



THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

JULY, 1976.

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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

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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: 30c Adults, 10c Children. Maximum 80c 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.

Our next meeting will be held at 8 p.m. on the 8th July on the second floor of the Civic Centre, Belgrave Street, Kogarah.

We have been fortunate in securing a most talented Speaker in the person of Mr. W. R. Freeman who will illustrate his talk with an exceptionally interesting set of slides featuring Sydney Cove.

Ladies on Supper Roster will be Mrs. Buchanan and Mrs. Holmes.

Our Social Secretary says -- Are you coming with us to the Illawarra Guild Theatre on July 16th to enjoy Bernard Shaw's Comedy, "You never can tell"? Twenty of our members have already booked. Please telephone if you would like to join them. Tickets are \$1.50. (537-6986)

So far, 23 adults and 5 children have booked for the Bathurst-Hill End Tour (the date of which has been altered to 23rd-24th October) but in order to finalise this trip we must have 40 bookings by the end of July. If you wish to go please let me know by telephone (537-6986). The cost is approximately \$29.00. We have an over-night stay at Bathurst Motor Inn Motel and spend Sunday morning at Hill End. A deposit of \$5.00 is required. The cost of two lunches is not included. Now is the time to 'phone!

Our Street Stall in Belgrave Street, Kogarah on August 20th, is something in which all members are invited to join. Spend a happy morning with us -- and help by providing articles for sale. Please price anything you bring for there usually isn't any time once we start! Cakes are our best sellers - but anything saleable will be welcomed.

Thought for the month - A Perfectionist is one who takes great pains - then gives them to others!

Sylvia Kelly.

MUSEUM DISPLAY REPORT.

The display to commemorate 75 years of federation in Australia is now on show at the Museum.

The exhibit fills an entire room, and is made up of general information, books and documents from the period. The display is divided into three sections, the first covers forces at work in Australian society, such as the rise of nationalism, fear of coloured labour, and defence concerns, which contributed to the desire of the majority of Australians for federation. The next section relates the actual progress towards the union, this is divided into six steps covering the period from the formation of the Federal Australasia Council in 1885, to the Constitution Bill being passed by the British Parliament in 1901. The last section covers the celebrations in 1901.

On the walls there is a gallery of Prime Ministers, and a print of Charles Nuttall's painting of the opening of Federal Parliament on May 9, 1901. This was originally donated to Kogarah Council by a group of residents in 1907.

I would like to acknowledge the help given on this exhibit by Mrs. Sheldrick who printed the display cards; to Mr. Jack Lean for his reproduction of over sixty photographs, and to Mrs. Gwen Lean for her work on touching up the older prints.

The ST. George Philatelic Society has put up a new display which fits in with our federation exhibit for it shows postal stationery that was issued by each colony

when they were separate entities. The earliest item in group is a post card issued by the Western Australian Government in 1879.

In the next few months more exciting changes are planned for the Museum and will be reported on in subsequent issues of the Newsletter.

Colleen McEwen.

MUSEUM ROSTER.

		<u>To Open,</u>
July 4th	Mrs. G. Johns and Mrs. G. Taylor	Mrs. G. Johns
" 11th	Mrs. S. Kelly and Mrs. J. James	Mrs. S. Kelly
" 18th	Mrs. A. Diment and Miss K. Duggan	Miss C. McEwen
" 25th	Mr. and Mrs. E. Schweikert	Mr. J. Veness
August 1st	Mr. and Mrs. J. Lean	Mr. J. Lean
" 8th	Mrs. D. Hatton and Mrs. M. Grieve	Mrs. D. Hatton
" 15th	Mr. and Mrs. J. Howard	Mrs. J. Howard
" 22nd	Mr. J. Wright and Mr. K. Grieve	Miss C. McEwen
" 29th	Mrs. A. McOnie and Miss M. Foley	Mr. J. Veness

If any date given is inconvenient, please see me at the next meeting, or ring 57-5940.

Gwen Lean.

TIMES HAVE CHANGED.

The following rules were in force at Mt. Holyoke College in 1837:

"No young lady shall become a member of Mt. Holyoke Seminary who cannot kindle a fire, wash potatoes, repeat the multiplication table and at least two thirds of the shorter catechism.

