

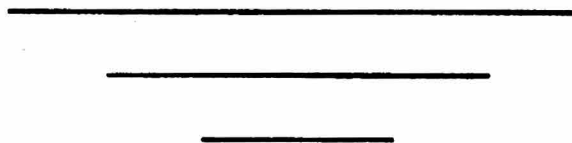


# THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

F E B R U A R Y

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THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Sponsored by Kogarah Municipal Council

Patron  
The Mayor of Kogarah  
Alderman K.R. Cavanough

President  
Mrs. D.A. Hatton,  
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Phone 587 9970

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Management Committee  
Chairwoman  
Mrs. D.A. Hatton

Publicity Committee  
Convenor  
Mr. P. Orlovich,  
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Phone 587 0377

Museum Committee  
Convenor  
Mr. J.E. Veness,  
6 Lance Avenue,  
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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.

Subscriptions: \$1.00 per annum  
Senior Citizens: .25¢ per annum  
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.

FEBRUARY MEETING

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

Date: 11th February, 1971.

Guest Speaker: Mr. J. Veness, a member of the Society, will give a talk on his "Visits to Historical Museums".

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NOTICE OF MOTION

"That the following clause be included in the Society's Constitution as the second paragraph in Clause 5 - Meetings:-

The Annual General Meeting shall take place on the second Thursday in March of each year, at which the office-bearers for the ensuing year shall be elected, and will be by secret ballot. At least 7 day's notice of such meeting shall be given to each member by pre-paid letter posted to his/her last known address, but accidental omission to give notice to any member shall not invalidate the meeting."

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hullo there -

I hope you are all still in the land of the living after the last few weeks of excessive heat. The St. George Historical Society will be holding their historical display in the Rockdale Town Hall from 8th February, and Colleen and I have volunteered to help out as attendants on Monday evening, 15th February, so we would like as many members as possible to visit this exhibition.

With regard to the stall we agreed to have during the year I have been very busy looking through my little bottom draw - a la Gracie Fields - and have discovered many articles which will perhaps entice someone to buy. Also I have made 12 aprons and 24 handkerchiefs, and jams and pickles. I am not an expert on apron making but we have a member who has been making them for years for various charities so I hope she will pass them.

In the "Leader" during the month a lady wrote enquiring the meaning of names of places in the district, so our Secretary agreed to send her a letter explaining as much as possible what we have learnt from our speakers during the past year.

In conclusion, it may not be known to all that we had a membership of 60 in our first year, but let's all do our utmost to raise it to 100 this year!

#### MEMBERSHIP

The following new members have joined the Society since January:-

Mr. T.J. Bennett and Miss N. Gould

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#### DONATIONS

Mr. & Mrs. P. Eva, of Salisbury, Queensland, have given a 102 year old Singer Sewing Machine. This machine was bought in Aberdeen, Scotland, and was brought to Australia in 1912 by Mrs. Eva's Grandmother. The machine is in working order and was in constant use up until 1956.

A Pewter Mug and a 20lb Tailor's Iron was donated by Mr. R. Delamotte.

Miss McEwen has given a half silver sovereign holder, and a Copper Water Jug, used in the old sailing ships to carry hot water to the 1st Class passengers has been lent for display purposes.

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#### LAST GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 14th JANUARY, 1971.

##### Appointment of a Social Committee

The Society has, since its inception, functioned without a Social Committee which has been reflected to some extent in the inactivity of the Society so far in the organization of any social and other fund raising activities. This situation has since been remedied by the appointment of a Social Committee comprising of the President, Mrs. Hatton, Secretary, Miss McEwen, Mrs. Kelly and Mrs. Lovatt, and the Treasurer Mrs. Briancourt.

##### Early Photographs of Kogarah District

Mr. Orlovich obtained from the Mitchell Library negatives of brochures advertising early land sales in Kogarah in 1884 and the Scarborough area in 1921. It was suggested that if more photographs could be obtained the Society could build a pictorial record of the history of the Kogarah district. Mr. Lean kindly developed the negatives into large prints.

