



THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Sponsored by Kogarah Municipal Council)

President:

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'Phone: 546 3932.

Hon. Treasurer:

Mrs. K. Johns,
38 Princes Hwy,
KOGARAH, 2217

'Phone: 587 4848

Hon. Secretary:

Mrs. N. 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 on 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 1 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.,
PENSURST. 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 next meeting will be held at 8 p.m. on Thursday, 8th May, in the Exhibition Lounge on the Second Floor of the Civic Centre, Belgrave Street, Kogarah.

We have been fortunate in obtaining Mr. N. Thorpe as our Speaker. Mr. Thorpe is well known as a very interesting Speaker about the early days of the railway and also concerning the old steam trams. As a matter of fact he has just provided our Society with a number of early photographs of Kogarah Steam Trams and a very good Map of the tram-route. These will be incorporated in our displays in due course. Mr. Thorpe will illustrate his talk with slides.

The Raffle prize has been donated by Mrs. L. Beaven.

Social Secretary's Report.

Owing to an oversight, the names of Mrs. E. Schweikert and Mrs. J. Burke were omitted from the list of ladies who will be serving on the Social Committee during 1975. I must take this opportunity to say how very happy I am about the ladies who, this year, will be assisting to bring pleasure to members - and incidentally, to improve the funds of the Society.

By the time this Newsletter goes to print we will have had the pleasure of welcoming members of the Hurstville Branch of the Country Women's Association for an inspection of our Museum, and I am sure that they will have been delighted with the interesting displays, as are all our visitors.

Thursday, May 22nd This is the night we enjoy "Irene". Tickets may be collected and paid for at our meeting on May 8th. Price \$5 each.

May 31st. Saturday Night at the Illawarra Theatre Guild, Walz Street, Rockdale. Twenty seats have been booked and it's a case of first come, first served to see "Three Men on a Horse".

"Three Men on a Horse" was first presented in New York in 1935 and last year enjoyed an hilarious season at the Old Tote Theatre in Sydney.

So as not to destroy the magic of this story, let it suffice to say that our hero, Erwin Trowbridge, (something of a dumb Dora), a verse-writer for a greeting-card manufacturer, with barely a penny with which to bless himself, finds he has an uncanny ability to select a winning horse. However, only when travelling on a particular 'bus does this would-be profitable inspiration strike him. His special talent does not remain a secret for long.

And just look at the Cast. Alan Hall - Gerry Pollack - Jennifer Gilchrist - Denise Gleeson - Graeme Webb - Michael Harris - Bill Werner - Barbara Pollack
Michael Hill - Jeff Akroyd.

Tickets are \$1.50 each, and if you wish to book before the meeting, please telephone me on 587 6986.

If you receive this Newsletter before May 3rd, remember our special Open Day for members on that date (from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Afternoon Tea will be served from 2.30 until 3.30.

Sunday, 1st June. A Visit to Schnapper Island has been arranged. Those members who enjoyed Commander L. E. Forsythe's Talk concerning the History of State Navies at our November meeting will be glad to meet him again at the Island Museum.

We will leave by 'Bus from outside the Civic Centre at 11.30 a.m. and proceed to Balmain. From here we will be taken by launch to the Island. We will have a Picnic Lunch and will then be taken for an inspection of the Museum. We should arrive back at the Civic Centre at about 4 p.m.

Price per ticket is only \$2.50. We will be accepting bookings at the May meeting but if you are interested I would be pleased to receive a telephone call on 587 6986 any evening.

Sylvia Kelly, Social Convener.

MUSEUM REPORT.

Easter Sunday and Easter Monday attracted many visitors to Carss Cottage. People from overseas and interstate, on caravan holiday or staying with local residents, plus numerous family parties and picnickers, combined to keep things pleasantly busy on both days.

