



# THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

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## 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:       \$1.50 per annum  
Senior Citizens:     \$1.00 per annum.  
Students:             \$1.00 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.

OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Our Annual General Meeting will be held in the Exhibition Lounge on the Second Floor of the Civic Centre, Belgrave Street, Kogarah, at 8 p.m. on Thursday, 14th March 1974. Reports and financial statement will be presented and the Office Bearers and Committee for 1974 will be elected. Following the meeting, a half-hour colour-film called "The Taking Mood" will be screened. This is a film about two men, three fish and a bet. It's a fishing film for non-fishermen; a driving film for non-drivers; a riot of misadventures taking the viewer the length of New Zealand and back.

The Competition Prize has been donated by Mr. & Mrs. Dick Burghart.

The ladies on Supper Roster are Mrs. Buchanan and Mrs. Holmes.

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OUR APRIL MEETING. Just a reminder that our April Meeting will be held a week earlier than usual, on April 4th. Our normal date falls on the day before Good Friday. Please note your diary.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS. Please note that our new Subscription Rates are -

Ordinary Members	\$1.50
Students and Pensioners	\$1.00

The former entrance fee has been omitted. The first subscription paid by new members who join in October, November or December is current until 31st December in the following year.

Subject to the last paragraph SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1974 ARE NOW DUE.

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OUR SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT. Our Bar-B-Q Night was a most successful function and many things made it so. A lovely still cloudless night ... A hard-working President who was head chef and cooked to perfection all the delicious steaks and loads of sausages....And the many helping hands of members too numerous to mention....Last, but not least, the good company of the many members and friends who came - and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Not only did we have a happy evening, but the proceeds amounted to \$73.95.

Tour of Annandale. At our May meeting the Speaker will be Mr. A. Roberts of the Annandale Society. On the following Sunday week, May 19th, Mr. Roberts will guide us on an interesting walk around Annandale.

A bus will leave from outside the Civic Centre at 1 p.m. and the fare will be \$1.50.

We have only 49 seats, so please book at the March Meeting or by phoning me on 587-6936.

Sylvia Kelly.

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INVITATION BY ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY. On Friday, 19th April, the St. George Historical Society has, as their Guest Speaker, the eminent Architect, Dr. Morton Herman, M.Arch., F.R.A.I.A. The Subject is "Old Colonial Architecture", including Slab and Bark Houses, their construction, fitment etc. This address will be illustrated and should be most interesting.

The St. George Society has kindly extended an invitation to our members to be present and would like to know the number of those accepting the invitation so that seating may be provided.

The Meetings are held in the Council Chambers, above Rockdale Town Hall. All who desire to attend are requested to please advise Mrs. Butters.

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MEETINGS OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE. Members of the Management Committee are kindly asked to note their diaries that meetings will be held at 7.30 p.m. on the THIRD TUESDAY in each month at Carss' Cottage.

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THANKS TO OUR HON. CONSULTANTS AND RESEARCH OFFICERS.

It has given me a comfortable feeling of confidence to know that if the occasion arose, I could refer to Mr. Peter Orlovich, M.A., Dip.Ed.,Dip.Lib., Mr. W. Foster M.A. Dip. Mod. Languages, and Mr. A.H. Brewer ED., A.S.T.C., F.I.E. (Aust). Although I had no need to seek their assistance this year, we are grateful that they so willingly agreed to be our Hon. Consultants, and extend our thanks.

Members will agree that we made no mistake when we appointed as our Research Officers-

Miss C. McEwen  
Mr. J.J. Fletcher  
Mrs. S.Kelly  
Mrs. M. Grieve  
Mr. Don Sinclair  
Dr. Joan Hatton  
Mr. H. Mayfield

We are thankful for the assistance they have given in various ways and for the articles in the Newsletters. I am holding an article by Mr. Fletcher for the April Newsletter.

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Thanks, also, to Mrs. Butters who types the stencils for the Newsletters and to Mrs. Burghart who helps me to fold them and fix the wrappers - and then takes them to Kogarah Post Office.

