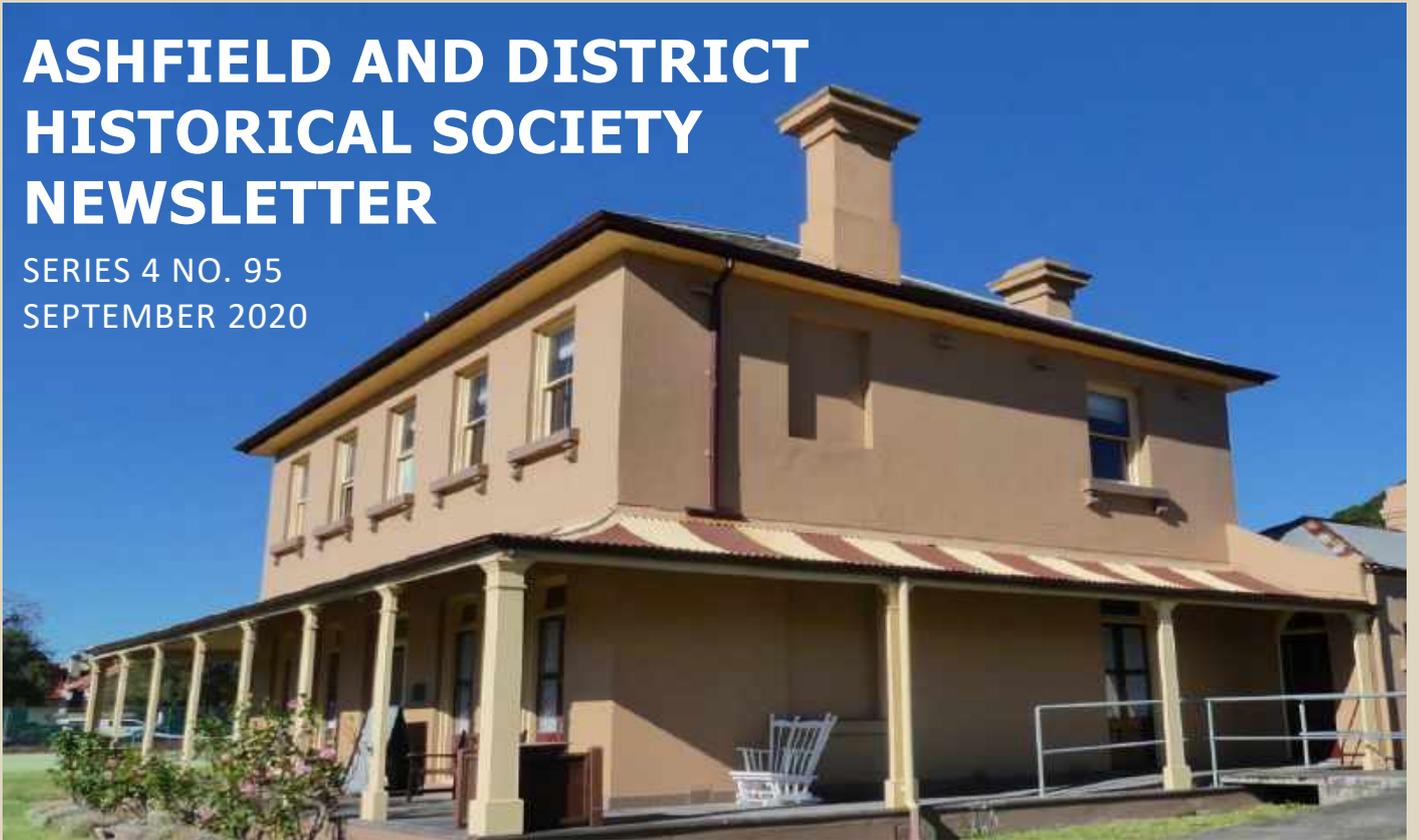


# ASHFIELD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SERIES 4 NO. 95  
SEPTEMBER 2020



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*A Spring message from  
Mark Sabolch*

*Dear Members*

*Welcome to the Spring edition of the ADHS Newsletter. Whilst we all are still persevering through COVID 19 social distancing protocols there is still much local history to share with you.*



