



# THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

JUNE, 1973

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THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sponsored by Kogarah Municipal Council.

President:

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6 Lance Avenue,  
BLAKEHURST. 2221.

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Hon. Treasurer:

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Hon. Secretary:

Mrs. B. Butters,  
36 Louisa Street,  
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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 50c joining fee)  
Senior Citizens: .25c per annum  
Students: .25c 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 5 p.m.  
Admission 20c Adults, 10c Children (Maximum 60c 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 the Museum Convener:

Miss C. McEwen,  
84 Carlton Parade,  
CARLTON. 2218.

'Phone 587 2090.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEWSLETTER:

Contributions of articles and information of local interest for publication in this Newsletter will be welcomed by the Publications Convener:

Mr. V. S. Smith,  
26 Prince Edward Street,  
CARLTON. 2218.

'Phone 587 2938.

OUR JUNE MEETING, will be held in the Soldiers' Memorial Presbyterian Church Hall, Kensington Street, Kogarah (opposite The St. George Hospital), at 8 p.m. June 14. The Guest Speaker will be Mr. N. Horwood and he will present a recorded and illustrated address on the "History and Development of Sutherland Shire". You may recall Mr. Horwood was unable to address us last Meeting because of ill-health.

The Competition Prize for this Meeting has been donated by Mrs. Grieve.

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The MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE meets at 7.30 p.m. on the last Thursday in each month at Carss' Cottage.

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MUSEUM REPORT. The St. George Art Society have renewed the display of paintings at the Museum. It is the aim of the Museum to preserve the history of yesterday as well as encourage the artists to the district. To carry out this purpose the small alcove off the hall has been allocated for the display and sale of paintings by members of the Art Society and pottery made by the St. George Potters Group.

The restoration of the dresser is now completed and it has been positioned in the kitchen display. The dresser looks most impressive and has highlighted the exhibit.

Donations - Mrs. K. Mattocks - 2 bottles of wine made from grapes grown on the estate of Tottenham House, 1905.

Kogarah School of Arts - Letter Press.

Beverly Hills Typewriter Co. - Monarch Typewriter.

Mrs. N. Snodgrass & Mrs. I. Hurst - A Shell House.

Mr. & Mrs. E. Naylor - Wash Jug and Basin - a baby's shirt.

Mrs. Aiken - Stud Box - A Bell - a Medal won by Mr. Aiken at Kogarah Skating Rink.

Mrs. Phelan - Gas Mask and a Warning Clapper used during World War 11 -- a set of scales used to measure gold - Cigarette Picture Album - Commemorative Souvenir Cup 1911 - Silver Serviette Ring 1899 - A Sash from the Ancient Order of the Foresters. On her recent trip to England Mrs. Phelan collected a lot of literature on Captain Cook. This information has been given to the Museum and is now in our library for members to borrow.

Mr. A. Guy - Glazed Clay Bottle.

Mr. R. Doughan - Plan of St. Elmo.

Miss Coxhead - Poster advertising the final attraction at Tivoli. A History of Albury and a copy of the District Tourist Guide to Historical Berrima (both of these publications have been placed in the Society's Library.

Mr. R.J. Steel - Graphic Press Camera.

Mr. Gough - 3 Photographs - 1) Rosevale Villa 2) Yeoman & Mary Geeves and their Family 3) Sutherland House

Museum Roster: June 3rd -- Miss and Mrs. McEwen.  
10th -- Mr. Grieve and Mrs. James  
11th -- Mr. & Mrs. Kelly (Queen's Birthday)  
17th -- Mrs. Greenaway and Mrs. Slater  
24th -- Mr. and Mrs. Smith.

C. McEwen  
Museum Convener.

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### PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

In travelling about the Kogarah Municipality in recent months, I have been amazed and somewhat alarmed at the rate at which the face and character of the Municipality is changing.

Within the space of a few days a landmark can become a building block and all evidence of its existence lost. Many of the buildings being demolished were in existence at the incorporation of the Municipality and have had links with those people who were responsible for its establishment.

As with building, so too with people. The character of the area, which remained unchanged for so many years, is still remembered by many of our Senior Citizens, but their ranks are diminishing too.

We have for some time been encouraging members to join in our research activities, so that information and articles may be collected. Right now we could use the services of six or more people with reasonable cameras, who would be prepared to go around areas of the Municipality and photograph selected buildings.

We would also like to have twenty or so members who would talk to selected residents and record their information.

We have a whole series of subjects for research in conjunction with museum displays. We are constantly asked for information on a whole range of subjects by the local press, Museum visitors, School Teachers and pupils.

