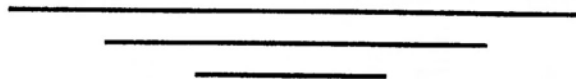




THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER, 1971



THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Sponsored by Kogarah Municipal Council

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.

CARSS' COTTAGE MUSEUM (Phone Number 546 7314)

Open Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays from Noon to 5 p.m.

Cost - 20¢ Adults; 10¢ Children with a maximum of 60¢ for families.

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 publications in this Newsletter would be welcomed by the Editor -

Mr. P. Orlovich,
54 Culver Street,
KOGARAH, 2217.

Phone 587 0377

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Date: Thursday 9th December, 1971, at 7.00 p.m.

Place: Carss' Cottage

Please refer to the attached sheet for details.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fellow Members,

As the holiday season is at hand, some members may be going into the city to Sydney's Royal Botanical Gardens. For those who are not aware of this the gardens contain the National Herbarium where $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million prize specimens are housed - 200 of which are dried specimens of plants gathered in 1770 by Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander who voyaged with Captain Cook to Australia in the "Endeavour". Many of these can now be seen growing in the gardens.

Botany Bay was in 1770 the site of a most intensive search for scientific material. More than 3,500 specimens from 240 different kinds of plants were obtained in only 6 days, which were stored away in folio drying books. This could have prompted Captain Cook to change the name of Stingray Bay, which it was first called, to Botany Bay.

The enthusiasm of Banks and Solander was stimulated by an early realisation that very few of the plants were similar to any observed elsewhere and they could not be accounted for in their ship-board library. Only six specimens showed any resemblance, among them were the "Mangrove" and "Lilli Pilli", and one of the first to attract the naturalists was the "Banksia". The knowledge that time was limited also added to their zeal.

Bustard Bay (south of Gladstone) was their next landing place and the botanical studies were continued with the same intensity they had shown three week's earlier. Other large collections were gathered at Thirsty Sound, Palm Islands and Cape Grafton (east of Cairns). The final collection was made at Point Lookout, north of Cooktown, Lizard Island and Possession Island. During the few months of contact they had collected more than five per cent of the species now known in our flora.

The plants from 1770 are a tangible link with the history of Australia and they have been set up in 7 volumes called "Flora Australienses".

Mrs. D.A. Hatton,
PRESIDENT

MEMBERSHIP

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

Mrs. E. Baker, Mr. L. Beavan, Mrs. V. Coleborne, Mrs. N. Davis, Mrs. B. Dodd, Mrs. E. Gray, Alderman R.J. MacKenzie, Mrs. A. McOnie, Mr. E. Upton and Mrs. J. Woodward.

SOCIAL CALENDAR

Monday 13th December, 1971 -

WEDGWOOD AFTERNOON

to be held at

CARSS' COTTAGE

on

MONDAY 13TH DECEMBER

donation 50¢

A light luncheon will be served in the Kogarah Bay Sea Scouts Hall at 12 noon. This will be followed by an inspection of the Museum and a film and Wedgwood display. Members are invited to bring their friends.

Tickets are selling quickly and anyone interested is requested to secure their seats as soon as possible by contacting the Secretary.

We ask all members who intend to be present to bring a plate of cakes, scones, pikelets etc. The Social Committee will provide the sandwiches.

Sunday 13th February, 1972 - A half day outing to Balmain.

Sunday 16th April, 1972 - A half day outing to Randwick.

DETAILS OF THE ABOVE EXCURSIONS WILL BE GIVEN IN LATER NEWSLETTERS

MUSEUM REPORT

MARITIME DISPLAY

During the month of December an exhibition of Sydney's early maritime history will be on display. The material exhibited has been lent by the Maritime Services Board of N.S.W.

ROSTER FOR THE CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR PERIOD

We would like to take advantage of the holiday period and open the Museum from the 27th December, to the 14th January. The success of this will depend upon the response received from members willing to serve on the roster. Please see the Secretary if you could give a day.

COLLECTING MATERIAL FOR THE MUSEUM

The aim of our Museum is to try and preserve objects which our forbears used in their every day life.

When trying to decide the worthiness of a particular item for inclusion in the Museum it may be of help to keep in mind E.W. Dunlop's words in his book "Local Historical Museums in Australia". He said we should ask ourselves "is this article typical of, or used by people in this country".

It would be of great help to the Museum Committee if any items being donated could be accompanied by a brief summary of the article's history.

DONATIONS

The following people have donated items to the Museum during the last month:-

Mr. K. Blackburn, Miss Goodsall, Mr. R.J. Gough, Mrs. S. Hanlon, Mrs. D.A. Hatton, Mr. & Mrs. T. Kelly, Mrs. L. Lowe, Mrs. A.J. McEwen, Mr. & Mrs. C.W. McEwen, Miss G. Mitchell, Mr. I. Porteous, Mrs. L. Porteous, Mr. M. Porteous, Mrs. J. Simpson, Mr. & Mrs. V.S. Smith, Messrs. Speed & Cavanough, Mr. E.G. Upton.

MUSEUM ROSTER FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY

Sunday	5th December, 1971	- Mrs. J. Zimeris & Mr V.S. Smith
"	12th December, 1971	- Mr. & Mrs. J. Lean
"	19th December, 1971	- Mrs. E. Leahy and Mrs. B. Smith
"	26th December, 1971	- Mr. & Mrs. T. Kelly
"	2nd January, 1972	- Mrs. G. Johns and Mrs. G. Taylor
"	9th January, 1972	- Mr K. Grieve and Mr S. Zimeris

If any of the above dates are not convenient please contact the Secretary.

