



THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Christmas - New Year

NEWSLETTER

1977-1978

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Merry
Christmas

KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

This issue is for December, 1977 and January, 1978. In lieu of the December meeting the Society held its annual Christmas Night at Carss' Cottage.

Next meeting: 12th January, 1978

Time: 8.00 p.m.

Place: Exhibition Lounge, 2nd Floor, Civic Centre, Belgrave Street, Kogarah.

Guest Speaker: Mr. Charles Gilbert

Topic: Dame Mary Gilmore

LADIES ON SUPPER ROSTER: Mrs. Beavan and Mrs. Kermond

NOTES ON NOVEMBER MEETING

On this occasion attendance was a little disappointing, especially as the speaker, Mr. J. Bastock, had prepared his material to make it as interesting and informative as possible. In this he succeeded admirably. The result was a most enjoyable history lesson for all who had the pleasure of hearing him speak on "The Genesis of the R.A.N.". They learned, for instance, that there was a time in the mid 1860's when six separate navies operated in Australian waters, all there to defend our country against foreign aggressors!

This came about under the Colonial Naval Defence Act which empowered individual States to raise their own small naval forces for their own defence. To the five State navies could be added ships of the Royal Navy stationed in Australian waters to protect Britain's young colony.

It was not until early this century that Australia really had its own Navy with the Federal Government responsible for its upkeep. Even so, the new fleet was given its greatest fighting strength by the donation of a British naval vessel. Incidentally Australia had the first warship to operate an aircraft.

Since then the R.A.N. has grown in number and fighting power, with full aerial support, and is today a highly specialised and mobile force.

Our President conveyed a suitable vote of thanks to Mr. Bastock.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Meeting held at Carss' Cottage on Tuesday, 22nd November, commencing at 8.00 p.m. with J. Veness in the Chair. Attendance was good with 13 members present. Only Mrs. Howard and Miss C. McEwen were absent.

A programme of speakers for 1978 was drawn up.

It was decided to have a "clean-up" night on Tuesday, 29th. (This duly took place).

Methods of adding to or replacing displays in the Museum were discussed.

The fact that so many members - some having a long association with the Society - were unfinancial caused concern.

An account forwarded to the Society by the M.W.S. & D. Board seemed for an excessive amount and an inquiry is to be made to find out what is covered by the amount. This is the first time an account of this kind has been received by the Society.

These were the principal matters occupying the Committee's attention.

Management Committee Report - continued

A number of donations which have been handed in to attendants on duty at the Museum were brought forward by Mrs. Lean. Her acknowledgments will be given in a later NEWSLETTER.

G. Coxhead reported she has mislaid the P.O. receipt for money paid on the October NEWSLETTER postage, so that reimbursement for the amount is still owing.

Mrs. Kelly reported arrangements are in hand for the Christmas night.

Meeting closed.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The outing to Parramatta resulted in yet another enjoyable day for all who participated. It was a matter for great regret that Jack and Gwen Lean have had sickness in their immediate family circle and because of the gravity of the circumstances they could not be with us on the bus trip.

Elizabeth Farm Cottage is desperately in need of restoration and it is obvious if it is left to deteriorate much longer it will collapse. This would be a serious loss historically. Not only is it Australia's oldest surviving building and the prototype for hundreds of "typical" Australian homesteads characterised by shady verandahs but its potential is enormous. It has an old-world charm and graciousness that could be rediscovered and enhanced by careful restoration and refurnishing which would make it a wonderful tourist attraction and give it the pride of place among our historic buildings which it deserves.

Mrs. Grieve has undertaken to write an account of the whole day's touring and this should appear in the February issue of NEWSLETTER.

All the events of a busy 1977 are behind us now, and we look forward to an active and successful New Year. I should like to take the opportunity to thank all the ladies for their very generous support and help during my term of office as Social Secretary.

I have made some very good friends among the members. To Val, especially, who has worked so well with me, I must say a special "thank you". No one person can achieve anything, it takes many hands - our Christmas night, December 8, proved this. It was one of our loveliest nights. After a strong wind in the afternoon we were so lucky to get such a calm and beautiful night. Everything went off so well. Our President was in fine form, and assisted by V. P. Noel, the steaks were just right. Music from the Sutherland Light Orchestra was enjoyed by everyone, and was truly delightful.