Glentworth

*I'm really proud to say our Society has prepared an extraordinary history on the **Ashfield Pool (1963 to 2018)**. This publication is a worthy addition to our ADHS portfolio. It commences with the history of public swimming in the Ashfield area even before the pool was built in 1963. Our research then covers the extraordinary culture that has developed within and around the Ashfield Pool over the decades. We undertook the recording of many interviews with local people during our research of the Pool, and we are making these audio recordings available to you as digital files. They can all be accessed from our new website: <https://ashfieldhistory.org.au/>*



Ashfield Police station and Fire Station  
Images: Mark Sabolch

*Please RSVP early to attend a **Talk by Bob Irving** on Australia's First Building. The Pool publication will also be released at this event on **October 18** to coincide with Council's opening of the redeveloped Ashfield Aquatic Centre.*

***Victoria Street Ashfield** is a magnificent showcase that captures so much of the Inner West's appeal. From one of the oldest mansions in the district, Mountjoy (1870), one of the grandest mansions, Glentworth (1886), a quintessential 1889 Police Station and the undulating Yeo Park (1925), there is so much to appreciate. This Newsletter is dedicated to events and news around Victoria Street Ashfield, including a report on the recent Victoria Street Walk held by the Society.*

*Remembrance Day will be upon us soon on 11 November. We will be marking this event with the launch of another Society publication, **Preserving their Names**, a database of names of young men and women from the Ashfield district who volunteered for service in World War I. The Society has produced a lovely book with some fascinating stories for us to share with you – the launch date will be **15 November**.*

*Stay safe & regards, Mark*

*“If you think the new Marrickville Library is magnificent, wait until you see the amazing new Ashfield Aquatic Centre.”*

*and read the book: Taking the Plunge!*

**18 October 2020**

*Talk by Bob Irving on Australia's First Real Building*

**RSVP for Bob Irving Talk & release of Taking the Plunge**

## UP AND COMING EVENTS

### OPENING OF THE NEW ASHFIELD AQUATIC CENTRE

The Society has been advised that new Ashfield Aquatic Centre is to open on **17 October 2020**. The Council will be organizing tours of the new complex, please visit Council's website.

Inner West Council is seeking suggestions for a new name for the pool – some of the more whimsical suggestions are the Young ACDC pool and PoolyMcPoolFace. See: <https://yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/spacenamingaac/brainstormers/namingspacesaac/ideas/31591>

### THE HISTORY OF ASHFIELD POOL 1963 – 2018

The *Ashfield Pool History Taking the Plunge*, written by **Ann O'Connell, Mark Sabolch and Lois Gray**, edited by **David Rollinson and Ann O'Connell** will be released to coincide with the opening of the new Ashfield Aquatic Centre. The release of the book is much awaited and great feedback has been received so far from the Council, who commissioned the Society to write the history of the Ashfield Pool.

### TALK BY BOB IRVING: AUSTRALIA'S FIRST BUILDING

A presentation by **Robert Irving OAM** will be held on Sunday on **18 October 2020**. The esteemed architectural historian and author **Bob Irving** has a wealth of knowledge on history and heritage will present a talk to the Society on *Australia's First Real Building*.

Bob's presentation will illustrate one of the least-known historical events in the early history of Australia. It was the arrival on the First Fleet in 1788 of the portable house that Governor Arthur Phillip brought to Sydney Cove for his occupation until what is now known as the (long-gone) First Government House could be erected for him. The assembled portable house became Australia's very first prefabricated building —a remarkable example in the New World of the burgeoning industrial revolution in Britain.

The talk is the product of new research showing for the first time the nature and origin of this important part of our architectural history. Professor Max Freeland called it 'Australia's first real building'.



Image: Supplied by Bob Irving

All members who attend this event will receive a copy of *Ashfield Pool History Taking the Plunge*. Those not able to be accommodated at the function will be able to pick up their copy of the publication from the Society's Rooms at Thirning Villa.

