

Botany Historical Trust

NEWSLETTER **APRIL 2021**



Rosebery Racecourse

Rosebery Racecourse (now Eastlakes) was the staging ground for the 1st Light Horse Regiment of the 1st Light Horse Brigade during the early years of World War I.

Today, a memorial to the Light Horse stands at the former entry gates of the racecourse which was re-developed during the 1960s.

In 2015 the reserve in which it stands was renamed Light Horse Reserve.

Photo credit: 1st Light Horse Regiment. Some members of the 1st Light Horse Regiment took their own horses to the Front while others were provided with horses donated by the community or bought by the Government.
Courtesy of the Australian War Memorial (P01208.020).

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



By the time this Newsletter reaches Members, the year will be almost halfway through. *Incredible!*

COVID is still with us, though Australia is doing exceptionally well in managing the Pandemic health-wise, socially and even economically. There are the occasional 'bumps' due to border closures and local lockdowns but overall, we have remained the proverbial "Lucky Country".

Sadly, we have not been able to resume our popular excursion program as restrictions, the occasional 'scare' or flare-up and the not unreasonable fears of people to engage in 'group' activities have been and remain real issues. Hopefully, the mooted "Christmas in July" is still a possibility, as is a General Meeting and Talk in the foreseeable future. Work at the Mascot Library and George Hanna Museum has been completed and the Botany Town Hall renovations are progressing well with external painting completed. The latter is of particular interest and I think many Members would like to view and enjoy the finished product, when practicable.

Currently, the BHT is involved in trying to 'save' the former Botany Police Station at 1441 Botany Rd, Botany. I know many Members are familiar with this historic building and are dismayed if not horrified by its physical condition. The site is also in an area where rapid and, to many of us, unwelcome redevelopment is proceeding so that the fate of the former Police Station is critical, possibly dire. I am happy to report that Matt Thistlethwaite, MP for Kingsford Smith and Ron Hoenig, MP for Heffron, the longest serving Mayor of our former Council, have been tremendous in their support.

I must also acknowledge and thank the Mayor, Councillors and General Manager of Bayside Council for seeking the placement of an Interim Heritage Order on the building and requesting that it be placed on the NSW State Heritage Register. So much cultural heritage has been 'lost' in our area. It is important that we retain the former Botany Police Station. The buildings sit on land originally granted to convict pioneer, Simeon Lord and the Station's 1872 and 1906 buildings reflect Victorian contemporary architecture, techniques, materials and the social history of 'old' Botany.

Botany Police Station is particularly interesting in that it is more comparable to a NSW country Station than an urban one. The former historic Scone Police Station in the Hunter Valley is possibly its nearest 'relative' and could be used as a model or guide to preserving and restoring accurately our own former Botany Police Station. The old buildings could be used for community or educational purposes, even a café or best of all, a local museum! All fall within the provisions of Local and State Heritage legislation.

We should also be conscious of the threats to our environmental heritage with Sydney Water's plans to use the Mill Ponds to dispose of sewage and dirty water, when the local system, drains and pipes cannot cope during excessive rain periods. There have been several appeals to the relevant authorities including one from the BHT but so far we have not even been graced with an acknowledgement nor I'm led to believe has any other protester or petitioner!

I am delighted to report that Eastlakes Reserve will be renamed to honour Green Bans hero, the late and legendary Jack Munday, who with the BLF saved the Reserve from becoming yet another over-developed unit site! Our thanks go to the NSW Geographical Names Board for their approval to change the name and to Ron Hoenig for his support of the project. A ceremony will take place later in the year to unveil an interpretative sign to pay tribute to Jack Munday, a man who shaped Sydney and gave us the precious green spaces we now treasure, such as Eastlakes Reserve.

The term of the current BHT Executive ends with the Local Government Elections in September this year. The Trust is a Committee of Council and therefore a new Executive will be elected at the November 2021 AGM. I would ask **ALL** Members to think about nominating for the Executive. A Nomination Form will be enclosed in the next Newsletter but hopefully will also be available Online. Any Member can nominate and be elected to the Executive, even if they do not reside in the former Botany Bay Council LGA **but** the President, Senior Vice President and Vice President **must** live in that former Botany Bay Council area. That is the **only** Constitutional restriction placed on Membership of the BHT Executive.

I hope Members enjoy reading this Newsletter. I believe the various articles are both relevant and interesting, especially Women in Our Area and I would welcome Members' feedback.

In conclusion, I would like again to thank Bobbi Mayne, Leonie Maher and Bayside's Graphic Design Team, Loris Armellini and Ayesha Mira, for their invaluable assistance in producing our Newsletter.

Anne-Maria Slattery
President, The Botany Historical Trust

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Anne-Maria Slattery	<i>President</i>
Alice McCann	<i>Senior Vice-President</i>
Christopher Hanna	<i>Vice President</i>
Robert Hanna	<i>Secretary</i>
Richard Smolenski	<i>Treasurer</i>

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Barbara Keeley
Councillor Dorothy Rapisardi
Councillor Scott Morrissey



THE COLENSO BOYS



It is fitting with Anzac Day in mind, that the BHT remembers one of the great families of our area. The Colenso Family had strong connections to Daceyville, especially to St Michael's Parish. It was in Daceyville, that they attended St Michael's Church and Primary School and were members of the vibrant Catholic Debating Society, the forerunner of the CYO (Catholic Youth Organisation). There were five Colenso boys and two daughters.



Mr William (Bill) Colenso Senior, father of the Colenso Family served with distinction in World War I. He had a lifelong connection and loyalty to his fellow comrades and with his wife, often performed at musical events to entertain ex-servicemen. During World War II, Mr Colenso was involved in raising funds for comfort packages for those serving. It was no surprise that four of his sons, "the Colenso Boys", enlisted to serve in World War II.

William Junior, Frank, Edward and Raymond all signed up at the same time on the same day. Fortunately, Les, the youngest son, was only 12 or 13 and even though Raymond (Ray) was only 16, too young to volunteer, he put up his age so he could be with his brothers. The consequences proved to be tragic as all four brothers were given consecutive enlistment numbers. The four brothers ended up in the doomed 8th Battalion, 2AIF that was deployed to Malaya and Singapore in early 1942.

James, George
1st Beach St
Dunwich Hill

VERSE
BY
R. J. COLENSO

James
G. J.
the Sydney
Sydney Penrith

HOME COMING

The chap all line the forward deck
Their eyes are shining bright.
Hearts are light and happy
For we'll be home tonight
We've sighted Sydney Harbour
And the beaches on the shore
The troops are all returning
From Victory and from war.

Once more we'll be united
With the folks we left behind
The faces they remember
With heavy marks are lined
No longer are we carefree
We're not the lads they knew
We changed from youth to manhood
Our minds have altered too



An excerpt from Ray's note book



William Colenso Junior and Ray Colenso died in the Fall of Singapore, 8 – 15 February 1942. Although It is thought that Ray was actually killed in action in Malaya. At that time, Malaya and Singapore were British Colonies joined by the Bridge at the Straits of Johore. So many Australians are buried at the Johore War Cemetery, a beautiful and peaceful resting place today.

