

# Botany Historical Trust

NEWSLETTER **OCTOBER 2021**



**Thomas Davies Mutch**  
17 October 1885 – 4 June 1958

An Australian politician,  
who represented Botany and  
was an Alderman of Mascot.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



**"From Mud Bank  
Botany Bay, mouth  
of Cooks River, 1830".  
Sketch by John  
Thompson.**

**From the collections  
of the State Library  
of New South Wales  
[DL PXX 31, 2a]**

This is the last President's Report and the final edition of the BHT Newsletter for the current term of the Trust. Under its Constitution, members elect the Botanical Historical Trust Executive every four years, corresponding to the statutory four-year term of the Council. The next Local Government Election was scheduled for 4 September 2021 and the last Meeting of the current BHT Executive was to take place on 2 August 2021, in the Mascot Library & Hanna Memorial Museum, COVID-19 permitting. Both the Executive Meeting and the planned Elections have had to be postponed. As of July 23, the Local Government Elections have been deferred until December 4 and as a result, the present BHT Executive term has been extended until then.

Originally, the Executive Meeting had been rescheduled for 6 September 2021 but this is also now in doubt. Should the present restrictions still be in place, some sort of 'Zoom' Meeting is a possibility in September but such a Meeting can be difficult to manage and not very satisfactory.

Elections for a new Executive were to be the main business of the Annual General Meeting in November this year. Elections for a new Executive will not be possible now before early 2022 because of COVID and the delayed Local Government Elections. Sadly, it is likely that the dedication and re-naming of Eastlakes Reserve to Jack Munday Reserve and the annual Nancy Hillier lecture will also have to be postponed due to COVID.

As President, I ask members to consider seriously nominating for election to the new Executive. Some of the current BHT Executive have given literally decades of service and have contributed more than could possibly be imagined. I have had the honour of being President for about eight years and believe genuinely now is the time for some 'new blood' and fresh perspectives. The Executive meets every three months or as deemed necessary. Any BHT member can nominate. The only stipulation in the current Constitution is that the President must be a resident of the area served by the former Council of the City of Botany Bay.



The Executive's role is voluntary and it is one of great importance. Perhaps most members associate the Trust with the excursions and other events we have organised or the publications, Anzac refurbishments and commemorative plaques that we have produced during the past eight years. The latter have been very successful and most enjoyable but the main business of the Trust is saving and preserving our local history and traditions, be they cultural, buildings, artefacts, archives or even the environment itself. While we have not always been successful, we have tried. Perhaps our best and lasting achievement has seen the appointment of a Local History Project Officer to research and organise our precious and irreplaceable archives. With the State Government 'takeover' of local planning through its appointed Regional Joint Panels, the vigilance of bodies like the Botany Historical Trust is even more essential to prevent the appalling over-development happening in Sydney and especially in our own area.

It has been disappointing that we have not been able to enjoy our usual program of activities these past eighteen months but COVID has been the main culprit. There was an exciting program planned for 2020 but even that went awry when transport became unavailable for our first excursion. Visits to NSW Government House and Parliament plus the Police and Justice Museum had to be cancelled at the last minute. After that, COVID restrictions and minute-to-minute uncertainties virtually prevented any realistic planning and organisation of Trust events.

Members will recall that for the first time, our Christmas function had to be cancelled! Even as recently as 26 June last, Council was forced to postpone the re-opening of the renovated Botany Town Hall and celebratory Seniors' High Tea. The Trust was to be represented at this wonderful event but again COVID intervened.

No one could have foreseen the past eighteen months but the Executive has continued to meet whenever possible and has been consulted throughout by email or post for its advice regarding any Development Applications with heritage issues or conditions.



**Anne-Maria Slattery OAM,**  
**President of**  
**the Botany**  
**Historical Trust**  
**2012-present.**

This Newsletter and the operations of the Trust itself would not have been possible without the goodwill and continued strong support of both the former Council of the City of Botany Bay and the current Bayside Council. Councillors, the Administration and specific officers of Council have been crucial to the work of the Trust. It is not feasible to name every individual who has assisted us but I would like to thank current Council Staff for the production of our newsletter, which I believe is an outstanding publication for a local historical group. These particular people are Bobbi Mayne, Manager Customer Experience, Leonie Maher, Administrative Assistant Customer Experience and Loris Armellini and Ayesha Mira from the Graphic Design Team.

My gratitude also to the BHT Executive, whose names appear in this publication, for their unwavering dedication to the Trust and for their friendship, loyalty and support these past eight years. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with you.

Ave Atque Vale.

**Anne-Maria Slattery**  
President, 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>             |

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jacqueline Milledge  
Peter Orlovich  
Barbara Keeley  
Councillor Dorothy Rapisardi  
Councillor Scott Morrissey



# THE ANZAC Commemorative Trail

In Daceyville and (old) Pagewood

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## **Birdwood Avenue Pagewood**

Named after Field Marshal William Riddell Birdwood, Anzac Commander at Gallipoli. Birdwood was wounded at Gallipoli but fought on and commanded the Dardanelles Army. He was the only General to oppose the evacuation of Gallipoli. Birdwood led the Anzac Corps 1 and 2 and finally, the AIF on the Western Front until 1918.





## Captain Jacka Crescent Daceyville

Originally Corporal Jacka Crescent, renamed **Captain Jacka Crescent** (Albert Jacka VC, MC and Bar 1893 – 1932). Jacka landed at Gallipoli on April 25th, 1915 and was awarded the Victoria Cross in May 1915. He was also awarded the Military Cross at Pozieres (Western Front) on August 7th, 1916 and a Bar added at Bullecourt on April 7th, 1917.

Australia's official War Historian Charles Bean described Jacka's rescue of captured Australian soldiers and forced surrender of some 200 Germans, as "the most dramatic and effective act of individual audacity in the history of the AIF." Eight VC winners carried Jacka's coffin at his funeral.



## Colonel Braund Crescent Daceyville

George Frederick Braund, English born, came to Australia aged 15, settling in Armidale NSW. Commissioned in the volunteer Armidale Company, 4th Australian Infantry Regiment, Braund rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel by 1914. In 1913 he was elected Liberal Member for Armidale in the NSW Legislative Assembly.

Braund was the first Australian Parliamentarian to enlist in World War I and landed at Gallipoli on April 25th, 1915. Tragically, on May 4th, a sentry killed Colonel Braund; being partly deaf, Braund failed to hear the sentry's challenge. Braund was only one of two serving Australian parliamentarians to die in World War I.

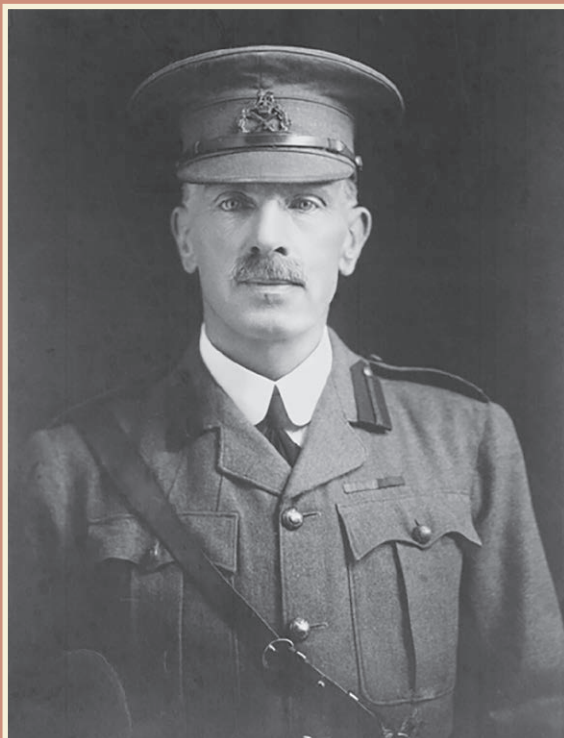


## Colenso Crescent Daceyville

(Originally Burke Crescent;  
renamed in 1961)

The Colenso Family of Daceyville numbered five boys and two girls. The four eldest boys, William, Frank, Edward and Raymond enlisted in the 2nd AIF. Ray was only 16 at the time. All four brothers enlisted on the same day and were given consecutive numbers.

