



# THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER

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:  
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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

OCTOBER MEETING:

The next meeting of the Society will be held on 12th October, at 8 p.m. in the Soldiers' Memorial Church Hall, Kensington St., Kogarah, (opp. The St. George Hospital).

Mr. Arthur Ellis will give us an address at this meeting on Mr. Scholes, a well-known personality who lived for most of his life at Arncliffe and knew the St. George District well.

Mr. Ellis is a member of the Balmain Association and was instrumental in organising our visit to that district nearly a year ago. He is also Research Officer for the St. George Historical Society.

MUSEUM ROSTER:

October 15th:	Mrs. Grant and Mrs. Butters
" 22nd:	Mr. & Mrs. T. Kelly
" 29th:	Mr. K. Grieve and Mrs. James
November 5th:	Mr. and Mrs. J. Lean
" 12th:	Miss Coxhead and Mrs. Gould
" 19th:	Mr. and Mrs. Gaskin

SUPPER ROSTER: Mrs. James and Mrs. Slater

COMPETITION PRIZE will be donated by Mrs. Briancourt

SOCIAL REPORT:

Pocket Playhouse - Friday 13th October. All tickets will need to be collected at our next meeting on 12th October and paid for on this night.

Monday - October 30th - Place - Sea Scouts Hall - Time 12 noon.

"ACCENT BY CANDLELIGHT" - This should be another interesting afternoon and well worthy of your support. There will be a light luncheon as usual and donation is 60¢. Those who have not been able to attend these functions will be delighted with the atmosphere at Carss Park, and it will give them a chance to visit the museum.

Christmas cards are on sale at the Museum, depicting Carss Cottage in different colours, with Christmas message inside, together with history on Mr. Carss. Price 6¢.

MEMBERS:

Just a reminder that there is historical literature at Carss Cottage Museum which you may borrow on a Sunday afternoon from the attendant on duty. The Royal Historical Monthly Newsletters contain short articles and we also have booklets on local history which you would find interesting. You need only to enter your name, title of book and date of loan in the special folder for this purpose.

Sylvia Kelly

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MUSEUM AND PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A programme of re-arrangement of exhibits is commencing at the Museum. The display of paintings is being moved out of the hall and arranged with pottery and ceramic ware in the side room. This is intended to provide a more attractive method of display and permit the use of the hall for the hanging of various large pictures which are being restored.

It is also the intention to create a display in the second room as a trial of a different method of presentation. The whole room will be devoted to ladies dress, its making and maintenance together with toiletries and accessories. The display will be different in that associated items will be arranged together to present a more complete picture. It is hoped that this display will be ready for viewing within one month.

We are indebted to Mr. Max Turner of Kogarah for the donation of a model which will enable clothes to be displayed in a far more realistic manner.

A number of large framed photographs, which were among some given to the Society by the Council, are being restored by Messrs. Young and Lucas of Foster Street, Sydney, who are Sydney's foremost experts in this field and have offered to do this as a service to the Society.

An interesting and unusual display has been arranged through Mr. J. Lean and consists of a collection of pomade jars and lids in Staffordshire pottery, beautifully painted and glazed. These have been kindly loaned by Mr. J. Jamieson and are currently on display.

We are very lucky in having some staunch supporters whose assistance is not generally known. One such person is Ken Blackburn of Rockdale who conducts a demolition business and has been responsible for the donation of a number of items. These were a plough, wooden shingles, 500 slates, an awning and recently a verandah post to support the new museum sign. All these have been at no cost to the Society, the slates alone represent a days work for two men together with the use of a truck. We are lucky to have such friends.

J.E. Veness

SHORT HISTORY OF THE POST OFFICE IN KOGARAH

A Post Office was opened at Kogarah on the 1st August, 1863 in charge of William Blake, who received as remuneration £12 per annum plus a commission on the sale of postage stamps.

Apparently very little business was transacted as only 29 letters had been posted during the month of March, 1868. The Department decided to close

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the office and move to another location.

The Post Office was duly transferred to South's Store at the crossroads leading to Sans Souci, Cooks River and Kogarah and next door to the hotel.

In 1870 the Kogarah district was still included in the country directory of N.S.W.

Most of the residents lived along the Rocky Point Road. There were a few fishermen around the Port Hacking area and several gardeners along Muddy Creek. The only business places were Bakers Inn, James Camble, Bootmaker, William Hannis Inn, John Hilliard, Blacksmith, John Malchow, Tailor, Thomas Morse, Storekeeper, James South, Storekeeper, James Sutter, Jam manufacturer and Geo. Thompson, Shipbuilder at Tom Ugly's point.

In 1882 mails were carried to and from the G.P.O. via Newtown, MacDonaltdown and St. Peters to Tempe by a horsedrawn vehicle twice a day. From Tempe the mails were taken through Arncliffe, Rockdale and Kogarah to Tom Ugly's point. The contractor at that time being William Lowe of Kogarah. For this he received £150 per annum.

In January, 1886 a telephone was installed for the purpose of telephoning telegrams. During this year also, Kogarah Council asked that letter delivery be commenced in the populated parts of the municipality. The revenue of the office the previous year was £61.8.6.

The Post Office was described as being on the main road to Sandringham and Woniara and was about 300 yards from Kogarah Railway Station.

In 1886 there was an attempt to have the Post Office moved to the Railway Station. It was felt undesirable to have a storekeeper in a position where he could not help knowing some of the affairs of his competitors. A public meeting decided to retain the Post Office at Souths Store as it was felt the railway location would present a hazard to children collecting letters as there was then only a level crossing.

July, 1886 Mr. F. Blake was appointed as postman to serve Rockdale and Kogarah districts.

Eventually it was decided to make Kogarah an official post office and Mr. A.H.V. Gosbell from Paddington office took charge from 22nd November, 1886 on a salary of £100 per annum. As a consolation to Eastern Kogarah residents a letter receiver was placed outside Mr. South's Store and Mr. South granted a stamp vendors licence.

As funds were not available to erect an office at the railway station a shop and dwelling were rented in Regent Street with a rear entrance facing the station. These premises had a 2 stall stable and coachhouse together with a 16 ft. deep underground tank and were owned by a Mrs. Fletcher.

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In 1889 the Department was given 3 months notice to leave as Mrs. Fletcher required her premises and an offer was accepted from James Palmer for premises in Railway Parade for 25/- per week. This was next to the present Post Office building. It was decided to purchase land and build premises and the block of land at the corner of Belgrave Street and Railway Parade was selected. The full amount paid for the block was £300.

Tenders were called in 1890 for the erection of the new building and after one false start a tender was accepted from Robert Wilson for the sum of £2,315. The building was occupied as from 1st July, 1892, the postmaster being Mr. Gosbell who remained until 1906.

A telephone exchange was opened at Kogarah on 1st October, 1896 and for many years was the only exchange south of Cooks River. Subscribers were connected from outlying parts such as Bexley, Rockdale, Hurstville, Sans Souci, Lady Robinson's Beach, Dolls Point and Sandringham.

Subscriber number one was a Chemist Mr. E.M. Hill, Rocky Point Road, Rockdale. The directory at this time listed some 34 subscribers.

As late as 1909 the exchange was still situated in the corner of the post office but by this time a new exchange room was being erected.

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