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**PRESIDENT'S PIECE**

It is always difficult at this time of the year to attend the many functions that occur and this December is no different for me. This year our two children who now both live in Victoria, are spending their Christmas with other family members. Our daughter lives in Melbourne and our son in Echuca, so we decided to arrange a weekend together before Christmas. Unfortunately the date that was suitable to most was this coming weekend and that clashed with our Christmas Party meeting this coming Friday. Thus I will be away but our Senior Vice President Pat Gee will capably take my place. The committee members are organising food and entertainment so I am sure an enjoyable time will be had by all who attend. I will be in Victoria thinking of you and hoping that everything runs smoothly.

Please note that we again this year will not be holding our General Meeting in January. Most of us are still in holiday mode and judging from previous poor attendance in January, I think it is right decision to have the recess until our February meeting. Finding suitable guest speakers for our meetings has always been difficult but next year we have guest speakers booked until July. Please refer to our guest speakers list at the rear of this Newsletter to know who is speaking each month. Obtaining these guest speakers has been a joint effort from various committee and ordinary members, so thank you for all those involved. One of our previous speakers this year, Doug Morris, will be returning for Part Two of his talk as he ran out of time at our October meeting. I am looking forward to more poet recitals from Doug who will be our May speaker.

I am pleased to report that Pat Gee has been able to book the library meeting rooms for all of next year, except January. The room sometimes is booked by other organisations but this will not be the case in 2020.

For those of you who attended our November meeting will know that History Redcliffe has agreed to hold the State Conference for History Queensland in 2022. History Redcliffe applied to hold the Conference in May 2021, but due to another conference being held earlier in 2021, HQ thought it would be best to not have two conferences close together. Thus HR agreed to hold the Conference the following year in 2022. The venue for the conference has been confirmed at the Redcliffe Leagues Club. It was therefore decided that October would be the best time to hold the Conference as there will be no football at that time of the year. The Leagues Club would be able to host the two hundred people or more who may attend the Conference quite easily.

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*History Redcliffe aims to*

- Research -*
- Collect -*
- Evaluate -*
- Preserve -*
- Inform -*
- Promote -*
- Honour -*

***Redcliffe's History***

## PRESIDENT'S PIECE CONTINUED

Three years does seem a long way off but in spite of that I thought it best to have a meeting and form a committee and start planning the event. The hardest part of finding a venue is resolved. The Leagues Club offers plenty of on site parking and will cater for most of the events to be held over the three day period. Friday 21 October 2022 will see the start of the Conference with the main day being Saturday 22 October. Participants from outside HR have been and will be asked to assist with the Conference. Lidia Langtree from my office who looks after all WD Surveys financial matters will hold the Treasurers position. Her first task will be to formulate a budget for the three day event which will determine the delegates entry fee. Fiona Murgatroyd will be doing all the on line advertising and preparation of the Logo for the event plus a multitude of other things.

On Tuesday 19 November we held our first meeting with Margaret Doherty, President on HQ and Valerie Thornton, Secretary of HQ and Ros Kuss Vice President of Caloundra Family History attending. All three had been involved in the Conference this year at Caloundra so they gave great assistance to our planning efforts. Rae Frawley also attended the meeting and will be the Secretary for the Conference.

Another meeting was held on 3 December and Sally Paris from the library of MBRC attended and will be our Council Liaison Officer for the Conference. As this conference is a joint venture with Family History the President of the Redcliffe FH group Cheryl Salisbury also attended this meeting. Cheryl will act as the liaison person for FH. After much debate the name Sands Of Time was decided as the name for the Conference. This name has been submitted to HQ for approval and it should be known this week if the name will be approved.

It is now time to reflect on a successful year for History Redcliffe and thank all those involved in achieving this. We have all worked harmoniously together and I look forward to a repeat performance next year. May you all have a Merry Christmas 🎄 and a healthy and happy 2020.



## MARGATE COMMUNITY BANK IS ON THE MOVE... TO MARGATE!

### NEW BRANCH FOR A NEW ERA

On the eve of its 15-year anniversary of operations, the Margate Community Bank Branch Bendigo Bank is moving into new, purpose-built premises at the Margate Village Shopping Centre.

Chairman of the company which runs the branch Redcliffe Peninsula Financial Services, Serge Paggiaro, said the previous premises had been a great launching pad for the fledgling branch on 2004, but now no longer met the company's requirements in terms of space and technology.

