

N E W S L E T T E R

Official Journal of the

KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Carss' Cottage, Carss' Park, Blakehurst
2221

Tele. 546 7314

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THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
(Sponsored by Kogarah Municipal Council)

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Vice Presidents -
Mr. V. S. Smith
Mr. H. Kelly
Mrs. M. Grieve

ACTIVITIES - To promote interest in the history of the Kogarah Municipality and Australia in general.

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 St., Kogarah. (Take lift to Second Floor and turn 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' COTTAGE 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 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 Ave., Carss' Park, Blakehurst. 2221

POSTAL ADDRESS OF THE SOCIETY - Carss' Cottage, Carss' Park, Blakehurst. 2221
Tele. 546 7314

KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Meeting place: Exhibition Lounge, 2nd Fl., Kogarah Civic Centre,
Belgrave Street.

Next meeting: Thursday, 9th February at 8.00 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Mr. Madden, President, Hurstville Historical
Society and member, Canterbury Historical Society.

Topic: "The Early Days of the Canterbury District".

LADIES ON SUPPER ROSTER: Miss P. Harry and Mrs. M. Thompson.

REPORT ON JANUARY MEETING

At first glance this meeting may have seemed not so well attended as usual but when the time of year was considered it was a fairly good representation of members.

The Treasurer, Mrs. G. Johns, again reported a healthy bank balance, despite some fall in membership not offset by the gain of some new members.

After discussion about what the future may hold for Carss' Cottage the meeting elected a Planning Committee of six, viz: Mr. Burghart, Mr. Wright, Mr. or Mrs. FitzHardinge, Mr. or Mrs. Lean, Miss Coxhead and Mr. J. Veness (ex officio). The first meeting of this committee took place on Wednesday, 25th January, and a course of action was decided upon.

Official business concluded, Mr. Charles Gilbert, one of our members, gave an interesting address on the life of Dame Mary Gilmore whose poetry lives on though she has gone. Mr. Gilbert had researched his subject thoroughly and spoke convincingly. Dame Mary was a very vital person who not only wrote prose and verse but became involved in social and political reforms and generally showed great interest in improving the lot of the less endowed. She also encouraged literary and artistic talent.

Through Mr. Gilbert's knowledge this forceful figure was projected into our imagination and we could visualise the sort of person she was in our Australian scene. Some readings of her poetry disclosed her deep loyalty to her country and Mr. Gilbert was able to show how her own emotions and experiences influenced her thinking when she was writing.

Our President conveyed a warm vote of thanks to Mr. Gilbert for the manner in which he had prepared and given his address.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Venue: Carss' Cottage. Date: 24th January, 1978. Present: 14

Mr. Veness opened the meeting at 8.00 p.m. Discussion largely hinged on the serious problem which has developed during the summer months of an overflow of vehicles and the need for extra supervision to enforce law and order.

Management Committee Report - continued

It was left to Mr. Veness to draft a suitable letter to be forwarded to Kogarah Council.

A letter was tabled received from Kogarah Council inviting the Society to submit a project for assistance on a 50-50 basis from Government grants. It was agreed that the Society should formulate a plan and apply.

Formation of the Planning Committee was mentioned and some thoughts put forward for an agenda for the first meeting of the new committee on the following night.

Three accounts from the M.W.S.&D. Board which were investigated have to be settled. These were passed to the Treasurer for payment.

Mrs. Sylvia Kelly informed the Committee that she did not intend to seek re-election as Social Secretary at the next A.G.M. This gave Mr. Veness the opportunity to express the Society's thanks for the tireless work so successfully done by this esteemed member, in which he was heartily supported by all present.

The meeting ended at about 10.15 p.m.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The hot summer we have had has been quite enervating and not suitable for many social outings. However there is one this month, viz, HUNTER'S HILL COACH TOUR, 19th February (Sunday) - Please note that the coach will leave Kogarah Civic Centre promptly at 1.30 p.m. Tour cost is \$2.00 per person. Those participating are requested to please bring their own afternoon tea. At this stage we have enough starters to fill the coach but I am taking names on a reserve list in case of late cancellations.