#### **SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER 2020**

**PRATTEN PARK COMMUNITY RECREATION AND BOWLING CLUB**

**2PM**

RSVP: [events@ashfieldhistory.org.au](mailto:events@ashfieldhistory.org.au)

**BY: 16 OCTOBER 2020**

There will be a limit of 40 people at this COVID19 aware event. BYO mask.

A waiting list will be established for in case places become available closer to the day or restrictions are further eased.

15 November 2020

## LAUNCH OF PRESERVING THEIR NAMES

The Society's journal commemorating those from Ashfield and District who served in WW1, now ready to be distributed. The research began with the work of **Kerry Ann O'Reilly** and **Peter Byron** recording the names on as many local WWI Honour Boards as they could find. Then more searches of a variety of sources by a dedicated team added to the list and we ended up with over 3,000 names. Detailed stories from 19 entries were explored and in the process some surprises were found.



One story is about the five Jones brothers, from 156 Liverpool Road Ashfield:



*Preserving their Names* was compiled and edited by **Bernadette Williamson** and **Carolyn Carter**, with contributions from the Committee. The publication is free for financial Members of the Society.

### GUEST SPEAKER BRAD MANERA

We are delighted that **Brad Manera**, the CEO and Senior Historian at **Sydney's Hyde Park Anzac Memorial** will launch *Preserving their Names*. Mr Manera is described by the NSW RSL as a "war history guru". His life-long passion for military history and battlefield archaeology has transcended both pastime and vocation. Mr Manera was a member of the editorial team writing the official history of NSW in the Great War. Please email to reserve a place at this event.

**SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2020**

**2PM**

**PRATTEN PARK COMMUNITY RECREATION AND BOWLING CLUB**

**RSVP: [events@ashfieldhistory.org.au](mailto:events@ashfieldhistory.org.au)**

**BY: 13 NOVEMBER 2020**

There is a limit 40 people at this COVID 19 aware event. BYO mask.

A waiting list will be established for in case places become available closer to the day or restrictions are further eased

**RSVP for  
*Preserving their  
Names* launch on**



Image: Sydney Broadsheet  
<https://www.broadsheet.com.au/sydney/event/flour-mill-markets>

**MARKETS AT THE FLOUR MILLS IN SUMMER HILL**

At the Flour Mills development in Edward Street Summer Hill, a market is held every second Sunday. **Bernadette Williamson** and volunteers from the Society host a stall, presenting our publications. Please call by and say hello to Bernadette and Society members.



ADHS stall at the Flour Mills Markets on Sunday 4 October 2020  
 Image: Lois Gray

**RECENT EVENTS**

*ADHS walks*  
*Canary Island Palm lined*  
*Victoria Street*  
*Ashfield*

**VICTORIA STREET WALK**

A Member’s Only event, **A Walk along Victoria Street Ashfield** was held on Sunday 20 September 2020. The numbers for this event were limited due to COVID-19 restrictions. The walk was a warm up for a larger event to be held sometime in the future, when restrictions permit a larger gathering.

The day started out rather ominously with a heavy fall of rain but by 2pm the skies were almost clear and **Mark Sabolch**, together with **Lois Gray**, **Ann O’Connell**, **Chris Pratten** and **Bernadette Williamson** lead a group of 17 through a wonderful walk.



*Foundation stone of Sydney Private Hospital formerly the Masonic Hospital 83 Victoria Street Ashfield*  
 Image: Heather Warton



Chris Pratten OAM, speaking outside Glentworth  
 Image: Mark Sabolch



Cheryl Borsak introduces members to *Northridge* at 141 Victoria Street  
Image: Mark Sabolch

The walk commencing at no. 1 Victoria Street, covered architectural and social history including significant personalities residing in Victoria Street at various times, including the Patons Electrical factory at 90 Victoria St during 1930's to 1950's, and WWI soldiers connected with Victoria Street especially those earning special awards.

A highlight was an invitation to visit the garden and external areas of *Northridge* by the owner, **Cheryl Borsak**. Cheryl gave us very interesting presentation on the trials of buying and restoring one of the grand homes in the street, complete with photos of the restoration works. Thank you to the Borsaks for their time in preparing such interesting material for our visit.

There was so much to discuss and view that we did not complete the entire walk so it is intended to hold a further Victoria Street walk in the future.

