



THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

March, 1977

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MARCH MEETING

Our next meeting will be held at 8 p.m. on Thursday, 10th March, 1977 on the second floor of the Civic Centre, Belgrave Street, Kogarah.

This is our Annual General Meeting when Office Bearers and Committee for 1977 will be elected.

Ladies on the SUPPER ROSTER are Miss Harry and Mrs. Johnson.

SOCIAL REPORT - SYLVIA KELLY

At the Illawarra Theatre Guild "I Killed the Count"- not really - but those who went along all enjoyed that play. I wonder how many solved the mystery?

Bessener Day, 8th March - 10.30 a.m. at the Sea Scouts Hall. Ladies, do come along - and bring a friend. You will have a pleasant morning with us. A light lunch will be served at a cost of only 60c.

Sunday trip to Lane Cove, 20th March. Please note that this trip has been altered from a bus to a car journey. Those who wish to attend but have no transport are asked to please see Sylvia Kelly at the next meeting - or 'phone 587 6936.

Proposed CARCOAR WEEK-END, 28th-29th May. If you enjoyed the last week-end away this proposed tour is for you. Let me know if you are interested - same price: \$28.00. Names will have to be given in early for motel booking to be made.

MUSEUM ROSTER for MARCH

6th - Mr. and Mrs. E. Schweikert
13th - Mrs. McOnie and Miss Foley
20th - Mrs. Hatton and Mrs. Grieve
27th - Miss Maclean and Mrs. Kernond

To open
Miss C. McEwen
Mr. J. Veness
Mrs. Hatton
Mr. J. Lean

MUSEUM ROSTER for APRIL

3rd - Mrs. James and Miss Nicholson
10th (EASTER SUNDAY) - Volunteers needed
11th (EASTER MONDAY) - Volunteers needed
17th - Mr. Wright and Mr. E. Grieve
24th - Mr. and Mrs. Lean
25th (ANZAC DAY) - Miss G. Coxhead and Friend

Miss C. McEwen
Mr. J. Veness
Mr. J. Lean

If any date given is inconvenient, please see GUEN LEAN at the next meeting - or 'phone 57 5940.

LOCAL HISTORY ABSTRACTS by Elaine Howard

Following is a selection from publications recently received at Carss' Cottage Museum:

CARRUTHERS, J. N. - The politics of "State Rights": Carruthers and the N.S.W. State Election of 1907; by G. E. Sherington in JOURNAL of the Royal Australian Historical Society, Dec. 1976

COINS IN EARLY COLONIAL DAYS - by G. Heavens in Sutherland Shire Historical Society QUARTERLY BULLETIN, Oct. 1976

EBENEZER CHURCH history - by G. G. Reeve (1931) in The Owen Cavanough Fellowship JOURNAL, Jan. 1977

GENEALOGY. Drafting pedigrees - by N. S. A. Layton in DESCENT, Sept. 1976

HURSTVILLE. The origin of the name - by S. J. M. in Hurstville Historical Society NEWSLETTER, Aug. 1976

JAHNALI. A history - by F. Midgley in Sutherland Shire Historical Society QUARTERLY BULLETIN, Oct. 1976

KEROSENE TINS AND BOXES - by Sheila Tearle in Hurstville Historical Society NEWSLETTER, Oct. 1976

THE MIRANDA ABBATOIRS - by Nick Berrey in Sutherland Shire Historical Society QUARTERLY BULLETIN, Jan. 1977

THE MITCHELL LIBRARY - by B. Goodger in St. George Historical Society BULLETIN, Nov. 1976

RESEARCH INTERESTS - Members' interests include: Cosmo Australian settlement in South America, Caroline Chisholm, recording old buildings in the Cow Pastures, American reed organs, early Charity schools and Archbishop Polding's tours. In Hurstville Historical Society NEWSLETTER, Nov. 1976

ST. GEORGE DISTRICT'S BIRTHDAY - from THE PROPELLER, 13th May, 1937 in St. George Historical Society BULLETIN, Sept. 1976

THE MORONORA CEMETERY - by M. Eutton-Neve in Sutherland Shire Historical Society QUARTERLY BULLETIN, Jan. 1977. Includes mention of the graves of McCall family of "Torwood", Sans Souci.

YONIE BAY - 30 Years Ago - by M. Eutton-Neve in Sutherland Shire Historical Society QUARTERLY BULLETIN, Jan. 1977

THANKS to those members who have found back copies of the Kogarah Historical Society's NEWSLETTERS for our Library collection.