I don't think we have ever acknowledged the fact that Mr. & Mrs. T. Kelly kindly loaned the Society an Address-O-Graph Machine which is used to address the wrappers. When compared with the alternative of typing the address wrappers, the saving in time is enormous. I appreciate having the use of this machine.

V.S.S.

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MUSEUM REPORT.

The last year has been one of planning for the future of the Museum. Throughout Australia there has been a strong interest during the last decade in preserving the history of the ordinary man, his house, his tools, his clothes, etc. This movement has been fostered by many trusts, private individuals and most of all by local historical societies, but unfortunately this interest in saving the past has been hindered by a lack of direction caused mainly by a shortage of knowledge in the best ways of acquiring items for exhibiting, displaying and restoring pieces. The members of the Museum Committee being aware of the undesirable visual effects caused by indiscriminate displaying of all material donated have decided that a long range plan, with emphasis on displaying items to their best advantage, would be followed.

In accordance with this intention two rooms have been planned. The entrance room will contain a simulated shop front, which is just about completed, and an area showing an old style kitchen. When looking at this kitchen display it will be similar to looking into a portion of a room. The other area planned is a ladies room displaying costumes and crafts of a past era. To enable these plans to be carried out successfully and quickly we have found it necessary to employ the services of a carpenter.

One of the most important functions of the Museum is **its** contribution as an aid to schoolchildren. During the year many schools have visited the Museum and attendants have been impressed with their interest in the items. To help the children in the preparation of projects on local history Mr. Smith has prepared a leaflet which is given to each child.

On 18th August 1973 we were visited by the National Trust. The comments from this body on the work being performed were very favourable. To mark the occasion a medallion was presented and it is intended to have it mounted for display in the Museum.

The Arts Centre in the Museum where the local potters and painters display their work for sale has created a great deal of interest. The success of the pottery section is reflected in this month's sales figure of \$40.55. During the next year it is hoped that a stronger relationship may be formed with the Art Society enabling us to encourage more painters to display their work.

In summarization the year of 1973/74 for the Museum has been one of Organization for the future. The results of this planning will make our Museum a showpiece of the district.

#### Donations:

A lady's handkerchief of hand made maltese laces (1370) donated by Mrs. A. Dorrough

A cabinet maker and upholsterers Drawing Book by Thomas Sheraton (published 1895) - loaned by Richard Sneddon.

Oakey's knife polish and knife board (c.1900) - donated by Mrs. R. Foster.

MUSEUM ROSTER: Please contact me as soon as possible if any of these dates are not acceptable - Phone 587-2090.

10th March	---	Mr. Grieve and Mrs. James
17th "	---	Mrs. Johns and Mrs. Taylor
24th "	---	Miss Foley and Mrs. McOnie
31st "	---	Dr. D.J. and Mrs. D.A. Hatton
7th April	---	Mr. & Mrs. Lean
14th "	---	Mr. & Mrs. Kelly

Volunteers are required for Easter Monday - April 15th, and Anzac Day - April 25th.

#### MUSEUM TAKINGS FOR FEBRUARY:-

Entrance Fees	-----	\$36.65
Jam	-----	\$21.20
Pottery	-----	\$40.55
Books and Cards	-----	\$4.45

#### MUSEUM ACCOUNT:

The following items will be presented for payment at the next meeting:-

Light	-----	\$4.60
Paint	-----	\$1.40
Paint Brush	-----	.69
Turps	-----	.24
Paint Remover	-----	\$1.60
Blinds	-----	\$16.74
Timber, Pelments and Facings	-----	\$58.00
Extension lead	-----	\$4.05
		\$87.32

Colleen McEwen.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

Another year of Society activity is behind us as we approach our Annual Meeting. The year has seen us returned to our original Meeting place, within the Council building, but with a difference. The new Civic Centre replacing the 1912 Council Chambers has meant an Historical milestone in the Kogarah Municipality.

Although the Civic Centre's inception was not without some opposition, its reality is welcomed by all, and we as a Society are particularly grateful for the opportunity it affords for meeting in extremely pleasant and comfortable surroundings.

Our Meetings have been well attended and our speakers have covered a wide range of neighbouring municipalities, to the fundamentals of Oyster Farming.