##### Lecture by Mr. Don Sinclair

Mr. Don Sinclair, the President of the St. George Historical Society delivered a most interesting talk on "The Early History of the St. George District". Mr. Sinclair's talk covered the period from 1810 to the 1890's. He first concentrated on the early land grants the first being to Captain John Townson in 1810 who received 1950 acres. Alexander Brodie Spark headed the prominent residents of the district mentioned. Mr. Spark built Tempe House which is the oldest surviving residence in the area. Other people mentioned included the Hon. Thomas Holt; Thomas Saywell and Sir Joseph Carruthers. Mr. Sinclair went on to cover the early settlements in the area, the main roads including the Illawarra Road which was started in 1831 and completed in 1843, and the St. George Cottage Hospital which was opened in 1894. He completed his lecture with gas illumination in the 1890's.

This lecture was enthusiastically received by all present and his interesting sidlights on the history of the area were much enjoyed. Mr. Sinclair has kindly consented to prepare notes of his talk so that a Monograph can be duplicated and circulated to all members.

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The following is a continuation of the extract, started in the December 1970 Newsletter, taken from The Sydney Echo of the 16th October, 1890. The extract is reprinted from the Bulletin of the St. George Historical Society by kind permission of that Society.

### KOGARAH 1890

#### The Oldest Hotel

in the district was Prendergast's Inn, on the Rocky Point Road. It has been closed for some 27 years. About the same time the Gardeners' Arms was opened by Mr. Charles Brown. It has been conducted for many years by the present proprietor, Mr. Thomas Beavers. The Kogarah Hotel was built about 11 years ago on land purchased by Mr. Edmund English some 40 years ago from Mr. McNab. It has been conducted up to the present time by Mr. James English. The Sea Breeze Hotel was built by the late Mr. John Emerson at Tom Ugly's Point (Woniara), some 14 or 15 years ago, and was conducted by him up to the time of his death. It was afterwards kept by Mr. Nat Thompson, the well known cricketer. The present proprietor is Mr. William S. Matterson (the father of Neil Matterson, the well known sculler). Tom Ugly's Point was named, it is said, from an aboriginal called Tommy, who had only one leg, and who in the aboriginal nomenclature was called "Waggerly" Tom (waggerly being the native name for a lame animal). Later on he was called Tom Waggerly which was finally changed to "Tom Ugly". Tom Ugly's has for many years been a favourite place of resort on holidays. It is from this point that the punt crosses the Georges River, so that it is on the main road to the South Coast districts. The only other hotel in Kogarah was erected some five years ago by Mr. J. Parker. The Railway Parade Hotel was purchased by Mr. William Stroud before it was finished; and it was opened shortly afterwards. It occupies a good position close to the Kogarah railway station, and with the exception of an interval of about six months, has been conducted up to the present time by Mr. Stroud, who with his family landed in Australia, from London, only a few months before he opened the hotel. Like most of the suburbs round Sydney, Kogarah and Rockdale have suffered severely from

#### The Want of Good Roads

and the consequent want of means of communication with the city. In early times the residents were compelled to head Woolli Creek and Cooks River, and to get to Sydney by way of Canterbury or Enfield, and thence on to the Parramatta or Liverpool Roads. Even by taking this roundabout way it was very difficult to get through the bush with vehicles, and most of the carriage was done by means of pack-horses. An occupant of Sans Souci or Rocky Point House who established a still, carried the liquor he manufactured in kegs slung one on each side of a pack-horse, and covered with bags, rushes, etc. The Rocky Point Road is said to have been first cleared by order of Governor Gipps. Sir George seems to have taken a deep interest in the morals of the settlers. He frequently attended service at St. Peter's Church, and one day, when he met Mr. Robert Cooper, of Rocky Point House, he said, "How is it I've not seen you at church recently?" Mr. Cooper explained that it was almost impossible to get through the scrub, "Pooh" returned Sir George, "that is no excuse. Here, take this order and get some men from the stockade to clear a track; and don't let me have to complain of your absence again." The consequence of this action on the part

of his Excellency was that a track was cleared from the Cooks River Dam to Rocky Point to enable Mr. Cooper and his family to go to church. For many years the road was a mere bush track, and in some places it was impassable for vehicles. At the ridge known as Cobbler's Pinch, carts, gigs, etc., had to skirt the ridge, and wind in and out among the rocks and scrub for a mile or two until the obstruction was passed.