Frank and Ted Colenso were captured and remained POW's till the end of the War in August 1945. Both Ted and Frank returned to live to a good age but the loss and capture of her boys was too much for their mother. Mrs Colenso died on Anzac day, it is said, not long after World War II ended. Ironically, Ted Colenso also died on Anzac Day many years later, after he returned from marching with his mates.

The deaths and capture of the “Colenso Boys” led to a major change in Australian Military Law. No longer would brothers be allowed to enlist together nor would every son in a family be sent overseas to fight because of the possible dreadful consequences. Many older people might remember the famous “Fighting Sullivan’s”, five American brothers whose death in the Pacific War on 13 November 1942 in the sinking of the USS Juneau, changed American law. They would be immortalised in film. Many people would also be familiar with the Academy Award winning film, “Saving Private Ryan.”

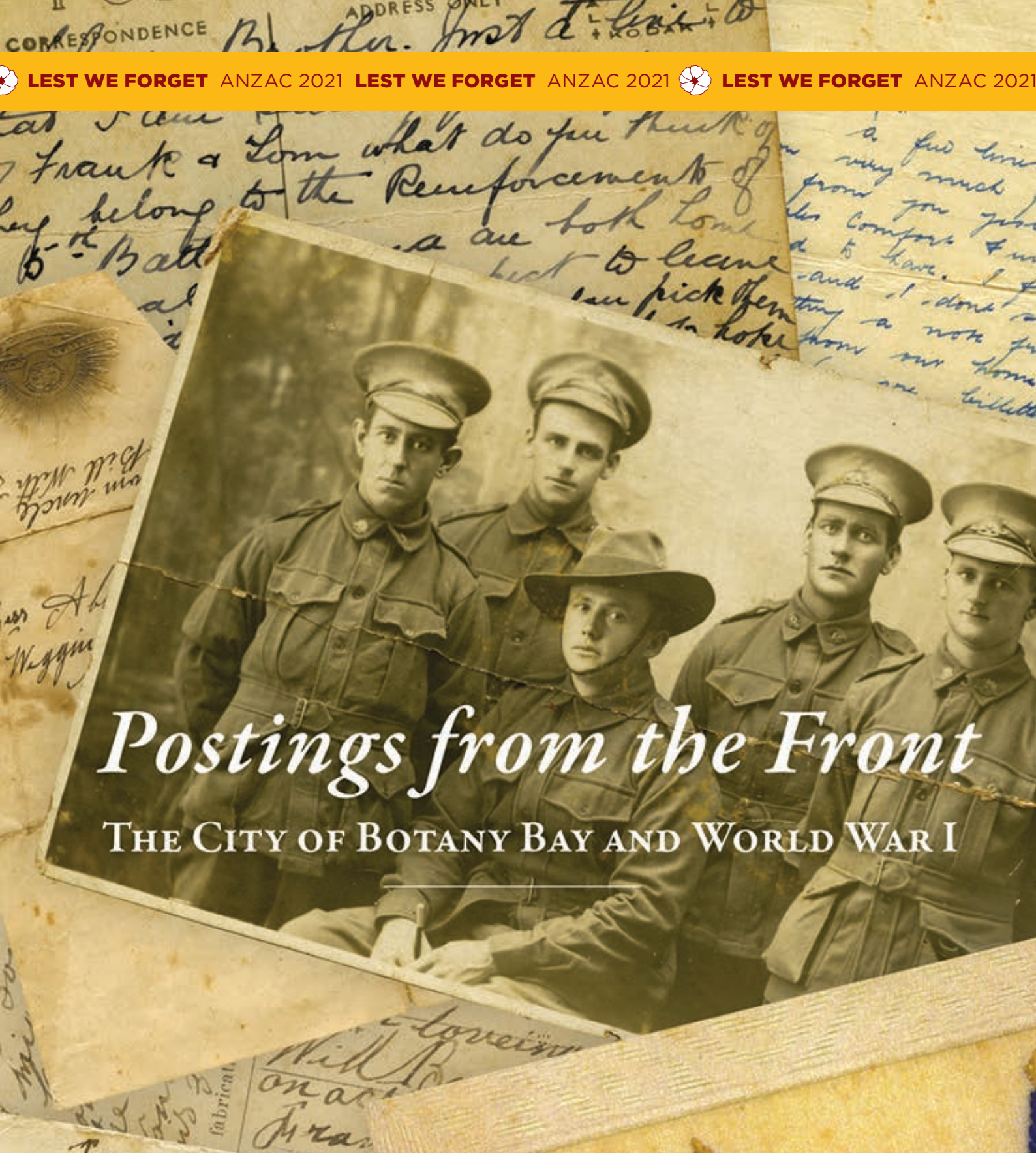
The story of the “Colenso Boys is little known, even in their own area let alone Australia!

In 1961, Aldermen James (Jim) Slattery, friend and fellow parishioner of the Colenso's successfully petitioned the old Botany Municipal Council to rename Burke Crescent, Daceyville as Colenso Crescent. It is the only street name ever changed in this historic suburb but the new name is in the spirit of the original tradition of honouring our Anzacs.

Anne-Maria Slattery

President, The Botany Historical Trust





Postings from the Front

THE CITY OF BOTANY BAY AND WORLD WAR I

We are pleased to advise that complimentary copies of "Postings From the Front" written by Anne-Maria Slattery, Jenny MacRitchie and Paula Grunsett and published in 2016 are available for Botany Historical Trust Members. Many from our community served our nation in the Great War and some never come home. The book tells the stories of the brave deeds of a few and of what happened at home. It is a tribute to all who volunteered to serve in whatever capacity.

If you would like to have a copy please contact Leonie Maher on
9366 3881 or leonie.maher@bayside.nsw.gov.au

HISTORIC BOTANY LOCK-UP THE FORMER BOTANY POLICE STATION



When Lieutenant James Cook landed near Kurnell on 29 April 1770 and Captain Arthur Phillip arrived on the northern side of Botany Bay (Yarra Bay), Australia was already home to over 400 Aboriginal Nations for up to 60,000 years (the world's oldest Indigenous people). Cultural and archaeological evidence show occupation of the Botany Bay area for more than 5,000 years.

The traditional owners of Botany Bay were the Kameygal or Gameygal people; on the southern side the Gweagal people; and on the northern side near modern Botany, the Bidjigal people. The first European occupation of land in the Botany District caused great disruption in the movements, culture and spiritual practices of the Aboriginal peoples.

The first Land Grants in Botany in 1809 were to three ex-convicts Edmond Redmond, Andrew Byrne and Mary Lewin. A Melville Winder received 417 acres in 1822 but by far the largest and well-known Grant was to another ex-convict, Simeon Lord (1789 – 1853), who was granted 600 acres in 1823. Later, Lord built up his land to 735 acres.

The Crown, through the “Church and School Estate”, was by far the biggest landowner (4,195 acres) but Botany's relative isolation meant that land sales and residential development were slow. The latter began in the 1860s and continued over the next 50 years. Access to the southern or lower part of Botany was difficult in the early years. There were a series of muddy tracks through swamps but most travel was by water from Sydney Town.

