

ASHFIELD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Series 4 No. 94
June 2020

Mid -winter greetings

Welcome to the second ADHS newsletter for the 2020. We hope our members are safe and well. The Committee has been meeting regularly via Zoom during the COVID19 period. Heritage advocacy also continues through submissions on development applications to Inner West Council. This newsletter provides an update on the projects and events that we hope to hold in the second half of the year and beyond.

CURRENT PROJECTS FOR 2020

Two journals will published this year

The History of Ashfield Pool 1963 - 2018

The Ashfield Pool History *Taking the Plunge* has been written by **Ann O'Connell**, **Mark Sabolch** and **Lois Gray** and has been edited by **David Rollinson** and **Ann O'Connell**. There have been many other valuable contributions of photographs, documents and oral stories from Pool stakeholders enriching the wealth of social history that has been gathered and recorded. The book has just been printed and will be launched by the Society and Inner West Council at a date to be set near to the opening date of the new Ashfield Aquatic Centre.

Taking the Plunge will be launched in Spring 2020



Image of proposed new Aquatic Centre from Inner West Council's website

***Preserving
their Names
will be launched
in November 2020***

WW1 Publication

The Society has prepared the journal commemorating those from Ashfield and District who served in WW1. This project started off as a list of all names on Honour Boards to be found in Ashfield and surrounding suburbs, and through additional research will now lists 1000s of names with extra information and photograph on notable people highlighted. Originally to be launched to coincide with ANZAC Day, now we are aiming to launch the project in November 2020.

FUTURE EVENTS

In addition to the journal launches, when the COVID-19 restrictions lift, we hope to resume our calendar of activities including walks and seminars. We are unsure at this stage about the availability of our usual venues such as the Pratten Park Community Recreation and Bowling Club. Members will be notified, once dates for the events have been confirmed.

A Walk along Victoria Street Ashfield

The Victoria Street Ashfield Walk was set down for May 2020 but was postponed. ADHS President, **Mark Sabolch** will lead the walk and has been researching material for it.

*Mountjoy
85 Victoria Street
Ashfield*



Image: Mark Sabolch

Anyone who has information on properties in Victoria Street, who would like to contribute, please email the Society. We hope to hold the walk in Spring 2020. Mark has also written about his research on a property Victoria Street on page 5 of this newsletter.

Talk by Bob Irving

Esteemed architectural historian and author **Bob Irving OAM** has a wealth of knowledge on history and heritage. Bob has kindly offered to present a talk to the Society which will be on *Australia's First Real Buildings*. We are aiming to hold this event in October 2020.

ADHS turns 50 in 2023

The Committee held a workshop on 11 July 2020 to talk about ideas to energise the Society and ideas for future events to commemorate the Society's **50th Anniversary** in 2023.



Some ideas proposed by President **Mark Sabolch** for the big birthday are:

- a list of the 50 heritage sites in the Ashfield District
- establishment of the Ashfield Medal, to recognise excellence in heritage
- showcasing Heritage Impact Statements
- heritage shockers- lessons learned from poor heritage outcomes
- focus on Ashfield in 1973 – the fashions ,the Council, the demographics
- collaborations with the Marrickville Heritage Society and The Balmain Association
- the Gateway to Ashfield –the future of Explorers Park, corner of Parramatta and Liverpool Roads
- Thirning Villa in the next 50 years - workshops with Council and the community to enhance its value.

Committee Member **Colin Webb** has also suggested:

- *Business as Usual* – oral history and stories about businesses in Ashfield and District that have been operating for 50 years
- *From all the Lands on Earth We Come* – a collection of the histories/narratives of some of the people who arrived in Australia over 50 years ago.

We will report on the outcome of the Workshop in the next newsletter. Please contact the Society with any ideas you may have or if you would like to be involved in the project.

HERITAGE UPDATE

David Rollinson reports on Development Applications and other heritage related matters to be considered by Inner West Council.

Updates to Council's planning controls

In April, David advised that Council was exhibiting the proposed Consolidated LEP for the Inner West Council area. The Consolidated LEP will bring together the planning for the three former Councils, with some minor changes, updates and housekeeping amendments. The Schedule of Heritage Items is a list by suburb and appears to be all the heritage items of those former Councils in the one document.

As far as Ashfield's heritage items are concerned, there have been no changes. The ADHS had made suggestions to the Council 18 months ago regarding possible new items for assessment, but these do not appear to have been investigated. However, almost all the former Ashfield items have the words 'including interiors' now added, in conformity with what already applied under the former Leichhardt and Marrickville LEPs.