They served together in the tragic 8th Division in Malaya and Singapore. Two became POWs, two died in action. William and Ray died in either Malaya or Singapore; Ted and Frank survived as POW's and returned to live to a good age.



## General Bridges Crescent Daceyville

General Sir William Throsby Bridges was the first Australian General and the first Australian General to die in action, at Gallipoli, May 18, 1915 (knighted May 17 by King George V).

Bridges was born in Scotland but his mother was Australian. In 1886, Bridges entered military service and progressed rapidly through the ranks. In 1909, Bridges became the first Australian representative on the Imperial General Staff and in 1910 the first Commander of the RMC Duntroon with the rank of Brigadier General.

After his death, General Bridges' body was brought back to Australia and buried at Duntroon, where a memorial service is held in his honour every Anzac Day.





## Haig Avenue Daceyville

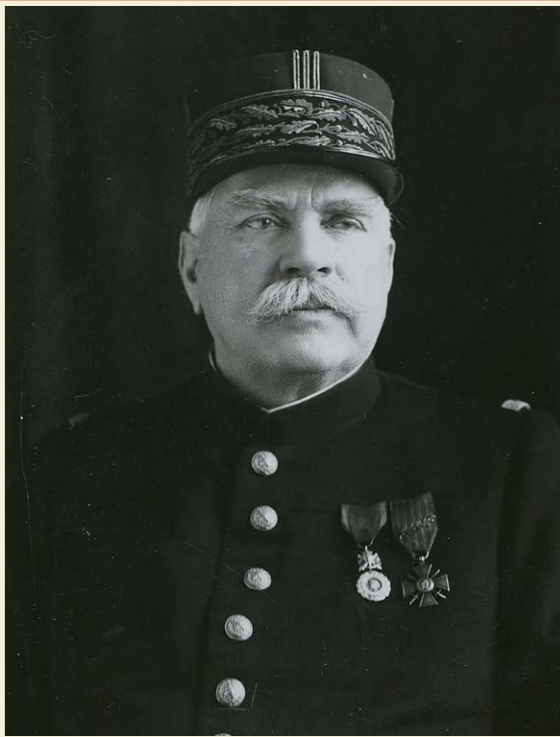
Named for General Sir Douglas Haig, one of the most controversial Generals of WWI, Haig became the second Commander of the British Expeditionary Force on the Western Front.

Haig was a cavalryman who had little time for 'modern' ideas, including the machine gun and tank. Associated with the Somme Offensive and other terrible battles, Haig was often blamed for these horrific losses but ultimately it was the French Generals who had over-riding responsibility and control. Haig remained British Commander until November 1918.



## Jellicoe Park Pagewood

Sir John Rushworth Jellicoe commanded the British Navy at the Battle of Jutland in 1916, the only major naval battle in WWI. Even though their losses were greater than the enemy's, it was considered a British victory. The German High Seas Fleet never put to sea again and so surrendered control of the Atlantic to the Allies.



## Joffre Crescent Daceyville

Jacques Césaire Joffre was a French General, who served as Commander-in-Chief of the French forces on the Western Front in 1914.

Joffre's most famous achievement was to stop the Germans at the First Battle of the Marne, November 1914, which effectively prevented the fall of Paris to the Germans.



## Kenny Road Pagewood

Kenny Road is named for Private Thomas James Bede Kenny VC, who was born in Paddington and enlisted in August 1915. A tall and powerful man, he became a well-known member of his battalion and later a familiar figure at Sydney's ANZAC Day Ceremonies.

At Hermies, Kenny's platoon had to dig in on the edge of the village and engage any enemy attempting to leave. Several men were pinned down by heavy enemy fire before Kenny leapt up and rushed a post, throwing bombs as he ran. Although the first two missed, Kenny's third bomb landed in the middle of the Germans, killing some and the rest were captured. His action made a significant contribution to the capture of the village.





## Keysor Road Pagewood

Leonard Maurice Keysor or Keyzor came from a London Jewish family and settled in Sydney just before World War I. Enlisting in the AIF, Keysor landed at Gallipoli on April 25th, 1915.

On August 6th at Lone Pine, Keysor spent 50 hours catching, retrieving and smothering Turkish bombs and throwing them back at the Turks; he was wounded twice. Keysor's bravery saved his trench and he was awarded the VC. Later he was sent to the Western Front. He was promoted three times, wounded twice and repatriated to Australia.



## Maxwell Road and Lane Pagewood

Lieutenant "Joe" Maxwell VC, MC and Bar, DCM at just age 22 became Australia's **second most decorated soldier** in WWI. He was an apprentice boilermaker before enlisting in Sydney in February 1915. He served at Gallipoli and on the Western Front and won his Victoria Cross on 31 October 1918. Maxwell was rough, tough and exceptionally brave and was commissioned in late 1917 during the final 'push' of WWI.



## Murray Road Pagewood

“Mad Harry”, Henry William Murray was Australia’s **most decorated soldier** in WWI.

Murray rose from Private to Lieutenant Colonel, serving at Gallipoli and on the Western Front, winning the DCM, DSO and Bar and VC, as well as being mentioned in despatches **FOUR** times and being awarded the French Croix de Guerre.



## Monash Gardens Pagewood

Originally named Jackson Street, these gardens were renamed to honour General Sir John Monash. Of Jewish, Prussian heritage, Monash was born in Melbourne in 1865. He had a brilliant background in engineering and civilian military organisations.

In 1915, Monash became an infantry commander at Gallipoli. Evacuated to the Western Front, Monash gained enormous respect for his intellect, strategic ability and communication skills. Monash was constantly promoted and awarded a Knight Commander of the Bath by King George V in 1918.

Monash is best remembered for his stunning victory at Hamel in July 1918, which paved the way for the smashing of the Hindenburg Line and defeat of Germany. His funeral in 1931 attracted over a quarter of a million mourners.





## Sergeant Larkin Crescent Daceyville

**Sergeant Ted Larkin  
(left) with Lieutenant-Colonel  
George Braund and Lieutenant-  
Colonel John Nash in Egypt 1915**

Sergeant Edward Rennix Larkin, born at North Lambton, was the Labor Member for Willoughby in the New South Wales Parliament. Larkin was a great sportsman, who competed in Rugby at Club, State and National levels; in 1909 he switched to the infant Rugby League code, of which he made a great success, becoming its first Secretary. He was a journalist and then a policeman; he was the first Labor man north of Sydney Harbour to be elected to State Parliament.

Larkin enlisted in 1914 and died by machine gun fire at Gallipoli on April 25th, 1915. His older brother, Martin Larkin died on the same day but neither body was ever recovered.

Sergeant Edward Larkin and Colonel George Frederick Braund, the only two Australian Parliamentarians to die in World War I are commemorated on a plaque at the New South Wales Parliament that reads: *"In time of Peace they readily asserted their rights of citizenship. In time of War they fiercely protected them."*



## Towner Gardens Pagewood

Edgar Thomas Towner was awarded both the Military Cross and the Victoria Cross during action on the Western Front in World War I and even volunteered in World War II. Towner was mentioned in despatches twice during World War I.

He won the Victoria Cross for retrieving a German machine gun and using it against the enemy; although suffering a severe head wound, Towner fought on for 30 hours before being evacuated.



## Wark Avenue Pagewood

Major Blair Anderson Wark, VC and DSO. Wark, a Bathurst boy, first saw action at the horrific Battle at Fromelles in 1916, "Australia's worst ever military disaster", with 5053 casualties in one night. Wark was wounded at Fromelles and subsequently transferred to another unit. Commander of the 32nd Battalion, in October 1918 at the age of 24 years, Wark swept through France and along the way, at great personal risk, took on tanks and the German guns. He gathered up 200 leaderless American soldiers and, finally, with the support of two NCOs, captured 50 Germans. Major Wark always led from the front.



