

Newsletter

MARCH 2025 I SERIES 5 I NO. 17

Dear Members

Here we are hurtling into 2025.

Significant change may be just beyond the horizon but one constant amidst this change is the ongoing support for The Ashfield and District Historical Society. The 2025 AGM shows that the Society is still strong after more than fifty years since its founding, a notable achievement for an organisation which relies on volunteers, as able as they are.

I would like to congratulate and thank the members of the 2025 Committee who were nominated and elected to serve the Society this year. A particular thank you is extended to outgoing Committee members to **Bernadette Williamson, Mark Sabolch** and **Ronda Gaffey** for their splendid service. The list of the new 2025 office bearers is in the pages which follow.

Brian Scales a highly qualified archivist now working for the Inner West Council gave wonderful presentation focusing on the wealth of material available in national, state and local archives.

Brian also officially launched the Society's latest publication *Summer Hill Village* which is again a credit to all those who contributed articles, edited, formatted and supervised printing of the journal. Details of Brian's presentation and of those who deserve our thanks and congratulations for *Summer Hill Village* follow in the newsletter.

While we can feel proud of the Society and its achievements, as I outlined in my AGM speech and report, there are challenges ahead. One such challenge is renewal of our organisation in a time when many other organisations struggle to find volunteers.

President's message

Another is the changing attitudes to the study and understanding of history. Tertiary study of history is said to be in decline both nationally and internationally.

More locally, with an increasing demand and resultant declining availability of residential dwellings, developmental pressure to increase density will in turn place pressure on heritage conservation areas and heritage listed buildings. Achieving an acceptable balance will be difficult.

That leads me to something of importance to all who have an interest in our local area, particularly built heritage. The Inner West Local Environment Plan, which will set planning and zoning regimes for the future, will be considered at the 29 April 2025 Council meeting.

Please enjoy another interesting and informative newsletter.

Alex Lofts, President

Alex presented his report on the many events held by the Society this year. A copy of the report is on our website.



Alex Lofts welcomed all to the AGM

The Minutes of the 2024 AGM were received and noted, and the Treasurer, **Carolyn Carter** presented a health account of the Society's finances.

Susan Thompson then took the Chair to oversee the election of the officer bearers and new Committee for 2025.



Susan Thompson, AGM presiding officer

Past events

Annual General Meeting & Journal launch

There was a great turnout for the Society's AGM held on **9 February 2025** at the Summer Hill Community Centre. The President, **Alex Lofts** welcomed all attendees and spoke about the ongoing success of the Society as demonstrated by the attendance at the AGM, but also some of the challenges ahead with generational change resulting in volunteer organisations finding renewal difficult. The study of history is said to be in decline. Younger people are also feeling left out of the dream to own or rent their own place to live and that some don't see value in heritage conservation.

Annual General Meeting

The results were some familiar faces, including Alex Lofts continuing his commitment to the Society as President, and some fresh Committee Members:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| ➤ President | Alex Lofts |
| ➤ Vice President | Lois Gray |
| ➤ Treasurer | Carolyn Carter |
| ➤ Membership Secretary | Carolyn Carter |
| ➤ Public Officer | David Rollinson |
| ➤ Research Officer | Ann O'Connell |
| ➤ Heritage Officer | David Rollinson |
| ➤ IT Coordinator | Phil Burne |
| ➤ Web Manager | Colin Webb |
| ➤ Rooms & Collections Coordinator | Clare Herscovitch |
| ➤ Activities Coordinators | Paul Williams & Jan Williams |
| ➤ Minutes Secretary | Murray Cleaver |
| ➤ Newsletter Editor | Heather Warton |
| Committee Members | Kerry Barlow |
| | Joy McIntyre |
| | Peter Schulz & Linda De Rosa. |

It was confirmed after the Meeting that **Bob Irving** will continue as the Society's Honorary Architectural Historian.

Following the official business, Alex returned to the Chair and said it was an honour to lead the Society, now over 50 years strong.

A vote of thanks was moved for:

- 3Bridges Summer Hill Community, in particular our contact **Genevieve Norman**, for allowing the use of the Community Centre as a great venue for our events
- **Robert Moore**, the long-standing Heritage Adviser to Ashfield and Inner West Council, who has recently retired.

Robert was thanked for his unwavering support to maintaining the built heritage of Ashfield

- Outgoing **Committee Members**, **Mark Sabolch** (journal author and former Society President), **Bernadette Williamson** (who will continue to organise stalls for the Society at the Flour Mills and other locations); and **Ronda Gaffey**.