The Jubilee History of Botany states that the first Constable at Botany was a Constable Rush. It dates his presence as from 1869 but according to Police Annual Reports, Botany Bay was attended from 1865. Land was acquired for the construction of a building on 27 February 1871 from George Lord, son of Simeon Lord. A police service, as with the postal service depended on the density of the population of an area.

The original ‘Watch house’ or Botany Lock-up was constructed in 1877. The Government Architect, James Barnet, was responsible for most of the small police stations built in NSW from 1862 - 1890. The former Lock-up is one of the earliest surviving buildings in the Botany Town Centre and located on a site relatively remote from the village at the time. Botany's Lock-up was, however, close to the five hotels in the district including the famous and historic Sir Joseph Banks Hotel.

The latter attracted large crowds of holidaymakers and its premier features including a Zoo, the Annual Botany Bay Gift, an internationally known ‘footrace’ and world-class boxing matches. *Interestingly, the crime rate in Botany then was actually quite low.*

The original police station was a small, four-room cottage constructed of brick in an English bond pattern, featuring a stone-base course and stone quoins to the veranda corners in the Victorian Italianate style. No original plans are known.

The original Botany Lock-up is of historical significance because it provides evidence of the growth of settlement in the area following the opening of the Water Works in 1859 and George Lord's second sub-division that same year. The larger sub-division of the Lord Estate in 1886 for small lot residential development led to another wave of growth in population, business and industry.

Botany Lock-up or Police Station was extended at the rear in 1906 with the construction of a residence, including a freestanding kitchen block. The Colonial Architect was W.L. Vernon.

The addition of the residence meant that the front room of the original building could be used for official use by Police stationed at Botany, now raised to a Sergeant and at least five Constables. The first policeman to live there with his family was a Constable Waterworth, who gained a well-regarded reputation for his long service to the area.

The residence at the rear continued to be occupied by a police officer till 1991.



Former Botany Police Station 1938
Source NSW Office of Environment and Heritage



This photograph illustrates the timber bay window, timber fire place surround and timber skirting boards that remain.
Source HBO+EMTB (Heritage) 2008

Photo looking at cell #2, main security door with operable meal tray ledge and pivoting peep hole mechanism. Source HBO+EMTB (Heritage) 2008



The 1960s – 1980s or third phase of Botany Police Station saw the erection of a temporary building and car parking facilities, to include Highway Patrol personnel. This section is not considered historically significant. In 2007, City of Botany Bay approved the demolition of these demountables, conversion of part of the 1906 residence into a one-bedroom dwelling and the construction of a multi-unit development for seniors. This DA never came to fruition.

A 2008 Report by City of Botany Bay concluded that the site, 1441 Botany Rd, Botany had local significance for both historical and aesthetic reasons.

The site's three principal historical elements of local significance are:

1. Early development of the City of Botany Bay and its contribution to the urban fabric.
2. Gradual expansion of the town centre south along Botany Rd and development of the urban setting with similar buildings of the same period and types.
3. Typical Government building being developed at the time by the Colonial Architect, James Barnet. The Botany Police Station is one of the 110 Lock-ups that Barnet produced during his 18 years in office from 1862 – 1890.

IT IS A RARE EXAMPLE OF A SMALL SEMI-RURAL/URBAN POLICE STATION OF THE PERIOD WITHIN THE SYDNEY METROPOLITAN AREA THAT HAS BEEN LITTLE ALTERED DURING ITS 116 YEARS OF OCCUPATION (TO 1993). IT ILLUSTRATES THE EARLY CONCEPTS OF THE LOCK-UP I.E. CELLS PLUS A ROOM FOR THE KEEPER.



Front Façade. Source HBO+EMTB (Heritage) 2008

The site's three principal aesthetic elements are:

1. The scale and form of the 1870s building, the main building to Botany Road, the rear kitchen and link, which joins the two buildings, are typically small-scale government buildings established in a rural type setting design by the Colonial Architect's Office at the time.
2. The early construction techniques and traditional materials used during the (1870s) Victorian Era with Georgian proportions.
3. The c.1871 and c.1906 phases of construction can be described as deeper front and side setbacks with an expansive rear yard, with residential type accommodation for the local constable and his family and with attached cell units for those incarcerated.

The comparison of like places is important to understand clearly a place's cultural importance. The best comparison to Botany is the former Scone Lock-up in the Hunter Valley, constructed by James Barnet in 1872. The insight into this and similar style buildings will help in the conservation and restoration of the former Botany Lock-up, for which as mentioned previously no original plans have been located.

Any new use of the former Botany Police Station should be compatible i.e. for community and educational functions and ideally, a local museum.

The former Botany Lock-up/Police Station is still substantially intact and a fine example of its type. It would be tragic and an act of cultural and historical barbarism if it were allowed to continue to deteriorate and fall victim to the rampant development happening virtually next door.

Anne Maria Slattery
President, The Botany Historical Trust

BOTANY AND MASCOT FROM THE AIR



A Milton Kent aerial view of biplanes at the Mascot terminal

The recent centenary of Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport led to a renewed interest in the businesses and technologies that developed in tandem with the aviation industry, just one of which was commercial aerial photography.

In Sydney, the name that became most closely associated with aerial photography was Milton Kent (1888 - 1965). The son of a photographer, Kent established his own business in 1909 and in 1920 moved into aerial photograph, still a relatively new field. By the early 1920s, Kent's aerial photographs of Sydney were being published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Sydney Mail*. Throughout the 1930s and 1940s his client base expanded to include government agencies, newspapers, businesses and industrial firms so that by the time Kent finally retired in 1961, he was widely acknowledged as Sydney's principal oblique aerial photographer.

Oblique aerial photographs are taken with the camera axis directed at an inclination to the ground i.e. oblique photos are at 'an angle'. Vertical aerial photographs, on the other hand, are taken from directly above a site. Milton Kent, preferred the oblique technique as he could angle his camera lens in order to emphasise specific features his clients wished to promote. What makes Kent's portfolio so valuable from a local history perspective is that his photographs show so many sites and buildings around Mascot and Botany now altered or demolished.

The following are just a few examples of Kent's work and we will publish more examples in future issues as it is quite fascinating studying the photographs and picking out landmarks. All photographs in this article are courtesy of the Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales.



An early Milton Kent aerial view of the Cooks River and the Mascot Aerodrome

Visible on the bottom right-hand side of this photograph is the Botany Engine Pond ①, above the pond is part of the Ascot Racecourse ②, above the racecourse track is Ascot Avenue ③ leading to the Mascot Bridge crossing the Cooks River to link to General Holmes Drive. North of Ascot Avenue is the NSW Gun Club Grounds ④, the Mascot Aerodrome Site ⑤ and Bonnie Doon Golf Club ⑥.