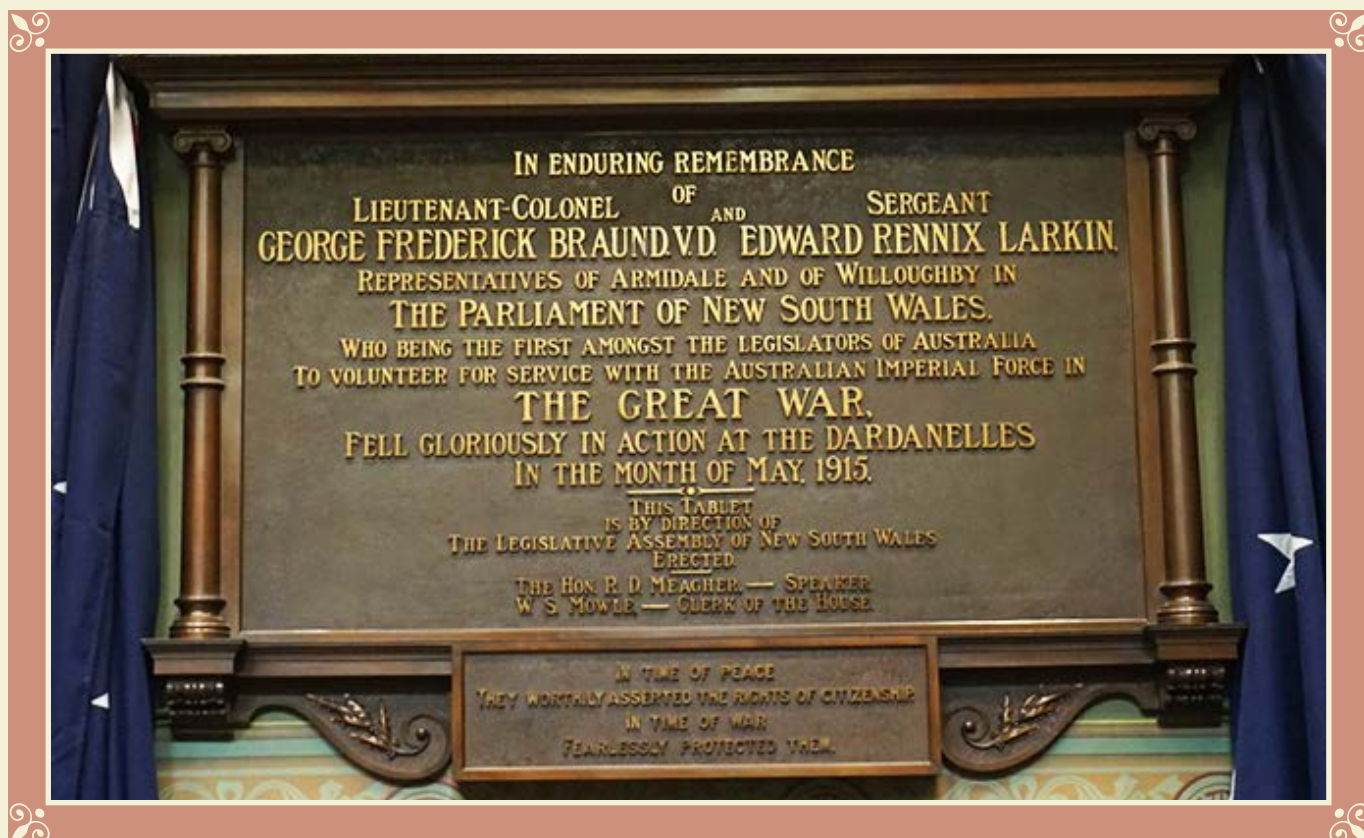
## White Road Pagewood

Sir Cyril Brudenell Bingham White was Chief of Staff to General Birdwood (WWI) and Australian Chief of the General Staff at the beginning of WW II. He also served with Colonel, later, General Bridges.

In 1917, White turned down General Haig's offer to lead the Anzac Corps. White is credited with the organisation of the AIF Expeditionary Force in World War I and with the successful evacuation of Gallipoli; he was knighted after the War.

Recalled in March 1940, White was only the third Australian promoted to full General. Tragically, along with nine others, White was killed in a plane crash near what is now Fairburn Airport at Canberra on August 13th, 1940.





**Bronze tablet unveiled in November 1915 in NSW parliament building, Macquarie Street, Sydney. It is a memorial to former members of Parliament, George Braund and Edward Larkin, who were killed in the Dardanelles, Turkey in 1915. Photograph courtesy Chris McLaughlin and Monument Australia. [www.monumentaustalia.org.au](http://www.monumentaustalia.org.au)**

**Lest We Forget**

# UPDATE ON COMMUNITY HISTORY AUDIT



Throughout May, June and July, work has continued on sorting and auditing the pamphlet, photograph and oral history collections from the former City of Botany Bay Council, which are stored at Mascot Library. With the assistance of two student-interns, both providing 80 hours of work each and one librarian, who was re-assigned due to the COVID-19 lockdown, the Community History Project Officer has been able to almost complete the audit.

The interns have also assisted the Community History Project Officer to research and prepare a 'Flashback Friday' post for Bayside Library's social media channels each week. This is a way of sharing our love of local history and raising awareness of the value of the collection.

Thanks to the input of BHT Executive Members and Council staff, the Local History Collection Policy and Local History Collection Guidelines have been approved by the Bayside Council executive and are now available to read on the Bayside Council website.

The completion of these two policy documents is a major milestone in the project.

In June, the Digital Audit Project Reference Group held its first meeting. Convened by the Community History Project Officer, this group includes IT and library specialists and is tasked with finding solutions to the ongoing management of Bayside's digital local history collection. It will recommend cataloguing software, file naming conventions and digital storage solutions.

In addition, the Community History Project Officer has been researching the Eastlakes material and project managing the 'Eastlakes, Jack Munday and the Green Bans' exhibition, which Council is planning to exhibit at the Mascot Library & George Hanna Memorial Museum. This was scheduled to open at the end of July but obviously now delayed with the current COVID restrictions. BHT Members will be advised regarding the opening date for the exhibition in due course.

**Alison Wishart**  
Community History Project Officer





Jack Munday, 2002

Source: National Film and  
Sound Archive of Australia,  
Film Australia Collection.

## Jack Munday

(1929-2020)

As Secretary of the Builders Labourers Federation (BLF), Jack Munday listened to the concerns of Eastlakes residents who were frustrated with the sudden raft of apartment buildings in their area.

He was instrumental in a green ban being placed on the construction of units in November 1971, following the development of the former Rosebery Racecourse. The ban successfully stalled building works and in mid-1974 an agreement was reached between the developer and the former Botany Council that land set aside for recreation would be landscaped as a park.

In August 2021, Bayside Council was successful in their application to the Geographical Names Board to rename 'Eastlakes Reserve' to 'Jack Munday Reserve' to honour Munday's legacy and the Green Bans Movement. Signs are being replaced and an interpretative sign and renaming plaque has been installed. The project is funded by the NSW Government's Community Building Grant. A formal unveiling ceremony will occur once public health order restrictions ease.

***"What is the good of fighting to improve wages and conditions if we are going to choke to death in polluted and planless cities?"***

# Parks People!

## Eastlakes, Jack Munday and the Green Bans

Council's latest social history exhibition tells the story of how residents, with the support of unions, stood up to the powerful, wealthy developers and the politicians who supported them.

To find out more about how Eastlakes Reserve was saved by Jack Munday, visit **Bayside Council's new social history exhibition.**



**...The exhibition will open at Mascot Library soon after the COVID-19 lockdown finishes.**

# EXHIBITION

# Milton Kent and the Promotion of Botany's Industries

Our last newsletter included an article on the photographs of Milton Kent; in this newsletter we feature some specific examples of the way in which his photographs were used by local companies to advertise their own industries as well as to promote the Botany area.

All photographs in this article are courtesy of the Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales.

Among Milton Kent's 1930s aerial photographs of Mascot is the one below of the Greenbank Tannery, Mascot, run by Norton Bros. Pty. Ltd., located off Botany Road between Bronti Street and McBurney Avenue, Mascot.



**At first glance it looks as though the above photograph has been damaged or defaced. In fact, the white outline is deliberate: it is the marking made by the company to show the section of the photograph they wanted to use in their advertisements.**

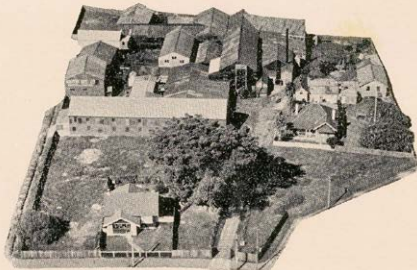


# NORTON BROS.

PTY. LTD.

*Tanners and Leather Manufacturers*

Greenbank Tannery, Mascot. Telephone: Mascot 86



Greenbank Tannery.