Advocacy on development applications

In late May 2020 the Inner West Local Planning Panel met to determine a DA for a two storey pavilion addition at 4 Rosemount Street Summer Hill. The Society had made a submission on the application. There were 31 objections to the DA. David spoke at the meeting raising the continuing objection by the ADHS, as did other Members and residents of the surrounding conservation area. The Panel approved the DA but required the upper level to be reduced in width by 500mm on either side, to address visibility from the street.

The Inner West Council also recently published on 3 July 2020 an updated Development Control Plan for the former Ashfield Area.

This includes the planning controls for Conservation Areas:

<https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/develop/planning-controls/current-development-control-plans-dcp/ashfield-dcp>

PARRAMATTA ROAD SUMMER HILL PROPERTIES

The Society has been alerted that four properties on Parramatta Road, to the east of the Sloane Street intersection, Nos 30 -36 Parramatta Road are for sale as a development site. Concern was raised regarding their potential heritage value and the possibility that they may be demolished. Committee Member **Colin Webb** has photographed the houses.

*Parramatta Road
houses alert*



Images: Colin Webb

THE INTRIGUE OF LOCAL HISTORY

Mark Sabolch writes about his research on properties in Victoria Street Ashfield:

I hope to convey to you, dear readers, how intriguing and rewarding local history research can be. Victoria Street in Ashfield contains a mix of very old houses, as well as more recent developments. It is not uncommon in the Inner West that you would see very old properties sitting alongside new redevelopments. But let us scratch below the surface and see what has contributed to this mix. Who has been behind the built form that we see as we stroll down the street?

While preparing for a guided walk along Ashfield's Victoria Street, I was struck by the block of flats at 60 Victoria Street beside leafy Allman Park. Architecturally it's an ordinary 1960's block, but who built it and who lived there beforehand?



60 Victoria Street Ashfield
Image: Mark Sabolch

My curiosity to know who lived at this address, provides an example of simple research techniques, but also an intriguing tale of social history.

Reseraching social history using Sands Directory

I started with the Sands Directory which is available on line, thanks to the City of Sydney.

The 1919 Sands edition indicates that at this address, 60 Victoria Street, both Mrs E.S. and Wm. Thos. Lloyd were residents. Interesting there is an inconsistency in the referencing of these people's names, with the "Mrs" only referenced by initials, while the other is abbreviated.

Going back in time however, from the 1907 edition to 1910 we learn that Mrs E.S. Lloyd and William Thomas Lloyd, both of "Handsworth" (no street number was used), were the only residents on the east side of Victoria Street, between Norton and Roberts Street. Perhaps they were a married couple, but further research will be needed to confirm. The 1920 edition of Sands indicates that Lloyd, Mrs E.S. resided at 60 Victoria St, Ashfield alone. Is it possible that her partner, William Thomas Lloyd, died?

Although the Sands stopped producing their directories in 1933, the Valuer-General cards, available to view at the State Archives in Kingswood, provide further tantalising information.

The Valuer General card for this address indicates that in 1946 the registered owners of "Handsworth" were Elizabeth Sarah and Miss Marion Ethel Lloyd as Joint Tenants. Now we know what the E.S. stands for! Is Marion Elizabeth's daughter?

From the Valuer General card, we learn that by 1962 the estate of Marion Lloyd (we don't know what year Marion has died) passes into the ownership of Charles Smeaton of Lewisham. Then by 1963 the ownership is again transferred to the Proprietors of a Strata Plan. It is therefore likely to conclude that Charles Smeaton of Lewisham was the developer of the block of flats, and interestingly we also learn that he retained ownership of two of the new flats in the new block.

Extract of
Valuer General's
information found
at State Archives
Kingswood

1898
VALUATION ROLL—DEPT. OF THE VALUER GENERAL, N.S.W.
VALUATION DISTRICT OF ASHFIELD WARD OR RIDING E

1908 1907
1912 1909 19

OWNER'S NAME Lloyd, Sarah Elizabeth
Marion Ethel Misses
Joint Tenants
"Handsworth" 60 Victoria St. Ashfield
Rms. & Pools 11/12 St. Sydney
Ponyara Rd. Rydges Hotel
31 Joubert St. Ashfield
2.1.63 The Proprietors Strata Plan no 178