#### The First to Cross The Ridge

with a vehicle is said to have been Mr. Berghofer, who went out to take possession of his farm with a German waggon and four horses about 28 years ago. It was impossible to follow the winding of a track round the ridge with such a team, and therefore Mr. Berghofer boldly attacked the ridge, and crossed it successfully, only to capsize his waggon in a hole in the road further on. From this it would appear that the much dreaded pinch was not much worse than the road. It was about this time that

#### The First Road Trust

was formed under the Parish Roads Act (4 Victoria, No.12), passed by the Governor-in-Council in 1840. This Act was an improvement on the original Act (6 William IV, No.11) passed in 1835. It provided that trustees might be elected for three years, and that these trustees should have power to erect tollbars, and levy tolls. It also provided that a rate not exceeding 6d. per acre might be struck on all lands within three miles of the road. The permissive principle appears to have been the bane of legislation in New South Wales from the first establishment of local government in the colony. The Parish Roads Act might have formed a good basis for a more complete local government measure, but for the fact that all its provision depended on the word "may" instead of "shall". The legislators do not appear to have realised that laws should be made to be enforced, there being otherwise a danger of them proving useless; and too many of the laws of New South Wales have been found useless when tried. The Parish Roads Act was almost a dead-letter.

#### The Rocky Point Road Trust

which was almost the only one in the colony which attempted to carry out the provisions of the Act, found that the rate of 6d. per acre could not be enforced, as the Act provided no means to compel defaulters to pay. The want of roads in the district, however, was so great that the majority of the residents in Kogarah and Rockdale did not raise any dispute against the rate which they might have done had they taken legal opinion as to the wording of the Act; and, therefore, this Act remained in force in this district long after the levy of rates by similar trusts elsewhere had been abandoned. The first road trust consisted of Messrs. J.B. Carroll (Chairman), Patrick Moore, J. Morse, William Beehag, and James Beehag, with Mr. J.A. South as secretary. The first Government vote for the road was dated May 20, 1864, and was for £60. Before this was given, however, a toll had been established by the trustees near the Cooks River Dam, and the money collected had been expended principally in cutting down and levelling the huge rocks on the top of Cobbler's Pinch, and in building a bridge over Muddy Creek. This bridge was opened on February 20, 1862. It was composed of large logs with smaller logs or saplings laid across and covered with earth and stones. A road committee had also been formed in connection with

#### Kogarah Road

which branched off the Rocky Point Road near Prendergast's Inn, and ran to the punt at Tom Ugly's Point. The Committee consisted of Messrs. Mathew Carroll,



Patrick Moore, and Joseph Clark, and the first Government vote of £35 for making and repairing the road was granted on October 3, 1860. In 1869 a dispute arose between the Rocky Point Road trust and the residents along the Forest Road, who claimed £100 from the toll receipts for making their road. The residents on the Muddy Creek Road, not to be outdone, claimed £50 for their road, and, as the trustees could not see their way to divert these large sums of money from the use for which they had been collected, the dispute waxed warm, and resulted in the toll being closed by Mr. William Forster (Minister of Lands in the fifth Cowper Ministry). The toll bar was shortly afterwards reopened on the Rocky Point Road, south of the Pinch, or near where Spring Street, Rockdale, now joins the main road. The trust was abolished in 1876, the last trustees having been Messrs. J.B. Carroll, Joseph Twiss, Thomas Mascord, James Hickey, and William Bush. Mr. Samuel Schofield served three years on the trust, and other gentlemen were elected and served for longer or shorter terms. Mr. J.B. Carroll was also one of the trustees for the road from the southern side of Georges River to Bottle Forest.

#### The First Punt

over Georges River was a miserable affair, worked by a coir rope, the passengers having frequently to wind themselves over. There was plenty of traffic, as Mr. Thomas Holt had some hundreds of men at work on his private property, which is now known as the Holt-Sutherland estate. These men were employed in building the house, clearing and laying out the grounds, forming oyster beds along the Georges River, and doing other work. It is said that Mr. Holt expended something like £64,000 in improving the estate. A log bridge in connection with the oyster beds may still be seen stretching across the mouth of Gowler's Bay, which is now part of the private property of Mr. F.S.E. Holt, J.P. and is on the south side of Georges River. The men from these works frequently crossed over the punt, and spent their money freely in Kogarah. After a time the coir rope was replaced by a wire one, and then the old punt gave way to

