



# THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

JANUARY

1971

---

---

---

THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Sponsored by Kogarah Municipal Council

Patron

The Mayor of Kogarah  
Alderman K.R. Cavanough

President

Mrs. D.A. Hatton,  
15 Annette Avenue,  
KOGARAH, 2217.  
Phone 587 9970

Hon. Secretary

Miss C. McEwen,  
84 Carlton Parade,  
CARLTON, 2218.  
Phone 587 2090

Management Committee

Chairwoman

Mrs. D.A. Hatton

Publicity Committee

Convenor

Mr. P. Orlovich  
54 Culver Street,  
KOGARAH, 2217.  
Phone 587 0377

Museum Committee

Convenor

Mr. J.E. Veness,  
6 Lance Avenue,  
BLAKEHURST, 2221.  
Phone 54 3932

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.

### JANUARY MEETING

The next meeting of the Society will be held as follows:-

Date: Thursday 14th January, 1971.

Guest Speaker: Mr. Don Sinclair, President of the St. George Historical Society, will deliver an address entitled "The Early History of the St. George District".

---

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fellow Members,

It was very pleasant to see most of you at our Christmas Social and to receive letters of thanks from several ladies who could not attend. I actually thought at one stage the party would be too much for me but I was ably assisted by some of the ladies.

Also the refreshments supplied by the ladies were very varied and delicious and believe it or not I had trifle all the week following. I must make special mention of the Christmas cake made by Mr. Lovatt and of the kind acknowledgement to me from you all.

I am very grateful for the interest shown in the Society by the Members who sent me cards at Christmas.

I suggest we have a barbecue early next year which could be held in my back courtyard if necessary, as we will need to begin to raise funds for our Society soon. The soft drinks which were over could be used at this.

D.A. Hatton,  
President.

---

### KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S FIRST CHRISTMAS PARTY

A Christmas party for the members of the Kogarah Historical Society was held at the home of the Society's President, Mrs. D.A. Hatton, on the 10th December, 1970 in the place of the usual monthly meeting. The evening was high lighted by the showing of slides by Mr. Smith of historic buildings including some taken on his recent trip to Western Australia as well as a number of old homes in the Kogarah district. Dr. Hatton showed an interesting collection of slides on her visit to Japan. This the first social gathering of the Society was appreciated by all who attended and a special vote of thanks must be extended to Mrs. Hatton for opening her home on this occasion.

#### PROPOSED DISTRICT COUNCIL

Further action in connection with the formation of the proposed District Council has been deferred until the new year to permit the necessary preliminary steps to be taken prior to the Provisional Committee meeting which will probably be held in February. All three Societies invited to co-operate with the Kogarah Historical Society in this matter have responded to the suggestion with enthusiasm, and it is anticipated that each Society will derive considerable advantages from participating in the activities of the Council.

---

#### PROPOSED PLAQUE IN COMMEMORATION OF CARSS' FAMILY

Drafting of the inscription for the proposed plaque to be erected within the enclosure surrounding Carss' family grave at Carss Park has been delayed by the want of accurate information concerning the personal life and affairs of William Carss. The brief account of the Carss Family and the Carss' Bush Estate written by the late J. Harold Coxhead contains little biographical information and few specific dates.

It is known that he was a native of Scotland, and a cabinet-maker by calling, and he arrived in Sydney on board the emigrant ship Stirling Castle on the 13th October, 1831 after a passage of 137 days from Greenock. From the Sydney newspaper The Monitor, of October 15th, 1831, the following interesting extract relating to the arrival of the vessel is taken:-

#### ARRIVALS:

"On the 13th instant, the brig Stirling Castle (351 tons) Fraser Master, from Greenock on the 1st June and Cape of Good Hope on 20th August, with a general cargo. By the Stirling Castle, the Rev. Dr. Lang has returned to the Colony bringing with him 146 free emigrant mechanics. Passengers: Rev. Dr. Lang and Mrs. Lang; Rev. J. Cleland A.M. Presbyterian Minister, Mrs. Cleland Senior and 3 daughters; Rev. J. Thomson, Presbyterian Minister and Miss Thomson; Rev. H. Carmichael A.M. and Miss Carmichael; Rev. W. Pinkerton and Mrs. Pinkerton; Rev. J. Anderson and Miss Anderson - to be employed in the education of native youth; Mr. John M'Garvie Senior and Mrs. M'Garvie; Mr. Wighton; Mr. G. Fergusson, Mrs. Fergusson and 7 children and Mr. Bank, surgeon. (The body of Mr. F. Campbell is on board. This gentleman was drowned off Jervis Bay). At the early part of the voyage the measles were found to have been introduced on board the ship, and one child died under its influence. The malady was, however, arrested, and the ship has been since in a healthy state."

The circumstances under which William Carss emigrated to New South Wales is perhaps also of interest as the following extract from the contemporary newspaper The Australian of October 21st, 1831 reveals:-

"The Stirling Castle which arrived safe on Thursday evening... has brought out a valuable freight of Scotch mechanics

under the auspices of Dr. Lang. Among them, are 19 stone-masons, 17 carpenters and joiners, 4 cabinet-makers, 2 blacksmiths, 2 ropespinner, 2 coppers, 3 plasterers, 1 gardener, 1 engineer, 2 teachers, 1 agriculturist and 1 tin-worker. Dr. Lang deserves great praise for his highly valuable exertions. Besides the above mechanics whom he induced to emigrate on funds advanced by the Government, but engaged to be repaid out of the people's labour, Dr. Lang has added five gentlemen of considerable literary attainments. They are all Presbyterian ministers, and we doubt not but that they will prove a highly valuable acquisition in raising up seminaries for the instruction of the youth of this colony."

Mrs. Carss (Helen Turnbull), who arrived with her husband on the Stirling Castle was also a native of Scotland. She died on June 26th, 1853 at the age of 47. William Carss died on May 26th, 1878 at the age of 78 years at his residence, then referred to as Kogarah, and was buried on Thursday May 30th, 1878 at Kogarah Cemetery by Mr. W. Stewart.

The following inscription, based on the foregoing details, is therefore suggested for the plaque proposed to be erected by the Historical Society within the enclosure surrounding Carss grave.

#### CARSS FAMILY GRAVE

In commemoration of William Carss  
(1800 - 1878)  
after whom this locality is named.

A native of Scotland and cabinet-maker by trade, who, with his wife Helen Turnbull Carss, arrived in Sydney October 13, 1831 by the brig Stirling Castle as an 'emigrant mechanic' under the auspices of the Rev. Dr. John Dunmore Lang.

This is the grave of William Carss who died May 26, 1878 aged 78 years, and his wife who predeceased him at the age of 47 years on June 26, 1853, and their two infant children.

This reserve, upon which he erected his residence, was purchased by William Carss from  
on , and conveyed in 1916 to the Sydney Sailors' Home, from whom it was purchased by Kogarah Municipal Council in 1923 as a reserve for public recreation.

ERECTED BY KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1971

PATRON  
Alderman K.R. Cavanough  
Mayor of Kogarah

PRESIDENT  
Mrs. D.A. Hatton

SECRETARY  
Miss G. McEwen

The comments of members as to suitability of the inscription, are invited before a final decision is taken upon the phrasing and content of the inscription.

---

CORRIGENDUM

Kogarah School, by J.J. Fletcher

It is regretted that the name of the Headmaster for 1970 was incorrectly given as it should have been Mr. A.N. Rhodes.

---