In the 1940s, to allow for the expansion of Sydney Airport, work began on the diversion of this section of the river. The realignment of the watercourse meant the loss of much of the land shown in this photo, including the spit of land extending into the Cooks River north of the aerodrome site. When this photo was taken this land was the site of the Bonnie Doon Golf Club, now located at Pagewood.

The Bonnie Doon Golf Club House can be seen in the foreground of the below photo which once stood on the banks of the Cooks River at Arncliffe. It was only after its land was resumed for the diversion of the river that the Bonnie Doon Golf Club merged with the New Metropolitan club and moved to Pagewood.



Detail from the above photograph of the Cooks River at Arncliffe



Blundell Spence & Co. Factory, Kent Road, Mascot, circa 1940

Kent's 1940 photo of the Blundell Spence & Co. (Australia) Pty. Ltd paint-manufacturing factory was taken soon after its commenced operations in 1938. The photo shows the factory's frontage to Kent Road as well as the market garden sites between it and the houses on the corner of Gardener Road, Mascot.



Detail from an aerial photograph of the Blundell Spence and Co factory, Kent Road, Mascot, circa 1940

This photo shows why companies valued Milton Kent's oblique aerial techniques, as he has angled his camera to capture the factory's frontage to Kent Road and its large "Blundell Spence High Grade Paints" sign.



General Motors Holden Factory on the corner of Maroubra Bay Road (now Heffron Road) and Bunnerong Road, Pagewood, circa 1940

In 1940, Milton Kent took a series of photographs to show the newly completed General Motors Holden factory on the corner of Maroubra Bay Road (now Heffron Road) and Bunnerong Road, Pagewood. The clarity of the photographs, which were used by General Motors to promote their new premises, illustrate why Milton Kent was so sought after as a photographer in his day and why his work is still so often reproduced today.



Detail from an aerial photo of the General Motors Holden Factory Site, circa 1940

Kirsten Broderick
Community History Librarian

International Women's Day

Celebrated on March 8 every year, International Women's Day is a day dedicated to honouring the achievements of women throughout history and all across the globe and is typically a day for women from all different backgrounds and cultures to band together to fight for gender parity and women's rights. We take this opportunity to pay tribute to some remarkable women of our area.

Mary Hyde (1779-1864)

Simeon Lord was a very wealthy emancipist and major landholder in Botany, who died in 1840. Mary Hyde, Lord's wife, was made executrix of his estate and continued Lord's businesses situated at his numerous holdings, including the two at Botany. In keeping with her late husband's values, Mary continued to employ many local Botany people in the milling and dressing of cloth. She remained one of the wealthiest women in the colony in her own right and continued to reside at Banks House in Botany. As an interesting sidenote, Mary, like her husband was sentenced to transportation for stealing cloth at age 17.

In 1855, the City of Sydney Water Board resumed 75 acres of Botany land and wetlands, which included Banks House and the Cloth Factory Mill.



The precise date on which the main factory mill ceased operation is unclear, however, reports generally state between 1853 and 1856. During this time, Mary also sued the City of Sydney Commissioners for damages due to the inundation of her Botany property. Mary was noted for her persistency and partially winning her case in 1855 through the New South Wales' Courts. Mary appealed and three years later in early 1859 won fully after taking her case as far as the Privy Council in England, the final court of appeal then available to a British subject living in the Colony of New South Wales.

In 1859, in the 70-year-old Colony of New South Wales, her court case, although largely ignored by historians, was nevertheless an achievement. Women did not have the vote and Mary lived in a male-dominated society governed by British law, where women had little power. Married women had no power at all and Mary was only able to sue as being a widow, she was no longer married.

Having experienced life as a woman in Victorian society, single, married and widowed, Mary became concerned with what today would be called a feminist issue. She stipulated in her will that any bequests made to her daughters and granddaughters were to be given to them in their own right and that their husbands should not have any say. She attempted to give her daughters and granddaughters control over their own inheritances. The law of the day overrode her stated wishes. Largely, English law governed Australian colonies. The UK passed a series of Property Acts relating to the rights of married women before the 1882 Repealed Law became law in 1883. The latter was a rallying point for many first-wave feminists in the late Nineteenth Century and was only passed after years of intense political lobbying by dedicated women. Previously, a married woman could own no property and was the chattel of her husband. Any property that she had owned as a single woman or that she inherited as a married woman whether in goods, money or land, passed into the ownership of her husband.

Mary Hyde alias Sarah Blunn; Mary Black; Mary Lord was quite a woman! She was the partner of Cpt John Black (1798 - 1802) with whom she had two children; widowed; then the partner of Simeon Lord (1805-1840), whom she married in 1814, one week after the birth of the fifth of their eight children.

An extraordinary woman, Mary Hyde lived to the age of 85 years!



Nancy Hillier Receiving her OAM

Nancy Hillier (1924-2013)

For over 40 years, Nancy Hillier was known throughout Botany and much further afield for her tireless activism and commitment to local environmental issues. Her campaigning began with protests about ICI's (later Orica) groundwater contamination and chlorine leaks and continued during the expansions of Kingsford Smith Airport and Port Botany. She was passionately concerned about industry's impact on our environment and our local community.

Nancy Hillier once said: "We have a right to complain about improper planning. A country's wealth must be assessed by the living conditions of its people and not be judged by how many millionaires it can boast."

Nancy (Annie Newall) Hillier (nee Patrick) was born in Waverton, North Sydney on 16 June 1924. After her father's death, when she was eight, the family moved to Matraville. At 17, she moved to Botany. In 1944, she married haulage contractor Ernest Hillier. They had two children and after bringing them up, became aware of the march of industry across the suburb, with what she saw as "total disregard for the people".



Nancy Hillier speaking at a Protest Rally

In 1973, concerned about industry's impact on Botany, Nancy Hillier, with a small group of locals, formed the Botany Independent Action Group. She was also the founder and President of the Botany Environment Watch, chaired the Botany Bay Council's Senior Citizens' Advisory Committee for many years, was a Trustee of the Lionel Bowen Scholarship Selection Committee and a member of the Botany Access Committee. Nancy was also a member of the Botany Emergency Committee, the Community Consultation Committee and a founding member of the Botany Historical Trust, serving as President from 2002 to 2011.

A park on Wilson Street, Botany has been dedicated to her memory, as mentioned in our December issue, and we encourage members to go and visit the park to view the interpretative sign. The legacy of Botany's environmental warrior Nancy Hillier is also remembered with an annual lecture organised by the University of NSW.

Biddy Giles (c. 1810-1888)

During the mid-19th Century, a number of Aboriginal people began to offer guided hunting and fishing tours to European visitors. Biddy Giles and her English partner Billy Giles were among the handful of locals to do so around Botany Bay and its surrounding waterways.

Born Bi-yar-rung into the Gweagal group of the Dharawal people, Biddy managed to live on her people's country her entire life.

"A participant in one of Biddy Giles" trips marvelled at her incredible fishing skills and her mastery of a large pack of hunting dogs to herd game. She was simply at ease and at home in the bush in a way that impressed those who had spent most of their lives in and around the bustling port of Sydney. She knew exactly where she was going and all about the plants and animals she encountered, often giving the local Dharawal language name as well as the English name.
Paul Irish, *Hidden in Plain View*.

