



# THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 1977

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## THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Next meeting: 8th September, 1977 Time: 8.00 p.m.  
Venue: 2nd Fl., Kogarah Civic Centre, Belgrave Street, Kogarah  
Guest Speaker: Prof. I. Jack, Dean of the Faculty of Arts,  
Department of History, University of Sydney.  
Topic: "Elizabeth Farm Cottage".

LADIES ON SUPPER ROSTER: Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Burghart

### REPORT ON AUGUST MEETING

It was pleasing that visitors were present at this meeting as well as a good representation of members. Later all were treated to a fascinating insight into the dim dark ages of our earth's shifting contours wherein rivers changed course, the seabed rose and fell and the physical land mass either shrank or expanded corresponding to the tidal influence.

With the help of excellent colour-slides, Dr. A. D. Albani, a most learned and polished lecturer, explained how by using electrical depth-searching equipment it is possible to penetrate the deposited materials on the sea-floor and trace the outline of its rock core. In the course of many many centuries, rivers whose mouth had been clogged so that their bed rose, diverted to make new channels.

Dr. Albani said that in 2½ years of surveying the bottom of Botany Bay (a project commissioned by Sutherland Council) it was possible to remap the original courses followed by Botany Bay's three principal rivers (once there were more) - the Cook's, Eastlakes' and George's. The result was a surprising revelation. We learned that the George's originally flowed through the Kurnell Peninsula and joined the Hacking River. Today the hotel at Cronulla sits squarely above the old river-bed!

Other surprising facts emerged, prompting a number of questions, all of which Dr. Albani answered from the fulness of his knowledge.

Everyone must have felt it was a most informative lecture and Mr. Veness duly conveyed the meeting's sentiments to Dr. Albani.

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

At the meeting on 23rd August there were present: Mr. J. Veness, Mrs. M. Grieve, Mr. N. Kelly, Mrs. G. Johns, Mrs. E. Howard, Miss K. Duggan, Mrs. D. Hatton, Mrs. B. Butters, Miss G. Coxhead. Absent were: Mr. and Mrs. J. Lean, Miss C. McEwen, Mrs. S. Kelly (sick).

This was another informal meeting. Sufficient copies of Monographs 5 and 6 were made ready for sale on the Museum's Open Day on 28th August. This occupied the evening.

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Death of Mr. E. Schweikert - Sadly I must report the untimely passing of one of the Society's stalwarts, Eric Schweikert. His funeral, held on Monday, 29th August, was attended by several of our members, including our President and myself. The deepest sympathy of the Society is extended to his widow.

Personal Par - Mr. Vince Smith is very much remembered by us all. He is still far from well. Our present editor misses him badly, she tells me. Try as she might, she finds it difficult to produce that excellent presentation achieved during his tenure of office.

Illawarra Theatre Guild (20th August) - As usual the staging of "As You Like It" was marked by the first-class acting characteristic of this talented company. It was a strong cast (with perhaps one exception). All the players threw themselves into the spirit of the roles. Although their dress was modern they essayed to preserve the image of the type of character Shakespeare had in mind. The bard's words had not been modernised and at first it was a little difficult to reconcile his rhymed couplets and alliterative references, fashionable in his day, with the modern look.

"As You Like It" was enjoyable, yes, but by today's standards its plot had a fairytale quality that left one vaguely dissatisfied.

Canterbury Bus Tour - Sunday, 18th September (\$1.50). Departure from Civic Centre, Kogarah, at 1.30 p.m. Seats are still available on this tour for members and their friends. Your support is necessary. Bookings must be finalised at next meeting.

Carcoar Week-End - Saturday-Sunday, 29th & 30th October (\$29.00). A reserve list is held for this tour. Will Mrs. McSweeney please get in touch with me as I can now offer her a place.

Stall Day - Friday, 4th November. Any member wishing to sew, please give me your name for issue of material. Children's clothes are always good sellers and we need someone to make them.

Open Night at October meeting - This repeats the pattern of previous Open Nights. Bring along something interesting to see and discuss!

Christmas Night Raffle - Donations of groceries are now being accepted to make up two small hampers.

September Raffle - donated by Mrs. A. Newlyn. August raffle won by Mrs. Godfrey.

Reminder: The Society has an invitation from the Glebe Historical Society to visit on 16th October for their Biennial House Inspection Open Day.

SYLVIA KELLY

Editorial Note - Mrs. Kelly was suffering from influenza prior to the Museum's Open Day but still managed to do a mighty job of organisation for the 28th, helped by other ladies of the Society. - A.G.C.

## MUSEUM REPORT

On Sunday, 28th August, members of our Society mingled with visitors to Carss' Cottage Museum in celebration of the sixth anniversary of the museum's official opening on the 28th August, 1971.

