



THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

J U L Y, 1 9 7 3

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THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Sponsored by Kogarah Municipal Council)

President:

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BLAKEHURST. 2221.

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Hon. Treasurer:

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9 The Mall,
SOUTH HURSTVILLE. 2220.

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Hon. Secretary:

Mrs. B. Butters,
36 Louisa Street,
OATLEY. 2223.

'Phone 57 6954.

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 Exhibition Lounge, at the Civic Centre, Belgrave Street, Kogarah. (Take lift to second floor and turn to the right).

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.

WE ARE MOVING!!!

OUR NEW MEETING PLACE (commencing with the July Meeting) is in the Civic Centre (on the site of the old Council Chambers) in Belgrave Street. Take the lift to the Second Floor, turn to your right, and will be meeting in the Exhibition Lounge. You will be very pleased with this area allotted to us by the Council and if you have not yet inspected the Civic Centre, here is your opportunity to also see the new and most up-to-date Council Chamber which will be open for your viewing.

PARKING - Cars may be parked in the ground floor parking area, the entrance to which is in Wick's Lane, at the rear of the Civic Centre. Post Office Lane, alongside of the Civic Centre is one way traffic so it is necessary to enter at Montgomery Street end. From that lane you turn left into Wick's Lane and use the first entrance into parking area. An alternative way is to enter Wick's Lane from Kensington Street. In such case, use second entrance into parking area (the other entrance is to the basement area which will eventually be locked).

OUR JULY MEETING. We will be fortunate in having representatives from the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board who will give a very well arranged illustrated talk on Sydney's water supply. Beautiful and informative slides will be used and also a large map on which the separate areas being spoken of will be outlined in small lights. You will enjoy this talk -- and learn a lot.

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

Ladies of the Social Committee will please meet at 7.30 p.m.

WE SAY "THANK YOU" TO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

When the old Council Chambers were being demolished we found ourselves not only without a "home" but also practically without funds. The preparation of Carss Cottage Museum had been very expensive and we were actually (temporarily) in debt.

At that point the Kogarah Soldiers' Memorial Presbyterian Church came to our aid and, without cost, permitted us the use of two halls, kitchen and projection room. The Church does not usually let its halls and we are very thankful for the use of these comfortable premises for the past eighteen months.

OUR JUNE MEETING - Mr. N. Horwood, who was unable to come to our May meeting owing to sickness, attended and gave a most interesting illustrated talk about the Sutherland Shire. This was very much appreciated by members.

MUSEUM REPORT.

Our kitchen display is looking more realistic month by month. Curtains have now been added and wooden panelling has been placed on the cupboard doors to give more of an old-world appearance. At the moment we are looking for a kitchen chair, made around the 1880-1890 period, to add to the display. If anyone knows the whereabouts of such a chair that could be donated or lent for a time to the Museum, would they please contact me.

Donations: We acknowledge with many thanks the following items that have been given to the Museum during the last month --

- Mr. H. Crow - a pair of convict handcuffs (1831), and hand made nails (lent for 6 months)
- Mrs. Gaskin - Vegetable dish and gravy boat
- Mrs. Tillman - a copy of a poster advertising the auction of the New Marine Drive Estates by Peach Bros. on Saturday 24th February, 1934.
- Mr. D. Taylor - set of hair tongs.
- Mrs. J. E. Veness - a china soap container (approximately 70 years old)
a wooden rolling pin (approximately 60 years old)
- Parker Bros. Produce Merchants - Magic Savings Bank
Lakemba. Glass Ink stand (approx. 47 years old)
Set of Produce Scales over 70 years old
Coke Spade over 70 years old
1 Lazy Boy to hold bags for filling
Hand made Leather Apron
- Mrs. T. Pallister - oval meat dish (approximately 100 years old)
- Mrs. R. Schneider - Opera glasses in leather case (approx. 70 years old)
Small china cup and saucer (approx. 100 years old).
- Mrs. Button - China hand painted plate (over 100 years old)
- Mr. C. Poulton - Kogarah Municipal Council Jubilee Book 1885-1935.
First Aid Certificate from the Civil Ambulance and Transport
Brigade of N.S.W. 1902.
- Mrs. R. Nicholson - a pair of green cotton stockings (approx. 65 years old)

