

# Botany Historical Trust

NEWSLETTER MAY 2020

## SIR JOSEPH BANK'S ESTATE

The Best Land in all

High Grade Shop Sites  
and Residential Sites

# BOTANY

Close to the Pier,  
and fronting Tram

THIS HISTORIC ESTATE will be appropriately offered by AUCTION SALE

On the Ground  
AT 3 P.M.

## ANNIVERSARY DAY

(Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 1921)

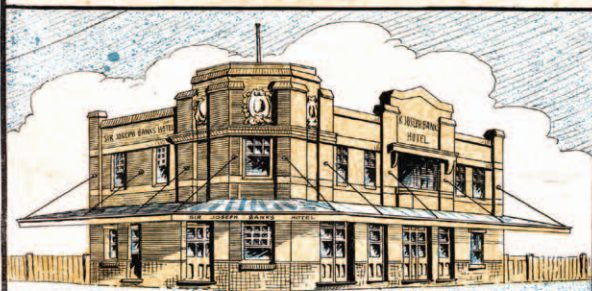
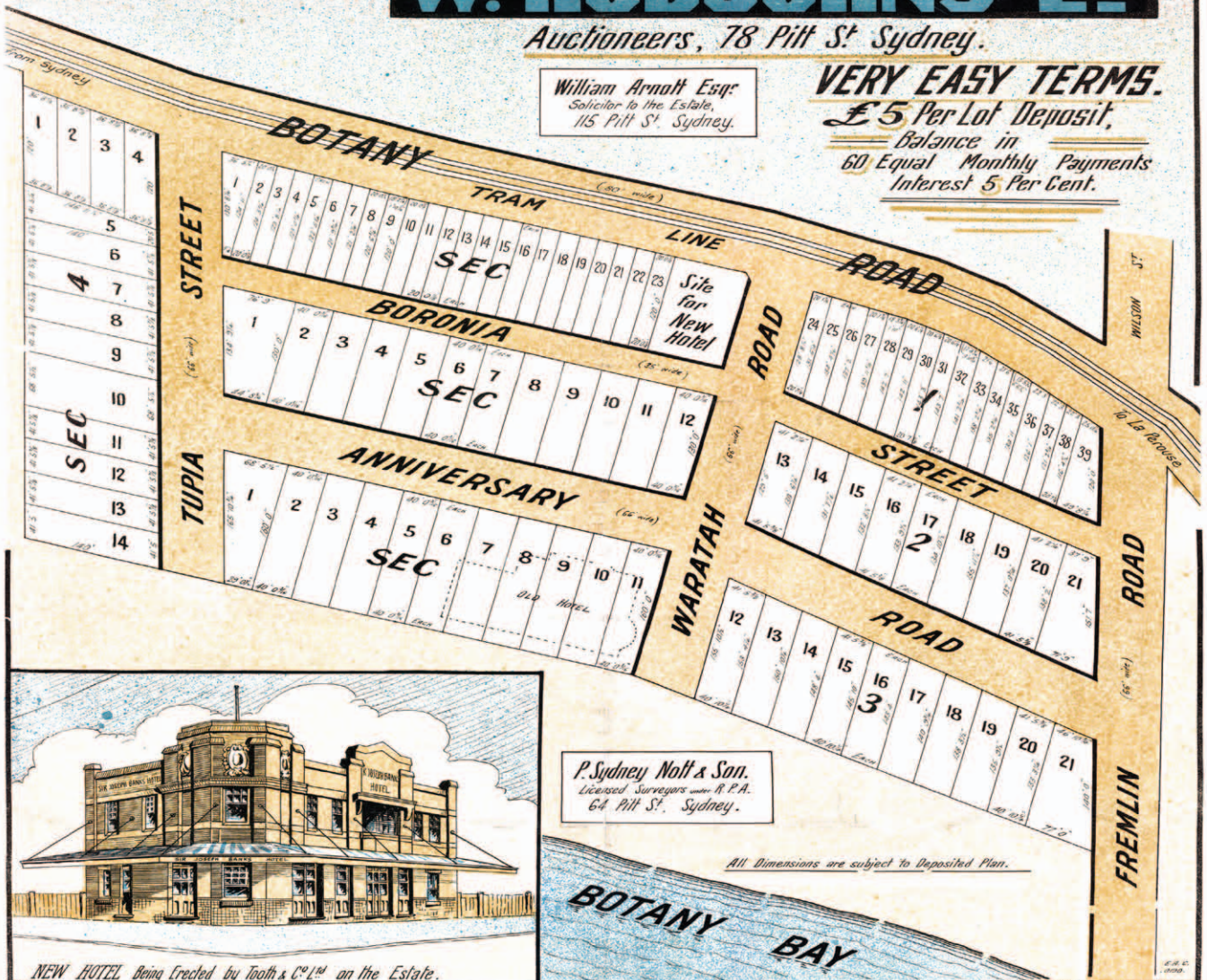
Torrens Title.