**"Banking has changed disruptively over the past 15 years, and people expect to be able to come into a branch and sit down with their customer service officer, have a chat, update their banking, without de-humanising security glass and barriers – and equally, if they just want to get in and out quickly, they want to be able to do that as fast as possible, too," Mr Paggiaro said.**

**"Our new branch will be a welcoming place for customers, and can double as a meeting space after hours, as well as being a place to meet before shopping or grabbing a cup of coffee from any of the fabulous cafes in Margate."**

Branch Manager, Gavin Daw, said the new branch highlighted the history of the peninsula, and provided a true local banking service.

**"We're still the only bank in Margate, 15 years after we opened, and we plan to be here for another 15 years,"** Mr daw said.

**"While Bendigo Bank offers a comprehensive on-line service, so that our customers don't really need to even step foot inside of the branch if they prefer not to, we know from experience that people like to know who their branch manager is, and know there's a real person they can for help, when needed.**

**"We just heard the other day of yet another bank leaving the peninsula – we're bucking the trend and we say if you live or work on the peninsula, consider moving to your local bank!"**

The branch will be up and running by Tuesday 19 November.

#### COMMUNITY OPENING EVENT

10:00am – 12:00 noon, Saturday 23 November 2019

Margate Village Shopping Centre, 270 Oxley Avenue, Margate Qld 4019

To celebrate the new branch, there will be a Community Opening Event for anyone who'd like to come along and check out the new space.

There will be a sausage sizzle from 10:00am and an official cake-cutting at 11:00am – enough cake for everyone! Coffee will be on offer – the first 100 for free! Santa will drop by and say hello, and there will be free face-painting as well. Our very own Piggy mascot will be in attendance, and some local celebrities (get your phone cameras out for selfies!).



# RESEARCH SUMMARY JUNE-NOVEMBER 2019

## REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

BY MARGARET HARDING

1. For a family reunion of the families of Walter and Violet Powell, years of **service on Council of Arthur William Powell...1936-1939**. Family photos received.
2. Enquiry re the Bell family of Clontarf.
3. Historic papers/photos of BallyCara events loaned for display purposes-delivered and collected.
4. History notes of Congregational and Methodist churches emailed.
5. Mousetrap Theatre requested names of relatives of Sir Douglas Fraser.....**info supplied pertaining to the Historical Society and Public Service only**
6. Enquiry re Pier Theatre extending to Sutton Street?
7. News Editor of Herald requested editing of stories of many local identities
8. Question re personnel of Karma Fruitra, Porter Street and Mosaics restaurant, Marine Parade
9. Photos of Bribie House requested for foyer of Island View apartments
10. Article sent to Herald honoring the life of Stella Curran who passed away on 22<sup>nd</sup> September. With permission/editing from family.
11. Request for photo of a fireman who worked at the Brigade headquarters 1960 – 1964.

# MUSEUM UPDATE

BY SELINA CLARK

## REDCLIFFE MUSEUM UPDATE

December 2019/January 2020

### EXHIBITIONS: DISPLAYS : PROGRAMMES

The exhibition "Play- the old-fashioned way" opens 29 November and features loads of games of childhoods past. Giant Mah-jong, Connect Four and draughts games plus classics like Squatter, Twister, Monopoly and hopscotch to name but a few. This highly interactive exhibition runs over the school holiday period and we are encouraging kids and adults alike to put down their screens and play together.

Programmes associated with the exhibition include a 'pizza and play' evening when families can visit the museum after hours to enjoy the exhibition.

The Imaginarium space changes over in December to take on a nautical theme. Called "Ahoy!" the space will be filled with all things boating from nautical knots, signal flags puzzles, a mini wooden boat for kids to play on and reminiscences of significant boats to the Redcliffe area.

A new spotlight display called "The dressing table" showcases shavers, manicure sets, compacts and jewellery boxes from the early 1900s.

With Christmas coming, we are holding bauble making workshops and the Redcliffe Choir will be entertaining patrons.



# MEMORIES OF MARGATE

BY PAT GEE

## Memories of Margate: the project

The idea of producing a book about Margate's history developed following the news that History Redcliffe had been left a bequest of \$1000 by Marle Juster to fund a project. As Marle had initially established his business in Margate and that generally information regarding Margate is extremely scarce, researching Margate's overall development from the early days of settlement seemed appropriate.

For the past year a team has been delving into Margate's past; people and places. Margaret Harding in particular has spent hours chasing up people for information and a great deal of the team's time is spent researching factual material and locating photographs. We hope to present stories collected from past and present in an engaging style and stories written by family members, together with oral histories and photos, will play a big part in this story. We would welcome any information and/or photos that our members might be able to provide.

Recognising that book layout and design are intrinsically important to the success of books in the marketplace History Redcliffe successfully applied for a RADF grant of \$5000 to fund the graphic design work. As this grant must be acquitted by November 2020 we would anticipate that the book will be at the printers by mid-year 2020. We hope that the completed book will identify and preserve an important part of the region's rich cultural heritage and social history.

