



# THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

A P R I L

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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. K. Johns,  
38 Princes Hghwy,  
KOGARAH, 2217

'Phone: 587 4848

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 - Ordinary Members: \$1.50 per annum.  
Pensioners: \$1.00 " "  
Students: \$1.00 " "

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 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:

Mrs. J. A. Lean,  
24 Victoria Ave.,  
PENSHURST, 2222

'Phone 57 5940.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEWSLETTER: Contributions of articles and information of local interest for publication in this Newsletter will be welcomed if forwarded to the Publications Officer:

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

'Phone 587 2938.

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OUR APRIL MEETING - Earlier than usual.

Our next meeting will be held at 8 p.m. on Thursday 4th April (one week earlier than usual) on the Ground Floor of the Civic Centre. Our Speaker on this occasion is Mr. Paul Gottschalk and he will present an address on "The Rocks Area" illustrated with most beautiful and unusual slides. (I have been present at one of Mr. Gottschalk's talks and can thoroughly recommend it. - V.S.S.) (Raffle Prize has been donated by Mrs. Grieve.)

OUR SOCIAL SECRETARY REMINDS YOU.

Saturday, 20th April is the date of our next BAR-B-Q NIGHT at the Museum. If you came to the last one you will not wish to miss out on this. Just see that your name is on the list at our April Meeting. Steaks - sausages - coffee -- All for \$2.00 per head.

Sunday, 19th May at 1 p.m. Our half-day tour of Annandale. We have only forty-nine seats on the bus, so please book your's at our next meeting. Just bring your Thermos and we'll supply sugar, milk and biscuits. Bus leaves from outside the Civic Centre.

Friday, 19th July has been booked for our next Street Stall in Belgrave Street. This is an occasion when every member can contribute towards its success. Anything saleable will be most welcome - and so, too, will be your services.

Dates for your Diary. On Wednesday, 28th August there will be our President's Night at the Museum. We'll tell you more about this later.

A Tulip Tour to Bowral on 6th October is something we'll all look forward to. More later.

Thank you Mrs. Slater and Mrs. Greenaway for offering to help on the Supper Roster. How about it, ladies - we need a few more names!

Sylvia Kelly  
Social Secretary.

MUSEUM REPORT.

There has been much activity at 'Carss' Cottage' in recent weeks, as our new display area, representing an old style shop front, reached the final stages of construction and preparation. A few finishing touches are still required, but we already have a very pleasing addition to the museum. Not only is it attractive as a display setting, but greatly needed storage space has been provided by cupboards forming the base of the structure.

The shelves of our "GENERAL STORE" now hold a variety of goods, such as a bonnet, boots and button hooks for the ladies, shaving-mugs and collar studs for the gentlemen, household articles for "everyday" use, tools of trade and industry, and many other items. Quite a wide range of "stock". Do come and see it, soon!

Books, monographs, and postcards on sale at the museum are now neatly arrayed for selection in display shelves, on the wall above the entrance counter.

Many varieties of 'Carss' Cottage' Jam are also set up here for selection and stock for sale will be stored in the nearby cupboards, for easy access by attendants.

The exhibit of Australian Commonwealth stamps which has been on show in the hall of the museum for several months, has now been replaced by another attractive and interesting display illustrating the voyages of Captain James Cook, and this is now on view, for visitors to the museum. A syllabus of the St. George Philatelic Society's programme for 1974 is available (for the asking) at the museum.

The Museum Committee looks forward with enthusiasm, to further progress and achievement at Carss' Cottage and has many plans for the future.

### Museum Roster.

31st March	-----	Mrs. Hatton and Mrs. Grieve.
7th April	-----	Mr. & Mrs. Lean.
14th "	-----	Mr. & Mrs. Kelly.
21st "	-----	Mr. K. Grieve and Mrs. James
28th "	-----	Mrs. John and Mrs. Taylor
5th May	-----	Mr. and Mrs. Lean
12th "	-----	Mrs. McNic and Miss Foley

Easter Monday - 15th April - Miss Coxhead

Anzac Day - 25th April - Mrs. Slater and Mrs. Grieve.