The gathering then was addressed by guest speaker, **Brian Scales**. Brian studied history at the University of Sydney doing Honours in American History and holds a Graduate Diploma in Information Management.



Brian Scales, AGM guest speaker;
Image: Lois Gray

Brian's talk was on local history in the Inner West, from the perspective of his position in the Inner West Council's Community History team.

Brian explained how he started his information management and career in archives at the National Archives in Canberra, in an information and records management training and communications role. He then was the Manager, Public Engagement at the Archives' NSW Office.

Brian reminded us of the great sources of information on local history to be found in the National Archives, including a wealth of material on Post Offices and also records on ancestors who served in World War I and World War II.

Annual General Meeting

The Inner West Council's Archives have been digitised allowing easy access to Meeting Minutes and Rate Books. Brian highlighted the resources available on the Inner West Library website, which gives access to the council's catalogue of material.



Brian speaking to slides from the National Archives website; Image: Lois Gray

After Brian's useful advice on research sources and the importance of archives, he launched the most recent research publication of the Society:

Summer Hill Village

Brian praised the high production values and the quality of the research, referencing and writing, saying the journal was a joy for the eyes as well, as it contains many fabulous images.

Ann O'Connell, co-editor with **David Rollinson**, and author of eight articles in the Journal thanked Brian for generosity in assisting with the Journal and for enthusiastically supporting local heritage. Ann also thanked **Amy Zar** from the Council for access to Inner West Council's resources and mentioned authors **Marie Atkins**, **Mary Hord**, **Colin Webb**, **Clare Herscovitch**, **Mark Sabolch** and **Kerry Barlow** for their special contributions.

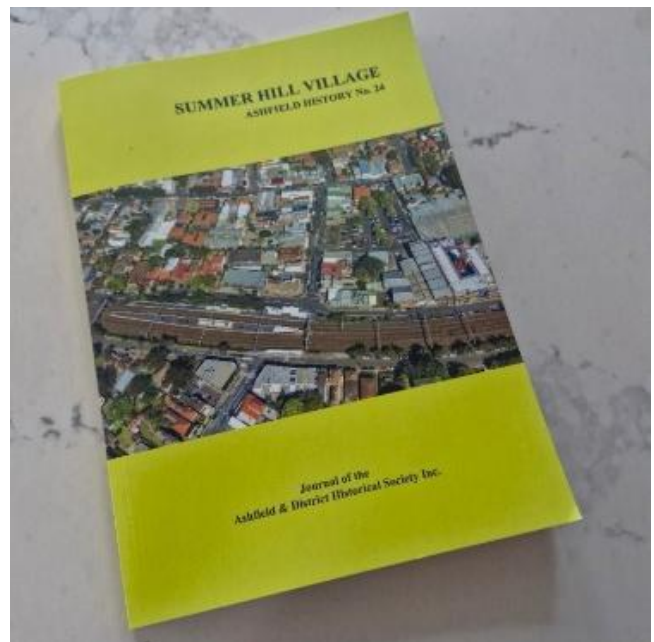


The AGM crowd; Image Murray Cleaver

A splendid afternoon tea was provided at the end of the meeting, enjoyed by all.

Society Members, who were at the AGM, took home a Journal. Local members can pick up their copy from our rooms at *Thirning Villa* on our next open day on 29 March 2025.

Financial members who have paid for postage will have received their copy. Any remaining uncollected copies for local members will be delivered by our intrepid walkers when it gets a bit cooler!



Heather Warton

Images: Lois Gray & Murray Cleaver

Past Events

Tour of St Davids Church

On **Sunday 16 March 2025**, in 35 degree heat, just under 30 members and guests met in the shady burial ground at St David's Uniting Church for a tour led by lifetime ADHS member, **Vince Crow**. Vince authored *St David's Haberfield: 150 Years* to mark it's sesquicentenary in 2019 and prepared tour notes to assist attendees on the day. Vince's talk and these materials are the basis for this article.

The grounds upon which the church stands were under the custodianship of the **Gadigal and Wangal people of the Eora Nation** before being granted to **Nicholas Bayly** in 1803 as part of a 480 acre parcel of land which he called *Sunning Hill Farm*. Two years later the holding was sold to Simeon Lord and became known as *Dobroyde*. In 1825 it passed to **Dr David Ramsay** on the occasion of his marriage to **Simeon Lord's** daughter, Sarah.