## W. ROBJOHNS LTD

Auctioneers, 78 Pitt St. Sydney.

William Arnott Esqr.  
Solicitor to the Estate,  
115 Pitt St. Sydney.

**VERY EASY TERMS.**  
£5 Per Lot Deposit,  
Balance in  
60 Equal Monthly Payments  
Interest 5 Per Cent.



NEW HOTEL Being Erected by Tooth & Co Ltd on the Estate.

P. Sydney Nott & Son.  
Licensed Surveyors and R.P.A.  
64 Pitt St. Sydney.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



This is the first of two Newsletters planned for 2020. Originally, this edition was to be published in June but with the unexpected, extraordinary and life changing effects of COVID-19, it was decided to bring it forward.

In our recent correspondence to Members, I mentioned that the main focus of the BHT Executive for 2020 had changed to protect the safety and preservation of our Archives and that two Meetings in February had been devoted to this issue. We had already decided to put the 2020 BHT Program “on hold” as far as excursions were concerned and to limit the number of talks at least until June, because the Executive was and remains very concerned about our Archives, some of which are of incredible, historical importance.

The Executive had decided to hold two General Meetings, the first scheduled for June and another later in the year, to update Members and also, hopefully to hold an interesting talk. However, in the present situation, that is now all but impossible but Members will be informed of any changes.

The other important issue facing the BHT is the matter of protecting our Heritage; specifically with regard to Development Applications that might adversely affect a heritage listed property. We have already experienced a problem, from November 2018 until February this year, with 1445-1447 Botany Road, Botany where the final outcome was not as we had wanted but better than what might have been.

The Executive had decided to add four additional Meetings to its schedule to deal with future Heritage-affected Development Applications. However, this is not now possible because of current rules around COVID-19 but the Executive will be discussing any Development Applications submitted by email and phone so as to come to a consensus and make sure Council is aware of our views.

There is an ironic coincidence between the wonderful talk on the 1919 Pneumonic Plague given by the former Community Librarian, Jenny MacRitchie, in May last year and the current Pandemic. Jenny’s talk, the records and photographs she found are eerily reminiscent of what is happening now around the world and here at home. It is also striking that Jenny talked about the worse effects of the 1919 Plague on certain age groups, not the very young or the very old and that as such is the situation now.

The fact that the Plague was so closely linked to World War I is another twist of fate as we have just experienced another Anzac Day but one so different from ever before and honoured in such a unique way with candle vigils at dawn right across Australia. You will be pleased to learn that I laid wreaths at the Botany and Mascot War Memorials on behalf of the Botany Historical Trust.

Anzac Day remembrances have been integral to the cultural and personal history of our local people. Both the Botany and Mascot War Memorials were built, with community funding, in the early 1920s. The Eastlakes Memorial was constructed much later after the closure of Rosebery Racecourse and the building of modern Eastlakes. There is also the Arthur Park Memorial, again built with local donations, which was rededicated so beautifully last August. The people of Botany raised three times the amount requested in Peace Loans after World War I and were praised in a personal letter from the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VIII.

