



# THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

MARCH, 1972

Price: 5c.

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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,  
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 (opposite St. George Hospital).

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 publication in this Newsletter would be welcomed by the Editor -

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

### MARCH MEETING

The next meeting of the Society will be Annual General Meeting and election of officers. This will be followed by a selection of slides taken on recent outings and Dr. Hatton and Mrs. Hatton's trip to England.

Date: Thursday 9th March, 1972 at 8 p.m.

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

Raffle: The Mayor Ald. F.J. Baker

Supper Roster: Mrs. Holmes and Mrs. Slater

Ladies are advised that it is no longer necessary to bring a plate as supper is now provided out of funds.

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The following is a list of members who have held office for 1971:-

### EXECUTIVE

President: Mrs. D.A. Hatton  
Vice President: Mr. J.E. Veness  
Hon. Secretary: Miss C. McEwen  
Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. P. Briancourt

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Acklin  
Mr. Bolton  
Mr. Briancourt  
Mrs. Butters  
Mrs. Burghart  
Mrs. Cavanough  
Mr. & Mrs. Kelly  
Mrs. Lovatt  
Miss Petrie  
Mr. Mortel

### MUSEUM COMMITTEE

Mr. Veness (Convener)  
Mr. Fletcher  
Mr. & Mrs. Kelly  
Mr. Lean  
Mr. Orlovich  
Mr. Smith  
Mr. Wright  
Mr. Zimeris

### SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Mrs. Briancourt  
Mr. & Mrs. Kelly  
Mrs. Lovatt  
Mrs. Zimeris

(The President and Secretary are ex officio members of all committees)

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Throughout the year these meetings were held regularly with a good attendance. It was a year of much activity so many important decisions had to be made. The main aspect was that all members co-operated in every way to make the year a success and a notable feature was the friendly atmosphere which prevailed at all times.

(Mrs.) D.A. Hatton,  
CHAIRWOMAN

TREASURER'S REPORT

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE  
FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1971

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Cash in Bank (1.1.71)	43.32	Petty Cash	194.52
Dep. St. George Bldg. Soc. (1.1.71)	1219.50	Stationery	50.91
Membership fees	120.25	Advertising (Pamphlets)	131.16
Museum admissions	281.70	Subscriptions	14.00
Museum sales	430.48	Refund Comm. Booklet	1.00
Ads in Comm. Booklet	560.00	Delegates fees	10.00
Commission	3.75	Electricity	6.84
Donation - Lady Mayoress Fund	300.00	Display material	68.66
Kogarah Council's share in opening expenses	453.68	Telephone rental	23.50
RAHS Donation	40.00	William Carss Comm. plaque	87.00
Supper donation	1.80	Museum Equipment (see statement A)	300.65
Cultural Grant RAHS	20.00	Museum Establishment (see statement B)	1353.41
Stall	204.05	Saleables	1529.71
Competitions	69.33	Printing (Cards)	50.73
Cooking Demonstration	17.80	Balance - Cash in Bank	222.51
Outings	101.10		
Wedgwood Display	47.85		
Christmas Party	61.00		
Delegates fees (donation)	10.00		
Interest (Bank)	5.42		
Interest (St. George Bldg.Soc)	53.57		
	<u>\$4044.60</u>		<u>\$4044.60</u>

CASH RECONCILIATION AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1971

Balance as per Cash Book 31.12.71	222.51	Balance as per Bank Statement 31.12.71	131.72
		Less unrepresented chqs.	
		No. 816350	29.00
		816354	1.36
			<u>30.36</u>
			101.36
		Plus deposit not credited	121.15
	<u>\$222.51</u>		<u>\$222.51</u>

(Mrs.) P. Briancourt Hon. Treasurer

Audited and found correct V.Smith 22/2/72.