When Dr Ramsay died in 1860 his remains were initially interred at his residence, *Dobroyde House*, near what is now the intersection of Rogers Avenue and Parramatta Road, Haberfield. In accordance with the terms of his Will, over 4 acres of land fronting the already existing Dalhousie Street and extending back almost as far as the present-day O'Connor Street, were set aside for a Presbyterian church, school house, manse and a burial ground.

Shortly after Dr Ramsay's death construction of a vault began in what was to become the burial ground and Dr Ramsay's remains were transferred upon it's completion in 1861-62, with the exact date unknown.

The Vault Reserve

As part of the tour, the sandstone vault was open for inspection courtesy of **Maggie and Renato Ramsay**, **Renato** being a direct descendant of Dr David Ramsay.



Entry to the Ramsay Vault

Image: Lois Gray

Steps led us down into a cooler, compact and gloomy space containing the remains of Dr Ramsay, his wife, Sarah Ramsay, their son, David, his wife, Dorothy, and their son, Charles, as well as the remains of two babies. All remains were encased in lead, the timber coffins having disintegrated with time.



In the Ramsay Vault

Image: Colin Webb

Tour of St David's Church

A walk through the surrounding burial ground, known as the Vault Reserve, revealed the burial sites of four children of **Dr David and Sarah Ramsay**, namely, Margaret, Edward and Helen Ramsay and Mary Louise (Learmonth) with her husband, Alexander.



Vince Crow in the burial grounds, talking about the vault and graves
Images: Lois Gray



The tombstone of Annie Downie (McKenzie) 1868, wife of the first minister of the church, and one of the three graves of a non-Ramsay
Image: Lois Gray

While the Reserve was intended only for members of the Ramsay family, four burials in the late 1800's were an exception. Agreement with the Presbyterian Church was reached in 1902 to formalise that intention.

The tour continued from the leafy Reserve to the nearby church.

St David's Uniting Church

It is understood that Dr David Ramsay had proposed that the church be called "St David's Presbyterian Church, Ashfield" and that became it's designation.

The foundation stone was laid by **Sarah Ramsay** on 28 April 1868 in the stead of Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, who had been injured following an attempt on his life at Clontarf.

Tour of St David's Church

Unfortunately, the foundation stone went missing during construction - a mystery that most likely will never be solved.

The **Duke of Edinburgh**, however, returned to open the church on 26 March 1869, to much local excitement and planted a Moreton Bay Fig tree near the fence at the front of the church. In October 1909 a plaque referring to the planting of the tree was laid into the new sandstone fence. Unfortunately, the tree was over zealously pruned in 1921 and the stump was removed in 1923.

Facing west, the church was designed in the Gothic Revival style and built in sandstone. A square tower in the Norman tradition supported a spire which was struck by lightning in 1913 and removed in 1915. Vince pointed out that the dating of certain photographs of Haberfield can be assisted by the presence or absence of the church spire.

The church interior is particularly delightful although, on the day, was also sweltering hot!

The vestry retains amber glass windows which are representative of the original glazing throughout the church.

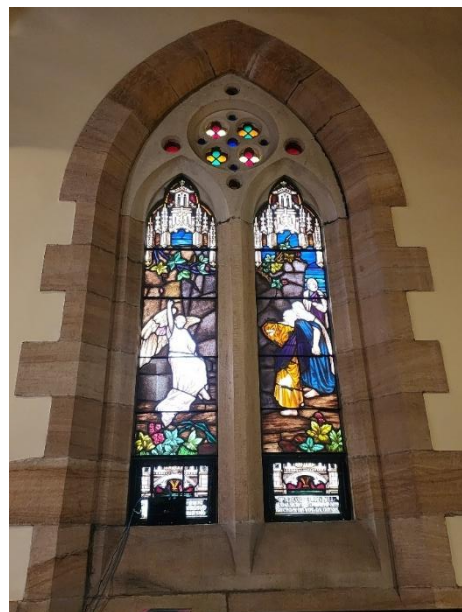


Image: Lois Gray

Ornate stained-glass windows, noted below, were not installed until the following century.

1947: a window depicting the biblical battle between David and Goliath, with David protecting his flock, in memory of those in the armed forces who died during World War II.

1949: a window showing Mary Magdalene at the tomb of Jesus on the First Easter Sunday, in memory of **Alexander Bell**, a church elder. A second window installed that year depicts the Good Samaritan, in memory of **Jeanie Fletcher**, erected by her husband **Dr Mervyn Fletcher** (see below)



Double stained glass window installed in 1949 – Mary Magdalene at Jesus' tomb and the Good Samaritan.