MUSEUM ROSTER:-

- July 8th - Miss Coxhead and Mr. Wright
22nd - Mr. & Mrs. Cavanough
29th - Dr. & Mrs. Hatton
Aug. 5th - Mr. & Mrs. Lean
12th - Mrs. McOnie and Miss Foley

Colleen McEwen
(Museum Convener)

SOCIAL REPORT.

FRIDAY - JULY 27th - is our date for Morning Tea in the Jasper Room at Roselands. This is a pleasant and interesting get-together, all for the price of 30c. These functions will continue if we get the support we need. Will see you at 10.30 a.m. at Roselands.

FRIDAY - AUGUST 17th - This is our big day at Kogarah when we have the Stall in Belgrave Street, on the corner of Railway Parade. We need all the ladies we can get to lend a hand. Jam - Pickles - Fancy Work - Knitting - Plants - Cakes, etc. as well as our White Elephant Table should help swell the funds.

TUESDAY - AUGUST 28th - The President's Cocktail and Wine Tasting Night at Carss Cottage. Should anyone wish to wear period costume please do as it will lend enchantment to the night. We can promise you a happy time from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. Do come along and join us. 'Phone me on 587 6986 as we need to know just how many we are to cater for. \$1.00 each.

SEPTEMBER - A half-day Tour of Paddington -- Date to be arranged.

SUNDAY - OCTOBER 14th - Something Special. Tulip Tour of Bowral. Morning tea at Camden (please bring your own cup) - Lunch at Moss Vale R.S.L. Club, then a tour of the gardens and back home by 6 p.m. approx. Two Coaches have been ordered so 90 people will be able to enjoy this outing. Get your names in early for this lovely relaxing day of pleasure. Tour starts from the Civic Centre in Kogarah at 9 a.m. sharp.

THURSDAY - DECEMBER 13th - Our very popular Christmas Night at the Museum. Chicken in the basket or Fish if preferred. Arrangements have been made for well-known personality of the Kogarah Regal Musical Society Pam Hawken and her group to stage a revue from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Christmas Carols and Community Singing -- all this for \$1.20 per person. Names in early please.

XMAS HAMPER. Our Christmas Hamper is now on display at the Museum and books of tickets will be available at the July meeting. Do please help us make this a success by selling your tickets. More books may be obtained from the Secretary.

LADIES OF THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND A MEETING AT 7.30 P.M. PRIOR TO THE JULY MEETING.

Sylvia Kelly.

BALD FACE ABOUT 1910.

by M. Grieve.

On the way to Blakehurst School each morning, we would always meet a group of Maltese walking along Stuart Street which was then densely timbered on either side. Being curious, we decided to make enquiries about them.

Mrs. Stores kept the local store and Post Office which was situated on the corner of Todd Park just opposite where Stuart Street converges with Princes Highway (which was then known as Kogarah Road.) The residents collected their mail and newspapers from her each day so naturally this modest emporium was the hub of current news about events in the district.

So we questioned Mrs. Stores "Who are these men and where are they going?". "They are stone-masons from Malta" she replied, "experts in their trade, who have been recruited to work at Bald Face Quarry".

As the name implies, the constant cutting away of stone at the site resulted in a bluff, stark scar on the tree-covered fore-shore of that part of George's River. That somewhat un-euphonious name is still used in this prestigious locality. I trust that future civic fathers never attempt to change it.

In those days the bushland was a veritable bird sanctuary. All those birds which frequent the Eastern coast of N.S.W. were there in abundance. The Jacky Winter, yellow breasted robin, red robin, kingfisher, kookaburra, honey-eater, tom-tit, thrush, dove, pee-wee, magpie, diamond sparrow and other finches constituted the main species of bird life.