"Every member of the school shall walk a mile a day unless a freshet, earthquake, or some other calamity prevent.

"No young lady shall devote more than an hour a day to miscellaneous reading.

"No young lady is expected to have gentlemen acquaintances unless they are returned missionaries or agents of benevolent societies." - "Reader's Digest".

"IF WE ONLY COULD"

by Dame Mary Gilmore.

Ah! if we only could
Blot out the bitter thought,
Make life the thing we should,
And shape it as we ought.
Turn back the brooding eyes
From things long, long gone by;
And looking upward, rise
Toward a clearer sky;
Hold fast each other's hands --
Nor loosely let them go --
Until each understands,
And, loving, learns to know.

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LIBRARY REPORT. We thought Members would be interested to see the following list of books which are already available from the Kogarah Municipal Library on "Local Histories".

<u>AUTHOR.</u>	<u>TITLE.</u>
ANDERSON Hugh	The Flowers of the Field; a history of the Ripon Shire.
BANFIELD, Lorna L.	Green pastures and gold: a history of Ararat.
BAYLEY, William A.	History of Campbelltown, N.S.W.
BAYLEY, William A.	Rich earth: history of Young and the Shire of Burrangong, N.S.W.
BAYLEY, William A.	Yass: Municipal centenary history.
BLAINEY, Geof rey	The rise of Broken Hill.
BLAKE, Les	Wimmera.
BLAND DISTRICT HISTORIC SOCIETY	West of the Bland; a history of the Wyalong district.
BLANKS, Harvey	The story of Yea; a 150 year history of the shire.
BOND, Douglas Gordon	Macquarie country, a history of the Hawkesbury
BOWMAKER, A.E.	A brief history of Leeton.
BRENNAN, R.M.	Across the black soil plains: a history of the Warren district.
BURTON, Brian	Flow gently past: the story of the Corowa district.
CAMERON, B.L.	"Scott's corner": a local history.
CARNEGIE, Margaret	Friday Mount: first settlement at Holbrook and the south western slopes of N.S.W.
CASSON, Marjory R.	Loxton: district and town.
CHARLTON, Rob	The history of Kapunda.
COTTOME, Tom	Letters from Grenfell from a N.S.W. Goldminer in the 1870's.
COULSON, Helen	Story of the Dandenongs 1838-1953.
CUNNINGHAM, Peter	Two years in N.S.W.
CUSACK, Frank	Bendigo: a history
DALEY, Louise Tiffany	Men and a river: a history of the Richmond River district 1828-1895.
DUNLOP, A. J.	Benalla cavalcade: a history of Benalla and district.
DUNLOP, Eric	Harvest of the years: the story of Burwood 1794-1974.
EAGLE, Chester	Hail and Farewell! An evocation of Gippsland.
EWERS, John K.	The western gateway: a history of Fremantle.
FALL, V.G.	The sea and the forest: a history of the port of Rockingham, Western Australia.
FAULKNER, Ralph	A history of Joadja.
FELDTMAN, Arthur	Swan Hill.
FISCHER, Ruth Trant	The Hog's back: the story of the men who made Broken Hill.
FLETT, James D	Dunolly: a story of an old golf diggings
FRIEND, Donald	A collection of Hillendiana.
GEEVES, Philip	Local history in Australia: a guide for beginners.
GEEVES, Philip	A place of pioneers; the centenary history of the Municipality of Ryde
GEEVES, Philip	Rockdale: its beginning and development.
GRAFT, E.J.	Walking with time: the story of the Wakool country.
GRINFITHS, G. Neta	Point Piper - past and present.
HILL, Les. R.	Mount Gambier: the city around a cave.
HODGE, Harry	The Hill End Story Book 1,2,3.
HORNADGE, Bill	Dubbo, 100 years of local government: the story of Dubbo's growth from village to town to city.
JAMES, Gwynydd Francis	Walhalla heyday.
KERT, Margaret Goyder	The surveyors: the story of the founding of Darwin.
KIRBY, David R. Comp.	From sails to atoms: first fifty years of Sutherland Shire 1906-1956.