*Specialising in :*

Sole Leather . . . Chrome Yearlings  
Harness and Saddlers' Leathers  
Strap, Bag, and Case Leathers

This full-page promotion of Norton Bros. Greenbank Tannery comes from a Golden Jubilee publication produced by the Municipality of Mascot: *Mascot, 1888 - 1938, Fifty Years of Progress*.

The image used in the advertisement is the "cropped" section of the aerial photograph taken for Norton Bros. by Milton Kent.



## Milton Kent in action

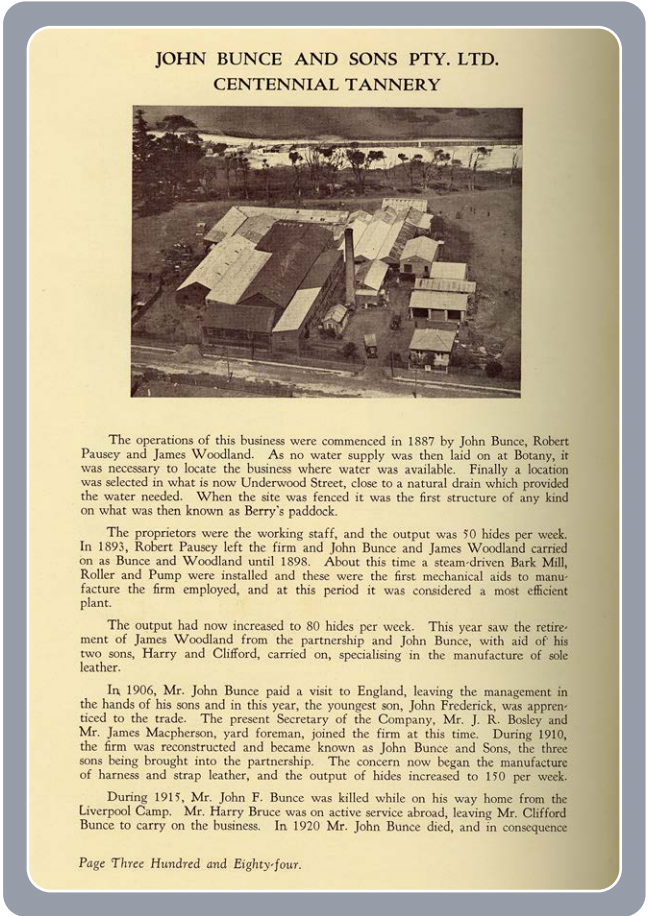
Both North Botany (renamed Mascot in 1911) and Botany were incorporated as municipalities in 1888. Like its neighbour, Botany Municipality published a book to celebrate the 1938 fiftieth anniversary milestone: *A Jubilee History of the Municipality of Botany*.

Botany's publication included a chapter on Botany's industries and again Milton Kent's photographs can be seen in the promotional images used. John Bunce & Sons were one of the tanning businesses featured in the jubilee history.

Milton Kent and his aerial camera, June 1953.

The history of John Bunce & Sons from the 1938 publication *A Jubilee History of the Municipality of Botany* showing the Milton Kent aerial photograph of their 'Centennial Tannery' located off Edgehill Avenue.

Like Norton Bros., John Bunce & Sons used only one section of one of Milton Kent's photographs of their site. Both companies' decisions on how to use Milton Kent's images were made on their advertisement needs and based on promotional grounds. However, anyone interested in the history of Botany would value seeing the uncropped versions of Milton Kent's photographs. For example, the photographs Milton Kent took for John Bunce of the site show not just the tannery site but also houses along Edgehill Avenue. Some examples of these follow:



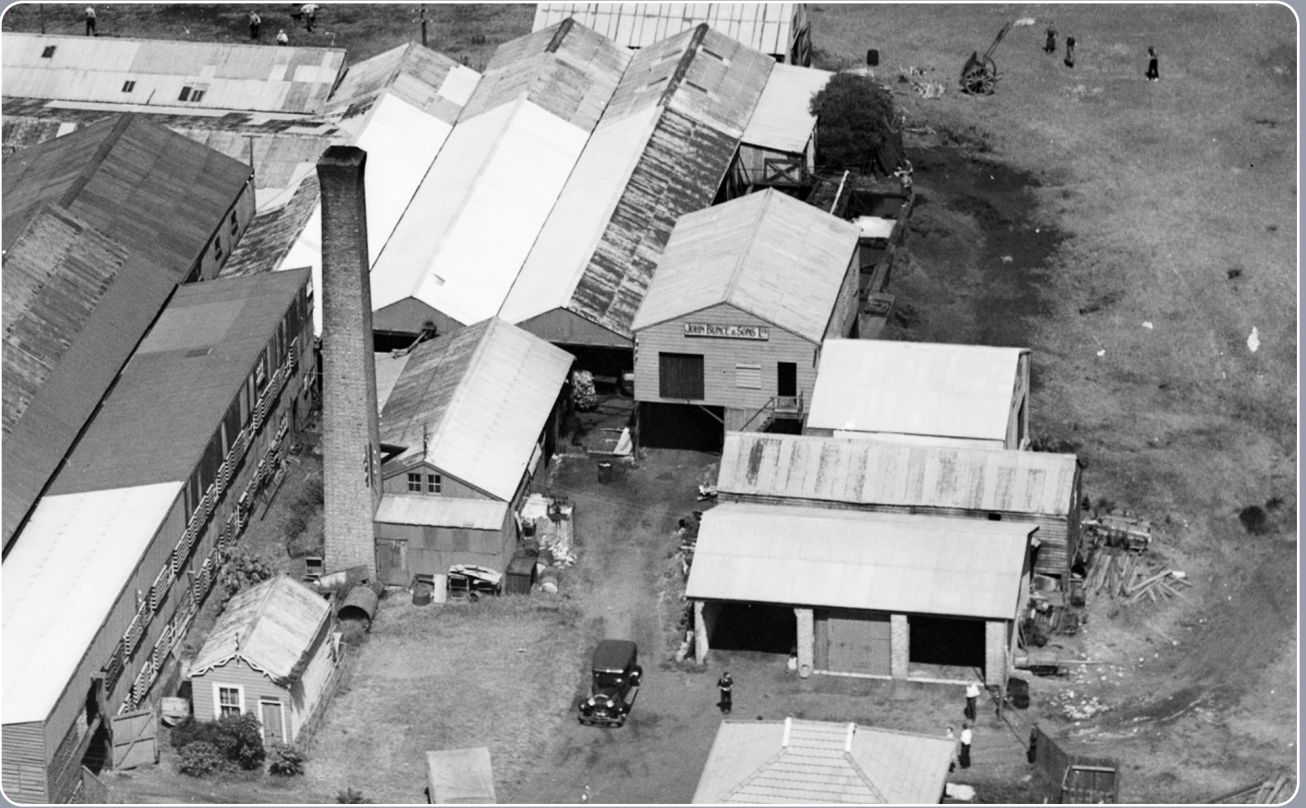
One of four photographs taken by Milton Kent of the John Bunce Centennial Tannery in Edgehill Avenue, Botany.



The tannery buildings and the adjacent houses in the above photo have all now been demolished and replaced by residential developments. However, opposite the tannery you can see the houses on the section of Edgehill Avenue that today would be numbers 42 to 18 Edgehill Avenue, some of which still remain.

The extraordinarily high quality of the four photographs Milton Kent took of the John Bunce Centennial Tannery is revealed by the detail they show: clothes drying on clotheslines in the back gardens of the Edgehill Avenue houses, and shacks on the beachfront behind the tannery. Visible in one of the photos is a large house - one of the first homes built in the area - which still stands today as part of the villa development at 15-18 The Esplanade, Botany.





