



# THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

S E P T E M B E R

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CHANGE IN SEPTEMBER MEETING PLACE.

Please note that our September Meeting will be held at 8 p.m. on Thursday, 9th September in the Presbyterian Church Hall, Kogarah. Proceed up Belgrave Street, past the Civic Centre, and turn right at next corner into Kensington Street. The Presbyterian Hall is a few yards along Kensington Street, facing the Hospital.

Members will be pleased to know that our Speaker is Miss Colleen McEwen and her topic will be "Why did Australian Colonies Federate in 1901". The ladies on Supper Roster are Mrs. V. Smith, Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Schweikert. The Raffle Prize has been donated by Mrs. Fitzhardinge.

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NOTES FROM OUR SOCIAL SECRETARY.

August 20th - Fortunately, we had a beautiful fine sunny day for our Street Stall and the sight of dozens of eager early - morning shoppers practically fighting to see who would secure the beautiful cakes which our members kindly supplied was a pleasure to behold!

As we forecast, cakes were No. 1 favourite, but jams, biscuits, knitting, sewing, toys, grapefruit etc. quickly disappeared too and when the proceeds were counted everybody forgot their tired legs and marvelled - for we had nearly \$300.00.

We convey our thanks to all those kind ladies who supplied goods to sell and also to those who kindly gave their time to man the stall.

September 12th. Our walking tour of the City. Meeting place - Queens Square (at exit from St. James Station) 1.30 p.m. Donation 50 cents and we will be in the capable hands of Mr. Charles Gilbert for this afternoon. Don't forget to bring along your thermos flask and afternoon tea, if desired.

October. Illawarra Theatre Guild. For those who have never seen "OUR TOWN" this is your opportunity. It is a Thornton Wilders play and having seen it once you will want to see it again. Place your name in the book at the next meeting. \$1.50.

October 23rd - 24th. Bathurst-Hill End Tour. Starting time has been altered to 8 a.m. and here is the final itinerary. Leaving the bus stop outside Kogarah Newsagency 8 a.m., pick up at Hurstville Post Office 8.05 a.m., pick up from Strathfield P.O. 8.30 a.m. Morning Tea at Bilpen. Bring your thermos and sandwich or biscuits, Lunch at Bathurst (own expense) after which we will have a tour of the city - so bring your walking shoes. Dinner at night at the Bathurst Leagues Club, bed and breakfast at the Country Club Motel. Then on to Hill End. Lunch at Hill End (own expense) and home by 7.30 p.m.  
FARE TO BE PAID IN FULL AT THE NEXT MEETING - \$29.00.  
Please let me know if you are joining the Coach at Hurstville or Strathfield.

Sylvia Kelly -- 587-6986.  
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Thought for the Month: "Take what you will, said God --  
and pay for it."

## MUSEUM REPORT.

Further acquisitions for the Carss Cottage Museum are once again acknowledged - thanking all donors sincerely for their gifts.

Mr. R. J. Gough, has donated three copy photographs, mounted and framed. The subjects are "Desborough", the home of the Preddy family, at Bexley and portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Preddy.

Miss G. Coxhead has once again donated a number of photographs of the Coxhead family, early scenes at Carss Park, including the cottage; Blakehurst Public School, and documents relating to local events in the 1920-1930 era.

Mrs. T. Moffat of Kingsgrove has donated a wash basin and jug; and from Mrs. Hethercots we have received a model sailing ship with a painted seascape background, and mounted in a box frame.

Mrs. Butters (from Oatley Senior Citizens) has given a tortoiseshell comb, and a set of domestic scales with weights.

Mrs. Raynor of Sylvania (from the Wilson family) has donated an iron fender and tongs.

Mr. and Mrs. K. Davies have donated a length of rope, said to have been used in the rescue of three people from the sea when the "Royal Charter" was wrecked in 1859 off the coast of North Wales.

Mr. Johnstone of Oatley has donated an original set of gold weighing scales also a Sulky Lamp.

Mr. V. Smith has donated a number of items, some on behalf of Mrs. T. Glover of Taren Point. Included are many badges and charity buttons, commemorative medals, electoral rolls (Commonwealth and Municipal) 1940's -- Invitation Tickets for quite a large number of local balls and celebrations; a newspaper page from the "St. George Call" (1937) - a wartime airmail letter and a Taren Point Ferry timetable for 1959.

An attractive tall, glass vase, with a floral painted design on a deep cream background has been donated by Mrs. M. Grieve.

Our latest gift is a boat!! - More about that, next month.

Five years have quickly passed since the official opening of Carss Cottage Museum. Much has been achieved, and many changes have been made as we have progressed. There are many plans for improvement, and the next five years should be very interesting.

