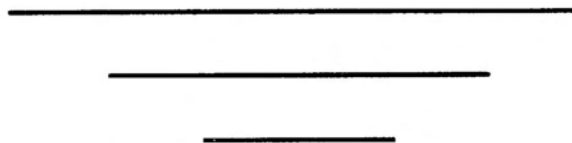




THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST, 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,
KOGARAH, 2217.
Phone 587 9970

Hon. Treasurer

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9 The Mall,
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Phone 54 2156

Hon. Secretary

Miss C. McEwen, J.P.,
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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 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.

AUGUST MEETING

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

Date: Thursday 12th August, 1971, at 8 p.m.

Address: Mr. T. Hanley F.A.N.S., Secretary of the Australian Numismatic Society will give a lecture on "The History of Australian Currency". Mr. Hanley has indicated that he would be pleased to give advice and assistance on Thursday evening to anyone who has coins or medals they would like identified.

Supper Roster: Mrs. B. Butters and Mrs. M. Thompson

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fellow Members:

I told you in the July "Newsletter" that exciting times for our Society were just around the corner. The first of these was the result of the stalls held on 23rd July at Kogarah. The sales on the day were \$182.25, and added to this is the sum of \$11.60 for goods previously sold and \$6.40 for goods sold since, bringing the total up to \$200.25, which I am sure you will all be pleased about. There was a wide range of goods for sale, including off-cuts of carpet.

To all those who contributed goods, my sincere thanks, and especially to those who worked on the day, viz. Mesdames Zimeris, McEwen, Briancourt, Holmes, Butters Drake and Burghart. Also Messrs. Smith, Briancourt and Kelly, together with support from Mrs. Kelly and the Mayoress, Mrs. Cavanough.

The Social Committee is hoping that the grand total raised since February this year will be over \$400 after our visit to Windsor on Sunday 8th August.

Mr. Veness and the Museum Committee has been extremely active since our last meeting, exhibits have been got ready and catalogued, and we are now waiting to gain admission to Carss' Cottage with paint brushes etc. to prepare the rooms for opening day by the Mayor, on Saturday 28th August, at 2.15 p.m. Council has been working on the outside of the cottage and Mr. Pogson is supervising the preparation of the grounds. All we need now is a fine day to enjoy this very pleasant setting. I hope to see all members there on the 28th.

MEMBERSHIP

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

Mr. D. Carlisle; Mr. & Mrs. E.W. Gaskin; Mrs. E. Hurst;
Mr. N. McPhee and Mr. & Mrs. Tegg.

SOCIAL CALENDAR

FRIDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER - Theatre Party to the Pocket Playhouse at 94 Terry Street, Sydenham to see "Dream World". The tickets cost \$2 each and the play commences at 8 p.m. Any members requiring transport please see the Secretary. TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED BEFORE THE 20TH AUGUST.

SUNDAY 24TH OCTOBER - Half day to Vaucluse House.

FRIENDS ARE WELCOME

ADDRESS GIVEN AT THE JULY MEETING

The President Mrs. D.A. Hatton presented an address on "Thomas Arndell - Surgeon, Magistrate, and Farmer, on the First Fleet". Mrs. Hatton has typed and duplicated her lecture and a copy is enclosed for your interest.

CARSS' COTTAGE

OPENING 28TH AUGUST, 1971

AT 2.15 P.M.

The culmination of an Historical Society's achievements could be said to be the establishment of an Historical Museum. The Kogarah Historical Society is most fortunate in having the backing of a progressive Council interested in preserving the history of the district. Through the efforts of this Council we have been given the wonderful opportunity of opening a Museum in William Carss' old stone cottage at Carss Park.

The area of Carss Park forms part of Jonathon Croft's original purchase from the crown in 1854. The land was acquired by William Carss, who was a native of Scotland and a cabinetmaker by trade, who, with his wife Helen Turnbull Carss, arrived in Sydney by the brig Stirling Castle on the 13th October, 1831, as an emigrant mechanic under the auspices of the Rev. Dr. John Dunmore Lang.