LESSOR'S NAME ROY GILKES Pty Ltd
LESSEE'S NAME Roy Gilkes Pty Ltd

COUNTY REED. REF. } VO. 1644 FO. 90 D.P. 883 PARISH OTHER }
TO TITLE. } BK. No. }
STREET Victoria SIDE E

NATURE OF IMPROVEMENTS Ctge. LOCALITY OR ESTATE Plympton HOUSE NO. OR NAME 60 STRATA PROP HANDSWORTH

DATE VALUES TAKE EFFECT IN VALUATION ROLL	PORTION	SEC.	LOT	AREA OR DIMENSIONS	VALUES			INITIALS	VALUATION NOTICE ISSUED ON	REMARKS
					UNIMPROVED £	IMPROVED £	ASSESSED ANNUAL £			
11-2-46			7	50'x150'	650	1300	99			Reval
22.2.49			"	"	725	1450	105			Reval
18.12.51			"	"	925	2500	129			Reval
5.10.55			"	"	1175	3800	190			Reval
19.4.57			"	"	1175	4000	200			Reval
16.7.58			"	"	1400	4500	225			Reval
2.9.61			"	"	2250	5250	316			Reval

DESCRIPTION OF IMPROVEMENTS D.F. Bk. Ctge. 5 Rms. K&O S. Roof.

DESCRIPTION OF LAND AND LOCALITY

SH 400-1

STRATA PLAN 178

So we have the bones of a very interesting family story here.

The house, "Handsworth" built in around 1907, was owned by members of the same family for approximately 50 years. They must have loved it there.



Victoria Street Ashfield
Image: Mark Sabolch

In the records of the NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages the 1957 death certificate for Marian Ethel Lloyd, records as her mother, Elizabeth Susannah, but father, Alfred. So, if Alfred was Marian's father who was William Thomas Lloyd? Marriage registry search results indicate one Elizabeth married a William Lloyd in 1908 in Waterloo. Is this our couple? But this doesn't explain how they might have been living together as indicated in the 1907 Sands directory.

This is just a snapshot of the big jig saw puzzle that is historical research.

It does show however, that behind that 1960's block of flats in Victoria Street, there lived a family who had resided there since 1907. The mainstay of that family was Mrs Elizabeth Lloyd, along with her daughter Marian Lloyd.

The great thing is that this type of local history research can be done relatively safely under the COVID regime we find ourselves in.

PHOTOGRAPHIC TALES

Members **Clare Herscovitch** and **Phil Burne** have been busy at home during COVID restrictions, Clare writes:



Some years ago we became the custodians of the photographic collection of a deceased relative. It consisted of photos from about 1940-1955 and transparencies from late 1950s to early 1970s. We have sorted and scanned the entire collection to jpeg and tiff format. It has been a lengthy process, but now nearly complete thanks to Coronavirus restrictions



The photos show life on an apple and cherry orchard - the family and friends, the fruit pickers and visitors, the home and its beautifully tended flower garden. They document the pruning, watering, spraying, harvesting and packing on the farm, dam construction, new farm equipment, snow and springtime, and the changing landscape. And there are many street scenes, celebrations and significant events of the nearby town recorded.



The slides show holidays from the Gold Coast to Canberra and Parkes, from Broken Hill to Adelaide and across to Western Australia. It was an eye-opening journey through time with a wonderful photographic guide.



For every locality identified, we contacted the local historical society or the local studies collection of the library. The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW, the State Library of Western Australia and the State Library of South Australia were also contacted. Every single organisation has enthusiastically accepted the slides offered. Many of the societies have said the 1950s and 60s are poorly represented in their collections so are particularly happy to find material from that period. One library put the 1961 images onto its Facebook page the day they were received.



Although the photographer would not have realised it, she left a remarkable photographic record of place and time. And although she lived a quiet country life her images are now held and appreciated in historical collections in all mainland states.

It has been a very gratifying experience for us, for the history learned, the contacts made, and the pleasure in knowing that the photos, preserved and distributed to relevant organisations, are recognised as having significance. We fear too many potentially valuable collections of photos are lost when homes are hurriedly cleaned out after a death.

Images: Collection of
Clare Herscovitch & Phil Burne

By giving these photos our attention and time we can deepen our understanding not only of the person, but also the history through which they lived and the places they inhabited. If more neglected and overlooked collections could be given this time and interest, our historical societies would be very fortunate.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Ann O'Connell advises that the Society has received some new material for the collection held in the Rooms, being a Summer Hill Chamber of Commerce Minute book from the AGM held 8 May 1973 – 23 June 1986, received from Julia Collins. It had been the property of her sister Janet Collins when she died in 2019. Rather than throwing the book out Julia wanted to pass it on to our custodianship.

Chris McQuellin, a Member and frequent contributor has sent us a scan of a very impressive Championship Certificate which was awarded to his father, P.D McQuellin in 1937 by the Western Suburbs Amateur Athletic Club; and

A contribution from **Mark Bayfield** of a large number of photographs relating to Neville Bayfield, the first president of the Ashfield Amateur Swimming Club and his two sons Mark and Wayne. These have been invaluable in the Ashfield Pool History and mostly date back to 1960s and 1970s.

