

SANDGATE GROUP QUARTERLY REPORT – June 2023

The group ran a very successful day of tours in Whitebridge Cemetery on Sunday 21st May, despite the awful winds which confronted us – again. We had hoped for better weather than we had for War Cemetery last year, but the only thing missing at Whitebridge was a nearby fire like the one at Hexham which had added another level of unpleasantness to the War Cemetery.

However, 45 people enjoyed the tour, once again initiated by Ed Tonks OAM, due to his enthusiasm for cemeteries and his continuing desire to support our Society.

The comments received from guests indicate just how significant to our community is the preservation of family stories and understanding the rich past represented by the cemeteries. A list of comments received after the tours is attached.

Our day was enhanced by the presence of a piper early in the day, his presence being at the initiative of Ken and Maree Shilling who invited him after hearing him practise his skill at the cemetery on an earlier visit. He was presented with a thank you card and an honorarium by the group members.

Letters of thanks have been sent to Ed Tonks, Donna Davis at Lake Macquarie City Council and the Charlestown Netball Association.

Our budget remains in good shape, with a balance of approximately \$130 (I don't have a figure for photocopying at this stage).

As well as ordinary copying expenses, the expenditure covered resources such as Velcro strips to make the grey/blue board more useful and tablecloth clips. They can be used by other groups, such as Publications and other sales tables. They were indeed handy on the Whitebridge tour; without them our tablecloths could now be in New Zealand.

Expenditure for this tour is compensated by at least one of the visitors becoming a member of the Society (she thought we did such valuable work and has volunteered to help with future such days); we also received donations from guests of approximately \$27 (from memory).

Future planning includes continuing contact with Sandgate Cemetery management with a view to re-commence our annual tours in May 2024.

Margaret Ashford
Group Coordinator
June 12 2023

Comments from participants, Whitebridge Cemetery Tour 21 May 2013

Excellent
Great!!
Very interesting
Fantastic and informative!
Thank you, informative and learned something new!
Great event – much appreciated
Very interesting and very informative. Thank you
Great Day. Certainly were knowledgeable
Excellent – great discoveries
Excellent
Yay to Ed (again). Such an informative talk.

A very worthwhile tour. So much information.
Thanks Ed
Very informative!
Great walk and stories
Very interesting. Look forward to the next tour
Wonderful history of families and the area
Excellent – extremely interesting. Thanks so much
Great tour. Very interesting and inspiring
Fantastic. Ed is brilliant
Thank you, Ed. A great afternoon
Thanks to all organisers!