## HERITAGE UPDATE

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

Visible on Council's website are now Preliminary DA applications which previously ADHS would have been unaware of. These are draft proposals submitted (with a fee) for discussion with relevant Council staff to see if the design is 'on the right track'. Viewed recently was a Pre DA for additions to heritage item in Edward Street Summer Hill and one for 28 Kensington Road. An earlier DA had received a number of objections (including from ADHS) but was then withdrawn by the applicant. It will be interesting to see whether this new proposal is lodged as a formal DA application. The plans can be examined on the DA Tracking page.

**David** also writes:

*In 2019 I was interviewed, on behalf of the Society, by a local Ashfield resident **Jessica Xu** for her UTS master's thesis research on representations of Indigenous and migrant culture in Ashfield. A copy of Jessica's thesis has been lodged with ADHS and Ashfield Library and Jessica recently approached ADHS again to see if we might be interested in giving wider exposure to her research and findings. I have read her thesis and consider it would form the substantial basis for a very useful publication focusing on why various monuments, murals and memorials have been erected in parks and public spaces of Ashfield and their level of cultural significance.*

*DA information on line*  
<https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/develop/development-applications/track-development-applications-das>

*Explore the resources on Inner West Council's website from History Week 2020*



Former industrial firms in Carrington Street Marrickville  
 Images: Inner West Council website

With Jessica's agreement, the ADHS will encourage Jessica to augment her thesis in this way and the ADHS will talk to Jessica about possibly publishing it in the future.

Council's program for **History Week**, which was held from 5 - 13 September 2020 is on the Council's Library web page. Of particular note was the launch on Friday 11 September of the online walking tour **Ashfield People & Places** compiled by local historian **Nicole Cama**. Nicole had received a small grant from Council back in 2018. The ADHS first became aware of this when Nicole visited the Rooms and spoke to David in early in 2019.

If you would like to get out and about in a COVID-safe manner, the Inner West Council has self-guided Historical Walking Tours on its website, see:

<https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/explore/libraries/community-history/community-history-and-archives-collections/self-guided-heritage-walks>

A new free e-book **Carrington Road Industrial Heritage Marrickville NSW** is also recommended. This explores Australia's manufacturing history in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century through the development of industry in Carrington Road Marrickville. This can be downloaded from Council's website at:

<https://innerwest.spydus.com/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=524030>

## BOOK REVIEWS

### *Swift Underhand*

#### ***John Kinloch and the invention of Australian cricket***

**Alison Doran**, the Archivist at Trinity Grammar School Summer Hill has presented the President of the Society with a book recently written by **Max Bonnell** (Published by Roger Page Cricket Books).

**Mark Sabolch** writes:

*This is an engaging history of John Kinloch, the person who established the original school in 1878 that was located on the Trinity Grammar site at Summer Hill. Max Bonnell has prepared a fascinating, well researched history, and presented the material in a thoroughly easy to read manner.*

*John Kinloch had been a bright student himself in Sydney in 1852 and matriculated to attend the first lectures at the newly opened University of Sydney. Kinloch was also a gallant cricketer, a sport that Bonnell appears passionate and knowledgeable about.*

*When John Kinloch established a school for boys on his 26 acre property, he named the estate after his mother's maiden name, Hurlstone. His mother, Helen had died in Sydney in 1849 when she was only 45 years old. This booklet is as much about the fascinating development of cricket in New South Wales as it is about the life of a man who attempted to make a living by using his academic talents in nineteenth century Sydney. It's a great read.*

***Swift Underhand*** is now part of the ADHS' collection in the Research Rooms in Thirning Villa, Ashfield.

The Society thanks Alison and Trinity Grammar for this gift.

