



# THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER, 1970.

THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Sponsored by Kogarah Municipal Council

Patron

The Mayor of Kogarah  
Alderman K.R. Cavanough

President

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Management Committee

Chairwomen

Mrs. D.A. Hatton

Publicity Committee

Convenor

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Phone 587 0377

Museum Committee

Convenor

Mr. J.E. Veness,  
6 Lance Avenue,  
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OBJECTIVES

To promote interest in the history of the Kogarah Municipality and Australia in general.

To give support to the preservation of historic buildings and other objects considered to be of historic value.

MEMBERSHIP

Any inquiries regarding membership should be directed to the Honorary Secretary. Visitors are especially welcome.

Subscription: \$1.00 per annum

Senior Citizens: 25¢ per annum

School Students: 25¢ per annum

MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, commencing at 8 p.m. in the Kogarah Municipal Council Chambers, Belgrave Street, Kogarah.

DONATIONS

Donations of items of historical interest suitable for inclusion in the Society's proposed Museum will be gratefully accepted by the Convenor of the Museum Committee.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions of articles and information of local historical interest for publication in this Newsletter would be welcomed by the editor, Mr. P. Orlovich.

#### DECEMBER MEETING

The first Christmas Party of the Society will be held as follows:-

Date: 10th December, 1970.

Place: The home of the President, Mrs. D.A. Hatton, at 15 Annette Avenue, Kogarah, commencing at 8 p.m. Ladies are requested to bring sandwiches and cakes. The families of members are invited. If anyone not having transport would contact the Secretary arrangements will be made.

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#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fellow Members,

As this will be the last Newsletter for our inaugural year, I feel a few comments from me may not go amiss. I know you have all appreciated this form of information. The Editor has gone to great lengths to make it as interesting as possible and I think the Secretary has done a mighty job in the setting up of this monthly magazine.

Also the Carss' Family project is in keeping with the objects of the Society and I am sure will be a source of interest to all who visit this delightful spot in the future.

However, we have not been able to arrange any social outings to places of historic interest in this short year, but hope all members will give support to this activity next year and I hope to see you all at our Christmas Social.

D.A. Hatton,  
President.

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#### LAST GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 12TH NOVEMBER, 1970.

##### Proposed District Council

Steps have been taken towards the formation of a District Council comprising the St. George, Hurstville, Kogarah and Sutherland District Historical Societies, the objects of which were mentioned in the November Newsletter. At the General Meeting of the Kogarah Historical Society on Thursday 12th November, 1970, it was resolved:

"That the St. George, Hurstville and Sutherland District Historical Societies be written to urging the immediate formation of a District Council, and proposing that two delegates (one of whom shall be the President or Honorary Secretary) be appointed from each Society to form a Provisional Committee to determine upon the mode of formation and functions of the proposed District Council."

##### Illustrated Lecture by Mr. Noel Thorpe

Mr. Noel Thorpe, a past President of the Australian Railway Historical Society and a member of the Kogarah Historical Society delivered a most

informative address on the subject of "The Opening of the Illawarra Railway Line", and at the conclusion of his lecture a number of fascinating slides were shown to illustrate highlights of the extension of the railway to Hurstville, Sutherland, The Royal National Park and Cronulla. Mr. Thorpe traced the development of the Illawarra Railway scheme from the formation of the Illawarra Railway Committee in the early 1870's, comprising Mr. J. Manning, Mr. Henry Parkes (who was M.L.A. for Kiama in 1870) and the Rev. Dr. John Dunmore Lang. In 1875 a public meeting advocating the construction of a Railway Line to Kiama was addressed by Dr. Lang. Four trial surveys were undertaken by Mr. Surveyor Stephens between 1873 and 1877, and on 12th September, 1882 the first tender was let for the first 23 miles of the line, with the section from Redfern to Como required to be completed by September, 1884. By 1883 it was decided to follow the Bottle Forest line of route along the ridges, so that on 30th October, 1883 the second tender was let for the section from Clifton (now Coal Cliff) to North Kiama. The third and fourth tenders were let in 1884 and 1885.

