



THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

A P R I L

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PRICE: 10c.

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OUR NEXT MEETING. Our next meeting will be held at 8 p.m. on Thursday, 8th April, on the Second Floor of the Civic Centre, Belgrave Street, Kogarah.

Our interesting Speaker will be Mr. W. R. Freeman and his subject will be "Sydney Cove". His talk will be very well illustrated with good slides and members are advised that this is an occasion which should not be missed.

Ladies on Supper Roster are Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Kingston.
Raffle prize is being donated by Mrs. Grieve.

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SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Springwood Tour - May 2nd. A coach has already been filled and we have quite a few names on the reserve list. If we get enough a second coach will be booked. Please see me on April 8th at the Meeting, or telephone Mrs. Burghart 546-4385. It would be appreciated if all who have their names down will pay in advance. This saves the Treasurer handling money and being responsible for it on the days outing. PICNIC LUNCH and the coach leaves from the Kogarah Library at 10 a.m.

Our Street Stall on 20th August may seem to be a long way off but NOW is the time to prepare the dozens of useful articles we will need. YOUR contribution towards stocking the stall will be very much appreciated. ANYTHING saleable will be most welcome.

Please try to line up some friends NOW for promises of cakes and then all you need do is to remind them in good time. We can't meet the demand for cakes and our ovens are not large enough to bake all that are required!
May we rely on your help?

HUNTER VALLEY COACH TOUR. Leaving in drizzling rain we were on our way, the first stop being at the Oaks for morning tea. A short stop and we were away again the morning overcast but quite pleasant for travelling. Many thanks to Colleen McEwen for preparing the notes on the Hunter Valley and surrounding districts, they were appreciated by all. Lunch in the cask room was a beautiful Bar-B-Q'd T-bone steak and salads with plenty of wine on the table to be sampled (And it was!) Our guide then took us to see the old Wyndham cottage, which is going to be rebuilt as a show piece, and from him we learned the following:-

"Wyndham Estate is of great historical interest as vines were first planted here in 1828 by the famous Wyndham family. This was the year following James Busby, the proclaimed founder of the Australian Wine Industry, made his historic plantings at Kirkton - just up river from Wyndham. George and Margaret Wyndham commenced building their large colonial style homestead in 1832 and this homestead was to become the hub of social life in the Hunter Valley in the early days of the colony. The home which still stands and is open to visitors was built by convicts from large sandstock blocks and heavy wooden beams. It was built in the shape of a "U" to - quote "assist in defending the homestead in the event of an attack by the hostile natives". The convict cells were located in the northern wing."

A stone well 100 feet deep was dug by the convicts. Wyndham cottage is said to have been the first house in Australia to have a septic tank. Traditional methods are all employed for the production of red table wines, for white wines modern technology and equipment is used.

Our next stop was for a coffee break at Gosford Leagues Club, then off for home. Due to the recent heavy rains the roads were in bad dis-repair and we did not arrive back at Kogarah until after 8 p.m.

Although it was a long day I am sure everybody enjoyed the outing and after collecting all the liquid sunshine it was a hasty goodbye to all and a thank you to our coach captain for a safe journey there and back.

Thought for the Month - "A dog makes more friends than man because he wags his tail and not his tongue.

Sylvia Kelly - Social Secretary.

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Our Annual General Meeting. Our Annual General Meeting in March was conducted in a most harmonious and efficient manner and was very well attended. The audited Financial Statements were presented by our Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. G. Johns and were an indication of a successful year. The previous Financial Statement was for a period of thirteen months and allowance must be made for this when making any comparison with it.

Museum admissions have averaged \$55.00 per week (compared with \$52.00 last year). Almost all income has increased and the profit for the past twelve months was \$789.00 compared with \$646.00 for the previous thirteen months.

The Financial Statement is printed in this Newsletter together with a Statement showing the splendid results of the activities of the Social Committee.

