



THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER

1973

PRICE: 5c.

Registered for posting as a Periodical, Category C

THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Sponsored by Kogarah Municipal Council)

President:

Mr. J. E. Veness,
6 Lance Avenue,
BLAKEHURST. 2221.

'Phone 546 3932.

Hon. Treasurer

Mrs. P. Briancourt,
9 The Mall,
SOUTH HURSTVILLE. 2220.

'Phone 546 2156.

Hon. Secretary:

Mrs. E. 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.

Subscriptions: \$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).

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 the Civic Centre has one-way traffic and 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 the parking area. An alternative way is to enter Wick's Lane from Kensington Street. In such case, use the second entrance into the parking area.

CARSS PARK 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 Officer:

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

'Phone 587 2938.



THE PRESIDENT AND OFFICE BEARERS
WISH ALL MEMBERS
A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND
A BRIGHT NEW YEAR

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS PARTY INSTEAD!

There will be no formal Meeting in December but we will have our usual Christmas Party on 13th December outside Carss' Cottage. Come at 6.30 and get settled and we'll start serving at 7 p.m. Although we have arranged for it NOT to rain, if unfortunately it does, we have also arranged for the use of the Scouts' Hall if we need it. So, wet or fine, we'll have a happy time. Read what the Social Secretary has to say about it -

OUR SOCIAL SECRETARY'S CHRISTMAS PARTY ANNOUNCEMENT.

Our Cottage Xmas Night will be the last social function for the year. Names must all be in no later than the 10th December to allow us to know how many to cater for. Please say whether you prefer chicken or fish. 'Phone me on 587 6986 or Mrs. Butters on 57 6954. A prompt response is necessary and will be greatly appreciated.

Serving will commence at 7 p.m. but come early and enjoy the peaceful scenery that surrounds our Museum. The entertainment will be in the capable hands of Miss Pam Hawken and friends and we can be sure of an enjoyable evening. Bring your own rugs and chairs if you wish.

The Xmas Hamper will be drawn during the evening and some lucky person will take home the hamper of goodies - so do please see that all butts and money are returned in time.

My sincere thanks to Mrs. Butters for taking over the work of the Bowral trip while I was on holidays - and thanks, too, to all our members and friends who have supported our social gatherings as it from this source that we gather most of our funds.

Sylvia Kelly.

OUR NOVEMBER MEETING. Unfortunately, the arrangement we had made for a Speaker for our November Meeting broke down at the last minute. But very fortunately we had Mr. A. Phillips in mind for next year and he very kindly came at short notice and gave a most interesting illustrated talk entitled "Mortdale, Past & Present". A good attendance of members enjoyed a most comprehensive collection of slides. His use of two projectors and two screens enabled us to view scenes of long ago on one, and the equivalent scene today on the other.

SOME PLEASING NEWS. We are happy to report that Dr. Joan Hatton has been elected Hon. Secretary of the Hurstville Historical Society and Mrs. D. A. Hatton has been elected a Councillor. We congratulate the Hurstville Society, and wish Dr. and Mrs. Hatton every success and happiness in their new positions.

WE NOW HAVE A KOGARAH HITCHING-POST. On the edge of the footpath outside the home of the late Dr. W. Johnstone Binns, (now the Belgrave Nursing Home) on the corner of Belgrave and Kensington Streets, Kogarah, there once stood a hitching-post for whose safety Mr. Don Sinclair feared. So he approached Mrs. Binns and the Kogarah Council and arranged for its donation to the St. George Historical Society.

For about twelve years the hitching-post has stood in a corner of Mr. Sinclair's garage. At the last meeting of the St. George Historical Society, of which he is the President, Mr. Sinclair pointed out that the post came from the Kogarah Municipality and would doubtless have been donated to the Kogarah Historical Society if it had then been in existence. He suggested that it would be appropriate to now donate this post to our Society.

Members of the St. George Society unanimously agreed with Mr. Sinclair, and we convey our sincere thanks to them -- and especially to Mr. Sinclair, for it was due to his initiative that the hitching-post has been preserved and now donated to our Society.

Mr. Veness has obtained possession of the hitching-post and it will no doubt be erected at Carss' Cottage soon.

MUSEUM REPORT.

Carss' Cottage has a new attraction provided by the St. George Philatelic Society. The display of postage stamps and related material is arranged in a large wall frame specially designed to harmonise with photographs already on exhibit.

The display will be maintained by the Philatelic Society and will be changed from time to time depicting many historical themes and commemorations.

At present there are two sections showing important events in Australian history and a small study of natural history.