(If unable to attend on any of these dates, please contact me  
as soon as possible - 'Phone 57-5940)

Gwen Lean  
(Museum Committee Convener)

### OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

As you know, our Annual General Meeting was held on 14th March and we are sure that all members who attended are very happy that all business was conducted in a happy, relaxed atmosphere and we then truly enjoyed a half-hour colour film.

Mrs. Briancourt, who has successfully held the position of Hon. Treasurer since the formation of our Society, felt that she needed a spell but consented to be Assistant Treasurer. The Auditor spoke highly concerning the very large amount of work Mrs. Briancourt has done for the Society and members carried a vote of appreciation with acclamation.

To everyone's pleasure, Mrs. K. Johns agreed to become our new Hon. Treasurer and we realise how fortunate we are.

Miss Colleen McEwen, still studying hard (with success) is unable to continue the trul enormous amount of work she has been doing since we acquired our Museum but fortunatel will continue to do all she can. We thanked her sincerely and elected Mrs. J. A. Lean to the position of Museum Convener. Mr. & Mrs. Lean have both worked with Colleen on the Museum Committee and we are quite sure that this important work will continue without interruption.

The Management Committee has been strengthened by the addition of Mrs. & Mrs. W.Q. Dorney Mrs. K. Slater and Mr. C. A. Hagin. Mrs. Johns, as Treasurer, will also be a member of this important Committee.

Mr. V. Smith asked to be relieved of the position of Hon. Auditor because of the extra work in producing the Newsletter and members were very happy when Mr. Don Sinclair cheerfully accepted this position.

### WRECKERS.

I watched them tearing a building down  
A gang of men in a busy town,  
With a ho-heave-ho and a lusty yell,  
They swung a beam and the side wall fell.  
I asked the Foreman, "Are these mon skilled  
As the men you'd hire if you had to build?"  
He gave a laugh and said, "No, indeed!  
Just common labour is all I need.  
I can easily wreck in a day or two  
What builders have taken years to do".



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1973.

<u>Income.</u>		<u>Expenditure.</u>	
Cash in hand 1.1.73	\$ 841.48	Stationery & Printing	\$ 207.51
Members subscriptions	148.00	Postage	78.25
Museum Sales	235.15	Petty Cash	20.00
Museum Admissions	497.10	Telephone	64.22
Pottery Sales	126.95	Electricity	27.26
Com. on Pottery to 4.3.73	6.54	Jam	114.65
Pottery Sales (to be paid to Pottery Group)	16.30	Insurance	61.69
Painting Sold	9.00	Bus Tours	372.00
Painting Sold (to be paid to Art Society)	14.00	Donations	70.00
Raffles	81.13	Legal costs (Museum Lease)	116.20
Bus Tours	496.00	Rent for Museum to 1986	30.00
Donations	59.90	Payment for Jewellery (less Com)	78.40
Jewellery Dem.	24.00	Prize for Art Show	50.00
Sale of Jewellery	83.40	Ball Tickets	8.00
Hair Colour Demon.	3.30	Xmas Hamper Exes.	29.84
Roselands Demon.	4.20	Xmas Party Exes.	173.98
Wine Tasting	36.70	Maintenance Exes.	63.29
Street Stall	114.73	Purchase of Exhibit	20.00
Xmas Hamper	88.70	Xmas Cards & Folders	57.05
Xmas Party	180.95	Museum Signs	142.58
Xmas Cards	12.20	Pottery Payment \$126.95	
Bank interest	24.23	Less Comm. 12.69	114.26
		Payment for painting sold	9.00
		Deposit, St. George Bldg. Soc.	800.00
		Cash in hand 31.12.73	395.78
	<u>\$3103.96</u>		<u>\$3103.96</u>

## Cash Reconciliation as at 31.12.73

Credit Balance as at 31.12.72	841.48
Plus receipts, 1973	2262.48
	<u>\$3103.96</u>
Less payments, 1973 (including \$800 to St. George Bldg. Society)	<u>\$2708.18</u>
	<u>\$395.78</u>
Bank Balance as at 31.12.73	\$336.39
Plus deposit not credited	65.40
	<u>401.79</u>
Less unrepresented cheque (907696)	6.01
	<u>\$395.78</u>
<u>In addition</u>	
Deposit with St. George Bldg. Soc.	\$800.00
Secretary's Petty Cash on hand	\$4.02

P. BRIANCOURT.  
Hon. Treasurer.

AUDITED & FOUND CORRECT.  
V. S. SMITH.