An afternoon tour of Hunters Hill is proposed for February - more of this at the January meeting.

January raffle is being donated by S. Kelly.

You are all wished a very happy New Year.

SYLVIA KELLY

EDITORIAL NOTE.

The Museum roster will be found on p. 4. Your Editor joins with your President and other members of the Management Committee in hoping everyone had a good Christmas and will have a favourable New Year. Despite good intentions your NEWSLETTER was not able to be produced before Christmas for which I am sorry. Members are asked to check their financial membership PLEASE. A.G.C.

Blackhurst Historical Series - continued

The organisation being young and vigorous, and with a large field to operate on, would become a power for good in all matters relating to the welfare of the district.

Keen interest was evinced in the election of officers for the ensuing year. Following are the results:

President, Mr. A. C. Willis; vice-presidents, Alderman F. Wheeler, Mr. Powis; Honorary Secretary, Mr. H. Coxhead; . Honorary Treasurer, Mr. H. Howland; assistant Honorary Secretary, Mr. Dunlop; auditors, Mr. Weatherlake and Miss R. Marcusson; secretary Ladies' Committee, Miss E. Cooper; executive council, Mesdames Marcusson and Howland, Messrs. Coleman, Blackett and G. Dewhurst; building committee, Messrs. Bartlett, Blackett, Dunlop, H. Dewhurst, Coleman, Howland, Ibbotson, Wheeler, Matterson and Weatherlake, with the president and secretary members ex-officio.

It was resolved to send a letter of condolence to the relatives of the late member, Mr. W. Chown. It was decided to write to Kogarah Council on the following matters;

Re condition of Woniora Road, and asking for same to be put in order as soon as possible.

Re condition of Stuart Street, Bald Face Point.

Re Carss' Bush, asking for further particulars in regard to the proposed acquisition for a public park.

It was also decided to draw the attention of the Council to the state of the jetty at Dover Park. It was further decided to co-operate with Sutherland Shire in the matter of the proposed bridge across the George's River.

The next meeting of the association will be held in the Blackhurst School Hall on Saturday, February 11, when the main business will be in connection with the proposed hall and the notice of motion for the alterations of rules 4 and 5.

MUSEUM ROSTER FOR JANUARY, 1978

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendants</u>	<u>To open</u>
1st (New Year's Day)	Mr. and Mrs. J. Howard	Mrs. E. Howard
2nd (Monday)	Mrs. S. Hanlon and Mrs. Kermond	Mr. J. Lean
8th	Mrs. L. Beaven and Miss Maclean	Mr. J. Veness
15th	Mrs. J. James and Mrs. S. Kelly	Mrs. S. Kelly
22nd	Mrs. D. Hatton and Mrs. M. Grieve	Mrs. D. Hatton
26th (Australia Day)	Mr. and Mrs. J. Lean	Mr. J. Lean
29th	Mrs. G. Johns and Mrs. G. Taylor	Mrs. G. Johns

MUSEUM ROSTER FOR FEBRUARY, 1978

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendants</u>	<u>To open</u>
5th	Mrs. B. Dodd and Miss P. Harry	Mr. J. Veness
12th	Miss G. Coxhead and Friend	Mr. J. Lean

Other details will be announced at January meeting. If any date given is inconvenient for anyone please tele. 57 5940

GWEN LEAN

OUR SOCIETY'S VISIT TO HISTORIC CARCOAR

29th-30th October, 1977

In summary this trip can be said to have offered us a surfeit of good things relating to places and buildings of historic interest.

From the time we left Kogarah on Saturday morning till our return the next evening we saw "Tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, sermons in stones and good in everything". We also made some important discoveries regarding place names and their significance.

The First Day

Our route took us through Parramatta and Kurrajong to Bilpin where we had time off for morning tea and made some purchases at the Fruit Bowl, the roadside sales outlet for Mountain Dew Orchards. Cold apple juice and cider are specialties; also jams, preserves, chutneys, pickles, nuts, preserved and crystallised fruits, etc.