The Eastlakes Memorial recognises the historic significance that the Light Horse were assembled and trained at Eastlakes before sailing to Egypt and then onto Gallipoli in World War I. In World War II, the HQs of the 8th Division were stationed at Eastlakes prior to departure and there is also a dedication to the heroes of Beersheba at the Memorial.



It is the Mascot War Memorial that is, however, the most poignant. Built between 1920 and 1922, the names listed include nineteen year-old Private Hector Fraser Hicks. Hector was the only son of Mascot Alderman later Mayor Thomas Henry Hicks. Private Hicks enlisted just as the War was ending and never got to fight but he did catch the “Spanish Flu” that ran rampant on HMAT “Medic” on its return voyage to Australia. The “Medic” became a ‘plague ship’ with 205 cases on board. It docked at the North Head Quarantine Station on 21 November 1919.

Hector Hicks was transferred ashore on 23 November and died at 1am on 30 November. He was buried the same day with no minister of religion present or probably any ceremony in the Third Cemetery at the Quarantine Station. Hector Hicks’ tragedy is one of thousands from that time. His devastated parents never saw him again from the time he left Sydney on the “Medic” in October 1918 nor could they visit his grave.

In 1929, headstones were erected by the Department of Defence but these have long since gone. Although two have survived, one for Hector Fraser Hicks and that of the tragic nurse, Annie Egan from Gunnedah, who probably nursed Hector before her own death. There were erected by their grieving families almost one hundred years later.

Sadly I must also advise you of the deaths of two of our Members, since our November AGM, Mrs Joy Jarman and Mrs Edna Ennis. Our hearts and thoughts go to their husbands, Bob and Joe and their families. Joy and Edna were most valued Members of the BHT, involved, enthusiastic, supportive and just lovely women. We will miss them.

Finally, to all Members, stay safe and stay strong. We can all draw on the history of the Great Pneumonic Plague, the Great Depression and two World Wars, on the example and strength of our forebears and the legendary Anzac spirit.

**Anne-Maria Slattery**  
BHT President

## 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

**All meetings are suspended until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic**

# ESTATE PLANNING

Both the State Library of NSW and the National Library of Australia have an extensive collection of maps and plans that include a large amount of our area.

Bayside Library is in the final stages of a project to find, collate and print all of the estate plans held by the National Library and the State Library of NSW that cover the suburbs of Bayside Council.

The plans, sometimes referred to as subdivision plans or sometimes as estate plans, are the advertisements that real estate agents produced when large areas of land were being subdivided for sale. The estate plans are a wealth of information, containing a great deal of detail that sometimes cannot be found elsewhere.

