

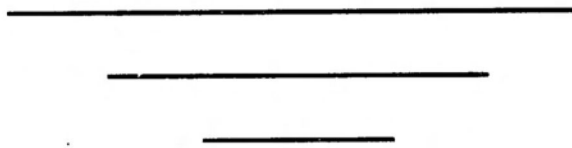


THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER

1971



THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Sponsored by Kogarah Municipal Council

Patron

The Mayor of Kogarah
Alderman F.J. Baker

President

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

Hon. Treasurer

Mrs. P. Briancourt,
9 The Mall,
SOUTH HURSTVILLE, 2220.
Phone 54 2156

Hon. Secretary,

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

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 Museum will be gratefully accepted by the Convener of the Museum Committee -

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

CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions of articles and information of local historical interest for publication in this Newsletter would be welcomed by the Editor -

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

OCTOBER MEETING

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

Date: Thursday 14th October, 1971, at 8 p.m.

Following the Business Meeting the film taken by the A.B.C. and the Video Tape which was recorded will be shown. Any member who took film, either prints or slides, are requested to bring them to the meeting.

Supper Roster: Mrs. J. Holmes and Mrs. K. Slater

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fellow Members,

As I shall be away on vacation my contribution to this month's Newsletter is a typed recording of The Hon. Mr. Justice Else-Mitchell's speech at the opening of our Museum for which we are indebted to my daughter for her foresight in obtaining same. See you all I hope at the next meeting.

Mrs. D.A. Hatton,
President.

Address by The Hon. Mr. Justice R. Else-Mitchell

Alderman Cavanough, Mayor of Kogarah, Mr. Mead, the Member for Hurstville in whose area I understand this is situated, Mr. Crabtree who is the Member for Kogarah, Alderman Rathbone, the Mayor of the neighbouring Municipality of Rockdale, Mrs. Hatton, President of the Society, Members of the Society, and other distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

I bring you first on behalf of the Royal Australian Historical Society greetings from that Society with which your own Society is affiliated. We in the Royal Australian Historical Society are proud and glad to have such a vital Society as the Kogarah Society, and others in this locality, as affiliates, in carrying on the great work that has to be done, and done continually, in the investigation of Australian historical matters and in bringing them to the notice of the younger generation. I bring you also on behalf of the Royal Australian Historical Society congratulations on the achievement of a magnificent project because the establishment of a museum by a local Historical Society is perhaps the greatest achievement that it can with its generally limited facilities and its local interests attain.

In the co-operation that has been given by the Kogarah Municipal Council to your Society, in the restoration and establishment of this cottage as a museum, I feel everyone concerned can be justly proud. It is, of course, one thing that in these days of progress, and progress for the most part seems to be identified with the demolition of that which is old, is refreshing to see an occasional old building preserved and preserved in a fashion which the current generation and members of those to come, can have gained some idea of how our ancestors lived. It's all the more refreshing and stimulating when what is preserved is not just an old building for the sake of being old and representative of how people lived in the past, but when it has some special association, and of course, as you know, this building has those historic associations,

associations with that fiery cleric, John Dunmore Lang and the Scottish mechanics who came out at his instigation well over a century ago and whose great tradesman-like qualities changed in many respects the architectural face of Sydney and the suburbs.

It is a tribute to the pioneers and those who came out to parts like this, that they were able to select places as habitations that were so attractive and to complete them with such fine craftsmanship as you see now in this building which after the lapse of over a century still doesn't show the signs of wear that some modern structures evidence after a quarter of that time. All these things, Mr. Chairman, and distinguished guests and ladies and gentlemen just go to illustrate in a brief fashion the nature of the achievements and the importance of this as an historic monument, as a memorial to pioneers, and as a place which can be a resort for the people of the Municipality, in which they can see something of our historic past and combine it with the cultural activities which have been set out as part of the plan for its use. I again say on behalf of the Royal Australian Historical Society our deepest, sincerest and warmest congratulations on the achievement of this project. May it prosper, may the Society gain greater encouragement from being its curator or its tenant, and may those who frequent this place find some inspiration, historic and cultural in so doing.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

At the last meeting the members unanimously carried the motion to accord life membership to Mr. & Mrs. Cavanough.