# NELL COOMBES IN KING STREET

## A SPIRITED LADY

BY MARGARET HARDING

It was in 1947 that Nell Coombes moved into her home at 90 King Street, Woody Point. She was **born Nell Davis at Murwillumbah on 2 April 1909 and commenced her working life as a nurse's aide** at a private hospital at Tweed Heads. From there she moved to hospitals at Beenleigh and Gatton and there she gained her nursing qualifications.

While she was working at the Goodna hospital, she met Albert Coombes, a soldier. They married in 1942 and in the years that followed they had two children, Yvonne and Trevor. After the war they moved to a cabin in Duffield Road before Albert obtained employment with the Queensland **Government , enabling them to buy their home. Albert's first posting was to New Guinea and another one was to Toowoomba** so Nell, Yvonne and Trevor mainly used a bicycle for transport. The **landmark Nothling's butcher shop was established in 1952 and prior to this the nearest butcher for Nell was Glanville's near the corner of Cox Street and Oxley Avenue. In 1960 when Woolworths** opened a small shop in Oxley Avenue near the corner of Baynes Street, Nell paid 1/- per box for the delivery of groceries.

Nell recalled that electricity had been connected but there was no reticulated water supply and King Street was a dirt track. In the 1940s and 50s the Coombes family was surrounded by **farms....orchards and mixed vegetables thrived in the rich dark red soil in the vicinity. To the west of them was a large vegetable farm that extended to Victoria Avenue.**

**During the War Years, behind Nell's house in Dodds Street was a Poultry Farm "Cairo" run by Gordon Woods. Its street borders were King in the south, Oxley Avenue in the east and Victoria Avenue in the west.**

After the children reached school age, Nell took up croquet as a member of the Eildon Croquet Club. She excelled at this sport, winning prestigious awards over several decades. She made the most of opportunities to seek part-time employment, joined the CWA and became a member of the Redcliffe Historical Society in 1987. Her long and energetic life closed on 31 May 1999.

**Ref. RHS newsletters....Nos 12 & 15.**



photo 6.12.2019

# IN THE PAPERS—SCHOOL DAYS

BY FIONA MURGATROYD

Ahh, the summer holidays! That long stretch of hot days when students cast off their uniforms in favour of swimming togs. We're lucky to have quite a few schools to serve our great community but there was a time when there wasn't even a classroom for Redcliffe's youngsters. What do the papers tell us of our peninsula schools?

**REDCLIFFE - FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS** (*The Queenslander*, Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July 1878)

July 20: There are now seven different properties here thrown open for sale, and several allotments have already found purchasers at high figures. Old houses are being repaired and new ones built. —The Scarborough Hotel is now open, and as there is plenty of boating, fishing, and shooting to be had, no doubt visitors will soon begin to find their way here by road or steamer.—The Rev. Mr. Sutton, of Brisbane, has offered an acre of his land, which is very centrally situated, for Church purposes ; and the proprietors of Scarborough have set apart a large allotment as a reserve for a State School—There has been no rain of any consequence for nearly two months, but, though the grass is dry, horses and cattle are in good condition. The waterholes have plenty of water in them, but the tanks are nearly empty. —The mornings are not nearly so cold as they were last month.

**HUMPYBONG SCHOOL** (*The Telegraph*, Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 1893)

Our North Pine correspondent writes that Mr. J. H. Henzell gave the school children of the Humpybong State school an excellent treat on the occasion of their breaking up for the winter holidays. A vote of thanks by Mr. Ashmore (sic) to Mr. Henzell, for his thoughtful kindness, was acknowledged by three ringing cheers.

**WOMAN'S WORLD -- ARBOR DAY AT HUMPYBONG** (*The Brisbane Courier*, Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 1897)

A correspondent writing from Redcliffe on the 3<sup>rd</sup> instant says:- Arbor Day, which was kept up on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> instant, was made a great festival for the children here. The two schools of Woody Point and Redcliffe united in a picnic to Clontarf. At 9 a.m. the children assembled at their schools and a lesson was given on agriculture; soon afterwards, every available buggy, cart, and dray were on the road crowded with the children and their friends. A most enjoyable day was spent, the children duly appreciating their dinner and tea, which had been provided by many kind friends, and entering heartily into the games and amusements. About 4 p.m. a move was made for home, when the children heartily cheered the master (Mr. Ashmole) and mistress (Miss Stevenson), the committee, and Mrs. Oxenbam and Mrs. O'Shea, who, with many energetic helpers, had organised the treat, and Mr. Noble, who provided some fifty prizes for them. In the evening the Masonic Hall, which, was kindly lent by Mr. J. H. Henzell, was the scene of an enjoyable dance for the older people, which fittingly closed one of the brightest of local reunions.

