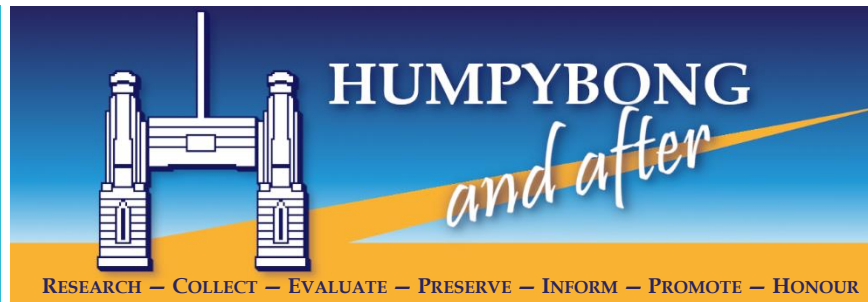


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AT A GLANCE...

- *President's report*
- *Clontarf spies?*
- *Story of Moreton Island*
- *Research report*
- *Museum Musings*

DATE CLAIMERS...

3 March Monthly meeting

31 March Monthly meeting

** No April meeting **

14 April Visit to Bankfoot House

5 May Monthly meeting

10 May Heritage month event

**REDCLIFFE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY, INC.**

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2023 is galloping away! I can't believe it is already time for our first Newsletter of the year.

Your Committee has held two meetings this year and there are quite a few activities to look forward to as the year unfolds.

Our first General Meeting was wonderful. I loved hearing of the courageous, altruistic behaviour of William Edward Yaldwyn, the first Australian to be awarded the Albert Medal. Isn't it terrific that people like Elizabeth Nunn keep his memory alive?

History seems to be very much 'on trend' at present. Is anyone watching *My Grandparents War* and the Lucy Worsley shows on SBS?

I recently saw a musical at QPAC called *Six*. It was based on the six wives of Henry the Eighth. Let us hope this history interest translates to an increase in our numbers!

I'm looking forward to our bus trip to Bankfoot House on Friday 14th April. Places are limited so please book early. Details of all our events in this issue.

The Moreton Bay History Seminar this year is being held on Thursday 18th May at Morayfield Sports & Events Centre, 298 Morayfield Road, Morayfield. We will have an opportunity to "network" with similar groups in our region, promote ourselves and sell some of our books etc. AND, Pat Gee is one of the presenters! This is a wonderful event, completely free of charge and includes lunch, tea and coffee. I would recommend you attend.

To register go to:

<https://www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/libraries/Events/Moreton-Bay-History-Seminar-ST>

Janet

Clontarf's Possible Link With Spies!

By Margaret Harding

The story below, we hope, will add background to the talk Sandra Hogan, author of *With My Little Eye*, gave when she was the guest speaker at the History Redcliffe General Meeting on 6 May 2022. Accompanying Sandra was Sue-Ellen Kusher, the elder daughter of the family whose parents worked as ASIO agents in the 1950s and 60s.

"In 1956 the family went on a beach holiday to Surfers Paradise with Vladimir and Evodokia Petrov, the famous Soviet defectors who were hiding from Soviet assassins." (ref. back cover.) Sandra Hogan's research since the release of official documents and the publication of espionage stories during the past decade have paved the way for the family to come forward with its incredible story.

A few history sleuths explored the buildings along Hornibrook Esplanade looking for portholes in units which the young children of the family 'recalled' at the time of their brief stay at Clontarf c1956 while protecting the Russians. Our interest grew after Cheryl Salisbury produced a report from the Herald of 24 January 1957 which detailed information about this block of land.

OLYMPIC FLATS 118 Hornibrook Esplanade cnr Laura Street Clontarf 4019.

William McInnes wrote fondly of artist Robert Brownhall's interpretations of the Artist's "Tall Tales of the Peninsula" exhibition which he opened at the Redcliffe Art Gallery in March 2018.

In his piece in Courier Mail *Qweekend* Magazine¹, William shared his memories...

There is a block of flats in Clontarf that almost made me shout out in recognition. It's the block that Tony Obst, Redcliffe Dolphins fullback from the glory days of the Brisbane Rugby League, painted.

Two weeks later in the Feedback section of the *Qweekend*² Ray Sweatman replied to William's story, printed with Ray's permission.