We regret that Mr. V. Smith is not so well, but we are pleased that the Leans, who have both had health upsets recently, are now seemingly quite recovered. Despite their sickness they have continued their care of Carss' Cottage Museum. Wonderful people!

Colleen McEwen has accepted a position as a university archivist in Adelaide and consequently has changed her address. However she is still very interested in the happenings of the Society and wishes to have her monthly copy of NEWSLETTER forwarded as usual.

Our congratulations go to Colleen in thus crowning her studies and degree with this further success and we all wish her well in her new position. Perhaps we shall learn something from Colleen of South Australian history!

As I mentioned at the last Management Committee meeting, I do not wish to continue as Social Secretary this year and hope that someone will be available to accept nomination. Ladies, please think seriously about volunteering for this office.

Social Committee Report - continued

February raffle has been donated by Miss P. Harry.

Thought for February: "A man of words and not of deeds
Is like a garden full of weeds."

SYLVIA KELLY

MUSEUM REPORT

By now, most members probably know that Colleen McEwen, a foundation member of the Museum Committee, has gone to Adelaide to take up a position with the South Australian Government as an archivist. She was looking forward with much enthusiasm to working in this field and was delighted that such an opportunity had come her way. I am sure all members join me in sending her congratulations on her achievements during the last four years of study and best wishes for success and satisfaction in her chosen work. We shall certainly miss her very much but hope to keep in touch to follow her progress in the future.

As we move into 1978 (one month has gone already!) many ideas and changes for Carss' Cottage are being considered to extend and improve display areas and to accommodate our ever growing collection in the museum.

Additional items recently accepted include these articles

- * An ornamented metal clock, manufactured by the Western Clock Company of La Salle, Illinois, U.S.A.
- * An illuminated invitation card, for ceremonies in connection with inaugural celebrations for the Federation of Australia (1901).
- * A set of troy weights and balance in an oak box.
- * A meat platter, "Rosa Centifolia" design on cream china.
- * An old-fashioned style lady's fan of black fabric.

All these were donated by an interested visitor to the Museum, Mrs. T. Williams, of Petersham.

Her friend, Mrs. Elsie Hillery, of Stanmore also donated a number of articles on her second visit to the Museum with Mrs. Williams. Her gifts were:

- * A monogrammed metal hatpin.
- * A pair of black pure silk stockings.
- * A baby's bonnet.
- * A small mustard pot.
- * A miniature pack of playing cards.
- * A gent's leather collar box.
- * A man's blade razor.

Museum Report - continued

The Museum has received a bread baking tin from Mr. F. Rix, of Lakemba. From 1924 Mr. Rix operated a bakery at Lakemba. This Bakery was eventually demolished.

Mrs. B. Butters has donated a bookbinder's press of cast iron with brass handles.

Two items have come from Mrs. S. Hanlon, viz,

1. A page from a magazine, "The Home", (1933) showing photographed portraits of the well-known Lindsay family.
2. A tram ticket issued for THREEPENCE!

Mrs. Ivy Nichol, a member of the St. George Philatelic Society, has donated a double inkwell set, of fancy glass, with hinged lids, E.P.N.S. plated.

We have received from Miss Gwen Coxhead two boxed pairs of engraved silver (E.P.N.S.) serviette rings (on loan) and a varnished wooden reproduction of an old-style milking stool.

Mrs. M. Clark, of Blakehurst, has given a small photograph of the erst Kogarah tram.

All these gifts have been accepted with a full appreciation of the donors' interest in preserving memorabilia, which we are grateful to hold at Carss' Cottage. The donations greatly assist the Society's efforts to create an informative and pleasant folk museum for visitors and local citizens to enjoy.

GWEN LEAN, Honorary Curator.