A special opening of the Museum on Tuesday, 8th April, was arranged for the members of the Carss' Park Bowling Club and their visitors from Merewether Bowling Club. More than fifty ladies attended and on that nice sunny morning the Park and surroundings looked perfectly beautiful. Jams sold very well.

A number of people have recently commented on the progress of the Museum since their previous visits and it is very pleasing to see so many local children bringing their young friends to view the displays which have impressed them.

Work continues on the new exhibits and much preparation for the "open week" programme. Quite a number of schools have accepted the Society's invitation to send groups of children to visit the Museum, and the public have been informed through newspaper announcements of the added viewing times for the inspection of "Carss' Cottage".

We have had a very good response to our request for volunteer attendants during "open week" and hope it will be an achievement which all will feel glad to have shared. Our Saturday afternoon for Members of 3rd May should be a very happy occasion and we hope you will come and have a cup of tea with us. It should be a pleasant finale to a busy week.

Once again there have been many additions to our Museum collection. A list follows of recent donations and we express our thanks to those responsible for the various items -

A plate, with scene from "Pickwick Papers" (Charles Dickens), and embossed border. Crown Ducal - Florentine. This was donated by Mrs. Casey, of Eastlakes.

An Oriental Fan, of embroidered silk and carved sandalwood, in a black and gold box, with hand-painted silk lining. Delicate designs of birds and blossoms in soft pastel colours are featured of both fan and lining of box. Both are attractive items. They were loaned to us by Mrs. V. Smith.

Several Items, a Mincer (Universal 1 Food Chopper), Salter Scales - No. 49 and two hot-plates (iron). From Mrs Morrison of Forster.

A leather collar-box was given by Mr. J. Lovatt.

A box-Brownie camera, 620 model D and a cast-iron money-box inscribed "The Young Nigger Bank" were given by Mrs. Butters, and also a copy of the Oatley Methodist Golden Jubilee Book, 1963, an early console valve radio and a sewing machine with instruction book.

A Certificate issued by Kogarah Council (Jubilee, 1936) and presented to Miss Phyllis Ryan as 2nd Prize for pencil drawing (under 18 years). This was presented by Mrs. P. Sheldrick.

A photographic friend, Mr. Rob Wilson, kindly made and donated six 10 x 8 colour enlargements of photographs of the old Council Chambers, the terrace of houses in Gray Street, the Fire Station, the old Post Office, the corner-shop in Gladstone Street, and Kogarah School.

Another interesting book, "A Pictorial History of Australia" has been kindly donated by Miss G. Coxhead for our Library, and particulars thereof appear in the Library Report.

A number of other donations will be acknowledged next month when further details have been obtained.

Gwen Lean Museum Convener.

Museum Roster.

Sunday, April 27th	-	Mr. & Mrs. J. Lean.
" May 4th	-	Mrs. A. McOnie & Miss M. Foley.
" " 11th	-	Mrs. D. A. Hatton & Mrs. M. Grieve.
" " 18th	-	Mrs. G. Johns & Mrs. G. Taylor.
" " 25th	-	Mr. & Mrs. R. Diment.
" June 1st	-	Mrs. J. James & Miss D. McLean.
" " 8th	-	Mrs. S. Kelly & Mrs. E. McIlroy.
" " 15th	-	Miss C. McEwen & Mr. K. Grieve.
" " 22nd	-	Mrs. J. Burke & Mrs. D. Evans.

If date is inconvenient, please 'phone 57 5940.

Members rostered for the opening and closing of the museum are as follows -

May 4th	-	Miss C. McEwen.
May 25th	-	Mr. J. Veness.
June 1st	-	Mr. W. Wright.
June 22nd	-	Mr. J. Lean.

Our April Management Committee Meeting.

At our April meeting the President guided the business through smartly and members then assembled, stapled and bound with tape some hundreds of copies of our two Monographs, "Joseph Carruthers and the Incorporation of Kogarah" by Peter Orlovich and "Kogarah School" by J. J. Fletcher. The large amount of typing was kindly undertaken by Mrs. D. A. Hatton, while Mrs. Butters did the duplicating. The covers were prepared by Mr. V. Smith. A fresh supply of Monographs was required for our Open Week.