I vividly recall the day my father, who built the flats, named the building after watching the torch relay for the 1956 Olympic Games pass along the esplanade in front of the flats, then still under construction. I personally punched all the wall and floor nails as a 14-year-old during school holidays. I also had to boil the billy for smoko. Dad (also William) employed two ten-pound Pom carpenters and an Italian labourer. The Italian would bring his own cold tea in a glass flagon, which he left in the sun to warm up. Thanks, William McInnes for the memories."

Fast forward to October 2022...

Contact was again made with the builder's son who shared additional facts which dovetailed with memories of a youngster back in 1956 about "windows like portholes."

There were no circular windows as such but four metal imitation life buoys decorated the front of the four flats. There were also two maisonettes with entry from Laura Street.



Photo by Ian Harding – April 2018

¹ 24-25 March 2018

² 7-8 April 2018

References:

With My Little Eye by Sandra Hogan.

<https://writebusiness.com.au/about-me>

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story>

Library Lines

What's on at Redcliffe Library . . .

Beginner propagating: Practical techniques for home.

Saturday, 04 March 2023 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM.

Get hands on and learn the basics of propagation with Paul Plant from 4BC Radio. Please wear clothes that can get dirty and bring your own secateurs and gardening gloves.

Get up to speed with EVs.

Sunday, 05 March 2023 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM.

Hear what the enthusiasts have to say about electric vehicles and inspect six of the latest models at Redcliffe Library. The Australian Electric Vehicle Association wants to switch Australia to electric drive as quickly as possible and its members are keen to share their knowledge. Get started on your journey as Queensland builds its electric super highway.

International Women's Day.

Wednesday, 08 March 2023 07:00 PM to 08:30 PM.

Join us for a panel discussion from leading local women as they discuss the ways they choose to challenge inequality. Bring your friends and be inspired as we celebrate the contribution women make to shaping a brighter future for us all. First Nations women, Georgina Richters and Gina Hope Masterton, and mental health advocate Pearly Sprinkles share their thoughts on innovation for a gender equal world.

8 March
International Women's Day



IDAHOBIT: Make a cape.

11 March 2023 10:00 AM to 01:00 PM.

A cape can hide or show off who you are. Engage your creativity as you embellish and enrich your very own wearable cape with local textile artist Mel Brady. Make a cloak that expresses your identity and shows off who you are in this inclusive creative workshop to support the International Day Against LGBTQIA+ Discrimination (IDAHOBIT).

Moreton Minds: Restoring our damaged coastal ecosystems.

Friday, 17 March 2023 06:00 PM to 07:30 PM.

Find out about the impacts of Restorative Ecosystems in Moreton Bay with Dr Ben Gilby from UniSC. In this presentation*, we'll explore smart ways that people are restoring coastal ecosystems across the world, and how this benefits people living along the coast.



Design a skirt pattern - Redcliffe.

Saturday, 18 March 2023 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM.

Learn the basics of pattern making with a simple skirt pattern and 2Fly Dressmaking. No sewing required.

Meet the Author: Michel Vimal du Monteil.

Sunday, 19 March 2023 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Join author Michel Vimal du Monteil as he tells the story behind writing his highly recommended debut novel, *Where There is a Will*, set along the stunning coastline of eastern Australia

Story of Moreton Island

By Bob Sutherland

Editor's note: This article is drawn from excerpts of a talk by Bob Sutherland to Redcliffe Historical Society 13 February 2004

Moreton Island is about 20km due east of Redcliffe across the bay. It is 37km long and 13km wide. It is a tapered island with the widest part in the north near Cape Moreton and the narrowest part in the south towards Koorngal or Day's Gutter as it was known. Currently it is 98% National Park and Mt Tempest is 280m high and one of the highest sand hills in the world. There are three townships on the island plus Cape Moreton: Bulwer on the north western end of the island, Cowan Cowan which is on the bay side (west) about 5km south of Bulwer and Koorngal is right on the southern tip; and of course we now have the tourist resort of Tangalooma. The Cape Moreton Lighthouse was built in 1856 by the New South Wales government before separation took place. The Cape Light was built by convict labour even though it was built under contract and the rock that the lighthouse was built of was mined on the island and there is still evidence of the quarry. Obviously, there were professional stonemasons to guide the convicts. There was a State Government school at Cape Moreton for the children of the lighthouse and maintenance men of the Cape and Bulwer. There was another lighthouse at Comboyuro Point which is near Bulwer. Where the light was built is now well under water due to erosion. The top part of the island is heavily eroded. On various other parts of the island there have been other lighthouses which were pulled down and relocated.