"Many Happy Returns" - to Carss Cottage Museum.

Owen Lean.

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On August 18th about 30 first form students from Kogarah High School visited the Museum. Weather-wise the day was good and according to Mr. V. Smith, who showed them through the Museum, the day was very successful. The students were very interested and very well behaved.

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### MUSEUM ROSTER.

			<u>To Open.</u>
September	5th	-- Miss P. Harry and Mrs. B. Dodd	Mr. J. Lean
"	12th	-- Mr. and Mrs. J. Howard	Mrs. E. Howard
"	19th	-- Mrs. S. Kelly and Mrs. J. James	Mrs. S. Kelly
"	26th	-- Mrs. D. Eiment and Miss K. Tuggan	Miss C. McEwen
October	3rd	-- Volunteers requested for these two days	
"	4th	-- (Eight Hour Day Holiday Week-end)	
"	10th	-- Mrs. A. McOnie and Miss S. Toley	Mr. J. Veness
"	17th	-- Mrs. D. Hatton and Mrs. M. Grieve	Mrs. D. Hatton
"	24th	-- Mr. and Mrs. E. Schweikert	Mr. J. Lean
"	31st	-- Mrs. G. Johns and Mrs. G. Taylor	Mrs. J. Johns

(If date given is inconvenient please phone 57-5940  
or see me at the next meeting - Jwen Lean).

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### CARSS' COTTAGE ANNIVERSARY.

The fifth Anniversary of the opening of Carss' Cottage Museum was celebrated in a most enjoyable manner on Sunday last the 29th August.

The weather was perfect with a light breeze and brilliant sunshine, the Park and Day were at their best.

Kogarah Municipal Band added to the scene with an enjoyable selection of tunes both old and new.

Tea, scones, jams and cream - the traditional Devonshire Tea - were served in grounds to the guests.

Visitors to the Museum remarked on the bright interior, interesting displays and the beautiful floral arrangements.

We were glad to see a good number of visitors from our neighbouring societies, Hurstville and St. George.

It would be hard to imagine a more suitable setting for such a gathering, the stone cottage, the green of the trees and grass, the sparkling water, scores of people enjoying the sunshine, music and refreshments.

Our congratulations and thanks to those ladies who made the afternoon possible, and as was remarked by many of our guests, "We should do this more often".

J. E. VENESS.

\* This very enjoyable day added 75 more names to our visitors book and \$100.00 to our funds.

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### THE STORY OF KISSING POINT.

(This is an authentic story vouched for by Mrs. S. V. Murray - Country Women's Association).

Mary Ann opened one eye and contemplated the lacy shadows on the bedroom wall. One looked like old Bill, the convict gardener, bending and twisting as he weeded the garden. Another the image of busy little Sarah, the kitchen maid.

There was a mail boat in at the jetty and she could hear the crew calling to the men on land to hurry with the cargo and mail, as the tide would soon be on the ebb. Also, they knew that Governor Hunter would be coming up the river that day with a party of ladies and they wanted to show him that the mail boat ran to time.

Mary Ann looked out of her bedroom window and across the broad stretch of the Parramatta River to her cousin's home on the opposite bank at Concord. She and her mother often rowed across the river to see the Brays and on summer evenings one of the most enjoyable parts of the visit was the homeward row across the water when the river seemed to be a world of shimmering gold and dark shadows.

Dressing leisurely and watching the mail boat out of sight, she decided to run out to the kitchen and see what Sarah and Migie were doing. Sarah had been a pastry cook in England before being transported for a trifling offence. Her cakes were a delight to all who tasted them and Governor Hunter never failed to call in for morning tea on his way up the river to Parramatta.

Grove Farm was one of the most beautiful spots on the river. It had been granted to James Squire, Mary Ann's grandfather, by Governor Phillip -- he being one of the first free settlers to obtain Government Grants. When Governor King came into office, he extended the grant. James grew hops for the colony as well as fruit and vegetables. He also owned several trading boats which carried cargo and mails.

Governor King granted James Squire permission to brew beer. At that time the drinking of rum was a serious menace to the colony and Governor King thought that beer was the lesser evil. Before James Squire died, he owned 1500 acres of the best land extending from the Parramatta River to Tennyson and north to the Field of Mars as well as city properties.

The homestead at Grove Farm with its shingled roof was large and rambling with a high fence enclosing the garden. Many of the homes at that time were built of convict-made bricks, but Grove Farm homestead was built of heavy timber.

