



Inside this issue:

Presidents Piece Cont..	2
Research Summary	3
The Old Bay Theatre	4
The Ghost of Scarborough Fair	5
Redcliffe Museum Exhibition	6
Christmas Festival of Trees	6
Lock & Lake at Newport	7
In the Papers	8
Motor Racing Australia	9
Photos	10
The Great Northern Garden of Remembrance	11
Committee Member Contact	12
For Your Diary	13

*History Redcliffe aims to*  
*Research -*  
*Collect -*  
*Evaluate -*  
*Preserve -*  
*Inform -*  
*Promote -*  
*Honour -*  
**Redcliffe's History**

**PRESIDENT'S PIECE**

I hope this Newsletter finds you well and enjoying the Festive Season. Another year is nearly behind us and I hope it has been a successful and enjoyable one for our members. It certainly has been for our Society as we have had very enjoyable guest speakers at our general meetings which have been mostly well attended by our members. In addition the sale of our medallions has been on going and the sale of our newly published book Then and Now continues to do well. The Museum has been the source of most of our sales since the initial sale of the book at the launch in September at the Museum. Initially about two hundred books were printed with the cost being covered by the Bendigo Bank to which we are very grateful. We are now in the position of considering if more should be printed and if so how many should we order?

On a sad note I would like to pass on our condolences to the Tong family for the loss of their son Ian. The loss of a son or daughter would have to be one of the most difficult emotions in life to manage and I hope time will help to heal the pain that such a dreadful loss inflicts.

As mentioned previously the launch of our book Then and Now went well thanks to our committee for organising matters and Darryl Baker for a good presentation on matters mentioned in our book. The launch was well attended with about one hundred people enjoying the launch.

This week we have our Christmas party in the place of our regular meeting. There will be the usual Trivia Quiz and possibly a Christmas Quiz as well. Janet Franklin will lead us with the singing of some Christmas carols. I am sure most of you will know the words but to make life easier the words of the carols will be handed out to members. There will be something to nibble on as well plus the usual tea and coffee. I am hoping that we all will have an enjoyable time.

Next year our meetings will be held as much as possible at the Library Meeting rooms. There are a couple of months where we could not book our usual meeting room but this time we will still be in the Library complex but in a different room. The committee thought that this would be easier on our members to stay in the same complex instead of hiring a room as we did before in the Cultural Centre. We will advise you weeks before of our General Meeting of the new proposed meeting room.

Some of our members would be aware that our Society gifted one of our first medallions to Kay Cottee in recognition of her solo effort of sailing around the world. It was also on the request of one of our Patrons Marle Juster that the bridge on Griffith Road crossing the Albatross Canal was named after her. Kay rang me last week to apologise for not responding to the receipt of the gift. She was very pleased to receive the medallion and greatly appreciated our gesture. Her lack of secretarial skills was the reason she gave for the oversight and asked our Society to except her apology.

Continued page 2

## PRESIDENT'S PIECE CONTINUED

In October Cheryl Salisbury and I attended the Open Day at the Great Northern Garden of Remembrance in Tallowood Drive Deception Bay. It was a fine day unlike last year where there were a lot of showers during the day. There were the usual free ice creams and hamburgers plus the opportunity to wander through the Crematorium. Music was provided by the same person who played the bagpipes last year but this time he stood further away from the front entrance and it was very enjoyable. Once again the Caboolture Choir in their purple outfits sang in the Chapel around lunch time. Attendances were a little down on last year but those who attended appeared to enjoy themselves. We had a good display of historical photos and brochures and many visitors enjoyed the display.

In closing I would like to thank the members of our committee for working harmoniously together to keep History Redcliffe operating well and continuing to record the history of our time. Thanks to the watchful eye of our Treasurer Pat Spillman we are continuing to operate well financially and with the continuing sale of our medallions our future looks bright.

Please remember that History Redcliffe are having an Australia Day BBQ at Waters Edge 36 Woodcliffe Crescent, Woody Point at Middy. Access to the BBQ area will be along the right hand or southern side of the building and by the time you arrive you should be able to see our tents erected in the area abutting Moreton Bay. Please bring your own chair, meat and salads.

I hope you and your family have a healthy and happy Festive Season and may the wind always be behind you to ease your way along life's path.