Following a recommendation of the Captain Cook Bi-Centenary Committee that an Historical Society be formed Mr. Cavanough called a Public Meeting on 9th February, 1970, the result being that the Kogarah Historical Society was established. Forty-three people attended this meeting. To-day the Society has a membership of 112, this is indeed proof that the Society has filled a need of the residents of the district.

The Society is indebted to both Mr. & Mrs. Cavanough for their constant loyalty throughout the last year. Because of this support the community now enjoys the privilege of having an Historical Museum.

TRUSTEES OF CARSS' COTTAGE

The following members were elected as Trustees of Carss' Cottage -

Mrs. D.A. Hatton, Mr. J.E. Veness and Miss C. McEwen

REIMBURSEMENT BY COUNCIL

Following the opening of the Museum the Society submitted to Council a statement of expenses incurred. A cheque was received at the last meeting for \$453.68 from Council as reimbursement of expenses. It was moved that a letter of thanks be written to Council for the allocation of this amount.

1971 CONFERENCE OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Each year the Royal Australian Historical Society holds a Conference with the Affiliated Societies. This year the Conference will be held from the 15th to 17th October, the theme will emphasise exploration, discovery, surveying and mapping (including the analysis of maps) with an exposition of the work of the Geographical Names Board of New South Wales plus the location and use of archives. Mr. V.S. Smith and Miss C. McEwen were chosen as delegates to represent The Kogarah Historical Society at the Conference.

As part to the Conference each year the delegates are taken to an historical site. This year, on Sunday the 17th, as part of the excursion the delegates will be visiting Carss' Cottage, and will have lunch in the Park. Our Society is indeed privileged to act as host on this occasion.

MUSEUM REPORT

The Museum has now been open just over a month. Within that time more than 500 people have inspected the Museum and \$339.42 has been made on the sale of books and jams and entrance fees. It has been noted that over 95% of the people who have visited the Cottage have been local residents. This certainly goes to show that there is an interest in the community in preserving the local history.

This year the Kogarah Municipal Band is celebrating their Jubilee and as a part of their celebrations a display will be set up in the Museum during November. This display will trace the history of the band and will include a range of instruments both old and new, old uniforms and a number of photographs which have been gathered by the Band over the years. On the last Sunday of the month there will be a mass band recital incorporating a number of Bands in the district. This recital will be held in the grounds.

The Society has been most fortunate in receiving as a donation the subscription list to the St. Paul's Church building fund. This was given by Mr. E.G. Upton. The document has been mounted between glass and will be displayed in the Museum in the near future.

MEMBERSHIP

The Society now has 112 members. The following new members have joined the Society since September:-

Mrs. D. Bamford, Mrs. D. Clark, Mrs. J. Gould, Mrs. D. Harpley,
Mrs. A. Jones, Mrs. E. Leahy, Mrs. H. Parkes, Mr. & Mrs. L. Sheldrick,
B. Smith, Mrs. S. Vivian.

SOCIAL CALENDAR

Sunday 24th October - Outing to Vacluse House and environs. Special arrangements have been made for the Society to inspect the Wentworth Mouseum.

Time: The Bus will leave from Kogarah Council Chambers at 1 P.M. SHARP.

Cost: Bus Fare \$1.25 Adults; 50¢ Children
Entrance .25¢ Adults; 5¢ Children

Time will be allocated at Vaucluse House to have afternoon tea in the grounds. If anyone so desires tea can be purchased at the refreshment rooms near the house.

Monday - 13th December - (This date to be confirmed) Wedgwood Display
This will be held in the Museum and lunch will be included. Final details will be published in the November Newsletter.

FRIENDS ARE WELCOME

RESEARCHING OUR LOCAL HISTORY

It has been recommended by the Museum Committee that Research Units consisting of two or three people be set up to record local history.

It is felt that many people would like to do such research but perhaps are a little hesitant as they do not know the correct method. By setting up groups of people it is felt that a variety of talents could be combined successfully. There are a number of good reference books available on how to set about researching information, they include LOCAL HISTORY IN AUSTRALIA by Mr. Philip Geeves and PRESERVATION IN LOCAL HISTORY which comprises a number of papers delivered at the University of New England Seminar on Local History. Both of these books can be borrowed from the Society's library.