**CLONTARF SCHOOL** (*The Courier Mail*, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1949)

A new school is to be built at Clontarf beach at a cost of £4766. Announcing this last night the Works Minister (Mr. Power) said that other Government expenditure approved by the Executive Council yesterday included £1215 on providing accommodation for Technical College jewellery, watchmaking, and ticket writing classes at the Domain naval reserve depot.

**WILL OPEN NEW SCHOOL** (*The Courier Mail*, Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November, 1954)

Famous Roman Catholic teaching order, the de La Salle Brothers, will open a new boys' school at Scarborough early next year.

Three brothers will come to Scarborough from the Castle Hill, Sydney, Australian headquarters of the order, at Christmas, to take applications for up to 100 day students in primary grades.

Scarborough parish priest (the Rev. Fr. B. J. Frawley said last night the school was greatly needed to cope with the rapid population growth of Redcliffe Peninsula.

The de La Salle Brothers form the oldest teaching order in the world. This is their first Queensland school.

# MOTOR RACING AUSTRALIA

## CLOSED CIRCUIT WOODY POINT

### PART 5

So the role of the 'riding mechanic' became clearer: "I decided to turn sideways in the seat and brace his thigh with my feet while I leaned against the door." This was arranged as they came to the end of the run up Oxley Avenue.

However, not everything went according to plan. "I started to push as we came up to the corner and the door flew open! I don't know how I stayed in the car— I think I grabbed the gear lever. Anyway, they caught all of this on Cinesound Review. I went to the pictures two or three times to see it!"

Later they broke a wheel on the next corner, so after a wheel was retrieved from the pits they were a long way behind. "Charlie was driving like crazy," Mal says, "and he cut off a slower car he didn't want to follow through the ess bend, and the driver complained to the Stewards. A couple of laps later we were flagged off for dangerous driving." In the *Courier Mail* report the following Monday, however, the car was said to have been flagged off 'because they had lost a lot of time and had little chance of success'.

The hopes of the Club in their efforts to have road racing allowed were still alive, their optimism reflected in the paper saying that this 'trial' was voted the most successful sporting event yet conducted by the RACQ.

But not for long. Despite pre-event warnings to the drivers about the dangers, particularly with regard to pedestrians, their driving was seen to be a danger. A week after the event the Mayor wrote to Cam Brodribb expressing this dogmatically.

Quotes from the letter include phrases like: 'Never again in my lifetime will I allow... the lives of ordinary people were put in jeopardy by morons...' ...irresponsible people.' The Mayor in 1999, Alan Boulton, looking at the proposal which had been apparently announced publicly before discussions with the Council, said in a radio interview with Spencer Howson on 4QR: "We'll be listening to the people who live in the area." Alan Boulton with that statement was putting an end to any speculation about road racing in Redcliffe—at least this century.

But we can still amble down that magnificent piece of coastal 'scenic drive' and dream of what might have been.

# PHOTOS



Above: Errol and Doug Morris – 11th October 2019



Above: Errol and Dr Cliff Pollard—14th September 2018



Above: HR Tent at the Walk With Me Fundraiser



Above: Herse at Great Northern Garden of Remembrance Open Day



# *MERRY CHRISTMAS!*

THE HISTORY REDCLIFFE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE FOR ANOTHER WONDERFUL YEAR. WE HOPE THAT EVERYONE HAS A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FOR 2020.

LICENSED SURVEYORS & DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS

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## *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

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## 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 at the Redcliffe Library 476 Oxley Ave, Redcliffe. We feature a guest speaker to cover a wide variety of topics. Afternoon tea is served on completion of the talk by the guest speaker. The meeting commences again after the tea break.

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

If undeliverable return to

History Redcliffe

PO Box 370

REDCLIFFE QLD 4020



**2019**

For your Diary

MONTH	DATE/EVENT	GUEST SPEAKER	LOCATION
February	Friday 14th • General Meeting	Jim Higgins – History of the Writers Group	Redcliffe Library meeting rooms 2PM
March	Friday 13th • General Meeting	Kerrie-Anne Dooley – Aged Care	Redcliffe Library meeting rooms 2PM
April	Friday 17th • General Meeting	Duane Hart – Images of Redcliffe	Redcliffe Library meeting rooms 2PM
May	Friday 8th • General Meeting	Doug Morris- Life in Redcliffe Part 2	Redcliffe Library meeting rooms 2PM
June	Friday 12th • General Meeting	Robert & Russell Turner- Links Between Bulimba & Redcliffe	Redcliffe Library meeting rooms 2PM