On warm summer days, Ann's mother served tea under the shade of the wisteria trellis in the garden. On this bright morning, the trellis was covered by a misty cloud of mauve loveliness. Among the flower clusters, the bees hummed lazily, drawsy with the spicy perfume of the wisteria and the warmth of the sun.

"Run and tell Sarah to bring the big tray from the kitchen, Mary Ann", called her mother. "Grandpa Squires always likes to have the autographs of governors and Governor Hunter has not yet given us his autograph".

"Here they come", called Tom Farnell to his wife. "I bet you these fellows will run the Governor on to the reef on the east side of the jetty. I told Hunter to be here before low tide".

Laughter floated across the water as the Governor obviously joked at the prospect of the ladies having to swim ashore, but the hilarity was short-

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lived. A grinding crunch put the small boat on the reef. "Stay where you are", called Tom. "We'll bring the flat-bottomed boat and land you safely, but we'll have to carry the ladies the last yard or so".

So the ladies were safely landed and, as they were lifted to the beach by Governor Hunter and his friends, they had to pay their fare with a kiss.

As they sat at morning tea, the Governor laughingly said: "We have not yet given this point a name. I suggest that, from this day forth it shall be known as Kissing Point".

And Kissing Point it has been from that day onward.

The autographed tray is to be seen in the Mitchell Library, also several of the cups which were used.

My father had the tray in his possession for many years, but we agreed that it had historical value.

A 1931 article from "The Hurstville Propellor" --

"HORSE-RACING AT SANS SOUCI"

By Will Carter.

..oOo..

If anyone proposed a day's horse-racing at Sans Souci now the idea would create a ripple of merriment. Where could a racing track be found for the accommodation of such a meeting of the sportsmen of the turf. Nevertheless, facilities were not lacking, in the 1880's, when Sans Souci was quite a popular racing resort, with a really good course of something over a mile, situated near the Sans Souci Hotel, in close proximity to the landing place of the present Taren Point vehicular ferry punt. What jolly crowds used to assemble there, especially on public holidays, when it was nothing unusual to see 20,000 enthusiastic sports gathered to see some local favourite lower the colours of an outsider, or vice versa. Nothing could exceed the sheer sporting enthusiasm of the racing people then, for it must be remembered that betting on the part of the public, which is the great urge and regulating feature of horse-racing today, was practically non-existent, or at least negligible. The prizes themselves were ridiculously small compared with those of the present day, the "big money" events seldom exceeding \$10 or \$20. Fancy a Moorefield Handicap for a tanner today! All the same, the people attended in great numbers, and felt just as excited over the contests for supremacy, as they do at a Summer Cup meeting at Randwick now. Good luck to them, they ran for sport then, and they ran straight in most cases, giving the stewards little trouble. When one contemplates the racing of the past he is somewhat inclined to compare it with old-time political contests, which were run on honest lines, and which brought together better fields than we see nowadays. If we could only turn back the hands of Time for half a century, and make our way down to the old course, we should certainly meet the late Peter Moore, the founder of the famous Moorefield Racecourse at Kogarah in later years. Peter always had a bit of good blood. Ted Blake would be there, without a doubt,

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giving his famous "Cossack" a flutter for the main event. Then we would see the Englishes, the Hickeys, Bill Low and Jack McFarlane, who passed away about three years ago at Mortdale, at the age of 27 years. Among the successful riders we would be sure to meet Harry Shaw, who still resides at Kogarah, I understand. One of the Blake boys would also be seen in silk, and young English also. As I said, the prizes were small, and the licensed bookmaker was unheard of, likewise the 10 per cent tax that modern legislation has seen fit to impose upon him. In between the cash-prize-events there would be a number of hurry-scurries, when "neddies" off the grass, in some instances, would be "cutting" for a saddle or bridle. The course was un-enclosed, and, round about in the neighbouring bush, you would see a most varied collection of vehicles of the period parked, with horses tied up to saplings all over the place; great old gatherings, sure enough. Here and there, amongst the hewers of wood and tillers of the soil, would be seen the long-coated, bell-topped, and be-whiskered gentry, mixing with their exclusive set, and intently watching the progress of a race through their field-glasses. The grandstand at Sans Souci was a temporary structure that had to be re-erected for each race-meeting. The old course was not a bad one, by any means, and many an exciting contest was witnessed in connection with the brush hurdle-races.

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#### COINCIDENCE.