Twenty-one members of the Kogarah Municipal Band provided a colourful scene and a programme of most enjoyable music. Their entertainment was appreciated by all, whether partaking of afternoon tea outdoors, or leisurely inspecting the displays in the museum.

I'm sure everyone enjoyed the afternoon, particularly the Devonshire teas! Two people even came back with a repeat order! The refreshments were provided by Sylvia Kelly, Val Burghart, Beryl Butters and many willing helpers, who were all kept very busy most of the time.

We were pleased to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Philip Geeves, who kindly brought along a number of interesting items for the museum collection; and Mr. and Mrs. D. Briancourt whom we had not seen for quite a time.

Three new monographs produced by the Society went on sale for the first time and sold well during the afternoon. Their titles are:

"Kogarah and District" (No. 3)

"George's River" (No. 4)

"Entertainments of Yesterday" (No. 5)

Each contains much valuable information from articles which have appeared in our NEWSLETTER during recent years.

As Carss' Cottage Museum enters its seventh year there is more scope than ever for further achievement of our Society's aims, so let's all see that it's "full steam ahead" (like the old Kogarah tram)!

GWEN LEAN

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### Editorial Note

This could be an opportune time to mention how truly devoted Gwen Lean is in the care she lavishes each Saturday on making the museum attractive for visitors the next day. Her flower arranging often earns praise from those passing through Carss' Cottage and must undoubtedly have been much admired during the recent Anniversary Open Day. - A.G.C.

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## BLAKEHURST HISTORICAL SERIES

Article No. 8 (published in THE PROPELLER and St. GEORGE CALL  
(July-August, 1921 and extracted from the reports

### CARSS' BUSH - Kogarah Council to take steps to Acquire

Kogarah Council held a special meeting on Monday night, to meet a deputation from the Blakehurst Progress Association, to consider ways and means of acquiring Carss' Bush as a park and recreation ground. All the aldermen were present except Ald. Coleborne.

The President of the Blakehurst Progress Association (Mr. Willis) was the first speaker. He said the agitation for the resumption of Carss' Bush was nothing new, but had been going on for years. Only recently the Minister for Lands had visited the site and stated it was an ideal park, but unfortunately, no money was available. He had practically said it was the Council's duty to resume the bush.

Now, the Progress Association's suggestion was that two roads be run through the bush and a number of double frontage lots subdivided for sale. The whole area, roughly estimated at 119 acres, could be purchased from the trustees for the sum of £12,000 for park purposes. About £12,000 could be obtained by selling 6,000 feet at £2 per foot and the people would be able to retain the beach and elevated portions of the estate.

Mr. Coxhead (Secretary) contended that it was only a short time before there was no land available for parks. The present site was an ideal one, with a plateau in the centre suitable for recreation and from which magnificent panoramic views can be obtained. It has a nice sandy beach which was safe for children.

Situated as it is on the fringe of an evergrowing metropolis it is the Council's duty to consider future generations. The park, if acquired, is in a central position and would serve Kogarah, Carlton and Hurstville equally.

The speaker was optimistic enough to think that in a short time the tram will pass the area on its way to the punt. The area had no comparison around Sydney except the National Park.

"There is," concluded Mr. Coxhead, "not a decent park in the whole of the Municipality, while, owing to no area being available, the centre of recreation had moved to Hurstville."

Mr. Large said that Mr. Coxhead's remarks on the proposed park were not exaggerated. It was a strange thing that, according to figures, we in St. George have fewer playing fields than Erskineville.

If the area were acquired it would help to accelerate the construction of the tramway. Then, referring to Dover Park and

Tom Ugly's Point, the speaker considered it valuable as water frontages for subdivision, but of no use as a recreation or pleasure ground and therefore could be sold.

Ald. Matthews thought it a good suggestion to sell Dover Park, but would not give his vote to sell one inch of Carss' Bush.

If the area was acquired, they had ample space for a sports oval on the plateau; which would recompense the Council for resuming. Deep water was available near the beach and after a time it might be arranged for the Council's blue metal to come in by boat. He moved that:-

"The Council go into the matter of resuming this area for a park, with the understanding that permission be obtained from the Minister to sell Dover Park."

Ald. Bowles said that his introduction to the proposed park site was made 25 years ago, when in company with Miss Carss, he viewed the site from all its vantage points. He too elaborated upon the beauties and advantages of the area and said he was astounded at the price which would ensure the park, almost 120 acres - why, it was a mere bagatelle! He was quite agreed that parks should be obtained for the whole Kogarah Municipality. Generally speaking the Council had no conception of the progress which must come to the St. George areas.