SOCIETY'S LIBRARY

The library is now housed at the Museum. It will be necessary for any member wishing to borrow books to go to the Museum during the weekend.

The most recent addition to the library is "A History of the Bank of New South Wales". These two volumes were presented to the Society by the author Mr. R.F. Holder who was guest speaker at the November meeting.

HILLCREST AVENUE, HURSTVILLE

BY

MRS. T. HAYMAN

Having lived in the Kogarah Municipality for 60 years, I am familiar with many of the families in the district. Of special interest are the folk I knew during the period I lived in Hillcrest Avenue, from 1911 to 1933. Whilst thinking of these people I realized how many civic minded men lived in Hillcrest avenue, which was originally named Matthews Street, the name being changed in 1916 during the First World War.

On the western side going down from Woniora Road, No. 1 was the home of the Arrowsmith family. Mr. E.T. Arrowsmith held the office of Mayor in 1926, 27 and 28. Arrowsmith Park, Penshurst bears his name.

Number 7 is still occupied by Mr. & Mrs. S.R. Bell, who this year celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. Mr. Bell was Mayor in 1939, 40 and 41. There is a Bell Park at the rear of Hurstville South School and Bell Avenue, Beverley Park.

Still on the western side of the Street about three doors before King George's Road (formerly Belmore Road) lived Mr. & Mrs. G.W.P. Hanigan and their family. Mr. Hanigan was Mayor in 1917, 18 and 19. He died in office in 1919 as a result of the devastating Bubonic Plague. The eldest daughter Mary was a member of Council's office staff until her marriage to the well known Hurstville Estate Agent Mr. L. Wright.

At No. 49 lived the family of Mr. & Mrs. H. Poulton. Mr. Poulton served as an Alderman on the Council from 1919 to 1944. During this period he was also Deputy Mayor. Poulton Park, Oatley bears his name, also Poulton Avenue, Beverley Park.

The late Mr. D. Cross M.L.A. lived for sometime on the eastern side of Hillcrest Avenue, close to Woniora Road. He was Mayor in 1953, 54, 56, 57 and 58. His name is perpetuated by the Douglas Cross Park at Oatley. A memorial to his work in the State Parliament and the Council is the new Como Railway Bridge, now in the course of construction, for which he agitated for many years. It is sad that he did not live to see the completion of this project.

One of Kogarah's early Mayors Mr. Miles McRae (1888, 89; 1894, 95, 96 and 97) could also be classed as a resident of Hillcrest Avenue, as I understand that the original McRae Estate was bordered by Penshurst railway line and Hillcrest Avenue (Matthews Street) and extended from the Railway Goods Yard at Mortdale to Laycock Road, where the McRae family home "Kintail" is still standing. It is a very fine two storey residence on the southern side of Laycock Road just down from Penshurst Railway Station. Over the years portions of the McRae Estate were subdivided as far as I can remember in the 1930's.

The McRae family supported the Hurstville Grove Presbyterian Church which was originally situated in Hillcrest Avenue, but is now located in Lansdowne Street. An incident I have remembered over the years occurred during the

1914-18 War when the McRae family allowed the Sunday School to use their paddock for the annual picnic. The money formerly spent to convey the children to National Park was given to the Soldiers' Comforts Fund. We younger children, I am afraid, were not very patriotic and were disgusted with the arrangement as we had free access to "Mc's Paddock" at any time to gather mushrooms in the cold and early winter mornings and to gather blackberries in summer.

A rather interesting event took place in the mid 1920's when an experimental portion of concrete roadway was constructed in Hillcrest Avenue, between King George's Road and Laycock Road. This was the first roadway of this type constructed in New South Wales. When speaking to a member of the late Alderman Poulton's family this information was verified and it was added that the family always referred to it as "Pop's Baby". Pop being the late Alderman Poulton who agitated long and earnestly to have the original roadway improved.

Before the concrete strip was laid a creek, which rose adjacent to the Penshurst traffic bridge, flowed through Minnett's Nursery (now Rosebank Estate). It continued on till it crossed Hillcrest Avenue at the foot of Dudley Street and flowed through the lower end of my grandparents' property (No. 56) and eventually on into Oatley Bay. The creek flowed across Hillcrest Avenue by means of a ford paved with stone slabs and wooden pedestrian bridges were situated on each side. As can be imagined during heavy rain this portion of Hillcrest Avenue was flooded.

The following items were found in early editions of local newspapers -

St. George Call 1904 (Reprinted with the kind permission of Mr. & Mrs. T. Kelly)

Much convenience would have been afforded our earlier settlers, and in fact, our present day residents, by an easy means of communication by road, between the eastern and western sides of Kogarah Bay. Reclaiming the head of the bay was out of the question, and many schemes were suggested. An experiment was tried by Mr. Carroll of crossing the muddy bottoms of Kogarah Bay by means of an improvised foot gear resembling snow shoes. This arrangement consisted of two three feet Hobart palings nailed to the experimenter's boots. So confident was he of success that he made the attempt himself, with the result that the point of the paling became entangled with a mangrove root and brought our friend to grief within a few yards of the opposite shore. If it had not been for the timely rescue of "Trapsticks" a serious accident might have befallen him.

St. George Advocate, March 28th, 1899

There are a number of cases of typhoid fever in the district. On Monday night the Inspector of Nuisances reported upon a fresh outbreak at Kogarah. Scarcely a portion of the district has escaped a visitation. Filthy drains and insanitary conditions acted upon by a continued dry season, have created plague beds which are a constant menace to the public. If the law were rigorously carried out, and owners or occupiers compelled to keep their premises in a sanitary state there would be less cases of sickness reported.