*Rate books,
certificates and
photographs
have been
added to the
Society's collection*

MYSTERY POSTCARD

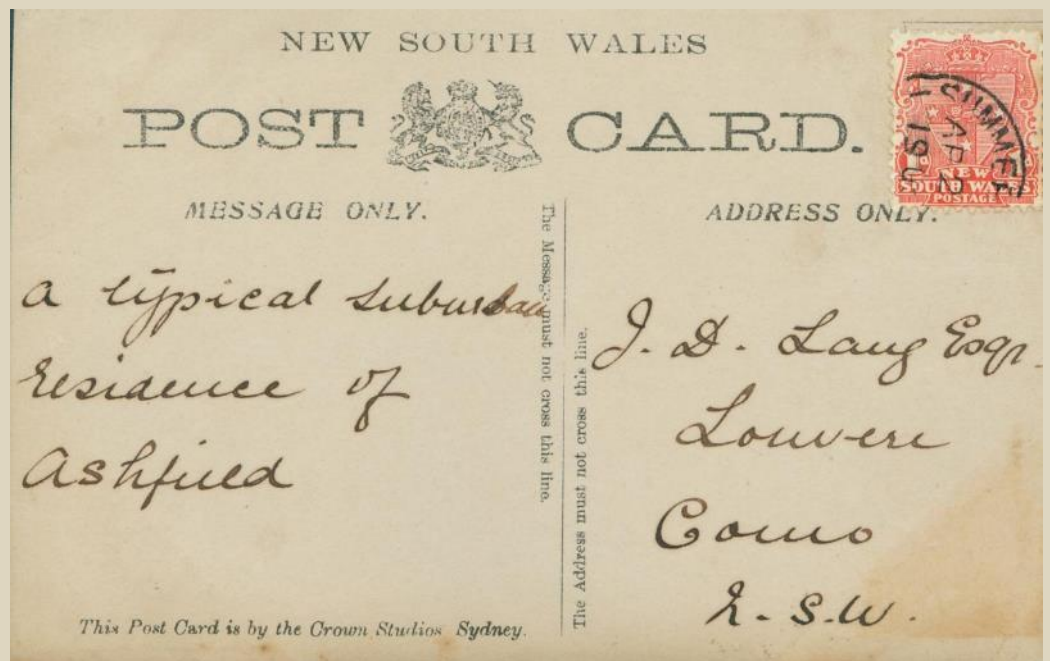
The Society has also acquired a postcard of 'a typical suburban residence of Ashfield' sent to J.D Lang Esq. It was postmarked Summer Hill, 190? and was sent to the address of Louvere in Como. **Ann O'Connell** has found that *Chateau Louvere* was a guesthouse, and description of it in a real estate advertisement

Joseph Dennis Lang died in 1925 in Auburn after a long illness. He was the brother of Jack Lang, Premier of NSW. Interestingly, the address of the house depicted is not given.

*'a typical suburban
residence of
Ashfield'*



*Do you know the
location of
the house shown on
this postcard?*



We challenge our Members to find where the house is located!

Let us know if you have any ideas, via email.

*Research material at
the State Library*

STATE LIBRARY NSW RESEARCH RESOURCES

In the May newsletter of the State Library of NSW, there was a link to online resources to research at home. The State Library advises:

We've created a new section on our website — Researching at Home — with helpful links to make it easier for you to navigate the Library's huge range of online resources including databases with journal articles, newspapers, company and industry data, reference material, ebooks and more. [Get started here.](#)

*The Society's Rooms
in Thirning Villa
have reopened*

ADHS RESEARCH ROOMS AT THIRNING VILLA

The Society's Rooms at Thirning Villa, Pratten Park in Arthur Street Ashfield are now again open to visit for research purposes. The Rooms are open twice a month on the **second and last Saturday**. We have hand sanitizer, and will limit numbers and maintain social distancing.

The next Open Day will be on **Saturday 25 July 2020** from 11 am to 4 pm.

Membership renewal

ASHFIELD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Please visit our website to renew your membership for 2020, if you have not already done so: <https://ashfieldhistory.org.au/membership-application/>

Contact ADHS

Postal address: PO Box 20 ASHFIELD 1800

Email: adhs@tpg.com.au

Website: <https://ashfieldhistory.org.au/>



Allman Park Ashfield
Image: Mark Sabolch

*Newsletter
contributors*

The articles and photographs in this edition of the newsletter were by:

- **Mark Sabolch**
- **Ann O'Connell**
- **David Rollinson**
- **Clare Herscovitch**
- **Colin Webb**

Edited by **Heather Warton**
July 2020.