As we journeyed through the higher terrain the scenery was ever changing and always colourful. Sometimes the dark green of pine forests and citrus orchards and the paler green of summer fruit blended softly together against the background of sky and earth. Approaching Bell the typical haze veil that gives the Blue Mountains their name made the distant scene very attractive. The warm colours of the sandstone ridges interspersed with red-tipped gum trees appeared and reappeared as we traversed mile after mile, passing the outskirts of Lithgow on our way to Bathurst (named after Lord Bathurst, an English statesman).

At Bathurst most of us opted for a cafe lunch after which we made a brief tour of this "Queen City of the Plains". The Court House, Post Office and the more modern Civic Centre in their lovely garden setting are recognised as among the most beautiful examples of architectural excellence in New South Wales and are tourist features. The two older buildings could be regarded as monuments to the Colonial architect, John Verge. Along the two main streets, William and Howick, which cross each other at right angles in the centre of Bathurst, is a row of old-fashioned street lamps, each column supporting a bracket of twin lights. These, situated at regular intervals on the median strip, should show to advantage at night.

Regrettably our sojourn in this gracious city was short as we had to press on to Orange where our night's accommodation was booked at the Hotel Canobolas.

People often wonder why the town of Orange, famous for its cherries and apples, bears a name at variance with these fruits. A brochure on the district helped clear up the mystery - "The name of Orange was conceived by Major Mitchell as a tribute to the Prince of Orange (later King of Holland) with whom he had been acquainted during the Peninsular War in Spain".

Canobolas is an aboriginal word meaning two shoulders; no doubt a description of the mountain peaks adjacent to the city which bear this name. Carcoar owes its name to another native word meaning a frog.

A rewarding experience to crown our day's travel was an evening coach tour through Orange's dignified and spacious streets flanked by well-kept houses of

Visit to Carcoar - continued

substantial proportions with stretches of green lawns and trim gardens, to Cook Park, renowned for its collection of exotic trees. Some of these soared to great heights and many had an extremely broad girth as well. The concealed gold and green floodlights bathed many trees in a beautiful soft glow giving them a fairy-landish quality that was quite breathtaking. It was a sight we were all glad we did not miss.

The Second Day

Refreshed after a good night's sleep we set off early next morning on the final leg of our forward journey. A quick detour was made to enable us to appreciate the care the Government has taken to make the grounds and buildings of Bloomfield Mental Hospital as far removed as possible from the dreary image once associated with such institutions. The patients can really enjoy their lovely surroundings, and the number of amenities provided has to be seen to be believed.

There were good bitumen roads to Carcoar which we reached about 10.00 a.m. having passed historic Blayney en route. As we drove downhill into its main street we passed the Commercial Bank once robbed by Ben Hall's men in Australia's first bank hold-up. Carcoar also has a row of terrace houses, a rare sight in an Australian country town.

The local historical society had provided a guide for us, colourfully dressed in clothing suggestive of the country's pioneering days. He was Ron Murray, a comparatively new local resident who had bought and was renovating the saddlery, reputedly the oldest building in the town, standing one and a half storeys high, where Frank Gardiner was once employed before he took to bushranging.

Before it was a saddlery, Ron Murray's house was a butcher's shop and the new owner could not have been more enthusiastic about Carcoar's history or more dedicated if he had been a descendant of the first land-owner in the district. When he was undertaking the repair of the original flooring boards (the building is one hundred and thirty years old) he was pleasantly surprised to find the timber still in a perfect state of preservation.

It must be quite a record that forty-seven of this small town's buildings are listed by the National Trust. Carcoar has a population of only 350.

After Ron's introduction and some snippets of information from him, we swung around a corner, past a modern so-called Persian Market adding colour to the scene, to cross an old road bridge and headed for the district's historic hospital. Our visit coincided with the holding of the Carcoar Centenary Show which was in progress in a grassy meadow just below the hospital.

The hospital was built in 1862. Its first ambulances were Cobb & Co. coaches. Part of the building still has the original shingles bearing the marks of the workmen's axes. Mrs. Mary Thompson and some others of our ladies were familiar with Carcoar and its district and had even been patients in the hospital. They recalled many memories to make their visit personally more pleasurable.