Our area has a wealth of knowledge waiting to be uncovered for e.g. did you know that Lewis Harold Bell Lasseter, famous for his lost gold reef lived in South Street, Kogarah? There must be many old residents who knew Lasseter and other famous identities who lived in our district. We must not lose this information and should set about now to record these memories.

Mr. Peter Orlovich, a member of our Society who is on the staff of the Archives Office of the Public Library of New South Wales, has indicated that he will give a lecture to our Society on the way to undertake local historical research. We hope to arrange this for early in the new year.

A number of themes have been suggested for research. They include:-

Aboriginal inhabitation
Tottenham House
Taren Point Punt
George's River
Tramway
Trolley Buses
Surveys of Botany Bay
& Kogarah Bay

Dr. Townson
Carss Park
English Estate
Captain Cook &
Kogarah Bay
Schools
Hotels
Churches

Industry
Water Supply
Municipal Council
Hansom Cabs & Coaches
Newspapers
Living
Homes
Historical Sites.

THOMPSON SQUARE, WINDSOR

Members will be pleased to note that the State Planning Authority has proclaimed the Macquarie Arms Hotel and No. 5 Thompson Square, Windsor, places of historic interest. Also, recognising the significance of Thompson Square and the possibilities of its restoration the National Trust Council recently classified the whole area including buildings in Bridge Street and George Street Potential 'A'.

The Macquarie Arms Hotel opened for business on 31st July, 1815 is the oldest hotel building in Australia. Although alterations have changed the external appearance of the Hotel the internal joinery is in remarkably good condition as members will remember on our inspection of the building on the Society's recent trip to Windsor.

No. 5 Thompson Square is a small late Georgian cottage situated between the Doctor's House and the Hawkesbury Museum. It is satisfying to note that one side of this historic Square is now safe.

THE FIRST COUNCIL ELECTION

The Town Clerk (Mr. J.K. Forbes) has contributed the following interesting comparison between the results of the first municipal election held in Kogarah in 1886, and the recent triennial election of Alderman, eighty-five years later.

Mr. Forbes' comments are based upon the following extract from the Sydney Morning Herald of the 5th March, 1886.

The first election of alderman took place on Wednesday the 3rd March, 1886 at Beaver's Hotel, Kogarah and West's Paddock, Hurstville. There was a good attendance of voters and great interest was manifested in the proceedings throughout 144 votes being recorded out of 156 names on the electoral roll of persons entitled to vote. The following were the successful candidates:

Mr. Edward Blake	who headed the list with 81 votes
Mr. Myles McRae	76
Mr. John Murphy	66
Mr. Daniel Joseph Treacy	63
Mr. John Bartholomew Carroll	62
Mr. Edward Hogben	56
Mr. John Abraham South	55
Mr. Frederick William Biden	55
Mr. Patrick English	49

there being 9 alderman elected for the district.

From an early hour in the day the vehicles conveying voters to the polling places might be seen travelling along the different roads with the usual placards posted in the most conspicuous places, telling the voters who were the candidates for whom they should record their votes. The proceedings throughout were orderly. After the result had been declared, Mr. Blake came forward and thanked the electors for the position they had placed him in, which, he said, was the proudest he had ever occupied. He was received with loud cheers by his party and after he had retired, the other candidates came forward in turn to say a few words to the electors. Mr. Bowman J.P., who has had great experience in elections, in moving a vote of thanks to the returning officer, said that he had officiated at a great many elections, but in all his experience he had never been at one that had been so admirably conducted, and therefore, he would like three hearty cheers given for their returning officer. In response to the suggestion, hearty cheers were given. The returning officer (Mr. Henry Wise), in an appropriate speech, thanked those present for the honour done to him, and called for three cheers for the Queen and for His Excellency the Governor, after which the proceedings terminated.

An indication of the growth of the Municipality may be gauged from the results of the last election of Alderman held on 18th September, 1971.

At this election some 13,704 electors declined to exercise their right to vote. Nevertheless the percentage of enrolled persons who voted, 41.3% is extremely high when compared with other Municipal areas and is believed to be one of the highest percentage polls in N.S.W.

Council's present electoral rolls are comprised of both owners and residents of the area. In 1886 of course, only property owners were entitled to be included in the electoral roll.

J.K. FORBES,
Town Clerk, Kogarah.
