



THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, 1972.

Price: 5c.

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 Soldiers Memorial Presbyterian Church Hall, Kensington Street, Kogarah.

CARSS' COTTAGE MUSEUM (Phone Number 546 7314)

Open Sundays and Public Holidays from Noon to 6 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

FEBRUARY MEETING

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

Date: Thursday 10th February, 1972 at 8 p.m.

New Meeting Place: Kogarah Soldiers' Memorial Presbyterian Church
Hall, Kensington Street, Kogarah.

Address: Mr. J.J. Fletcher, Historical Research Officer for the
Education Department and one of the Society's Research
Officers will present an address entitled "St. George
Girls' High School: Its Establishment".

Supper Roster: Mrs. Drake and Mrs. Buchanan

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Visitors to Carss' Cottage Museum often remark on the beautiful view across the Bay which Mr. Carss must have had from his front verandah.

Today, we can also enjoy this view, and while Sans Souci peninsula has become thickly populated with modern residences there are still two large white well-preserved mansions which were built within a few years of Mr. Carss' death. Photos in our Museum display show these two residences surrounded by bush.

One of them is "Ellesmere", built in 1882, and probably well known to you all as the home of Sir Joseph Carruthers. The other was built for an early settler in the district, a Mr. Pritchard, who had a business in Sussex Street Sydney, making rubber stamps. Mr. Pritchard's residence was called "St. Kilda House" and Italian workmen were employed in the building of it.

This latter dwelling, from which the turret was removed a few years ago, was designed by a Melbourne architect and was purported to have won an award in a competition held at that time. Mr. Pritchard was said to be a man of great presence and had many servants, including a French nanny who liked to feed the possums with sugar in their natural habitat. He also owned land surrounding his home on which he grew fruit trees, and opposite had an animal compound for his horses, and cattle which supplied the household's dairy products.

Both houses had unusual features which displayed the owners individual interests. Sir Joseph Carruthers added a music room and a bowling green to "Ellesmere" and Mr. Pritchard had a croquet lawn constructed at "St. Kilda House".

The present owners of "St. Kilda House" are only the fourth occupants, and a few years ago the only surviving child of the first owner, who was then an old lady, came to visit her old home and supplied most of the above information.

(Mrs.) D.A. HATTON,
PRESIDENT.

NOTICES OF MOTION

The following notices of motion were duly moved and seconded and will be voted on at the February meeting -

1. That the following clause be added to the Constitution as clause 15 under the heading TRUSTEES OF CARSS' COTTAGE -

The Society shall appoint three members to act as Trustees on behalf of the Society and they shall carry out directions pertaining to Kogarah Municipal Council's lease to the Society for Carss' Cottage. Where a position of Trustee becomes vacant then the position shall be filled at the next General Meeting by the appointment of another member.

2. That the following clause be substituted to replace clause 4 under MANAGEMENT in the Constitution -

The Committee of Management shall consist of the office-bearers of the Society together with the trustees and members elected to the Committee at the Annual General Meeting, and this Committee of Management will consider all activities to be undertaken in the interest of the Society.

The office-bearers shall consist of:-

President
Vice President
Hon. Secretary
Hon. Treasurer

3. That the following clause be substituted to replace clause 7(b) in the Constitution under FINANCE -

An Annual Subscription to the Society shall be charged. An Entrance Fee shall be charged to all except Pensioners and Students. The amount of these fees shall be decided upon from time to time at a General Meeting.

4. That the following be substituted to replace clause 5 of the Constitution under MEETINGS -

The Society shall meet on the second Thursday of each month at 8 p.m., or at any date which is deemed desirable by resolution of a General Meeting. Management Committee meetings will be held when deemed necessary by the office-bearers.

5. That the following be added to the Constitution as clause 16 under the heading NEWSLETTER -

The Kogarah Historical Society shall publish a periodical known as "The Kogarah Historical Society Newsletter". The periodical will be printed regularly at intervals not greater than three calendar months. The amount of 60¢ per annum shall be deducted from each member's annual membership subscription and be set apart for the Newsletter, this amount to be separately accounted for in the books of account and be duly audited.

6. That the following clause be added to the Constitution as 17 under the heading MEMBERSHIP -

Any person or persons desirous of becoming members of the Society to be duly nominated and seconded by 2 financial Members at a regular Meeting of the Society.

A copy of the Society's present Constitution is enclosed.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1972

Members are reminded that subscriptions for 1972 are now due. Any member whose subscription remains unpaid for three months shall be deemed unfinancial.

Rates are as follows:-

Subscription:	\$1.00 per annum
Senior Citizens:	.25¢ per annum
Students:	.25¢ per annum

Subscriptions can be forwarded to either the Treasurer or Secretary.

MEMBERSHIP

The following new member joined the Society in January:-

Mr. N. Kelly

MUSEUM REPORT

The following people have contributed items for display in the Museum:-
Mrs. Crocker, Mrs. King, Mr. & Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Young.

A display showing various forms of lighting from early candlesticks to beautiful table lamps and gas light fittings can now be seen at the Museum. The display has been arranged by Mr. H.N. Riley a local collector of old relics of bygone days.