After our tour through the hospital with its many original timbers and fittings, it seemed natural to gravitate to the delightful small showground, albeit briefly, to participate in the happenings there. Its setting - a small level tract in the hollow at the foot of steep banks carved by the Belabula River, is picturesque. Overlooked by Coombing Park, the estate once owned by

Visit to Carcoar - continued

Sir Thomas Icely, Carcoar's founder, and partly encircled by the heights of Carcoar, each seeming to be crowned with its own historic building, it was a photographer's joy to view the scene as framed by the lacy foliage of some shady spreading trees.

On a raised platform beside the parade ring young dancers in Scottish, Irish and Dutch traditional costumes performed the reels, jigs and steps associated with these countries. Behind them the parade of horses had begun, later to be followed by the bullocks pulling a waggon and the parade of other domestic livestock.

Reluctantly we moved on to continue our tour of inspection.

We learned that the district was first explored by surveyor G. W. Evans while on an expedition to the western interior in 1815. Carcoar is the third oldest town west of the Blue Mountains and was first settled by Sir Thomas Icely in 1831 after he had received a Government grant of 560 acres. In the 1830's Carcoar's importance increased because all the traffic between Bathurst and the Lachlan Valley had to pass through the town.

Because of the close proximity of some of the buildings we were to visit, a walking tour seemed more appropriate. The premises which were once old flour mills have been converted to serve as a petrol station and workshop, but only the facade has changed; the interior remains. The owner has contributed to setting up therein a most unusual museum. It is devoted to early tools, domestic appliances and other farm and household paraphernalia now outdated.

Vying with the saddlery for fame as the town's oldest building is the Stoke Stable, built from local stone by convict labour in 1849. Today it is the museum cared for by the local historical Society. There is also another body, the Carcoar Historic Village Trust, dedicated to preserving the town's heritage of historic buildings and associations.

At the Museum we were able to glimpse the past by reading advertisements in the Carcoar CHRONICLE and the Blayney and Cowra GAZETTE. In a copy dated April 2nd, 1881, meat prices were given as

Steak and chops	3d. a pound
Prime corned beef	2d. a pound
Sirloin cuts	3d. a pound

There was also a petition for an increase in salary for the postmaster. This was quaintly worded with due humility and respect as follows:-

"The Post Master and Residents do hereby petition for an increase in salary for the Post Master whose Wages have been £50 per annum since 1st January, 1861." (For this he received and dispatched fifty-four mails every week). The petition ended with a final plea to the "Powers that Be" "and your petitioner will ever pray", etc. followed by the signatures and the date, July, 1872.

Seeing that some exhibits of a kind were numerous and the museum lacked others of which we have enough to spare one or more, led one member to suggest that our Society might be able to arrange and exchange profitable for both!

Visit to Carcoar - continued

Opposite the Museum is the old Stoke Hotel, now called Stoke House, which seems in need of some urgent restoration. However its iron lace is still in good condition.

A building of importance is the Court House which is very much the same as it was last century. It was built in 1882. The magistrate's chair and eight price-less crystal chandeliers have been stolen but the cedar fittings, architraves, skirting boards and panelling are still as good as new. It was preceded by an earlier building, used for such diverse functions as religious worship, public meetings and celebrations. When it became too small for the growing populace, the larger, present building was erected. Particularly interesting along its facade is the hand-forged ironwork made from coach wheel iron.

Best known building is probably St. Paul's Church of England. Both the Anglican and Catholic churches occupy commanding sites, each on a hill looking down upon the town and the river. St. Paul's contains lovely examples of stained glass windows and both churches are made of hand-hewn stones. A striking feature of St. Paul's interior is an outstanding tapestry depicting Christ which was on the back wall of the church. Architecturally both churches are very interesting. St. Paul's has a tall shingled tower - a prominent feature which is now badly in need of maintenance and repair. Our Society donated \$10.00 to the public appeal being made for this purpose. The architect who designed St. Paul's was Thomas Blackett. The R.C. Church of the Immaculate Conception with its adjoining convent relies on solid stone blocks for its strength and has an unusual projecting belfry.

Unable to be visited because it is now a private residence but with an interesting background is St. Paul's Rectory, three storeys high and dating from 1859. Its original use was as a select ladies' school; its use as a rectory came later.

