



September 2022 Newsletter
Magazine Section

FRIENDSHIP, FELLOWSHIP
AND FUN

September - It's Spring!

Dee Why RSL

On 26 January 1937, a group of 13 men gathered together to form the Dee Why/Collaroy Sub-Branch of the RSL. This was the beginning of Dee Why RSL.

In July that same year, the RSL state branch granted permission for an affiliation and an appropriate location on Pittwater Road named Luana Hall was found. Luana had originally been built as an MGM Cinema, it was leased by the sub-branch and by 6 October 1937 the first meeting was held there.

The sub-branch made great use of the hall, holding dances, card parties and raising funds for the war effort and to provide improved services and facilities. Collaroy was granted their own charter in 1945. In June 1948 Luana was purchased for a total of £6009.

Today Dee Why RSL has more than 58,000 members.

Dee Why History

Little is known of the Aboriginal people who lived in the Dee Why area before European occupation, although there is evidence of a midden at the southern end of Dee Why Beach, and the indigenous people were known to fish on the then wider and deeper lagoon, where black swans were once seen in large flocks.

The first land in the area to be listed by the New South Wales government Gazette was 700 acres (280 ha) granted to William Cossar in the early 19th century, James Wheeler purchased 90 acres in 1842, but by the mid-19th century most of the land in what is now Dee Why had been acquired by James Jenkins and other members of the Jenkins family

Elizabeth Jenkins, eldest daughter of James, gave all her land to the Salvation Army upon her death in 1900, in recognition of their support in her old age. The Salvation Army received in total 1,740 acres (700 ha)

of land, 200 acres (81 ha) of which were in Dee Why. An industrial farm, as well as hostels for boys, girls and women were established on this land. Access to the beach was limited by the Salvation Army's land, with a wire netting barrier running along its length.

Warringah Council was formed in 1906, giving Dee Why residents a local government. In 1911 it was decided that the tram line that had expanded in sections from Manly since 1903 was to be extended from Brookvale on to Collaroy Beach via Pittwater Road, and soon after to Narrabeen. The line opened on 3 August 1912 with an hourly service, and it was perhaps this development that caused the Salvation Army in 1913 to progressively sell off most of its holdings on the Northern Beaches, starting with The Oaks Estate Auction, which gave its name to one of the main streets of Dee Why, Oaks Avenue. Another main street, Howard Avenue, commemorates Commissioner Thomas Howard, the first commissioner of the Salvation Army in Australia and New Zealand. By 1920, most of Dee Why had been subdivided.

From the end of 1938, the trams, as a result of losses due to low population density and competition with new bus routes that duplicated their services, operated only at peak hours for commuters and on weekends for tourists, and finally ceased operating with the final run on 30 September 1939.

In 1971, work began on a new Dee Why civic centre, inspired by Sulman Prize-winning architects Edwards, Madigan & Torzillo. The building was completed in 1972 and the Council moved there in 1973 from the Shire Hall in Brookvale where meetings had been held since 1912, making Dee Why the seat of Warringah Council.

Phone Etiquette

After a tiring day a commuter settled down in his seat and closed his eyes. As the train rolled out of the station, a woman sitting next to him pulled out her mobile phone.

She started talking in a loud voice: "Hi sweetheart. It's Sue. I'm on the train". "Yes, I know it's the six thirty and not the four thirty, but I had a long meeting. No, honey, not with that Kevin from the accounting office. It was with the boss. No sweetheart, you're the only one in my life. Yes, I'm sure, cross my heart!"

Fifteen minutes later, she was still talking loudly. When the man sitting next to her had had enough, he leaned over and said into the phone, "Sue, hang up the phone and come back to bed."

Sue doesn't use her mobile phone in public any more!

Laurel and Hardy

Laurel and Hardy were a British-American comedy duo act during the early Classical Hollywood era of American cinema, consisting of Englishman Stan Laurel (1890–1965) and American Oliver Hardy (1892–1957). Starting their career as a duo in the silent film era, they later successfully transitioned to "talkies". From the late 1920s to the mid-1950s, they were internationally famous for their slapstick comedy, with Laurel playing the clumsy, childlike friend to Hardy's pompous bully. Their signature theme song, known as "The Cuckoo Song", "Ku-Ku", or "The Dance of the Cuckoos" (by Hollywood composer T. Marvin Hatley) was heard over their films' opening credits, and became as emblematic of them as their bowler hats.

Prior to emerging as a team, both had well-established film careers. Laurel had acted in over 50 films, and worked as a writer and director, while Hardy was in more than 250 productions.