All these activities are part of the function of an Historical Society, and I feel that they are not receiving the support and attention they deserve. For our Society to take its rightful place in the community, it is necessary for many members to participate, as soon as possible, in what can be a most interesting and rewarding activity. Remember, the time is NOW.

J. E. Veness.

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### SOCIAL NEWS.

Our Wella Hair Care Morning at Roselands last month was most enjoyable. I have booked again on Friday, July 27th.

Do please join me at 10.30 a.m. in the Jasper Room on this date!

The Morning Tea of freshly cut sandwiches, etc. and coffee is served at approximately 11.45 a.m. and the discussion is on Home Improvements and Interior Decorating. Lucky Door Prizes are awarded.

I need 15 ladies on this date Friday 27th July so please let me have your names at the next meeting. The donation is only 30c.

Sylvia Kelly.

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## EXCURSION TO CAMPBELLTOWN AND AIRD DISTRICT

8TH APRIL, 1973 - PART TWO

BY H. MAYFIELD

One of our bus stops was immediately opposite what was once "Alpha House", the pub where Fisher had been drinking on the evening of his disappearance. It was also the locale of the first Court held in the district and, again, was possibly the place where the first Presbyterian Church Service was held in Campbelltown. Was it called "Alpha House" because it was the first inn in the town? Its current name is the "Good Intent", and it bears no resemblance to what the original structure must have been. For its appearance is modern; it is built of twentieth-century bricks and is roofed with tiles of the same period.

Down this same street, Queen Street, stretch the four Colonial Cottages referred to above, one of which is supposed to have been a Cobb and Co., Staging Establishment. The land on which these cottages stand is portion of a grant of 140 acres originally made to a Joseph Philips in 1816 and taken over in 1817 by William Gore. It was then bought by William Bradbury who incorporated it into a larger estate which Governor Lachlan Macquarie, in 1821, named "Bradbury Park". Bradbury sold the estate, in 1827, to John Cullen who sub-divided it in 1842. John and Mary Cannon purchased the High Street frontage of the estate. They further sub-divided it into building blocks.

As we proceed south from Allman Street, we came upon the first of the cottages with its 93' frontage. This was purchased in 1848 by Dr. George Fullerton. It was resold in 1853 to Henry Bradley, solicitor. Thomas Chippendale and James Turner were later owners again. In 1857 the latter sold the place to Martin McGuanne a shoemaker who paid fifty pounds for it. The McGuanne family retained possession of it 'til 1955 when the State Planning Authority bought it. It was in this house that the first Campbelltown branch of the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney was opened in 1874-5. Manager of the branch was George L. Jones.

The second lot in High Street was sold to John Hilt, a Coachman. On 5th August, 1845, John Doyle, wheelwright and Blacksmith purchased it from Hilt, as witnessed by Michael Hourigan. In 1859 the railway, harbinger of still further progress, reached Campbelltown from Sydney, whereupon this building became the Railway Hotel. Sylvester Byrne was its first licensee. He was followed by Thomas James who converted the slab built Coach House into a Theatre. By John Doyle's Last Will and Testament his property was left to his sons, Nicholas, a Coachbuilder and John Joseph Doyle. Profit from the Public House was to be among the family for the first three years thereafter and the inn then became the property entirely of John Joseph Doyle. He willed it to Nicholas in 1893. Annie Doyle sold the property, on 6th May 1908, to Edwin Hallet Fieldhouse and William Fieldhouse, Storekeepers. On 23rd March, 1921, it was sold to Henry Meredith and his wife by E.H. Fieldhouse. It became the property of Mr. J.L. Froggatt on

18th December, 1943 - the tale of a cottage.

The other of the four cottages passed through similar vicissitudes. "Stanwell House", the third of the four belonged successively to an Auctioneer-Storekeeper, a Postmaster, an Innkeeper, a Butcher-Newsagent, and was finally acquired by the State Planning Authority who leased it to "Legacy" late in 1966. Thus, after being "Stanwell House" for 120 odd years, it became "Legacy House".

Samuel Lovely, Yeoman purchased the fourth house in 1844. A wheelwright, builders, private people and, possibly, Cobb and Co., bought it successively afterwards. And so, the passing parade of Airds and Campbelltown!