Throughout the coming year our Guest Speakers will again provide a series of talks which make the monthly night out, interesting and informative to all who attend.

The Social Committee has again provided us with a most enjoyable series of outings and functions which were enjoyed by all who attended.

Our Committee again has a number of outings planned and we look forward to a good attendance on these occasions. We hope that a number of afternoons or evenings will be held at Carss' Cottage throughout the year, when members will be able to meet together in such a delightful setting.

The Museum continues from strength to strength - the Committee is particularly active in the organising of the exhibits and a new series of displays is already under way.

We have obtained the services of a joiner, who is at present preparing a display which represents a shop front of 100 years ago. This will give us the opportunity to display a wide range of items in a co-ordinated way.

The County Council have installed a very attractive fluorescent light immediately in front of the Museum and this has helped greatly in the lighting of the surrounding area.

Many thanks to our band of attendants who look after the cottage each Sunday. By these people is our Society known, and they have brought nothing but praise to our efforts, this is proved by the complimentary remarks in our Museum Day Book.

We need more helpers in the year ahead and our Convenor would be glad to hear from any member who could assist.

We are going to have to face up to an amount of maintenance work on Carss' Cottage in the near future, but with the attendances which we have had over the past 12 months there is no reason to doubt that we can effectively maintain and continually improve our Museum.

The Newsletter continues to give pleasure to all members and to keep them informed of the past and future activities of the Society. We are extremely fortunate to have the production of the Newsletter in such capable hands and we owe a vote of thanks to Mr. Vince Smith and his band of helpers.

May I thank all Members of our Management Committee who have given up their time, so often to attend to the affairs of the Society. I have been greatly assisted in the past year and every society member has benefited as a result of the interest and participation of the Committee members in furthering the aims of the society.

Finally may I thank the Members for their continued support and assistance in the running of the Society and may the year and years ahead be even more successful than this that has past.

"A man can succeed at anything for which he has unlimited enthusiasm" (Charles Schwab).

-- J. Veness.



A History of the  
SANS SOUCI POST OFFICE

supplied by the Historical Officer of  
the Australian Post Office.

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In December, 1891, the press reported "an agitation" for the establishment of a post and telegraph office at Sans Souci. People in the district had to travel to Kogarah to conduct their postal business.

The Postal inspector who visited Sans Souci reported that an office at or near the junction of the Sandringham and Rocky Point Roads,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Kogarah, would accommodate "fully 60 householders". Some of the buildings were "substantial", and a public school was situated within 200 yards of the proposed site. Letters were being delivered from the Kogarah Post Office once a day, the postman having to deliver over a very large area of Sandringham, Sans Souci and Dolls Point.

The inspector recommended that a post office be established; a daily letter delivery be provided; and that the conveyance of mails be arranged twice a day between Kogarah and Sans Souci for the sum of £52 a year.

Early in 1892 Edwin J. Collis applied for the position of postmaster and letter carrier at Sans Souci. He did not give the address of his business which he claimed was in the most central and populated portion of Sans Souci. He kept a "refreshment place", which the inspector did not consider very conveniently situated for a post office.

A petition from some residents supported Collis's application for the office.

In the meanwhile J. H. Carruthers, M.P., advised that he was having difficulty in finding a suitable building and person to take charge of an office. He asked that the matter be allowed to stand over.

Some residents forwarded another petition in October, 1892, nominating Henry Dose for appointment as postmaster, and advising that Dose was willing to erect at his own expense a place suitable for the office. They described Dose's land as being about 150 yards from the public school.

In the meanwhile J. H. Carruthers agreed to the suggestion that Henry Dose be appointed postmaster but added that Dose should be required to "fence off his land neatly so that his back premises were not, as they now are exposed to the gaze of people using the post office."

Henry Dose was appointed postmaster on 16th November 1892. He was paid £52 a year plus an allowance to employ a "mailboy" to make a daily letter delivery, by horseback. Arrangements were made for an exchange of mails between Kogarah and Sans Souci twice daily.

At the time it was mentioned that mails were not being conveyed by the tram as the Tramway Department had refused permission.