Both Presidents Kennedy and Lincoln were concerned with Civil Rights. The Wives of both Presidents lost children who died while in the White House. Lincoln was elected in 1860 and Kennedy in 1960. Both Presidents were killed on a Friday in the presence of their Wives. Both Presidents were shot in the head from behind. Their successors, both named Johnson, were Southern Democrats and both in the Senate. Andrew Johnson was born in 1808, Lyndon Johnson in 1908. John Wilkes Booth, Lincoln's killer, was born in 1839 and Lee Harvey Oswald, Kennedy's killer was born in 1939. Both killers were southerners, favouring unpopular ideas. Both were assassinated before their trials. Lincoln's secretary, whose name was Kennedy, advised him not to go to the theatre. Kennedy's secretary, whose name was Lincoln, advised him not to go to Dallas. John Wilkes Booth shot Lincoln in a theatre and ran to a warehouse. Oswald shot Kennedy from a Warehouse and ran to a theatre.

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"HIDDEN TREASURE"

A Story of the Hyde Park Convict barracks, 1817.

By Chas. Gilbert



FROM HISTORIC PHOTO OF 1871 (GOVT. PRINTER).

Amongst the huddle of District Court Buildings, on the eastern side of Macquarie Street, opposite the top end of King Street and St. James Church, the Hyde Park Convict Barracks comprise a sand-stock brick building which is now being partly renovated.

The Barracks were designed by Francis Howard Greenway, Australia's first architect, condemned to death for forgery but transported for fourteen years in 1814. With Governor Macquarie's active support, in six years his genius gave Sydney and Australia buildings whose simple beauty has remained unsurpassed.

"Hidden Treasurer"? How hidden? With an area of 130 by 50 feet and three stories high? Yes, by a tall palm tree in front and closely surrounded by dull tatty brick boxes. Why still hidden, after 150 years of growth, boom and affluence? Simply because Governments, being supreme realists, will rarely initiate reform or improvement unless activated by the regular expression of enlightened public opinion.

"Why Treasure?" I quote Morton Herman, architect and historian, in his preface to M.H. Ellis's book, "Francis Greenway, His Life and Times", (my main source). He writes, "It is indeed strange that Australians, who revere Greenway and his part in our history, can look without a qualm on the mutilations of his works, and see nothing shameful in the shoddy alterations and despoliation of the masterpieces of our early architecture, designed by the first, and perhaps greatest architect, who was in, and of, Australia."

The Hyde Park Barracks are something which no other country possesses. Its first substantial and permanent building, (Treasure Indeed!) Instead of treasuring it, we have allowed this building to become the most abused of Greenway's work."

Lachlan Macquarie also thought so, because at the opening, on King's Birthday, 1819, he made Greenway's conditional pardon, given when he built the Macquarie Light, absolute. This was aided by the earnest entreaty of Mary Greenway, "a pleasant respectable person". They were now eligible for invitation to the Governor's table, to the further annoyance of the "exclusives".

Now back to the Convict Barracks, surely nothing unusual in a penal colony? Where did these men lodge prior to this? Anywhere that they could find lodging, paid for by their working privately after three p.m. each day. This loose system had led to much crime and disorder; to combat this, Macquarie formed our first police body (from good conduct convicts) and had these barracks built. His diary notes that, as a result, there was now "not a tenth of night Robberies and Burglaries".

Before this, convicts on arrival here were met by the Governor's Secretary and Dr. Redfern (a former convict) and questioned as to their treatment on the long voyage out (these measures remedied many of the abuses prevalent in transports).

Their irons were knocked off, never to be replaced, except for new crimes. Mustered in the jail yard, they were addressed by the Convict Superintendant as follows:- "Find lodgings where you can, and come to work in the morning when the bell rings". At this time their ration of meat and wholemeal bread would have kept fat for a month, many a family in Nottingham or Glasgow.

In these barracks they slept in hammocks in twelve well-aired rooms, the buildings were surrounded by a wall ten feet six inches high, with a cell block at each corner for refractory prisoners. Only one such cell block now remains.

Along the northern wall was a single-storied dormitory, while along the southern wall was a 300 feet long row of kitchens, offices etc. Also to within these walls were transferred from the Lumber Yard in Bridge Street, the grim apparatus of punishment, the whipping posts and triangles. (These had but restricted use in Macquarie's time).

Between 500 and 1000 men were lodged here at a time, the barracks being used for over 25 years. Following this, migrants were lodged here until they made other arrangements. Next the barracks were used to house military volunteers, then as a home for aged females, a vaccination depot and lastly as part of the District Law Courts. All in the hand-me-down tradition accepted for too long.

What does the future hold? It has been long promised that with the building of new Courts, the barracks would be restored and most importantly, that by demolition of the surrounding clutter of non-descript structures, that Greenway's gem would once again be seen as it should be.

The Barracks clock, built by James Oatley for £75, (our suburb bears his name) still rings out the hours and keeps good time.

SURELY IT'S TIME ..... NOW?

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 Hwy,  
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.