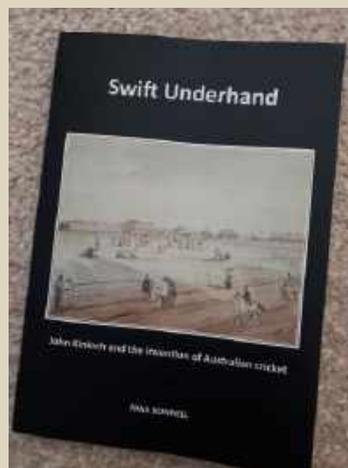


Image: Cricket Web.net

# **Trinity Grammar School**

## **A Centennial Portrait: Mind, Body, Spirit**

*Bernadette Williamson has reviewed another Trinity Grammar related publication, Trinity Grammar School: A Centennial Portrait: Mind, Body, Spirit by Jonathon C. Harris (Sydney: Third Millennium Publishing. 2013. 192 pp. illustrations, appendices, index).*

*This handsome volume was part of Trinity Grammar School's centenary celebrations in 2013. The school drew on its own resources to produce the book: the author, Jonathon Harris, was Head of History at Trinity; the image and caption editor, Alison Field, was Trinity Archivist. All of the impressive illustrative material is held by the school.*

*The book is divided into two parts. The first, A Centennial Portrait, tells a story of twists and turns. Although Trinity Grammar has been a landmark in Summer Hill for as long as anyone can remember, the school was in Dulwich Hill for its first decade. As the founder, Rev. George Chambers was rector of Holy Trinity Church of England in Dulwich Hill, this was unsurprising.*

*Trinity first opened with 45 pupils in the mansion Hazeldene, moving down the Boulevard to The Towers within a few years. Indeed, for several years, lessons were taught in the parish hall as enrolments outgrew the capacity of the premises. Chambers was an outstanding scholar, teacher and leader possessed of boundless energy. He pursued his vision for a Christian education for boys in Sydney's inner western suburbs with unwavering commitment.*

*As Warden, Chambers lived at the school, taught religion, raised funds and drove school development. Harris does not gloss over the potential for conflict between such an omnipresent leader as Chambers and the succession of four headmasters in as many years. In 1924, Chambers' deal with the Department of Education to exchange The Towers for Hurlstone Agricultural College, on 17 acres in Summer Hill, secured Trinity's future despite increasing the chronic financial difficulties.*

*A Centennial Portrait details the growth of the school, its dynamic leaders, evolving curriculum and continuing vision of holistic Christian-centred education for boys. From its foundation, Trinity was supported by other Protestant churches in the area, not only by Anglicans. This ecumenical spirit is still strong, with current students from all churches and religions.*

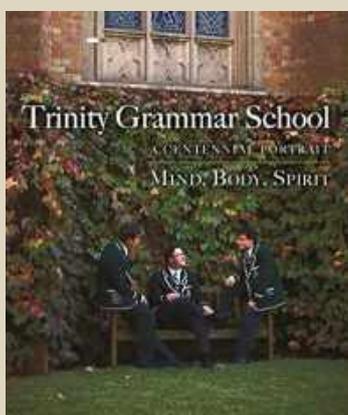


Image: amazon.com.au



Trinity Grammar in the past, Victoria Street in foreground, Seaview Street on left; looking towards Dulwich Hill  
Source: Trinity Grammar School website

The second part of the book, *Mind, Body Spirit*, provides a chapter of representative visuals for each decade. The excellent selection of images have detailed captions which enrich the text of the first section.

This book is a welcome addition to the Society's collection. **Trinity Grammar School** is housed in our Rooms where it is available for visitors to consult

## OTHER NEWS

### THE TALE OF SMITH STREET

**Mark Sabolch** writes on how **Smith Street in Summer Hill** got its name:



When Ashfield Council was first formed in 1872 there were six Aldermen. The Council was only four months old when it met on 10 June 1872. At this meeting the Council considered some of the unnamed streets in the Borough. The Mayor was **John Pope**. The other Aldermen were **Frederick Clissold, John Smith, George Crane, William Henson and James Sandy**. Here is how the Council meeting Minute Book records their deliberation:

*Moved by Alderman Henson and seconded by Alderman Smith:*

*That certain streets now unnamed in this Borough be named by the Council:*

*That the unnamed street bearing Easterly from the Ashfield Road [this is the early name given to today's Victoria Street], and being the first street south of Robert Street, be named **Clissold Street**.*

*That the next street running parallel with Clissold Street be named **Pope Street**.*

*That the next street commencing at the Easterly point of Arthur Street, being 50 feet wide, and continuing in the direction of the water reserve be called **Smith Street**.*

