



THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER

1976.

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Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 11, 1976, at 8 p.m. in the Civic Centre, Belgrave Street, Kogarah.

The Speaker will be our own Member, Mr. Charles Gilbert whose topic will be "Suffer the Little Children" and will give the history of the Colonies' Early Charity Schools. Having heard Mr. Gilbert speak before, I am sure we will have a very interesting and enjoyable night.

Our Raffle Prize has been kindly donated by Mr. and Mrs. Schweikert.

Once again our "Open Night" in October was enjoyed by all. Many interesting articles were brought along. Many hours could have been spent looking at the beautiful collection of old English Cigarette Cards which Miss Harry has mounted in Albums. -- And of course, her Baby Doll was exquisite.

I am sure all our members join in sending best wishes to Mr. V. Smith, our Vice President. As this Newsletter goes to press he is having a "much earned holiday" in St. George Hospital. Mr. Smith hasn't been well for sometime. We are missing him greatly and look forward to having him back with us before long.

SOCIAL NEWS.

Our night at the Illawarra Theatre Guild to see "Our Town" was enjoyed by all. The acting was excellent and the whole show was very well presented.

Dathurst-Hill End - We were more than fortunate in the weather. After weeks of heavy rain, along came a beautiful sunny week-end. I do hope everyone enjoyed their two day holiday, and for those who had not been there before, the small townships of Sofala and Hill End were very interesting. Mr. Ronnie Waterford, "Mine Host" of "The Royal Hotel", Hill End, was kind enough to spare the time to take us down to where we could pan for gold - it was there in small quantities; and some of us brought back a very LITTLE bit. In a 2 x 2 General Store, at Sofala they had in the window A MILLIONAIRES KIT for sale for \$25.00. We were intrigued with the notice, and found the kit to contain a sluicing pan, a pick and a small hammer - could be true if one was lucky enough to find rich gold. Thank you to Mrs. Jean James, who brought along a very nice purse for the raffle; to Colleen for preparing the Dathurst Notes. Thanks also to our President who saw to it that everything possible was done to make the week-end so successful.

Christmas Night - December 9th. Now is the time to get your name down if you are going to join us -- if you miss out please phone me on 537-6986 up to the week previous to the 9th December. Good steaks - lovely music and a very relaxing and happy time -- all for \$2.50 adults, \$1.50 children. We will be happy to see you.

Raffle Books - Still more for the asking. Please do take a book and sell them. Someone will win a lovely TEALIQUEUR SET for only 10c and the money all goes to make our Museum beautiful. This is one way we can all help.

Sylvia Kelly.

OUR THOUGHT - Many people have a good aim in life but they don't pull the trigger.

Lunch at the Royal Hotel was the gastronomic highlight of the week-end. Our Host, Bob Waterford, after doing the cooking, volunteered to conduct us on a tour of the town and then to Tamborona for a demonstration of gold-panning. A few flakes of the metal appeared in each pan, not nuggets as were expected by some of our younger prospectors, but enough to create symptoms of "gold fever" in others.

Back through Sofals, Illford, Wallerawang - a short, but long awaited stop at Blackheath, then back home.

Our trip was made more pleasant by a congenial Coach Captain, many times was the question asked "where are we going next"? Or "When will we do this again"?

Our thanks and congratulations go to Sylvia Kelly for her efforts in the organisation of the trip which in no small way assured its success.

J. E. Veness.

Following are three reports from our Delegates to the 1976 Royal Historical Society Conference --

"PRESERVATION - THE WHY, THE WHAT & THE HOW"

Address by Professor J.M. Freeland.

(Professor of Architecture University of N.S.W.
and Counsellor of I.A.A.S.)

The following is a condensed account of the lecture we were privileged to hear at the annual conference on Saturday 23rd October, 1976. It concerned the preservation, restoration, conservation and general care of historic buildings.

The first thing to be considered is the "why". Why should a particular building be preserved? An unusual style of architecture - a significant building, perhaps the first example of a new trend or perhaps a very ordinary building which was the home of a famous person.