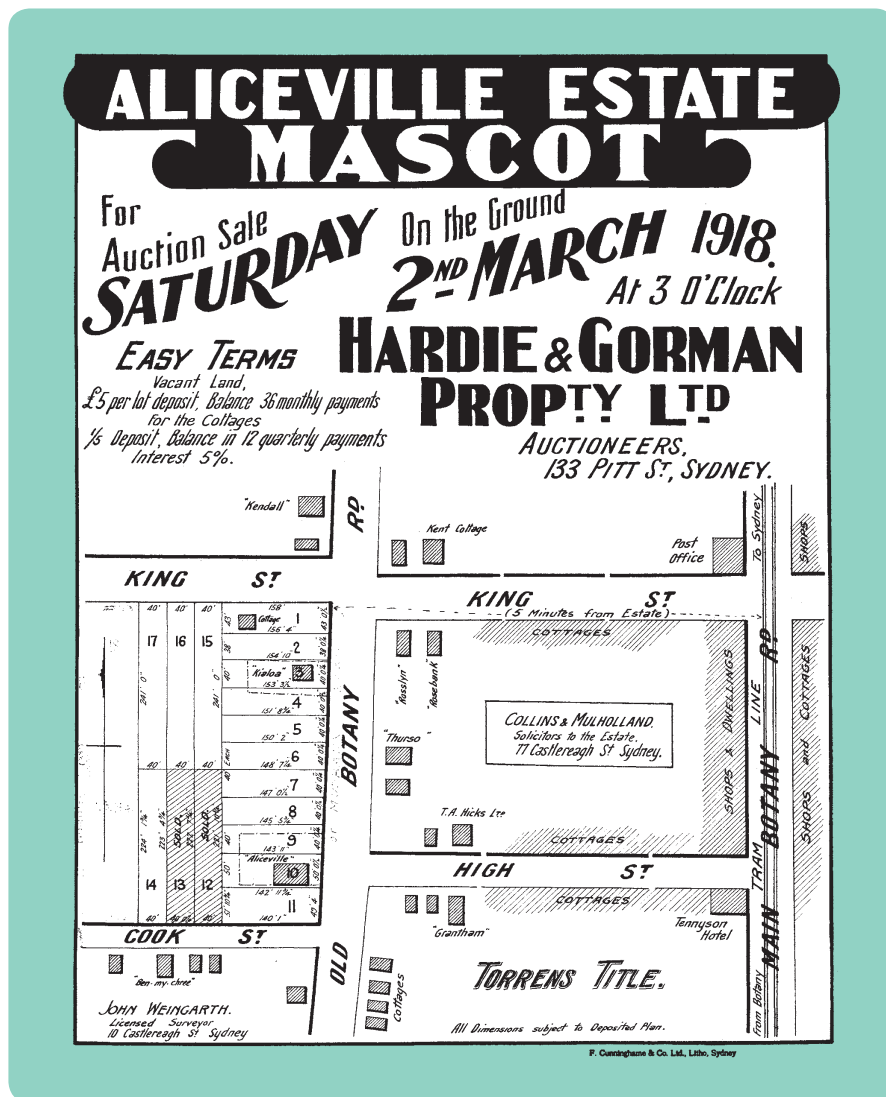
They are also an invaluable resource for anyone interested in documenting the changes that have taken place in our area over the decades.

The 1918 plan of the Aliceville Estate, Mascot, for instance, is an example of how these estate plans can help us track changes in the area and of the type of detail that estate plans can provide. The plan was produced to advertise land for sale between King Street and Cook Street, now Ewan Street.

The plan shows Old Botany Road, or “Mudbank Road”, which is now O’Riordan Street as well as including the names of many of the houses along the streets: ‘Kendall’, ‘Kent Cottage’, ‘Rosslyn’, ‘Rosebank’, ‘Thurso’, ‘Grantham’, ‘Ben-my-chree’, ‘Kialoa’, and ‘Aliceville’. It also shows the site of the Mascot Post Office, the Tennyson Hotel, and the offices of T. A. Hicks Ltd. It is really quite a lovely snapshot of this small section of Mascot in 1918.

Some estate plans are much earlier and contain less detail but are nonetheless still illustrative of the area’s history. Berry’s Estate is advertised as being in South Waterloo, which is now the suburb of Rosebery. The plan dates from 1884 and shows land for sale on Berry Street and Macquarie Street as well as on three other streets labelled as ‘Government Road’, and ‘Reserved Road’. Not all of this land sold in 1884, and in 1911 another plan was produced advertising the sale of the remaining 29 lots.

In the 1911 plan, the land is advertised as being at North Botany ‘near Rosebery Park Race Course’ and the streets shown as Government Road and Reserved Road in 1884 are named as Gardeners Road, Maloney Street and Want Street.



# SYDNEY'S NEW GARDEN SUBURB.

I AM POINTING  
OUT TO YOU

# DUDLEY

THE LAST NEAR  
LAND TO SYDNEY

LINKED WITH THE CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION BY THE NEW SYDNEY TO BOTANY RAILWAY NOW BEING CONSTRUCTED with Station at the Estate. The extension of Daceyville overlooking the model suburb, easily reached by the Bay St., Botany Tram and right through which the coming new tramline which will connect the Western Suburbs with the Eastern Suburbs and their glorious ocean beaches, will pass.



TWENTY MINUTES BY TRAM FROM THE HEART OF THE CITY.

VENDORS' AGENTS

86a Pitt Street  
PHONE B 1752

## H. DUDLEY

Branch Office: DUDLEY'S CORNER  
MAROUBRA.  
PHONE RAND. 105

REAL ESTATE AGENTS AND AUCTIONEERS,  
SUBDIVISIONAL EXPERTS, ESTATES MANAGED IN THEIR ENTIRETY.