Mr. Thorpe then concentrated upon the opening of the section from Redfern to Waterfall, the first part of which was officially opened to Hurstville on 5th October, 1884. The original stations on that section of the line were Erskineville, St. Peters, Marrickville (now Sydenham), Tempe, Arncliffe, Rockdale, Kogarah and Hurstville. The section from Hurstville to Loftus Junction was opened on 26th December, 1885, and the section from Loftus (Sutherland) to Waterfall on 9th March, 1886. Sutherland and Como Stations were opened in 1885. Oatley Station was opened in 1886 as well as Penshurst (Laycock's Platform); Carlton and Mortdale were opened in 1887, Banksia in 1906, Allawah in 1925 and Jannali in 1931. The section from Central to Oatley was electrified on 1st March, 1926 and electrification was extended to Sutherland in August 1926 and to the National Park in October of the same year. Mr. Thorpe then spoke briefly on the duplication and electrification of the line to Hurstville in the 1930's, and concluded his address with a few remarks on the construction of the branch line to Cronulla in December, 1939 and Steam Tram lines from Arncliffe to Bexley, Rockdale to Brighton, and Kogarah to Sans Souci.

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#### MEMBERSHIP

The following new member has joined the Society since November:-  
Dr. D.J. Hatton

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#### DONATIONS

Amongst the items recently acquired by the Society for inclusion in its proposed Museum are five copies of The Bulletin dating from 1894 to 1900. These copies were donated by Mr. H. Phelan.

A Government Imperial Peck Measure dated 1838 was donated by Mrs. M. Gray.

An old soft drink bottle with an interesting glass ball stopper was given by Mrs. B. Phelan. Mrs. Phelan has also donated a number of interesting items she collected while recently in Tasmania. These include copies of court proceedings held at the Old Bailey from 1824 to 1826.

PROPOSED PLAQUE TO COMMEMORATE CARSS' FAMILY

A delegation from the Society conferred with the Parks Supervisor of Kogarah Municipal Council on Thursday 19th November, 1970 at the site of the Carss' Family grave in Carss Park and details were discussed concerning the erection of the plaque and the desirability of some renovation to the grave and its surrounds.

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KOGARAH 1890

The First Grants in Kogarah

were made by Governor Macquarie of 1,950 acres to Dr. John Townson and 1,605 acres to his brother, Captain Robert Townson, R.N. A grant of 100 acres was made to Captain Connell shortly afterwards. Captain Connell had a large ironmonger's shop in Sydney from the corner of Hunter Street along George Street. Dr. Townson built a house, and planted a fine orchard and orangery, but, with this exception, very little work was done in the district. About the year 1816 Dr. Townson sold his estate to Mr. Simeon Lord, and it was afterwards known as Lord's Forest. Some years later this fine estate was purchased by Mr. Michael Gannon, and the name was changed to Gannon's Forest. A part of the Townson grants is in Kogarah, and the remainder in Hurstville. A considerable portion of Mr. James Chandler's Bexley estate of 1200 acres is also in Kogarah, both the Kogarah and Rockdale railway stations being on this estate. This dates only from 1831. Some years afterwards the remainder of the land was surveyed, and opened for purchase by auction.

One of the First Purchasers

was Mr. John B. Carroll, who bought 170 acres between Dr. Townson's land and Kogarah Bay, in 1848. Messrs William Blake, Patrick English, James Derwent (who purchases land in Gannon's Forest in 1845), William Maher, West, Justice, J.A. South, Riden, Murphy, and others settled there some time after, the diggings broke out, or between 1853 and 1856, and built houses, and formed gardens, orchards, etc., some on Government land and others at Bexley, Gannon's Forest, and other estates, portions of which they purchased.

The First Religious Services

are said to have been held in Mr. Berghofer's house, when the Rev. Messrs. Fletcher, Palmer, Baber, and others connected with St. Peter's officiated. Mr. William Wolfer (Swedish Consul in Sydney), gave two acres of land on the Bexley estate as a site for a church, and another acre was subsequently purchased for a parsonage and a school. The foundation stone of St. Paul's Church, Kogarah, was laid in 1869, and the church was consecrated by Bishop Barker in September of that year. It was at first placed in the charge of the Rev. George King (incumbent of St. Peter's); but very shortly after its opening the Rev. John Done was placed in charge, first as catechist, and afterwards as incumbent. Mr. Done remained in charge until his death in 1877, when he was followed by the Revs. Richard Kelly and W.H. Saunders. The present incumbent (the Rev. James Clarke) was licensed to the parish in July, 1889.