<u>M U S E U M R O S T E R</u>			
<u>Month</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Attendants</u>	<u>To open Museum</u>
February	5	Miss P. Harry, Mrs. B. Butters	Mrs. Butters
	12	Miss G. Coxhead and Friend	Mr. J. Veness
	19	Miss M. Foley, Mrs. A. McOnie	Mr. J. Veness
	26	Mrs. L. Beaven, Mrs. FitzHardinge	Mr. J. Lean
March	5	Mrs. M. Kermond, Miss D. Maclean	Mr. J. Lean
	12	Mrs. M. Armstrong, Mrs. M. McArthur	Mr. J. Veness
	19	Mr. and Mrs. J. Howard	Mrs. Howard
(EASTER)	26		
	27 Volunteers requested, please!	

If any date given is inconvenient, just 'phone 57 5940

GWEN LEAN

S.O.S. from your editor - Has anyone located an old Gestetner going cheaply or parts free? The need is really urgent. Help in this department of your Society's activities would expedite NEWSLETTERS.

Library Feature

LET'S LOOK AT BOOKS

LOCAL HISTORY - a booklet prepared for the St. George Inservice Education History Committee by N. Keast (James Cook Boys' High School).

History teachers of the St. George Area included Carss' Cottage in their itinerary during an inservice course in 3rd Term, 1977. The Education Department believes that, through awareness of the concept of history in their local district, children may be brought to a realisation of national and world history, and, most importantly, the need for careful recording and research. Mr. Keast has prepared this short historical guide for the teachers of our area. The notes, maps, illustrations and bibliography would be useful for anyone planning an historical tour around St. George.

BOTANY BAY SKETCHBOOK - with drawings by Allan Gamble and text by Valmai Phillips (Rigby, Adelaide, 1977: \$3.95).

This little book is an introduction to the life and scenes of Botany Bay - a place which is known, if by name only, to Australians almost everywhere. Mrs. Phillips and Mr. Gamble do much to whet the appetites of people interested in the story of local suburbs. The sketches are masterly and there are intriguing snippets such as "It was one of the tasks of the matron (of the Cottage Hospital) to milk the hospital cow"; and also: "Pat Moore's racecourse has been subdivided to make way for sprouting suburbia ... the former rutted track of the old road has become the motorised race track of the Princes Highway".

It is sad that Carss' Park does not rate a mention - but this is a sketchbook after all, and there have to be other notable omissions as well. Considering the publication is 1977, it appears the author has been shy to mention recent and threatened changes around the Bay, but my main complaint is the arrangement of the book - it is geographically confusing. However, I am sure readers will enjoy the ramble through history that it affords.

E. HOWARD, Librarian

JOTTINGS

Mrs. Howard has furnished NEWSLETTER with another interesting historical article but the bulk of the present issue is too close to the allowable weight for postal concession charges and reluctantly the article must be held over.

The Society is most grateful to the Editor and publishers of the "St. George CALL" for the weekly pars they print for us. Thanks particularly to Noel Kelly by whose good graces we are thus favoured.

Mrs. Grieve had so much to tell us about our visit to Parramatta on 27th November, 1977, she has split her account into two parts.

BLAKEHURST HISTORICAL SERIES - Article No. 14 (previously unpublished)

SECRETARY'S REPORT TO SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BLAKEHURST
PROGRESS ASSOCIATION
For Year Ending 31st March, 1923

The President and Members: Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting for your consideration the report of the activities of the Association during the year 1922, which can be considered of a most satisfactory character. Your Association continues to make headway and through its operations Blakehurst has been placed on the map.

PROPOSED NIGHT SOIL DEPOT - The outstanding feature of the operations of your Association during the year was its prompt and effective action in regard to the proposed establishment of a night soil depot in Blakehurst. When it was learned that the Sanitary Contractor to Kogarah Council had secured land in Conway Street for the purpose of a night soil burying ground, your officers immediately enlisted the co-operation of various local bodies to wait on the Minister for Health, the Hon. W. Oakes, M.L.A. and protest against the district being made a plague spot. It was a large and representative deputation which waited on the Minister to place before him reasons why a sanitary depot should not be allowed at the site selected by the Sanitary Contractor.