Image: Lois Gray

c. 1951: the left panel of the window embodies the statement of Jesus "Let the little children come unto me" and the right panel depicts Jesus washing the feet of his disciples on Maundy Thursday, both representing the concept of "service", in memory of **Rev. John Hunter**, minister 1933-51.

c. 1954: a window showing Martha working and questioning Jesus while Mary listens to Him, in memory of **Joan Hanwell**, erected by her husband, **Robert Hanwell**.

Tour of St David's Church

1955: a window referencing music in the Bible and depicting an organ and a harp, in memory of Florinda Sloan, erected by her husband, **Alfred Sloan**.

c. 1955: a window displaying a red cross, representing non-partisan help, and an entwined snake, representing healing and medicine, in memory of **Dr Mervyn Fletcher**.

c. 1965: a window showing King David kneeling at the feet of a messianic vision of Jesus, in memory of **James Buchan**, a Church elder, erected by his family.

1968: a window entitled "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth", a memorial to the Girl Guides and Boys' Brigade, formed at the church in 1931 and 1934 respectively, and created as part of the church's centenary celebrations.

1978: a window depicting the return of the prodigal son, erected in memory of **Ronald Lochhead**, a church elder, by his family.

1997: a window depicting a Nativity scene including merino sheep as a reference to the Australian context, was installed in the church sanctuary, in memory of **Gwendoline Buchanan**.

1998: a window to complement the Nativity scene depicting Jesus in his father's carpentry workshop and providing a reference to Jesus' death, was installed on the opposite side of the Church sanctuary on the occasion of **William Buchanan's** 89th birthday.

A magnificent pipe organ was installed in 1920 as a memorial to those who served in World War I. Originally it stood behind the altar but following its restoration and electrification in 1965 was relocated to an elevated position at the back of the church. It is still used at Sunday services.

The tour continued to the neighbouring Manse, built in 1911 in the "Queen Anne" style with ecclesiastical architectural elements and then on to St David's Hall.

Dobroyde School in St David's Hall

Construction of St David's Hall, fronting onto Dalhousie St and also built in the Gothic Revival style, with pointed-arch windows, was completed in 1862. Thereafter it housed Dobroyde School, also known as *The St David's and Yasmar Sabbath School*, which had been established by the Ramsay daughters at *Dobroyde House* in 1840 and then *Yasmar House* from 1860. Religious services were also held in the Hall until the Church opened in 1869, and lessons continued until 1876 when the school closed due to low enrolments. It is of interest that from 1864-65 **Peter Dodds McCormick**, who is attributed with having composed the national anthem, *Advance Australia Fair*, taught at the school.

The Hall is now the second oldest extant building in Haberfield, with *Yasmar House* having been constructed 4 years previously. Extensions to the front and rear of the Hall were undertaken in 1930 in the style of that period.

Our tour ended in the Hall with very welcome cold drinks and afternoon tea and with congratulations to Vince Crow for an excellent and very interesting tour. Many thanks to **Rev. Joy Steele-Perkins** for allowing access to the St David's Church and grounds.

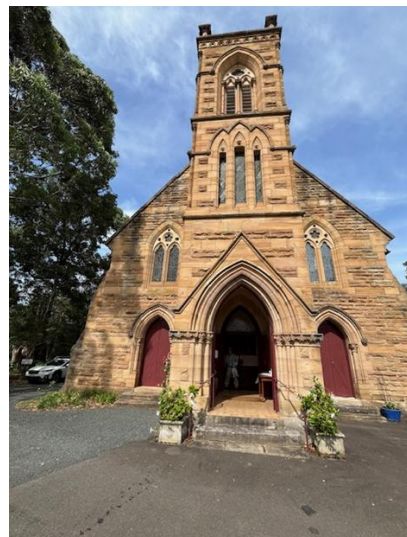


Image: Colin Webb

Joy McIntyre

Images: Lois Gray & Colin Webb

Future events

Photographic gems of the State Library

Wednesday 16 April 2025

10.30am

The Photographic Images held by the NSW State Library will be made available to a group of ADHS Members under the guidance of **Geoffrey Barker**.

Meet at the main entrance of the Library in Shakespeare Place at 10.20am.