LIBRARY REPORT.

- * April Newsletter of the Royal Australian Historical Society.
An account is given of the old Dubbo Gaol which was officially opened as a tourist attraction on 15th December, 1974. The Gaol was built in 1887 and closed down in 1966, and in 1973 was handed over to the Dubbo City Council to be developed as a major tourist attraction.
- * April Newsletter of the Hurstville Historical Society.
Historical items include a biography of Miss Ethel Clark whose family moved to Penshurst in 1891.
- * March Bulletin of the St. George Historical Society,
An article entitled "Why are we collecting Blue and White China?" by Alderman R. W. Rathbone gives an account of the history of fine porcelain or "china".
- * Quarterly Bulletin of the Sutherland Historical Society.
This Bulletin contains a number of interesting items including articles on Allambie House, Audley; and Sutherland Brickworks by M. Hutton Neve and the Sutherland Picture Theatre, by Alf. Midgley.
- * "A Pictorial History of Australia", by Rex and Thea Rienits, published by Paul Hamlyn, Middlesex, England. This book spans the history of Australia from before the arrival of the white man to the present day. The story is told in a very fine collection of black and white pictures with an accompanying concise commentary.

Coleen McEwen.

"LETTERS FROM AUSTRALIA, 1857"

Mrs. D. McNeil, a Member of this Society until she moved from our district, very kindly donated some letters, written in 1857 to his wife, by one of her ancestors. Miss Coleen McEwen recognised that members would like to see these letters, written at a time of the "gold-rush" and full of reminders of those early days when conditions were so very different from to-day. So, after adding some footnotes, she has submitted the letters for printing in this Newsletter in lieu of our usual article.

Mrs. McNeil appreciated that these letters, kept in a box in the bottom draw would never be seen by anyone (and eventually, would most likely be thrown out) unless she passed them on to our Historical Society. For this thoughtfulness we are grateful.

Have YOU any old letters, diaries, photographs or articles which should be preserved for this and future generations? Donations of such-like items would ensure that they will be carefully preserved and they would be of interest to thousands of people - some of whom have not yet been born!

All over Australia, buried in thousands of tips, are interesting items which numerous Museums would be glad to have. But they are lost forever. Don't let this happen to YOUR items. Bring them to the Museum Convener.

LETTERS FROM AUSTRALIA, 1857.

The following three letters were written in 1857 by Mr. S. Naylor to his wife in England. They have been donated to the society by Mrs. McNeil a descendant of the correspondent.

The letters were written in the time of the gold rushes which dominated Australian life in the 1850's and remained an important characteristic feature of colonial life till the turn of the century. In these letters we are given a glimpse of the expectations of one settler, and his impressions of the conditions in the colony during this exciting time.

Adelaide, South Australia,
27th May, 1857.

My dear dear Wife,

I wrote to you by a vessel called the "Royal Shepherd" which sailed from here nearly three weeks ago, but she sprang a leak and was obliged to put back. I expect this will reach you by the "Anna".

I explained to you in the other letter the reason that I came here, but for fear it should not reach you I will tell you in this. When we landed in Port Phillip I obtained employment, but the second day I was in work I got a nail in my foot and with all care took it out but it went so bad that it stopped me from working. It was then that I found out what it was like to be ill and among strangers without money. I met Captain Lawson who invited me on board of the "Anna" where he said I could get my meat and be under the care of the Doctor free of expense. I was very glad to take him at his word and stayed on board until the ship was ready to sail. As I was not better by this time I stayed with the ship until it reached Adelaide. (1)

When I arrived I got a job at 8/- a day. In my other letter I stated that there was plenty of employment for labourers, but I have had cause to alter my mind. Since I have been here there have been two immigrant ships and two passenger ships and at the moment there is another passenger ship waiting to get up the harbour, so the labour market is quite stacked at present. (2) I would advise no man to come out here if by any possible chance he can make a living at home, for neither work, wages, or climate are what they are represented at home. (3)

First for work. The jobs are too small for a man will finish one of the houses that they build here in a couple of days and then most likely he will have to wait for another. Except if he has good luck his wages will not be near to what he receives at home.