Ald. Grant did not think there was a man in the Council who did not know it. "If we cannot get the support which is due to us from the Government then we must do the next best thing."

Ald. Jones said St. George was the most neglected place in New South Wales. "We get absolutely nothing, whilst out at La Perouse they had a tram put down for two or three blackfellows."

Ald. Walsh gave his wholehearted support. The time had arrived to try and force the hands of the Government. Kogarah was practically barren of parks and it was nearly impossible to put Kogarah Park into order for a recreation ground.

Ald. Steenbom said the acquisition of the bush was no burden, as the sale of timber and portion of the land itself would pay for it. It was "a pure investment". He would specially support it as it would serve the area that he represented (Sans Souci) which, having no park, must eventually go to Carss' Bush.

Ald. Poulton also supported.

Ald. Lipman asked if the Mayor had any knowledge of a rumour that £3,000 would be taken as a deposit, and the balance in Government Bonds?

The Mayor: "I believe so, but cannot say definitely."

The majority of the Council were opposed to selling any part of the land for residential purposes. Ald. Matthews pointed out that the natural beauties, together with the utility purposes of the foreshores, would be marred by such a proposed scheme, more especially if Dover Park were sold. Provision would have to be made for a landing stage for the council to land its metal by boat, as was being done by the Public Works Department at present.

Mr. Murray Bocking, of the Mortdale Traders' Association, who was present at the request of the Council, spoke in favour of Carss' Bush. He also submitted a scheme which his association had outlined for the acquirement of Macrae's paddock, Mortdale, as a recreation reserve. This scheme could apply for both purchases, viz, that of striking a special rate of 1/8d. in the £ on the Unimproved Capital Value of St George (4 millions) which would return £200,000 for the acquisition of parks in 100 years or £50,000 in 25 years. In nine years, on a pro rata basis, Carss' Bush would be paid for.

Mr. Bocking's proposal created a good impression on the Council.

Ald. Matthews' resolution was carried.

Ald. Grant proposed that a committee consisting of four members of the Council and four from the Blakehurst Progress Association be appointed to discuss matters in connection with the proposal. This was carried.

Aldermen Jones, Walsh, Biddles and Steenbom were appointed to represent the Council.

The Mayor thanked the Association for the interest they had bestowed upon the matter of the acquirement of Carss' Bush and assured them that the Council would leave no stone unturned to bring about its consummation. Councils in the past had been blamed for not acquiring open spaces for the people, but probably they had not received the valuable assistance that only the rate-payers and residents could render to councils for work of this description.

Mr. Willis thanked the Council for its sympathetic interest and proffered assistance.

Article No. 9 - Letter dated 10th August, 1921 from the office of the Minister of Lands, addressed to Mr. Mark Gosling, M.L.A.

Dear Mr. Gosling, - In the absence of the Minister I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 2nd instant, with further reference to the District Surveyor's inspection of Carss' Bush, and asking that arrangements be made for that officer to call on the Mayor of Kogarah. This matter will be looked into immediately and a further communication on the subject addressed to you as soon as possible. - Yours faithfully,

(signed) A. C. ROBERTS, Secretary to the  
Minister

Note: With the permission of the Association of Civilian Widows the following article has been reproduced from their magazine.

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, SYDNEY

In 1842 twenty-two Communicants met in a Macquarie Place Hall to form the first Presbyterian Congregation, and the first minister was the Rev. Thomas Mowbray who later became a pioneer of Presbyterianism in Queensland.

During the Gold Rush, the congregation, led now by Rev. Alexander Salmon, imported a prefabricated Iron Church which was erected on a site next to Parliament House and called St. Stephens. The name was chosen because the Westminster Parliament had met in St. Stephen's Chapel from 1543 to 1834.

Nearby in Phillip Street a United Presbyterian congregation had erected a stone Church, and in 1873 the two congregations united to meet in the Phillip Street Church which then became known as St. Stephen's. The N.S.W. General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia met there when it was convened in 1901.

The Rev. James McLeod from Inverness (Scotland) was Minister when the congregation moved from Phillip Street to the present building in Macquarie Street which was dedicated in March, 1935.

The first Australian-born Minister was the Rev. Gordon Powell, 1952-1965, and early in his outstanding Ministry, the Wednesday Services were inaugurated.

In 1962 St. Stephen's introduced a system to bring notable preachers from overseas to take the pulpit temporarily.

The present Minister, the Rev. Graham W. Hardy, was inducted in 1967. Formerly he was the Minister of the Palmerston Place Church, a well known city congregation of Edinburgh. Under his ministry a unique daily lunch hour programme of Christian outreach has become a popular feature, and every day the midday programme attracts significant numbers of people.