They first appeared together in a short film in 1926, when they signed separate contracts with the Hal Roach film studio. They officially became a team in 1927 when they appeared in the silent short *Putting Pants on Philip*. They remained with Roach until 1940, and then appeared in eight B movie comedies for 20th Century Fox and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer from 1941 to 1945. After finishing their film commitments at the end of 1944, they concentrated on performing stage shows, and embarked on a music hall tour of England, Ireland, Wales, and Scotland.

They made their last film in 1950, a French–Italian co-production called *Atoll K*.

The humour of Laurel and Hardy was highly visual, with slapstick used for emphasis. They often had physical arguments (in character) which were quite complex and involved a cartoonish style of violence. Their ineptitude and misfortune precluded them from making any real progress, even in the simplest endeavours. Much of their comedy involves "milking" a joke, where a simple idea provides a basis for multiple, ongoing gags without following a defined narrative.

Stan Laurel was of average height and weight but appeared comparatively small and slight next to Oliver Hardy, who was 6 ft 1 in (185 cm) and weighed about 280 lb (127 kg; 20 st 0 lb) in his prime. Details of their hair and clothing were used to enhance this natural contrast. Laurel kept his hair short on the sides and back, growing it long on top to create a natural "fright wig". Typically, at times of shock, he simultaneously screwed up his face to appear as if crying while pulling up his hair. In contrast, Hardy's thinning hair was pasted on his forehead in spit curls and he sported a toothbrush moustache. To achieve a flat-footed walk, Laurel removed the heels from his shoes. Both wore bowler hats, with Laurel's being narrower than Hardy's, and with a flattened brim. The characters' normal attire called for wing collar shirts, with Hardy wearing a necktie which he would twiddle when he was particularly self-conscious; and Laurel, a bow tie. Hardy's sports jacket was a little small and done up with one straining button, whereas Laurel's double-breasted jacket was loose-fitting.



Stan Laurel

Arthur Stanley Jefferson was born in his grandparents' house on 16 June 1890 in Lancashire, England to Arthur J. Jefferson, an actor and theatre manager and Margaret (née Metcalfe), an actress. He was one of five children.

His parents were both active in the theatre and always very busy. In his early years, Laurel spent much time living with his maternal grandmother, Sarah Metcalfe

He moved with his parents to Glasgow, Scotland, where he completed his education at Rutherglen Academy. His father managed Glasgow's Metropole Theatre, where Laurel began work. His boyhood hero was Dan Leno, one of the greatest English music hall comedians. With a natural affinity for the theatre, Laurel gave his first professional performance on stage at the Panopticon in Glasgow at the age of sixteen, where he later polished his skills at pantomime and music hall sketches. It was the music hall from where he drew his standard comic devices, including his bowler hat and nonsensical understatement.



Oliver Hardy

Oliver Hardy was born Norvell Hardy in Harlem, Georgia. His father, Oliver, was a Confederate States Army veteran of the American Civil War who had been wounded in battle. Oliver's father assisted his father in running the remnants of the family's cotton plantation. He then bought a share in a retail business and was elected full-time Tax Collector for Columbia County, Georgia. Hardy's mother was Emily Norvell Hardy's parents married March 12, 1890; it was his mother's second marriage and his father's third.

The family moved to Madison, Georgia, in 1891, the year before Hardy's birth. He was likely born in Harlem, though some sources say that his birth occurred in Covington, Georgia, his mother's hometown. His father died less than a year after his birth.

Hardy was the youngest of five children. His older brother Sam drowned in the local river. Hardy pulled him from the river but was unable to resuscitate him.

As a child, Hardy was sometimes difficult. He was sent to Georgia Military College . He had little interest in formal education but acquired an early interest in music and theatre. He joined a theatrical group and later ran away from a boarding school to sing with the group. His mother recognized his talent for singing and sent him to Atlanta to study music and voice with singing teacher Adolf Dahm-Petersen. He skipped some of his lessons to sing in the Alcazar Theatre for \$3.50 a week. In 1912, he signed up for a course or two at the University of Georgia just to play football. He never missed a game.

As a teenager, Hardy began styling himself "Oliver Norvell Hardy", adding the first name "Oliver" as a tribute to his father. He appeared as "Oliver N. Hardy" in the 1910 U.S. census and he used "Oliver" as his first name in all subsequent legal records, marriage announcements, etc.

Oliver Hardy died on 7 August 1957. People who knew Laurel said that he was absolutely devastated by Hardy's death and never fully recovered from it; his wife told the press that he became physically ill upon hearing that Hardy was dying



The Carrington Hotel, Katoomba



In 1880, when construction commenced on the hotel, Katoomba was described as a nondescript little mining town. Only three years earlier Katoomba had been known as Crushers, in recognition of its most prominent feature, a rock crushing operation beside the railway line.