Preservation is fundamentally a progressive activity, preservation is not just for antiquarianism, preservation is for the future.

Herewith are seven points which are justifiable reasons -

- 1) Historical - guarding our cultural heritage involves the emotions and enables us to appreciate the forces which brought these things about.
- 2) Psychological - The present can only be understood by studying the past. People experience a sense of stability when they are surrounded by memory and continuity - a buffer against change.

A country's architecture is a historical record. Every building is an original document worthy of preservation.

- 3) Aesthetic - Cities and their buildings have survived for centuries because of their solidity and durability. Rapidity of change causes less stable buildings to decay.

Argyle Place started as a quarry and because of the needs of the community developed in a laissez faire manner to its present delightful and fascinating state.

- 4) Time - The evidence of time on old buildings is psychological and aesthetic. Time adds maturity and mellow beauty.

- 5) Economic Reasons for Preservation - By destroying a building we are losing valuable asset. In the light of future inducements to tourists we cannot afford to lose any of our resources.

After 1850 we saw the Victorian style gaining popularity. Because of their concentration and quality these buildings have great tourist attraction.

Homestead style of buildings and wool-sheds are unique - synonymous with pastoral life in our country.

Maldon in Victoria was declared a historical town. Immediately it became a tourist attraction, a business boom followed, prices of properties increased and the project was a great financial success.

6) Architectural Heritage. Every old building cannot be preserved. We have to make a selection -- the commonsense approach. Ensure that every building which is preserved is good and representative.

7) Educational - An obvious combination of the six previous reasons for preservation. Something for everyone - the buildings of the past to be enjoyed by present and future generations, students and tourists alike. A building should not be preserved in isolation, but its total effect in the environment.

What is to be preserved? After we have studied the "why" the "what" flows on automatically.

How? The restoration or renovation should be carried out so that the building retained as closely as possible its original appearance. A building which is preserved as a Museum should be a working viable part of the community.

Most buildings have evolved and expanded over the years. Elizabeth Far is a typical example.

In the process of restoration the materials used should be as close as possible to the original, especially in roofs, glass in windows, finishes and colours. For exterior paintings the main colours used were brown, grey, stone and sometimes white. The roofs were predominantly red - the colour obtained from red oxide and referred to as raddled. The same ingredient was used in cosmetics, rouge to colour the cheeks - Hence the expression "Raddled old hag". A horrible thought with which to conclude this comprehensive and stimulating lecture.

M. GRIEVE.

ASPECTS OF PRESERVATION.

The issues discussed at the Business Session of the Conference covered aspects of preservation in relation to architecture, the law and archaeology.

How do archaeological aspects affect Kogarah? Ms Judy Birmingham, Senior Lecturer in Archaeology, Sydney University, is anxious to preserve a record of trades and crafts, their methods or processes, and the sites where these were carried out. This would include sawmills, brick kilns, tanneries, in fact any industrial occupation; e.g. the site of saw pits at Hurstville, lime kilns at Lime Kiln Bay or, what was associated with Judd Street, Oatley?

What buildings or other structures should be preserved in Kogarah? Professor J.M. Freeland, Professor of Architecture, University of New South Wales and Councillor, R.A.N.C. spoke about the value of our heritage for its beauty. "Beauty brings prosperity", he said, and as well, we have an educational and economic asset. Our total environment should include buildings which give a sense of belonging, and surround us with an atmosphere shared by earlier generations. Our earliest settlers left Europe as it reached one of the peaks in architecture - the elegant Georgian period. After the first rough huts here, buildings reflected the English style, but since the early 19th century, architecture has evolved in Australia which is unique.

If we intend to preserve our heritage it is important to be selective of the best example or most historic or unique, but there is no doubt that where

a local council or company preserve an old building with restoration or renovation, they win public approval. Professor Freeland recommends that a building should be restored to its best period or the period when someone famous lived there. He pointed out that the best results are achieved with patterns, materials and colours in use at that period of the building's "hey day". If the mortar should be correct. If cement was not used originally, its use in restoration would set up a destructive chemical reaction in the old bricks. Lime mortar must be made up three days before it is to be used and allowed to stand and mature, ready for use.