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- 1). Colonel Light selected the site of Adelaide in 1836 - its population at this time being 546, by 1856 it was 36,324.
 - 2) Between 1852-1860 290,000 immigrants arrived in Australia.
 - 3) This was a constant criticism. The English Newspapers generated an intense excitement about the gold diggings and about Australia in general. e.g. English readers were told that the climate was "as mild as Devonshire".

The climate is not nearly as healthy as they say for in summer it is so hot that man cannot work out of doors and then inside the houses there are thousands of flies and bugs.

What I have seen of the country is very bad. About Port Phillip there was not a blade of grass to be seen and as we went up the river from the vessel we could see the cattle lying dead or dying from the want of food and water. There has not been a drop of rain for 6 months and only about three or four showers in 9 months.

Since I have been here (Adelaide) there has been a good deal of rain so much so that it has stopped all outdoor work while it lasted and made the streets quite impassable for they looked like so many canals. Port Adelaide, where I am at present, is built in a swamp and the banks have to be raised to keep out the tide so when it rains the water cannot get away.

I have not been to the town yet but I am going tomorrow to try and get a job, but I would rather be down here for wages are far better but work is rather dull at present and will be for a month or two for it is the dead of winter. I must have work and if I do not get a job in town I will go further.

Do not be disheartened with what I have written for I expect that I will be able to make a living here, and if you do not obtain all the comforts that you may obtain in England you will be able to obtain all the necessities of life.

Tell me all the news for everything will be of interest to me. Give my love to all my shop mates, Mr. Kelly and family, to Mr. & Mrs. Bennett and Elizabeth, to your Father and Mother and to Henry and family. Tell him that there is no speak for him at present but I will write to him when there is, and tell Thomas Preston that painters are paid worse than labourers for they are too numerous. Tell Stephen that from what I can learn tailors are well employed in the summer but very bad in the winter.

Mary and George Mason are well employed at Port Phillip but it is very hard work for in the summer time it is so hot that men cannot hold their tools.

Let me know how my dear children are getting on. Give my best love to my Mother and tell her that I shall not forget her. My love to yourself. I remain your affectionate husband.

S. Naylor.

Wages.

Masons	8/- in port	7/- in town
Bricklayers	9/- " "	8/- " "
Plasters	8/- " "	6/6 to 7/-
Painters	5/6 " "	4/6 to 5/6
Labourers	4/6 to 5/-	3/6 to 4/6

Price of Provisions.

Butchers Meat	4d. per lb.
Bread	2½d to 3d per lb.
Onions	4d. per lb.
Coffee	1/- to 1¼ per lb.
Sugar	3d. to 4d. per lb.
Butter	2/- to 2/6 per lb.
Bacon	1/- per lb.

Adelaide, South Australia.

15th June, 1857.

My dear dear Wife,

I have seen nothing to alter my mind of the place as expressed in my last letter, that is to say that Australia is not the place that is is represented.

It is not easy to get work and if you do get employment when Saturday night comes you have to trust to providence for your money. The man I was working for at the port owes me £2.6.0. I have moved to town where things are worse for there are a good many out of work. I do not despair of getting my share after I have been here a little time.

I have had very bad health since I have been here and I have thought at times that I should never see you again, but thank God I am getting quite well again but I am nothing like as stout as when I left home.

It is a poor place to be ill in for except going to the hospital you can get no advice without paying for it and every time you go to the Doctor you must pay 2/6, besides paying for your own medicines.