Postcard size photographs of several Museum displays are now available at 15c each. These are in black and white glossy finish and come with an envelope. There is a choice of three showing (1) the old kitchen fireplace; (2) The dresser; and (3) the model with table setting etc.

A new selection of pottery is being added to the variety of interesting work by the St. George Studio Potters' Group and we also hope to have additional paintings by the St. George Art Society. Our Christmas party on December 13th may provide a good opportunity to purchase any of these items.

Donations - we acknowledge with many thanks the following items which have been

donated to the Museum during the last month:-

1. 5 Button Hooks - 2 metal; 2 xylonite; 1 pearlex and enamel button; a cane work basket; a blue velvet evening bag and a visiting card case in mother of pearl. Donated by Mrs. D. Arrowsmith.
2. 6 Bricks originally part of Judd's Brickworks chimney. Donated by Mr. A. Lisle.
3. An Invalid Feeding Cup (China); a china plate, and Chapman & Hall editions of Charles Dickens "Hard Times" and "The Old Curiosity Shop".
4. A Christening Robe donated by Mr. F. Weatherall.
5. Infant Shoes donated by Mr. Upton.
6. A quantity of historical material was also donated by Mr. Weatherall concerning Sgt. Jeremiah Murphy; also Picnic Point and Addis' Channel q.v.
7. Chums Annual 1907 donated by Mr. Raggett.
8. Warne's Model Cookery and Housekeeping Book printed 1869 by Mary Jewry - and 100 year old stirring silver wedding ring - donated by Mrs. Royer.
9. A Century of Integrated Schooling - a brief historical account of La Perouse School (1868 to 1940) - donated by Mr. Dorney. This publication will be placed in our library and is available for loan.

MUSEUM ACCOUNT -- The following items have been purchased for the Museum and an account for this amount will be presented for payment at the January Meeting.

Curtain Material	\$11.65
Polyanthus Plants	\$4.95
Brooms	\$7.00
	<u>\$23.60.</u>

MUSEUM ROSTER -- 2nd December -- Mr. & Mrs. Lean
9th December -- Dr. & Mrs. Hatton
16th December -- Mr. & Mrs. Cavanough
23rd December -- Mr. K. Grieve & Mrs. James
26th December -- Volunteers required (BOXING DAY)
30th December -- Mrs. Johns & Mrs. Taylor
1st January -- Miss McEwen & Miss Farros (NEW YEARS DAY)
6th January -- Mr. & Mrs. Lean
13th January -- Mr. & Mrs. Kelly.

IF ANY OF THESE DATES ARE NOT SUITABLE PLEASE ADVISE ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Colleen McEwen.

A FEW COMMENTS ABOUT NEWSPAPER ARTICLES.

Because, in the past, we have printed some newspaper articles, and in this issue we print another, it is thought advisable to make a few comments as to what value should be given to them. Should we unquestionably accept their accuracy? If not, why print them?

I once heard a well-know historian refer the members of an historical society to a certain newspaper article as a source of information regarding our district, without giving any warning as to how newspapers should be read. That article, under the heading "Congregational Church", included the following statements:-

1. The late Mr. William Ridley held church services, as a lay preacher of the Congregational Church at Carss' Bush from about 1865.
2. The services were held in the house of Mr. Carss.
3. Since the opening of the railway, the Congregational Church was opened at Kogarah.

An inexperienced amateur might accept those statements as facts and be led astray. But a more experienced person would accept them only as leads and, if particularly interested, would think it necessary to make further enquiries. Such a person would then learn:-

- A. William Ridley was not a lay preacher of the Congregational Church but an ordained Minister of the Presbyterian Church.
- B. The services were not in the home of Mr. Carss, but in a small weatherboard cottage on an area of two acres of land which Mr. Carss gave to the Presbyterian Church. This land faced Kogarah Road (now the Princes Highway) next to the creek.
- C. It is true that the Congregational Church was erected in 1888 but that event had nothing whatever to do with the services held at Carss Bush.

Thus, it may be claimed that the statements in 1, 2 and 3 could mislead an amateur, but they could be of the utmost value to one who was more experienced, and be the clues which would lead him to the true position as in A, B and C.

And here is a more personal example. In our March 1973 Newsletter I contributed an article called "Motion Pictures in Bygone Days". It was subsequently printed in the Newsletter of the Bankstown Historical Society. The Bankstown "Observer" later contacted me, seeking an interview, and as they wished to take my photograph beside a projector, we met in the Presbyterian Church Hall.