<u>AUTHOR.</u> (Cont.)	<u>TITLE.</u>
LARCOMBE, Frederick A.	A History of Botany 1788-1970.
LOCKWOOD, Douglas	The front door: Darwin 1869-1969.
MARSHALL, Alan	Pioneers and painters: one hundred years of Eltham and its shire.
MAZWELE, Eileen	Written in gold; the story of Gulgong, the town on the 10 dollar note.
MAYES, Reg. J.	Pictorial history of Port Augusta.
NEIL, Marie H.	Valley of the Macleay: the history of Kempsey and the Macleay River district.
OLLIF, Lorna	There must be a river: history of the Shire of Hornsby.
OSBORN, Betty	The Bacchus story; a history of Captain W.M. Bacchus, of Bacchus Marsh, and his son.
PALMER, Joan Austin ed.	William Moodie: a pioneer of western Victoria.
PEARSON, A.M.	Echoes from the mountains and history of the Omeo Shire Council.
REYNOLDS, John	Launceston: history of an Australian city.
ROBERTSON, Kay	Myrtleford: gateway to the alps.
RUEHL, Olaf	Parramatta sketch book.
RUSSELL, Eric	Drummoyne: a western suburbs history 1794-1871-;971.
RUSSELL, Eric	Lane Cove 1780, 1895, 1970.
ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY	A century of progress: Rockdale 1871-1971.
SCARLETT, Errol Lea	Gundaroo
STRANGE, A.W.	Ballarat: a brief history
SWAN, Keith	A history of Wagga Wagga
SWANCOTT, Charles	Good old Woy Woy
SWANCOTT, Charles	Gosford and the Henry Kendall Country, Koolewong to Lisarow.
TOLCHARD, Clifford	The years of endeavour: Bankstown.
WALKER, John	Two hundred years in retrospect, Kurnell-Sutherland 1770-1970.
WOOD, W. Allan	Dawn in the valley: the story of settlement in the Hunter River Valley to 1833.
WYATT, Ransome T.	The history of Goulburn N.S.W.

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E. Howard.

Librarian.

- Continued from the June Newsletter --

ROCKDALE METHODIST CHURCH

by C.W. Napper.

Gazing through the Minute Book of the Trustees of the Chapel we find that the Chapel was let from time to time for public meetings, and also for the enclosed meetings of such organisations as the Oddfellows Lodge and kindred societies. In fact the Chapel was the only place available in the area, then known as Rocky Point and now known as Rockdale, for such meetings. The petition of the Oddfellows came before the Trustees of the Chapel on November 3rd, 1879, when it was resolved "that we allow them the use of the School-room one night a fortnight for lodge purposes only, and furnish two lights for the rental of one pound per quarter, with the following restrictions. First - No Smoking Allowed. Second - That should any damage accrue to either the building or the furniture through their meetings they shall make proper repairs. Third. That this arrangement holds good for one year only." It was also resolved "That half said rent be paid to Trust Fund and half allowed for extra trouble caused to the teacher of the school".

The Wesleyan School was known as Rocky Point School between the years 1857 and 1882, in which period it was conducted by the Wesleyan Church Authorities. On January 1st, 1883 it became a Public School, although Mr. John Andrews, who had been in charge since 1862, continued as teacher under the new regime until the closure of the use of the Chapel for educational purposes, an event which occurred at the end of the year 1884. For reasons now difficult to assess the students of the area, now known as Rockdale, had to attend the Public School at Arncliffe or Rogarah, a circumstance which proved most inconvenient for the majority of the scholars, who resided in or around old-time Rockdale. In passing, it should be mentioned that it was not until January 1889 that the present Public School, sited at the crest of Rockdale Hill, was opened under the head-master-ship of Mr. John Herlihy.