Is there a law or policy about preservation in Kogarah?

The Hon. Mr. Justice R. Else-Mitchell, President R.A.M.S., spoke about preservation and the law. He repeated the words of the Minister for Planning and Environment, Mr. Paul Landa, .. "put an end to destruction by intent or neglect".

There is no law protecting even the selected structures listed by the National Trust, and some otherwise well-intentioned local councils have permitted demolitions. Other councils, such as Windsor, have prescribed certain historic structures in their area, and these may not be altered without permission. These historic buildings are indicated on those council's planning schemes. The council or local historical society might consider certificates of merit or plaques to owners of well preserved buildings.

If preservation is not advisable, old buildings being demolished will be forgotten unless photographed, and careful records made of their unique or historic features.

In conclusion it was announced that the Premier and Mr. Landa are preparing a Heritage Act and propose to establish a Heritage Council of New South Wales to consider the preservation, restoration and presentation of appropriate properties (for instance, many may continue in their present function in the environment although some will become museums).

The Heritage Act is also intended to provide for conservation orders for large natural or urban areas.

Mr. Landa said "our heritage is a limited and irreplaceable possession and we have a responsibility to future generations to ensure that it is preserved". Will you please write personally to the Minister, indicating your interest, involvement and views about this proposed legislation, and vote at our next meeting that the Society should also acclaim this responsible recognition of our heritage?

E. HOWARD.

On Sunday 24th October, representatives of numerous Historical Organisations, including Kogarah, Hurstville, St. George and many from Country towns and Interstate, joined forces with the Royal Historical Society on a tour of historic Windsor, one of the five townships created by Governor Lachlan Macquarie in 1810. It was at a dinner at Government House, Windsor, on the 6th December, 1810, that Windsor, Richmond, Castlereagh, Pitt Town and Wilberforce were named.

Leaving Sydney's Macquarie Street at 9 a.m. by two coaches, our first 'Port of call' was St. Matthews Anglican Church. The foundation stone was laid by Governor Macquarie in 1817, and the graveyard which is older than the church contains the tombstones of many early settlers. The oldest stone inscribed 1810 marks the grave of Andrews Thompson, once the Chief Magistrate for the district.

An interesting incident occurred in connection with the laying of the foundation stone, which is recorded in one of the old registers. Misfortune accompanied this and a subsequent ceremony in that on both occasions the Spanish dollar deposited in the corner stone was stolen. Commenting upon this "infamous species of theft", the entry in the register concludes, "It is supposed that the corner stone was thrown down each time and the money stolen by some of the indigent convicts employed at the public works in the town of Windsor.

The pipe organ in St. Matthew's is claimed to be the first pipe organ to be built in Australia, and the original bible now preserved in a glass case near the entrance, was the gift of King George IV.

The 11a.m. Church Service was conducted by the Rector, the Revd. Cannon H. Rawson F.R.L. The congregation filled the church almost to capacity. Following the service, lunch was provided at the Windsor Bowling Club for the 97 people who were on tour.

Our next inspection was that of another church of the same name, that of St. Matthew's Catholic Church, of which the foundation stone was laid by Dr. Polding on the 28th December, 1836, the first mass being celebrated by Rev. James Dixon. The early priests covered the Hawkesbury District from Kurrajong to the Macdonald and journeyed to Penrith and Bathurst.

Two homes were open for inspection, 'Trevallyn' and 'Fairfield', both not only of historic interest but both of great credit to the owners for the manner of restoration and in their furnishings, 'Trevallyn' being an historical museum in its own right. The first grant of land was made to a Smallwood in 1790 and in 1857 was owned by Richard Ridge and used as livery stables with coaches operating between Windsor and Sydney. The property is now owned by Mrs. Dean, nee Hall, whose ancestors were among the 16 free adult passengers and 20 children who arrived on the 'Coromandel' on 13th June 1802. With a number of other settlers at Portland Head, they were the founders of the Presbyterian Church in Australia, and the Church at Ebenezer, built on Owen Cavanough's 100 acre land grant, is now the oldest church of any denomination in Australia still in use.