The house standing on the promontory of the Park was built in the 1860's by the Scottish Stonemasons who were involved in the building of Sydney University. The stone used was quarried locally. The original structure consisted of five rooms; the walls of this original structure are 18" thick. Kogarah Council acquired the area as a reserve for public

recreation in 1923 from the Sydney Sailors' Home and it was from this period that the house was used as a residence for the Park Ranger. At this time Council made a number of structural alterations. These included the addition of three rooms and leadlight windows.

Water was drawn from a well located in the vicinity of the fernery. It is hoped that this well can be located and re-erected in the near future. The original plan of the house included two additional buildings - a laundry and servant quarters on the western side and the stables were located on the north-eastern side of the house.

Following a meeting with the Mayor of Kogarah Alderman K.R. Cavanough the Town Clerk Mr. J.K. Forbes, Mrs. Hatton and Mr. Veness the Mayor submitted the following report to the Council meeting on the 21st June, 1971:-

- (a) That application be made to the Minister for Local Government for his approval to the granting of a lease of the existing cottage at Carss Park with the appurtenant buildings and its immediate garden surrounds to the Kogarah Historical Society for a period of 15 years at a nominal rental of \$2 per annum for the purpose of conducting an Historical Museum and activities associated therewith.
- (b) That the subject cottage be placed in good order and repair before handing over to the Society and the garden surrounds appropriately landscaped and thereafter the Society be responsible for its maintenance and repair and all other outgoings associated with the buildings, excluding municipal rates and maintenance of the gardens.

The report was adopted by Council.

A new residence is being constructed for the Ranger on top of the First Aid Building. The cottage should be vacant about two weeks before the opening for the necessary work to be carried out by the members. Council workers at the moment are involved in placing the grounds and external structure of the buildings in good repair. This work is being carried out under the supervision of Mr. D. Pogson the Parks and Gardens Supervisor and Mr. R. Landon the Principal Building Inspector. The gardens are being laid out in accordance with the period of the building and a Pergola is being erected on the side of the house facing the roadway. This is to be covered with wisteria.

We realize that our greatest problem lies in giving the Museum adequate protection. Every precaution therefore is being taken in regard to this matter. Expert advice has been sought and a complex alarm system is to be installed and window grills are being fitted.

The theme of the Museum will be primarily historical but it will also incorporate an art centre. An invitation has been extended to the St. George

Art Society; the Kogarah Rockhounds Lapidary Club and the local Potters group to display their work.

It will be endeavoured to change displays periodically to capture the constant interest of the public. It is also hoped that we can work in close co-operation with the local schools as Mr. E.W. Dunlop commented in his booklet Local Historical Museums in Australia - "In many ways the most important value of the local Museum is one not commonly realized in this country - its function as an aid to schoolchildren and teachers in the Social Studies".

Historical displays gathered by the Society include a comprehensive display of old photos and a variety of interesting historical items. Other displays to be exhibited on the opening day include an exhibit on the development of Sydney's Water Supply by the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board; a collection of medals and old swords; a display of old carts; a number of vintage cars and arrangements are being finalized to have the Lady Hopeton Steam Ferry come into Kogarah Bay. Kogarah Band will also be present on the day.

Efforts are being made to attract tourist buses to the area and it is hoped that a service to provide Devonshire Teas can be set up.

The hours set down for the Museum are from 10 a.m. to 12 a.m. and from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Entrance charges will be 20¢ for adults and 10¢ for children with a maximum of 60¢ for families. In the near future it is hoped that a small section might be set up with a variety of historical books available for purchase.

We would like each member to become involved in the establishment of the Museum and if anyone feels that they could render some service please contact Mr. Jeff Veness the Convener of the Museum Committee.

The Museum will be opened by His Worship The Mayor of Kogarah Alderman K.R. Cavanough on the 28th August, at 2.15 p.m. We hope that all members will be present on this very important occasion in the history of Kogarah.