The city of Adelaide is in a very dirty state at present for I have made two attempts to go to church this morning and I cannot because of the mud. You can see women with boots on that come above the knee. There are some good shops in Adelaide and if it goes on as it has it will be a fine place in a few years. They are building a college here very like the one in Shaw Street.

Things are very dear at present.⁽⁴⁾ Breas is 3d. per pound and likely to get higher so that no one can live in lodgings for anything less than a pound a week for you are charged 4d for washing a shirt collar or a pocket handkerchief.

Those that I speak to say that there is every sign of plenty of work in the summer for this is our winter and with the rain the roads are so bad that everything is very dull for they cannot get materials to do anything.

The natives here are a very ugly race and they are very lazy for their lubrras, as they call their wives, have to do all the work. They live just outside the town in places made of the boughs of trees and very miserable places they are. There are a few white men libing with black women and one white man is married to a black woman for which he got 80 acres of land.

I have to state again that no one should come out here that can make a living at home.

My love to all my relations and friends, to my mother and my dear children and kiss them for me and my best love to you.

Yours ever,
S. Naylor.

4) It was not uncommon for goods to be marked up 300% in this period.

Adelaide. South Australia.
27th December, 1857.

My dear dear Wife,

It is with thankful feeling to providence that I write to you. I dare say that you will be surprised at the order for £50 that you will receive in this letter and perhaps wonder where I got it from. But it came honest - when I wrote to you last I had heard of gold being found in Port Phillip. I went there and was unlucky at first but a week after I arrived I earned £42. I have cleared altogether above £60. I could not think of staying at the diggings with money and perhaps you without so my partners and I came here to get another outfit and wait for the rainy season. The people are all gold mad and are leaving here 500 and 600 a day.⁽⁵⁾

You will pay the passage for yourself, the children and my mother which will be £30 so you will have £20 for your outfit. I have sent you word at the end of this letter of what you will require.

I received your letters after I came from the diggings. I was sorry to hear that you had been ill. Give Mr. Crellen my sincere thanks for his kindness to you, I will never forget it. If you owe him any money and cannot pay him send me word and I will forward it.

Give my best love to Ellen, when she is tired of Coventry there is a home for her in South Australia. Give my love to Mother and your Father and Mother and remember me to friends.

Send me word by the first ship the name of the vessel and the time you think you will be out. You must come by one of the Fielding Ships. If you have to wait a little send a letter to Melbourne to be left at the post office. If I do not meet you in Melbourne you must come to Adelaide and make your way to Mr. Coombs where you will find a home if I should be in the country.

I am too happy to say much and you must excuse me if this letter is not as long as you would like. I fully expect we will see better times when you come here if I am living and if it should please God to take me it will still be a better place for you and my dear children than England.

I found it a little warmer this Christmas than ever I did for I could lay outside of the house in my clothe of a night and feel quite warm enough.

There is a good time coming,
So God Bless you all,
Yours till death,
S. Naylor.

Directions⁽⁶⁾

Get Henry to choose your berth. Let it be as far from the water closet as possible and if there is no window in it it will be all the better. You will want both warm and light clothing, as much as you can get. Bring out with you all the small articles that you can such as the clock, smoothing irons, and get your Father to fit you up a few shelves in your berth.

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- 5) The result of such an exodus can be seen in Melbourne. By September 1851 one third of the adult male population had left the city for the diggings.
 - 6) The trip out in the gold period was often a nightmare. Emigrants were often willing to accept any conditions. Mortality rates (10% was not uncommon) were among the highest registered in Australian Shipping history.

You had better get about --

Tea 3 or 4 lbs
Coffee " "
Bacon
Cheese
Onions 5 lbs
Potatoes 50 lbs
Currants 3 or 4 lbs
Spices
Butter 5 or 6 lbs

6 to 9 allon keg
Slop bucket
Tea kettle
Saucepan
Fryingpan
Water bottle
A small globe lamp
 $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon of oil
Lamp cotton

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