The President thanked all office bearers and members of Committees and stressed the efficient manner in which all had carried out their duties and this contributed to another very successful year. Our special thanks go to our former Vice-President, Mr. Bill Wright, who has rendered outstanding service since the formation of the Society. He will continue to do so but did not seek re-election this year because Mrs. Wright has suffered a severe illness. She is now much improved and our best wishes are extended for her complete recovery. Alderman and Mrs. K. R. Cavanough and Mr. R. Mitchell, while retaining a great interest in our Society, feel that they are too busy to accept office this year. Alderman Cavanough A.M. is one of our Patrons and he and Mrs. Cavanough are Life Members of the Society.

Mrs. Gilmour, who has served faithfully as Hon. Asst. Secretary also was unable to accept office this year.

It was with great pleasure that we announce that Mr. Noel Kelly, son of our late friend Tom, and Mrs. Sylvia Kelly (our Social Secretary) has been unanimously elected as Vice President. We know that Noel's interest and ability will be a great asset to the Society.

The President explained that the Management Committee felt that the membership of the Committee should not be increased but that members should be appointed with specific duties in mind.

As a result of this suggestion, the first Management Committee Meeting held on the 23rd March, enabled members to take responsibility for particular aspects of the Museum and Society activities.

For instance, Miss Colleen McEwen is arranging Museum Displays and is co-ordinating the preparation of display material. Mrs. E. Howard is arranging cataloguing and cross referencing of books, publications and articles within the library and Museum collection.

Mrs. M. Grieve is undertaking some research into local history to enable a more complete record to be prepared.

These examples indicate, we hope, that a far wider span of activity will be able to be covered in a shorter time, resulting in a more effective presentation of the Museum to the Public and a greater contribution by the Society to the Kogarah Municipality.

The Management Committee now consists of the following members --

President: Mr. J. E. Veness
Vice Presidents: Mr. V. Smith and Mr. N. Kelly
Hon. Secretary: Mrs. B. Butters
Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. G. Johns
Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Lean
Miss C. McEwen
Mrs. Sylvia Kelly
Mr. & Mrs. D. Burghart
Mrs. D. A. Hatton
Mrs. M. Grieve
Mrs. E. Howard

At the meeting Miss K. Duggan agreed to assist the Hon. Secretary and for this we are grateful.

Members expressed their sincere thanks for the willing and efficient manner in which our Hon. Auditor, Mr. Don Sinclair, carried out his duties and he was unanimously re-elected.

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MRS. J. A. LEAN. It was announced in our March Newsletter that Mrs. Lean was a patient in The St. George Hospital. We are pleased to say that she is now home again and making steady progress. It is the wish of her many friends that her recovery will soon be a complete one. We have really missed her.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS. The new subscription rate (from 1st February 1976) made necessary due to an increase in postage on the Newsletters to \$1.80 per annum is as follows:

Ordinary Members	\$2.00
Pensioners	\$1.50
Students	\$1.50

During the first year of membership, subscriptions shall be calculated at the rate of 20c or 15c respectively for each unexpired month with a maximum of \$2.00 or \$1.50.

Could we please have all subscriptions paid by the date of the April meeting? Thank you!

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MUSEUM REPORT. We have had two groups of Visitors to the Museum during recent days. On Wednesday, 24th March, 30 members of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Mining and Metallurgical Museum attended and on the following Saturday a group comprising 47 members of the Royal Australian Historical Society paid us a visit. Both groups expressed their appreciation of the way in which exhibits were presented and the attractive appearance of the Museum.

Two recent acquisitions to our Museum collection are of interest as representing examples of things past.

The first is a platform scale, such as were used in Chemist's shops or Doctor's Surgeries; it is of cast iron with an ornate column on which is set the scale dial. When restored it will give visitors an opportunity to weigh themselves in what will be the old fashioned stones and pounds.

The second item is a perfectly maintained hand cart which was used for the conveyance of fire fighting equipment at the Wunderlich Factory at Rosehill.

The cart represents a typical style of unit which was in use in the later part of the last century and when re-equipped with suitable tools will be of great interest.

MUSEUM ROSTER.

