

WILLOUGHBY HISTORY CHATTERS

AUGUST 2016

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MUSEUM UPDATE	2
MUSEUM AND EMERGE	3
MEMBERS' CORNER	3
CHATSWOOD'S WAR TROPHY	3
OUR SPEEDO COLLECTION	4
HAMMOND FAMILY	5
FROM THE ARCHIVES	6
COMING EVENTS	6

COMING EVENTS

Saturday 13 August:
WDHS general meeting
with Ian Thom on the
life and times of Henry
Parkes (see p6).

Saturday 3 September:
Meccano Exhibition at
the Museum as part of
Willoughby's Emerge
Festival, 10am to 4pm
(see p6).

EVENTS AT THE WILLOUGHBY MUSEUM

Following the opening of the *Remembering Rural Willoughby* exhibition on 17 April, we have had a steady stream of visitors and groups at the Willoughby Museum.

We were particularly pleased to have visits from several school groups, namely 130 Year 9 students and 10 teachers from Willoughby Girls' High School on 3 May and 43 primary school students from Our Lady of Dolours Primary School on 30 June. Two groups of Year 3 pupils from St Thomas' Primary School have booked a visit on 17 August.

Other recent groups of visitors to the Museum have been the Ku-ring-gai Historical

Society on 14 May and 24 students and teachers from a Chinese ESL group on 16 June.

We also held a 'Trash and Treasure' stall at the Museum on Saturday 18 June, but unfortunately wet weather hampered proceedings. Accordingly, we moved the display tables to the front verandah and into the museum building. We had large numbers of visitors between 8.30 and 10.30am, but things were quiet after that. We cleared over \$270 on the day, a disappointing result. However, our garden shed has been cleared out and there is now space to store appropriate objects from the museum collection.



Paul Storm welcomes the group of ESL students and teachers to the Willoughby Museum as they enjoy morning tea in the rear garden prior to inspecting the displays. Bob McKillop

MUSEUM UPDATE

Behind the-scenes activities continue at the Willoughby Museum, notably the on-going assessment and documentation of various items in our collection and planning for new exhibitions.

Mary Thom, Margaret McNaught and Mary Green have been meeting regularly to identify and document items in our extensive collection of clothing, particularly those using lace work. Some unusual garments have been 'discovered' and several of these are now displayed in the Jean Miller Room.

Attention is also being given to identifying and documenting historical photographs in the collection. New photo collections recently received were reported in our last newsletter and these are being utilised for developing new material for our website. New items posted during July include the history of the Hallstrom Refrigerator factory on Willoughby Road (under Industries) and an introductory panel on Mowbray House School by Terry Fogarty (under Suburbs, Chatswood).

Our website continues to record high visitation rates. During 2016, we have had between 1350 and 1500 visitors a month; and between 46,000 and 56,000 'hits' each month. While a majority of visitors are from Australia, there have also been significant numbers from the United States, Germany, France, China and Japan, together with a smattering from other European and Asian countries.

The Historical Willoughby Facebook page provides links to our website that are regularly being updated. This helps to promote the Museum and the Society's activities. Regular updates are made on the Historical Willoughby page, so you are encouraged to join up.

THE MUSEUM AT THE EMERGE FESTIVAL

We are preparing for two significant contributions to Willoughby's Emerge Festival in September.

On Saturday 3 September, we will be joined by members of the Meccano Society to mount another Meccano Exhibition at the Museum from 10am to 4pm. We held similar exhibitions in 2008 and 2009 and in the interim, there have been many advances in the range of items that can be built from Meccano sets. Accordingly, we look forward to seeing the latest Meccano wonders at the museum during this event. Locally-made Buz meccano sets will also be on display.

This is an event for young and old. Entry: \$5 adults, \$2 children and family \$10. As the Willoughby Street Fair will be on, travel to Chatswood by public transport is recommended.

From Sunday 11 September, the Museum will be hosting a new exhibition, 'Word on the Street', which is being developed by local artist Catherine Martin. This will utilise the names formed in concrete on the footpaths of streets, avenues and roads in Willoughby City to create new artistic forms. Council officers have assisted in demonstrating the process of indenting the letters into freshly-poured concrete and the provision of objects for the exhibition.