USABLE STOCK IN HAND 31.12.73

756 Xmas Cards	\$27.97
525 Plain Cards	10.50
660 Carss' Cottage Books	158.40
3700 Brochure Pictures	281.20
43 Jars Jam	15.05
9 Kogarah School Monographs	2.70
Wrappers for Newsletter	52.50
10 Reams Deuplicating Paper	16.50
2 Reams Newsletter Covers	3.50

1974 Office Bearers and Committees.

President	-----	Mr. J. E. Veness
Vice Presidents	-----	Mr. V. S. Smith & Mr. W. Wright
Hon. Secretary	-----	Mrs. N. Butters
Hon. Treasurer	-----	Mrs. K. Johns
Hon. Asst. Treas.	-----	Mrs. D. Briancourt
Convener Museum Comm.	-----	Mrs. J. A. Lean
Social Secretary	-----	Mrs. T. Kelly
Publications Officer	-----	Mr. V. S. Smith

Management Committee.

Abovementioned Office-Bearers

Mr. & Mrs. D. Burghart  
Mr. J. A. Lean  
Mr. T. Kelly  
Mr. & Mrs. K. R. Cavanough  
Mr. H. Mayfield  
Mr. & Mrs. W.Q. Dorney  
Mrs. K. Slater  
Mr. C. A. Hagin

Museum Committee.

Miss C. McEwen  
Mr. & Mrs. J.A. Lean  
Mr. K.R. Cavanough.

Hon. Auditor.

Mr. Don Sinclair.

Social Committee.

Mr. & Mrs. T. Kelly  
Mrs. C. McEwen  
Mrs. D. Burghart  
Mrs. J. Lovatt  
Mrs. E.M. Thompson  
Mrs. D. Briancourt  
Mrs. M. Fordham.

CARLTON SOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOL.

Although Carlton South Public School commenced in temporary premises in 1922, this is the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the first permanent school building, on 29th March, 1924, and it was thought appropriate to ask one of our Research Officers, Mr. J. J. Fletcher, to contribute an article about the school. As Mr. Fletcher is also the Research Officer for the Department of Education he was in a good position to supply our needs and also to furnish some interesting information concerning the history of Education in New South Wales.

As the school is situated near my home, and was attended by my children and grandchildren I have taken the liberty of adding a few odds and ends.

- V.S.S.

## CARLTON SOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOL

- by J. J. Fletcher.

The state school at Carlton South, beginning as an infants school in 1922 was a late-comer to the educational scene. By then all the controversial battles to establish a state system of education were over. However, it will be instructive for us to glance back at these earlier days to see where Carlton South School fits in the scheme of things.

In the first sixty years of the colony of New South Wales history, educational facilities were almost exclusively run by Church and private organizations with subsidies from the government. There were several attempts to introduce a state system of schools in order to cater for the many children who could not be reached by the Church schools, but it was not until 1848 that the Board of National Education was formed and the state began the task of establishing its own system of schools. At the same time, government subsidies were continued to denominational schools, so that a dual system of state and private schools, both relying on government finance, began to emerge.

The Board of National Education began its life with no schools of its own and £2,000 to do something about it. By the time the Board was dissolved nearly twenty years later, it had largely set the pattern for the future development of state education in New South Wales. At the beginning of 1867 it handed over to its successor, the Council of Education, more than 250 National Schools, staffed and operated from government funds, a formulated course of instruction which was religious yet non-denominational, and which while predominantly elementary made provision for higher branches of learning, a large staff of qualified and semi-qualified teachers, a system of teachers training and classification, an efficient inspectorate, and an ever increasing budget.

The Council of Education became responsible not only for its legacy of National Schools (public schools as from January 1867) but also for the operating costs of any denominational School which met the Council's conditions of minimum attendance, distance from a public school, and followed the public school course. In effect government expenditure on education was rationalized so that one body controlled the distribution of funds and endeavoured to eliminate needless duplication of schools that had operated under the dual system.