The deputation was strongly supported by the local parliamentary representatives, viz, Messrs. Ley, Mark Gosling, Arkins and Cann. Mr. Gosling particularly impressed the Minister by pointing out that the ratepayers' rights were in jeopardy because Kogarah Council was short of three aldermen, two from the Ward of the area under review. After the objections had been placed before the Minister an alternative scheme was submitted for disposing of the matter into the sewers, a similar disposition being already in operation at Leichhardt and Marrickville.

The Minister in reply said he would not permit anything to be done in the matter until he was satisfied that no menace or inconvenience would be caused to the residents in the locality. Subsequently a huge deputation waited on the Kogarah Council to enter an emphatic protest against the establishment of the depot. A petition was also presented to Council containing over 1,100 signatures of ratepayers.

The Council professed to have no knowledge of the matter; however, a letter which was subsequently received by the Association from the Sanitary Contractor proved conclusively that your officers were on the right track and they are to be congratulated for their prompt action in nipping in the bud this iniquitous proposal. The action of your Association in this matter alone, justifies its existence.

In relation to the foregoing matter, the best thanks of the Association is due to ex-alderman, F. Wheeler, and the President, Mr. Willis: the first-named gentleman for the information he supplied

Blakehurst Historical Series - continued

to the officers which set in motion the machinery of the Association and the latter who sacrificed a whole week preparing the case for presentation to the Minister for Health and Kogarah Council, in addition to obtaining signatures to the petition.

LOCAL MUNICIPAL WORKS - In other things municipally your Association has been very active and a number of minor repairs have had attention but, however, some of these works are still very much behind and with faulty supervision repairs requested as urgent are patched up only, which means additional expenditure later. However we expect a change of policy by the new Council in regard to works.

CARSS' BUSH - I regret to state that the efforts of your Association in the direction of having Carss' Bush resumed for a Public Park and Recreation Ground have so far not been successful. Nevertheless it is the intention of your Association to continue to agitate for the acquisition of at least a portion of this estate for the purposes as stated.

With practically a new Council administering the affairs of our Municipality, I feel sure the matter will receive more sympathetic consideration by that body and I have every reason to believe that our object will be attained in the near future.

PROPOSED TRAMWAY TO TOM UGLY'S POINT - Your Association supported the Kogarah Council and the Kogarah Chamber of Commerce in a letter to the Minister stating that, as the proposed Tramway would be a non-paying proposition, he could not advise its construction, and, moreover, the Kogarah to Sans Souci tramway would have to be electrified before the matter would be further considered.

POSTAL DELIVERY - Further representations were made by the Association through the Hon. W. Lamond, ex M.H.R., to the Postmaster General, for a letter delivery at Blakehurst The Postal Department, after making inquiries, replied that for various reasons, chiefly on account of the scattered population, the request could not be acceded to at the present juncture. However the Postal Department promised to review the matter in twelve months' time.

INCORPORATION OF THE ASSOCIATION - During the year it was decided to form the Association into a corporation recognised by law. With this object in view, Mr. Primrose (Solicitor) was instructed to draft the Memorandum and Articles of Association. The same was received from Mr. Primrose and were presented and adopted at a special summons meeting with the result that your Association is now a registered body. By the adoption of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Executive Council and the Building Committee automatically ceased to function and in lieu of these committees a Board of Management, consisting of the President, two Vice-Presidents, Honorary Secretary, Assistant Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and ten committee men were appointed to control the Association.

It was found necessary to frame a new set of by-laws so as to conform to the Memorandum and Articles of Association. The chief

Blakehurst Historical Series - continued

alteration in the by-laws was the amendment of the constitution which enlarged the sphere of operations of the Association.

PROPOSED HALL AND TENNIS COURTS - Fairly good progress has been made in the work of preparing the tennis court and the excavation and levelling of the hall site. In the very near future we hope to have the first court ready for the tennis players. In regard to this matter, I must say that the attendance of voluntary workers on the ground for the first five or six months was very gratifying but of late the numbers have dwindled considerably with the result that very little headway is now being made.

