



# THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

JUNE, 1972.

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THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Sponsored by Kogarah Municipal Council.

President:  
Mr. J. E. Veness,  
6, Lance Avenue,  
BLAKEHURST, 2221.

'Phone 54 3932.

Hon. Treasurer:  
Mrs. P. Briancourt,  
9, The Mall  
SOUTH HURSTVILLE, 2220.

'Phone 54 2156.

Hon. Secretary:  
Mrs. D. A. Hatton,  
15, Annette Ave.,  
KOGARAH, 2217.

'Phone 587 9970.

OBJECTIVES:

To promote interest in the history of 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 enquiries regarding membership should be directed to the Hon. Secretary. Visitors are especially welcome.

Subscription:	\$1.00	per annum.
Senior Citizens:	.25c	per annum.
Students:	.25c	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 St. Kogarah (opposite The St. George Hospital).

CARSS' COTTAGE MUSEUM.

Open Sundays and Public Holidays from Noon to 6 p.m.  
Admission, 20c Adults, 10c Children. (Maximum 60c for families).

DONATIONS FOR MUSEUM.

Donations of items of historical interest suitable for inclusion in the Society's Museum will be gratefully received by -

Mr. J. E. Veness,  
6, Lance Avenue,  
BLAKEHURST, 2221.

'Phone: 54 3932.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEWSLETTER:

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

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

'Phone: 587.0377

JUNE MEETING:

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The next meeting of the Society will be held at 8 p.m. on 8th June in the Soldiers' Presbyterian Church Hall, Kensington Street, Kogarah (Opp. The St. George Hospital).

This will be followed by an address by Mrs. S.E. Tearle B.A., who will show films and discourse on personalities among the women of the early colony of New South Wales and to hear how they acquitted themselves against the background of their environment, and in some cases see the impact they made. Lives of aboriginal and convict women will also be considered, as well as wives of officers of the New South Wales Corp., the Governors' Ladies, pioneer women of the outback and an early Sister of Charity.

Some of the women included in this story will be Elizabeth Macarthur, Mary Reiby, Mrs. Macquarie, Elizabeth Hawkins, Caroline Chisholm and Lady Jane Franklin.

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SOCIAL NOTES

Supper roster for June meeting: Mrs. V. Smith and Miss Thomas  
Competition prize is being donated by Mr. & Mrs. Lean.

Dates for Museum roster for next month:

June 11th Dr. & Mrs. D. Hatton  
" 12th Mesdames Grant & Butler (Monday - Queen's Birthday)  
" 18th Mr. & Mrs. T. Kelly  
" 25th Mr. K. Grieve & Mrs. James  
July 2nd Mrs. Greenaway & Mrs. Slater  
" 9th Mr. & Mrs. Gaskin

The Society needs two people to volunteer for emergency roster at the Museum on a Sunday from 12 noon to 5 p.m. when other rostered members are unable to attend. If you would like to take part in this interesting afternoon please give your name in at the next meeting, also telephone number.

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TOUR TO CAMDEN ON 20TH MAY, 1972, BY COMBINED

KOGARAH, HURSTVILLE AND SUTHERLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

We left Kogarah in 2 buses with 58 of our members aboard and after picking up the Hurstville members, proceeded to Sutherland where a third bus joined us with Sutherland members, in all 133 people.

The slight rain had stopped by this and we had a good run, crossing the Nepean River before arriving at Camden. Camden was named in honour of Lord Camden who sanctioned the grant of 5,000 acres to John Macarthur in 1805 and where the first merino sheep were reared.

The Mayor of Camden was at Onslow Park (given by Macarthur family and used for recreation purposes) to welcome us and after a short stay a local guide joined each

bus and we drove through an area of some of the oldest homes in Australia on historic estates. We stopped at St. John's Church and (Bishop) Heber Chapel, dedicated in 1828. St. John's has many beautiful stained glass windows, some right down from the top to bottom of the walls. I was especially interested in these as I have two of these windows installed in St. Cuthbert's Church, Kogarah. There was a small churchyard at St. John's with headstones as early as 1829.

Then on to the home of Mr. & Mrs. Quentin Macarthur-Stanham. We were welcomed at the entrance by Mr. Quentin Macarthur-Stanham. The design of the house is in Regency style and is constructed of sandstone bricks. We proceeded in groups past a marble bust of John Macarthur and through the rooms, some of which have marble fire-places built of Australian marble from Marulan. The furniture and doors are of Australian cedar. In the large dining room paintings of the Macarthur family adorn the walls. There are also paintings in other rooms by Conrad Martens of scenes in the area. After passing through the stone-flagged cellars, which contained some bottles of wine made from the vineyards in 1870, we came out on to the fine lawns at the back where coffee could be obtained and there we met the Macarthur's 3 fine dogs.

After we left we passed a small hill nearby which is the Macarthur family's burial ground and is made very private by being surrounded by tall trees. Then on to Macarthur Memorial Park, being land also given by this family, for our picnic lunch. This park has a memorial erected in memory of those who went to war, including some of the Macarthur family.