*A detail from the circa 1938 Milton Kent photograph of the John Bunce Tannery site in Edgehill Avenue, Botany.*



*The back gardens of homes in Edgehill Avenue, Botany: a detail from a circa 1938 Milton Kent photograph of the John Bunce Tannery site in Edgehill Avenue, Botany.*





*An aerial view of the beachfront to the rear of the John Bunce tannery site in Edgehill Avenue.*



*The corner of The Esplanade and Chelmsford Avenue, Botany, circa 1938. The large house on the top right is the Victorian Villa built between 1881 and 1883 by Thomas Grace. By the time this photograph was taken it had been converted into a Boarding House and was owned and run by Mrs Mildred Hudson.*

**Kirsten Broderick**  
Community History Librarian



# TOM MUTCH (1885 to 1958)

As part of the Community History Project, we are uncovering some amazing old documents including the letter from Henry Lawson on the back cover. We have featured Tom Mutch on the front cover and some background on him is as follows:

Born in London, Mutch arrived in Sydney in 1887 and was educated at Double Bay Public School. He was subsequently a shearer for four years and joined the Australian Workers' Union, becoming a staff worker in 1903 and helping to found the Australian Writers' and Artists' Union in 1910.

From 1915 to 1916, Mutch was New South Wales President and Federal Vice-President of the Australian Journalists' Association and was convicted of incitement after the 1917 general strike.

Mutch was an Alderman at Mascot from 1923 to 1930 and Randwick from 1931 to 1937. He was a member of the Australian Labor Party's Central Executive from 1913 to 1917. In 1917, he was elected to the New South Wales Legislative Assembly as the Labor member for Botany.

Tom Mutch served as Minister of Public Instruction from 1921 to 1922 and Minister for Education from 1925 to 1927, when he was expelled from the New South Wales Labor Party as a leading opponent of Premier Jack Lang. Mutch was defeated as an Independent Labor candidate in 1927 but returned to the Legislative Assembly in 1938, as the UAP Member for Coogee. Later, Mutch resigned from the UAP and was defeated in 1941. Tom Mutch died at Coogee in 1958.

**Leonie Maher**  
Administrative Assistant



When Tom Mutch was an alderman for the Mascot Municipal Council from 1923-1930, he would have attended meetings and functions at these buildings. Taken in 1938 by Sam Hood, this photograph shows Mascot Town Hall in the foreground and Coronation Hall and the former council chambers in the background. The Town Hall was designed in the Victorian Italianate style by C. Hawkins, built by Edward Christie, and opened by the Mayor, Ald. James Coward on 2 August 1890. It once stood facing Botany Road on the corner of Coward Street. The photograph is from the collection of the State Library of New South Wales.

# A TRIBUTE TO THE AREA'S SPORTING HEROS

## BOWLS



Mascot Bowling Club Opening 10 July 1954

Bowls was among one of the first sports introduced into Botany when the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel provided bowls to amuse visitors. No club was formed but the game was played on the hotel lawn as a means of amusement.

In 1928, an unsuccessful attempt was made to establish a bowling club at Mascot Memorial Park such that until the foundation of the Mascot Bowling Club in 1945, the only bowls in the area was played on private greens constructed by industrial firms such as Gelco, Australian Wool Producers, the Transport Department, and Boral.



A site known as Possum Paddock was purchased for the greens and clubhouse of Mascot Bowling Club and from its inception, the club made remarkable progress and successfully turned unsightly sandhills into beautiful greens and gardens. With the growth and development of the Club, the imposing clubhouse\* was opened in 1954 with all modern conveniences necessary for the comfort of club members.

The members ranged from beginners to experienced and skillful players such as Roger Moyle and J Montgomery, part of a fours team, who reached the final of the 1963 national titles. The club also won two metropolitan pennants.

\*Now the site of Flower Power Garden Centre, Mascot.

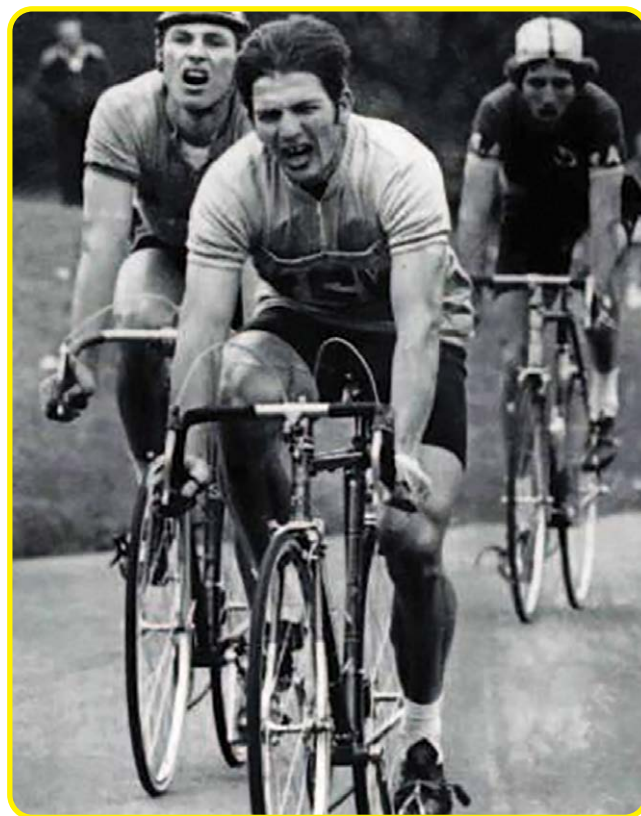
## CYCLING

In the early 1900s, long distance road races did much to encourage the formation of clubs such as the Botany Amateur Cycling Club, which was founded in 1903 with headquarters in a shop near the corner of Botany Road and King Street.

The old Botany tram colors, half green, half white, were adopted as the club colours. Alf Bridges was the first captain. Races commenced at the Newmarket Hotel and were generally of three types, short races to Rosebery Racecourse, middle distance to Bunnerong Road and long events to Matraville Public School and back.

There is no doubt that the Club's most accomplished cyclist was Richard Paris, who won the State 1,000-metre trial and the 4,000-metre pursuit championships several times in succession. Richard Paris was national champion in these events and represented Australia at the Tokyo Olympics.

His crowning glory came at the 1974 Commonwealth Games in Christchurch where he won the time trial track event. Paris raced at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics and in the 1970 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh.



Dick Paris

# ATHLETICS

Charles Samuel (also Sambo Combo, c.1864–1912) was a Kamilaroi man and talented runner. He was acclaimed as an Australian champion and among the best sprinters of his time. Charles' best performance was over 134 yards in 12.5 seconds at Botany in 1888, which was dubbed as an Australian record.

In 1907 the Botany Harriers were founded at an inaugural meeting at Siddins' small shop on the corner of Botany Road and Bay Street. Within a year, the Club had won the long-distance teams' championships and maintained an unbeaten record until 1916 when the war forced a postponement of competitions for three years.

In the 1920's the Club recruited schoolboys from St Joseph's College and began to dominate in track and field events. Ladies' and junior boy's sections were added in 1926 with L Geoff, A MacDonald and C Kennedy and E Evans (ladies) selected to represent Australia in the British Empire Games of 1938.



The Botany Harriers



From 1945, clubs began to sponsor schoolboy championships to develop the sport, however with no secondary schools in the area until 1961, Botany Harriers could not participate and this resulted in their amalgamation with the Randwick-Kensington Harriers in 1959. Every athletic club desires their own track, so Randwick-Botany leased an old tip site from Botany Council. Today, this is Hensley Athletics Field.

The newly amalgamated Club had its own local ground and clubhouse.

Notable athletes from the Club include John Russell, who competed in the marathon at the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games and the 1958 Commonwealth Games in Cardiff. Allan Lawrence, Ron Crawford, and Gary Knoke competed at the Olympic Games in Rome, Tokyo and Mexico City. Gary Knoke and Jim McCann went to the Commonwealth Games in 1962 and 1966. Gary Knoke also competed at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games. Tony Manning won the Steeplechase at the Edinburgh Commonwealth Games in 1970.



Allen Lawrence receiving his Bronze Medal at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics



Jane Saville, a former member of the Randwick-Botany Harriers and probably Australia's best female walker, competed in the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, the 2000 Olympics in Sydney and won the bronze medal in the 20km Walk in the 2004 Athens Olympics.

Jane Saville

# CRICKET

Cricket was played in NSW almost from the inception of the colony. In 1893, the NSW Cricket Association introduced district cricket competitions and Botany became part of the South Sydney District. Local cricketers played in various grades in that association. In 1913, a further revision of the districts occurred that led to Botany being included with Randwick and it has remained part of their district ever since.

One of the most outstanding cricketers from Botany was Jack Chegwyn, who played for Randwick for a period of thirty years and gained state selection. Other notable Botany residents to gain interstate cricket honours were Len Livingstone, who later played in North Hampshire in England and W. Beath.