The earlier fears that the Rocky Point Wesleyan Church would prove too large for the local congregation were soon dispelled. The edifice became the centre of many revivals and ingatherings, and its membership had grown to such an extent that by 1871 the Chapel became too small. The nave portion of the present main Church building was then erected at a cost of £600 and the original Chapel adapted for school and Sunday School purposes. The growth of the Church became noticeable in many ways and the Trustees meeting in the school room held on February 15th, 1877, dealt with a request from the choir for increased accommodation. This request posed the Trustees with a problem, an expensive problem, as it meant the addition of two side vestries to house the choir and also their musical instrument. It was decided to "postpone any such extension for the present until the Trustees had taken a collective view of the place". Meanwhile, it was resolved that Messrs Thomas Mascord and John Andrews "get the fence mended and get some gravel placed about the Church".

However, the choir was undaunted and at the next meeting of the trustees, held on August 30th, 1877, they came forward with a paper showing the desirability of procuring an American Organ for the Chapel services and this time their wishes were carried out. The instrument was purchased at a cost of £45, of which sum the choir members, through contributions raised at two "Evenings of Sacred Song", donated £35. It was suggested that the harmonium formerly in use be sold to defray the balance of £10, and "that any surplus remaining, it be appropriated to the use of the choir for the purchase of books, etc.". It was further resolved that Mr. William Beehag's

tender for twelve guineas for the purchase of the harmonium be accepted. It is remarkable how all these matters of moment work out for the benefit of all concerned.

The Anniversary services held by the Reverend John Osborne, celebrated by a tea and public meeting held on Thursday December 12th, 1878, and Church services and sermon on Sunday December 8th, 1878, brought forward several items of interest. The trustees resolved "Whatever balance of the proceeds of the Anniversary celebration that remain after paying the Church debt be given towards the erection of a sister Church at West Botany". A very fine gesture indeed. At the same meeting the Trustees decided to insure the Church building to the amount of \$400, and the earlier chapel building, then the school room, at \$100. The Chapel-keeper also had his annual remuneration raised from \$6 to \$10 in consequence of the frequency of Evenings of Sacred Song and the extra labour incurred thereby. It is understood that at this period Mr. Thomas Mascord was Church Steward and that his good wife was Church-keeper. In 1880 we find that the erection of new fencing and gates to the Church property became necessary, a circumstance, including the paintings, set the Church finances back some \$60, quite a large sum in those far off days. It was also mentioned at the time that the end wall of the new Church was showing signs of parting from the rest of the fabric, the aperture letting in an unpleasant draught not greatly appreciated by those sitting nearby. To overcome the difficulty the secretary was empowered to borrow \$50 at 7% interest to defray the necessary cost of affixing the internal moulding and external flashing.

In September 1880, the job of re-shingling the old school-house was entrusted to Mr. William Bray, whilst on November 20th, 1882, a request was received from the Sunday school teachers for additional room. It was resolved that the school room be enlarged at a cost not to exceed \$400. At this time further Church expenditure was incurred with a third Minister being appointed to the local circuit and it was required that this gentleman was to reside at Rocky Point (Rockdale). To defray extra costs involved, the trustees decided that "collections be made both morning and afternoon at the Church services, and not only in the afternoon as heretofore".

The plans for the Sunday School extension appeared in due course and it was decided, at the Trustee meeting held on April 12th, 1883, "to accept Mr. S. Benson's tender for the mason work for \$130 and that of Mr. List for \$178 for carpentering and finishing the edifice, provided that these two tenders cover all works required by the plans and specifications". The secretary was requested to negotiate for the required loans, and Mr. Andrews to arrange for the contracts and to superintend the work. Mr. Benson applied for a further \$12 through a misunderstanding of the specifications in reference to the window and door dressings being chiselled. On consideration of the matter the Trustees decided to offer the sum of \$6 to Mr. Benson for the extra work. They also decided to furnish a five inch guttering around the building in order to lead rain water into a suitable catchment tank, as at this time the city water reticulation service had not reached the area. It was also resolved that the said tank be removed from the vicinity of the Church to the back, or east end, of the school-room. Whilst on the subject of water services the Trustees "presented their thanks to Miss E. Beehag and Miss Moon for the water bottle and glass donated by them for use of the preachers in the Church".