Following the formal opening on 11 September, this exhibition will be open to the public from 1 to 4pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays during September. We are pleased to report that Willoughby City Council is assisting with a grant of \$2300 for materials to set-up the exhibition. We look forward to your attendance.



The Meccano Exhibition scheduled for Saturday 10am to 4pm will offer new experiences for young and old. Here four young boys are engaged in checking Meccano models under the watchful eyes of senior men at the 2008 exhibition at the Willoughby Museum. Bob McKillop photo

MEMBERS' CORNER

Our general meeting on 11 June was attended by 15 members and guests. Unfortunately, our scheduled speaker, Kerema Gae Topp, phoned that she was too ill to attend. Paul Storm filled in with a presentation on 'The History of Post Card Collecting'.

Using items from his personal collection, Paul explained that early postcards from the 1880s were posted from out-of-the-way tourist venues such as the top of the Eiffel Tower or Rigi Mountain, which led him to collect tourists' mail items. His collection has a focus on tourist venues in France and Switzerland.

By the early 1900s, photogravure printing enabled high quality photographs to be printed on cards. This in turn led to the 'golden age' of postcard collecting when practically every family had a post card album in the front room of their house.

Paul passed around selected postcards from his collection, explaining their significance. His criteria are the age, whether it has been used and aspects that are 'quirky'. He particularly collects cards depicting 'tourist syndromes'.

Paul provided examples of cards from his collection. These included a 1905 postcard of a couple in the Swiss Alps. And two cards of tourists feeding pigeons in St Marks Cathedral Square in 1905 and 1907.

English tourists in particular, would regularly smother their cards with low-value stamps. A multi-stamped postcard posted from the Kings Palace Hotel at Luxor in 1927 promoted discussion among the participants, as did a postcard of a hotel restaurant in Paris, The Silver Tower, where actor Fred Daley sat for a meal of pressed duck. The card has a photo

of the diners with the plate of duck featuring its number.

Of the hotels with their own post offices, one of the most famous is Raffles in Singapore, so Paul circulated a postcard with the Raffles Hotel postmark. He concluded with his rare card commemorating QANTAS 'Order of the Double Sunrise' for a Perth-Colombo flight by Catalina flying boat in 1944.

Mary Thom presented Paul with a gift for his interesting presentation and Bob McKillop commented on his experiences travelling in Switzerland during assignments for FAO and UNAIDS, particular the various funicular railways in that country, together with the Duke of Gloucester's role inaugurating the first QANTAS Royal Mail service from Brisbane to London in December 1934 as the final event of his extensive Australian tour that year. This is covered in the June and August issues of *Australian Railway History*.

CHATSWOOD'S WAR TROPHY

Commemorations marking the epic battles of World War I in which so many Australians gave their lives, are being held to mark their centenaries.

Our troops returning home after the Armistice often brought with them war trophies captured from enemy forces. Some of our older members will be aware that such a trophy was a 105mm IFH16 howitzer field gun captured by Australian Light Horsemen in Palestine. It was unveiled beside the Town Hall in Chatswood on 3 December 1921, as depicted here. The gun was displayed until 1942, when it was returned to the Liverpool Army Base.



Officials and other dignitaries pose with the German-built field howitzer gun at Chatswood Town Hall on 3 December 1921. Picture Willoughby, 6535349

OUR SPEEDO COLLECTION

In the June issue of *Willoughby History Chatters* we featured a selection of photos from a new collection of digital images provided to the museum by George Simpson. These focus on his aunt, Miss Jessie Simpson, who worked for the Speedo Company for 46 years, many of them at the Artarmon factory and head office which opened in 1957.

These images include a number of good quality photos of the work undertaken at the factory and the workers (primarily women) carrying out their tasks, particularly on the cutting floor.

Over recent years we have also built up a collection of Speedo clothing items that demonstrate the range of products manufactured at the Artarmon factory between 1957 and its closure in 1979. They provide a fascinating insight into Australian innovation and tastes in this period. A selection is presented here.