Although the meeting was alleged to be an interview, they asked only one question - what would be the running-time of a film spool they could see in the projection box. I answered "two hours" and in their article they said "three hours". Returning to Bankstown, they apparently decided to write-up the "Interview" from the contents of the newsletter, making it appear conversational by frequently referring to me by Christian name, which they had forgotten to ask. Knowing my initial was "V" they invented the name "Vance" and used that throughout the highly-coloured article, with errors, including the wrong name of the theatre!

Yet, assuming that at some future date someone was conducting research concerning picture theatres in Bankstown, and came across the "Observer" article, it contained sufficient information to lead that person firstly to the Church and then to our Society. They could thus secure the original article.

This month's reproduction of a 1904 newspaper article will, we think, be of interest to Members but they should be prepared to check any detail in which they may be particularly interested. For example, the article states that J.B. Carroll "came from Ireland about 1849 .. settling at once on a considerable piece of land at Kogarah..." Whereas in the Centennial History of N.S.W. (1888) it is stated that Carroll "was born in 1832 in Kildare, Ireland, and came out with his parents to the colony in 1838, proceeding with them in the year 1848 to Kogarah. Here his father was the first person to purchase land and settle on it in what now constitutes the Municipality of Kogarah". Which is correct?

But, whatever their failings, a budding historian would be considerable poorer if he did not have old newspapers to which he could turn. They paint pictures of people and happenings of bygone days and are sometimes the only evidence we possess.

- V. S. S.

In 1904 there appeared a series of articles in the "Evening News" about various suburbs of Sydney. We decided to re-print this one because of its particular interest to Members.

SUBURBS OF SYDNEY

ROCKDALE, KOGARAH, and HURSTVILLE.

written for the "Evening News" by

MARY SALMON

Although the district known at St. George is now subdivided into four Municipalities, until comparatively recently it was a great rural tract, very little known to the outside world, except along the shores of Botany Bay, where it was reachable by water. Not that it was uninhabited, for, from the settlement of Sydney, there were adventurous people who preferred a bush life to one in town, and who took up rural occupations away from the beaten track.

The name of Kogarah is native - "the land of the rushes" - and was appropriate for the long marshy reaches bordering on the shores. Sometimes it has been written as "Coggerah" and again as "Koggerah". Dr. John Townson and his brother Robert were among the first to receive grants from Governor Macquarie, one having 1950 acres and the other 1605 acres, the bay still known as Townson's Bay being the water boundary of the grant. No trace remains now of the fine orchard said once to have existed nor of the cottage where the Townson brothers used to stay.

Tom Ugly's Point is one of the most picturesque spots. From the road which leads over the river to Sylvania can be seen Shipwrights' Bay on one side and Kogarah Bay on the other, with the beautiful Sans Souci in the distance. Shipwrights' Bay was named because a Mr. Thompson built ships of considerable size for the coastal trade there; no relic of the industry now remaining except a few disused sheds. Tom Waggerly was an aborigine, who, being lame, had the native word signifying it given to him. A "waggerly" person in aboriginal meant one that was lame. "Ugly" became the abbreviation. Near the point is an almost historic inn, now kept by Mrs. Bennett, whose first husband was Mr. Bowden, of another almost historic hotel in town. Here resides a hundred and ten years old identity in the shape of an aged featherless parrot, whose early life was passed in travelling round the world with an old sea captain; he now retails his early experiences in the bar, being able to say anything. A steam punt over Georges River in a recent improvement. An earlier punt was one of those old hand-worked affairs that might cross the stream, but then again it mightn't. After sliding its live cargo off into the river several times, sticking half-way through pure "cussedness", and promising to turn turtle whenever anyone of note was on it, a new steam punt was secured, and now works satisfactorily. It is interesting to note that in those days, before women even knew what was meant by their "rights", a lady received a grant of land in her name. Miss Rutter had 100 acres on what was known as Rocky Point, changed by Mr. Thomas Holt into Sans Souci. She married a son of Brewer Cooper, and lived in a house there. Mr. Thomas Rust had the beautiful recreation grounds and hotel there for a summer resort. Now a number of fine houses rise up among the verdure, notably that of Premier Carruthers. In early times it was, in common with other beaches near Botany, a great resort for fishermen, shell gatherers and wood cutters. These two latter are among the almost extinct industries, which were, in some way like the kauri gum-fields were to Auckland, a means of employing the "story brokers" of all classes. They used to drag the bottoms for shells with nets, and, though as in most work, the expert had the best chance, the gone-under gentlemen also had a trade that needed no apprenticeship. Jerry Flynn was a sort of boss, who received the cargoes of shells and had a lime kiln on what was known as Flynn's Flat, where the headquarters of the shell-getters were.