But we could not leave the account closed without mentioning "Glen Alvon" and "Emily's Cottage". The former stands in Lithgow Street and is built in the Georgian style. It is a two-storeyed house built of smooth cut stone and has a stone-flagged verandah in front. Its french windows with their small panes of glass typical of the period reflect again Australian's indebtedness to European inspiration in architecture living and material things even as the presence of the Doric columns of stone, as simple and dignified not only add to the symmetry of the fascade, but remind us of the classical trends in education and art current during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Indide, Glen Alvon is finished with Cedar Joinery - six pannelled doors and panelled jambs in the window recesses. A "blind window" employed to achieve "balanced symmetry" is a feature of the side walls. It is also quite possible that these "windows" were meant to avoid the Window Tax of the day. A covered walk leads to the original kitchen attached to which are the Gabled Stables. The original Stables and Coach-house still stand behind "Glen Alvon". They now bear a bronze Heraldic Boss with crest of District and inscribed to the Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society 1947.

"Glen Alvon" was erected in 1842 on Lot 91 according to the town map of 1844. Its original owner was Michael Byrne. He mortgaged it to his brother-in-law, John Keighran (of Keighran's Mill) who lived in it 'til he died in 1858. Mrs. Keighran died in 1859 whereupon the house was leased to tenants until 1878. At that time the Hon. John Kidd was tenant. Edwin and William Fieldhouse bought the house and lived there until 1891. It was then let again. One of its tenants was Dr. Mawson, brother of Sir Douglas Mawson the Antarctic explorer. In 1920 Glen Alvon was bought by Mr. S. Bursill and is now owned by his daughter Mrs. Davidson. It was added, in 1926, to the C.C.C. List of Historic Buildings.

A small sandstone cottage stands at the junction of the Camden and Old Southern Roads. Some mystery surrounds it for it is believed to date from about 1847 or 1848; and there are Deeds dating back as far as 1860. Fire gutted it in 1900 and some of its beams still bear the scorch marks. There is some



evidence that a girl named Emily was killed by lightning near the cottage many years ago. But it is not known whether the house was named after her or not. Another story says that a Sea Captain from the Brig "Emily" once owned the place and named it after his ship. Today George L. Auchinachie, a leading Sydney Antique Dealer, owns the property.

GLORIA IN AXCELSIS  
SACRED

To the memerey of James Ruse  
who departed this life Sept  
5th in the year of Houre Lord  
1837 natef of cornwell and  
arived in this coleney by the  
forst fleet agad 77

My Mother reread me tenderley with me  
she took much paines and when I arrivd  
in this coelney I sowl the forst grain  
amd now with my Hevenly Father I hope  
for ever to remain.

So runs the Epitaph of James Ruse on his tombstone still standing at the head of his grave in the Churchyard of St. John the Evangelist. Ruse had been transported to New South Wales in the First Fleet. He had been sentenced at the Bodmin Assizes on 29th July, 1782 and had already spent 5 years of his 7 year term in prison and aboard the bult "Dunkirk", before getting to Australia. His term expired in August 1789 and he claimed his freedom. Captain Arthur Phillip installed him on a two acre block of land with a hut, some agricultural implements and a few head of stock. Phillip's purpose was "... to know in what time a man might be able to cultivate a sufficient quantity of ground to support himself". According to Marine Captain Watkin Tench's journal of the first four years at Sydney Cove, Ruse was promised that if he succeeded at Experiment Farm, Parramatta, as the little farm was called, the land would become his property. Beginning his work in 1790, James Ruse expended every effort, felling and burning timber, digging the ashes into the coarse soil which he clod-moulded and sought to enrich further by also turning in the grass and weeds to moulder into humus. Patiently withholding his sowing, Ruse then left his field to fallow, exposed to sun and air. He then dug it over agin. Only then did he sow his first crop. Through his tireless industry he found success.

Ruse was now granted 30 acres of land, for he was a mighty example for his fellows, having made himself quite independent of the Government Store between early 1790 and February 1791. In the meantime he had married Elizabeth Perry, the first female convict to be emancipated. His land grant made in 1792 is recorded as Number 1 in the register of land grants for New South Wales.

But the Father of Australia's Agriculture did not remian at Experiment Farm. He sold it in 1793 to Surgeon John Harris, hoping to return home to Cornwall, and worked as a hired labourer

until he might expect to sail. However, he never did see England again. He took up a land grant on the Hawkesbury where he worked with all his early spirit and industry. By 1810 Ruse had received 100 acres in the Bankstown region, but for some unknown reason he gave up his farm and became another settler's overseer. At one time he farmed at Denham Court for Captain Robert Brooks.

As James Ruse's life drew to a close he engraved his own tombstone registering his faith. He died in 1837. At that time the St. John's Church would seem to have been a dream of the future. What is now the cemetery was but "five acres of cleared and valuable land" offered by James Burke in 1825 "as a burial ground and site for a Chapel and Schoolhouse". St. John The Evangelist's Church was built in 1841. Its cemetery is shared by many denominations and a large share of the tombstones are those of Irishmen reminding us of "Little Ireland". Among them are those of Mary Lowns, d. July 1837; John Masterson d. 28th May 1827; Margaret Macnamara d. 1847 and one erected by Mr. A. Cregan "In memory of his sister, Anastasia, native of County Limerick, Ireland, d. February 1864".