The Council of Education carried further the work of the Board of National Education in attempting to reach as many children as possible. Fewer children were required for the establishment of public schools; provisional schools could be given aid if at least fifteen children could be gathered; where two separate groups of ten children could be maintained, an itinerant teacher was appointed to teach them in half-time schools,

Under the Council, the larger public schools extended their facilities for "superior" education (that is higher studies) which was to develop under the Department of Public Instruction as super-primary work in Superior Public Schools.

Also during the late 1860's and the 1870's, the spirit of liberalism, which took the form of a demand for complete separation of church and state, grew stronger and more vocal. Already in some of the other Australian colonies, "secular" acts had withdrawn government subsidies to denominational schools.

There was also a dramatic change in the ratio of state schools to denominational schools. In 1867, the Council inherited 259 schools from its predecessor, and by 1879 had 671 public, 300 provisional and 102 half-time schools, nearly 1,100 schools. In the same period, denominational schools under the council's supervision had decreased from 310 to 156. The state system was definitely in the ascendancy.

It was no doubt the growing danger to denominational schools which led the Roman Catholic Archbishop Vaughan to attack bitterly the state education system in an attempt to arouse lay support for Catholic denominational schools. The controversy following Vaughan's attack led directly to the introduction of new legislation, but the resultant Public Instruction Act, 1880 was not simply an act to halt the use of government funds for denominational schools. The 1880 Act introduced the basic administrative structure under which the present Department of Education operates.

In the first place, the Council of Education was replaced by a Department of Public Instruction (Department of Education by Ministerial decree since 1915 and legally since 1957) under a minister of the crown. Teachers became civil servants and as such, liable to the same benefits and restrictions that civil servants enjoyed. School fees were reduced and made uniform throughout all public schools at three pence per week per child. A limited form of compulsory education was introduced for the first time, having been advocated consistently for at least a decade beforehand. Children between the ages of six and fourteen years were to attend seventy days every half year, a measure which allowed children to be absent for almost as many days as they were present. The larger public schools with specified numbers of pupils receiving super-primary instruction were proclaimed as superior public schools. The Act also enabled the creation of high schools to give secondary education to children bent on entering the university.

In the early 1880's the Department settled down to the task of implementing the various clauses of the Public Instruction Act. The withdrawal of state aid to denominational schools was reasonably straightforward and was executed at the end of 1882. With the exception of Roman Catholic schools, the majority of denominational schools closed and their children enrolled in state schools. Along with the compulsory clauses and the lowered minimum to twenty children for a public school, this movement resulted in an acute shortage of accommodation, but by the mid-1880's this problem had been largely overcome by a "crash" building programme, which consisted of providing tent schools, and subsequently cheap portable wooden buildings. Whereas expenditure in 1881 on buildings and furniture was £55,000 in 1883 it had risen to £200,000. By 1886 it had dropped to £57,000.

The implementation of compulsory education was always a problem until the 1880 Act was amended in 1916 to enforce "absolute" compulsory attendance, every half-day school was open. In the aftermath of the 1880 Act enrolments rose dramatically until parents realized the shortcomings and loopholes in the compulsory clauses, and thereafter attendance developed into much the same pattern of irregularity characteristic of pre-1880 days.

The decade following the passing of the Public Instruction Act, 1880 was a busy time for the Department. Each year hundreds of applications for new schools were handled and the majority of them agreed to. The course of instruction was revised, experiments were conducted to test the possibility of introducing the kindergarten system into the larger public schools, and technical education began to make progress. The school Cadet Corps was re-organised; house to house schools reached out to many isolated children; the teaching of history was introduced into public schools, as were cookery, agriculture, manual training, moral lessons, civics, science and physiology. Successful attempts were made to extend cramped school sites and a drive to beautify them resulted in the ebullience of Arbor Day ceremonies. The failing public school boards were revitalised and local supervision again, for a time, became a reality. Teacher training was re-organised and brought into closer relationship with the university. A residential college within Sydney University was planned and a site selected. School banks were established in most public schools and there were suggestions about creating school libraries. In the very early 1890's, the Department's fortune appeared to be never brighter.



of its own and was itself overcrowded. Sans Souci school grew rapidly and in 1919 added a large two-storey building to accommodate its surplus pupils. Requests for a school at Ramsgate were made in 1920 because that area was also increasing rapidly.