£10 Deposit will secure any Block on the Estate, £2 per month completes the purchase, Interest at 5 per cent per annum.

For an estate to be offered for sale several times was not uncommon. Having several estate plans for one section of land can help with dating changes to the area and in determining when individual houses were built. We have estate plans for the Sir Joseph Banks Estate from 1904, 1921, and 1930.

The three together show how much that area of land changed in a quarter of a century: Smith Street became Fremlin Street; 'Avenue' was named Waratah Road; a new Sir Joseph Banks Hotel was built; and you can see quite easily just by looking at the plans what houses were built between 1921 and 1930. Things continue to change and the street labelled as Boronia Street in 1921 and 1930 is now Hanna Street.

The estate plan collection includes many plans that will already be well known to anybody familiar with the history of the Botany area: there are many plans covering the suburb of Daceyville, often titled "Dacey Garden Suburb".

There are also many plans for what is now the suburb of Pagewood showing how land in Pagewood was first offered for sale as land in the "new suburb Dudley adjoining Daceyville". The plans for Dudley include no less than seven plans featuring pictures of Mr H. Dudley himself, pointing out the land being offered for sale.

These plans are as much a promotion for H. Dudley Real Estate Agents and Auctioneers as they are for the land itself.

The estate plan collection also offers many surprises. For example, amongst the estate plans held by the State Library of NSW are layout plans of Pagewood Studios and the Associated TV Offices off Wentworth Avenue. They may not be real estate agency estate plans but they are still a wonderful record of the National Studios that once stood near the site of the Westfields Eastgardens Shopping Centre.

The estate plans are thus a wonderful way to rediscover the area and its landmarks, some of which still remain, some of which have changed drastically, and some of which, possibly sadly, are completely gone.

**Kirsten Broderick**  
Community History Librarian

# Help wanted with family search

We have received correspondence from Elizabeth Gysbers trying to track down information on someone called Eva (perhaps Weaver nee Greenfield) who lived in Mascot through the 1960's and 1970's. She lived on either Hardie Street or Frogmore Street and had two grandsons one possibly called Clint or Clinton.

Eva had a brother called Gerry Maher who used to visit her from time to time with his friend Agnes and her daughter Elizabeth. Gerry worked at Prince Henry Hospital and played golf at St Michaels Golf Club at Little Bay and Eastlakes Golf Course.

If you have any information, please contact Elizabeth on 0433 006 910 or via email to [elizgysbers@hotmail.com](mailto:elizgysbers@hotmail.com)



# BUNNERONG Power Station



**Constructed:** 1926–1929  
**Architect:** Henry Eli White  
**Closed:** 1973  
**Demolished:** 1978–1994



CONTRIBUTED BY  
**ANNE-MARIA SLATTERY**

- ▶ Bunnerong Power Station at Matraville was once the largest in the southern hemisphere.
- ▶ The 117 acre site was chosen in 1924, located on Bunnerong and Military Roads Matraville.
- ▶ Bunnerong was built originally by the Electricity Department of Sydney Municipal Council and was the largest power station in NSW.
- ▶ The original installation was known as Bunnerong A Station and Bunnerong B Station began operations in 1939.
- ▶ After Bunnerong B began operating, 1600 people worked at the site.
- ▶ At times, output was reduced for weeks at a time because of industrial disputes caused by unsatisfactory working conditions.
- ▶ In 1936, the Sydney County Council took over Bunnerong and had its own private railway that connected Bunnerong with Botany Goods Yard.
- ▶ In 1950, control was passed to the NSW Electricity Commission.
- ▶ However, the completion of newer power stations such as Vales Point in 1966 saw Bunnerong A out of use by 1973.
- ▶ Bunnerong B was used only for emergency supplies before it was decommissioned in 1975.
- ▶ Demolition took place in stages between 1978 and 1994 and the 112 metre emission stack of Bunnerong B came down in 1986.
- ▶ Bunnerong A and Bunnerong B were finally levelled in 1987 and the large switch house in March 1994.
- ▶ Although few traces of Bunnerong Power Station remain, the relatively new Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park, an extension of Botany Cemetery, is built on part of the site.