'Fairfield' house is an imposing Victorian mansion on the approach to Windsor from the West. The original part was built just prior to 1833 when William Cox took up residence there. The house was built on land granted to Henry Cox, son of William, in 1804, and remained in the Cox family until the late 1840's. The property has passed through numerous hands until purchased by the Drangwins in 1972, who propose to cater for wedding receptions. Part of the estate is now the Windsor Country Club.

Then to another fine building, the Windsor Court House. Built by William Cox who also served as a magistrate, in 1822 at a cost of \$1800, the building was created by Francis Greenway an English architect who in 1814 was sent to Australia for forgery. In 1816 Governor Macquarie appointed Greenway Civil

Architect at a salary of 3/- per day, and in 1819 he received a full pardon. In August 1829 the first Circuit Court in Windsor was opened by Judge Stephen one man was hanged for house breaking whilst another received seventy five lashes for stealing oranges. A portrait of Governor Macquarie, commissioned by Hawkesbury settlers has hung in the Court House since 1822.

Opposite the Court House is another fine old building, erected in 1805 as the 'Peninsular Inn' and later operated as a Finishing School for girls. A most interesting aspect of this building is the many nests built by hundreds of Fairy Martins under the eaves of the building. The 'Peninsular Inn' and three adjoining workers' cottages are currently being restored by the National Trust through a grant from the Australian Government.

Our next inspection was to that of the Windsor Hawkesbury Museum, No.5 Thompson Square and next to the Macquarie Arms Hotel. The Museum occupies a site where a free settler from Britain, John Howe, conducted a general store from 1811 to the late 1830's. As the Daniel O'Connell Inn, conducted by Edward Coffey, it was the most popular hotel around the Hawkesbury in the 1840's. In 1876 John Howe's son sold the building to George Davies who was producing a weekly paper there called the Australiana, and was printed from 1872 to 1893.

The Doctor's House, also in Thompson Square, has been the home of many different doctors for almost 100 years. One of the first doctors to live in the lovely home was Doctor Thomas Fiaschi, who also won fame as a vignerone, his vineyard, Tizanna, was near Sackville.

The Macquarie Arms Hotel, now in the process of restoration, faces Thompson Square and George Street, was opened by Governor Macquarie in 1815 and built by Richard Fitzgerald. The hotel is conducted under the original name, although the name had been changed to the Royal Hotel in 1874 after a period of some years during which the building was used as a private home.

The building was once described by W.C. Wentworth as 'the most splendid establishment of its kind in the Colony'.

For the day, we were fortunate to have as our guide, Doug. Bowd, a resident of Windsor and the author of 'Macquarie Country'.

Our inspection covered a minimum of the many homes and buildings in the historic Hawkesbury. In the State Archives are manuscripts written by George Reeve in 1931 of many of our historic buildings of the Hawkesbury, Australia's most romantic waterway in both history and beauty.

The area is of particular interest to the writer, apart from the part that Owen Cavanough and his wife Margaret played in the early settlement of the Colony, their son Richard 1802-1830, and Richard's son William David both conducted successful businesses for many years in Windsor. Many descendants were married in St. Matthews, and headstones too mark many of their last resting places.

The day was most fruitful in the knowledge gained and the hospitality shared.

K. R. CAVANOUGH.

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
32 Princes Highway,
KOGARAH. 2217.
Phone: 587 4343.

Hon. Secretary:

Mrs. S. Eutters,
36 Louisa Street,
OATLEY. 2223.
Phone: 57 6954.

Vice Presidents: Mr. V.S. Smith and Mr. N. Kelly.

ACTIVITIES: 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 3 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 of 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.

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

Admissions: 30 cents Adults, 10 cents Children. Maximum 80 cents per 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 objects.

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.