#### A Steam Punt

which is still at work. A great deal of work was done in the district. The majority of the landowners had market gardens or fruit orchards and orangeries. The timber trade, too, was extensive, and many loads of ships' knees and ribs were carted into Sydney from the Kogarah bush. The trade in firewood was also very large. Some 30 years ago Mr. Callaghan built two schooners on the shores of Townson's Bay. One of them was 60 tons burden, and the other 30 tons. Messrs. Kyle and Merriman also built several craft on their land, and Mr. Thompson constructed some vessels on the Townson estate. Some years ago Mr. F.M. Hudson erected a sawmill, but the Government refused to allow Mr. J.B. Carroll to cut a canal through the low-lying portion of his land and the mud flats skirting the head of Kogarah Bay, and the works are at a standstill. The reason of the refusal is believed to be that the Government did not wish to alienate the foreshores; but it is urged that all public rights ought to have been conserved without preventing the works. The Illawarra and South Coast railway was opened through the district in October 1884, and on the 26th of the same month a petition signed by 52 of the residents, praying that their

#### Locality Might be Incorporated

under the name of the Borough of Kogarah, was gazetted. The boundaries were from Georges River along the railway line to where the line crosses the Forest Road between the Rockdale and Arncliffe railway stations, and thence by the boundary of West Botany to Lady Robinson's Beach, and by the shores of Botany Bay and Georges River, to the point of commencement. The population was estimated at 1100, and the area at six miles. A supplementary petition, signed

by 66 residents was published on January 20, 1885, and on the same day a counter petition was gazetted, signed by 159 persons, who were of opinion that the population had been considerably over-estimated, and the boundaries not fairly or equitably adjusted, and who said that at a public meeting held at Mr. Beaver's Gardeners' Arms, a resolution had been affirmed that it would be advisable to wait for the passing of the Local Government Act before incorporating the district. on the 15th July, 1885, a new petition, signed by 300 persons, praying for the incorporation of the district, was gazetted; but in the meantime all that portion of land lying east of the Rocky Point Road, and including the Rockdale railway station, had been united to West Botany, and the name of the municipality changed to Rockdale.

#### The Incorporation of Kogarah

was gazetted on 22nd December, 1885, and Mr. Henry Wisc was appointed the first returning officer. The first election took place on the 27th February, 1886, at the Gardeners' Arms Hotel, when the following aldermen were elected; Messrs. John Bartholomew Carroll, Patrick English, Daniel Joseph Treacy, Edward Hogben Myles McRae, John Murphy, John Abraham South, Frederick William Biden, and Edward Blake. Mr. Hogben was elected first Mayor, and at the following meeting Mr. Carroll handed in his resignation, his place being filled by Mr. F.H. Hudson. The Council held its first meetings at the Gardeners' Arms, and then found accommodation at the Kogarah railway station until the School of Arts building was finished, when rooms were rented there. The area is estimated at 5½ sq. miles. The population at the date of the incorporation was about 1000, the number of houses 175, and the revenue for the first year about £1500. For the current year the population is estimated at 3500, the number of houses at 650, and the revenue at about £5000. There are in the borough about 10 miles of roads made and ballasted, and about 37 miles unmade. Near the railway station, where the houses are built closely together, the footpaths have been kerbed and guttered, and in some places asphalted. Owing to the gravelly nature of the ground the roads generally are in good order for traffic.

#### There are in the Borough

the Anglican, the Roman Catholic, the Congregational, the Wesleyan, and the Strict Baptist Church; three Public schools (at Kogarah, Blakehurst, and Sans Souci), the Roman Catholic school, and Mrs. Payn's ladies' college at Kogarah, Mrs. Richards' ladies' school, Montgomery Street, and Mrs. Wilson's ladies' school at Carlton, besides some smaller schools. The hotels are the Railway Parade, the Kogarah, the Gardeners' Arms, and the Sea Breeze. The number of business places is about 40. One of

#### The Principal Industries

is the Hurstville Brick Company's works, with three machines, a 40 h.p. boiler and other machinery, valued altogether at about £5000, five kilns, which turn out at the present time about 20,000 bricks daily, while the capacity is about double that number. The directors are Messrs. E. Godfrey, Doust, Judd and Edwards. There are about 25 market gardeners, 1 nursery, 1 timber-yard and sawmill, 1 brass foundry, 14 dairies, and 1 ironwork, besides the usual smaller works. There is a livery stable, whence coaches are run daily to Port Hacking, via the punt at Tom Ugly's. The present council consists of Alderman Peter Herrmann (Mayor), Hunter Macpherson, Charles H. Halstead, John B. Carroll, James Hatfield, A.O. Butler, J. Lacey, J.S. South, and J.T. Treacy. The first Council-Clerk was Mr. W.F. Vogel, and the present one is Mr. E.L. Sayers.

"Kogarah" is an aboriginal word meaning "a place of rushes"

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