# A Family Story

CONTRIBUTED BY

**MRS MARGARET BELLDEN**

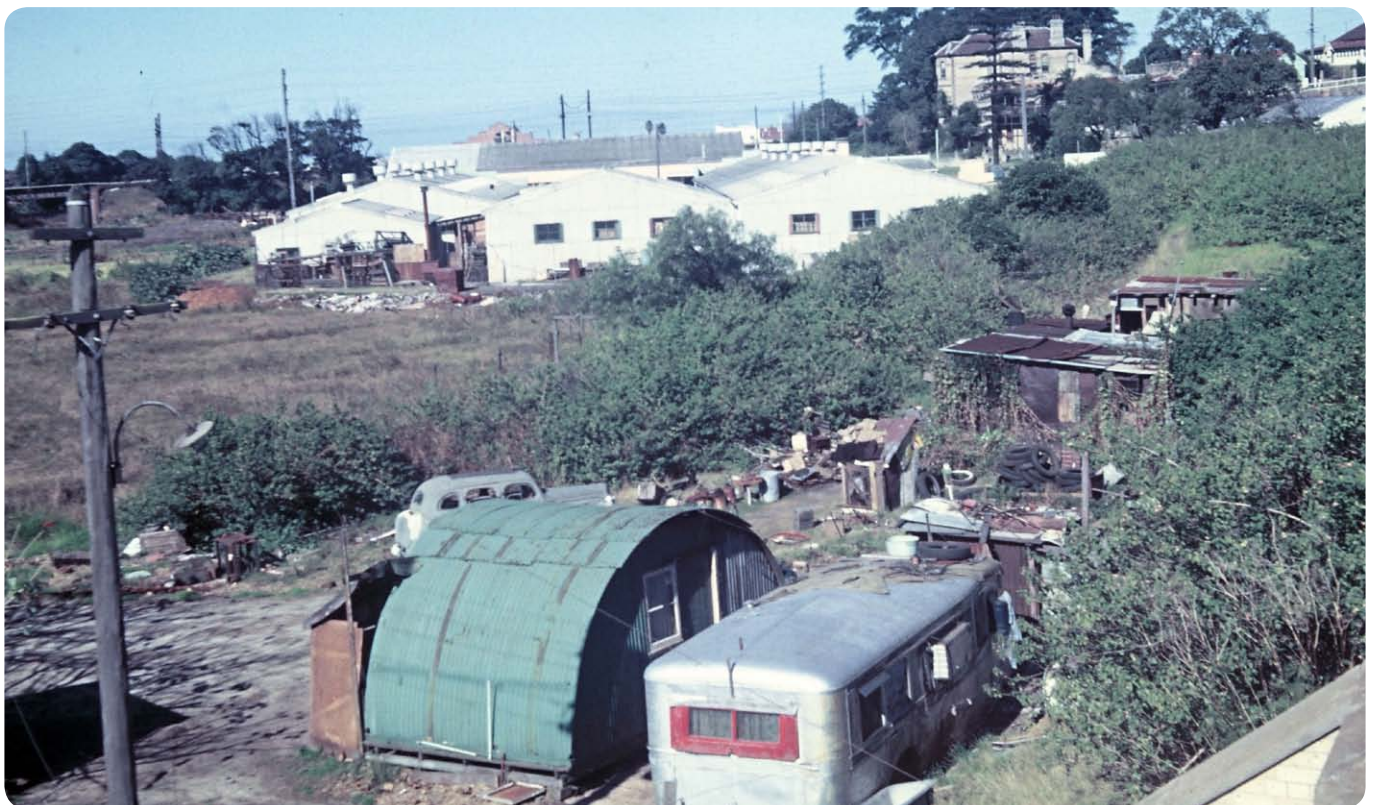
Last year, Bayside Council was contacted by a woman named Mrs Margaret Bellden who had lived in squatter's accommodation in Arncliffe in the 1950s. The area where she lived has since been redeveloped as the modern and prosperous suburb of Wolli Creek, consisting almost entirely of high-rise apartments. Mrs Bellden believes that people now living in the area should know something of the history of their suburb and its former residents and hence she wanted to share her story with Council.