Our hosts in Carcoar had organised a very palatable salad lunch for us with fruit salad and ice cream, tea or coffee following. This was appreciated because to cater for such a large number was no mean achievement.

With a little time to spare, some of us had visited the Persian Market and browsed around the old shops and several buildings bypassed in the morning's itinerary. Everyone's time was therefore filled to his or her satisfaction.

Some of the party had met and spoken with an elderly man named Smith whose grandfather, Jeremiah Smith, was the first blacksmith in Carcoar. Probably there were other local identities to be met with equally fascinating ancestry but we had no time to search them out.

To make Sydney at a reasonable hour, it was necessary to leave Carcoar and its quaint old-world atmosphere immediately after lunch. Only one stop was made before Sydney - at Echo Point where refreshments were available for those wanting some.

The mountain mist was descending thickly and continued into the lower Blue Mountains. It was eightish when we returned to Kogarah, all having had a most enjoyable two days of companionship and sightseeing.

Thanks is owed to Sylvia Kelly for the wonderful job of organisation which she did thus smoothing the path for those who were privileged to be on this great tour.

Maisie Grieve and Gwen Coxhead

NOTE: The following article was written by V. Livingstone, Hurstville, and is printed in the September, 1976 Magazine of the Association of Civilian Widows. It is reproduced with their kind permission. - Ed.

AUSTRALIA UNNAMED!

Our country has never received the name Australia officially. Dirk Hartog, a Dutchman, landed on the continent in 1616 and called it New Holland. After the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788 geographers began dividing the continent into two parts - New South Wales on the East and New Holland to the West of the 135th parallel.

At first the ancient name Terra Australis described the whole continent including Tasmania or Van Dieman's Land, and was used on all British Admiralty Charts. Terra Australis had no boundaries; it was simply a land to the south of the then known world and was believed to extend to the South Pole. As early as 1569 the geographer, Mercator, referred to the continent Australia which he believed existed south of Asia.

In 1606 the Spanish voyager, de Quiros, landed in the New Hebrides several miles east of the Queensland coast, and thought he had discovered the great southland continent which he named Australia del Spiritu Santo - the word Australia being a composite word of Austria and Westphalia because his King, Philip III of Spain was a Prince of the House of Austria. He wrote a "Memorial" dealing with his discovery and later when this was published, it was called "Australia Incognita" (unknown Australia).

This was the first time in history that the name of our country appeared as Australia in print. In 1676 a book published in France was entitled La Terre Australe Connue which referred to the manners of Australians - the Australians being the aboriginal occupants of the country.

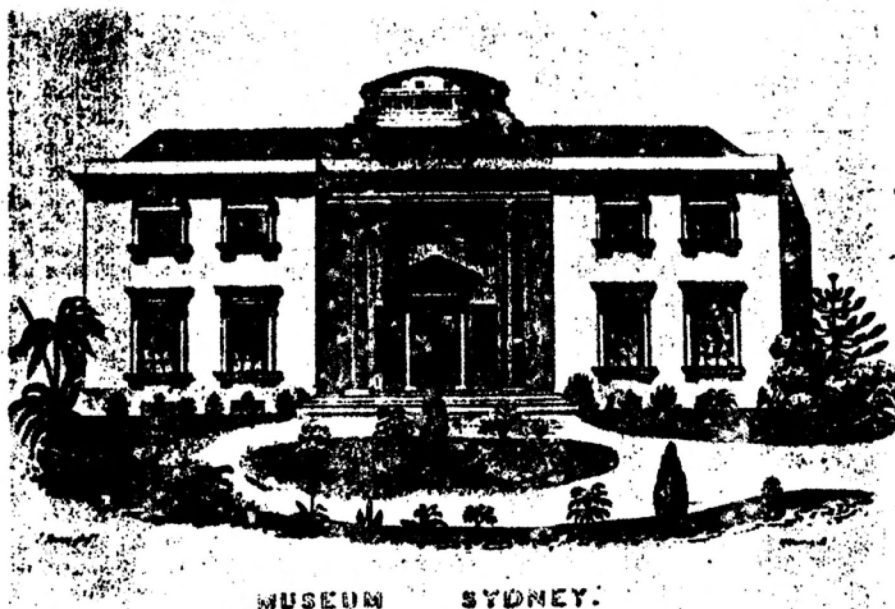
By the first decade of the 19th century, there is written evidence that the first non-aboriginal inhabitants of this country were calling the place Australia.