For more on Biddy see: Hidden in Plain View by Paul Irish and Rivers & Resilience: Aboriginal People on Sydney's Georges River by Heather Goodall and Allison Cadzow.



Last of the Georges River Tribe, NSW 1880. Courtesy of Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW (a73005/PXA 773 Box 6, 42)

Clarice Kennedy (1910 - 1998)

Clarice Kennedy was one of Australia's greatest women athletes prior to World War II and a member of Botany Harriers.

An intelligent all round sportswoman, she won championship titles for sprint events through to cross country, while also excelling in swimming, diving, hockey, vigoro and basketball (netball).

She set a range of Australian Records in sprints, hurdles, 400m, 800m, shot putt and javelin and also won the inaugural NSW State Two - Mile Cross Country Championship. In her best event, the 800m hurdles she set a World Record of 12.2 minutes in 1930.

In 1938 Clarice and Enid Evans became the first Botany women to represent Australia at the Empire Games.

Her 100m Australian record of 11.8 was set "under specially supervised conditions" by association officials. Until about this time she had always run in bloomers, not shorts. When she ran a record attempt in 1929, she was given special permission from the headmistress to run without stockings. Kennedy laughs at a photo of herself winning the event; "breasting the tape in my sailor suit with the little black bow and my pantaloons blooming out". I did not bind myself to heavy training, at school it was very elementary. I remember Miss Fuller advised me to drink one or two raw eggs in milk, but I was always a big milk drinker.

Clarice was disappointed when there were no women athletes selected in the Australian team for the 1934 Empire Games. She said,

"The men cut out all women's representation in the 1934 Games. They argued the finances necessary to provided chaperones and extra trainers for the women were too great."



Clarice Kennedy

Despite being highly rated in world rankings and winning four events at the National Games (Olympic trials) and being the 1936 national hurdles and javelin champion, she was not named in the Olympic team for the Berlin Olympic Games. There was only one female selected for the games, Doris Carter, a High Jumper. Her Olympic snub was considered an outrage in Australia. Clarice said, "My name was in Hansard – questions were asked in parliament".

"The Truth newspaper offered to pay expenses for Kitty McKay, Basil Dickinson and myself but they said I couldn't go. The women's association said they sent my name and Doris Carter's to the men's selectors and the men said they only received Carter's. I was never bitter; I just didn't understand it".

Leonie Maher

Administrative Assistant

Kathy Malera-Bandjалан

29 July 1967 – 11 February 2021

PROUD ABORIGINAL WARRIOR WOMAN

We tend to think of heroes as historical figures such as patriots, freedom fighters, sports stars, military personnel, medical saviours or rescuers, who often put their own lives at risk to save others. Certainly, respect and honour are due to these extraordinary people but we are often unaware of the unknown heroes, who may live in our own community or with whom we work.

Kathy Malera-Bandjалан was one such hero. Kathy lived in the Botany area for most of her life and went to our local schools. Her life was dedicated to social justice, to equity, to opportunity and fairness and to the recognition, rights and self-determination of her Indigenous brothers and sisters, indeed to anyone suffering injustice.

Background

On 11 February 2021, Botany and one could argue Australia lost a hero when Kathy-Malera Bandjалан died **on country** at Casino, in the Clarence Valley, Northern NSW. Casino is listed as the birthplace of Kathy's Mum and countless generations before her. Kathy died as she had lived, fighting for social justice and for the rights of her people, the Bundjalung Nations.

Always was, Always will be Aboriginal Land!

Kathy had faced many health and personal challenges for several years but her death came as a terrible shock to her family, friends and to all those who had the privilege of knowing or even meeting her. Kathy Malera-Bandjалан was a true hero, a woman of our area and a *Proud Aboriginal Warrior Woman*, whose story should be known.

Kathy was the second eldest child and only daughter of the much loved and highly respected Auntie Rita (Margherita) and David Bruce. She left behind her two beautiful daughters, Kyra and Taneisha and her devoted brothers, Russell, Danny and Gavin. Kathy attended both JJ Cahill Memorial and Maroubra Junction Girls' High Schools. Her father, David Bruce died very young, so that Kathy left school early to help her mother and her family. Family was and still is everything to the Bruce Family. Family love, strength and pride are palpable and intense.



Kathy Malera-Bandjалан

Kathy Bruce married and became Kathy Kum-Sing before later reverting to her Aboriginal name, Kathy Malera-Bandjalan. From her youth, Kathy fought for equality, for social justice, for Indigenous recognition and self-determination and for Aboriginal Land Rights but her advocacy went far beyond Indigenous causes. Kathy Malera-Bandjalan was a *warrior for justice for all peoples*.

Kathy was buried at Botany Cemetery in the most dignified and beautiful, traditional ceremony on 19 February 2021, both mourned and celebrated by a huge gathering including those who made the journey from Mt Isa and Darwin. Fittingly, Archie Roach's "Sister, Brother" was part of the music played to farewell Kathy. Uncle Archie is Kathy's cousin and the two were both very close and very proud of each other.

Some of Kathy's Achievements

For personal, basically family reasons, Kathy Malera-Bandjalan left school at an early age. One wonders what she may have achieved with a longer, more formal education but the truth is probably not a lot more! Kathy was exceptionally intelligent, a talented writer and lover of language. She possessed an inquisitive mind and an incredible memory. Kathy was employed in her early twenties by *Streetwise Comics*. She was its first Aboriginal Editor/Writer. Kathy was responsible for producing *It's Aboriginal*, *The ATSIC Comic* (on voting information) as well as *Bushwise* (HIV/AIDS/STD prevention and drug and alcohol information) and the *Gotta Know* series (six mini comics on HIV/AIDS prevention for Aboriginal communities). Kathy remained committed to these issues throughout her life and was always a strong supporter of the LGBTQIA Community.

In 1991, Kathy was awarded a DEET Scholarship to the University of the South Pacific in Fiji. The one-year Scholarship was part of the Commonwealth Youth Program but it was there that Kathy suffered a stroke, the first of many health problems. Kathy was made a consultant to CEIDA, NSW Dept. of Health in 1992 at Rozelle Hospital, continuing her work with Koori Drug and Alcohol Education. She was also employed by the NSW Aboriginal Lands Council as a consultant on State Aboriginal Homes on Aboriginal Land. In 1997, Kathy was a consultant researching and producing a Report about injecting drug use on the Block and was involved for more than 20 years on the HIV/AIDS epidemic as it affected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities.



Kathy Malera-Bandjalan, daughter of Margherita (Rita) and David Bruce. Granddaughter of Molly Williams. Great Granddaughter of Matilda (Yulgilbar, Malera) and William Williams (Githabul)

She was still doing this work in her months in the High Dependency Unit at St Vincent's Hospital, in 2019. Somewhere and somehow, Kathy managed to fit in campaigning for a Non-Nuclear Pacific and reporting on the integration and health issues of former Aboriginal prisoners in NSW gaols. She was personally involved as an advocate and family friend of Rebecca Maher, who died in custody under tragic circumstance at Maitland Gaol just on five years ago.