If it is the desire of members to see the early consummation of our objective, viz, the erection of a public Hall, then more interest will have to be displayed in this work. With such a strong membership it is a reflection on our Association that so few exhibit that public spirit which is essential for the success of our organization. Your Association is for the advancement of Blakehurst and District and it therefore behoves every member to give of his or her best since its objects are the concern of all.

GRAND COUNCIL OF St. GEORGE PROGRESS ASSOCIATIONS - During the year your Association affiliated with the newly formed Grand Council of the St. George Progress Associations. One of your Representatives to that body, namely Mr. E. Dunlop, has been appointed Hon. Treasurer to that organization.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS - Your Association decided to run a candidate for Middle Ward in connection with the Kogarah Triennial Municipal elections held in December last. Mr. J. Reed was selected to contest the ward in the interests of the Association. Mr. Reed lunched with Mr. Spinks of Kogarah Bay Progress Association and Mr. Higgison of the Middle Ward Progress Association, the three candidates being endorsed by the Kogarah Municipal Reform Association. It is a matter for congratulation that the Association's nominee together with his two colleagues were elected as Aldermen to Kogarah Council with a splendid majority.

Your Association also decided to support the candidature of Aldermen Colbourne and Poulton and Mr. Arrowsmith for West Ward and it gives me pleasure to report that these gentlemen also were elected to Kogarah Council.

With the election to Kogarah Council of the above mentioned gentlemen your Association anticipates that a due share of the rates will be expended in our district.

MEMBERSHIP - The membership at December 31, 1922 stood at 205, comprising 133 males, 72 females, which showed a decrease of 12 members against the preceding year's membership. Your Association however still ranks as the strongest numerically of its kind within the Metropolis.

For this distinction the thanks of the Association is due to

Blakehurst Historical Series - continued

a body of enthusiastic and energetic members, who have given well of their spare time to advance the interests of your Association in this direction. Especially would I refer to Mrs. Marcusson who was again to the forefront in this work.

FINANCE - The finances of the Association are in a healthy condition. The statement of receipts and expenditure as contained in the Balance Sheet which will be presented to you by the Honorary Treasurer, speak for themselves. Your Association has a valuable asset in the land and improvements thereon in Woniore Road. The funds of the Association were greatly augmented by the action of Mrs. G. Stuart of Bald Face Pt., who generously donated a cheque for £52.10.0 to cover the amount paid by your Association for the land as previously. As an incentive to increase the number of voluntary workers who labour on the ground every Saturday afternoon and thus speed up the work of excavating the hall site and the making of the tennis courts, Mrs. Stuart promised a further donation of £50.0.0, conditionally that the work referred to was completed by the end of January, 1923. For her munificent gift, a letter of thanks was forwarded to Mrs. Stuart and the Association's appreciation of her valuable timely assistance was placed on record. The example of Mrs. Stuart is worthy of emulation by others who in some degree can assist the Association in such a laudable project as the building of a public hall for the use of members and the residents of Blakehurst and District.

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS - A series of social functions organized by the Ladies' Committee, for the purpose of augmenting the building fund, was held during the year. These functions proved highly successful both from a financial and social viewpoint. The nett proceeds from the whole of the social functions totalled £40.11.10.

At the close of the season a Social and Dance was held for the purpose of benefiting the children attending the Blakehurst Public School. Although the Ladies' Committee worked hard to make this function a success, the results, I regret to say, were anything but gratifying. After meeting expenses there remained a credit balance of £2.0.0. It is to be hoped that in any future effort on behalf of the schoolchildren there will be a much better response. Since your Association is the only organized body in Blakehurst it behooves us to evince more interest in the schoolchildren, who will be our future members.

LADIES' COMMITTEE - The Ladies' Committee must receive our unstinted thanks for their achievements. This small but devoted and untiring band of workers have sacrificed much in their efforts to promote the interests of your Association. We therefore must thank them with the greatest sincerity for their grand efforts.

