

FORT SCRATCHLEY HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

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MUZZLE

206

BLAST

JULY 2023



Sculptures at Scratchley



Bleaching by Michael Greve,
a sculpture of a whale.

The sculpture served as a tribute to
the abundant population of humpback
whales in the area, as well as a symbol of
the city's maritime heritage.

President's Report

February 2020, the date of the last Muzzle Blast due in part to our friend COVID and the sad passing of our previous editor, Mark Robertson. Hopefully we are back on track with thanks to our new Vice President, Bob Harper and the team from Out of the Square Media who have generously provided their time and guidance to prepare this edition.

Much has happened in the last three years, and like everyone we were seriously hampered by the various COVID restrictions and were closed for several months. The last 12 months has seen a return of visitor numbers and tunnel tours are certainly booming.

Museum room 4, laboratory and generator room have all been completed with planning well underway for museum rooms 5 and 6. We were finally able to stage another successful Music of the Guns with another concert scheduled for November this year.

Your Society was pleased to collaborate with the organisers of Sculptures at Scratchley, exposing the Fort to a totally new audience which attracted an additional 22,000 visitors over the two-week period. It is hoped to make this an annual event and next year's exhibition is scheduled for 11th-26th May.



The photo on the front page was voted number one sculpture by the public and will remain on display at the Fort for the next 8-10 months.

I am in awe of the artist's ability to look at an old tree and imagine a breaching whale. It is very appropriate at the present given the number of whales currently migrating North and the Fort is a great place to view them.

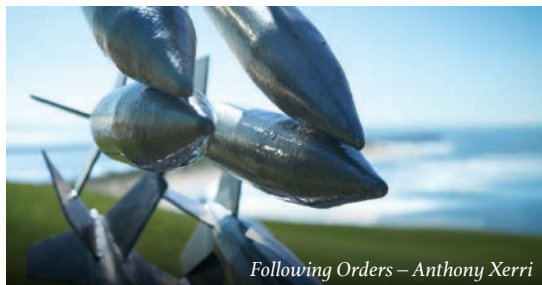
After 20 years as Vice President and a total of 38 years in the Society, Carl Christie has decided to call time and step back from the management committee although he intends to continue guiding as his health permits. The Society owes a great deal to Carl and looks forward to acknowledging his efforts at this year's AGM.

Speaking of the AGM, it is scheduled for 10am on Sunday 27th August in the function centre. I look forward to catching up with as many members as possible.

Lastly, as always please enjoy life and stay safe.

Frank Carter - President

Sculptures at Scratchley



Following Orders – Anthony Xerri



Scrap Dog – Adam Truskett



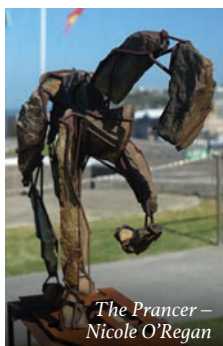
Bleaching – Michael Greve



Stretching the Imagination – Susan Dorothea White



The Messenger – Kylie Gardner



The Prancer – Nicole O'Regan

Watch the
video here



Images and video supplied by Out of the Square

King's Birthday Celebrations



Museum Report

Database

Following years of using Adlib Lite to catalogue the Society's collection of artefacts, documents and photos, about 12 months ago we encountered a number of problems with it and the tower computers we were using. All computers are now laptops.

As Axiell no longer supported Adlib we have purchased three licences for Axiell Collections. The firm has migrated our existing data to the new system and we commenced catching up on a large backlog of cataloguing on Tuesday 27th June.

Guns

We had a successful Monday on the Kings Birthday long weekend, all seven guns firing with no problems. Since the cruise ships have stopped it has been quiet. All guns have been cleaned and greased with regular checks ongoing, while waiting for the next long weekend and the cruise ship season to begin.

Clay Campbell

It is with sadness and regret that we advise the passing of our patron **WARREN GLENNY AO RFD ED –MAJOR GENERAL (Ret'd)**

Warren passed away on 5 July 2023.

Warren's military career saw him join the Royal NSW Lancers as a Regimental Cadet in November 1950. Over the years, he had a variety of promotions and postings, being commissioned in 1962. 1990 saw him promoted to Major General.

Over the years Warren held numerous appointments including being a patron of the Fort Scratchley Historical Society from 2002 – 2023.



TWO PRIMER SHELLS USED TO FIRE No2 6" NAVAL GUN WHICH FIRED ON JAPANESE SUBMARINE # 1-21 AT 2:17AM ON 8TH JUNE 1942. THE SHELLS WERE SAVED THAT MORNING AFTER BEING EXPELLED FROM THE GUN BY BOMADIER EDWARD "TED" PRICTER RETURNED TO THE FORT 8TH JUNE 2022 BY HIS FAMILY.

Recent Donations

These are currently in the process of being catalogued and when complete they will be placed on display in Museum room 4 which tells the story of The Fort and Newcastle during WWII.

Ron Barber, Curator



Carl Christie - Vice President Stands Down

Major Carl Christie OAM RFD ED stood down as Vice President of Fort Scratchley Historical Society Inc. as from May 2023, having served 38 years on the Committee.

Carl retired from the Army in July 1984, joining the Fort Scratchley Military Museum Society in late 1984 and serving as the Honorary Secretary for seven years.

Note : The Military Museum became the Fort Scratchley Historical Society Inc. in 1998.

He continued serving on the Committee, becoming the Vice President in 2002 going on to hold this position for the next 20 years.

In 2016, Carl was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for his service to Military History and to other public services.

He became a Life Member of the Fort Scratchley Historical Society Inc, in 2019.

Carl intends to continue as a guide at Fort Scratchley, but at a reduced level. He has enjoyed his time associated with the Fort and has made many friends, and has many memories of his experiences and service over the years.

Carl served as the Honorary Secretary of the Newcastle Branch of the Royal Australian Artillery Association NSW for 31 years. He is a Life Member.



Willy's Jeep

Fort Scratchley has been bequeathed a vintage Willy's Jeep to add to the museum collection. The Jeep was kindly donated by David Kane's family of Stockton, and we are excited to be able to display such a rare piece of history.



Management Committee

President: Frank Carter
Vice President: Bob Harper JP
Secretary: Rick Carter
Treasurer: Frank Graham JP

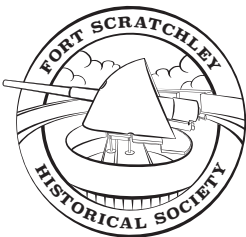
Committee: Ron Barber
Stephen Shaw
Lionel Keevers
Rod Davies
John Crosbie
Geoff Gumbleton
Cr Peta Winney Baartz

Editor's note:

If you have an interesting story or funny joke, please send it to the editor c/-fortscratchley@bigpond.com or the Society Office.



No responsibility is accepted for any errors, omissions, or other shortcomings of this or other issues of this newsletter.



We would like to thank and welcome onboard Out of the Square Media who has assisted in producing our new look Muzzle Blast and will become a Major Supporter of the Fort.