**LICENSED SURVEYORS & DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS**

**WD**  **Surveys**

**Errol Deller**

15 Anzac Avenue  
PO Box 548  
Redcliffe Qld 4020  
mail@wdsurveys.com.au  
www.wdsurveys.com.au

**T 3284 1466**  
**M 0408 723 150**

# RESEARCH SUMMARY..SEP-DEC 2018

## Requests.....

Information about Mary Cox the 3<sup>rd</sup> baby born in Penal Settlement 1 March 1825....contact with a direct descendant in Melbourne resulted in a visit to the Peninsula and a photo and documents relating to Mary supplied to the Redcliffe Local History section of the Library

**Request from a 'North Queensland' requesting contact with family of Thomas and Maria Robertson was successful**

Information supplied on Jacob Pearen

History of the Gynther family-supplied in brief

**First newsagent in Redcliffe... a Mr Bellgrove owned the building which was leased by Mr W Rogers in 1926.**

A visitor to the Museum was supplied with information on Dr Nettie MacKenzie

**Closure of The Bay Theatre?.....the following was supplied.....**

**SCARBOROUGH THEATRE.....reference: KINO...journal of the Australian Theatre Historical Society...March 1993 number 43, and various Redcliffe Herald articles and advertisements.**

Page 13...BAY THEATRE...In 1954, Messrs Londy and Kallos built the new Bay Theatre at Scarborough. It opened on 2 December with Paramount's *Knock on Wood*, starring Danny Kaye and Mai Zetterling; followed by Paramount's *Houdini* with Tony Curtis and Janet Leigh on December 3 and 4, supported by Fred MacMurray in *Republic's Fair Wind to Java*.

The Bay closed on Saturday February 4 1961 with Fox's *Beloved Infidel*, starring Deborah Kerr and Gregory Peck, supported by *There's Always a Thursday* with Jill Ireland. The cinema was reopened for a short time in 1969 by a Mr Morton, with *Camelot*, the star-studded Warner Brothers musical, on May 9. This was a **gala premiere in aid of the Queensland Spastic Welfare League....admission \$1 on premiere Night only.** The official opening was performed by the Mayor of Redcliffe Alderman Cecil Kroll. The RSL and Municipal Band heralded the arrival of patrons and they were greeted by the current Miss Peninsula, Miss Robyn Roberts and by entrants in this year's Miss Australia Quest who acted as usherettes. It closed again on 7 July. Prior to the building offered for sale in 1993, an auction notice for 21<sup>st</sup> September 1985 appeared in the Redcliffe Herald.



Photo by Ian Harding 2003

Also refer story by Rodd Sherwin in this issue.

Footnote: At a cost close to \$3 million dollars, the Redcliffe Community Centre in Downs Street was officially opened with a gala concert on Thursday 28 October **1982** at 8pm by Mayor Ray Frawley. It serves the region as a movie theatre as well as catering for all cultural activities.

# THE OLD BAY THEATRE—SCARBOROUGH FAIR ART GALLERY

By Rodd Sherwin

Through the ten years as the Scarborough Fair Art Gallery so many patrons recounted their childhood and early years in the days when the Redcliffe Peninsula was the most popular holiday destination.

During the Christmas holidays the Scarborough waterfront was crowded with tents and campers and the principal holiday hubs were the old Scarborough Hotel and a walk across Landsborough Avenue to take in a matinee or the main evening screening of the latest movie at the Bay Theatre. In its time the cinema boasted the largest screen in the region. During that time arose the phenomenon of the Ghost of an old Sea Dog who is reputed to have periodically appeared from behind the screen and settled to sit in the front rows of the theatre.

With the development of the Gold Coast, Redcliffe lost its lustre as a holiday spot and the advent of television contributed to the decline of the suburban movie theatre. The theatre closed and at one time was used as a church.

This brief history was revealed to me during the months I spent adapting this space for its life as an Art Gallery. A gentleman (whose name escapes me) would call in to reminisce – That he and his wife had restored the old movie theatre to life and for several more years the neighbourhood was again entertained by the silver screen.

In telling of the Ghost, he commented on the 'palpable presence' he often felt when closing and shutting down the lights after the night show. Certainly, I sometimes imagined the same atmosphere when alone after one of the many evening events held by the Scarborough Fair Art Gallery.