Afterwards on to St. Mary's Towers, once the home of Sir Thomas Mitchell, Surveyor General from 1828. The house was originally named "Parkhall" and built in 1840, is of Gothic style and constructed of sandstone quarried on the property. The original building has a tall tower and coat of arms. The first camellias from England are planted here in the gardens. It is now occupied by Missionaries of the Sacred Heart who bought it in 1904 and it is used as a training centre for Priests and Brothers, and we were graciously shown around by 3 of the Fathers. There is a small cemetery of their own here.

The journey back was via Broughton Pass named after William Broughton who came as a servant to Surgeon White with the first fleet. He was highly thought of by Governor Macquarie who appointed him Acting Assistant Commissioner General. In 1811 he was granted 1000 acres near Appin.

For some of the above information we are indebted to Mr. N. Horwood who researched material for us and made all arrangements for our visit, and the outing could be called both informative and enjoyable. Furthermore, our Society made a profit of \$60.00 on the day as all seats were filled in the 3 buses.

(Mrs.) D.A. Hatton

#### MUSEUM REPORT:

The museum continues to receive the support of a good number of visitors. The recent edition of "The Open Road" featured the Museum as a tourist attraction as did the bulletin of the N.S.W. Tourist Bureau.

Many new proposals are being considered to improve the exhibits and present a more interesting display for a wider range of visitors. The internal displays are to be made more numerous and with more attention to detail in regards to the use and history of the various items. Outside we are endeavouring to obtain items which will draw the attention of people within the park.

We now have plans for the proposed stable building to be erected over the existing laundry building. This plan will be on show at our next meeting. The intention is to house within the stable and courtyard area, exhibits such as farm implements, a horse buggy, and a number of steam engines in working order.

President's Report:

Our research programme is ready to get under way and for this purpose a meeting has been arranged for Thursday, 15th June, at 7.30 p.m. at the Museum.

Those members who have indicated their wish to participate are listed below but any other members interested are welcome to attend. Mr. Peter Orlovich will talk to the groups on the methods to be adopted and individual assistance will be available. It is hoped a good number of members will be able to be present at this initial meeting so that the various groups may be formed and the programme for each decided. Don't be afraid to come along - the whole intention of this programme is to enable as many as possible to participate in an activity which is basic to the concept of an historical society. Two of our members, Messrs. K. Bolton and H. Mortel, have agreed to catalogue and categorise all material which the groups may find, so that a reference may be built up for the use of members and anyone interested in the district's history.

Members wishing to join groups -

Miss M. Foley, Mrs. Phelan, Mr. & Mrs. Zimeris, Miss C. McEwen, Mrs. Gilmour, Miss M. Thomas, Mrs. Grieve, Mrs. Lovatt, Mrs. Briancourt, Mr. & Mrs. Burghart, Mr. & Mrs. Lean, Mrs. Evans, Mr. & Mrs. West, Mrs. Slater, Mr. Briancourt and Mr. V. Smith.

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WILLIAM MATTHEW CURREY, V.C.

MEMBER FOR KOGARAH

Many members of the Kogarah Historical Society will perhaps have had a personal knowledge or acquaintance with Mr. William Matthew Currey, V.C., who is stated to be the first Victoria Cross winner to be elected to the New South Wales State Parliament. Mr. Currey was the third member returned to Parliament for the seat of Kogarah, having succeeded Mr. Mark Gosling who represented the constituency from 25th October, 1930, to 18th May, 1932, and Mr. James Clyde Ross who held the seat from 11th June, 1932, until 18th April, 1941. In fact, Mr. Currey was returned for three successive Parliaments between the 10th May, 1941, and his death on 30th April 1948.

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The following extract is taken from the Daily Telegraph of 1st. May, 1948, on the occasion of Mr. Currey's death. Members of the Historical Society who have a personal recollection of Mr. Currey may care to throw some further light upon his work in the electorate for future publication in the Newsletter. It is understood that Mr. Currey resided at the time of his death at his residence, "Peronne", Percival Street, Bexley.

"The late Mr. Currey, who had been ailing for the past nine months, collapsed at Parliament House last Tuesday and doctors ordered him a complete rest.

Awarded the V.C. for conspicuous bravery and gallantry at Peronne, France, on September 1, 1918, after he had single-handed, captured a 77mm gun while under heavy machine-gun fire, the late Mr. Currey frequently said that he had done no more than many others in the 53rd. Btn. AIF.

"I hold the V.C. merely as custodian for my battalion", he told friends. In World War II Mr. Currey served in the Australian Army Instructional Corps.

Born at Wallsend in 1895, the late Mr. Currey journeyed to Sydney, where he made many friends in the Labor movement. His staunch support of the ex-servicemen's cause both in and out of Parliament won for him the deep respect of fellow parliamentarians and all ex-service organisations.

The late Mr. Currey is survived by his widow, two married daughters, and a month-old granddaughter."

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Notice of Motion: - Constitution

Clause 12 - Life and Honorary Memberships - to be changed to read " A General Meeting may appoint as Life Member or Honorary Member of the Society, any person, who in its opinion has rendered valuable service or has otherwise made a notable contribution to the Society. Life membership to be limited to a maximum of four members for the next five years."

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