Kathy Malera-Bandjalan was invited to speak at many conferences and events over the years. These included the 10th Annual AIDS Conference held in Amsterdam in 1990, speaking as a member of the first Indigenous panel at any International AIDS Conference. In 1992, Kathy represented at the first world Healing Our Spirit Conference in Canada and in 1997 was invited by the King of Jordan to participate in the WCRP World Assembly VII, Common Living in Jordan. In more recent times, Kathy Malera-Bandjalan was invited to Broome to speak on Native Title, a subject upon which she had become expert and she was also at Uluru for the Statement From the Heart in 2017, although her health was already a big problem.

Kathy's proudest achievements, apart from her family were being CEO and Editor of the Aboriginal and Islander Health Worker Journal NSW and her decades' long campaign for Land Title for the Western Bundjalung People, applied for in the Federal Court in the late 1990s and successfully determined in 2018.

The Corporation was registered finally as **Ngullingah Jugun** or "Our Country" on January 13, 2020. Kathy was still involved heavily in this work when she died **on country** last February 11th. An interesting and typically Kathy 'sideline' to this quest was that she had received advice about sovereignty and the legal processes involved from Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams, of all people! Kathy, a huge supporter of the Irish people and 'cause', had met Gerry Adams when he visited Australia in 1999!

Last year, Kathy was approached to write an updated History of the Aboriginal Medical Centre at Redfern. Despite being very ill, Kathy threw herself into this challenge, her first paid work in probably ten years. She kept ridiculous hours and was, as ever, a total perfectionist in her research and attention to detail. At this time, the status and future of the project are not known.

Kathy, the woman

Kathy Malera-Bandjolan was indeed a *warrior woman* but she was also compassionate, loyal and loving. She was a spiritual woman, who combined her traditional culture, beliefs and connections to land with true Christian values and mores. Kathy always put others first, often to the detriment of her own wellbeing. She was the first person her Indigenous 'brothers and sisters' turned to in a crisis and there were many crises, especially with the many deaths and organising of funerals that came her way. Only a few months back, Kathy had to formally identify a Maori woman she'd befriended during her many stays at St Vincent's and arranged for her friend's body to be returned to her *marae* in New Zealand for a traditional tangi. Again, this was typical of Kathy and her loving nature.

About ten years ago, Kathy began a descent into illness that was relentless and irreversible. At times, Kathy seemed a fixture at St Vincent's, for which hospital and medical staff she had nothing but praise and profound respect. Cancer, heart and asthma problems plagued Kathy with the tragic effects that she could no longer work at full capacity and consequently had to sell her treasured home at Botany.



Ave atque Vale, Kathy Malera-Bandjolan

Years of combatting the NSW Dept. of Housing and often relying on the generosity of family and friends took its toll on Kathy. She was after all, a strong and independent woman. That end came **on country**, at Casino on 11 February 2021, a strange sort of consolation. Kathy was among friends when she died, continuing the work she loved.

Postscript

This tribute to Kathy Malera-Bandjolan is based on the magnificent Eulogy given by Danny Bruce, her brother and the memories of Anne, Kathy's teacher at JJ Cahill and a long-time friend, who was privileged and honoured to be addressed by Kathy as "Aunt". (AMS, April 2021)

All Photographs courtesy of the Malera-Bandjolan Family.

Anne Maria Slattery
President, The Botany Historical Trust

UPDATE ON COMMUNITY HISTORY AUDIT



I am writing this update at the end of my fifth week at Bayside Council. You will not be surprised to read that during this time I have seen a lot of dust, boxes, filing cabinets and paper. I have also experienced and appreciated the insight, helpfulness and enthusiasm of Library staff for the project. Below is a quick overview of progress.

- ▶ Council induction and tour of sites where community history material is stored.
- ▶ Drafts of community history policy and guidelines prepared for Library staff at Bayside and the State Library of NSW (Public Library Services) to review. These will be provided to BHT Executive for feedback soon.
- ▶ Meeting with the providers of the Library's Collection Management System (Aurora) to ensure that the data collected through the community history audit can be added to the catalogue in the future (if appropriate).

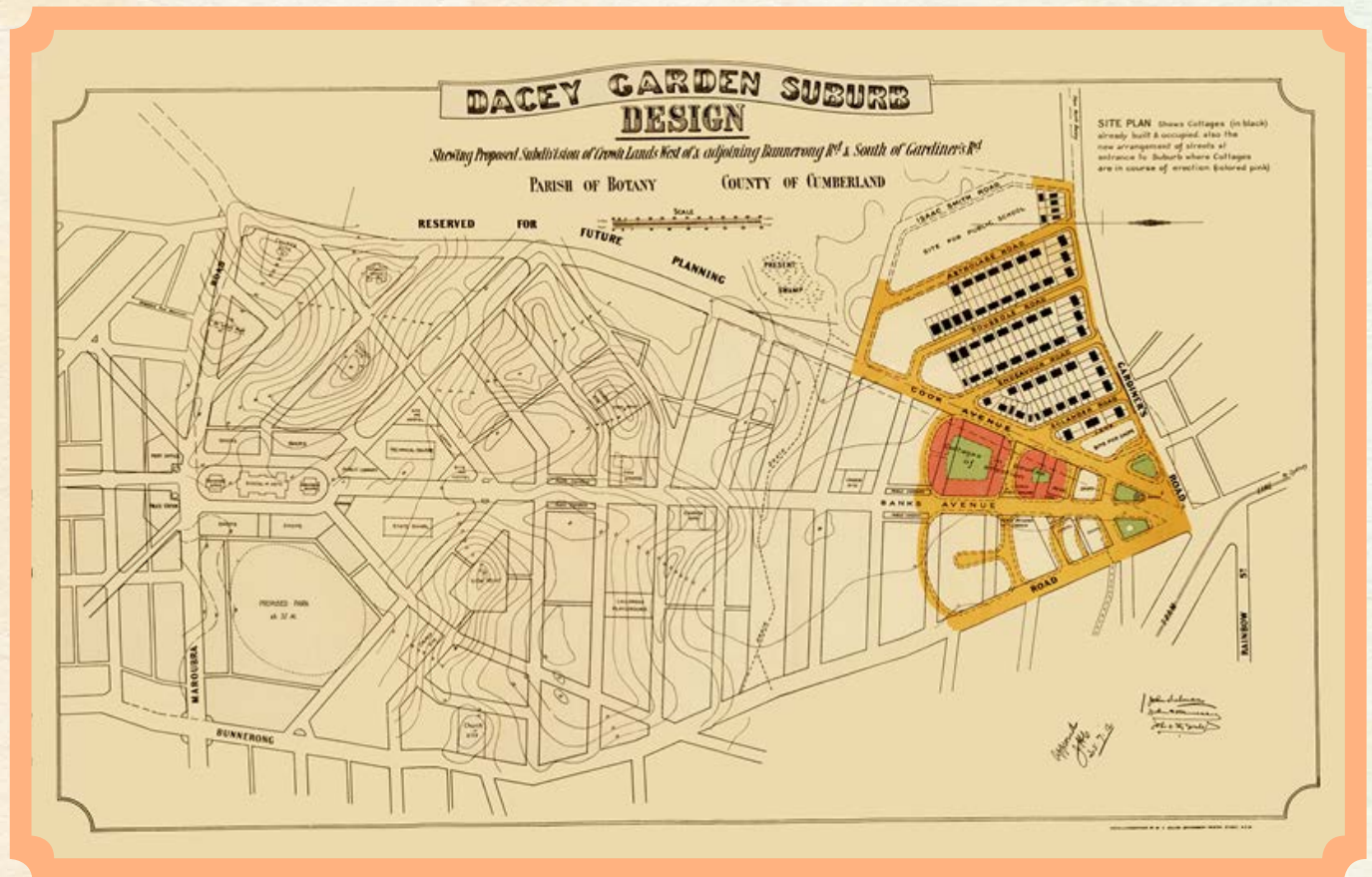
- ▶ Meeting with the Local Studies Librarian at Lane Cove Library to see how they organize and catalogue their collection (it's very well organized and accessible).
- ▶ Update for Bayside Council Executive.
- ▶ Review of AMAC House at Botany and scope of works provided to Bayside Council to make it a safe workplace.
- ▶ Audit commenced at Mascot and Rockdale Libraries.