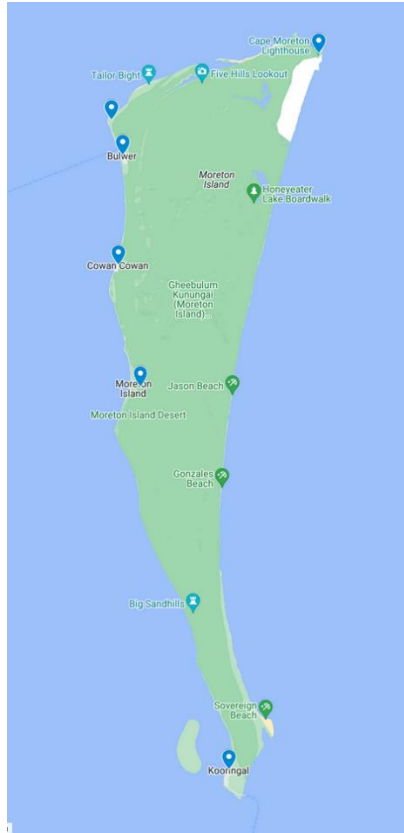
A telegraph line was built overland through the centre of the island from the southern end to Cape Moreton. That was built with steel poles, many of which are still there – some have been used by local residents for

various purposes. Maintenance was done by men on horseback. This line was there because Cape Moreton was a registered Post and Telegraph station. As the ships were passing by, they would signal to the Cape messages which were then transmitted to Brisbane. There is evidence that lots of indigenous people spent time over there by the size of the midden heaps of shells on the eastern side. It is believed that they came across from North Stradbroke Island where there were quite a few settlements. There is a lack of kangaroos, wallabies and emus on Moreton Island. However, in more recent times horses (brought by the Army), goats (put there as food for the shipwrecked) and pigs inhabited the island but, because none of these are native, the National

Parks Authority has destroyed the brumbies, a high percentage of the pigs and arranged for the goats to be given away. As a result, vegetation is growing back around Cape Moreton.

I first landed on Cape Moreton approximately 50 years ago and I remember a vessel called the *Marietta Dahl* which struck Smith's Rock. It was laden with tractors for Brisbane. Some of the tractors were later recovered. I was on a fishing trip with a group from the Electric Light Company but it was so rough that day that the *Marietta Dahl* slipped off Smith's Rock. We went ashore at Yellow Patch and saw some goats and we thought we would catch some but we were the goats because they just took off into the hills!

Now, we'll come to Tangalooma which was established as a whaling station in 1951 by Whale Industry Sydney. They commenced operations in 1952 and closed in 1962. They were permitted to take 600 whales per season – on quota – 1st June to 31st October each year. Eleven whales per day was the maximum the men could handle because of the facilities there. They employed 140 men. I'll tell you a little story about this... I was in Apex at the time and we decided to raise some money for the Miss Australia Quest. I believe the entrant was Ray Symons' sister Yvonne and we hired either the *Mirimar* or *Miribelle*. We presold all the tickets and people boarded the vessel at Woody Point.



We had bought a big keg of beer but the only trouble was we couldn't sell it. Nobody really wanted to buy the beer!

We decided to try to sell it to the men at Tangalooma. They rushed it because it was a dry area and by the time the Management found out, we had sold all the beer.

After the whaling ceased, a guest house was established on the Whaling Station for about 80 guests. Now there are thousands who go over there every year. It is very popular with Japanese tourists. The top of the flensing deck is now a squash court. The ramp has gone and they are using under the deck for other sports. There is a big desert behind Tangalooma Resort where tourists go sand tobogganing. Today, land is available at about \$250,000 plus per block.

Some people may not realize there was sand mining on Moreton Island. In 1957, sand was mined on the ocean beach in very primitive fashion, brought across to Tangalooma, treated there to a certain level and then had to be taken to US for further treatment. It was not a success. It never really got off the ground. As it is now 98% National Park there will never be any further sand mining on the island. Where the sand was treated south of Tangalooma is now the site for the sewerage treatment works for Tangalooma.