Sandringham also, now the pleasure resort directly from Hurstville, was known as the Stripper's Point, from the employment of the bark collectors, principally from the woods of fine red gums, that there abounded. What grand dinners have been cooked in the open in a camp oven, with layers of burning bark around it! No baker was nearer than St. Peters, so damper was often resorted to, and made a fine substitute. Doll's Point was called so from a convict named Doll, who, escaping from Sydney, took refuge there, and lived away in the bush by himself. He dug a well, which is still in existence, and had a perennial supply of spring water.

The opening of the railway, 20 years ago, changed the whole aspect of the district, estates being thrown open, streets laid out, and little townships around the different railway stations sprang up, almost (like mushrooms) in a night. This gives all those suburbs an air of newness; and the fact that the buildings are all of the newer styles of architecture makes one forget that it is in a secondary stage of evolution, the new completely effacing the old.

Gannon's Forest was near the settlement of Kingsgrove, where quite a number of families lived, among these being the Dents, Harry West, the Mardys, Tompkins, Hightingales, and the Sparkes, one of whom -- "Bill" -- fought a great fight with Nat Langham on Woking Common, Surrey, England, in 1847. Tom Sparkes, known by his admirers as "The Sprig of Myrtle", was, later on, beaten by Johnny Sullivan. It was from all this district that the "sports" gathered in St. Peters, when "Bill Nash" might be seen, with his long black hair, well oiled, heading the cock fighting, foot racing, and fisticuffs, which usually finished with "two-up", when hundreds of pounds changed hands in an afternoon. Round Gannon's Forest and Connolly's Bush lived and worked the charcoal burners. They paid 6d a week for being allowed to burn the timber, and a weird sight it was on a dark night to see the shining trunk of one of the giants of the forest lying prone on the ground, lopped of its branches, with peat and turf walling up the windward side, and the beautiful glow of the embers illuminating the faces of the burners, who lolled round, discussing the next Sunday morning cock-fight, or Bill Blank's chance of getting out of trouble about his "still". There were few public houses in the district -- none nearer than the Robin Hood, and Evans' wine shop -- but there was considerable sly grog selling and making. Chard, the "Charcoal King", bought up the bags of charcoal as soon as they were ready, and an average week's earnings was about £3. The charcoal burners might have soon been well off, had sobriety and morality been among their prominent virtues.

Among the well-known pioneer settlers was Mr. J. B. Carroll, who came from Ireland about 1849, where he belonged to a good old family, settling at once on a considerable piece of ground in Kogarah, including what is known as Carroll's Hill. It is claimed that he was the first to grow a potato in the district, that he caught the largest shark in the bay, and first to have a swarm of bees. A story is told of his going with a party on a deputation to Stanwell Park to secure the interest of Mr. Chas. Mitchell in getting a punt over George's River, which hitherto had been impassable except with a boat. The gullies were almost as deep and wild as in the Blue Mountains, when one of the number, having been let down the steep precipices with a rope, found a sea chest, half buried in a deep ravine, with the name "John Simpson, ship Oliver Cromwell" printed across the lid. There was no treasure within, though the mystery of its position remained unsolved.

Blake's Bridge is one of the most picturesque spots on the Illawarra-road, which, like many of the finely kept roads in Kogarah, and the other St. George suburbs, is of fine white sandstone, and very creditable to the district. Blake's Quarry furnishes the road metal, there being numerous other quarries in the neighbouring places. The village of Arncliffe was so named by the surveyor,

Brownrig, a great part being a grant to Mr. Reuben Hannam, whose son David married Miss Mary Matterson, the first white child born in Bumble Curran, as Campbelltown was first called. This old colonist passed away ten years ago, aged 85. Her remembrances of the old times were very interesting, since she had seen from her homestead (still standing as the family home of the Bucknell's) the gangs of Government men at work on the old Wollongong-road. The original "Bold Forester" was built by convict labour in their spare time, on Sundays only, and it was believed that therefore ill-luck attended it; but a one-time landlord stated that beer was sold by him by the bucket, so perhaps that helped the "ill-luck". The "Highbury Barn" was built by Mr. Sleath, the owner of a large estate, afterwards bought by Mr. Fred. Barden, the original price being about a pound an acre, now many more times that price per foot. Mrs. Sleath kept the first private school in the district for little girls. She was the daughter of a very fine English family, who somehow found her way into what was then the wilds. Forty years ago the houses in Arncliffe might be counted on one's fingers, if one excepted the woodcutters, whose bark huts were scattered through the district. Women, as well as men, used the axe, and split wood for shingles, as well as loading up the carts with firewood. Those were days when "eight hours" were undreamed of, from daylight until dark constituting one's time of labour. Old colonists will remember the brushwood brooms brought round from door to door, which were all made in the bush, a regular industry being carried on in home broom-making. Hurstville in the middle of last century consisted of a number of farms, Dumbleton and Penshurst farms were among the largest. The dairying industry still continues to be greatly carried on, some of the finest cattle round Sydney being kept by Mr. Bown in Kogarah, and the various dairymen round Hurstville. The "Blue Post" built in 1850, was the earliest and only hotel in Hurstville, being kept by Samuel Lovelee, who served in the troop of the Flying Artillery throughout the Peninsula War.