Therefore, it should be no surprise that in 1918 a school for Carlton South was asked for by the "newly-arrived" residents, who considered that the schools at Carlton, Kogarah, and Hurstville were too far away. Blakehurst Public School was considered by them as "out in the bush". Nor did the residents at South Carlton consider that the nearby private school with its sixty pupils was adequate for the needs of the area.

As was customary, the Department of Education sent one of its inspectors of schools to the district to check on the need for a school. Following the inspector's favourable recommendation, the Minister for Public Instruction approved of the establishment of the school. Steps were then taken to secure a site for the school and in 1919 and 1920, more than 2 acres was acquired from Messrs. Taylor, Coates, English and Peatfield at a cost of £1500. Plans for a school building were prepared but lack of finance delayed the construction of a building immediately and alternative schooling arrangements were made.

It just so happened that 1921 saw the completion of St. Cuthbert's Church of England hall. This was a roomy building with a main hall measuring 66 feet by 33 feet, two hat rooms, a porch, two rooms on either side of the stage, and a large basement. The ventilation and lighting were well above the average for church halls. When the Committee of St. Cuthbert's heard of the Education Department's building problems, it offered the use of the hall for some ninety pounds per annum and the first lessons for Carlton South infants school began on 28th August 1922 under the supervision of Miss A. McCook.

By December 1922 the Committee of St. Cuthbert's found the rental too low to cover the cost of having the school furniture continually removed and replaced each time a function was held in the hall. A new figure of £120 p.a. was negotiated. This the inspector of schools felt reasonable as there were four infants classes using the hall.

In March 1923 tenders were invited for the construction of the school building on the already acquired site. The tender of Mr. W. Jamison of Bexley for £6837 was accepted and work soon began. The construction work was completed towards the end of 1923. It provided accommodation for 111 infants and 192 primary pupils. The school was officially opened in 1924.

But this was not enough. The building had been planned in 1920-21 for an expected enrolment of about 300. The new buildings came into use nearly three years later at the beginning of the 1924 school year, and by the end of the year 600 children were on the roll. As a result, St. Cuthbert's hall continued to be used, and in fact was an annexe of the main building until March 1927 when classes moved out of the hall into the new additions built in 1926.\* This new building added six classrooms to the school, but still enrolments outplaced accommodation. Some indication of this can be gathered from the following table.

Carlton South Public School

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Enrolments.</u>		
	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Infants</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1925	349	251	600
1926	361	302	663
1927	445	367	812
1928	475	398	873

In 1928, five classes were being conducted in assembly halls in the school. To meet this accommodation problem two portable buildings, containing two classrooms each, were moved to Carlton South, one from Hurstville Public School, the other from Five Dock Public School. At the same time the Department's architect was requested to draw up plans for an additional ten-classroom building for the infants department but the onset of the depression deferred its erection. In 1932-3 work went ahead using money from a £200,000 Government grant for unemployment relief<sup>+</sup>.

Only with the provision of these extra ten classrooms did the accommodation finally catch enrolments. By then the large-scale residential development in the area was over and enrolments began to stabilise.

Carlton South Public School.

<u>Head Teachers.</u>	<u>Appointed.</u>
Miss A. McCook	8/1922
A. Hetherington	1/1924
J. Culey	10/1924
J. Cope	4/1929
L. Allan	1/1931
C. McCarthey	2/1939
T. Ransley	12/1939
G. Greenless	10/1940
J. Swan	11/1940
T. Edwards	12/1944
H. Bex	1/1947
H. Hatch	12/1948
D. Guthrie	1/1953
F. Buchanan	1/1956
W. Curtis	1/1969
R. Neil	4/1973

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\* Construction was by S. Patrick & Sons, Bexley, at a cost of £5535.

+ The work was done by the Public Works Department at a cost of £11,500. It consisted of an infants classroom block, infants weathershed, two Primary weathersheds, and additional toilet facilities.