We now come to Cowan which is of more interest to our family. It was my first love of Moreton Island. It was originally known as Fort Cowan. It was an Army establishment built around WW1 but became very active in WW11. There were two 6" naval guns from HMAS Sydney mounted in gun emplacements at Cowan. There were approximately 900 troops there of which 50 were women, and the layout of the area shows us that the women were housed in areas surrounded by barbed wire fences. We've heard various stories about the fences – how people got over them, under them and around them. On the island still there are the remains of tanks to be seen in a few places. Now, these were corrugated iron tanks. They are formed in two parts – an outer shell and an inner shell and about a foot of concrete poured between the two and there are holes in the side so we believe the infantry men would jump

into these tanks which were about 6 feet high to fend off the Japanese!

In 1848, the first light was erected at Cowan. In 1901, it had to be shifted back 675ft (206m) because of erosion. My first visit to Cowan was to have afternoon tea with the lighthouse keepers Harry and Jess Wadsworth approximately 45 years ago (around 1959). I looked at the old army buildings... there were eight brick buildings still there. The temporary buildings had all fallen down or rotted away. Some of the army buildings are leased by the Moreton Bay Boat Club. There is a chap called John Anderson who owned the Margate Newsagency. He was an engineer at Cowan during the war. The Moreton Bay Boat Club (MBBC) leased four of these buildings – on crown land. I got very involved with the MBBC in the early 1960s. We spent many hours and days cleaning up because wild horses had been using the buildings for shelter. After the clean up members of the MBBC used the buildings as weekenders for fishing, holidays, etc. We built a private phone line from Cowan to Tangalooma overland – quite a few kilometres using a tractor. It took a long time to complete. Since then, Telecom has provided telephones for everyone over there. In those days Shirley, my two sons, John still in nappies by the way, a dog and our supplies would go across to Moreton in a 13'6" boat with a 40 hp outboard motor for a weekend or a week at Cowan, the MBBC base.



Fort Cowan Cowan
Image by Jim Findlay, 1996.

The first freehold land sale at Cowan Cowan was in 1967. Prices were between \$400 and \$600 per block. I bought a block which caused a bit of controversy with Shirley. She knew I loved the island and the deposit was only \$50 but we did not have any money in those days.

There were further land sales in 1969, 1973 and 1998. The 1998 sale was just a mop up of land by the Crown that the original owners didn't go on with, and as a change of price from 1969 and 1998 the price had increased to \$130,000.

There are about 60 houses in Cowan village. It is a village with no water reticulation, no sewerage, no formed roads but that is the way we want it. The roads of the township wind between the trees and the residents do not want sealed roads and kerbing and channelling. There is plenty of underground water. We have a spear down 18ft and we have as much water as we want. The valuer general's valuation for ratings purposes of our property is \$210,000.00 so we pay \$1,300 for rates per year. What we get for that is the Council takes the garbage away after we take it to a central area.

Our first building on the block was from materials we took over on the back of a prawning trawler. We waded

out up to our necks to take it ashore. It was a one room building...that's all we thought we'd ever have there; but time passes and the next part of the building was three more rooms. This time we hired a barge from Brisbane owned by Norman Wright. There were no barges operating to and from the island in those days. We had kero or gas lights and a gas stove. From that we graduated to a diesel generator and the house is now a three bedroom one with solar power to run all our lights, the washing machine, irrigation for the yard, appliances such as TV etc. The stove and the hot water system are still gas powered. The solar system has 16 panels up on the roof.

We drink tank water and we are able to have a good lawn on our beach front property because of the abundance of underground water. About erosion...Who knows??

Vale Bob Sutherland

1932 – 2023

Bob came with his family to Redcliffe when he was 15 years old and a year later was working in Redcliffe instead of travelling to Brisbane. His employer was the City Electric Light Company which became SEAQ (Southern Electric Authority of Queensland).

In 1955, he married Shirley Houghton. In the mid-1960s, Bob and Shirley moved into real estate and travel industries - remaining in Redcliffe Parade, thus qualifying them as possibly the longest term participants in the *Near the Jetty* project in 2013-14

Bob served with Apex and Rotary for 41 years and was a member of the Redcliffe Hospital Board for 25 years, including time as the Deputy Chairman. According to records, he served on Redcliffe City Council for 9 years from 1961.

Bob passed away on 15 January 2023.