Library staff and interns are assisting with the physical audit of the collection wherever possible as there is A LOT of material to look at.

A full project update will be provided at the next BHT Executive Meeting. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact me on: alison.wishart@bayside.nsw.gov.au

Alison Wishart
Community History Project Officer

DACEY GARDENS MODEL SUBURB



In its early days, Daceyville was often known as Dacey Gardens or even the Dacey Gardens Model Suburb but today few residents would be aware of their suburb's historic beginnings.

The European settlement of Australia began in 1788 around modern Circular Quay and The Rocks. The City of Sydney grew unchecked and unplanned during the 19th Century leading to massive problems of health and hygiene so that by 1900, 35% of Australians lived in poverty-ridden slums in inner city Sydney. The area was filthy, overcrowded, with poor ventilation and lighting, garbage everywhere, little plumbing with sewerage collected from rear “dunny lanes” where rats and vermin thrived. Then, between January and August 1900, the Bubonic Plague hit Sydney around Miller’s Point and The Rocks. Clearly, something had to be done!

During the 19th Century, town planning became a welcome outcome of urbanisation and industrialisation in Britain, Europe and the United States. In England, the betterment and beautification of cities were seen as necessities by local government and a moral responsibility by great philanthropists like the Cadbury, Rowntree and Lever families. Such families were often members of the Society of Friends or Quakers and they began to build villages for their workers. At the same time, other great social reformers and planners developed the concept of the Garden City, a town combining urban and rural features, from which industry was banned. Both ideas were adopted and then adapted in Australia.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1912

"DACEYVILLE" AS IT WILL LOOK



After the 1900 Bubonic Plague, politicians, architects, planners, reformers and interested citizens tried to come up with solutions to the terrible living conditions of Inner Sydney. In 1909, a Royal Commission was set up. It recommended that workers be housed in separate dwellings in the suburbs and not in flats or tenements, as was often common overseas. In 1910, the first NSW Labor Government was elected and almost immediately began the planning and construction of a Model Garden Suburb for workers. Land was resumed from the Botany Swamps between Bunnerong Road, modern Heffron Road, the East Lakes and Gardeners Road.

In another “first”, the McGowen Labor Government took on the responsibility of building and financing this planned *Model Suburb*.

By April 1912, the necessary Housing Act had been passed and the New South Wales Housing Board established. In 1911, John Rowland Dacey, Colonial Secretary, Treasurer, Member for Alexandria and the world’s first Housing Minister took charge of the Model Suburb’s planning and construction. Mr Dacey was the “heart and soul” of the new suburb but he died April 11th, 1912, even before the Housing Board came into being.

Daceyville or Dacey Gardens was named for John Rowland Dacey, which was very fitting. ‘Enemies’ of the idea, who opposed any government providing economical and good housing for ordinary people, usually referred to the new suburb as *Audaciousville!*

John Rowland Dacey was born in Cork, Ireland in June 1854. He lost both parents by age five and Dr Smith, his adoptive parent seven years later. At twelve, Dacey joined the workforce. When he was twenty-four, Mr Dacey married Martha Douglass from Horsham. The young couple moved to Alexandria in Sydney, where Dacey became a very successful coach maker.

John Dacey was an Alderman and Mayor of Alexandria, the State Member for Botany and later Alexandria, a member of the Redfern Labor Electoral League and a Minister in the McGowen and Holman Governments. Dacey was passionate about social justice and motivated by Pope Leo XIII's Encyclical, *Rerum Novarum*. He was determined Dacey Gardens would be of the finest standard.

After the sad death of John Rowland Dacey, the construction and completion of Daceyville became the responsibility of John (Jack) Daniel Fitzgerald, born at Shellharbour in 1862 and with a similar strong Irish background to Dacey. Jack Fitzgerald was an extraordinary man, a Republican, a trade unionist, an intellectual and cultured with vast work experience ranging from the trades to law.

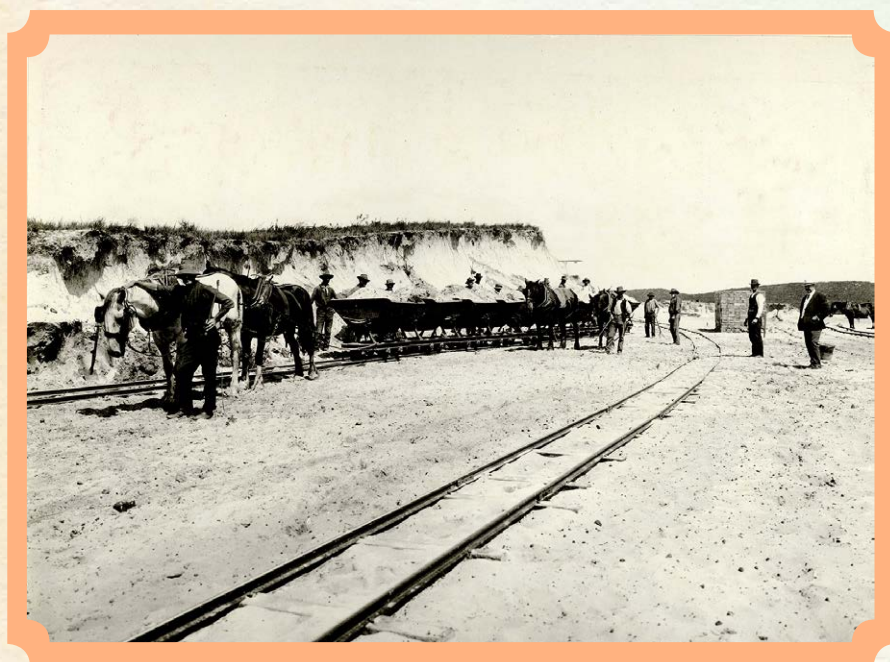
He had held a number of Ministries and Government appointments but as Chairman of the Housing Board, it was Fitzgerald, who drove the Daceyville project and who worked with the three great planners to modify George McCrae's original design. Many modifications were the results of the stringencies of WWI.