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Odd and Ends About  
CARLTON SOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOL  
50 years ago.  
by V.S.S.

Although Carlton South Public School commenced under the supervision of Miss A. McCook in rented premises at St. Cuthbert's Church of England Hall, in Park Road in 1922, with an enrolment of 128, the Department of Education purchased for £1488 an area of 2 acres 2 roods 17 perches of land in Station Street (now Jubilee Avenue) Carlton and opened the first school building just fifty years ago, in 1924.

The first sadly-needed building to be erected was the north-western half of the present two-storey primary department. This section was erected by Mr. W. Jemison of Bexley at a cost of £6837, and on a fine, sunny Saturday, 29th March, 1924 a brightly decorated dray was driven into position beside the new school to serve as a platform, and when the driver had descended and removed his horses, his place was taken by the Minister for Education, Mr. Bruntnell, Mr. Arkins, M.L.A., the Chairman, Mr. "Bill" Matthews (formerly Mayor of Kogarah), Messrs Bagnell and Cann (M.L.A.'s), Mr. P. J. Lipman, President of the Kogarah Progress Association and Mr. Hetherington, the first Head-master.

The apologetic Minister for Education was definitely not very popular with the vast audience, comprising parents, friends and children, when he was forced to admit that this brand-new school was designed to accommodate 300 children but those ready to move in numbered nearly 600! Before he even declared the school "open" the Minister was explaining that he "couldn't promise to attend to the question of additions to the school during the present financial year"!

Then Mr. Arkins M.L.A. presented his prepared address: He said there was one thing he did not like and that was the bad manners of the growing generation. He did not know if it was due to a fault in the schools' teaching but if it was, it should be remedied. He criticised "the red tape in the schools". He continued: "we should have a race of athletics but we must not forget the artisans. We want boys who will invent something. I think it is much better for a girl to be a good cook than to possess great beauty". If home management competitions were held instead of surf-girl competitions a greater benefit would be derived.

Following these words of wisdom we have no record of this primary school introducing cookery lessons, but neither did it conduct any surf-girl competitions.

The ceremony proceeded with the presentation of a Union Jack by Mr. A. McIlwaine which was unfurled by little Ivy McIlwaine to the accompaniment of the National Anthem, rendered by the Carlton Band.

At this point Mr. Hetherington, the Head-Master lifted 11 year old Sylvia Gordon on to the dray to recite and she heard a "pop" as the strain caused a button to fly off a garment we are unable to name. A feeling of looseness made it all too clear to Sylvia that right before this enormous crowd, her ~~own~~ garment was slipping down. She clutched frantically and fortunately succeeded in securing a firm grip which she maintained during her splendid recital of "The Dear Old Flag" which was much appreciated by a fascinated audience.

When, at the end of the year, Sylvia was presented with a gold medal for "reading, writing and arithmetic" the teacher probably wished there was also room to add "and courage"!

Owing to the new school being only half the size it should have been, four infants' classes continued to attend at St. Cuthbert's Church of England Hall and even so the new school was overcrowded and there was much agitation for additions

to be made. Only the playground was of ample size and it was divided by a fence down the centre, and the boys were confined to the eastern end.

It was soon evident that Mr. Hetherington was an enthusiastic and energetic Head-master and he immediately plunged the school into a maze of activities. As was customary in those days, Empire Day was celebrated with a great splash - flags, speeches, patriotic songs - and a half-holiday. Arbor Day saw tree-planting on a large scale, with visiting parents donating small trees which today provide welcome shade in the playground. Maypole displays were particularly popular with the girls and added a touch of colour.

A large branch of the Junior Red Cross was formed and scores of white-clad girls, with heads adorned with veil and red-cross collected pennies for that worthy cause.

Mr. Hetherington, whose home was in Forest Road, Bexley, opposite the Fire Station, had a son Ronnie as one of his pupils. Once when he was called out of the room for a few minutes, Ronnie boldly went "out in front" and secured his father's box of "merit" rubber stamps and freely allocated stars and animals throughout his mates' work-books and then decorated the nice new classroom walls. When his father returned it became the one and only occasion the school has witnessed a teacher, with cane raised, chasing a speeding small boy along the corridors.