Sadly, no Botany resident has achieved international honors in cricket, however it is interesting to note that test cricketer, Frank Mitchell from Rosebery was a product of Knox Club, a junior team from Booralee Park.



Jack Chegwyn

To facilitate growth in the sport, Botany Council constructed wickets in Booralee Park and Jellicoe Park. The South Sydney Cricket club has enjoyed many successes over the years including winning the Archibald Cawsey Shield, the Harold Moore Shield and the Daily Telegraph Shield.

David Phillips Field at Daceyville is the home of the UNSW Cricket Club.



# SOCCER



Johnny Warren

Banksmeadow Rovers was an outstanding soccer team of the 1930s which used Booralee Park as its headquarters. In 1938, the Rovers were undefeated first grade premiers, having won twelve matches and drawn two, scoring 78 goals and only conceding ten.

The post WWII years saw tremendous development in the code due to migration that brought an influx of players from England, Scotland and other European strongholds of the sport. One interesting story is that in the summer of 1950, a group of young Czechs were amusing themselves with a football and caught the attention of English sportsman Jimmy Chalwin.

As a result, the Prague Club was formed, which attracted a variety of nationalities as well as local lads. In 1957, the Club transferred to the Sydney Athletic Field and a permanent headquarters was established at Hillsdale Shopping Centre on Bunnerong Road.

Probably the biggest star to come through the ranks was Johnny Warren, who started playing club football for the Botany Methodists Club at the age of five.

Like most Australian kids, Johnny played a range of sports at school but was nicknamed "Wog Warren" because he played soccer. Warren, a midfielder, quickly rose through the ranks and at the age of 16 joined the NSW State League.

A young Australian Team captained by Warren travelled to Vietnam in 1967 to play in a national day soccer tournament. In tough weather conditions, Australia moved through the group rounds undefeated and in winning the final were the first Australian soccer team to win an international tournament. Warren was also part of the first Australian team to qualify for and compete in the 1974 FIFA World Cup.



**George Lundy**



**Deputy Mayor James Macdonald, Councillor Christina Curry, Ron Hoenig MP and Bayside Mayor Joe Awada**

We cannot mention soccer without paying tribute to Pagewood Soccer Club's stalwart George Lundy, who sadly passed away last year. George lived and breathed football and no doubt fostered a love of soccer in many local kids. He was full of generosity, with a great sense of humour and was always willing to help others.

Bayside Mayor Joe Awada unveiled the new George Lundy Sports Field at Jellicoe Park on Saturday 15 May.

Bayside Council's decision to rename the sporting field at Jellicoe Park in Pagewood ensures George Lundy's sporting legacy lives on.

"I am honoured to be here to pay tribute to one of Bayside's finest," said Cr Awada.

"When it was proposed to name the sporting fields within Jellicoe Park in honour of George, Bayside Councillors did not hesitate. It was a resounding yes from all of us."

Lundy was well known in the soccer community, not just in Bayside, but throughout New South Wales.

He was the heart and soul of the Pagewood Botany Football Club.

Under George's leadership, the Pagewood Botany Football Club formed a close working relationship with the Windgap Foundation, to create opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in sport.



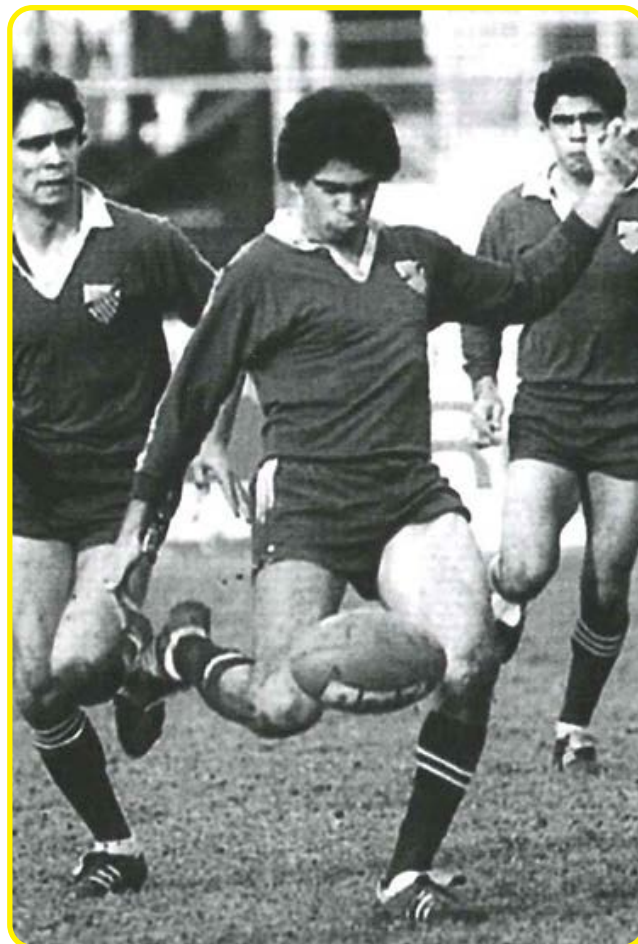
**Kathleen Lundy (wife of George), Mayor Joe Awada (left), Cr Christina Curry and Deputy Mayor James Macdonald (on the right)**



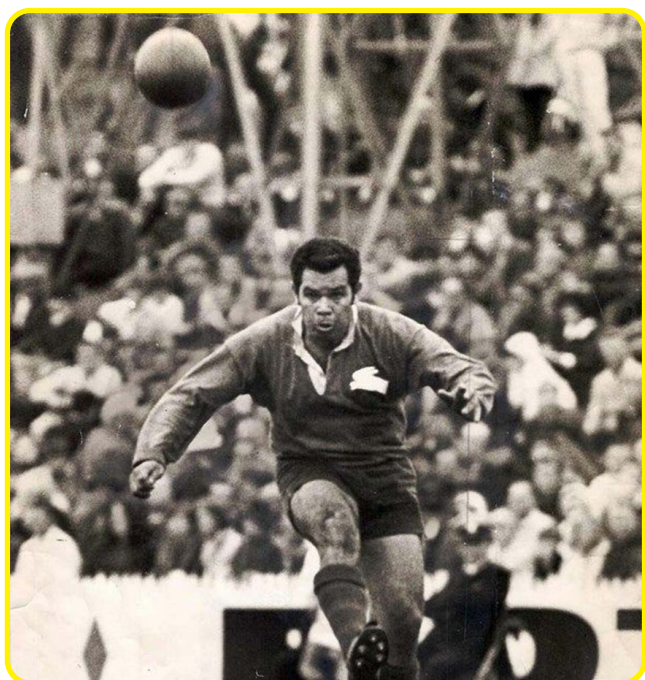
# RUGBY LEAGUE & RUGBY UNION

Bruce “Larpa” Stewart was a Rugby League player in the 1960s. As a La Perouse local, he earned the nickname “Larpa”. Stewart played for South Sydney in the junior and lower grades before joining Eastern Suburbs in 1967, where he scored 10 tries from his 24 appearances. He also represented NSW Country Firsts. Mark Ella is considered one of Australia's all-time greats. He played 25 tests for Australia and when he captained the Wallabies from 1982, he became the first Aboriginal person to ever captain an Australian sporting team.

Mark was one of the inaugural inductees into the Australian Rugby Union Hall of Fame in 2005 and inducted into the International Rugby Hall of Fame in 1997. Ella retired in his mid-20s. Mark Ella was one of 12 children. His twin Glen and brother Gary had similarly illustrious rugby careers, all representing Australia in Rugby Union. Their sister, Marcia Ella-Duncan, represented Australia in Netball.



Mark Ella



Eric Simms played Rugby League for South Sydney in the 1960s and 1970s. He played 206 first-grade games, scoring 1,843 points during his career. Simms holds numerous records. In 1969, he broke the record for the most points scored in a Sydney Rugby League Premiership season with 265, a record not to be broken for more than 10 years. Apparently, his skill with the boot brought his side so many field goals that the lawmakers downgraded their value from two points to one.