NOTE: Colleen McEwen's report on WORKING BEE follows Annual Reports - Ed.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Another year in the life of the Society draws to a close - a year in which we have made some progress. The number of articles in our Museum collection continues to grow whereas the space in which we have to store them grows steadily less.

Contributions have come from a wide variety of sources - as varied as the articles themselves.

One of the most interesting and varied collections we have received consisted of the accumulation of items, papers and documents over a period of some sixty years from the 1870's onward, all preserved in original condition.

The Museum continues to be the focal point of the Society's endeavours and a new programme of displays is anticipated for the next twelve months. We have also commenced the preparation of a series of booklets on various aspects of the history of the District, the first of which is expected to be released in the next two months.

The demand for information on local history is growing rapidly as school programmes include projects for students researching local subjects.

We hope that the next year will see the recognition of the Museum area as a part of the heritage of the Municipality to be preserved and protected. With the rapid increase in the use of Carss' Park as a picnic area, the maintenance and preservation of the Cottage and its surroundings is giving some cause for concern.

The next year it is hoped will also see the extension of our taped programmes on historical subjects with the intended goal of preparing taped subjects suitable for broadcasting or school presentation, and the combination of slides as audio-visual subjects.

There are many facets of the Society's activities in which interested members can become involved, remembering we are all amateurs and there are no prerequisite qualifications for participating in any of these.

A lot of work has to be done if we are to fulfil the true function of a Historical Society and at a time when the nature and character of our area changes almost from day to day. It is essential that the recording of information be done now as it is not likely to be available to us indefinitely.

J. E. VENESS

MUSEUM ANNUAL REPORT

In August of last year the Museum celebrated its fifth anniversary. Carss' Cottage came into existence during a boom period in collecting Australian memorabilia when people became aware of the value of our past, when they began to develop a deeper understanding of how their town or district came into being, and why it is what it is. Kogarah Council in 1971 had the foresight and courage to provide the residents of the district with a delightful venue for a Museum to enable them to foster their interest in the past.

Over the last five years the Museum has steadily developed, new displays have been established and old ones added to. A constant ideal we have held through this period was how we could best show the people of today how the people of yesterday lived.

Last year was one of consolidation at the Museum. The interior was given a badly needed coat of paint; and in the front room where our model stands, a beautiful simulated Persian rug was added and the William Carss' table and bookcase were polished.

A new display was set up to commemorate 75 years of Federation in Australia. This exhibit took up a whole room and traced the story from its origins in 1849 to its culmination in 1901.

The year 1976 also saw changes in the administration of the Museum. The entry charges were increased. By doing this it has been possible to hire a cleaner to go through the Museum every second month. During the other month Mrs. Burghart undertook to do the job which she has carried out diligently and very well. Museum maintenance was undertaken by Mr. Burghart whose attention to this voluntary task has always been prompt and efficient. The preparation of the Museum for opening each Sunday (that is, cleaning of cases, arranging of flowers and general tidying up) was undertaken until this year by Mr. and Mrs. Lean. In 1976 an alteration was agreed upon by which Mrs. Lean and I take month and month about.

I sincerely hope that in 1977 this trend towards involving more people in the Museum will continue because I consider that the most needed commodity is human resources.

COLLEEN McEWEN

SOCIAL COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The following Social Committee Statement indicates that 1976 was a very successful year.

	\$	\$
TOURS	1,752.70	
<u>less</u> Bus Hire	1,636.80	115.90
* RAFFLES	211.55	
<u>less</u> Tickets and Prize	62.00	149.55
THEATRE NIGHTS	111.75	
<u>less</u> Tickets	92.50	19.25
5th ANNIVERSARY	43.57	
<u>less</u> Expenses	10.00	33.57
CHRISTMAS NIGHT	198.60	
<u>less</u> Expenses	20.25	178.35
STREET STALL		306.75
		<u>603.37</u>

* Included in Raffles entry

Christmas Raffles - Chair: \$75.00
Teaset: £31.00

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

THE KOGARAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY FINANCIAL STATEMENT From 1/2/76 - 31/1/77