April	4	- Mr. J. Wright and Mr. K. Grieve	Miss C. McEwen (To Open)
"	11	- Mrs. G. Johns and Mrs. G. Taylor	Mrs. G. Johns "
"	18	- Mrs. M. Grieve & Mrs. I. James (Easter Sunday)	Mr. Veness "
"	19	- Mr. and Mrs. Schweikert (Easter Monday)	Miss McEwen "
"	25	- Mr. V. Smith & Mrs. M. Kermond (Anzac Sunday)	Mr. V. Smith "
"	26	- Mr. J. Wright & Mrs. R. Fitzhardinge (Anzac Monday)	Mr. Veness "
May	2	- Mrs. A. McOnie & Miss M. Foley	Miss C. McEwen "
"	9	- Mrs. B. Dodd & Miss P. Harry	Mr. J. Veness "
"	16	- Mrs. R. Diment & Miss K. Duggan	Miss C. McEwen "
"	23	- Miss J. Nicholson & Mrs. M. Boland	Mr. J. Veness "

(If these dates are unsuitable please phone Miss McEwen 587-2090).

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"AUSTRALIA DAY" or "ANNIVERSARY DAY".

We have, in common with other Societies, received a circular letter from the Chief Secretary reading as follows:-

"I am writing to you as the Minister responsible for the administration of the legislation concerning public holidays in New South Wales.
It has been put to me that Anniversary Day should be restored as the official name of the January 26 holiday in New South Wales, in place of Australia Day. While I personally see merit in this suggestion, since the name Anniversary Day is still in very wide use and was the official name of the holiday in this community for several generations, I could not consider taking any action along these lines unless I felt that such a move had the support of public opinion and of concerned organisations such as yours.
It would be a help to me therefore if you would be good enough to raise the matter with your Society and let me have your view on this matter.
I should stress that the proposal is simply that the holiday have a New South Wales variation in its name based on local traditions, and that in all other respects, including its name in the other States, it would be observed in the usual way.
I look forward to your reply

Yours sincerely,
(Sgd.) Peter Coleman. "

The Management Committee decided to ask Members to give consideration to this request and be in a position to express their views at the April Meeting.

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OUR FILMS. Again our films, shown at our March Meeting, were interesting, the photography being very good and the background music exceptional. Because "Steam" shown at our January Meeting was particularly good, I ordered "Passenger No. 1" which I thought might be similar. But the film exchange accidentally supplied "Steam" again and I took the opportunity to screen it once more to privately enjoy the particularly good sound effects of our engine ascending steep mountain tracks. And that is how I discovered that since our January screening the section containing such effects has been deleted from the film and stolen! So we were not the only people who thought it to be good. The exchange is endeavouring to track down the thief.

KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Financial Statement for period 1.2.75 to 31.1.76

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Membership Subs.	\$ 156.50	Stationery	\$ 509.84
Museum Admissions	659.97	Bulk Postage	131.76
Donations	173.10	Telephone	77.72
Monographs & Cards	11.50	Electricity	49.23
Book Sales	74.91	Maintenance	159.00
Photos & Folders	25.21	Insurance	82.71
Raffles	168.94	Museum Exhibits	227.13
Street Stall	180.19	Sundries	58.30
Sale of Jams	440.50	Jams	362.90
Pottery Sales	219.75	Pottery	198.05
Paintings & Pictures	272.45	Paintings & Pictures	230.51
Spoons & Badges	192.50	Spoons & Badges	232.55
Socials	594.83	Socials	272.59
Tours	820.80	Tours	624.00
Etchings	23.00	Library	3.50
Bank Interest	22.40	Photos	12.40
		Petty Cash	15.00
			<hr/>
			\$3247.19
		Income over Expenditure	789.36
			<hr/>
	<hr/>		\$4036.55
	<u>\$4036.55</u>		<u>\$4036.55</u>

Balance Sheet

<u>Liabilities</u>		<u>Assets.</u>	
Balance as at 31.1.75	\$1041.86	Bank - Commonwealth Savings	
Transfer from part Income over Expenditure.	289.36	Bank, Sth. Hurstville	\$1397.67
	<hr/>	Less Unpresented Cheques	
	\$1331.22	No. 312273, -275, -276	66.45
	<u>\$1331.22</u>		<hr/>
			\$1331.22

IN ADDITION:

Deposit with St.George Building Society, 1.2.75	\$ 800.00
Transferred from Income over Expenditure	500.00
Interest to 30.11.75	178.67
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	\$1478.67

Audited and found correct.
D. H. Sinclair
Hon. Auditor.

