



THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

JULY, 1972.

PRICE: 5c.

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THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sponsored by Kogarah Municipal Council.

President:

Mr. J.E. Veness,
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BLAKEHURST. 2221

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Hon. Treasurer:

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9, The Mall,
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Hon. Secretary

Mrs. D.A. Hatton,
15, Annette Avenue,
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 (plus 50¢ joining fee)
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 The St. George Hospital).

CARSS' COTTAGE MUSEUM:

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

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 the Editor -

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

JULY MEETING:

The next meeting of the Society will be held at 8 p.m. on 13th July, in the Soldiers' Memorial Presbyterian Church Hall, Kensington Street, Kogarah. (Opp. The St. George Hospital).

This will be followed by an address to be given by Mr. R.F. Holder, Assistant General Manager, Economic Adviser, of the Bank of N.S.W., and he will continue with the history of the bank. This is further to his visit of last year.

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SOCIAL NOTES

Supper roster for July meeting: Mrs. McEwen and Colleen. We would like more names of those who would be prepared to help with this necessary part of our meeting.

Competition prize is being donated by Mr. & Mrs. V. Smith.

Museum roster for the next 7 weeks:

July 2nd. Mrs. Greenaway & Mrs. Slater
" 9th. Mr. & Mrs. Gaskin
" 16th. Miss C. McEwen & Mr. V. Smith
" 23rd. Mrs. Leahy & Mrs. B. Smith
" 30th. Miss Foley & Mrs. McOnie
Aug. 6th. Mr. & Mrs. J. Lean
" 13th. Mrs. Grant & Mrs. Butler

We now have three people who have volunteered to act as emergencies for the roster and we wish to thank those who have done so.

The Social Committee will meet at 7.30 p.m. on our next meeting night, 13th July (prior to the General Meeting).

July 16th: AN ALL DAY TOUR TO PROSPECT DAM: Coach will leave Kogarah Council Chambers at 10 a.m. Picnic lunch at the Dam, followed by a tour of the district with Mr. Robert Brown of Strathfield as guide and host for the afternoon.

July 24th: MEET THE NEW YOU IN '72: This will be held in the Sea Scout's Hall and a light luncheon will begin at 12 noon, to be followed by a demonstration. Many free samples will be given away and this should prove to be an enjoyable afternoon. Tickets obtainable now at 60¢. Members of Social Committee to supply sandwiches etc.

August 17th: Again we meet at the Sea Scout's Hall to see wonderful slides of Jerusalem. Mr. Jack Thorpe of Rockdale will be showing these slides and this will start at 8 p.m. While many of us have travelled to England and the Continent, few have visited the Holy Land and this is a chance to see these very interesting places. Donation is 60¢, which includes supper.

September: Date to be announced. ACCENT BY CANDLELIGHT. Please keep this in mind.

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Social Notes (Cont'd)

August 11th: Stall at Kogarah (Friday). Last year this was a very successful venture and we are hoping this year it will do as well, if not better. Goods for sale on the stall are very varied, especially home-made cakes, jams and pickles, articles of clothing, especially children's, books, coat-hangers, pot plants, lemons and anything else that the members think can be sold. It is surprising what people will buy and we had very little over last year. Those who helped to be salesgirls thoroughly enjoyed themselves and I hope we can get a number again this year to take on this task. I have already sold knee rugs and a poncho for \$20. so we have made a good start. If you have any queries about the stall please do not hesitate to ask me about them.

As our August meeting is on the 10th. perhaps those wishing to donate cakes etc. might like to bring these to the meeting rather than to Kogarah on the next day. I have had some packets of cake mixture and eggs given to me and I will bring these along to the meeting on 13th July so that someone can make use of them.

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New members who have joined during the last months are:

Mrs. R.G. Diment, Mr. Phillip Diment, Ald. R. Gardner, Mr. S.T. McOnie, Mr. A. Davis, Mr. & Mrs. W.Q. Dorney, Mrs. E. McIlroy, Mr. & Mrs. J.S. Howard, Mrs. L. Mallard, Mrs. E. Saunders and Mrs. J. Mulder and a warm welcome is extended to all.

To those members who have been on the sick list we wish a speedy recovery.

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Since our last meeting an invitation was received from the President of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society to attend the Unveiling of the "17 Miles Milestone which has been placed in the Forby Sutherland Memorial Garden, which is next to the Sutherland Shire Council building. This Milestone is one of a number that once marked the route of the Kogarah-Port Hacking Mail Coach from about 1893 to 1909. Mr. Dick Burghart and myself attended this ceremony on behalf of the Society and had a very pleasant afternoon, being welcomed at afternoon tea at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Ivers, after the ceremony. The Shire President, Councillor Ray Thorburn and Mr. Harold Ivers, President of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society were the speakers, at this function.

(Mrs.) D.A. Hatton

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President's Report:

A meeting was held on 15th June to inaugurate research groups. Mr. Peter Orlovich gave an introduction to methods which may be used and services available to anyone researching local history.