Mrs Margaret Bellden, now a 90 year old great grandmother, was born Margaret O'Shea on the 27th of November 1929, she was to be the eldest of three children. Her parents, Maisie and Cecil O'Shea, would have two more daughters, Olive, who was born eight years after Margaret; and Maureen, who would not be born until 1951.

In 1944, when Margaret was 17 years old, she met the man whom she would marry, John Bellden. John had enlisted in the Australian Army the year before and after the war ended, the couple moved to Riverwood where they lived with Margaret's family.

Things changed drastically for the family in 1951. In that eventful year, Margaret's parents had another child, Maureen, and Margaret had her first child, a son named Paul. 1951 was also the year in which the family lost their rental accommodation as Sydney was still suffering from the acute housing shortage that had started after World War II. The family were unable to find another place to live and were faced with the prospect of becoming homeless.

Mrs Bellden was familiar with the Arncliffe area and knew that there was a section of vacant land off Lusty Street, Arncliffe, near the banks of the Cooks River. Mrs Bellden knew a couple already living in squatter's accommodation there with their son.







**Maureen and Paul Bellden (left) and Peter Bellden (below) in front of the lean-to.**

Unable to find alternative rental accommodation, and with nowhere else to go, Margaret and her family made the decision to camp on the Lusty Street site until they were able to find a more permanent home. The members of the family who lived on the Lusty Street site in 1951 were Margaret and John Bellden, their son Paul, and Margaret's younger sister, Olive. Margaret's parents, Maisie and Cecil O'Shea, were also there with their baby daughter Maureen.

Margaret Bellden and her family lived on this vacant lot of land for the next eight years. At first, they only had a caravan; but they soon built what they called a "lean-to". Finally Mr Jim Parry who had a car sales yard on the Princes Highway sold them an old bus which they moved to the site and used as additional living space.

During the years they spent living in Arncliffe, Margaret and John Bellden had two more children: a daughter Anne born in 1953 and a son Peter born in 1955.

In 1956, Olive married Garry Coote at the Arncliffe Baptist Church. Olive and Garry Coote also had a child while they were living at Arncliffe: a son named Garry after his father.

The families had no electricity and no running water. When the children were old enough to enrol in school, they attended the Arncliffe West Infants School. They also attended Sunday School at the Arncliffe Baptist Church.

It was May 1959 before Margaret and John Bellden were finally able to find a home of their own. They moved to a house in Regents Park where Mrs Bellden has lived ever since.

Margaret's husband, John Bellden, died in 1976. Sadly, Margaret's daughter Anne died in 2009 of ovarian cancer. Margaret now has thirteen grandchildren and twenty-two great-grandchildren.



**We invite Members to submit their family stories and photographs for future issues of the Newsletter via email to [leonie.maher@bayside.nsw.gov.au](mailto:leonie.maher@bayside.nsw.gov.au)**

# Captain Cook Hotel

## at Botany



Captain Cook Hotel,  
circa 1930.

COURTESY OF  
**NSW OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT  
AND HERITAGE**