Mr. Hetherington thought the school should have a motto and invited the pupils to take part in a competition, the winner to receive a prize of ten shillings. Among the very large number of entries, it was found that Evie Barley of Colvin Avenue (who is now Mrs. Es. Naylor of Ferry Avenue) had submitted "Ever Onward" and Reg. Straker (now a watchmaker of Botany Street Carlton) entered "Ever Upward". These two entries were judged to be the best and were combined so that "Onward and Upward" became the school's motto which appeared on the blue and white badge for very many years until, when Mr. F. Buchanan was Head-master the school colours were changed to blue and gold and the motto became "Endeavour". A new school badge, bearing a picture of Captain Cook's "Endeavour" was then introduced.

So that is how Evie Barley became famous and Reg. Straker became doubly famous - for he had already been in the public eye when he broke his leg playing "cockaloram" in the playground at St. Cuthbert's. The prize of ten shillings was divided between them.

Girls and bare-footed boys came to Carlton South from all directions - except from the east. The area we now know as Beverly Park then comprised Chinamen's Market Gardens and Mangrove Swamps. The nearly present-day Princes Highway was then called Kogarah Road and horse-drawn vehicles far out-numbered "automobiles". At the rear of the school playground were the well-known Baggotts Tennis Courts.

Sports afternoons were held in the then undeveloped Kogarah Park which, as numbers of pupils increased, was gradually "taken over" as the boys' playground. In the summer, swimming lessons were held at Sans Souci baths.

One teacher who comes to mind was Mr. Gordon Buchanan who displayed a talent for the stage. It was due to his natural ability and direction that the school was responsible for packing the Carlton Theatre to the doors when, on two occasions, they presented "A Midsummer's Night Dream". Evelyn Barley was Titania, Ray Emmerson was Nick Bottom and Jack Coles King Oberon. Not surprisingly, Mr. Buchanan later resigned from the Education Department to become a professional actor under the name "John Alden".

The numbers of children (and outcries of protest about overcrowding) continued to increase and the department prepared plans for the completion of the existing building by adding six more classrooms, hatrooms, store-room and assembly hall. These additions which cost £5535, were opened by the Hon. Mark Gosling, Chief Secretary on behalf of the Minister of Education on Saturday, 16th July, 1927.

The children who had still been attending St. Cuthbert's Hall could now be accommodated in the completed school building and the attendance had now increased to 860.

Mr. Jack Osborne, a former pupil, has supplied a mounted photograph bearing the inscription "Carlton South Public School 1st Grade Rugby League Football Team - Joint Winners of N.S.W. Challenge Shield, 1928 -- Scoring 295 points to 6". The photograph includes Messrs. C. P. Johnston, Sports Master, and E. Houghton, Coach, and the following boys:- C. Birdsall, R. Holland, L. Lee, B. Parsons, J. Burt, E. Houghton, W. English, R. Copewell (Vice Captain), J. Mayer (Captain), J. Osborne, F. Cressy, C. Crealy and J. Turvey. I also have a gold medal presented to Jack Osborne by the Carlton South School Cricket Club in 1929.

Overcrowding still continued and in 1929 the Department was forced to purchase an additional 1 acre 1 rood 29 perches of land in Station Street - including the old homestead of the English family.

In 1933 a new two-storied Infants' Department was completed from Unemployment Relief Funds and cost £11,500. It was opened by the Minister for Education, Mr. Drummond, on Wednesday, 25th October, 1933. It comprised nine class-rooms and this building, with the aid of a couple of portable classrooms enabled the school to survive the population explosion (the enrolment now exceeded 1000) and to eventually settle down to comfortably serve the locality.

In 1971 the Department purchased and demolished seven cottages and extended the playground to the rear fences of the homes facing Colvin Avenue.

When discussing school matters with present-day older scholars, all seemed to remember, with great affection, Miss Dorothy Vance, who lovingly cared for the "bubs" and was tragically killed when the heavy load slipped off a passing lorry and crushed her car. One small child once told me that Miss Vance was "the Best tooth-puller-outer in Carlton".

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