G. Johns
Hon. Treasurer.

The Kogarah Historical Society

Social Committee's Statement 1. 2. 75 to 31. 1. 76

Tours	\$820.80	
Less Bus Hire	<u>624.00</u>	\$196.80
Raffles	168.94	
Cost of Hamper	<u>17.09</u>	151.85
President's Night	72.00	
Less Expenses	<u>12.00</u>	60.00
Theatre Nights	251.70	
Less Tickets	<u>211.00</u>	40.70
Bread Demonstration	<u>21.00</u>	21.00
Driglo Demonstration	<u>13.00</u>	13.00
Xmas Night	398.50	
Less Expenses	<u>173.38</u>	224.62 * See below.
Street Stall	<u>180.19</u>	<u>180.19</u>
		888.16
Less Cost Afternoon Tea		<u>20.00</u>
Total proceeds, Social Committee's activities		<u><u>\$868.16</u></u>

* The result of the Xmas Raffle is included under "Raffles". There was a profit of \$75.40 on the Xmas Hamper Raffle and if same is added to the proceeds of the Xmas Night, then the profit from such night would be \$300.02 as stated in the Newsletter.

G. Johns.
Hon. Treasurer.

REQUEST FROM NATIONAL TRUST.

The National Trust has sought the assistance of our members in support of its campaign for legislation to protect historic buildings and sites. The request is in the following terms -

"The National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.) seeks your help in its campaign for new laws to protect historic buildings and sites in this State.

Such law has existed for many years in Western Europe, North America and other "developed" nations. In Australia, the Governments of Victoria and Western Australia have already legislated to protect our national heritage within their State boundaries.

As early as July 1973 The National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.) forwarded thoroughly researched proposals for legislation to the then Premier, Sir Robert Askin. In October 1973, one month before the last State elections, the Premier announced that his Government would establish a committee to advise the Government on the preservation of historic buildings and sites.

The Committee did not meet until early 1975, and the Government has not yet introduced any legislative measures.

Meanwhile, the demolition of historic buildings continues; the shameful neglect of historic buildings continues.

The National Trust is campaigning for the urgent introduction of legislation which provides for:

- (a) Compilation of an official list of historic buildings and sites in New South Wales;
- (b) Controls over the demolition of listed buildings;
- (c) Adequate fines for breaches of demolition regulations;
- (d) Financial assistance for owners of listed buildings.

You can help the National Trust in this campaign by writing to your local Member of the New South Wales Parliament, drawing his attention to the urgent need for legislation and the provisions which the legislation should include".

If members feel that this is a request which has our support (and the Management Committee agrees that it is), it is urged that each NOW write to the local member of the State Parliament on the lines indicated. Our Society is affiliated with the National Trust.

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LOST - A WEATHERCOAT!!!

Mrs. M. Johnson (Telephone 579 1376) unfortunately lost a weathercoat on our Hunter Valley tour and asks anyone who may have taken it by mistake to kindly telephone her.

* * *

'THE WOMEN OF THE WEST'.