This is a MEMBERS ONLY EVENT

Register on our website:

<https://ashfieldhistory.org.au/event/gems-from-the-state-librarys-extensive-wide-ranging-photographic-collection>

The Squatters' Grab

Sunday 18 May 2025

Summer Hill

Community Centre

2pm

Wal Walker will present his recent book *The Squatters' Grab* and talk about the failure of settlers to honour the directions of the British Government to the indigenous occupants of the Colony. This event is linked to the National Trust Heritage Festival theme *Unearthed – revealing the past*, bringing to light lesser-known histories and stories and unearthing knowledge to empower younger generations as custodians of culture and tradition. Wal is a great great-grandson of W.C. Wentworth.

Register on our website:

<https://ashfieldhistory.org.au/event/the-squatters-grab/>

Inviolable but Invisible

Women at Ashfield, Summer Hill and Croydon Stations

Sunday 15 June 2025

Summer Hill

Community Centre

2pm

Dr Stuart Sharp will deliver a talk **Inviolable but Invisible - Women at Ashfield, Summer Hill and Croydon Stations** – with particular emphasis on how their development affected the lives of women in our community.

Dr Sharp is a retired Heritage Officer with the State Rail Authority.

Register on our website:

<https://ashfieldhistory.org.au/event/he-history-of-the-railway-stations-at-summer-hill-ashfield-and-croydon/>

Save the date

The Circus in Australia

Sunday 27 July 2025

Dr Mark St Leon will present a talk on the History of the circus in Australia. Mark is a descendant of the St Leon Circus family.

History of the SES

September 2025

We are in discussion with the **State Emergency Service**, which is celebrating 70 years of service, to have a presentation by an experienced ex-commander of our local branch.

Becke & Beilby Family Reunion

Next June in NSW, there will be a Family Reunion for descendants of **Frederick and Caroline Matilda**

Becke (nee Beilby).

They came to Australia on the *Layton* in 1833 and were there parents of Australian author **Louis Becke** (1855-1913:

[Biography - George Lewis \(Louis\) Becke - Australian Dictionary of Biography](#)

If you are interested, please contact the organiser:

anna.underwood@bigpond.com

March is Women's History month

Catherine Whittaker, a social historian and President of **Lost Voices Australia Inc** has contacted the Society. She is keen to acknowledge our lost female voices in history.

Without government funding or sponsorship we are running a HERstory Arts Festival on 23-26 April at Sydney Theatre Company Wharf 2.

In our Gala opening Ronda Gaffey of the Parramatta Female Factory Friends will perform a vignette of her female ancestor convict's journey to New South Wales and her time here. This will be followed by a play called The Amazing Lucas Girls to acknowledge the vital and forgotten role of women in defeating conscription in WWI and their great support of each other through this darkest time in our History.

Please help us in our fight for women's voices in our immersive arts festival showcasing and celebrating women in art, poetry, short story, memoir and essay and two plays.

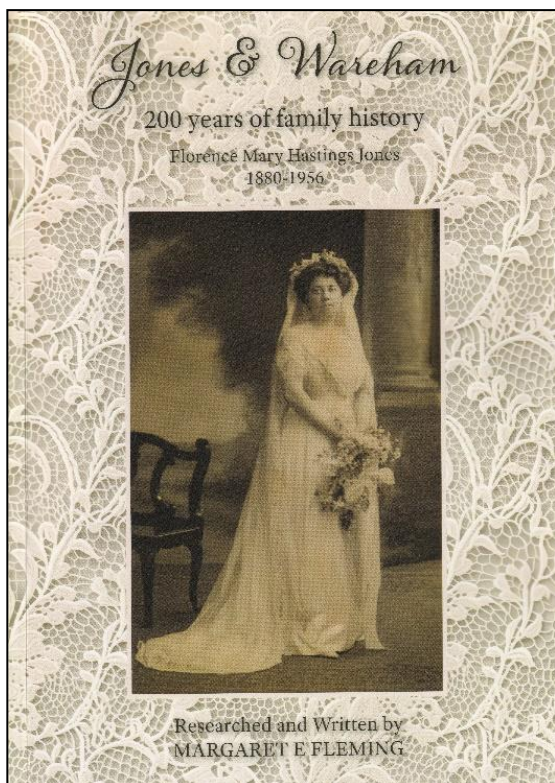


Tickets: STC whatson HERstory Arts Festival

There is a ticket discount with the code HERSTORY25.

Book Reviews

Jones & Wareham 200 years of family history, Florence Mary Hastings Jones, 1880-1956



A newly published book researched and written by family historian **Margaret Fleming** of Victoria has been donated to our Society. It is ***Jones & Wareham, 200 years of family history, Florence Mary Hastings Jones, 1880-1956.***

The book is the major work of Margaret Fleming who begins the story of the Jones family when they lived in Aberaeron, Wales in 1807. Brothers **Richard Theophilus Jones** (medical practitioner) and **William Gladstone Jones** (chemist) migrated to Australia in 1865.