STATEMENT A

ASSETS

Museum Equipment (as per Expenditure column)

6' Showcase	20.00	
3 Display cabinets	36.00	
Fire Extinguisher	60.00	
2 square tables	20.00	
6 display boards & stands	84.00	
Display shelving	18.65	
9 fluorescent lights	50.23	
Reception desk	<u>11.77</u>	\$300.65

Stock in hand (at cost)

Commemorative Booklets (992)	238.08	
Scenic Brochures (3900)	319.00	
Monographs (140)	14.00	
Jars of Jam (73)	23.36	
Envelopes (375)	3.75	
Museum Index Cards (800)	<u>34.40</u>	\$632.59

Cash in hand

Deposite - Commonwealth Bank	222.51	
Petty Cash (Hon. Secretary)	<u>10.00</u>	232.51

TOTAL ASSETS

\$1155.75

STATEMENT B

Museum Establishment Costs (as per Expenditure column)

Fluorescent lighting installation	50.00
Door & window grills	600.00
Electric alarm system	200.00
Front door & fittings	42.67
Materials for pergola	57.16
Painting materials	41.65
Floor carpets	22.68
Commemorative plaque	29.00
Printing of programme & invitations	51.65
Catering	150.00
Hire of chairs etc.	69.10
Lino for Kitchen	6.00
Telephone installation	11.50
Museum signs	<u>22.00</u>

\$1353.41

## MUSEUM AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The first twelve months of this Committee have been of great activity. From an intangible beginning when the Museum was hoped for rather than expected to now when we have an established entity.

It is a rather difficult undertaking to create enthusiasm when working for something which does not exist. However, the Committee and its helpers were able to set down a basis in the early months which proved satisfactory when Carss' Cottage was made available to us.

It is a matter of history now, how the Museum was prepared with members showing skills in building and painting which no one suspected, themselves included.

From the opening day the Museum has received a good acceptance from the visiting public. In spite of some very indifferent weather, the attendances have continued to grow. The pattern of attendance figures has shown that Sunday is by far the most popular day and this has led us to close on Saturday for the time being.

The visitors book is a wealth of information with visitors being mainly from the Kogarah district in the first three months in the proportion of 9 to 1. Now, however, it has swung the other way with visitors outnumbering locals by 5 to 1.

We have had a number of groups visit the Museum the most noteworthy being the Royal Australian Historical Society's 1971 Conference delegates in October, and the St. George Technical College architectural classes. Schools have also visited the Museum, four classes from Blakehurst and two classes from Kogarah High School have made an inspection.

The Publicity Committee was combined with the Museum Committee during the year. As well as publicity the Committee is also concerned with publishing and great activity has occurred in this direction. The booklet "Carss' Cottage" was issued to commemorate the opening of the Museum. This handsome publication was subsidized by the local business community and presents a comprehensive picture of the history of the district. Two monographs were produced in a duplicated booklet form. The Newsletter has continued to be published monthly and has proved a successful communication link with members. Publicity was sought for the Society and Museum throughout the year. In order to inform the residents of the Municipality that the Society existed pamphlets were printed and given to Kogarah Council to send out with rate receipts.

Looking back over the past year we can be pleased with what has been achieved, but this is only the beginning there are so many things which could be done. We have a Museum now which is a credit to the Society, it displays a number of items of interest in a very attractive manner, but its full purpose has yet to be achieved. The Museum can become the means of showing present and future generations that things of the past are not dull uninteresting or unattractive, but show skill, artistry and ingenuity equal to and in some ways superior to that of today.

I would like to thank those members who have assisted so willingly in the preparation of exhibits, to those who have provided these exhibits and to those members who have looked after the running of the Museum each weekend.

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We feel pleased with our achievement to date but look forward to even bigger and better things in the year ahead.

J.E. Veness,  
CONVENER,  
MUSEUM COMMITTEE

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The year 1971 was very successful for the Social Committee. A number of functions were organized all of which were well attended. The duties of the Social Committee have included fund raising and over \$500 was made throughout the year.