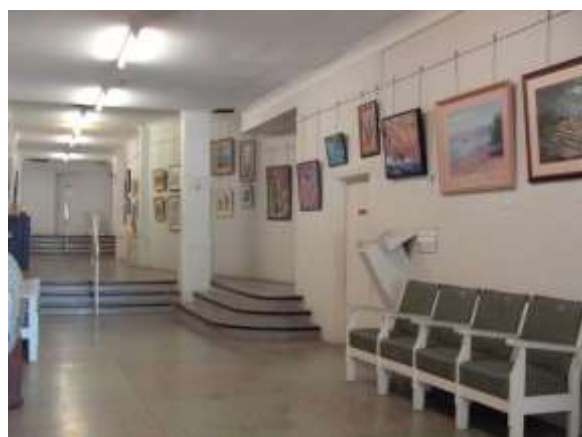
The theatre was not in use when I discovered it hidden behind a partition wall that closed off the foyer and the cinema auditorium. It had last been used as a 'Blue Light Discotheque' and the layout of this conversion provided the platforms which became our main display areas. The tiered seating that remained at the rear of the old cinema created the ideal venue for special exhibitions and a variety of other cultural activities.

I believe it was at the beginning of the Disco era that the projection equipment was removed and reinstalled in premises in Sutton Street near BEE GEES WAY.\* Here they showed vintage movies and other cinematic memorabilia was on display.

In the search for suitable premises to locate a modest art gallery, I heard about the Old Scarborough Bay Theatre and was amazed when I uncovered and explored this fantastic space and a grander concept for a large versatile community gallery evolved. Although there were doubters, Tricia Reust was one who from this beginning saw the potential and shared the vision of what was to come. So with the trusty hammer, saw and electric drill, work began in May 1994 to culminate with the opening of the Scarborough Fair Art Gallery in November of the same year. By then we had attracted the interest and participation of about 40 exhibiting local artists.

In its heyday the gallery hosted a total of 80 local and regional artists displaying works in every form and genre. The Gallery was also home to the Peninsula Poets and regular exhibitions were held by feature artists including an annual schools exhibition. Among other functions held at the gallery were evenings of music and song, even drama including – 'A Greek Tragedy' staged by a school theatrical group and a week of 'Cabaret' featuring 'The Rocky Horror Show'.

The icon that was The Scarborough Fair Art Gallery was made possible by the tireless efforts of the volunteer artists, too numerous to give personal mention. Special note however, must be given to Tricia Reust and the indomitable late Sid Pennycott, - the combined effort of that entire team resulted in the gallery receiving a special Australian Day Cultural Award.



Promotion of this hidden gem was a continual challenge, given boost through the later efforts of the Peninsula's very own 'Culture Vulture', Richard Lancaster. Try as we may, no one seemed prepared for what lay behind the modest entrance and the standard comment when folk ventured through the foyer into the cavernous expanse of the old auditorium with its proscenium intact – 'I didn't know it was like this, it's like a magic Aladdin's Cave'.

With the turn of the century, the Gallery continued on under the guise of the Scarborough Fair Arts Association Inc and for those interested, the novel touch of the 'Scarborough Fair Art & Wine Coterie'. The challenge of supporting seven days a week, manning, finance, organisation and maintenance of this grand old facility eventually overwhelmed the key group of volunteers and with great sadness Scarborough Fair Art Gallery finally closed its doors in December 2004. Last time I saw that familiar old auditorium, it was shrouded in dust, once again hidden behind a walled partition with the old Ghost left to roam his halls undisturbed.

\* 1995- Redcliffe Picture Palace-151 Sutton Street at the rear of Peter Goed's printery

# THE GHOST OF SCARBOROUGH FAIR

From whence he came, we do not know  
Or what happened here, so long ago  
The tale no doubt, though quite sincere  
Was how he ventured to appear  
One night, when the house lights were low  
In the middle of some epic picture show  
A seaman's figure, ghostly white  
Rose up through the filtered light  
A Phantom, no part of the theme  
Nor more a part of any dream.