Richard set up his medical practice on Liverpool Road Ashfield (corner of Murrell Street) in 1875 and after working in some country towns.

William eventually settled in Ashfield in 1880, also in Liverpool Road in what was known as the Medical Hall. Both became prominent and respected professional men who served the Ashfield community until their deaths: William in 1907 and Richard in 1914.

Florence Mary Hastings Jones was born at the family home on Liverpool Road Ashfield on 3 June 1880. She was the eldest daughter of William Gladstone Jones and his wife Charlotte Mary Jones (Wareham), the third of twelve children, three of whom died in infancy. Florence was author Margaret Fleming's grandmother.

Margaret's book explores the many branches of the Jones family from Wales and Norfolk to Australia giving details of descendants and their endeavours. It follows the life of Florence Fleming (nee Jones) to Yarram and Yarroweyah in Victoria. It is very well illustrated with family photographs, maps, documents and newspaper clippings, all of which tell the story.

Margaret has distributed copies of the book to various family members, the National Library of Australia and State Library of Victoria but has a limited number in stock.

For anyone interested in obtaining a copy, you may email mmoxhamfleming3@bigpond.com.

Margaret is always on the lookout for new information about the Jones family.

She also sends a 'shout out' to anyone with any information about William G. and Richard T. Jones and their families in Ashfield.

Thank you Margaret for your generous donation of this wonderful resource to our Society.

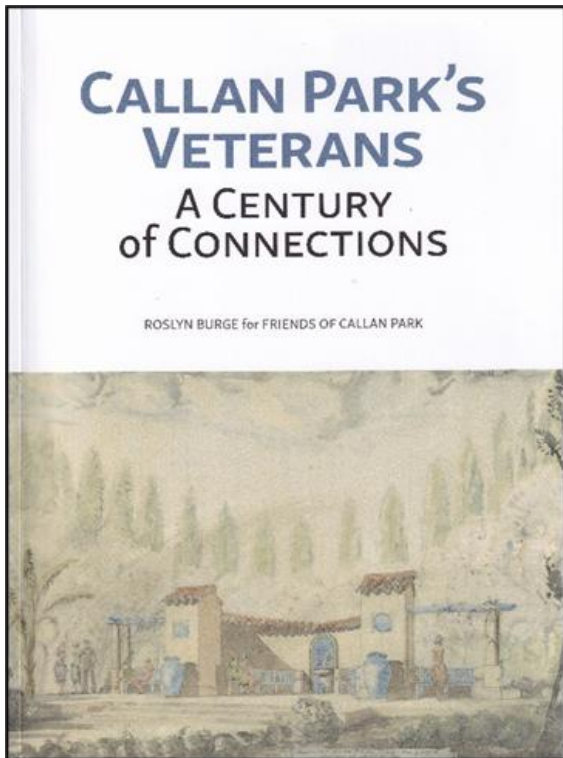
Ann O'Connell

Book Reviews

Callan Park's Veterans, A Century of Connections

A new book ***Callan Park's Veterans, A Century of Connections***, by **Roslyn Burge for Friends of Callan Park**, was published in December 2024.

Roslyn has kindly presented our Society with a copy of her book which tells the little-known story about the hospital wards that were purpose-built at Callan Park specifically to house and treat sufferers of psychological injury resulting from war service.



A topic that was and still is rarely articulated, shell shock and mental trauma suffered by victims of war, was something which affected more returning soldiers than we will ever know and was often disguised and hidden from view. Genuine care and comfort were shown to the soldiers at Callan Park.

Roslyn states in the opening page of the book:

Given the stigma of madness and insanity at the time, the government and the military and soldiers' leagues were intent on ensuring soldiers were not categorised as insane and there was a determined effort to describe such veterans as convalescents.

This book is a beautifully presented publication, and it includes details of the wards, government funding, staff, the various memorials and remembrance ceremonies that have been held there.

The book contains photographs from the past and others more recent; the writing is sensitive and respectful of the veterans who spent time there recuperating, and of those who never did.

For further details and to purchase a copy of Roslyn's book, go to the Friends of Callan Park website. [Friends of Callan Park –](https://www.friendsofcallanpark.org.au/)

Congratulations Roslyn on a very worthwhile book! and thank you.