<u>Income</u>	\$	<u>Expenditure</u>	\$
Memberships	259.50	Petty Cash	30.00
Museum Admissions	705.35	Stationery	314.96
Book Sales	7.60	Bulk Post	194.40
Raffles	211.55	Telecom	109.65
Jan Sales	374.25	Electricity	43.20
Pottery Sales	100.70	Museum Maintenance	654.73
Tours	1,752.70	Museum Exhibits	429.00
Monograms & Cards	26.30	Jams	372.87
Etchings, Folders and Photos }	12.55	Insurance	121.62
Donations	166.45	Tours	1,636.80
Social (Theatre, Anniversary, Xmas)	318.92	Pottery - less commission	76.59
Spoons and badges	59.50	Paintings & Bark Pictures) less commission)	41.28
Paintings & Bark) Pictures)	163.00	Social (Theatre, Raffles,) Xmas)	174.50
Street Stall	306.75	Sundries (Typewriter,) Affiliation fees &c.)	335.45
Bank Interest	34.15	Spoons and badges	7.00
	4,499.27	Photos	63.48
Deficiency for year ending 31/1/76		Library	12.00
Transfer to Accumulated Funds	138.26		
	<u>4,637.55</u>		<u>4,637.55</u>

THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

B A L A N C E S H E E T

	\$		\$
Balance as at 31/1/76	1,331.22	Commonwealth Savings Bank	1,259.36
Less Deficiency	138.26	Plus Deposit transferred	45.35
			<u>1,304.71</u>
		Less Unpresented Cheques 682448, 462228; 229, 230, 234, 235	 111.85
			<u>1,192.86</u>
		Cash in hand	.10
	<u>1,192.96</u>		<u>1,192.96</u>
In Addition:			
Deposit with St. George Building Society plus interest			1,478.67
Interest 30/11/75 - 30/11/76			134.10
			<u>1,612.77</u>

WORKING BEE at CARSS' COTTAGE, Saturday, 19th February, 1977
as reported by COLLEEN McEVEN.

At the last meeting volunteers were called for to help in a working bee at the Museum on Saturday, 19th February. The response was overwhelming with 11 people turning up to give their assistance on the day. Woodwork and windows were washed, brass and silver were polished, the outside storage areas were scrubbed and tidied, furniture and displays dusted, the garden was given a much needed weeding and pruning, and the lawn and concrete areas swept free of leaves.

Sincere thanks for a wonderful job to Mr. and Mrs. Burghart, Miss Coxhead, Mrs. Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. Fitzharding, Mrs. Grieve, Mrs. Hanlon, Mrs. McEwen and Mr. Wright.

POETS CORNERED - An Article contributed by KEVIN PLUMMER, East
Hills Boys High School

Contemporary Australian Poets
"BANJO" PATERSON, 1864-1941 and HENRY LAWSON, 1867-1922

Yes, these two great Australian poets heard from their father's knee or witnessed: The Gold Rushes, Bushrangers, feats of daring Exploration, Federation and the First World War. They were the lucky ones and it was their privilege to make those times live in our hearts forever more - the droughts, the floods, the characters of the bush, the city's poor, etc. Yet, I find, a jealousy existed between these two, e.g., there is this reference in "In Defence of the Bush" by Banjo Paterson -

..."So you're back from up the country, Mr. Lawson, where you went
And you're cursing all the business in a bitter discontent;
Well, we grieve to disappoint you, and it makes us sad to hear
That it wasn't cool and shady - and there wasn't whips of beer,
And the looney bullock snorted when you first came into view -
Well, you know it's not so often he sees a swell like you:
And the roads were hot and dusty, and the plains burnt and brown,
And no doubt you're better suited drinking lemon squash in town"...
etc.

I can't put a date on this poem but I would be interested to know if Henry "hit back" - a golden opportunity for you in the Society to re-read Lawson's works and write an article for your own Newsletter."

(Are there any members willing to pick up the gauntlet thrown down by Mr. Plummer? - Ed.)

THROUGH THE SUEZ IN 1879 - An Article contributed by Colleen McEwen

A recent acquisition to the Museum collection is the diary of Philip Abraham which covers the year 1879 when he journeyed to England to visit relatives. He sailed from Sydney on 5th July, 1879 on the Steam Ship "Aconcagua" and arrived in London on 26th August. He returned on the Steam Ship "Orient". The forward journey took him through the Suez Canal (opened in 1869) and the following abstract from his diary covers this part of his trip.

Tuesday, 12th August, 1879

Rose early, 5 a.m. Saw lighthouse on reef and men fishing there. Passed a Turkish Steamer quite close, could count all the crew. Entered the Gulf of Suez, land could be seen on each side; saw the Twin Brothers Islands. Slipped on another rudder for the Canal because of the number of turnings.