Mr Harry Rowell, Sydney hotelier and shrewd businessman, built the hotel employing the services of Mr. C. Kirkpatrick, a Sydney based architect and Mr. F Drewett of Lithgow as the contractor for construction. It was Mr. Rowell's original intention to call the hotel the Western Star Hotel but only weeks after its opening in 1882 he changed the name to The Great Western.

When first opened the hotel was described as having "accommodation for seventy to eighty persons, contains nearly sixty rooms consisting of a large drawing room, a general ladies drawing room, a gentleman's smoking and reading room; the intermediate space is divided into suites of private sitting and bedrooms". The hotel quickly became successful in attracting the upper classes to The Mountains and its reputation began to grow.

In 1885 Harry Rowell died and his wife continued to manage and operate the hotel until Mr F.C. Goyder, a squatter from Queensland who was delivering one of his sons to school at Katoomba College, stayed in the hotel and decided that he would purchase it from Mrs. Rowell.

Mr Goyder almost immediately commenced extending and improving the existing facilities. One of his first tasks was to order two thousand pounds worth of furniture and artwork, pieces of which are still seen in the hotel today. The extended facilities he had built included an additional 60 rooms, the dining room, tennis courts, additional drawing rooms and a music room.

The hotel also changed its name to The Carrington Hotel, with permission and in honour of Lord Carrington who

was the then Governor of New South Wales. This name change secured the elite Sydney market just as Mr. Goyder had hoped when he approached Lord Carrington, a regular visitor to the property.

The dining room as you see it today is very close to the way it was when it opened its doors in 1886 with some concessions to modern convenience and comfort. The carpet on the floor is a direct replication of the original linoleum and the tables are reproductions of the original tables.

In 1889 the Illustrated Sydney News recognised that Katoomba was a town whose existence and continued growth was directly attributable to The Carrington. F.C. Goyder became the first mayor of Katoomba and his son became the first town clerk and eventually mayor himself.

In 1896 Goyder employed a manager, Mr. A. Peacock, who eventually bought a lease on the hotel and continued the tradition of extending facilities and introducing new services. Peacock was also civic minded and joined Goyder on the municipal council.

Spurred by the needs of the hotel, both Goyder and Peacock were instrumental in introducing the telephone, a water supply and sewerage system to Katoomba. Had they not had the hotel's needs as an impetus, it is very likely that these services would not have been introduced to the town until quite some time later.

In 1911 the hotel was sold to Sir James Joynton Smith. Sir James was a self-made man, the owner of various hotels including the Arcadia Hotel in Sydney and was also Lord Mayor of Sydney.

He completely altered the façade of the hotel. The famous stained-glass façade, the tiled and columned veranda, the Italianate balustrades and curved stairs were introduced in 1913.

Sir James also built the powerhouse behind the Carrington to provide the hotel with electricity. The power station had such capacity that it provided the Katoomba district with electricity until 1925.

In 1968 the hotel was sold to a developer, Theo Morris. Unfortunately the hotel was becoming run down at this time and while certain maintenance works were undertaken they were not sufficient to arrest the deterioration that had commenced.

In 1978 The Carrington was placed on the register of the National Trust and in 1985 it was listed with the Australian Heritage Commission as a building of both state and national significance. In the same year, 1985, the Carrington hotel was closed by the Licensing Court of NSW due to a breach of fire ordinances and remained closed and boarded up until it was sold again in 1991.

The current restoration has taken twelve years to date with work continuing on the observation deck, the powerhouse and garages.

*Information kindly supplied by
Hastings Pawsey*

Vacations

Only on a cruise ship will you pay two hundred dollars per person per day to sleep in a closet.