The Royal Pew in the Church was occupied by Her Majesty, the Queen, with H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, and the Princess Anne, in 1970, and the Queen's and Regimental Colours of the 30th Battalion (The N.S.W. Scottish Regiment) were laid up in St. Stephen's in 1962 and the Regimental Colour is emblazoned with the Battle Honours of the Scottish Rifles, Boer War.

An Historical Exhibition is also to be seen in the Foyer of the Ferguson Hall in the Church building.

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An article contributed by KEVIN PLUMMER

SHADES OF GERMAINE GREER

George Fife Angus, the founder and chairman of the South Australian Company, brought several hundred Evangelical Lutheran religious refugees to that state in the 1840's.

Each family farmed a plot of land and to supplement their income village communities contracted to shear sheep for the company and private settlers. A pioneer settler, John Bull, remembered (quote)...

"The shearers, principally young women, were waited on by men of the village, who, when called upon, caught and carried the sheep to the shearer who was ready. The sheep was carefully laid down on its side; the young woman, without shoes and stockings, had a piece of thick, soft string tied to one of her great toes, and the other end was tied to the hind foot of the sheep; the girl's leg was then stretched out to extend the legs of the sheep; her knee or left hand was pressed on the neck or shoulder of the animal, which was then left to her charge, and she commenced her clipping work, most carefully avoiding any snips of the skin. The number shorn by one never exceeded thirty a day, but I was pleased to see how tenderly the sheep were handled. The wool was taken off very close."

In short, it was a case of

"Stretch-and-clip, stretch-and-clip,  
Whether wethers or ewes -  
Let's rid those washaday blues!  
Stretch-and-clip, stretch-and-clip!"

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HISTORY PRESERVED

Undergoing a "face-lift" at present are the Hyde Park Barracks in Macquarie Street. The cost will be \$300,000 and will be borne by the Department of Public Works.

Hyde Park Barracks were designed by Francis Greenaway and were originally used to confine convicts arriving in the Colony for the first time.

A corrugated iron roof over the original shingles (in remarkable condition for their age) is being removed and new forest oak shingles cut at Wauchope will be used in the restoration.

It will be necessary to remove each individual brick for cleaning. Those which are too worn for refitting will be replaced with bricks recovered from an old wall of similar age.

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Report following a visit to Liverpool on Saturday, 13th August, by G. Coxhead and friends to hear Mr. T. G. Macartney present an illustrated lecture on a little known and unusual subject -

### BARRALLIER AND HIS EXPLOITS

The lecture was entitled "A Look at Barrallier's Country" - from Richmond down through the now flooded Burragorang Valley.

Many present-day Australians have not even heard of Barrallier and do not know the important part he played in the early life of the Colony of New South Wales.

Mr. T. G. Macartney, a lecturer at Sydney University and teacher at Shore Grammar School has been delving deeply into the history of this brilliant, colourful and energetic Frenchman who contributed to our own history by his explorations of the country north, south and west of Sydney as well as parts of Victoria; who designed the "Royal George" for local shipbuilding, and commanded some of the Colonial military forces. It is Mr. Macartney's intention to publish a book about Barrallier, possibly as early as next year.

He himself is a keen bushwalker and has personally been over routes presumed to have been followed by Barrallier. His photographs are compared with Barrallier's descriptions of places along the routes he took, thus trying to identify the routes exactly. These colour slides are mostly very beautiful and show the changing nature of Australia's natural bushland, often rugged and near inaccessible - a tremendous challenge to one unfamiliar with the terrain as Barrallier was.

Mr. Macartney lives at Wentworth Falls and has many demands on his time. However over a period he does try to accommodate all those inviting him to lecture.

Next year he has intimated he may be able to be a guest speaker for our Society if a suitable date and time could be decided upon. His lecture to the City of Liverpool Historical Society was arranged for a Saturday afternoon which could be a more convenient day of the week for him.

Although Barrallier did not explore the St. George district, going further afield, knowledge of his work and career would surely be of value to us in enlarging our own understanding of Australia's history and for this reason an invitation to Mr. Macartney to lecture would be in the Society's interests.

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Revelations of past civilizations continue to be unearthed. In Iraq in recent years archeologists have discovered the remains of four villages, at least 8,000 years old, in northern Nineva province. Their site is at Tel Dabbawiya, which is about 26 km. westward of the historic town of Hatra.

THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Sponsored by Kogarah Municipal Council)

President - Mr. J. Veness  
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KOGARAH. 2217  
Tele. 587 4846

Vice Presidents -  
Mr. V. S. Smith  
Mr. H. Kelly

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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 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 8.00 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 p.m. to 5 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 object/s 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.

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