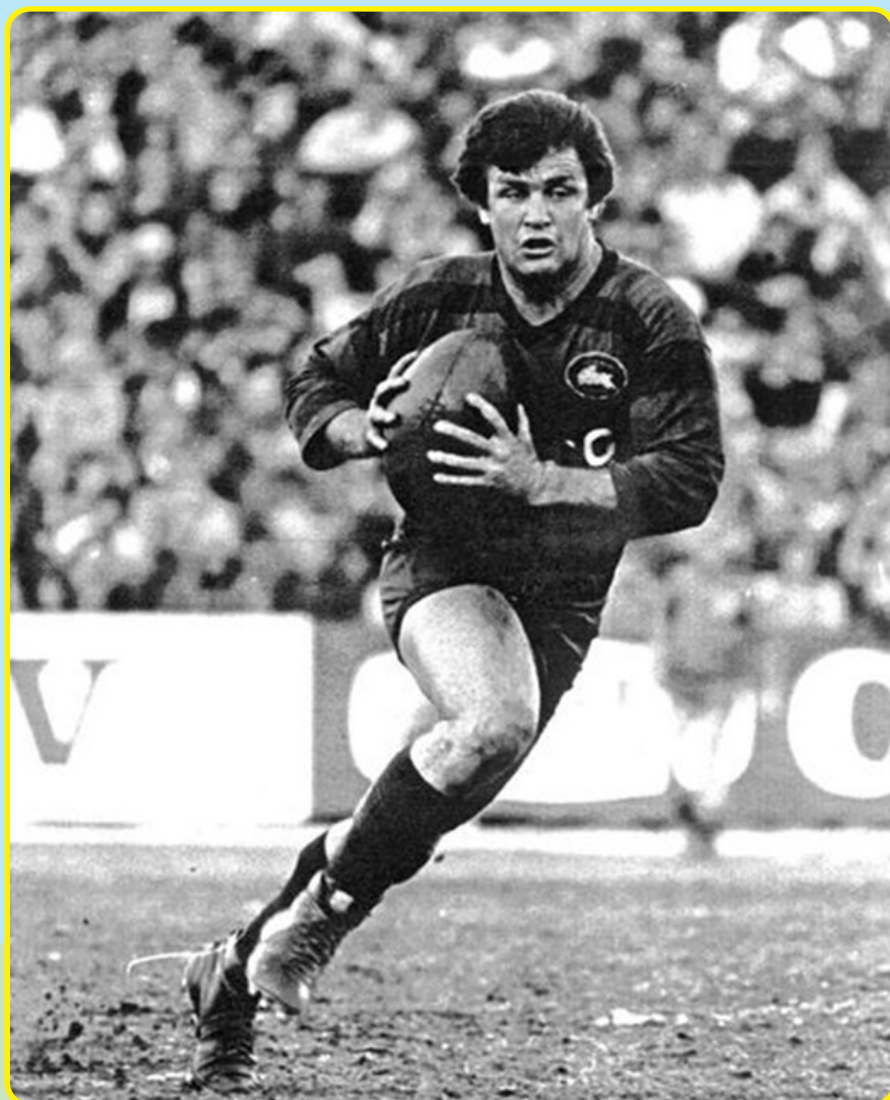
Eric Simms

# THE BOTANY RAMS

The Botany Rams operated for over 75 years under the names of Botany United and Botany RSL before becoming Botany Juniors (Rams). Henry Morris was President of Botany prior to his appointment as President of Souths Juniors. Their first A Grade premiership was in 1922 when they played in the South Sydney District Junior Rugby Football League. Notable players and coaches include Mario Fenech, Cameron McInnes and Steve Mavin.

Once a wharf labourer from Mascot, George Piggins is an Australian Rugby League great and a former player, coach and administrator at South Sydney Rabbitohs. He commenced playing in the Premiership's first grade in 1967 but was left out of the finals because of star player Elwyn Walters. In 1971, Piggins played a superb game in the grand final when Walters was injured and finally established his first-grade berth for good.

Piggins excelled such that he played for NSW and the following year, despite Souths finishing last in the League, Piggins' toughness saw him represent Australia three times in the 1975 World Series.



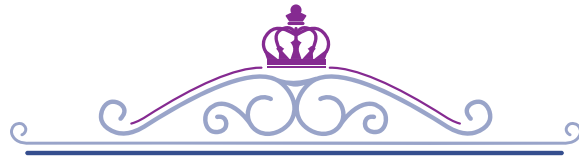
George Piggins

## POSTSCRIPT

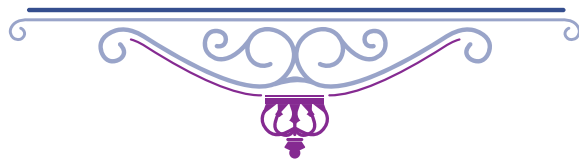
It is not possible to cover all sports in one article e.g., Golf, Tennis, Netball, Basketball and other "Footie" Clubs like the Mascot Jets (Junior League) and Pagewood Botany Soccer, not to mention pony and horse racing. More female sport is also needed but all these will be for later newsletters.

**Leonie Maher**  
Administrative Assistant





# GOING TO SCHOOL IN DACEYVILLE



## BACKGROUND



In May, the BHT President and Ms Kirsten Broderick, Bayside Council's Community History Librarian, were invited to talk to students from Daceyville Public School. The School is celebrating its centenary this year and has scheduled a magnificent program of events to mark the occasion. One wonderful, whole school program is called Project-Based Learning in which students in stages 1, 2 and 3 focus on a significant aspect of their school's history.

Happy students (circa 1960)



On May 18, Kirsten and I met with *Wattle*, *Lemon Myrtle*, *Scribbly Gum* and *Mahogany* (Kindy and Year 1) and on May 20 with *Lilly Pilly*, *Bluebell* and *Bottlebrush* (Years 5 and 6) and their amazing teachers.

Kirsten brought some fabulous photos of the building of Daceyville and of the school. The older children, in particular, were familiar with these photos and very knowledgeable and questioning about the history of the “Model Suburb” while the very young ones could not believe that IT and ‘toys’ such as Xboxes were not around 100 years ago. Many were aghast! By far the most popular photos were those of the dreadful slum conditions in the first years of Federation, which prompted the creation of Daceyville. The highlight, if that is the best word, was the picture of a cracked and thoroughly revolting outside toilet in Paddington and the stories to be told about the famous “Dunny Men” of those days.



The years 5 and 6 students are producing a book about their school and were keen to learn about researching such a project. They wanted to know about sources and evidence, provenance, bias, reliability and perspective; they were anxious to make their book engaging and interesting. The older students were also very interested in what it took to become an historian, especially an historian in a specific job such as Community History Librarian. Kirsten was absolutely the right person to answer these questions!

Our talks with Daceyville's students were a delight and both Kirsten and I are very much looking forward to the work they will produce later this year. To celebrate their centenary, Daceyville Public School is the subject of the following short article.



School yard gathering (circa 1950)

## A BRIEF HISTORY



The construction of Dacey Gardens Model Suburb began in June 1912. Ambitious plans were envisaged for several types of educational institutions, including a technical college. The outbreak of World War I in August 1914, with its devastating social, political and economic consequences meant this grand vision was never realised. No technical college or high school was to be built in Daceyville.

The Public School, Dacey Gardens Suburb June 1914





The development of the new suburb created the need for schools both public and denominational. As a result, in 1913, the relevant NSW Minister was asked to establish a public school in Daceyville.

At first only an infants school was approved but when this proved inadequate, the Minister for Public Instruction, Mr Ambrose Campbell Carmichael in consultation with the NSW Housing Board, approved a five and a half acre site fronting Isaac Smith Street, Astrolabe Road and Gardeners Road, Daceyville.

In January 1913 the NSW Housing Board also offered Archbishop Michael Kelly, Archbishop of Sydney, a parcel of land facing Haig Avenue for development of a school by the Catholic Church, though the offer was not taken up till 1919. The Parish Convent School opened in 1924.



School yard gathering (circa 1950)

The last school built in Daceyville was St Michael's College for Boys on Banks Avenue, which was run by the Marist Brothers and opened in 1954. Both Catholic primary schools amalgamated in 1993 forming St Michael's Catholic Primary School.

## Daceyville Public School: Virtue and Faith

Daceyville Public School was approved as an infants' school in 1913. It opened in 1914 with a double-roomed portable classroom at the western end of the still being constructed suburb. The first teacher at Daceyville Infants School was Miss L. Bass. By June 1914, enrolments had grown to 38 pupils, with an attendance of about 80%.