Some 18 members were present and a very lively discussion took place on the objects of the research programme. It has been decided to concentrate our efforts in the initial stages to the interviewing of old residents with the object of

recording their experiences and recollections of earlier times in this area. We already have a list of residents who have expressed their willingness to be interviewed. To each of these will be sent a letter and list of subjects, as a means of stimulating their thoughts. Each will then be contacted by one of our interviewers who will be provided with a questionnaire, their object being to assess the subjects on which each of the individuals interviewed would have information which would be of value. Each of these questionnaires will be collated by our members - Messrs K. Bolton and H. Mortel - and all information catalogued so that future research groups which are concentrating on a particular subject or aspect of district history will have an idea of subject material and a list of people who are knowledgeable on each particular subject.

A start has been made on the cataloguing of information from the St. George "Call" newspaper records which date back to 1904. It is expected that this will provide a wealth of information.

Enquiries have revealed the existence of some articles which were constructed by William Carss and we are hopeful of being able to locate these with a view to photographing them if we are not able to obtain them for display.

We are anxious to find someone willing to give some time in cleaning, polishing, and restoring a number of display items at the museum. A few hours from some members would be a great help. If you feel you could assist in this, please contact Miss Colleen McEwen, 587 2090, or Mr. W. Wright, 587 3244, or at the meeting, and details can be arranged.

I must apologise for the briefness of this report as I am going overseas for a few weeks. If I have not returned for the next meeting please accept my apology.

J.E. Veness

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HIGHLIGHTS ON ROSTER AT CARSS COTTAGE MUSEUM

A very interesting Sunday afternoon can be spent on roster at Carss Cottage Museum. You meet people from various municipalities around Sydney, interstate and overseas, all imbued with the same idea of delving into the early history of Australia.

It is like having friends and their families popping in to see you, as history seems to be the one thing these days which can bring the generations together.

I would like to give you a brief resume of some of the personalities met in the last roster:

There was a newly engaged couple in their early twenties, well groomed, who informed us that they had just purchased an old home full of old fashioned furniture, but they bemoaned the fact a rocking chair had been taken by a member of the previous owner as a keepsake. They also said a local museum had been given a pipe organ over 100 year's old, so the fact was pointed out that although not a pipe one, we also had an organ of the same vintage.

We had a family from Brisbane who was staying at a nearby motel and they were very interested as the son and daughter would be embodying their visit to the museum in their school work when they returned home, and as I lived in Brisbane for many years we compared notes on various subjects.

Another couple - two well dressed male pensioners - came in rather tentatively as they did not know about the museum's presence, but stayed the longest of all.

A little girl went through with some other children and then brought back her Grandma and a lovely baby dressed all in pink, in a pram, so pram and all came up the steps into the entrance room and was looked after by us while Grandma went through the cottage and had a good look at all the exhibits.

The funniest incident of all was when a large family of migrants, comprising 5 adults (some married) and several children came in and offered the family charge of 60¢. This had to be put right as the family rate is for mother, father and children under 14.

Last, but not least, a grand old lady who will be 90 on 4th August next, came with members of the family comprising five generations - the Great Great Grand-daughter being a baby who will be one year old on 4th August next also. The old lady's offsprings thoroughly enjoyed themselves asking her about the exhibits. She said on leaving "This is the most interesting day I have had for a long time".

Mrs. D.A. Hatton

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THE EARLY KOGARAH POSTAL SERVICE

by Peter Orlovich

The first post office at Kogarah was established in 1863, with the appointment of Thomas Blake as the first postmaster. He was succeeded in 1864 by William Blake.

The first contract for the conveyance of mails to Kogarah was let by the Post Master General to Robert Gannon of Cook's River, initially for the period 1st. August 1863, to 31st. December 1863. The postal service during that period was provided by Robert Gannon three times per week by horseback, over a distance of five miles from the Post Office at St. Peters (Cook's River) to Kogarah, or Rocky Point, for the annual sum of £20.

This contract was renewed with Robert Gannon for 1864 and 1865 for the same annual amount, although he was allowed an additional £10. for proceeding via Gannon's Forest (Hurstville) from 1st. October 1864. For 1865 he was allowed £30. per annum for proceeding three times per week by horseback from St. Peters Post Office to Kogarah via Gannon's Forest Post Office.

From 1st. January 1866, the annual amount payable was £35., although the contract was transferred on 19th August 1866, to Agnes Gannon of Cook's River, who continued to operate the postal service from the General Post Office to St. Peters, and from there to Gannon's Forest and Kogarah, three times per week by horseback for the

annual sum of £38. until 31st. December 1867.

From 1st. January 1868, the contract was let to C. Dreis of Cook's River for an annual payment of £38. On the expiry of this contract a new one was let to William Favell of Cook's River on 1st. January 1869, for the payment of £55. although it was transferred to William Lock of Tempe, Cook's River, from 1st. August 1869. On 1st. January 1870, the contract was renewed with William Lock for the conveyance of mails three times per week from the General Post Office to St. Peters and Tempe by coach drawn by two horses, and from St. Peters to Gannon's Forest and Kogarah by horseback, for the total sum of £60. This contract was transferred to P.O'Grady from 8th August 1870, for the period to 31st. December, 1872.

(Based on information derived from the Annual Reports of the N.S.W. Post Master General, 1863 - 1872).

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