Ann O'Connell

The Timber Truss Bridge Book

Murray Cleaver advises of a fabulous on-line publication which will be of interest to many on timber truss bridges in NSW.

This has been published by Transport for NSW, have a read:

<https://ttb.transport.nsw.gov.au/>

Donations

Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Medal

At the Society's Annual General Meeting and Journal Launch held 9 February 2025 the **Hord Family**, represented by Michael & Wendy Hord and Clare and Danielle Smith, presented a Hord family treasure to the Society. It is a gold medal which was struck by Ashfield Municipal Council to commemorate Queen Victoria's 60th year of her reign in 1897, her Diamond Jubilee 1837–1897.

The commemorative medal had been in the Hord family's possession since John Charles Hord had purchased it in 1897. His only daughter, Annie who was born in 1893, was nicknamed 'Queenie', after Queen Victoria.

John Charles Hord was a local builder who constructed many homes in the local area and other districts. Articles relating to the Hord family are published in *Summer Hill Village*, Journal No. 24 (pp.137-170). one of them was written by Mary Hord of Tasmania, and she also contributed enormously to the other with family information and photographs.

The Hord family's gift of the medal to the Society is extremely generous and they can be assured that it will be displayed on occasions, treasured and conserved for the future.

We are most grateful to accept this rare and important item that tells a story of Ashfield's allegiance and loyalty to Queen Victoria and the Royal Family which was foremost in society in general at that time.

John Hord's medal has returned to Ashfield thanks to his very thoughtful descendants! Thank you!



Ann O'Connell

Donations

1955 calendar

Early advertisements can give insights into the past. Such is the case with a 1955 calendar printed as a bookmark which was donated to us by **Brian Gray** of Spencer Street Summer Hill to our Society.

The strip of very soft card has advertisements on the front and back from various local shops such as the Summer Hill Health Foods (14 Lackey St), Summer Hill Florist (40 Lackey St), Summer Hill Library (33 Lackey St), R.W. Megaw Glory Box Linen (33 Grosvenor Cres), G.P. Poulos Milk Bar (126 Smith St) and Woods Grocery (10 Sloane St).

Small donations such as this one are invaluable in our collections for the information they contain. Thank you, Brian, and to Murray Cleaver also, who delivered it to our rooms on a February open day.

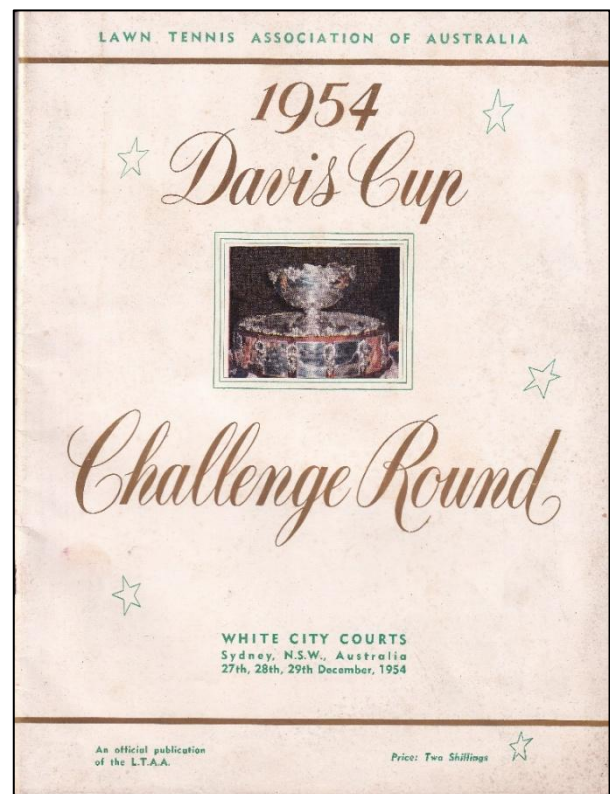


Ann O'Connell

1954 Davis Cup Challenge Round, White City Courts

Recently **Colin Webb** donated a useful publication which he had 'saved from disposal' from a deceased estate.

The 64-page booklet, *1954 Davis Cup Challenge Round, White City Courts*, was published by the Lawn Tennis Association of Australia. Wonderfully illustrated, it shows images and short biographies of many famous tennis stars who played for Australia and at times, at the Western Suburbs Lawn Tennis Association courts at Pratten Park in Ashfield.



Of historical importance, the booklet includes the countries, players and scores in all Davis Cup Challenge Rounds from 1900 to 1953. From these published records we see that Australasia won in 1907-1911, 1914 and then after the war in 1919. After a long lapse, Australia won again in 1939, drawing the enthusiastic cheers of our nation.