In this connection, especially would I refer to the splendid work performed by Mrs. Willis who acted as Social Secretary during the winter months, when the majority of socials were held. This

Blakehurst Historical Series - continued

lady, whose list of services to the Association is quite numerous, was compelled to resign the position of Social Secretary owing to business pressure. Mrs. Colman was elected to the position vacated by Mrs. Willis and this lady is to be commended for the work she has performed. A word of praise is also due to Miss E. Cooper, who ably fulfilled the duties of Social Secretary in the early part of the year. Finally the thanks of the Association is extended to the donors of cash and goods to the various social functions.

RESIGNATIONS - We were sorry indeed to lose, by removal from the district, four of our active members. I refer to Mr. and Mrs. G. Bartlett and Mr. and Mrs. E. Coleman. In addition to their excellent services on behalf of the Association, Messrs. Bartlett and Coleman donated material toward the proposed hall. We thank them sincerely for their work and assistance and wish them every success in their respective ventures.

RETIRING PRESIDENT - Owing to business pressure, the retiring President, Mr. A. C. Willis, is unable to offer his services in that capacity for the ensuing year. Mr. Willis, however, will still take an active interest in the furtherance of the aims of the Association. The resignation of Mr. Willis as President of the Association must not be allowed to pass without expressing your Committee's appreciation of the many services rendered the Association by him and for his liberality to the funds of the Association. The Association wishes him success in his new undertaking.

LOCAL PRESS - Your Committee desire to thank the local Press, viz, the "Hurstville Properteller" and the "St. George Call", for the publicity given by them in their columns in recording the operations of your Association.

I desire to express my hearty appreciation of the assistance rendered me by the Assistant Secretary, Mr. E. Dunlop, in particular, and the officers and members in general.

On reviewing the activities for the period under review, your Committee feel justly pleased at being able to report progress, although they have not achieved all that they would have liked to.

It is to be hoped that in the coming year members will display more interest in the Association's work by attending general meetings. Good attendances and exchange of ideas bring about far better results.

Blakehurst with its wealth of natural beauty has a promising future.

With the hearty co-operation of members, your Association will be a power for good in all matters relating to the welfare of the District. - For and on behalf of the Board of Management
(signed) J. H. COXHEAD, Honorary Secretary.

The following report by Mrs. M. Grieve is Part One of her impressions of the Society's tour of Parramatta on 2th November, 1977.

ELIZABETH FARM

To summarize the outing, we could say everyone had an enjoyable and interesting journey into the earliest history of Australia.

The name Parramatta is usually said to be an Aboriginal word meaning "eels sit down" and eels are still abundant in the creek. (Rugby League fans are well acquainted with Parramatta Eels!)

Elizabeth Macarthur, however, writing in her journal in 1795 said, according to one tribe, Parramatta meant "head of a river".

At that time many convicts were stationed in the area, all the artificers were employed in building huts and making roads.

When we consider the work of the pioneers and the progress which has continued to the present day we have reason to be proud of their achievements.

In 1938 Parramatta was declared a city and the occasion was celebrated with the usual civic ceremonies and displays. The descendants of the early settlers were invited to exhibit documents, deeds, books, household utensils and items of interest which were put on show in the Town Hall. There is a plaque in the grounds of St. John's Church opposite the Town Hall to commemorate this important event.

The development and settlement of Australia was due largely to the successful experiments in sheep breeding by John Macarthur who arrived in 1790 in the 2nd Fleet.

Naturally enough we think of Macarthur as the founder of the fine wool industry, not forgetting his industrious, far-sighted wife, Elizabeth, who saw the great potential of the land of her adoption which she grew to love.

In February, 1793 Macarthur received a grant of land, one hundred acres, at Parramatta which he named Elizabeth Farm in honour of his wife. He later acquired more land until his estate increased to 550 acres - the area today includes no less than five suburbs!

The farmhouse, which is in a sad state of disrepair at present is to be restored to its former condition, providing certain legal entanglements can be overcome. In those early times it would have been considered quite a luxurious dwelling and as Australia's oldest existing building is certainly worthy of preservation.