On 12th June 1884, the Trustees of the Rockdale Church decided to erect a sister church at Hurstville at a cost of \$300, the Reverend H.A. Nolan and the Reverend J. Bowes being authorised to collect funds for this purpose. By the following month tenders for this new Church were presented, and that of Messrs Roberts and Lardner were accepted for the sum of \$245. Mr. William Bray was appointed to superintend the erection of the building on behalf of the Trustees, the official opening taking place on January 26th, 1885, and the two following Sundays.

The Trustee meeting held on November 1st, 1884, resolved that the Reverend J. Bowes be "requested to wait on Mr. William Beehag and Mr. Willmott with the view of obtaining a Church site at West Botany, or to ask Mr. Godfrey or others". This Church site was kindly given to the Trustees by Mr. Foulkes and the Trustees decided to devote the proceeds of the forthcoming Anniversary, less the amount due for lighting and cleaning of the Rockdale Church, for the building of the West Botany Church project. The question of a Parsonage at Rockdale now arose and a generous offer was made by Mr. Godfrey of a site adjacent to the Church grounds. Mr. Godfrey's tender of £777 to erect the two storied eight-roomed Parsonage was accepted at the Trustee meeting held on November 17th, 1887, and at the June meeting of the following year it was decided to light both the Church and the school-room with gas, a service which had then recently come to Rockdale. Four years later the secretary was instructed to sell the now disused oil-lamps and "make the best bargain he can".

The noise of Mr. Saywell's steam trams passing to and fro along Bay Street raised the ire of the Church Trustees and a letter was sent to the offenders requesting that the puffing and whistling noises be lessened during Church hours. Locomotives are notoriously rowdy creatures and just what steps that Mr. Saywell could take to eliminate the huffings and puffings as the engines slowly climbed the Bay Street hill is hard to determine, although, no doubt he could have had some influence in controlling the exuberant whistling.

December the 5th, 1888, marked the Trustee meeting which dealt with the point, or apex, of the unoccupied Church land which approached the junction of Rocky Point Road and Bay Street. At this meeting it was decided to lease this portion of the property, below the trees, to Mr. Thompson. However, in March 1889, Mr. Thompson relinquished his lease, which then came under lease for a term of five years to Mr. Richard Holden, a butcher by trade, at a charge of £25 per annum. However second thoughts on the matter made the Trustees think that it was best not to lease the said land. Then, on October 10th, 1890, it was resolved "That Mr. A. Carruthers offer for the western point of the Church ground on a lease for seven years be accepted on condition that the plan of the building to be erected be approved."

It should be mentioned at this juncture that "in 1883 the junior minister of the Newtown Circuit, the Reverend Joseph Bowes, was appointed to reside at Rocky Point (Rockdale); and in 1886 a division was effected, and a new circuit created, comprising Rockdale (as Rocky Point was henceforth to be known), Kogarah, Arncliffe, Hurstville, Bexley and West Botany Street, to which the Reverend Thomas Parker was appointed as first Minister". In the following year it became necessary to provide accommodation for a married Minister, and to this end the aforementioned Parsonage had to be erected to house the Reverend Joseph Monahan. Three years later in 1892, during the pastorate of the Reverend Charles Jones, a further division took place by the creation of Kogarah, Hurstville, and Peakhurst, into a separate circuit.

On July 13th, 1892, a contract was let to Mr. Hill for a further addition to what may be described as the second Church building, the price being £430. However, Mr. Hill did not sign the contract which was subsequently placed with Messrs. Smith, Eldridge, and Godfrey at a cost of £500. It is understood that this work covered the addition of two side transepts to the Church, making it a tee-shaped structure, and lengthening the roof to accommodate the new arrangement. It is not known to the writer as to whether the neat stone belfry over the northern entrance doorway was erected at this period. It is understood that a Church bell was never placed in this structure. The tender for the panelling and the provision for the rostrum seats etc. was let to Messrs. Eldridge and Jones at a cost of £55. A system of seat rental was in vogue, and at this period it was resolved to have four seats at the rear of the Church set aside for strangers "and to be free". School children were accommodated on the right hand side of the pulpit, where, no doubt, they had to be on their best behaviour. It was also resolved to purchase new matting and to provide a special

chair to serve the needs of the occupant of the rostrum, a kind thought which no doubt was fully appreciated by said occupant. It should be mentioned that the glorious collection of camphor laurel, peperina, and cedar trees, which flank the so shady western side of the Church, were planted by John Bowmer, during his term as Mayor of Rockdale.