Matthew Flinders wrote to Sir Joseph Banks complaining that the French were visiting the south coast of Australia and claiming it as a French discovery, whereas it was discovered by Flinders and Lieutenant Grant, and on his charts Flinders had written the name Terra Australis or Australia.

Governor Macquarie gave vice regal approval to the names Flinders suggested and thereafter used the name Australia in his official correspondence.

The English Colonial Office was reluctant to use the terms Australia and Australians and continued writing of New Holland and the colony of New South Wales, long after the locals had dropped them from their vocabulary. The Hydrographic Office of the British Admiralty readily accepted the name Australia for the whole of the continent when it published charts of part of the continent in 1824. In the same year W. C. Wentworth advocated the name Australia as the name of the continent, and from that time we have been Australians living in Australia!

S.O.S. The Gestetner 120 model used to produce the pages for NEWSLETTER "gave up the ghost" part way through 1977. It has been examined by an expert who says it can be repaired (and this could be done without cost to the Society) BUT - the model is so out-of-date that parts are unobtainable UNLESS there is a similar model somewhere that is unwanted with the necessary parts still in working order. PLEASE PUBLICISE This need as widely as possible. Who knows - we may be lucky!



building on condition that rooms in it be set aside for the Colonial Museum, and the Colonial Office duly sanctioned the expenditure of £4000 on it. Four years later Sir Richard Bourke overruled the arrangement and proposed the museum be built in conjunction with the Botanical Gardens. The plans lapsed and it wasn't until 1845 that Charles Nicholson persuaded the legislature to commence the building opposite Hyde Park.

PERMANENT HOME

Under architect Mortimer Lewis building commenced on the College Street site in 1846 and the north wing was opened by Governor Fitzroy three years later. The museum now had a permanent home and the exhibits were transferred from the Court House. The west wing was begun in 1861; in 1892 an upper storey was added to the north wing; in 1897 the south wing was begun and it was enlarged in 1909.

During the period of rapid expansion science was branching out and in 1878 the trustees recommended the setting up of a technological museum which occurred two years later. 1907 saw the introduction of a cadetship system for training scientific staff and Joyce Allan became the first woman appointed to the scientific staff in 1920.

OUTER URBAN EXHIBITS

Since the turn of the century the museum has continued to expand until now it caters for more than 250,000 visitors a year. There are now Outer Urban Exhibits designed to extend the museum's facilities to the people of Sydney's outer suburbs and it is hoped that late this year or early next year a new museum train will begin a tour of country towns.

As well as temporary exhibits the museum has permanent displays including Aborigines, Antarctica, Egyptian mummies, dinosaurs, the Great Barrier Reef, snakes, whales and wombats.

If you want to know more about the museum and what goes on behind the scenes, be the first to see films and new exhibitions and generally support the museum then you may like to join The Australian Museum Society. You can write to them at 6-8 College Street, Sydney, 2000 or ring 33-5525. The museum also publishes an interesting and informative quarterly magazine, *Australian Natural History*, available from their bookshop or on subscription for \$4.50 a year.

TOP: Plan of the original museum building. LEFT: The Australian Museum today. (Photos courtesy The Australian Museum Trust.)

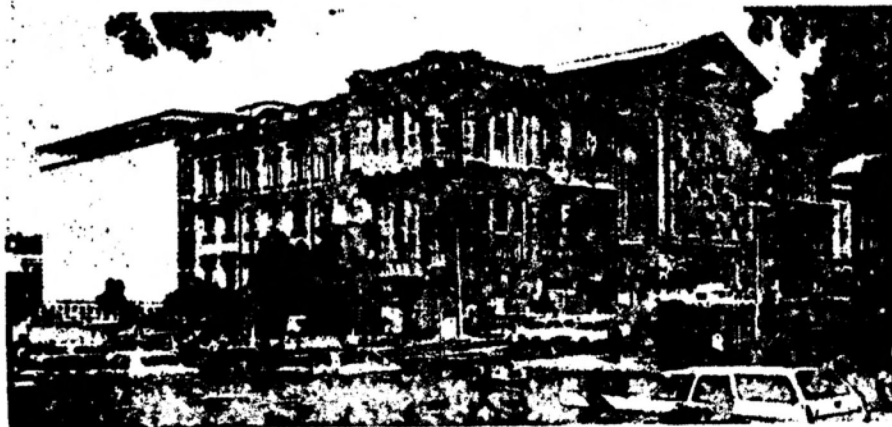
150 years of the AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