The first wall is completed circa 1950





By 1916, enrolments had almost tripled and a primary school was approved but because of financial constraints caused by World War I, just two rooms were added instead. In 1917, primary school status was given and a Mr McKean appointed the first headmaster.

The original site had become both unsuitable and untenable as enrolments topped 200 pupils. More and more families with children were moving into the area. The 'original' and expanded infants school was also on the western fringe of the suburb and not at all central to where the main intake of pupils lived in Daceyville and neighbouring South Kensington, today's suburb of Kingsford.

In 1920, a new site of similar size was chosen between Joffre Crescent and Rowland Park, bordered by Bunnerong Road to the east and Banks Avenue to the west. The new school, built at the cost then of £18,000, was designed to accommodate 576 pupils and a kindergarten but in little more than a year, the new school again proved too small.

In 1925, eight new classrooms were added at the cost of almost £7,000, to house another 388 pupils and attendance continued to grow.



**The Minister for Education, the Hon R.J. Heffron and guests on the veranda of the completed building circa 1950.**

In the same year, 1925, the headmaster, Mr Keating, and the new P&C requested that cookery and manual training classes be introduced. By the late 1920s, there were 132 boys and almost as many girls in sixth class, roughly the enrolment numbers of the whole Daceyville Public School today!

From c. 1938 till the 1960s, Daceyville Public School was the largest primary school in the Botany Council area, being superseded by Matraville Public School only after the building of the new suburb of Hillsdale.

Daceyville Public School flourished from its 'official' beginning in 1921.

The School's flagpole is an acknowledgement of Daceyville becoming a Soldier Settlement suburb in the latter years of World War I. It is actually the flagpole of *HMAS Parramatta*, one of the ships acquired from Britain in the years before World War I, as an important and original vessel of the infant Royal Australian Navy.



**Reading time circa 1960**



The cookery and manual training classes continued up until the introduction of the Wyndham Scheme in 1967, a scheme that would revolutionise secondary education in NSW.

Previously, primary education had been much the same for decades, with children being assessed in sixth class and then sent to academic/selective, second tier Academic, Domestic Science and Technical/Trade High Schools, based on their academic potential at the time. Some schools like Daceyville retained a trades component (woodwork, metalwork, cooking, millinery) for those students not interested or perhaps deemed not suited to primarily academic education. They were instead trained for useful employment. The Wyndham Scheme with its democratisation of education, i.e. all students doing basically the same courses up until the end of Year 10, changed all that.

Other interesting facets to education at Daceyville Public School were the Dental Clinic, to which students from neighbouring schools including Catholic were invited, some might say compelled, to attend and often suffer at the hands of trainee dentists!

**Class time (circa 1960)**



**Lunch time (circa 1960)**

Music was also always a strong feature of the School. Mr Fred Royal, long term bandmaster, was deservedly famous and popular, widely known and respected for leading the Daceyville Brass Band.

Members of this Band played at the White House during a tour of the United States in the 1990s. There is also the well-known Battle of the Bands in which the School has long played a significant and successful role.

For many years, Daceyville like many public schools lacked the amenity of a hall and on occasion would use the first PCYC in General Bridges Crescent, originally the Dacey Gardens Community Centre.

The old Police Boys' Club was the victim of arson but has been replaced by Foggitt House, an architecturally sympathetic DOH residence. Thanks to Peter Garrett, MP for Kingsford Smith and Minister for Education in the Rudd Government Daceyville, like hundreds of Australian schools, received a magnificent multi-purpose hall, the centre now of so many school activities.

Daceyville has also had its share of well known students, too many to name but Ron Hoenig MP for Heffron, Botany's longest serving Mayor and Founder and Patron of the Botany Historical Trust was one of them.

Uniform, neatness and cleanliness were always important but photos from the early days show children in street wear, often without shoes. Learning and methods have changed dramatically. "Chalk and Talk" remain but IT generated and even self-managed learning are increasingly important in this media age.

Sport remains central to school life but lifestyle and fitness are also promoted. Games are more likely to be video than fly, knuckles, fiddlesticks and marbles.



Inkwells are gone, now items of curiosity and children no longer endure the multiplicity of subjects and tests as in the early days. The dreaded cane and strap have long disappeared along with punishment books, I suspect. On a less happy note, security fences are now deemed essential.



Teachers (circa 1960)



The School Band (circa 1960)

Daceyville Public School has been an outstanding educational resource from its foundation years. In 2021 it celebrates a centenary of achievements and most importantly, its wonderful students, teachers, parents, carers and alumni.

3rd Class 1961

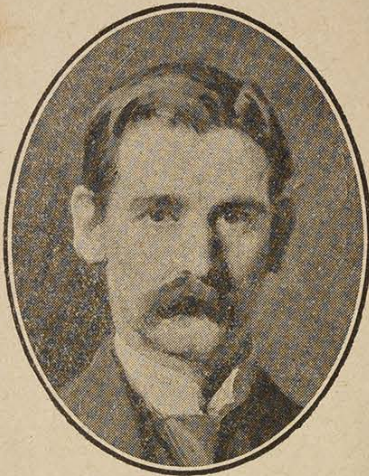


◆ ◆ ◆  
**EXCELLENCE  
OPPORTUNITY  
SUCCESS**  
◆ ◆ ◆

**Anne-Maria Slattery**  
BHT President and former  
Daceyville school student



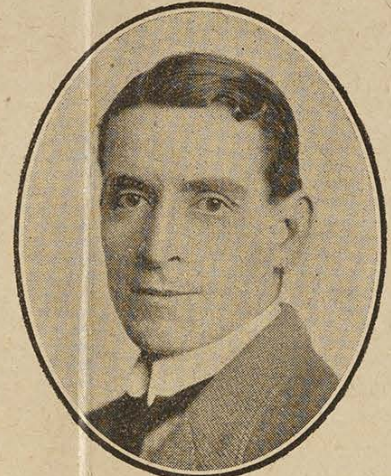
# A Letter from Henry Lawson



HENRY LAWSON

*(From the painting by Longstaff, in the National Art Gallery)*

Australia's greatest writer—  
Author of "While the Billy Boils," "In the Days when the World was Wide," and other Stories and Verse



TOM MUTCH

## TO THE ELECTORS OF BOTANY.

Fellow Citizens,

I wish to say a few words in favor of the candidature of my old travelling mate and stationary friend, Tom Mutch.

In the first place, I would like to state that I don't agree with his politics at all—not a politic. As a matter of fact, I don't agree with ANYBODY'S politics—but I'm not alone with mates in that respect. I don't suppose that Tom could possibly have an opinion but I'd hold the opposite.

But he has carried his swag with me, and was, and is, the straightest mate I ever had; and I made him smoke a pipe—and once got two medium beers into him consecutively. It took me three years to do these things; and, now, I reckon I ought to have a say in his affairs.

Tom and I could not possibly have more opposite views on the Drink Question. He kept me dry for six weeks, one year; so I ought to know.

During that six weeks we had a four days' tramp over the sandhills (or rather sand-mountains) to Cape Howe, and only had two days' rations with us. Though he had been a real station-hand and a swagman, he took pyjamas in his swag. He had directly opposite ideas to mine as to how much baking powder ought to go to the Johnny-cake; and he had as much sense of direction as a hen—I reckoned!—and would flutter off as obstinately as that reptile in the opposite direction to that in which I, of course, KNEW we should go to reach our next night's camp. AND WE GOT THROUGH WITHOUT A ROW! If that isn't a test of mateship, I don't know what is.

He is so darned obstinate that the last time he shanghaied me (from Melbourne this time into the Sydney express), I sat for two hours in the carriage admiring him argue alleged points with another political enthusiast, and let the last possible refreshment station go by.

In conclusion, I want to say again that Tom Mutch is the Straightest Mate I, or anyone else ever had; and if he says he's going to do a thing, he's going to do it all right.

But, wrong or right, I want you to put him in, because he's My Mate, and because I want to get Tom merry, just once, on election night. I want to have a real night out with Tom just once before I die.

Yours truly  
Henry Lawson



The Worker Print, Sydney.





BHT  
Botany Historical Trust

[www.bayside.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bayside.nsw.gov.au)