The sandstone building has a roof of tin tiles which slope gently to the verandah's edge. The interior walls were lined with lath and plaster. These show signs of wear and are in critical need of replacement.

Parramatta Tour - continued

Outbuildings, kitchen, laundry and servants' quarters were separate from the main building.

Garden plots and paths in the walled-in courtyard must have added to the general comfort and wellbeing of the Macarthur family. Some of its erst-while glory could be guessed at by the age and showiness of the wistarias, the variety and dimensions of the trees which have lingered on. A view of the river was possible from the homestead and the expanse of vineyards, tilled fields and sheep-runs must have pleased the original owners tremendously, giving them a well-earned sense of gratification.

There were cellars under some rooms, possibly used as cool-rooms.

In subsequent years Macarthur made alterations and additions to the home - an extra room or an extension - right up till 1833. One of his pet (and exasperating) pastimes was to change all the furniture about. When he had one of these fits (which was often by all accounts) he would pack off his wife and children to some other palace while he played his little game.

In its heyday Elizabeth Farm must have been a mecca for the gentry whom we can picture dressed in the height of fashion for those times bowling down the tree-lined avenues of Parramatta on their way to wine and dine with the Macarthurs.

HAMBLEDON COTTAGE

John Macarthur referred to this cottage as "a splendid adjunct" to his own home.

It was actually the home of Penelope Lucas who came to Australia in the same ship as Macarthur to be employed as a governess to his three daughters, Elizabeth, Mary and Emmaline. As the years passed and the education of these children and others born later was completed, Penelope stayed on as house-keeper, companion and general helpmeet to Mrs. Macarthur.

Hambledon, named after the village in Hampshire where she was born, was a sort of grace and favour gift in recognition of her years of faithful service.

The furniture in this charming dwelling was comprised of English and Australian timber. Mahogany, rosewood and cedar were used in the production of various items - all made in the years between 1820 and 1850.

When Macarthur returned to Australia after a visit to England he got permission from the British Government to bring a number of plants to see if they would adapt to their new home. A greenhouse was rigged up on the ship, the Lord Eildon, and Macarthur cared for 120 pot plants and nurtured them

Parramatta Tour - continued

throughout the long long journey. ; They were mostly the well-known English trees, such as oaks, elms, beech, etc.; a cork tree from Spain and an olive tree from Italy. We saw some of these in the grounds adjoining Hambledon Cottage. Some were gnarled and twisted but still vigorous despite their age, one hundred and sixty years - to be exact.

In 1883 when the whole estate of 850 acres was sold by auction two acres were retained as a suitable setting for Hambledon Cottage.

We can rejoice in that fact and be thankful that this historical gem has been preserved for posterity.

A visitor to St. John's Church may be interested to view the marble plaque on the wall of the chancel near the altar - a memorial to commemorate Penelope Lucas, a gracious genteel lady. During her lifetime Penelope Lucas gave her services as a Sunday School teacher and in her Will she left a sum of money to be used for religious instruction.

In the same church there is another plaque with historical significance - in memory of the Rev. Samuel Marsden who was her contemporary.

Hambledon Cottage, Like old Parliament House, is cared for by the National Trust whose members help visitors with information when these places are open for public inspection.

Time will not permit me to write longer but I shall cover some aspects of Lancer Barracks and old Parliament House in Part Two (to be printed in next month's NEWSLETTER).

MAISIE GRIEVE

MEMBERSHIP

The following people have applied for membership and are welcomed into our Society:

Miss Margaret Dunphy, 4/19 Alfred Street, Ramsgate.

Miss Dorothy Dawn Harrison, 37 Gray Street, Kogarah.

Mr. Noel Rogers, 34 Clareville Avenue, Sans Souci.

QUIZ CORNER - Q. Who has heard of a numbat or knows where it breeds?

A. A numbat is a tiny, beautifully marked Australian marsupial which lives in the south-west wooded regions of Western Australia. Few people have seen one alive and it is believed to be in grave danger of extinction.

It feeds on termites and has a long pointed snout but is not related to ant-eaters with which it has been confused.