Constable Brodie resided in the midst of this bushland setting. His home was a modest timber house rented from Mrs. James of "Tanasari". At the rear of the cottage was an underground cellar with a heavy lift-up type door and stone steps leading down to the dark recesses below. This was referred to as the lock-up cell.

To my knowledge it was never used for the detention of law-breakers. However the policeman's son went beyond the line of duty in apprehending unsuspecting children and holding them for a short term "inside".

He usually concocted some story to entice his would-be victim into the dark, dank prison. With all the guile of Tom Sawyer he would suddenly exclaim that he had forgotten the matches. Then in a few quick strides he would dash up the steps, close the door and bolt it securely. After a brief time of solitary confinement, the prisoner, feeling sheepish about being so easily duped, would be released.

I have often wondered why we needed a policeman in such a quiet sparsely populated area. I think the major crimes would be the illegal use of fish-traps and stealing oysters from the leases which abounded along the shores of the George's River. One oyster farmer, Mr. Percy Judd (a brother of the brickwork Judd's) owned three miles of leases in Woollooware Bay near Taren Point.

Mr. John Grant, the local inspector from the Fisheries Department, lived in a water-front home in Shipwright Bay. His assistant was Mr. Ernest Curtis. The former, a very kindly man, looked with the blind-eye on the fish traps - fish being so plentiful at the time that the number caught in this way would have been of little consequence.

At least two men in the district earned their livelihood by cutting timber for firewood, especially for bakers. The honeysuckle or Banksia and red gums were in great demand.

Because the road terminated some distance from the quarry, it was inaccessible to vehicular traffic so the stone, when quarried had to be taken by barge to its destination. From Bald Face, past Tom Ugly's Point and Sans Souci, then round to Botany Bay to Shea's Creek where it was unloaded. Some of the stone was used for the construction of the break-water in Botany Bay but it was chiefly used for road making.

As may well be imagined the roads were very rough and bumpy and were in constant need of repair. It was a common sight to see the road menders with a dray load of stone, filling in pot holes which occurred frequently after heavy rain.

Somehow I always felt an upsurge of pity when I saw these men at their back-breaking work. They were suitably attired for their labour in thick dark grey flannel shirt, dungaree trousers with bowyangs, heavy blucher boots and a wide felt hat with a plentiful supply of corks attached. A bright red handkerchief round the neck completed the picture.

There was always a night watchman employed at the quarry. One of these had been a sailor in the British Navy. Because of his brief association with the sea, he considered himself a worthy citizen to address the pupils at Blakehurst School. Once each year, at the time of the Empire Day celebrations, he arrived with numerous newspaper clippings and pictures of H.M.S. Renown to deliver his oration. His speech consisted mainly of little incidents concerning himself, such as when the Prince of Wales sailed in his ship and actually conversed with him.

Each sentence was prefaced by "At any rate however" which by contraction he pronounced "Tennyrateowever". The children appeared to be duly impressed but the over-all reaction was that it was simply another version of "How Bill Adams won the battle of Waterloo".

The pupils had an extensive repertoire of patriotic songs. The words of many were rather pedantic and beyond the comprehension of the very young. The prevalent theme throughout was to engender loyalty and love of country. In the middle of one such stirring tune my brother used to sing lustily, "Old mother Bull works hard all day". My mother was rather puzzled by this bit of doggeral and mentioned it to the headmaster. The correct version was "Oh may the bulwarks ever stay".

As a climax to Empire Day there was a fireworks display at night. The pupils built a huge bonfire in the playground and parents were invited to share in the fun. This, of course, gave parents an excellent opportunity to show "how we used to do it when we went to school" and the subsequent newspaper description assured its readers that a "good time was had by all" -- although there were a few instances where boys and girls complained bitterly that "dad wouldn't stop letting off our crackers". Still, you can't please everybody!!