*That the next street bearing Northerly from the Canterbury Road, passing allotments 15, 16, 17 and 19 and terminating in Smith Street be called **Crane Street**, such street being 33 feet wide.*

*That the street running parallel with Crane Street Easterly of Allotment 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 and being 50 feet wide be called **Henson Street**.*

*That the next street running Northerly from the Canterbury old Road to Smith Street Westerly of allotments 22 and 23 being 50 feet wide, be named **Sandy Street**.*

*Smith Street Summer Hill commemorates Alderman John Smith*

We could accept such aggrandisement, perhaps, given these streets are named after the first Aldermen of the first Council in Ashfield. A memorial to them perhaps. Then why is it that three of them have been re-named? Pope Street has become Seaview Street; Crane Street has become Prospect Road; and Sandy Street has become either Moonbie or Nowranie Street. Only three of the originally named streets have stood the test of time, Clissold, Smith and Henson Streets.

One possible reason why the name of Smith Street has endured, is that **Alderman John Smith** tragically died one year later. While still serving on the Council, John Smith became unwell and he passed away on 18 November 1872.

The death notice records that John Smith was in his 68th year and had lived at Pine Cottage, Ashfield. I'm sure that his fellow and all subsequent Alderman have retained the name Smith Street as a fitting and lasting tribute to person who helped establish the new Ashfield Council. And now we know for whom it was named, we will remember him.

#### References:

- Minutes of the Ashfield Council (copy in the ADHS Research Rooms)
- Sydney Morning Herald, 19 November 1872, (<http://trove.nla.gov.au>)
- Appendix G of the 1993 Ashfield Heritage Study, which lists background notes on all of Ashfield's streets (copy available in the ADHS Research Rooms)

On the 18th instant, at his residence, Pine Cottage, Ashfield, Mr. JOHN SMITH, in his 68th year, after a long and severe illness, which he bore with Christian fortitude; formerly ironmonger, of Pitt-street, Sydney.

## THERE ARE NOT ONLY MAGNIFICANT PALMS IN VICTORIA STREET

ADHS Committee Member **Colin Webb** writes of an interesting botanical find on Victoria Street:

*When I was out walking the other day I noticed a Sydney rock orchid growing on a tree at 85 Victoria Street. This **Dendrobium speciosum**, according to the leading Dendrobium guru in Australia I consulted, is between 50 and 100 years old and appears to have been deliberately attached to the tree in the grounds of No 85 Victoria Street. I am sure that all of us have these moments of pleasure in our history and heritage. I just happen to be interested in dendrobiums and have over 100 in my backyard but I never expected to see one in a tree in Victoria Street.*

*When you next walk down Victoria Street, past no 85, you will look up. They are flowering at the moment.*



Image: Colin Webb

## CALLING ON ALL RESEARCHERS

Recently, ADHS Member **Rhonda Halcoop** shared her research on Hugh Carlisle and the Carlisle Estate in Ashfield.

The Society is keen to further research into the people, places and events of Ashfield and surrounds. If you are interested in undertaking research or sharing investigations or material you have collected please contact the Society. We are also undertaking an oral history program - let us know if you are willing to assist.

We encourage other members to bring forward any work or ideas to us.

# ASHFIELD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

## RESEARCH ROOMS

The Society's Rooms at Thirning Villa, Pratten Park in Arthur Street Ashfield are open to visit for research purposes.

*Come and visit the research Rooms in Thirning Villa*

**The Rooms are open twice a month on the second and last Saturday.**

We have hand sanitizer and we limit visitor numbers to maintain social distancing.

The next Rooms Open Day will be on **Saturday 10 October 2020** from 11 am to 4 pm.

## MEMBERSHIP

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

## CONTACT

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

*Spring Newsletter contributors*

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

- Mark Sabolch
- Ann O'Connell
- David Rollinson
- Colin Webb
- Lois Gray
- Carolyn Carter
- Bernadette Williamson.

Edited by Heather Warton  
October 2020.



Victoria Street Ashfield, looking north showing the avenue of Canary Island Palms, relatives of the true date palm  
Image: Mark Sabolch