View of the cutting floor at the Speedo Artarmon factory c1970.
George Simpson collection



ABOVE: This pair of classic leopard-skin Speedo 'Budgie' swimmers in our collection belonged to the late Philip Hickie and were donated by his family.

LEFT: This light-weight blue striped ladies' swimmers were donated to the Museum in 2013. We have a matching pair of male swimmers in the collection, together with other sporting apparel made at the Speedo factory in Artarmon.

THE HAMMOND FAMILY

Willoughby Museum has an extensive collection of objects, photographs and documents pertaining to the Hammond family, primarily items donated by Isabelle Emily Hammond who was a long-serving member and vice-president of the Society.

The pioneer of commerce in the Chatswood area was Joseph Hammond, a farmer from Suffolk in England, who opened a butcher's shop in North Sydney in 1864. Joseph and his wife Emily moved to land at what is now Beauchamp Park in Chatswood in 1868, where he established a slaughter yard. In 1868, Joseph established a butcher's shop on the corner of Lane Cove and Moriarty Roads and for almost 100 years this business was maintained by various of their 12 children. Meat was distributed to customers in horse-drawn carts driven by employees wearing their badges of office, together with white and navy striped aprons.

The photographs presented here are from large-format prints that were donated to the Willoughby Museum some



ABOVE: Abe Hammond presented a formal appearance in this 310 x 385mm portrait

BELOW LEFT: Arnia Elizabeth Hammond, a 300 x 370mm portrait mounted on board

BELOW RIGHT: Isabelle Elizabeth Hammond as a cute infant





This wedding photo is from the Hammond collection held at the Museum.
Can any reader provide details of the family members present?

CONTACTS

WDHS Management Committee:

President: Paul Storm (9419 7354)

Vice-President: Mary Thom

Secretary: Terry Fogarty

Treasurer: Bob McKillop (acting)

Committee Members: Joan Antarakis, Margaret McNaught, Don Swonnell, Rob Wilson

Patron: Gail Giles-Gidney, Mayor of Willoughby City

Newsletter Editor: Bob McKillop

Willoughby Museum

Our museum is located at *Boronia*, 58 Johnson Street, Chatswood.

Opening hours: 1-4pm each Sunday.

Admission \$5 adults; \$4 concession; \$2 child, \$10 family.

COMING EVENTS

General Meetings

Held at the Willoughby Room, Willoughby City Library at The Concourse, commencing at 2pm on the second Saturday of even months (except December).

Saturday 13 August 2016: Ian Thom, great great grandson of Sir Henry Parkes and Chairman of the Henry Parkes Foundation will be telling us about the early life his famous ancestor and the struggles he had to overcome on his way from poor beginnings in Coventry to becoming five times Premier of New South Wales.

Ian will bring some personal items of Henry's to display including a lock of his famous white hair.

Tours & Events

Saturday 3 September: Meccano Exhibition at the Willoughby Museum, 10am-4pm. A special event with members of the Meccano Society displaying their

latest creations, together with a display of locally-made Buz Builder Sets. Lucky door prize. Entry: Adults \$5, children \$2, family \$10.

Sunday 11 September: Formal opening on our new exhibition, *Word on the Street*, by Mayor Gail Giles-Gidney. Featuring art works by local artist Catherine Martin, this exhibition draws inspiration from the street names set in concrete footpaths across Willoughby City. This display will be open from 1-4pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays for the remainder on September as Willoughby Museum's contribution to the 2016 Emerge Festival. Art works will be available for sale. Normal entry fees apply (see above).

Saturday 17 September: A number of Griffin houses at Castlecrag will be open for inspection between 10am and 3pm, with guided walks. Booking essential. Cost: \$60 adults, student/concession \$45, family of four \$150. Walter Burley Griffin Society; Tickets at: www.trybooking/212476

WILLOUGHBY DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

58 Johnson Street, Chatswood

Phone: (02) 9410 3203

E-mail contact: wdhs58@gmail.com

Editor: rfmckillop@bigpond.com

Website: www.willoughbydhs.org.au

SIR HENRY PARKES