Under Jack Fitzgerald, other architects were brought into the project beginning with John F Hennessy. Hennessy was best known for his Neo-Gothic and Romanesque designs including the completion of St Mary's Cathedral and its Crypt. He also had local government experience. Hennessy came from a similar background to Dacey and Fitzgerald, having a great social conscience and belief in public service. A skilled and sensitive designer, Hennessy contributed greatly to Daceyville's style, brickwork and decorative detail. The next architect was (Sir) John Sulman later renowned for his work with Walter Burley Griffin, the visionary designer of Canberra.

Sulman's use of the "spider's web" rather than the traditional "grid system" of town planning was first seen in Daceyville. Sulman's motto was, "convenience, utility and beauty." He wanted to create an "Australian identity" responsive to the climate, materials, colours and form of Australia's environment.

William Henry Foggitt was the last gifted planner charged with the responsibility of completing the Dacey Gardens *Model Suburb*.

The planning of Daceyville as a *Garden Suburb* was influenced strongly by the English *Garden City of Letchworth*. The *Letchworth* model was one of self-sufficiency, space and beauty. Daceyville was meant to provide all economic necessities and public facilities, including up to forty shops, three schools, a technical college, four churches, a School of Arts, a fire station and a police station.

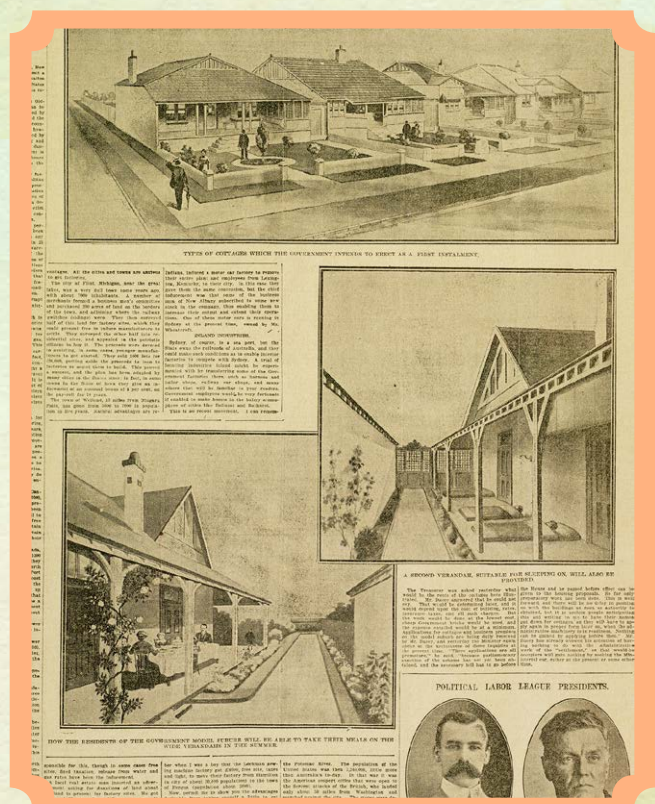


Removing Hill in the B Block Western Boundary of the Estate, Dacey Garden Suburb

The Third or Foggitt Plan for Daceyville modified greatly the dreams of McCrae and of Hennessy and Sulman. The size of the suburb was almost halved, excising the later suburb of Pagewood, originally Daceyville No. 2. A thrifty man, Foggitt increased the density of the houses but made them smaller at the same time, allowing more "green spaces". He also redesigned the street plan into a radial pattern, with roads 'branching' off the two main boulevards, Banks and Cook Avenues. Because of the costs of WWI, only about a quarter of the original number of planned houses was built.

In the end, this did not happen and World War I can probably be blamed for the grand scheme's curtailment. A government and a Catholic school and a community hall were built. Only a Catholic church was constructed through the efforts of the faithful. However, great care was paid to the concept of the *Garden Suburb* and Mr Joseph Maiden, Director of the Sydney Botanic Gardens supervised the initial plantings and parks of Daceyville. Street names were another serious matter. The first streets were named for navigators, their boats and early explorers. WWI changed this and later streets honoured WWI heroes, especially Gallipoli's.

The Housing Board was abolished in 1924. From then until 1940, Daceyville was transferred to the NSW Public Trustee. Towards the end of World War I and in the years afterwards, tenancies were offered to Returned Soldiers and to War Widows. Daceyville became known as a “Soldier Settlement” suburb, with residents having the rights of transfer or ‘inheritance’ till after World War II. From 1940 until 1949, the Resumed Properties Branch was responsible for Daceyville, which then passed on to the NSW Housing Commission, today’s Department of Housing. The first departures from the original Hennessy-Sulman-Foggitt Plans began in 1949 as Banks and Cook Avenues were cut off at Daceyville Park. In the 1950’s, flats were built on open space between Banks Avenue, General Bridges Crescent and Bunnerong Road. A real threat emerged in the 1960s when the NSW Government wanted to “bull-doze” the Park and part of General Bridges Crescent, to extend the Eastern Suburbs’ Railway. Community action, union pressure from the legendary Jack Munday and the BLF and ultimately, lack of finance led to the plans being shelved.



Daceyville Daily Telegraph



Boussole Road looking South, Dacey Garden Suburb

In 1966, houses on the Daceyville Estate were offered for sale to existing tenants but only to those with young families. There were other restrictions as well and only about a quarter of those eligible bought their homes. In 1974, the National Trust gazetted Daceyville as a Heritage Area. The Housing Commission began a major urban renewal project in 1979, the first such project since Daceyville was built. Sadly, much of the housing was in poor repair. Some original houses were demolished and replaced with “sympathetic” new stock.

Others were rehabilitated. Many “green spaces” at the rear of existing cottages were in-filled with new housing. In 1985, the old community hall, which had at various times been a theatre, a picture show and a Police Boys’ Club, was destroyed in an arson attack. It was rebuilt by the Department of Housing quite aesthetically for multi- purpose housing and named Foggitt House. The old Police Station and yard were redeveloped privately in 2001.

Many famous people have Daceyville connections including politicians, an author and a famous soprano but Daceyville is still basically a “workers’ suburb” although some properties are owned privately, especially those on the western border. Daceyville residents are very proud of their Garden Suburb and feel privileged to live there. Daceyville remains a town planning triumph and an outstanding example of successful government social policy.

Anne Maria Slattery
President,
The Botany Historical Trust

LEST WE FORGET

DACEYVILLE: A SOLDIERS' SETTLEMENT

After his return from the war, Irish-born Hugh McOscar (SERN: 2407) and his young family were granted a house at 1 Sergeant Larkin Crescent, Daceyville. Their new home had 'electric lighting, running water, a large yard for a garden and room for a duck!'