Donations

1954 David Cup Challenge Round

After the 1939 win, the Davis Cup was brought to Pratten Park and displayed by Aussies John Bromwich, Adrian Quist and Jack Crawford who were much lauded for their efforts in bringing the cup to Australia. Australia enjoyed another run as the winner from 1950 through to 1953, before the booklet was printed.

This booklet is an asset to the Society's collections and will be of great benefit for researchers and enthusiasts of the Australian tennis scene.



Image: State Library of NSW)

Ann O'Connell

Gregorys SydneySide

Another book that Colin donated to our Society is a weighty volume of 214 pages entitled **Gregorys SydneySide** by **Richard Whitaker** which 'compares early photographs and maps with streetscapes of today'.

The book contains early images of many suburbs and of Sydney city which will be of interest and future reference. There are images of Ashfield – one of Liverpool Road that we have not got in our collection.

Thank you, Colin.

Ann O'Connell

Heritage Report

Amended plans have now been lodged for the rear two storey addition to the intact bungalow at **12 Forbes Street Croydon Park**. The design approach is still not in accordance with Council's detailed requirements, which were listed in a letter sent to the DA architect. I have lodged a further ADHS objection.

A DA for a single-storey rectangular box-like addition (clad in Monument Black weatherboard) for the modest and original timber cottage at **22 Cromwell Street Croydon** is of concern. This house is one of two (side by side, both heritage items) which were built by James Cunningham the woodcarver (featured in ADHS Journal #13). An objection has also been lodged.

The LEC on 19 February 2025 held an on-site inspection/conference for the appeal of the DA for a four-storey co-living (30 bedsits) redevelopment of Maurice Dry Cleaners at **150 Smith Street Summer Hill**. I addressed the Court Commissioner on the significant departures from Council's heritage controls. ADHS Committee members Alex, Clare and Murray attended as observers. As there was no settlement there will be a full Court hearing, on 21-22 July 2025.

Another Court on-site inspection/conference was held on 6 March 2025 re the appeal for the refused DA to demolish and build a new two-storey (plus basement car park) dwelling at **40 Lucy Street Ashfield** (opposite Hammond Park). The property is within a heritage conservation area and adjoins five bungalows that are a group heritage item. I raised the streetscape, scale and demolition concerns as raised in the AHDS objection in March 2024, concerns which were also expressed by both adjoining neighbours. After the on-site inspection and in confidential discussions with Council staff, the applicant produced amended plans, which the Council has now accepted. Consequently the Court upheld the appeal and the demolition/amended plans are approved.

David Rollinson

Research Rooms

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

The Rooms are open on the **second and last Saturday** of each month from 11am until 4pm.

Membership matters

2025 membership fees are due

Membership of the Society is for the calendar year so our 2025 membership fees will be due in January 2025.

Each year your membership covers a free copy of our latest publication, quarterly newsletters, discounted entry to any of our events, plus free assistance and advice for research and access to our Rooms at *Thirning Villa*.

You must be a financial member to vote at the AGM in February 2025.

Types of Membership

- \$40 for standard household membership - no postage
- \$30 Concessional membership (DVA, Centrelink, fulltime student) - no postage
- \$50 for standard household membership - with postage
- \$40 Concessional membership (DVA, Centrelink, fulltime student) - with postage.

Household membership entitles all members of your household to participate in Society events as members.

We do try to hand deliver to local members, but this is not always possible. As you would be well aware, \$10 for the postage of newsletters and journals is a bargain!

Method of payment

➤ **EFT payments:**

BSB: 062257

Account No: 00900855

Ashfield & District Historical Society

Ref: [Your name, initials] *subs*

➤ **Cheque payable to:**

Ashfield & District Historical Society

PO Box 20 Ashfield NSW 1800.

- **Cash payments** can be made at our Rooms on the second and last Saturday of the month.

To join or renew please complete the online form and submit it to:

<https://ashfieldhistory.org.au/membership-application/>

Contact the Society

- Postal address:

PO Box 20 ASHFIELD NSW 1800

- Email: admin@ashfieldhistory.org.au

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

Newsletter contributors

Thank you to:

- Murray Cleaver
- Lois Gray
- Alex Lofts
- Joy McIntyre
- Ann O'Connell
- David Rollinson
- Colin Webb

for their contributions to this newsletter.

Heather Warton, Editor

25 March 2025