The other historic church we visited in Campbelltown was St. Peters. Significantly it is built in the main of convict made bricks and was designed and erected by Francis Lawless the principal overseer of government bricklayers. Lawless also built the Condict Barracks at Parramatta, and Sydney's Benevolent Asylum. He began St. Peters in 1821 and completed it in 1824. The clock was installed in the tower in 1838. If any are inclined to deprecate the length of time taken to complete projects such as these, we must bear in mind that youthfulness of the colony of New South Wales even in 1821 and its consequent shortage of skilled workmen who had to be spread in gangs over an area which, while it was being fairly rapidly extended geographically, was still only sparsely populated by free and emancipated settlers. Moreover, the clock, would have had shipped from Britain

Reverend Thomas Reddall was the first incumbent of St. Peter's, Campbelltown. He is commemorated by a marble tablet affixed in the chancel of the church. Recorded on this "In memory of Reverend Thomas Reddall, died 18th August, 1860, aged 50 years". It tells that he had been for 13 years Minister at Stoke-on-Trent and other English Parishes, and for 13 months at St. Peter's, Campbelltown.

Also remembered about the walls of St. Peter's were the Reverend Thomas Verrier Alkin, M.A., L.C.P., 28 years Rector (1875-1904) died 17th June 1921; numerous members of the Graham family; John Scarr; Mary Bannister Brown; Mary Caroline Cooker; and William Edward Riley, Esquire, of Raby, expired at Cavan on the Murrumbidgee 4th December, 1836, age 29 years.

But most prominent of all is the name of Alkin who must have been a remarkable and dedicated shepherd of his human flock. For there are so many pews in St. Peter's donated by first



parishioners in his memory.

About 1870 there was an attempt to turn this church into a Gothic building - an attempt in keeping with the contemporary wide interest in Neo-Gothic architecture (it is registered in several churches designed by Blackett, architect of Sydney University which was founded in 1863). The pitch of the roof was raised, the tower was heightened, a porch, chancel and vestry were added. The attempted change of style was really unsuccessful and the chancel in particular, built as it is in greyish "brick-like" style looks odd against the original convict brick of warm red clay.

In 1962 skilful restoration was undertaken. It restored most of the Georgian atmosphere. Remembered in a plaque in the flagged porch is the aid of Campbelltown's Lions Club in this venture. The club had a new dial installed on the tower clock, had the whole mechanism overhauled and added an electrically operated rewind. The restored clock was rededicated 30th July, 1963.

Just at the foot of the wooden stairs leading up to the choir loft and organ there is a metal plaque on which a coat of arms is emblazoned. It commemorates Ivor Gwynne Thomas M.B., B.S., B.Sc., F.R.S.A. "by whose enthusiasm this historic church's restoration was inaugurated". The plaque was dedicated by "The Lord Archbishop, The Most Reverend H.R. Gough D.D., 15th July, 1962".

Entering and departing from St. Peter's Church one is struck by the porch's stained glass window emblazoned with Governor Macquarie's coat of arms. How fitting - to the memory of the founder of Campbelltown by whose spirit of diligence, honour and enthusiasm, even on the eve of his departure from New South Wales, the community was given life, encouragement and spiritual sustenance!

The Government Architect, Standish Harris in 1825, was to suggest the abandonment of the then languishing town. He reported "Campbelltown is situated about 15 miles from Liverpool and on a similar plan. The only buildings at present erected are a Church, a small School House and a few Bark Huts. This place, however, is so ill supplied with water, that it would not be advisable to recommend more buildings. There is, about five miles further east a much more eligible site, commanding the banks of the River Nepean".

However, over the years, the faith and perseverance of the real inhabitants of Campbelltown prevailed and are now vindicated in the thriving corporate town.

In my report I have omitted numerous places and points but I have deliberately selected my material and reflected on it in a conscious effort to give the history of Campbelltown and Airds the life it had in times past. I hope that I have succeeded for the interest of all and to the extent that the other part of

my ideal will succeed - that members of the Kogarah Historical Society, and whosoever else will read here, will be inspired to search in the same spirit to fill in the gaps with vitality.

For my part, I am deeply indebted to our guides of Sunday 8th April for the information they provided me so copiously. My thanks are also due to the History Teachers' Association of New South Wales for their well prepared notes on excursions to Liverpool and Campbelltown.

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