In April 1893, the postmaster at Kogarah suggested that the Tramway officials should be asked to convey the mails, as he had been informed that the Tramway Department was to be transferred to the Railway Department. (Apparently this was approved in later years).

In September, 1897, Samuel J. Moore advised he had purchased the premises which were occupied by Mr. Dose and used as a telephone exchange and post office. He asked for appointment as postmaster.

S. J. Moore became postmaster on 8th November, 1897.

Mrs. Eleanor A. Richards succeeded Moore in charge of the post office on 27th November, 1900. About the same time the post office was transferred to Mrs. Richards' premises. Her husband, Mr. Abiah Richards, was a Tram Guard. Mrs. Richards was paid a salary of £1 a week plus an allowance of £43 a year for the conveyance of the mails.

In 1907 representations were being made for improved facilities. An earlier morning delivery of letters was requested by residents on the Sandringham and Dolls Point side of the post office; facilities for the weighing and despatching of parcels from the Sans Souci office instead of Kogarah were asked for; and it was requested that a Sunday night clearance be made of the letter box on the tram at 8.10 p.m. At that time there was a morning and afternoon delivery of letters. It was reported that there were 230 houses on the beat and an average of 200 letters were delivered daily. Whilst the letter deliveries were being made, telegrams instead of being delivered from Sans Souci were delivered from the Kogarah office.

The postal inspector reported that additional expenditure for another letter carrier for deliveries on the Sandringham side of Sans Souci was not justified. There were no business places except two hotels and four boatsheds "on that side" in addition to one or two small stores in the vicinity of the Sans Souci Post Office.

Arrangements were made for scales to be sent to Sans Souci so that the parcels could be weighed and despatched from there, and the postmaster at Kogarah was instructed to clear the letter box on the Sans Souci tram at 8 p.m. on Sundays.

It was mentioned in another report that because of the "very scattered nature of the district" it was not possible to give a more expeditious letter delivery.

Another difficulty at Sans Souci was that portions of the district off the main road were very sandy so that a bicycle could not be used for letter deliveries.

In May, 1910, approval was given for the post office to close at 6 p.m. instead of 8 p.m.

In October, 1912, the postmistress sought approval to move the post office to a new brick residence which she was having built. This included an office measuring 20 feet by 18 feet. The new building was described as being about 200 yards from where the office was then being conducted. The removal was completed about 12th February, 1913.

A return forwarded in 1913 showed that in the past twelve months the following business had been conducted :

Articles posted	----- 35,003
Mails sent and despatched	----- 1,622
Telegrams despatched p.a.	----- 426
" received p.a.	----- 1,395
Postal Notes issued	----- 766

Mrs. Richards asked for the appointment of a telegraph messenger in September, 1913. She reported that owing to the greatly increased population the work of letter carrier and messenger combined had become too much for one person, as the hours of duty were twelve to thirteen hours continuously daily.

Following approval, Mrs. Richards advised that she had engaged a lad, Leslie Knight, as a messenger on 3rd November, 1913.



Apparently facilities were available at the post office for Commonwealth Bank deposits. In February, 1917, it was mentioned that as the office was not a Money Order office, it was not possible for the office to become a full Agency of the Commonwealth Savings Bank so that payment of withdrawals could be made, as well as the receipt of deposits.

In May, 1911, it was mentioned that a twice daily mail service had been in operation between Kogarah and Sans Souci for many years. Mails from Kogarah were conveyed by the letter carrier (postman) attached to that office.

Letters which arrived at Kogarah from Sans Souci at 9.10 a.m., 1.10 p.m., and 8.10 p.m. were placed in a letter box attached to the tram by the postmaster at Sans Souci. Apparently this tramway letter receiver had been in use from about 1898, and was one of several of this type being used in the metropolitan area.

Mrs. Richards was still in charge of the office in 1913. Other appointed were :-

V.S. Thomas	---- 1.1.1920
Robert Frame	---- 1.2.1927
Mrs. Frame	---- 1.5.1940
Henry James Hughes	---- 16.8.1942
Frederick Ernst	---- 16.11.1942

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#### THE OWEN CAVANOUGH FELLOWSHIP

by Doris A. Hatton.

