

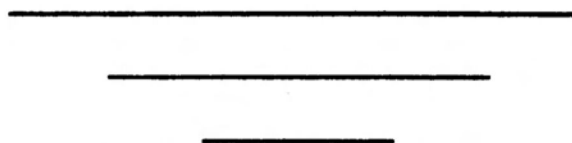


# THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

M A R C H

1971



THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Sponsored by Kogarah Municipal Council

Patron

The Mayor of Kogarah  
Alderman K.R. Cavanough J.P.

President

Mrs. D.A. Hatton, J.P.,  
15 Annette Avenue,  
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Management Committee

Chairwoman  
Mrs. D.A. Hatton

Publicity Committee

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

Social Committee

Convener  
Miss C. McEwen

Museum Committee

Convener  
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  
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 Convener 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.

### MARCH MEETING

The Annual General Meeting and Election of Office Bearers of the Society will be held on Thursday 11th March, 1971.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fellow Members,

As you will have seen in this Newsletter, our next meeting is the Annual one at which election of Officers for the ensuing year will take place, so I hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend.

It was very pleasing to see some of our members at the St. George Historical Society's Centenary Exhibition on the night when the Secretary and I were in attendance. I am sure everyone who visited this display will have been amazed at the quantity and variety of historical objects which had been loaned by people in the district, including some from our own Society. Also, Mr. Veness, the Secretary and myself were representatives of our Society at the opening of Lydham Hall which was a very auspicious occasion for the St. George Historical Society.

When this goes to press it will be just before our visit to Parramatta, but I hope all those 40 people who have signified their intention of participating will really enjoy our first social outing. We hope it will be the forerunner of many more outings during this year to nearby historical places.

Our thanks go to those members who brought along articles to our last meeting for our stall to be held in July - keep up the good work.

D.A. Hatton,  
President.

### MEMBERSHIP

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

Mr. N. Butters, R. Cockburn, Mr. F.C. Dungey, Mrs. Perry  
and Mrs. Ward

### LAST GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 11TH FEBRUARY, 1971.

#### Time Capsule from the St. George Cottage Hospital

Last year the Cottage Hospital, one of the best known buildings in the St. George area, was demolished to make way for a modern extension to the St. George Hospital. The foundation stone of this building was laid on May 19, 1894 and a time capsule was buried. The following items were found when the time capsule was opened last year:-

1. The Sydney Morning Herald - May 19, 1894
2. The Daily Telegraph - May 19, 1894
3. The St. George Advocate - May 19, 1894
4. Two Farthings dated 1894
5. A written description of the building
6. Committee's Report dated December 1893
7. First Annual Report

As the Hospital played such an important role in the history of the Kogarah district the contents of this time capsule were sought by the Society. However, the Hospital authorities decided to place the contents of the 1894 capsule into another capsule to be buried at the site of the new building.

To preserve a record of the contents the Hospital has kindly offered to photocopy the written description of the building; the first Annual Report; the Committee's Report and the two Farthings. Steps have been taken to obtain photographic copies of the front page of the Sydney Morning Herald and the Daily Telegraph from the Public Library, and also two articles which reported the opening in the 21st May, 1894 editions of these two papers. The copy of the St. George Advocate appears to be the only copy of this edition in existence. Mr. Lean has generously undertaken to photograph the complete paper so that a permanent record can be obtained for the Society.

Lecture by Mr. Jeff Veness

Mr. Jeff Veness, a member of the Kogarah Historical Society, and the Convener of the Museum Committee, addressed the Society on the subject of his "Visits to Historical Museums".

In his address Mr. Veness covered an area from Port Macquarie to Walgett giving some historical background for each district as well as describing the museums he had visited.

Mr. Veness first concentrated on the Hastings River Historical Society's Museum at Port Macquarie. This Society was formed 12 years ago and has a membership of 500. Due to the efforts of the members an interesting and well thoughtout Museum has been established. It consists of various period rooms including a Bedroom, a Parlor, a Nursery and a shell room. A new building was erected in 1968. In this building is an arcade of shop fronts displaying a wealth of material all being fully protected. A meeting room; an archives room and a restoration room have also been set up.

The Museums found in the towns of Walgett and Gulgong both have an agricultural theme. The Museum at Walgett has on display the first aerial fertilizer to be used in the district. The Gulgong Pioneers Museum was originally a Bakery and Produce Store. This museum has a complete set of local newspapers dating from 1870.

In a stirring conclusion Mr. Veness made the following comments on the Carrs Park area and Cottage -

"We have a basis upon which to build our historical displays, as far back as any other Museum or Society, further to this we have the area which when developed could be a place of interest and delight to many people, and not only from an historical interest but from the pleasure the setting can bring. I could see the cottage being arranged in a garden setting, with an outside terrace area, art displays, craft exhibitions, these are merely possibilities, but I feel after seeing quite a number of Museums that while we may not have such a wealth of articles to draw on, we have the building, the setting, the historical background, we have early references in Journals about Philip's time of expeditions

into the area of Sans Souci.