Wednesday, 13th August, 1879

Got up at 4 a.m., saw land quite close. Steamer very close, racing her to get to Suez. Land narrowing. Arrived at the town of Suez at 4 p.m. Great excitement on board. Natives came on board and dived for eggs, grapes etc. Entered canal with another steamer at 5 p.m. Turkish women, men and youngsters ran along the bank for bread et. Anchored with the steamer. Pretty place; had a swim in the canal; went all round the ship and had a look at the rudder. Went on both shores, Asia and Africa. Some pretty places along the banks, bought a picture of the Canal. Bought 3 dozen eggs for k/- to throw at the natives in the water, if they missed then they would dive for the sound ones - great sport.

Thursday, 14th August, 1879

Started at 5 p.m. Several houses on the banks, also a floating bridge. Desert of Arabia roasting hot. Stopped at second station - four Turks came with us from Suez to Port Said. Passed a Lake, the steamer F. & O. "Gvalior", and the Orient Line steamer the "Sultan" which was crowded with emigrants. Anchored off Ismail to allow the steamer "Ajax" to pass. A very pretty place, the Palace is here where Lesseppe (the French engineer who built the Canal) lived. Went on again up the canal, which in this place is very narrow and dangerous having so many turns. Stopped at station to allow two steamers to pass, neither as large as the "Aconcagua". Went on shore while the ship stopped and visited a place where the natives were widening the canal. A fisherman wanted to come alongside, he threw a rope and we tied it to the boat; in letting it out he caught his leg in it and pulled himself into the

water and so lost his chance of selling anything. Passed steamer. Stopped at night, had a swim, saw some native women ashore. Kelly, who is not strong, swam ashore, but could not get back because of the strong current; boat had to go for him.

Friday, 15th August, 1879

Arrived at Port Said. Before we had time to anchor we were swarmed with all kinds of foreigners and coolers etc. Such a lot of boats swarmed around the ship and gangway, fighting to take passengers ashore. We made up a party of seven and went ashore; engaged a guide for 1/- per hour - he took us everywhere we could go in the time (from 9 to 2) - a very good guide, who spoke English very well. Saw Arat Town, Mosk, bazzars, market and gardens. Visited a theatre with a string band composed of ladies. Bought a basket of white grapes for 4/-. Native stowaway on board, a darkey. Steamed at 3; felt very tired. Fireman in irons. Half crewed. Turned in early after dinner.

JOTTINGS

The Burgharts have forsaken Carss' Park for Kyle Bay. We are sure the move will bring them even more friends and wish them good luck in their new environment. They have been quick to point out they are still in the Municipality of Kogarah and will certainly be as active as ever in our Society's interests.

Donor of the much-admired couch in the Museum is Mr. Jack Blunden of Richmond, N.S.W. (P.O. Box 11). He is a man well into his eighties and was pleased to have the article of furniture preserved in its present fashion.

The Owen Cavanough Fellowship display at Carss' Cottage is possible through the generosity of Mr. Ken Cavanough. It is colourful in design and content and is a fine model for future displays of this nature.

A TV show that frequently includes some item or place of historical interest is "Ask the Leyland Brothers" - a regular Sunday feature at 5.30 p.m. from Channel 9. The Leyland Brothers invite viewers to write to them c/o P.O. Box 900, Newcastle, 2300 and they do genuinely seem to answer questions as effectively as possible. Members may wish to see something of historical interest through this TV programme - it may even be that the half-hour programmes could be procured for showing to a group such as ours. Perhaps our President could follow up this suggestion?

THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Sponsored by Kogarah Municipal Council)

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

<u>President:</u>	<u>Hon. Treasurer:</u>	<u>Hon. Secretary</u>
Mr. J. E. Veness 6 Lance Street, BLAKEHURST. 2221 Phone: 546 3932	Mrs. G. Johns 38 Princes Highway, KOGARAH. 2217 Phone: 587 4348	Mrs. B. Butters 36 Louisa Street, CATLEY. 2223 Phone: 57 6954

Vice Presidents: Mr. V. S. Smith and Mr. H. 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.

<u>Subscriptions</u> - Ordinary Members	\$2.00 p.a.
Pensioners	\$1.50 p.a.
Students	\$1.50 p.a.

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 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 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 1.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Admission charges: Adults - 30c.; Children - 10c.;
Maximum per Family - 80c.

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 donor's name and address and details of objects donated.

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, Miss G. Coxhead, 61 Carwar Avenue, Carss' Park, Blakehurst. 2221