Taking into account the small attendance at the Museum on Saturday the Museum Committee have decided to only open the Museum on Sundays and Public Holidays. Saturdays are now being used as a working day. If anyone would be able to give a couple of hours on a Saturday to join a working bee please contact Mr. Veness.

In order to accommodate the large number of people who have been taking advantage of daylight saving and coming to the Park and visiting the Museum during the late afternoon the hours have been extended from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

At the last meeting of the Society the question was raised whether members should pay when visiting the Museum. As a result of a decision made by the Museum Committee no member will be required to pay the entrance fee.

The following is the Museum Roster for February/March:-

Sunday	February	13th	Mr. Wright
"	"	20th	Mr. & Mrs. Lean
"	"	27th	Mr. Smith and Mrs. Bryant
"	March	6th	Mrs. Hatton and Mrs. Zimeris

If any of the above dates are not convenient please advise the Secretary. All members of the Society are encouraged to place their names on the Museum Roster.

SOCIAL CALENDAR

Sunday 13th February - A half day outing to Balmain

Cost: \$1.25 Adults; 50¢ Children

Time: 1.15 P.M. SHARP

Meeting Place: The new meeting place as explained in last months Newsletter is at the parking lot in MARKET STREET, ROCKDALE.

The Balmain Association has kindly provided a number of guides for the afternoon. The inspection will be on foot and will take approximately two hours. Bring your afternoon tea.

* * *

Saturday 26th February - The Society has been invited to join with the Kogarah Torch Bearers for Legacy to hold a Chicken and Champagne Pool Party.

Place: The home of Mr. & Mrs. Bill Crabtree at 54 English Street, Kogarah.

Time: From 7 p.m.

Donation: \$5.00 Double; \$2.50 Single.

Members wishing to attend this function please advise the Secretary by the 10th February.

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Saturday 8th April - Theatre Party to the Pocket Playhouse at 54 Terry Street, Sydenham to see "Fresh Fields". This play by Ivor Novello is described in the latest Pocket Broadsheet as a "sparkling comedy of the thirties".

Cost: \$2.00 per ticket

Time: 8 P.M.

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May - A full day outing to the Camden area has been arranged by the District Council of Historical Societies. The date will be in late May and will be given in next months Newsletter.

Cost: \$2.00

KOGARAH SCHOOL OF ARTS

The following article is taken from the April 21st, 1906 edition of the St. George Call and is printed with the kind permission of Mr. & Mrs. Kelly.

In 1886 Mr. Carruthers called a meeting of those interested in the formation of a School of Arts, with the result that the project was taken up heartily, financial assistance was promised donations were freely made, and eventually the building was erected at a cost of £1600. Kerosene lamps supplied the light in the earlier years, and we find the Committee in their report for 1889, expressing their pleasure that through the extension of the gas mains to Kogarah, the building would henceforth be lit with gas. As the years rolled on the original library was being continually added to, and where it was shown that in 1880 the shelves contained 550 volumes, two years later this number had increased to 732, and the present catalogue has now reached a total of 2100. Apart from the books a regular delivery of the leading magazines is always at the disposal of subscribers.

The building comprises a main hall and stage, to which is attached an annex used for supper rooms or for small meetings. A vestibule from the main entrance leads to the hall, and on either side of the vestibule are the library and Committee rooms, one of which is the regular meeting room of the St. George Chess Club. The upper portion of the structure comprises the Chambers and offices of the Kogarah Council. The easterly portion of the building is an addition made four years ago - the billiard room - fitted with two of Alcock's most modern tables and appointments. Easterly from the main building are the quarters of the Librarian, Mr. R. MacFarlane, who by the way, has held the position for 17 years. The Hall accommodates over 400 persons and is a popular place of public meetings, bazaars, dances and social functions. The Billard Room - one of the Committee's advance movements - is a profitable concern, as last years statements showed a return of £84/3/9. The room is now in its fourth year, and its popularity is steadily increasing.

The present financial state of the institution is healthy and shows assets of £1756/6/6 the only liability being the mortgage of £1150 carrying interest at 4 per cent. The assets are made up as follows:-

Land & Building	£1200
Billiard Room	£236/16/3
Billiard Tables balls etc.	£150
Books (2100)	£70
Piano & Furniture	£60
Cash Credit Balance	£39/10/3

The membership considering the advantages derivable for such a nominal amount as 10/- per annum, payable quarterly, half-yearly, or yearly, is not as great as the institution's Committee might expect in a large district such as ours, yet with buoyant persistency the Committee hold every hope of materially increasing the present number of 150, far beyond that before the close of another year.

The officers recently elected are: President, Ald. John Sale (elected successively since February, 1891); Vice-Presidents, Drs. Lamrock and O'Keefe; Auditors, Messrs. W.S. Dickson and E.R. Birch; Committee, Messrs. A.H. Gosbell, H. Lewis, A. Willington, N.P. Nielsen, J.W. Reed, G. Butlin, W.J. Hill, E.G. Wilson; Hon. Secretary, Mr. R.C. Robertson; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. H. Hatneld.