During the historical celebrations centred around the 26th January last, none were more important to this Society than the one held at the Ebenezer Presbyterian Church.

Some of you may not know that Mr. Ken Cavanough called the public meeting from which this Society was formed and in due course we also became the lessees of Carss Cottage Museum. You may not also know that he is a descendant of a seaman - Owen Cavanough - who came out on the "Sirius" with the First Fleet.

During the past year, Ken Cavanough has been instrumental in getting in touch with all descendants possible of Owen Cavanough, and has made a family tree - a scroll of about 25 feet long, covering six generations. The stone church at Ebenezer has the distinction of being the oldest in Australia still in use after 165 years. It was built on 4 acres of land given by Owen Cavanough from his grant.

The entrance vestibule carries a plaque with the names of the 15 people who paid for the erection of the church. I noticed they were in alphabetical order and the first name was Dr. Thomas Arndell, Surgeon of the First Fleet, whose house can still be seen through the trees across the wide stretch of the Hawkesbury River. One of the first talks to this Society was centred around this doctor. At the service in the church, members of the Fellowship read the Lessons and Mr. R. M. Arndell gave a description of how it all began, with Cavanough descendants now numbering around 1000. The christening of a 6th Generation Cavanough baby was also performed by the minister which created a lot of interest.

After the service, about 200 gathered around the headstones of Owen and his wife Margaret, who had the distinction of rearing all their children, which was quite a feat in those early days.

Members came from all Australian states, and Mike Cavanough, a journalist from Canberra was heard to say "My name's Cavanough, spelt C A V A N O U G H" and he promptly shook hands with all his cousins, meeting them for the first time. It must have been a great day for Ken Cavanough, who is Chairman of the Owen Cavanough Fellowship, Vice Chairman of the First Fleeters, and Life Member of our Society.

### SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT TRAMS.

by Gwen Coxhead.

It was with great interest that I read the contributed articles in our February NEWSLETTER. Some incidents mentioned in Mr. Smith's writings stirred up a few recollections of my own, hence the following.

A relative of mine by marriage, Sam Wych, was employed as a tram driver on the Sutherland to Cronulla tramway many years ago. I have forgotten the precise details but due to some misfortune the heavy steam-powered engine over-turned as Sam was driving along the tracks and he was trapped in his cabin and scalded to death. I distinctly remember the horrible shock suffered by my parents when they heard of his fate and their thoughts turning at once to his greif-stricken widow, Martha. Sam and Martha married late in life and had one child, a boy, who was then quite a youngster. They had been singularly happy in their marriage and worshipped their small son. Martha had had her share of battling before her marriage (apparently her youth had not been a particularly happy period) and it was considered very bad luck indeed that she now had to face hardships again as well as having the responsibility of bringing up her son (there were no widows' pensions in those days). Her son, tragically for her, was killed in young adulthood as a servicemen when engaged in an encounter with enemy forces. Once again Martha was quite alone. When eventually she died many years later she was an old embittered woman.

I also recollect that one of my father's elder brothers, Albert, prior to settling for a career in the Army, spent a number of years as a Sydney tram driver. If my memory is right, he commenced driving horse-trams. I remember he referred to a man going ahead with a red flag. Other things he mentioned at various times - probably unconnected - were turntables, a cogline between the rails which helped to keep the tram on its course, and overhead cables and power poles.

He also was wont to amuse company with anecdotes of the difficulties ladies of those times experienced in mounting and descending the rather high steps which led into the trams. Apparently hobbleskirts and very large picture hats (usually bedecked with feathers or flowers and ribbons) precipitated some extremely embarrassing - and possibly romantic - episodes. Gentlemen were much more so in those days and gallantly came to the rescue of damsels in distress. Ladies were often lifted bodily in and out of vehicles to facilitate their transport!

And the hatpins! ... Many a dashing young blade was hooked by them! The parasols were equally as much a threat to personal safety of those about as they sported such long menacing spikes. Ladies' shoes were not exactly designed for heavy walking. Heels were apt to be caught in tramlines or in the strutted floors of the tramcars.

Early trams were very slow and cumbersome and did not give the most comfortable of rides although travel per mile was comparatively cheap.