With passing time, the story told  
Of how, this familiar ghost made bold  
For often was the spectral vision seen  
Wafting down from back of screen  
Down the stairs, across the floor  
And front row seated, twenty four.  
Shrouded there, he quietly stayed  
Until the feature movie played  
And although seen often on such nights  
He vanished, ere turned up the lights.  
In turn the cinema era passed  
As had his days before the mast.  
The movie crowds soon went away  
For television was here to stay  
And the ancient mariner's home  
Was abandoned, for his soul alone to roam.  
Other mortals, came and went  
His portals for their purpose lent  
Not one of them, at all aware  
Of the eerie presence lingering there.

The wheel of time again revolved  
And a new picture show inside, evolved  
The theatre atmosphere intact  
Restored the aura, it had lacked.

The environment was again just right  
To rouse him, from his torpid plight  
While two painters on a visit here  
Enticed the apparition to appear.  
It was no shadow on the wall  
But a figure drifting slowly down the hall.

Whatever those two artists saw  
Left them standing there, in awe  
And what they later both described  
Matched the story here prescribed  
For any time his spirit stirred  
the ghostly footsteps could be heard.  
With such insight, we thought it best  
To lay his fitful soul to rest  
And so at last, put back his chair  
For he's now the Ghost of Scarborough Fair.

Rodd Sherwin

Rodd personally started and fitted out the Gallery and was the Director until it became the Scarborough Fair Arts Association Inc. and Tricia Reust became the Chairperson.

## REDCLIFFE MUSEUM EXHIBITION

The current exhibition at Redcliffe Museum is Smiley comes home: The lives of Colin Petersen. It was opened by the Mayor Allan Sutherland on 24 November and closes on 17 February 2019.

Local musical theatre star Tom Oliver led the Humpybong State School choir in singing "Smiley". Actor and curator of the exhibition was Ron Kelly. Colin was born in Kingaroy and was five when his family moved to Margate and he played the drums in the school band. Fortunately his mother took him to Brisbane for lessons with the renowned drummer Harry Lebler and his musical career developed.



Tom Oliver, Ron Kelly, Colin Petersen and the Mayor Allan Sutherland  
24.11 2018  
Photo by Ian Harding

## CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL OF TREES



Once again History Redcliffe has jumped on board in creating a Christmas tree for **Quota's annual Christmas Festival of Trees**. The festival was held for the third year, this time over two days, Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th December 2018. Thank you to Pat Spillman and Janet Franklin for making this happen. The tree looked great and was covered in fun facts about the history of the Christmas tree. If you are interested you can find out more about the history of the Christmas tree by visiting [www.whychristmas.com/customs/trees](http://www.whychristmas.com/customs/trees)



# LOCK & LAKE AT NEWPORT



22/11/2018 6PM



29/11/2018 2:30PM



4/12/2018 11:30AM

# IN THE PAPERS: CHRISTMAS...AGAIN!

By Fiona Murgatroyd

Two years ago, I compiled some newspaper reports about Christmas on the Peninsula. There were stories of an excursion on the steamer, *Emerald*, the Christmas activities of the **Sunday School of St Mary's, Christmas trees in Woody Point and even a fellow who jumped off a ship for fun (but then couldn't swim ashore)!**

It's that time of year again and I had thought to compile another bunch of fun stories...until I came upon one from exactly 100 years ago. In November this year we remembered the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Great War. A century later we are still conscious of the great toll the First World War took on families. Here is a news story from just a few short weeks after that first armistice as South-East Queenslanders adjust to post-war life and celebrate Christmas again.

## REDCLIFFE

*The Daily Mail, Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December, 1918, p 4.*

Within easy access of the city, Redcliffe has this season, as usual, attracted a large crowd of holiday-makers, more especially of those unable, to indulge in lengthy absence from the city. It is a truly light-hearted crowd which makes merry at Redcliffe this year end—the tragedy of war having passed—and if it past few years, the larger portion of the seaside gathering, it must not be forgotten that the greater body of those who have made such holidays possible still remain overseas. Ideal weather has lent every encouragement to the occasion this year, and with every hotel and boarding-house at Redcliffe full, not to say every dwelling-house occupied, many have been induced to spend their holidays camping out — tents being in occupation along the whole water front right down to Scarborough on the one side and Woody Point and Clontarf on the other.