(L-R) Keith Leadbetter, Shirley and Bob Sutherland at the *Near the Jetty* Exhibition Launch at Redcliffe Museum 26 February 2014.
Image by Ian Harding

REDCLIFFE HOSPITAL – the 60th Anniversary of the laying of the Foundation Stone-4 May 2023

Some excerpts leading up to this event- refer Redcliffe Herald 7 December 1961... ‘Alleged Hospital Inaction’ State Parliamentary Speaker and Member for Murrumba, Mr Nicholson gave a 50 minute forthright address at the Deception Bay CWA Hall to explain the Government’s priorities in relation to a hospital for Redcliffe. He said from 1950 he pestered the Government and had been told that other areas in the State, bearing in mind the amount of money available, had greater priorities than Redcliffe. Mr Nicholson said that immediately the Holy Spirit hospital plans had been abandoned, the Minister for Health Dr Noble had said, “We will start planning immediately for a public hospital in Redcliffe,” and that had been done.

“Any idea that you were promised a cottage hospital can be forgotten as you were promised a hospital adequate to meet Redcliffe’s needs.”

In answer to one questioner who suggested that he and Mr Houghton could get together and “fight it out for us?”

Mr Nicholson replied, “I would welcome assistance from anybody if I thought I needed it but I am telling you now that I don’t need it. You will find that the Minister will tell you all that I have told you. I cannot speak for Mr Houghton, that is his prerogative, but I can tell you that I think it is about the first time in two years that he and I have agreed emphatically on any subject.”

A joint statement in The Redcliffe Herald of 28 February 1963 said “A tender of £575,000 submitted by John Booker Constructions Pty Ltd. For the erection of the news Redcliffe hospital has now been accepted. Messrs Nicholson and Houghton said this should be welcome to the citizens of Redcliffe and may help still the tongues of critics who delight in over-decrying the efforts of the Government, the Redcliffe Hospital’s Board and the elected representatives.”



Laying the foundation stone for the Redcliffe Hospital, 4 May 1963. L-R: Dr. Noble (Minister for Health), Jim Houghton (Mayor), Dave Nicholson (MLA Murrumba).
Image courtesy MBRC RLPC-001\001142.

Information in the Herald of 21st March 1963 reported on the announcement by the Mayor Alderman Houghton, MLA that the foundation stone of the new Redcliffe hospital will be laid on 4 May.

On that day 60 years ago, Dr HW Noble laid the Foundation Stone. At the close of the function, Mr RJ Fanning, chairman of the Hospitals Board “presented to Dr Noble a beautiful crystal vase as a memento of the historic occasion.” Ref. *Herald*, 9 May 1963.

A reply to an enquiry about the history of the Arboretum at Clontarf is as entry in the Redcliffe - *Looking at the Landscape*, page 142.

ARBORETUM - Coastal Gayundah Arboretum - 1986 It is named for Gayundah Esplanade which in turn is named for the Gayundah, a former navy vessel beached on the foreshore at Woody Point to slow erosion. The Arboretum has been planted with flora native to coastal areas and was originally intended as an instructional facility for school children to learn about the flora.

MUSEUM MUSINGS WITH MELISSA

Redcliffe Museum invites everyone to attend our upcoming exhibition opening for *Transformations: Art of the Scott Sisters* and *Tiny Giants* on 24 March 2023, 5:30pm - 7:00pm. This event is a return to lively night time social events with a talk from the artist of *Tiny Giants*, Lesley Kendall, and entomologist Jessa Thurman. Please book on the website if you would like to join us for an evening of conversation and live music, as well as delicious drinks and nibbles.

Please note that Redcliffe Museum will be closed from Wednesday 15 March to Sunday 19 March for essential building maintenance. We will be reopening on Wednesday 22 March 2023 with our two new exhibitions, *Transformations: Art of the Scott Sisters* and *Tiny Giants* for you to enjoy. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.



BOOK REVIEW

BY ANN HANGER

Captain Cook in Queensland / Editors: Rod Kirkpatrick, Margaret Kowald, Ruth Kerr and Val Donovan. Royal Historical Society of Queensland, Brisbane, 2022.