The street stall in Kogarah was arranged by Mrs. Hatton who was ably assisted by many of the ladies. This was the first of the fund raising functions. It was followed by a Cookery Demonstration held in conjunction with the St. George Choral Society; a theatre party to the Pocket Playhouse; a Wedgwood afternoon and the Christmas Party. These all proved very popular especially the Wedgwood afternoon which was organized by Mrs. Kelly and was attended by 100 ladies.

Outings were arranged throughout the year to Parramatta, The Rocks, Windsor and Vaucluse House. While other social events proved very enjoyable outings to historic locations are of course one of the more important features of our calendar as they are the means by which we endeavour to fulfil our objectives as an Historical Society.

Thanks must go to the Kogarah Bay Sea Scouts who lent their hall on so many occasions throughout the year. Without this many of the functions could not have been conducted. Thanks must also be extended to the ladies of the Society who supported the Committee so many times during the year.

We look forward to a successful 1972 and hope that it will provide an even greater variety of activities.

(Miss) C. McEwen,  
HON. SECRETARY.

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#### PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

Dr. William Balmain:

When I visited Balmain with members of our Society a few weeks ago I was surprised to find that the Watch House at 179 Darling Street, was opposite where I stayed at 182 Darling Street, with my sister-in-law and family when on a visit to Sydney in 1938. Three generations of this family had lived in this house which was one in a terrace of three and the only one which has now

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been renovated. At this time the Watch House contained the family of 14 - the last to live there before it was taken over by the Balmain Association. I understand the Watch House was built in 1854, so I would think the houses opposite were built not very many years later.

Last year I wrote in the "Newsletter" about Dr. Thomas Arndell who came out from England with the first fleet on the "Friendship", and whose family grave we saw when the Society had an outing to St. Matthew's Church at Windsor. He was given grants of land and was a successful gentleman-farmer and was also a Magistrate at the Court at Windsor.

Like Dr. Arndell, Dr. Balmain came out with the first fleet on the "Alexander" both being appointed to assist Surgeon John White. Dr. Balmain was also a busy capable and determined man and by 1796 had become Principal Surgeon. Some years ago I read in a book that Dr. Balmain had operated on a land owner in public. This man had been in the habit of cruelly beating the convicts allotted to him and Dr. Balmain sought to prove what had caused him to do this and he removed a large 'stone' from his kidneys. However, I do not know if this can be substantiated. Dr. Balmain also became a Magistrate and gentleman-farmer. He received land grants totalling 1480 acres - 550 of which was harbour headland which later acquired his name, but he only held this land for a short time, as in 1801 he went to England on leave and died there in 1803, aged only 41 years.

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

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#### NOTICE OF MOTION

The following notice of motion was duly moved and seconded and will be voted on at the March meeting -

That clause 12 of the Constitution be altered to read:-

LIFE MEMBERSHIP - A General Meeting of the Society may appoint as a Life Member of the Society any person who in its opinion has rendered valuable service or has otherwise made a notable contribution to the Society.

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#### SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1972

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

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#### MEMBERSHIP

The following new members joined the Society at the February meeting:-

Miss E. Breen, Mr. S.L. Coleborne, Sister James, Miss E. McCartney, Miss D. Maclean

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SOCIAL CALENDAR

Saturday 8th April - Theatre Party to the Pocket Playhouse at 54 Terry Street, Sydenham to see "Fresh Fields". Tickets are now available and must be purchased before the 24th March, 1972.

Cost: \$2.00 per ticket

Time: 8 p.m.

Saturday 20th May - A full day outing to the Camden area has been arranged by the District Council. Details are given on the enclosed form. Members interested in attending this excursion are requested to fill in and return the form by early May. It was decided to hold the outing on Saturday as this was preferred by the other two Societies.

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MUSEUM REPORT

The following people have contributed items for display in the Museum during the last month:-

Mrs. Amos, Mrs. V. Bolton, Mr. A. Ellis, Mrs. E.W. Gaskin, Mrs. Nethercote, Mrs. B. Phelan, Mr. & Mrs. L. Sheldrick and Mr. A.E. Tasker.