Further to all this we have the photographic record of many parts of the district, we have the assistance of a forward looking Council and the enthusiasm of an active and growing Society, what more could we ask?"

#### Museum Association of Australia

Mr. F.C. Dungey the Conservator of the Nicholson Museum and a new member of the Society brought to the attention of the meeting the existence of the Museum Association of Australia. The Association was established in 1935 and a New South Wales Branch was formed two years ago.

The Association was formed to provide a common ground for ideas to be discussed on establishing and maintaining museums. In the future the Association hopes to set up a Mobile Conservation Unit containing photographic art and conservation equipment. It also intends to compile a leaflet giving guidance in starting a museum e.g. how to catalogue.

The members present at the meeting were unanimous in their approval of the Society becoming affiliated with the Museum Association of Australia.

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#### DISTRICT COUNCIL

A preliminary meeting of delegates representing the St. George, Kogarah, Hurstville and Sutherland Shire Historical Societies was held on February 3rd, 1971, at Kogarah Council Chambers with the object of forming a District Council comprising the four Societies. The advantages of establishing such a Council were considered to be sufficiently worthwhile that it was decided by the delegates attending to recommend to each of the Societies they represented that the Council might be formed. It was further decided that two delegates nominated by each Society be appointed to attend quarterly meetings of the District Council at Rockdale Town Hall on dates to be appointed in the months of February, May, August and November of each year, and that a Quarterly Bulletin be circulated after each quarterly meeting containing information concerning the activities of the Council and the participating Society for the ensuing quarter, as well as items of historical interest to all. The first of such Bulletins will be circulated at the March meeting of each Society.

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#### SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The following is the first report of the Social Committee. The report was submitted to the February General Meeting recommending that:-

A Stall be held to raise funds for the Society on Friday the 23rd July, in Kogarah Shopping Centre. The Committee asks all ladies to help stock this stall.

Raffles be held periodically and tickets be sold at 5 for 20¢ or 2 for 10¢. Any donations of items that could be raffled would be appreciated. The Committee stresses that no member must feel obligated to buy tickets.

A film evening be organized and a car excursion to Parramatta on the 7th March be arranged.

The recommendations were accepted.

#### CARSS INSCRIPTION

Some unavoidable delay occasioned by the necessity of confirming the accuracy of details for inclusion in the proposed inscription has occurred but the final draft, differing only slightly from that proposed in the January Newsletter, has now been prepared, and another quotation obtained from the firm of I.D. Robb & Co. of Sans Souci by whom the work is to be executed. A report on the present arrangements for the erection of the plaque will be submitted to the March meeting of the Society for approval.

#### WONIORA PLEASURE GROUND, 1910

BY MRS. H. GRIEVE

Mrs. Grieve, a member of the Society contributed an article on Ebenezer Addis of Blakehurst to the November, 1970 issue of the Newsletter.

One of the most interesting characters in the district was an old soldier named Ebenezer Addis. He owned a beautiful stretch of land along the shores of Shipwright Bay, the whole area between Church Street and Princes Highway. This land was originally granted to Robert Townson on 1st January, 1810 by Governor Lachlan Macquarie. Mr. Addis purchased the estate about 75 acres for £120. It was known in those days as Woniora Pleasure Ground.

Admission to the park was sixpence per horse. At weekends and public holidays there was scarcely a tree without a five-horse bus drawn up under its shade. A small creek flowed through the land and with a clean sandy beach it was a veritable haven for family picnics.

In the days before the advent of the white man it must have been the happy hunting ground of our predecessors. In fact Ebenezer was certain it was the site of an aboriginal midden. Judging by the number of stone axes and other implements which he dug from the soil adjacent to the creek it was evident his theory was correct.

Most visitors to Woniora Pleasure Ground called at the Sea Breeze Hotel, ostensibly to see Cocky Bennett, that celebrated bird of ancient vintage. The poor featherless creature was a sorry sight, blue wrinkled skin and a long curved beak which had to be cut periodically to prevent it piercing its breast. It lived to be 120 years old. Attached to its cage was a collection box for the St. George District Hospital. Over the years the hotel mascot was reputed to have collected a substantial amount. This bird had many catch cries but the most popular was "If I had another -- feather I'd fly". Rather incongruous to see it strutting on the perch and waving its withered old wings.



Often during these visits to Tom Ugly's Point Mr. Addis would be induced to swim the river. For a small wager, but more for bravado, he made record time to Sylvania and back. It was a sight to be remembered, this giant of a man wearing old dungarees cut off at the knees and a long sharp knife in his belt to combat the sharks. Most of the spectators crossed the river in the punt and spurred him on with cheers and shouts of encouragement. After a short rest at Sylvania he swam the return journey and was welcomed with tumultuous applause. Leander swam the Hellespont to visit his loved one, Hero. Lord Byron swam the same straits merely to prove it was possible. These latter feats were world famous but they were quite insignificant compared with the local fame of Ebenezer Addis who swam the Georges' River. With his silver grey hair and long white beard, he looked for all the world like the current version of an ancient Viking emerging from the sea.

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