The steamers Koopa and Beaver carried large complements on all trips, and the crowd was augmented by many parties which came overland by motor car. Perhaps the greatest influx of people took place on Christmas eve. with the closing of the shops in Brisbane. Redcliffe turned out in masses to witness the latest arrivals, so that when everyone had landed the main thoroughfare held a particularly large crowd— in every manner of holiday attire, and in true holiday spirit.

The time passed singularly free of untoward incident. The warmth of the sun manifested itself from the first, and those who had over-indulged in surfing were soon tanned or burned. From early morn till evening the water front was never neglected, and on occasions held big crowds — either bobbing about in the gentle swell or looking on from the foreshore. The bright touches of colour in the costumes of the ladies and their varicoloured bathing caps as they be sported themselves on the warm sands of Sutton Beach, here and there beneath a gaily adorned Oriental umbrella, formed a panorama of contrast associated only with the seaside. Happiness was the keynote alike among the elders as among the children, and cares and worries were cast aside in the enjoyment of the festive season of another year.



# MOTOR RACING AUSTRALIA

## CLOSED CIRCUIT WOODY POINT

### PART 1

While the Hornibrook Highway, just north of Brisbane, was still to be opened in 1935, there was enough built to make holding a sprint and flying-quarter event. This was a privately owned and built road at the time, a vital link to give the Redcliffe Peninsula better access to the Sandgate area and direct roads to the city.

The Hornibrook Highway is a three-kilometre bridge between Clontarf & Brighton, with a road that swept around the northern shore of Bramble Bay to link up with Oxley Avenue, the main north-south road on the Peninsula, at Woody Point. Oxley Avenue was a year later to become the longest straight of the RACQ's 1936 circuit for its 'high speed reliability trial', and both the Hornibrook and Oxley Avenue form the part of the proposal for a circuit in 2001.

So what are the common denominators which bring these things together? Traditionally the Redcliffe area was largely filled with weekenders for Brisbane's better off families. There was some permanent residency, of course, and in the thirties there were market gardens and farms in areas now covered with urban sprawl.

The Council, both then and now, encouraged tourism. There are pleasant beaches, rocky headlands, bayside walks and quiet parks. Today there is a leaning towards retirement dwelling mixed with a graduated class society of younger people—the higher class generally being towards the Scarborough or Northern end. About 50,000 people live on the peninsula.

This is the same basic reason Phillip Island began, and Albany, Gnoo Blas, Southport, Port Elliot-Victor Harbor, and many others across the country.

Local community desires to enhance greater public knowledge of their area and to (hopefully) make money out of the venture.

The RACQ was the major promoter of motor sporting events in the State. They had lobbied the government many times in an bid to have racing allowed on public road circuits without success. It seems that this 'high speed reliability trail' was an attempt to prove that it could be done in safety.

A hopeful lead-in to road racing taking place in Queensland, an extension of the allowance that the powers that be made to permit sprints and speed trails as such places as Myrtle town and Strathpine.

**A look at the enthusiasm of the people of the era is instructive. The two competitors to whom I've spoken are Mal Evans and Gordon Lee. When I made contact with Gordon I asked him, "Do you remember where you were on the first of August, 1936?" Hesitating only briefly he responded, "Well, if that was a Saturday, I would have been at some motor sporting event!"**

Mal's memories of that event and others are fairly clear, despite the advancing years, and while he talks with enthusiasm about those old days, this 81-year-old has just completed assembling a Westfield for occasional forays onto road and track.

These were the people around whom the Queensland Motor Sports Club were built. As the RACQ began to fear third party problems with the various events it held, it encouraged the development of a club that would take that risk away from it. 'Nim' Love and his Alvis, Keith Thallon, big man John Pike, who towered over his Austin 7, Charlie Whatmore, Cam Brodribb, Roy Wedmaier, Harold and Vera Kyne and Robert Winders.

Winders had raced at the Deagon trotting track when events were held in the twenties, later becoming the founding president of the QMSC. His son, Murray was to graduate to a high office in the RACQ in the fifties.

To be continued..

