



THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER

1972

PRICE: 5c.

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THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sponsored by Kogarah Municipal Council.

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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

NOVEMBER MEETING:

The next meeting of the Society will be held on 9th November, at 8 p.m. in the Soldiers' Memorial Church Hall, Kensington St., Kogarah, (opp. The St. George Hospital).

At this meeting Mr. V. Smith will show slides of Sutherland, Opening of Tom Ugly's Bridge and Sutherland's Captain Cook Celebrations and procession in 1970.

MUSEUM ROSTER:

November 12th: Miss A.G. Coxhead and Mrs. J. Gould
" 19th: Mr. and Mrs. E.W. Gaskin
" 26th: Miss C. McEwen and Mr. V. Smith
December 3rd: Mr. and Mrs. J. Lean
" 10th: Mrs. E. Leahy and Mrs. B. Smith

SUPPER ROSTER: Mrs. McEwen and Mrs. Buchanan

COMPETITION PRIZE: To be donated by Mrs. Fordham

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

Christmas Hamper raffle tickets will also be available at the meeting - 10¢ each.

SOCIAL NOTES:

The members of the Social Committee are asked to be at our next meeting on 9th November at 7.30 p.m. so as to enable the Christmas Party to be discussed.

Mr. and Mrs. K.R. Cavanough are expected back from their overseas trip in November.

Bus trip to Mount Victoria and "Everglades" at Leura will be held on Sunday 19th November, leaving at 9.00 a.m. sharp outside Council Chambers as usual. Cost will be \$2.00 per person, plus admission charges at Leura.

A very pleasant day is promised with a visit to the Mt. Victoria museum and then to the National Trust property at "Everglades". Mrs. Butters would be pleased to reserve seating accommodation at our next meeting. The bus will be a full scenic touring one & will seat over 50 people.

Museum Report:

With the rearrangement of the pottery and paintings in the side room, a very attractive area has been created and additional paintings have been added to the display.

Support from the public continues to be very satisfactory and practically all comments from visitors compliment the Society on the Museum and the presentation of exhibits. Of particular interest always are the photographs of the district taken in the early days, which attract young and old alike.

Any members who may have old photographs of the district are particularly asked to allow us access to these so that a copy may be made. This copying does not affect the original being removed from the owner's premises. We would be pleased to hear from any members knowing the owners of such photos or documents relating to early Kogarah.

J.E. Veness

Extract from "Serenade to Sydney" by Frank Clune -

'During the 175th Anniversary celebrations of founding of Australia, Historic Markers were erected throughout Sydney by the Council of the City of Sydney in conjunction with the Royal Australian Historical Society. Frank Clune has published an interesting book detailing more information about each of the markers. These markers number 104, in all.

The Tank Stream was in the news a few weeks ago when its course was again located during excavations for new buildings and it was planned that in future it would run in a pipe over the basement of the building.

Surveyor Alt's gravestone at Parramatta Cemetery is one of those which has been restored and is very interesting in its old-world style of prose.

Marker

No. 10: Bridge Street, Northern side, between George and Pitt Streets.

TANK STREAM BRIDGE AND HEAD OF SYDNEY COVE.

In Oct. 1788 a timber bridge was built to span the Tank Stream at this spot, which was then the head of Sydney Cove. In 1803-4 this structure was replaced by a stone Bridge.

When Governor Phillip inspected Port Jackson in January 1788 he was induced to start a settlement there because of a rivulet at the head of Sydney Cove where wild celery, parsley and spinach flourished - healthy vegetables for scurvy patients. A swampy spring, one mile away, in the centre of today's Hyde Park, was the birthplace of the rivulet, which fell a hundred feet as it wandered eastward over sandstone rocks to King Street. Thence, nourished by two springs, one at King Street and another at Spring Street, it flowed to Bridge Street, the head of the tidal estuary.

To save the life-stream, Governor Phillip in March 1788 wisely decreed that "The run of water which supplies the Settlement was observed to be only a drain from the swamp. To protect it from the sun, the Governor forbids the cutting down of any tree within fifty feet of the run, than which there has not been a finer found in any one of the coves of the harbour".

In February 1791 Surveyor Alt deepened the stream near Bridge Street, and in April 1792 the Governor had ditches dug flanking the rivulet. A paling fence was erected to keep out stock and to cherish the shrubs growing on its banks. The rivulet was christened the Tank Stream in May 1792, after His Excellency had convicts hew a tank from sandstone which held 8,000 gallons of water.

Bridge Street, where the Tank Stream debouched into the tidal waters of Sydney Cove, became the main link between east and west Sydney. Collins in October 1788 stated that a gang of convicts were employed in rolling timber together to form a bridge over the stream at the head of the cove. Soon a foot-bridge spanned the rushing waters, followed later by a vehicular bridge. Alas, an overloaded bullock wagon broke through the decking and put the bridge out of action.

The Sydney Gazette of 5th June 1803, reported that masons and labourers were employed making the foundations of a stone bridge. "This work is carrying on by the duties on spirits." On 3rd. July the Gazette stated that His Excellency Governor King, had attended at the new bridge on 1st. July to lay the cornerstone of the arch.

On 11th December 1803, Simeon Lord auctioned "A commodious stone dwelling house in the Rocks near the new windmill, now in occupation by Isaac Peyton, to defray expenses of finishing the new bridge." On 18th April 1804 the Gazette proclaimed: "On Tuesday the New Bridge was rendered passable for carriages."

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