The new additions to the Church were opened officially on November 15th, 1892, when the Reverend Charles Jones and Mr. Holliday occupied the pulpit. It is of interest to note that the Trustees rejected the laying of the city water service to the Parsonage. No doubt Church finances were strained through the financial depression which was affecting the whole State of New South Wales at this period, as later we read in the contemporary minutes that a large sum owing for the renting of the Parsonage was remitted by the generosity of the Trustees. It is also pleasing to note that the water service was eventually connected to the Parsonage when the financial stringency passed.

On May 26th, 1894, an application was received from Miss Wearne for permission to use the Sunday School for a private Day School for a period of six months. The application was granted on condition that she kept the place clean and did not interfere with the furnishing. This arrangement was later extended for a further period of six months. The Church choir petitioned the Trustees for a new organ and after much fund raising a new pipe organ, a magnificent instrument, was purchased at a cost of £160. The dedication of the organ was set down for a week day evening, admission for the special occasion being sixpence for adults and three-pence for children.

On the expiry of the lease of the point of land occupied by Mr. J. Carruthers the property came into the hands of Mr. J. Napper and Mr. B. Bowmer as a produce and fruit establishment. It was Mr. Napper's privilege to provide sheafs of wheat and pumpkins, etc. for display on a loan basis at the Harvest Festivals held in the adjacent Church. This display material went the rounds of the other local churches for a similar purpose, and the Roman Catholic Church, after being warned that the exhibits had been displayed at the Methodist Church, the Baptist Church, and by the Salvation Army, replied "That is quite all right, we will sprinkle them heavily with Holy Water".

The foundation stone of a large brick Sunday School, sited on the southern side of the Church property, was laid with due ceremony by Mrs. W. A. Beehag, representing the pioneering family associated with the Church. A smaller stone was set by Miss Andrews, daughter of John Andrews, the teacher of the un denominational day school held in the original Church building, at the same gathering held on December 9th, 1933. This new hall is a magnificent building and furnished with all manner of equipment, including a large stage, for the religious teaching of the young.

The Parsonage in Bay Street had a face lift about 1955 when the full length first floor verandah, with its elaborate wealth of cast-iron balustrading, was removed and replaced by a small porch over the entrance doorway. On Sunday April 27th, 1958, a dedication service was held when a new Communion Table, the gift of Fanny Elder, together with its glass cover plate, the gift of Henry Ernest Upton, were dedicated to the service of the Church. The surrounding Communion Rail was presented by Henry Thomas Hicks, whilst Marilyn Pope gave the tall and exquisite wooden cross, mounted against the wall at the rear of the Communion Table, as an emblem of the Christian faith. It should be mentioned that the marble Baptismal font was a gift made in 1935 by the Rockdale Methodist Girls Fellowship.

The new old Church is noted for the beauty of its stained glass windows. Opposite the entrance doorway, inserted in the eastern wall, is the famous window representing "Ia am the Light of the World", which must be seen in all its

colourful glory on a sunny morning, to be fully appreciated. This particular window is a memorial to Yeoman and Mary Ann Geeves, also George Finley and Warren George Wentworth (grandsons of the Geeves family) and is the gift of Elizabeth C. Wentworth, the younger daughter of Yeoman Geeves.

And so the old Church, with its background of pioneering days and pioneering people, still flourishes at this year of grace. The trustees are modern in their collective thinking, and have provided the means of heating in the winter and cooling in the summer, together with hearing aids for elderly and other folk. The Church premises, with their foreground of shapely trees, are the one truly beautiful spot in the conglomeration of business premises which form the centre of the busy suburb of Rockdale.

In conclusion, I must thank Mr. Gifford Eardley and Mr. Albert Matheson, M.B.E., for their kindly assistance in the preparation of this article dealing with the history of the Rockdale Methodist Church, a Church which has endeared itself to generations of worshippers.

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