THE Australian Museum, Sydney, is 150 years old this year. Earl Bathurst, in a dispatch dated March 30, 1827, informed the Governor of New South Wales, Ralph Darling, that the Colonial Office had authorised an expenditure of £200 a year for the establishment and upkeep of a museum in Sydney and that W. Holmes had been appointed Colonial Zoologist.

The Colonial Museum, as it was then called, had the wanderlust and in its first 20 years of existence moved

frequently before finally settling in its permanent and current abode on the corner of Park and College Streets. It began life in Bent Street (1830) before being housed in the Old Legislative Council building in Macquarie Street, the Judge Advocate's old office in Bridge Street and finally the Court House in East Sydney. By this stage it had over 800 exhibits and its name had been changed in 1834 to The Australian Museum.

The history of the current museum site is a muddled one. Governor Darling in 1831 gave a private society, the Australian Subscription Library, an allotment in Hyde Park, for a



Historical Article on THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM - Overleaf is a reproduction of an article published by SATURDAY, the Retirement Journal of the State Superannuation Board, N.S.W. which should be of interest to readers of NEWSLETTER.

The Editor of SATURDAY has kindly given permission for it to be printed in our journal and he has our thanks for this privilege. - Ed.

WHO REMEMBERS ?

Who remembers those golden afternoons long ago when couples strolling arm in arm or just sitting close together could listen to the virile beat of band music?

It was a pleasant way to spend some idle time. Bands did more than entertain... and still do. They enliven marches and public functions and blare a brassy welcome to Royal visitors and other dignitaries. For instance, when Blackhurst Public School was opened, the Kogarah School fife band was there to help celebrate the occasion.

This band had become a tradition in Kogarah in those days and played at most local functions. It was invited to play for Royal visits and appeared in the procession in honour of the visit of the then Prince of Wales (later Duke of Windsor) to Sydney. It also played at the Royal celebrations held at the Sydney Show-ground.

Undoubtedly the nucleus of the Kogarah Municipal Band came from the ranks of the local Military Band. Its bandmen performed as the Kogarah Municipal Band when they were not engaged in military duties.

When Kogarah's old steam trams were replaced by the trolley bus service, there was a band playing at the opening ceremony. Appropriately enough this was the Road Transport and Tramways Band.

It is good to know that the Kogarah Band is building up again so that residents may still sometimes enjoy the special thrill of the type of music that only a good brass band can produce.

JOTTINGS - In the many articles NEWSLETTER has contained since our first issue there has frequently been reference to colonial architects, e.g., Edmund Blackett, John Verge, Mortimer Lewis. Wouldn't it be nice if someone would delve into the past and write an article about some of these distinguished gentlemen! Yes?

The willing and faithful few who made up the latest working bee at Carss' Cottage to clear away debris and seal the fate of the dilapidated old boat earn our thanks for the good job they did.

Ferdinand Magellan (actually Fernando de Magalhaes) did not himself sail around the world, contrary to popular belief. It would have been impossible because he was killed in the Phillipines during the voyage.

The man to whom credit must go for being the first to circumnavigate the globe is Juan Sebastian del Cano, the successful commander out of the five who set out with Magellan in his little fleet of vessels. His crew of twelve aboard the Vittoria should share the honour.

Full credit must be given to Sylvia Kelly for her organisational flair. The Christmas night at Carss' Cottage was a totally happy event, largely due to Sylvia and those other stalwarts (including our versatile President) who catered for the "inner man" and our general comfort.

Horse collars were invented in China. They simplified the harnessing of horses, making them more widely used as work animals.