The first church built in the entire district was St. George's, Hurstville (1856), a small erection which has long given place to a fine edifice. The Rev. John Dove was for many years incumbent, dying there in 1877, aged 68 years. St. David's, Arncliffe, was on land given by Mr. Hannam, his wife contributing the stone for its building from her quarry. It had an earth floor, tarred and sanded for services. It has since been rebuilt.

The only way of reaching Sydney was via the Cook's River-road, or from Hurstville along the Punch Bowl-road, making the journey of 20 miles to the Post Office from where the Hurstville Station now is. Bush tracks, with chippings on the trees to mark the road, led from the Dam to the various settlements. The first fares were half a crown each way between Cook's River and the city, the rest of the journey being on foot, with an occasional kindly lift from a neighbouring cart.

Although there is a general tendency prematurely to remove those kings of the forest that give a distinction to our landscape, yet there still remain a few estates where there is a conservation of native timber. On the Carss' Estate, bordering on Kogarah Bay, one may see almost primeval forest. A jungle of natural foliage borders on the bush track (scarcely an avenue), half a mile long, that leads to the homestead. There are trees that must have been giants when Captain Cook landed. Ironbark, red gum, blackbutt, honeysuckle wood, and the she-oak thrive side by side, and here, too, are every variety of native flora that delighted the eyes of our first settlers. It is scarcely possible to believe when one observes the barren, treeless state of some localities, that less than a century ago dense forest extended almost everywhere. The beautiful scarlet mountain lily and the waratah are in bloom in gardens, and in the little native bush that yet remains. Whilst even along the railway cuttings is the hardy little

heather, with its strong, finger-like roots clinging tenaciously to the rocky soil. Tradition still speaks of the beautiful black cockatoo that made his home only in the native honeysuckle, where his sharp beak cracked the cones and picked out the kernel. Now parrots and "whip" birds still come in flocks to inspect the building of the red-roofed Queen Anne villas that are usurping their old homes and driving them further out into the back country. Among early residents whose interest in the district is great are Mr. W. G. Judd (originally from St. Peters), Mr. Pat Moore of Moorefield Racecourse, Mr. J. Sale (Kogarah), Mr. Samuel Warren, Mr. George Griffen, Mr. Wm. Bray, Mr. J. Goode, and many others whose services to the district are invaluable.

A CHRISTMAS CAKE FOR ONLY EIGHT SHILLINGS.

The £100 Prize Christmas Cake won in a Women's Weekly contest is moist, rich, and full-flavoured. Its colouring is not obtained by artificial aid but is derived from its perfectly balanced ingredients. This applies also to its delicate flavour. The ingredients cost only 8/- and the cake weighs 7 lbs.

Ingredients -

One pound butter,
1lb. sugar,
1 lb. plain flour,
 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. self-raising flour,
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. sultanas,
1 lb. currants,
 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb seeded raisins,
 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. glace cherries,
6 oz almonds,
2 oz. citron peel,
2 tble.-spoons orange marmalade,
grated rind one orange,
grated rind & juice one lemon,
8 eggs,
salt-spoon salt, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup brandy.

Prepare fruit previous day. Blanch almonds, cut in two lengthwise. Shred citron peel and grate orange & lemon rind. Place all together in basin and pour lemon juice and brandy over. Cover closely till needed. Blend butter and sugar till quite smooth. Add eggs, one at a time using a little of weighed and sifted flour to prevent curdling. Add fruit etc. and flour mixed with salt a little at time. Have oven tin ready with four-fold of white paper lining. Pour in mixture, hollow slightly, and bake very slowly for 6 hours. When thoroughly cool, wrap well in greaseproof paper and leave for couple of weeks before cutting. Ice one week before cutting.

The cost of the cake might be slightly more, now, for the recipe was printed in the 16th October 1937 issue of Women's Weekly, then priced sixpence. But we have made it each year since then, and whatever the cost, its a jolly good cake!