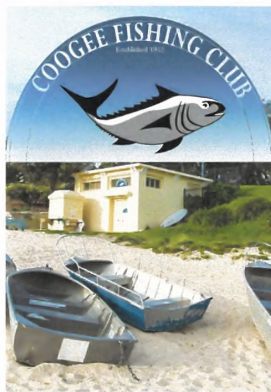
**Death of Inventor of Surf Reel.**

SYDNEY, Friday. The inventor of the Surf reel, Lyster Ormsby, died in hospital to-day, aged 56. He was a foundation member of the New South Wales Surf Life Saving Association.

The reels invented by Mr. Ormsby are now in use on sea beaches all over the world.

**From:** Trove: *The Advocate*, 27 December 1941, p4

~ *Coogee Fishing Club: One Page History 1954... ~*



**C**oogee Fishing Club was formed by men from the Randwick area who had returned from World War 2. Some were decorated war heroes, some were broken and handicapped for life. Of the initial membership, there was a policeman, bank manager, real estate agent, a couple jockeys, motor mechanics and even a professional fisherman. It was this disparate collective that met on the evening of the 15th of June 1954. Thirty-six people attended the Coogee Sports Pavilion that evening as Mr Sid Smith moved a motion that “we form a fishing club” and this was seconded by Mr Keith Bermingham. The motion was put to all present and carried without objection.

The building that would become Coogee Fishing Club was derived from an obsolete piece of infrastructure built by the Water Sewage and Drainage Board in 1928. It was a large concrete box that housed a large morcellator blade to liquefy the solid components of sewage. The resultant effluent was then deposited from the Coogee Ocean Outfall (still present but not functioning) located at the base of the Dunningham Park cliffs on the north side of Coogee beach. It came about as an attempt to stymie the sewage pollution occurring on Coogee Beach and really was both a palliative measure and a political work around.

It also did not stop sewage being dumped on Coogee Beach and by 1936 the Water Board commenced the construction of the Coogee sewage diversion scheme to Malabar. From 1936 until 1954 the building was officially disused; however, Club records indicate that a variety of individuals and possibly families occupied the building for shelter. During this period Australia suffered the terminal effects of the “great Depression” and then soon after came World War 2.

When the “keys” to the building were finally handed over to the Club, the Water Board had by this time transferred over the property to the Randwick Council. A lease was commenced in 1954 between the Club and Randwick Council, that has remained uninterrupted since.

In those 70 years Coogee Fishing Club has operated successfully in a friendly style with many members enjoying multiple community club membership cross overs with other similar sporting clubs, reflecting the social mores and habits of the Coogee and Randwick population.

These other clubs were and are, in no order, Coogee Surf Lifesaving Club, Randwick Rugby Club, The Randwick & Coogee Amateur Swimming Club, The Penguins, Coogee Bowling Club, The Legion Club, The Coogee RSL Club, The Eastern Suburbs Fishing Association, Gordons Bay Fishing Club, Malabar Boat Owners Club and many more. Over the years the Club has steadily moved away from a "men's only" style club to one that encourages families and has had a few very prominent female members.

Coogee Fishing Club members have the privilege of keeping their "tinnie" tethered on the northern end of the beach and stashing their motor and fishing gear in a locker within the club house. Although the activity of fishing is the primary goal, social interaction, and community involvement are very important functions of the club. **In 2024 the club will celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Coogee Fishing Club and in 2028 the Clubhouse will be 100 years old.**

Ashley Kingston, Coogee Fishing Club Life Member 2023

### ~ *Did You Know?* ~

**Jon Stephen Cleary** (22 November 1917– 19 July 2010) was an Australian writer and novelist. He wrote 55 books, seven of which were made into films including *You Can't See Around Corners* and *The Sundowners*. He attended Marcellin College, Randwick. His book *Just Let Me Be* (1950) was set in Coogee, and was later filmed for British TV.

From: The Australian Dictionary of Biography -

<https://adb.anu.edu.au>

His mother Ida Cleary was living at Coogee on 30 October 1953.

From: National Library of Australia -

<https://trcve.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/18395123>

### **An Ice Rink at Maroubra**

Did you know that where Pacific Square now stands was once home to the Vocalist Theatre. In the 1960s this building was converted into an Ice Rink and operated successfully for several years before closing to make way for the shopping mall.

Submitted by member **Maureen Fitzsimmons, Volunteer**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific\\_Square#:~:text=2 Tenants-History](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Square#:~:text=2%20Tenants-History)

### **Paul Kelly and the Randwick Bells**

Singer and songwriter Paul Kelly composed a song called *Randwick Bells* from his album *Gossip* in 1986. It's about being woken up on Saturdays with the bells from St Jude's Church ringing for a wedding. This song was also recorded in 1999 by Jimmy Little.

Submitted by member **Maureen Fitzsimmons, Volunteer**

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~ *Research Enquiries* ~

**Darcy** - Info on "Melrose" In Titania Street wanted.

**Suzanne** - Researching a "Quarry Camp" at Maroubra, photos wanted.

**John** - Researching a property called "Budda" in Lion St, Randwick, 1925.

**Sandra** - Carlton St, Kensington, Concerned about development.

**John** - Interested in history of Yarra Bay (Writing a book).

***Randwick & District Historical Society***



Invites you to join us to hear a talk by

**Richard White**

at the Vonnie Young Auditorium  
Lionel Bowen Library, Maroubra  
on

**Saturday, 15 June, 2024, 1pm**

Richard taught at the University of Sydney for 23 years. He is well known as an authority on national identity, tourism and popular culture. His publications include *Inventing Australia*, *The Oxford Book of Australian Travel Writing*, *Cultural History in Australia* and *On Holidays: A History of Getting Away in Australia*.

Join us after the talk in our 2nd floor Heritage Centre for afternoon tea, a chat with the speaker and a browse around our museum display.

**6 GENERAL BUSINESS**

**7 NEXT MEETING**