

The Bouddi Society Inc.

Annual General Meeting – 24 February 2010

President's Report for 2009

- On behalf of the Governing Committee of the Society I would like to report that we are pleased that the Bouddi Society has continued to provide a valuable service to the Bouddi Peninsula community and the Society's members throughout 2009.
- The Society built on the major effort from the previous year in which a tremendous amount of valuable and interesting material on the history of the Bouddi Peninsula had been gathered. Some of that material was collated onto a compact disc and made available to members and interested persons.
- In 2009 work continued to preserve, promote and distribute in interesting and accessible formats the valuable heritage resource the Society now has in its possession.
- David and Helen Dufty have been busy producing a film, "Bouddi Peninsula – A Time Tour", which employs images from the past together with interviews of local identities giving first-hand accounts of significant places and events and reminiscences of past times and the changing face of our community. We were fortunate in receiving a grant of \$3 000 from Gosford City Council to assist in the production of this film which we hope to be able to release on DVD later this year. David will give more details of the project in his report to this meeting.
- Meanwhile, in the second major initiative arising from the history project, Lee Casey has been writing and organising the production of a book on the Bouddi peninsula encompassing its history, its characters and its environment. The book will be lavishly illustrated with images drawn from historical sources but also, importantly and fascinatingly, photographs from family albums generously provided to us from local people and of course never before seen outside those families. There will also be vivid recent photographs of our stunning local environment.
- As might be imagined, the work involved in this production is tremendous and we owe a great debt to Lee for the truly magnificent effort and dedication he is putting into this project. We are confident that the eventual product will be both a significant historical record of the area and a beautiful book to be treasured by locals and visitors alike. We anticipate publishing it towards the end of the year. I look forward to more details from Lee in his report later in this meeting.
- Besides those ongoing projects, the Society has continued popular activities to inform and entertain our members and the wider community. Our popular "Sunday Afternoons By The Bay" series led off our 2009 program with a variety concert in Wagstaffe hall staging an eclectic range of performances including appearances from our Conservatorium scholarship holders.
- In June we showed the movie "The Weeping Camel" to continue our "Classic Movies" series and followed this in September with "The Picture Show Man". The Committee has been concerned with a steady decline in attendance at these events, possibly due to the novelty wearing off and increasing competition from specialty

film houses. As a result we have decided to contract the program and will probably screen only one movie in the coming year.

- Also in June we were pleased to at last clear a commitment held over for a number of years by donating \$1 000 towards the legal costs associated with creating a walking trail behind Wagstaffe. The contribution was part of a coordinated effort by a number of our fraternal community organisations and we were pleased to be part of a successful combined initiative in adding to the safety and enjoyment of our local environment.
- In August we held our last regular half-yearly general meeting. This meeting amended the Society's constitution to the effect that there will be only one general meeting of members each year: the Annual General Meeting.
- Our successful association with the Central Coast Conservatorium continues and in October the Conservatorium held its auditions at Wagstaffe Hall for young woodwind students competing for the two Bouddi Society scholarships. All in attendance enjoyed the performances of these talented musicians and the Society took the opportunity to announce that we would extend the scholarships to three this year.
- On the communications front we have continued to publish "The Bouddi News" and maintain our website www.bouddisociety.org.au which continues to record a generous number of "hits".
- The Committee has planned what we hope will be an interesting program for members in the coming year. In March the well-known artist, cartoonist and raconteur, Bill Leak, will give a talk at Wagstaffe Hall on his life, his work and observations and anecdotes from the worlds of art and political satire.
- What should be another interesting lecture will come from Annette Gero who will talk on heritage quilt-making with examples from her unique collection. Annette is a world-renowned expert on this subject and has lectured extensively in Australia and overseas.
- Following last year's success, we will put on another variety concert which again will include our Central Coast Conservatorium scholarship holders.
- In mid-year, as mentioned above, we plan to launch "Bouddi Peninsula- A Time Tour" on DVD.
- We hope to select a sufficiently attractive movie to satisfy our core group of "Classic Movie" supporters as well as attracting new fans.
- In October or November the Central Coast Conservatorium auditions for the Society's woodwind scholarships will again be held.
- And finally the year will culminate in the publication of the (as yet untitled) history project book.
- I would like to thank all the members of the committee for their work over the past year and on behalf of them thank our members for their continued interest and support.
- Finally I would like to note that the Society continues to enjoy harmonious and supportive relationships with the other community organisations in the area, particularly the Wagstaffe to Killcare Community Association; the Hardys Bay Residents Group; the Killcare Wagstaffe Trust; the Surf Club and the Bush Fire Brigade. We are proud to be part of a band that contributes so much to our wonderful community.

Phil Donnelly
President