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

5th March	Dr. D.J. & Mrs. D.A. Hatton
12th March	Mrs. Johns & Mrs. G. Taylor
19th March	Mr. & Mrs. Kelly
26th March	Mr. Grieve & Mrs. James
1st April (Easter Saturday)	Mrs. Greenaway & Mrs. Slater
2nd April	Mr. & Mrs. Gaskin
3rd April (Easter Monday)	Miss McEwen & Mr. Smith
9th April	Mrs. Leahy & Mrs. Smith

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THE BOTANY BAY AND GEORGE'S RIVER FISHERY, 1883

BY

PETER ORLOVICH

In accordance with Section 4 of the Fisheries Act, 1881 (an Act to provide for the development and regulation of the Fisheries of the Colony assented to 6th April, 1881), the duty of protecting, developing and regulating the Public Fisheries of New South Wales was vested in five Commissioners called the "Commissioners of Fisheries for New South Wales". The Act also authorised the Governor by proclamation in the Gazette to define the various Fisheries of the Colony situated in any tidal waters and to distribute the same into divisions

to be designated respectively:-

- I The Home Fisheries
- II The Northern Fisheries
- III The Southern Fisheries

Each of these divisions was accordingly placed under the supervision of one or more inspectors or assistant inspectors who were required to report in detail at least once in every month or oftener if required to the Commissioners upon the state of the Fisheries included within his Division.

The Home Division embraced all marine fisheries between Port Stephens in the north and Bherrewerre, St. George's Basin in the South.

The first Inspector for the Home Fisheries Division appointed under the Fisheries Act, 1881 was James Quinan (appointed on 11th July, 1881). The first Assistant Inspector of Fisheries for George's River and Botany Bay was John D. Grant, appointed on 1st January, 1884, having previously been appointed Acting Assistant Inspector on 14th December, 1882.

The majority of the Commissioners of Fisheries for New South Wales were appointed in October, 1882. They reported, in their first Annual Report to the 31st December, 1883, that, upon their appointment, they found "the business of the department in quite an initial condition, by reason of all the books and documents having been consumed in the fire which destroyed the Garden Palace, where the Fisheries Offices were situated, on the morning of the 22nd September previous, consequently we were unable to furnish a report for the year 1882". (N.S.W. L.A. V & P Session 1883/4 V.11, P.447)

In their first report on the fisheries of the Colony dated 31st December, 1883, the Commissioners stated, in respect of the Botany Bay, George's River and Port Hacking Fisheries, as follows:-

#### BOTANY BAY, GEORGE'S RIVER

These waters are under the supervision of Acting Assistant Inspector Grant, and are amongst the most valuable of our fishing grounds, being regarded as such both on account of the enormous quantities of fish which are to be found there, as well as by reason of the ready means of communication which exist with Sydney. They afford a very principal part of the metropolitan supply, and fully warrant all the care and attention which can be bestowed upon them.

Botany and the lower part of George's River are permanently available to netters, but the upper parts of the two latter waters are most valuable breeding places, and like the Parramatta and other similarly situated waters, are closed against net fishing during six months of the year.

It will be seen from Inspector Grant's report that great activity is used and is needed in watching these waters, to check the use of that most destructive process of capture known as stalling, and to prevent the removal of under-sized oysters

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from the George's River beds.

These beds during the latter half of the year since they have been open to dredging have yielded 926 bags of oysters, producing a royalty of £115.15s. They are reported to be very bare indeed at the present time, and we propose to recommend their immediate closure, with the object of stocking them with brood from some of the neighbouring creeks where it abounds.

#### PORT HACKING

As with George's River so the upper part of this water is closed against net fishing for six months in the year. The port very materially contributes to the supply of fish. The oysters in it are reported to be in good condition, but that they are not availed of for market purposes. The fisheries here are under the supervision of Acting-Assistant Inspector Dunn.

(N.S.W. L.A. V & P Session 1883/4 V.11 P.452)

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