# PHOTOS



To the left - Cheryl Salisbury, Errol Deller & Ted Flack at the Great Northern Garden of Remembrance Open Day



To the right - The Caboolture Choir at the Great Northern Garden of Remembrance Open Day



Follow us on  
**Instagram**

@Historyredcliffe



HISTORY REDCLIFFE



## *Welcome to the Great Northern Garden of Remembrance*

Great Northern Garden of Remembrance (Caboolture & Districts Crematorium) is a public Crematorium and Memorial Garden located at 31 Tallowood Drive, Deception Bay, in South-East Queensland. Our facilities are available for use by all funeral homes and the families of the area.

We are conveniently located on Tallowood Drive, just 2 minutes from the Bruce Highway, making it easily accessible for families from the Moreton Bay Region, Caboolture, Pine Rivers, Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast.

Our facilities, set in 1.8 hectares of beautiful natural bushland, include a 90 seat chapel with a calming water window, a beautiful outdoor chapel surrounded by a running waterways, arrangement and reflection rooms, a fully-catered refreshments area and landscaped gardens with a variety of memorialisation options.

As the facility is bordered by a nature reserve there is an abundance of native animal & bird life including a family of friendly kangaroos, which add to the peacefulness of the whole environment.

Our office is staffed between 8.00am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday, and we are available on weekends by arrangement. The grounds are open to visitors every day. Services can be held in the Chapel between these times and on weekends by prior arrangement. We can be contacted by phoning 07 3888 6622.

We are committed to providing a special environment for visitors to remember their loved ones and quietly reflect on times past.

You are always welcome at Great Northern Garden of Remembrance.

Phone: 07 3888 6622



## COMMITTEE MEMBER CONTACT LIST

PRESIDENT	Errol Deller	3284 1466 - W 0408 723 150 - M	<a href="mailto:errol@wdsurveys.com.au">errol@wdsurveys.com.au</a>
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT	Pat Gee	3203 7969	<a href="mailto:patgee45@gmail.com">patgee45@gmail.com</a>
JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT	Cheryl Salisbury	3284 3444 0408 452 265	<a href="mailto:cheryljsalisbury@gmail.com">cheryljsalisbury@gmail.com</a>
TREASURER	Patricia Spillman	3284 5795 0411 547 004	<a href="mailto:basnpat@optusnet.com.au">basnpat@optusnet.com.au</a>
SECRETARY	Rae Frawley	3284 4296 0429 437 884	<a href="mailto:rae@raeamelda.com">rae@raeamelda.com</a>
COMMITTEE	David Walker	3204 7259	<a href="mailto:happyreturns@bigpond.com">happyreturns@bigpond.com</a>
COMMITTEE	Fiona Murgatroyd	0438 741 827	<a href="mailto:fimur25@gmail.com">fimur25@gmail.com</a>
COMMITTEE	Ann Hanger	3880 0914 0422 285 056	<a href="mailto:dahangerkippa@gmail.com">dahangerkippa@gmail.com</a>
COMMITTEE	Janet Franklin	3889 4195 0490 091 127	<a href="mailto:Janet.r.franklin@gmail.com">Janet.r.franklin@gmail.com</a>

## NEW MEMBERS

It's always a pleasure to welcome new members to our Society.

**Invite a Guest**

## MEETINGS

The Society meets on the second Friday of each month at 2.00 pm either at the Redcliffe Library or at the Terry Walker room of the Cultural Centre, Irene Street, Redcliffe. We feature a guest speaker to cover a wide variety of topics and this is followed by the handling of general business. Afternoon tea is then served. This is a pleasant environment and Members are encouraged to invite friends as a guest. Visitors are made very welcome.

The Annual General Meeting is held in the month of August each year.

For details and the venue of our next meeting, please see "For your Diary" on the back page of this newsletter OR visit "Calendar of Events" on our website [www.redcliffehistoricalsociety.com](http://www.redcliffehistoricalsociety.com)

If undeliverable return to  
History Redcliffe  
PO Box 370  
REDCLIFFE QLD 4020

Sadly the end  
of a long

**2018**

For your Diary

MONTH	DATE/EVENT	GUEST SPEAKER	LOCATION
February	Friday 8th • General Meeting	Pat Gee- The events of WWI	Redcliffe Library meeting rooms
March	Friday 8th • General Meeting	To Be Advised	Redcliffe Library meeting rooms
April	Friday 12th • General Meeting	Jan Nagar Registrar Abbey Museum— My Favourite Things	Redcliffe Library meeting rooms