George Essex Evans, poet, was born in London on 18th June 1863. His Father, John Evans, Q.C., who was for 5 years a member of the House of Commons, died when the boy was only a few months old. His schooldays were spent in Wales and in Jersey, and when he was 17 years of age he emigrated to Queensland. He arrived in April 1881 and after some experience on the land he obtained a position on the "Queenslander". He entered the Public Service in 1888 and afterwards became district registrar at Toowoomba. His 1st volume "The Repentance of Magdalene Despar" was published in 1891. In 1901 he won a prize of £50/-/- for his "Ode for Commonwealth Day". During the last 2 years of his life Evans did much writing for the Queensland Government on the resources of northern areas. In 1899 he married Mrs. Blanche Hopkins, who survived him with one son when he died on 10th November 1909. One of his many well-known poems was "THE WOMEN OF THE WEST".---

They left the vine-wreathed cottage and the mansion on the hill,
The houses in the busy street; where life is never still
The pleasures of the city, and the friends they cherished best;
For love they faced the wilderness -- the Women of the West.

The roar, and rush, and fever of the city died away,
And the old-time joys and faces -- they were gone for many a day;
In their place the lurching coach-wheel, or the creaking bullock-chains,
O'er the everlasting sameness of the never-ending plains.

In the slab-built, zinc-roofed homestead of some lately taken run,
In the tent beside the bankment of a railway just begun,
In the huts on new selections, in the camps of man's unrest,
On the frontiers of the Nation, live the Women of the West.

The red sun robs their beauty and, in weariness and pain,
The slow years steal the nameless grace that never comes again;
And there are hours men cannot soothe, and words men cannot say --
The nearest woman's face may be a hundred miles away.

The wide bush holds the secrets of their longing and desires,
When the white stars in reverence light their holy altar fires,
And silence, like the touch of God, sinks deep into the breast --
Perchance He hears and understands the Women of the West.

For them no trumpet sounds the call, no poet plies his arts --
They only hear the beating of their gallant, loving hearts.
But they have sung with silent lives the song all songs above --
The holiness of sacrifice, the dignity of love.

Well have we held our fathers' creed. No call has passed us by.
We faced and fought the wilderness, we sent our sons to die.
And we have hearts to do and dare, and yet, o'er all the rest,
The hearts that made the Nation were the Women of the West.

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SHIPWRIGHT'S BAY.
RESIDENTS OLD AND NEW.

by M. Grieve.

Recently, my daughter purchased a huge four-poster brass bedstead, complete with ornate porcelain trimmings and side arms.

She remarked to her husband, "I wonder how many babies have been born in this bed". To which he replied, "I wonder how many people have died in it".

Another relative purchased a block of land at Eastwood. During excavations and subsequent gardening activities a great assortment of odd pieces from farm implements such as ploughs, harrows, cultivators and scanifiers were unearthed. Not to mention horse-shoes, bolts and buckles from harness. No need for any great flight of imagination to conjure up the life of the former occupant of the land. A hard working orchardist who toiled six days a week from sun-up till sun-down.

So much for sentimental musings about our predecessors whether it be in regard to beds, houses or land.

I would like to tell you about two very lady-like ladies who owned a water-front property on Shipwright's Bay. The rear of their land abutted on to the block on which Ebenezer Addis had one of his houses. On one side was the pleasure ground, namely Woniora and the other boundary was Church Street. The land was densely timbered with tall gum trees and thick undergrowth of shrubs festooned with native Clematis and the Wonga vine. In the clearer patches towards the beach, Boronia, Dilwinia and Flannel flowers flourished in their natural state. The owners of this piece of real estate were Dorothy and Charlotte Collett, Mother and Daughter. They actually lived at "Hile Villa" Trafalgar Street, Stanmore. The property at Blakehurst was their week-end. The dwelling was two semi-detached cottages, very stark and unattractive, unpainted weatherboard, which became more drab as the years rolled by.

During the summer months these two residences were advertised in the "Herald" as ideal holiday homes for those who wanted to enjoy swimming, fishing and boating. Everything was described in glowing terms with adjectives used in the superlative degree. Imagine the let-down for the new tenants when they beheld the actual place. The water supply consisted of an old battered tank to each cottage -- the holes being plugged with wooden pegs and pieces of rag and a strainer attached to each tap to strain the wrigglers which were breeding in plague proportions. To be quite fair these two ladies did not really mean to deceive people. In their estimation, looking at their possessions through rose coloured spectacles they did not consider they had misrepresented anything.