#### St. Luke's

is at present the central church of a very large district, and arrangements have to be made for nine or ten services every Sunday at St. Luke's (Kogarah) St. George's (Hurstville), St. Stephen's (Rockdale), at the school church (Mortdale), and the pavilion (Sans Souci), while Christ Church (Bexley) and St. David's (Arncliffe), although under the charge of Rev. C.J. Byng, have not yet been erected into a separate parish. A portion of the churchyard was set apart

#### For a Cemetery

and there are a number of tombs there. One of these is that of Mr. David Hannam (67), died September 1872, one of the oldest residents of Arncliffe. The Rev. John Done, first incumbent of the parish of St. George, was buried in 1877 at the age of 60 years, while Jennetta (his wife) lived till 1887. Their daughters, Caroline and Alice, also lie by their sides. Among others who rest here are - Esther, wife of John A. South, 1831; Jane, wife of Joseph Clarke, 1881; George Day of Forest Lodge, 1884; Joseph Shelton (69), 1887; Eliza, daughter of J.H. Carruthers; Thomas Morse (79), 1886; Thomas Draper (59), 1887; and Susan, his wife (52), 1880; Jane, wife of George Twiss; John Selmon (77), 1873; and Harriet, his wife, 1886; Lewis Griffiths, of Arncliffe (58), 1875; Lucy, wife of John Walker, and two sons; Emily Eleanor Favell, one of the old families of the district, 1884; John William Lawrence, son of an old resident of Rockdale (aged 36), 1886. The inscription -

Boast not to-day,  
Nor call tomorrow thine;  
Thou might'st be call'd away  
By sudden death like mine ....

indicates that he died suddenly; Philip Mulhausen (62), 1885; Thomas Wilson, at Torwood, Kogarah, 1881, aged 68. St. Paul's is a plain stone structure without ornamentation, and is plainly but comfortably fitted up inside. But there are no special features about it calling for notice. In connection with

#### The Roman Catholic Church

The Rev. Paul Fitzpatrick and the late Rev. Placid Quirk were the first to hold services in the district. They were in the habit of visiting private houses. In 1865 St. Patrick's school-church was erected. It was a plain stone structure about 20 ft. wide and 35 ft. long. Services were at first conducted here in connection with St. Joseph's at Newtown and afterwards in connection with Sts. Peter and Paul's, Cooks River. The first resident priest was the Rev. Father Berry, who was succeeded by the Rev. Peter Byrne, now at St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney. The present priest is the Rev. P.M. Ryan. About two years ago

#### A New St. Patrick's Church

was erected from designs by Messrs. Sheerin and Hennessy, architects. The church, although only about half the proposed size, is the largest and handsomest in the huge original parish of St. George. It is of brick, with stone cornices, paintings, window and door frames, etc., and is in the modern ornamental style of Church architecture, being a mixture of Italian

and Gothic. The interior is beautifully fitted and finished. The western end has been merely boarded up to allow for an extension when the design is to be completed. The tower has been built to the height of the walls, but will at some future time be finished with a spire. The old church has been extended by the addition of about 15 ft. to its length, making it about 50 ft. in all. Over the door is a memorial stone with the inscription "St. Patrick's R.C. School, 1865". It is now used as a day school, and an additional building has been erected a little way off for an infants' school. At the rear is a small piece of ground fenced in, and used as a cemetery.

There are not many graves, but those that are there are well looked after, as indeed are the whole of the grounds, a number of trees and shrubs having been recently planted. Among those buried there may be mentioned - Abraham Williams, a native of Sydney (34), 1875; Ellen Norah Bieger (62), 1878; James English (69), 1871, a very old resident, and Bridget his wife (60) 1885; Annie, wife of John B. Carroll (34), 1880; Mathew Carroll (88), 1876; Bridget, wife of William Minnett (56), 1886. Some 25 years ago the late Mr. William Ridley held services, as a lay preacher of

#### The Congregational Church

in the house of Mr. Carss, of Kogarah. Mr. Ridley every Sunday for years travelled by omnibus from Sydney to Cooks River, and walked thence a distance of about four miles to Mr. Carss' house to preach. Those who know what the roads were like round Sydney, and especially the roads between Cooks and Georges Rivers, will be able to appreciate his perseverance and energy in a good cause. After his death the services were carried on in a desultory manner, and then ceased. But since the opening of the railway line a very pretty little church has been erected near the Kogarah railway station. There are two memorial stones side by side, the front one laid by the Rev. Alexander Hannay, and the other by Mr. Henry Lee on the 24th November, 1888. The inscription shows that the building is known as the Kogarah Congregational Church. The architect was Mr. H.C. Kent, and the pastor is the Rev. E. Moore. In early times the members of

#### The Wesleyan Church

were accustomed to drive to Newtown until the church was built in Rockdale in 1858. Some five years ago a Wesleyan Church was erected at Kogarah, a short distance from the railway station. It is served by the Rev. J. Monahan assisted by lay-helpers. The strict Baptist Mission Hall was erected at Kogarah in 1889. The Presbyterians hold services regularly in the Kogarah School of Arts.

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The following extract from The Sydney Echo of 16th October, 1890 is reprinted from the Bulletin of the St. George Historical Society by kind permission of that Society. A further extract will be printed in the next Newsletter.

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