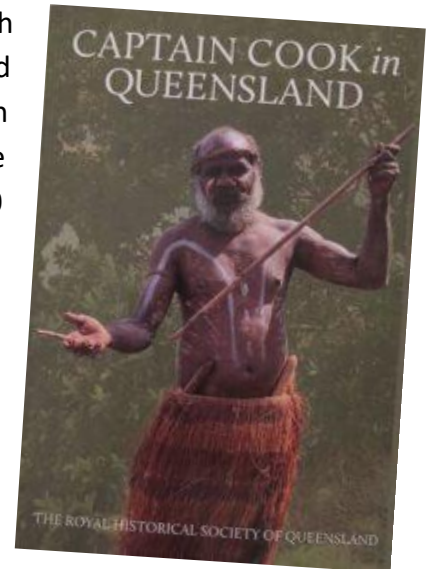
It is a quarto-sized monograph of 256 pages with an index and generously illustrated with photographs, maps, drawings and tables. It is available as a hard cover and a soft cover. The work is divided into 6 parts with 37 papers written by 31 contributors. Each paper has endnotes which would be useful for further research.

Stephen Sheaffe and John Pearn, who are members of the RHSQ, convened the Cook in Queensland 250-year Symposia which lead to the title. The RHSQ took a leading role by convening National Conferences in Brisbane and Cooktown in 2020 and 2021.

Communities came together to commemorate and reflect on Lieutenant James Cook's exploration in 1770 in what came to be called the colony and state of Queensland. Cook is remembered as a great seaman, navigator, hydrographer and cartographer. He also measured the astronomical details of the Transit of

Venus and was successful in preventing scurvy from sickening his crew.

Cook was born on 27th October, 1728 and died in Hawaii on 14th February, 1779. He named up to 90 geographical features and landed on 4 locations on the Queensland coast from Point Danger to Booby Island in the Torres Strait.



Banks and Solander, the 2 botanists, documented 790 plant species while Parkinson conscientiously illustrated the specimens as well as noting down some Indigenous words. First Nations contributors to the book explain Indigenous lore, reconciliation and the significance of Two Cultures, One People.

The work is easy to read and serves as a worthwhile reference on everything to do with Cook, the Endeavour and Queensland. The book is colloquially known as 'the cookbook'!

Grasp history whole, free of today's dogma

France's President Macron in a speech to a group of students said this: "You are not responsible for France's past, nor are you its guardians. It comes to you as an inheritance, without a testament attached. You may choose to love it; and so too you may choose to criticize it. But first of all you must learn it." This he said meant "facing it directly and as a whole", imbued "with a love of knowledge" and "resisting the temptation to judge yesterday by today". That is the foremost duty "a free people" owes its ancestors who secured the freedoms and it enjoys – but it is also a free people's greatest privilege, because it is only by "understating its past" that it can freely "forge its future". An just as those who shred their map are condemned to lost their way, so those who abandon historical truth are condemned to forsake their liberty.

- Henry Ergas, *The Australian*, 14 May, 2021




A VISIT TO BANKFOOT HOUSE
— FRIDAY 14TH APRIL 2023 —

Cost \$25
Includes morning tea
BYO Lunch and water

Hurry! Places limited
For information and
bookings contact
Pat on 0411 547 004

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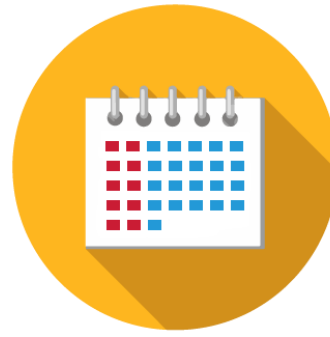
MARCH 2023 - - - - -

FRI 2:00pm – 4:00pm

3 Monthly meeting
Shamus Leathart – Beekeeping

FRI 2:00pm – 4:00pm

31 Monthly meeting
Tricia Reust - My time as an artist in Redcliffe



DATES
for your
DIARY

April 2023 - - - - -

No April monthly meeting due to Good Friday

FRI 8:15am – 2:00pm

14 A Visit to Bankfoot House
Bookings essential. Contact Pat 0411 547 004.

May 2023 - - - - -

FRI 2:00pm – 4:00pm

5 Monthly meeting
Graham Gibb – To be confirmed

WED 1:00pm – 3:00pm

10 Long Story Short – film presentation
Celebrating Heritage Month, Pat Gee presents a film about Marle Juster.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, meeting venues may be subject to change. All efforts are made to ensure that the information regarding meeting venues and speakers is correct at the time of publication. Members and guests should consult our website (www.historyredcliffe.com.au) closer to the meeting date to check for updates.



What's your story?

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Submit your articles, anecdotes or images to the editor at info@historyredcliffe.com.au and you may find your story here in this very publication.



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