



# THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

S E P T E M B E R

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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,  
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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

SEPTEMBER MEETING:

The next meeting of the Society will be held on 14th September, at 8 p.m. in the Soldiers' Memorial Church Hall, Kensington St., Kogarah, (opp. The St. George Hospital).

Mr. Don Sinclair's address on the "Discovery at Broken Hill" at our last meeting was a very entertaining and enjoyable one and many favourable comments have been received. We are hoping Mr. Sinclair will speak to us again in the near future on another historical topic.

Mr. J. Veness will speak at the September meeting on "Methods of Research".

MUSEUM ROSTER:

September 10th: Mr. W. Wright & Miss Wright  
" 17th: Mr. & Mrs. S. Zimeris  
" 24th: Mrs. Davis & Mrs. Woodward  
October 1st: Mr. & Mrs. J. Lean  
" 2nd: Public Holiday (Volunteers required)  
" 8th: Dr. & Mrs. D. Hatton

12 month's operation has now been completed by members on this voluntary roster work and has been the main source of the Society's income. This is worthy of special mention and thanks are extended to all those who have taken part in these duties.

SUPPER ROSTER: Mesdames Diment & Greenaway; these ladies being the next two on the volunteer list.

COMPETITION PRIZE: Mrs. D. Burghart has donated this month's prize and is a salad set.

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REPORT ON STALL HELD AT KOGARAH

I have pleasure in reporting on the stall held on 11th August. First of all those selling on this day will remember it because there was a 64 m.p.h. wind blowing and we had to batten down the hatches after some of the goods were chased up the street.

All the ladies did a magnificent job and we had a large variety of goods for sale, including home made cakes and preserves which everyone appreciates, sweets, groceries, kitchenware, clothes, babies and children's wear, cosmetics, books, pot plants, and many other types of merchandise. The cakes and preserves as usual went early and then we were able to unpack more of the boxes and fill up the three tables again, and there was very little left at the finish.

The total takings came to \$250., making a grand total for the two stalls of \$455. The success of these stalls, is in a measure attributable to the fact, that everything is donated and there are no expenses.

Report on stall (continued)

Our thanks to all those who assisted on the stall and also to those who made a contribution with goods. Please accept this as a personal thanks to one and all, as it is co-operation which makes a success of such a venture.

As always, Mr. V. Smith did a wonderful job of assisting where needed and we are indebted to him for being able to keep goods which had been contributed at the meeting on the night before at the Church Hall.

The money raised from the stall has been earmarked for more showcases at the museum (Carss' Cottage).

(Mrs.) D.A. Hatton

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SOCIAL NOTES

August proved to be a very busy month for the social members of the Committee. The night at the Pocket Playhouse to witness "Portrait of a Queen" was enjoyed by all who attended. It was considered one of the best plays produced so far by this theatre.

The same can be said of our slide night. The attendance, although small, saw some excellent slides of Jerusalem, and I am sure many of us got "itchy feet" just watching. We thank Mr. Jack Forbes for coming along to entertain us in this manner. Mr. & Mrs. Bob Collins of Kogarah Bay donated a glorious sheaf of orchids and Mrs. J. Veness was the lucky lady to receive this. All did justice to the supper prepared by the ladies and again a special thanks to Mrs. McEwen.

October 30th will be another afternoon at the Sea Scouts Hall.

ACCENT BY CANDLELIGHT will be the topic to be discussed and we understand this will be found to be very interesting. We do ask for your support at these functions as we need at least 30 ladies to attend. Donation is 60¢., 12 Noon. These are always pleasant afternoons and you will be most welcome.

CHRISTMAS CARDS are now available for 6¢ each. These cards feature Carss Cottage and are ideal to send to friends. Show your support by purchasing some.

Sylvia Kelly

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THE MEANING OF "KOGARAH"

by Peter Orlovich

The meaning of the name "Kogarah" has been a subject of speculation for a long time; although there has always been a strong tradition that the name of the municipality derives from an aboriginal word meaning "a place of reeds or rushes".

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On Saturday, 7th September 1912, His Excellency the Governor, Lord Chelmsford declared open Kogarah Municipal Council Chambers, and at the conclusion of his speech he referred to the derivation of the word "Kogarah", which he believed to be from the aboriginal term for "rushes". According to the contemporary press report of his speech on the occasion, Lord Chelmsford added, "From these rushes may you some day find a Moses who will lead you to the land of promise", a quip which was stated to have evoked "laughter and cheers".

Consequent upon the Governor's remarks appearing in the Sydney Morning Herald on the following Monday, Mr. Arthur Meston, a correspondent of the Herald and contemporary authority on the subject of aboriginal names, stated, according to the issue of 10th September 1912 (p.8 f-g):

that Kogarah was really the old Sydney aboriginal name for the native porcupine (ECHIDNA HYSTRIX). In James Ives' vocabulary of the Sydney aboriginal dialect printed in 1810, the name for the porcupine appears as "COGGARAH".

"COGGARAH" or "CAGGARAH" among the Moreton Bay aboriginals is still the word for the echidna. The native name for rushes among the Sydney tribes was "EKABIN", and the same name is given to the rushes of Moreton Bay.

James Ives who arrived in Sydney in 1800, lived for ten years amongst the aboriginals and spoke fluently the dialect from Port Hacking to the Hawkesbury River. His vocabulary of 1810 is the only authoritative record of places from Port Hacking to Barrenjoey. He spelled his words phonetically, so there can be no possible mistake about the pronunciation.

Curiously, however, there appears to be no record of the person referred to by Mr. Meston as James Ives in the Mitchell Library or the Dickson Library, nor does it appear that either of those libraries possesses a copy of Ives' vocabulary supposed to have been printed in 1810. Such a vocabulary would of course be an invaluable source of information on the earliest aboriginal inhabitants of the Sydney district and their language, but until it is firmly established that such a vocabulary actually exists, we must be content to accept the Governor's explanation of the meaning of the name "Kogarah".

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#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Firstly, an apology for the absence of a report in the last "Newsletter". The pressure of things became a little too much and I was too late for publication.

Mention is made elsewhere in this publication of the stall held last month in Kogarah. As will be seen by the result it was an outstanding success. I must add my congratulations to Mrs. Hatton and her team of helpers, those who spent so much time in the preparation of items for sale, and those who braved the wind to attend the stall. The result was a credit to all who took part.

Members will be pleased to know that the lease of Carss Cottage as a museum has been signed on behalf of the Society and the Council, and has now only to

be registered. The success of the Museum seems assured, as will be seen by the attendances and by the very favourable comments recorded by so many of the visitors.

MUSEUM REPORT:

J.E. Veness

We have completed our first year's operation of "Carss Cottage". During this period we have gradually added to the number of items displayed, by donation, purchase, and many articles loaned by various people. Since the opening, visitors who have signed the book have totalled 2700, with additional student groups, numbering about 300. Admission charges and sales have amounted to \$1107.77.

Our displays at the moment are limited to items which will fit into the museum building, or those which are sufficiently robust to be displayed outdoors. It is our hope that an additional display area can be created by the erection of the proposed stable building, and the courtyard area which would result.

Although the number of items which we already display has increased, we are still anxious to receive any suitable display material and would be pleased to hear from anyone who may have such available.

We would also like to hear from any member who may have had display experience, as some assistance in the arranging of displays would be greatly appreciated.

J.E. Veness

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