During the latter part of the 19th century and early 20th century they had conducted a private school for young ladies, commonly known as a finishing school; they taught singing, music and elocution combined with the basic requirements of the three R's. Then as old age caught up with them they gave up the school and supplemented their meagre pension by teaching music.

They were, in fact, itinerant teachers. Sometimes they left the train at Rockdale, Kogarah or Carlton, depending on the location of the particular pupils for the day. Then they would continue the rest of the journey to Blakehurst, on foot.

When I saw the short of the film "Picnic at Hanging Rock" I was reminded of Dorothy and Charlotte who always wore mittens and never removed them until they were ensconced in their domicile. In the film the Headmistress instructed the girls not to remove their gloves till they passed through the town.

To add to their discomfort they wore those lace contraptions fortified with whale-bone round the neck and the weight of their clothes, petticoats with frills and flounces and dresses with huge sleeves must have been a great handicap for walking. The younger one carried the money in a bag attached to a length of tape round the waist. It was a favourite joke with the school children to ask her if she ^{could} change a penny for them. The contortions which ensued in the course of extricating the cash was the cause of much suppressed laughter. In the course of conversation they quoted freely from English literature and never seemed stuck for the right quotation at the appropriate time.

The locals regarded them as high-brow intellectuals, which indeed they were. I myself, always thought of the words of Oliver Goldsmith in the "Deserted Village", the poem in which he described the local Schoolmaster "and still the wonder grew, that one small head should carry all he knew".

On one occasion we were gathering blackberries close to their property. We used to hoist a big plank into the middle of the bushes and balance precariously while we picked the fruit. But with mosquitoes, sandflies, scratches and constant fear of black snakes it was a real endurance test. One day whilst so engaged a cultured voice enquired "Are you having any success?" "Not much" replied my friend who had just commenced high school, but "Hope springs eternal in the human breast". "So you can quote poetry! Well, tell me who wrote those words", said Charlotte. As no answer was forthcoming we were informed "That is a quotation from Alexander Pope's 'Essay on Man'. Then for good measure we were given a little more information about hope in rather a pessimistic vein. "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick", a profound statement from the Book of Proverbs.

At Christmas time each pupil was given a book which originally had been a present to either one. The fly-leaf was cut out and the greetings written on the next page. The stories were all in similar vein - stories with a moral warning of the consequences of evil-doing; one such title being "Her Object in Life" by Isabella Mayo, printed in London at "The Girls' Own Paper" Office.

By now you must be wondering what all this is about and you must concede the description could aptly apply to countless people of that era. In your mind's eye you can picture these two genteel ladies of yesteryear, their humble dwelling with mod. cons. consisting of candles, kerosene lamps and wood fires.

Today, in its place, is the imposing residence of Mr. J. Fleming.

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THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Sponsored by Kogarah Municipal Council)

PATRONS: The Mayor of Kogarah & Ald. K. R. Cavanough, A.M.

President:
Mr. J. E. Veness,
6 Lance Street,
BLAKEHURST, 2221

'Phone: 546 3932

Hon. Treasurer:
Mrs. G. Johns,
38 Princes Hghwy,
KOGARAH, 2217

'Phone: 587 4848.

Hon. Secretary:
Mrs. B. Butters,
36 Louisa Street,
OATLEY, 2223.

'Phone: 57 6954

Vice-Presidents: Mr. V. S. Smith & Mr. N. Kelly.

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: \$2.00 per annum.

Pensioners: \$1.50 " "

Students: \$1.50 " "

MEETINGS: Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, commencing at 8 p.m. in the Exhibition Lounge of the Civic Centre, Belgrave Street, Kogarah. (Take lift to Second Floor and turn to 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.

CARSS PARK MUSEUM: Open Sundays and Public Holidays from 1 to 5 p.m.

Admissions: 20c Adults, 10c Children. Maximum 60c for one family.

DONATIONS FOR MUSEUM. Donations of items of historical interest suitable for inclusion in the Museum may be left with the Attendant. Please be sure to leave your name and address and details of object.

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.