Why English is Hard to Learn

We'll begin with box; the plural is boxes

But the plural of ox is oxen, not oxes

One fowl is a goose and two are called geese

Yet the plural of moose is never called meese

You may find a lone mouse or a house full of mice

But the plural of house is houses, not hices

The plural of man is always men

But the plural of pan is never pen

If I speak of a foot and you show me two feet

And I give you a book, would a pair be a beek

If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth

Why shouldn't two booths be called beeth

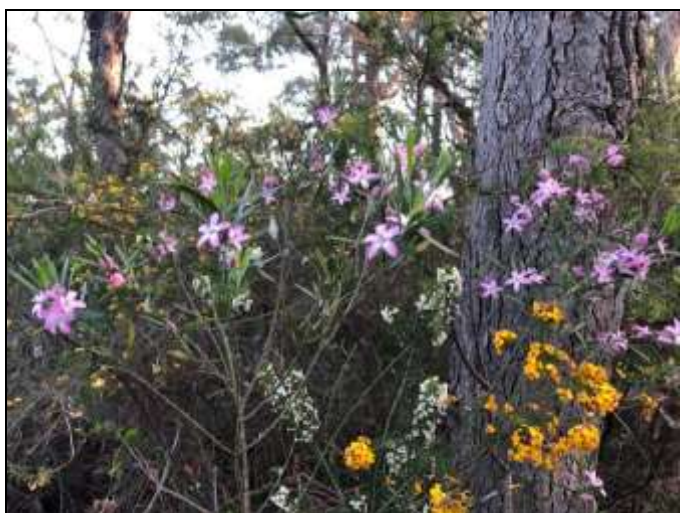
We speak of a brother and also of brethren

But though we say mother, we never say methren

Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him

But imagine the feminine...she, shis and shim!

Springtime - Do you know the names of these flowers?



How not to rob a bank

True Stories!

The art of robbing a bank is down to precise planning, carrying out an extensive survey of the building and having a modus operandi. Once this is known a plan can be made for entering the building, taking control of the situation, issuing precise instructions and having an exit strategy.

But most importantly employing those who know what they are doing and have a “cool head”

Stage one, entering the building unobtrusively and making your intentions known as clearly as possible.

A trio of villains in their anxiety to get into the building got entangled in the entrance revolving doors and had to be helped out by staff and left. But if there was one thing they were not lacking was tenacity and they returned. On seeing them staff and customers broke out into fits of laughter and the group leader in frustration vaulted the counter and in the process broke his ankle and while being helped out by his team they once again became trapped within the doors and were subsequently arrested.

However our next three possible bank robbers got to stage II and submitted a request to the bank teller.

One, a robber from Brooklyn, after passing his note to the teller could not understand why it was taking so long for them to adhere to his request and was told that they could not read his handwriting and he left without a penny

Potential robber number two wrote his demands on the back of one of his cheques and was soon apprehended.

And the third had covered his face with a scarf so as not to be recognised but it muffled his voice and no one could understand a word he was saying.

Our next candidate had written a clear and incisive note and collected his loot. But as he left the building he realised he had not taken the note back, incriminating evidence as it was in his own handwriting. He returned to collect it but left the keys of his getaway car on the counter and leaving the building was arrested.

The most successful of our would-be robbers completed all three stages. He pulled up outside the bank and instructed his getaway driver that he remain there until he reappeared with the money. Unfortunately a police car turned up and the startled driver sped off. On re-emerging the robber, with money and without looking got into the back seat of the car parked there and the police gratefully drove him to the police station.

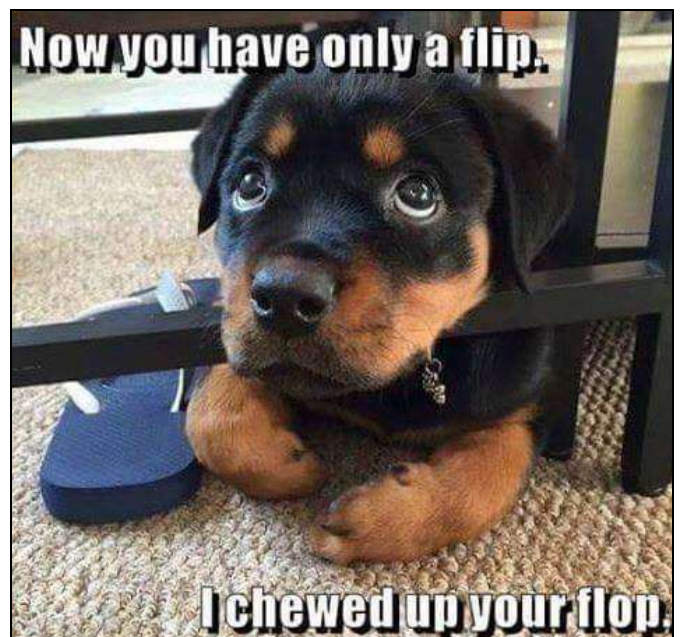
The writer Bert Holt Brecht is quoted as saying “bank robbery is an initiative of amateurs. True professionals establish a bank “.

Probus study

A recent study found that most stress to Probus members is caused by three things:

1. **Money**
2. **Family**
3. **Family with no money**

Man's Best Friend



The world's best antidepressant has 4 legs, a wagging tail and comes with unconditional love.