- ▶ Owner and publican James Devitt established the original Captain Cook Inn/Hotel in September 1868.
- ▶ There were a few changes of ownership before Tooth & Co purchased the hotel for 2250 pounds in July 1899.
- ▶ The current Captain Cook Hotel is locally significant for its historic and aesthetic heritage values. It is a local landmark.
- ▶ The architect was Maurice Bernard Halligan and the builder Oscar William Nilson.
- ▶ The existing hotel was built in 1903 for 2345 pounds. It is aesthetically distinctive, a fine, substantially intact example of a public hotel designed in the Federation Queen Anne style. The choice of style was unusual, evidence of the Tooth Company's commitment to high quality and distinctive design.
- ▶ Federation Queen Anne style architecture is rare in the Botany area and unique as a hotel design.
- ▶ The property is historically significant, showing the course of Botany's development in the second half of the 19th and 20th Centuries.
- ▶ The Hotel has operated as a local public house since at least 1868.
- ▶ Local hotels formed the core of industrial and working class communities in the 19th century.
- ▶ Maurice Bernard Halligan, the architect of the 1906 Hotel. Halligan was a well-recognised early 20th Century architect, who with partner Wilton also designed the Clubhouse for the Royal Sydney Golf Club at Rose Bay, the Dymock's Building in the Sydney CBD and the Royal British-Australian Tobacco Company's premises at Kensington.
- ▶ Oscar William Nilson, the builder, was a prominent local figure, a driving force in the Incorporation of the Botany area and establishment of the Council. Nilson was an Alderman for 35 years and Mayor for two years.
- ▶ The main façade extends to the south as a single-storey parapet over an addition made in 1925. Subsequent additions have sought to retain traditional composition and aesthetic character.
- ▶ The first portion was offered in 1854, a second in 1859. The Hotel sits on Lot 45 of this second subdivision in 1859. This subdivision created the layout for the Town of Botany, which already had land reserved for a Wesleyan Chapel and burial ground, St Matthew's Anglican Church and a police station.

- ▶ The Hotel sits on land that was once part of a 600 acre grant made to Simeon Lord (1770-1841) in 1823. After Lord's death in 1841, his sons George, Edward and Francis subdivided the Estate and offered it for sale.
- ▶ The second subdivision was the first in the area to outline the future Botany Road, at that time named Banks Road.
- ▶ There is evidence of human occupation of the Botany Bay area for at least 5,000 years. The traditional owners are believed to have been the Kameygal/Gameygal, people and further south, the Bidjigal people.
- ▶ The first European occupation of land in the Botany District, c.1815-1850 was a time of mass disruption to the traditional owners.
- ▶ The first recorded land grants to Europeans in the Botany Bay area, near Sydney Airport, were on 16 September 1809 to three ex-convicts, Edward Redmond, Andrew Byrne and Mary Lewin.



- ▶ The largest and best-known grant in the Botany District was 600 acres to Simeon Lord (1770-1841) in 1823. Later, Lord purchased another 135 acres.
- ▶ The other major landholder in the area was the Crown, which held 4,195 acres of land in a reserve known as the 'Church and School Estate'.
- ▶ Much of the land in the Botany District was not released for sale until the late 19th century.

## GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS

Take advantage of online books, movies and more, via Council's library service

**eAudiobooks BorrowBOX** Use the RBdigital Media Manager to download eAudiobooks directly to your computer. Stream eAudiobooks directly from the RBdigital site. Easily find best sellers – just go to our RBdigital homepage.

**eBooks BorrowBOX** Borrow eBooks online or with our library app.

**eFilm Beamafilm** Beamafilm is a free film-streaming site. It features Australian documentaries and indie feature films from around the world. Your library card number is required to access this service.

**eMagazines RBDigital** Bayside Library members can download and keep around 100 eMagazine titles for free. Create a username and password, enter your name, email address and postcode.

**Genealogical Research Ancestry.com** Ancestry Library Edition is a genealogy research tool that provides instant access to a wide range of resources for genealogical and historical research. The login ID is **IINS5JCMJL** and the password is **welcome**.

**eResources State Library of NSW** Your Bayside Library card provides access to the State Library of NSW's online resources, including local & international newspapers, full-text journals, magazines, online databases, eBooks and eAudiobooks.

**Short Online Courses Future Learn** Log into **www.futurelearn.com** and register for free short online courses delivered by a collective of universities. You can find some incredible and stimulating things to do. Online learning offers a new way to explore subjects you are passionate about and pursue your interests.

Please contact Leonie Maher via email [leonie.maher@bayside.nsw.gov.au](mailto:leonie.maher@bayside.nsw.gov.au) or phone **9366 3881** if you need assistance accessing any of the above sites. Please note you must be a current member of the Library to avail of these services.

MASCOT  
WAR MEMORIAL

**THEIR NAME  
LIVETH  
EVERMORE**

