

Bulletin 15 – 8th Oct. 2020

Guest speaker John “Stinker” Clarke



**THE HISTORY
of
BROUGHTON
ISLAND**

This week’s guest speaker John provided us with a follow-up detailed history lesson from our vocational visit to Broughton Is. a few weeks earlier.

John is very passionate about the island and has done many visits and spent weeks of vacations on the island since his first trip in 1978.

Esmeralda Cove is one of the safest natural harbor along the east coast and is very popular amongst the boating fraternity as a base for the abundant fishing grounds around the island.

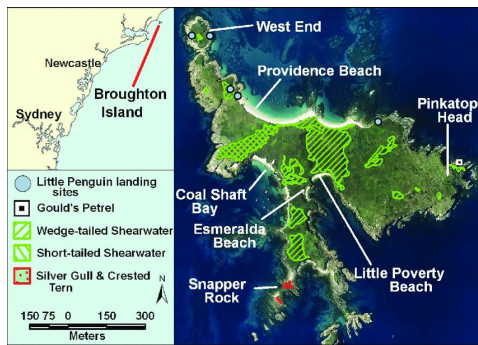
Coal Shaft Bay is a safe anchorage/shelter from the prevailing NE summer winds. It was named after some coal was found in the area and fortunately was considered uneconomical.

Providence Beach on the northern side is the choice for safe anchorage in a howling southerly. This was also the location a Greek community established a small fishing village that unfortunately burnt down twice in 1920 & 1939 probably by arsonists and now only the old former rubbish tip still provides the occasional find and proof of its existence.

One character that stood out on the island’s early days was Dimitrios Georgis Karageorgis aka “Kerosene Tin Jim” that lived on the island for 49 years which is the subject of John’s next book. He got his nickname because he used kerosene for many medical purposes or may be because most Australians had difficulty pronouncing his name.

Australia’s #1 Soviet spymaster Wally Clayton aka “Molotov” a devout communist, was also known to be hiding on the island after the Petrov affair in the 50’s.

One of the biggest changes to the island in 2009 by NPWS was the eradication of rabbits, rats & cockroaches which allowed the islands vegetation to recover.



Early days of the settlement



Destruction of hut by huge swell before rock wall



Esmeralda settlement today with ranger facility r/h

In this Bulletin:

Pg 2: John Clarke (cont.)
Yaaccaba Centre

Pg 3: Bunnings BBQ

Birthdays this week:

12th Oct. L. Levonpera

13th Oct. L. Nicol

16th Oct. B. Michel

Anniversaries:

none

Heads & Tails:

Ella Clarke

Raffle:

Richard Turner

Member Duties 15th Oct.

Door:

Kathy Rimmer/P.Page

Meet/Greet:

M.Williams

Grace:

J. Stuhmcke

Intro Guest speaker:

n/a

Thank Guest Speaker:

n/a

Bulletin:

Chris Bartlett

Photos:

Phill Smith

Binos:

D. & H. Greiter

John Clarke (cont.)



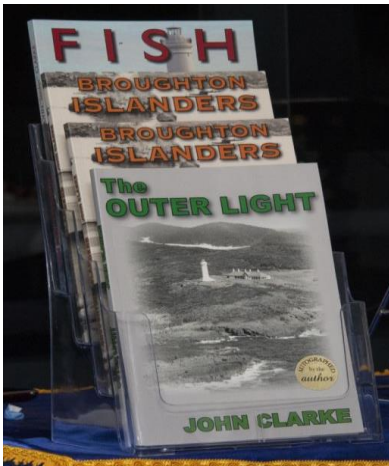
“Kerosene Tin Jim” with one of his daily catch



Scott Levi from ABC with a 12kg Snapper caught on John’s Tinny Stinkpot



Providence Bay the location of the 2nd Greek fishing village of the island



John is an excellent word-smith and he has penned several interesting books of our area



An attempt to establish an airstrip on the island was made which involved our late member Clive Robinson



Clarabelle the famous cow that was swept down the Hunter River and out to sea in the devastating Hunter Valley flood of 1955 and somehow ended up on Broughton island.



After landing a take-off was not possible and the plane had to be ferried home

This is also the subject of one of his children’s book “The True Adventures of Clarabelle” an excellent read for young and old.



YACCAABA CENTRE MEETING AREA COMPLETED

Four Rotarians completed the project of an outdoor meeting area at the Yaccaaba Centre this week. Some painting was required for the donated Trellis surrounding the recently completed paved area. In ideal conditions, Milton, Doug Craike, Don and Chris B, plus supervisor Howie (the German Shepherd) were on the job early to complete this task. The colour chosen was a soothing grey with Doug acting as chief sprayer. The attached photos tell the story of the morning’s work.



Director Milton has organised another working bee, this Wednesday to move some pavers and start work on some small beautification outside the centre.

The finishing touch was just in time for the visit of Kate Washington MP for Port Stephens. Shadow Minister for Environment to enjoy a meeting with the staff of the centre.

BACK at BUNNINGS



Bunnings BBQ's resumed in NSW on Saturday after a 7 months hiatus due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

Our Club was given the first BBQ, working under strict guidelines, including a supervisor from Bunnings.

The morning crew was President Liz, Milton, Doug Craike, Judi and Richard Turner set up according to the new guidelines, and after a slow start, business picked up and things were back to normal.

Mention should be made of the fine work of our Supply Officer Doug Bairstow who battled crowds at Aldi and Woollies to provide the much needed supplies. Thank you, Doug for your dedication.

The afternoon crew of Secretary Don, Geoff Diemar, John Stuhmcke, Lesley and Chris B took over and they were kept very busy for several hours. Both shifts worked well as team members within the guidelines set by Bunnings.

There were many nice compliments from the customers, mainly saying welcome back and sauce and mustard please. We were also able to make a few suggestions to Bunnings management to improve future BBQ's.

The net result was nearly \$1200 in gross takings, meaning a final figure of nearly \$800 into the Club coffers, funds that are desperately required to improve our cash flow.

Our Bunnings representative for the day, Miss Bree did an outstanding job and provided assistance during peak times, proved very handy with the sauce bottles and provided fine liaison between the Club. As it turned out Bree's mum worked for Don at Tomaree High for many years and is a good friend of Don's grand daughter Emily, a small world indeed.

We received an A plus report card, impressing all with our organisation and professionalism.

Thank you to all who participated, it was really appreciated.