



THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST, 1972.

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THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sponsored by Kogarah Municipal Council.

President:

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Hon. Secretary

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KOGARAH. 2217

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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

AUGUST MEETING:

The next meeting of the Society will be held on 10th August, at 8 p.m. in the Soldiers' Memorial Presbyterian Church Hall, Kensington Street, Kogarah, (opp. The St. George Hospital).

An address given by Mr. Don Sinclair will follow the meeting. Mr. Sinclair is a member of our Society and President of the St. George Historical Society. He will give us an account of events leading to the formation of the B.H.P. Co., which should be of great interest to all.

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MUSEUM ROSTER:

August	6th	Mr. & Mrs. J. Lean
"	13th	Mrs. Grant & Mrs. Butler
"	20th	Miss Coxhead & Miss Gould
"	27th	Mr. & Mrs. T. Kelly
Sept.	3rd	Mr. & Mrs. J. Lean
"	10th	Mrs. Phelan & Mrs. Burghart

Supper roster for next meetings: Mesdames Evans & Grieve.
Competition prize to be donated by Mrs. James.

Friday, August 11th - Stall at Kogarah:

This will be on the day following our next meeting. Any of our members who can supply cakes etc. for sale on this day may bring them along to the meeting. Anything else that is saleable will be welcome - and if there is anything you have which you consider to be a white elephant bring it along as it may turn out to be a different colour to someone else.

I wish to thank those ladies in advance who have offered to help me on the stall: viz. Mesdames Gaskin, Drake, Holmes, Greenaway and Butters. A few other volunteers would be welcome.

(Mrs.) D.A. Hatton

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SOCIAL REPORT

I am sure all those who attended our outing to Prospect Dam had a most enjoyable day. The weather was perfect and we were well catered for by our coach driver, which helped to make the day very relaxing. Our thanks goes to Mr. Robert Brown who went to so much trouble to see that all went well and he supplied us with a great amount of historical matter during the journey which was greatly appreciated.

WHAT'S NEW IN '72 was a very pleasant afternoon with more than 40 ladies in attendance. A special thanks to Mrs. B. McEwen and Mrs. Burghart, also to Mr. Smith and the ladies of the Society who were good enough to provide many nice cakes. I am sure we will have no trouble in getting our friends to come along again as the luncheon was delightful.

August 12th:

This will be our Pocket Theatre night. Twenty tickets have been sold, others may be purchased at the Theatre if desired. "Portrait of a Queen" has been hailed by the critics as the best production yet, so I am sure those who do go along will really have an enjoyable night.

August 17th: Wonderful slides of Jerusalem - Supper - Only 60¢.

This is something to look forward to, and as we will need to know how many will be attending we do ask that all names be given in at our next meeting on 10th August. Chairs are a problem and we may need to hire some, so please co-operate and let us know the number we may expect. Supper will follow the showing of the slides.

PLACE - SEA SCOUT'S HALL - CARSS PARK - TIME 8 P.M.

Sylvia Kelly

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THE FORMATION OF KOGARAH FIRE BRIGADE

by Peter Orlovich

The Kogarah Fire Station was officially opened by Sir Joseph Carruthers, Premier and Colonial Treasurer of New South Wales, and Member for the electorate of St. George, on 16th April, 1907.

It will be of interest to members to read the following account of the establishment of Kogarah Fire Brigade, which appears to have been prepared for Sir Joseph Carruthers by Mr. T. Wearne, Council Clerk at Kogarah, prior to the official opening in 1907. The account is reproduced from a document in the custody of the Fire Brigade Headquarters, Sydney, and kindly made available to the Society by courtesy of Mr. K. Jeffcoat, Brigade Publicity Officer, and Station Officer, Mr. G.D. Dowling of Kogarah Fire Station.

"FORMATION OF THE KOGARAH FIRE BRIGADE"

"The formation of the Kogarah Fire Brigade was largely due to the efforts of Mr. Peter Herrman. During the latter end of 1894, that gentleman who was then Mayor of Kogarah, called a public meeting for the purpose of forming a Fire Brigade, but the movement met with scant support, only 8 or 9 persons putting in an appearance.

Undeterred by this, Mr. Herrman stuck to the work and later on called another meeting which was much more successful, and the Fire Brigade was then formed with the following officers:-

Captain: Mr. W. Burgess; 1st. Lieutenant: Mr. George Jones; 2nd. Lieutenant: Mr. George Howard; Secretary: Mr. C.M. Breakspear; Treasurer: Mr. Peter Herrman.

Ways and means had then to be considered and the members immediately set to work and organised a series of concerts and socials for the purpose of providing uniforms etc.

The Kogarah Council, owing to Mr. Herrman's efforts, advanced the money for the erection of the Station, a site having been chosen opposite the present station in Kensington Street.

One of the members of the Brigade, Mr. Thos. Aiken assisted by some friends erected the Station early in 1895. The Fire Brigade Board providing the plant consisting of a hose reel, 800 feet of hose, a stand pipe and branch and a subsidy of £40. The latter being invaluable as it helped the members to build the Bell-Tower. Alderman Hunter-McPherson providing the ironwork free. The Brigade, also out of this subsidy, repaid the Council some of the money advanced. Later on, the Board gave another subsidy of £75. which enabled the Brigade to pay off the remaining debt on their uniforms and erect the large room at the back of the Station. At this time also the revenue was supplemented by subscriptions from Honorary Members.

Captain Holman, now of the Pyrmont Branch of the M.F.B. was the Brigades first drill instructor. Captain Burgess remained in office until the middle of 1897, when both he and Lieutenant Jones resigned and Mr. Thos. Aiken was elected Captain, and he remained in office until the Board appointed a Permanent Station Officer for the District, viz. Captain Digby, whose headquarters were at Kogarah.

During Mr. Aitken's regime many improvements were made; the whole period being marked by advances. The Board supplied the firemen, first with a Hose Waggon, the members providing their own horses. This had to give way to a two-horse Manual and increasing and more up-to-date equipment.

The original station when erected was simply a skeleton, and as the uniforms and appliances were always covered in dust the members by their own efforts lined the building, increased the size of the Engine Room and also invented a patent hanging gear for the harness. Much of this was due to the enthusiastic efforts of Captain Aiken, who early and late left no stone unturned to forward the Brigade's interest. Thus, for the first eight years of the Brigade the members had given their services absolutely voluntarily.

In 1902, the subsidy was stopped and the partially paid system introduced by the Board and the private property of the members, such as uniforms and equipment was also purchased by the Board. Since then Station Officers, Digby, Tuck and Houghton from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade have at various periods had charge of the Station, and the consequent increase in efficiency has been most marked as you will have an opportunity of observing tonight. The untiring efforts of Mr. District Officer Ford from No. 2 George St. West Station, who has charge of all this Division, are beyond praise. He has worked increasingly for many years past for the Fire Brigade's progress in the district, as the Stations at Rockdale, Kogarah, Hurstville and Bexley testify.

Mr. Ford has earned the greatest respect of all those he has come in contact with, either the firemen or the various municipal bodies, and it is to be hoped that he may long be spared to carry out similar or higher duties in this district as it progresses."
