



# KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

*November - December, 1985*

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KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Sponsored by Kogarah Municipal Council)

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**Research Officer:** Mrs. M. Grieve.  
**Hon. Auditor:** Mr. Hay.

**CARSS COTTAGE MUSEUM** - Open each Sunday & Public Holiday 1.00 p.m. to 5 p.m. (Easter Friday & Christmas day excluded). Admission - 50c per adult; 20c per child. Groups by special arrangement with Mrs. Lean or Mrs. Butters.

**SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP** - Pensioners: \$3.00 pa; Juniors under 18: \$2.00 pa; Others: \$4.00 pa. Membership carries bi-monthly posting of the Society's Newsletter, sharing in group activities, etc.

**MEETINGS** - are held 2nd Thursday each month at 8.00 p.m., 2nd Floor, Kogarah Civic Centre, Belgrave Street, followed by light refreshments.



Eleanor Dark

## Eleanor Dark dies

ESTEEMED Australian novelist, Eleanor Dark, best known for her historical trilogy *The Timeless Land*, *Storm of Time* and *No Barrier*, died last week in Katoomba Hospital at the age of 85.

Mrs. Dark, who won an Order of Australia in 1977 for her contribution to Australian literature, is survived by her husband, Dr Eric Dark, her son, Michael, and his family.

- SUN-HERALD, Sept 15, 1985

**Australian Transport through 200 years** by Brian Carroll, Kangaroo Press, R.R.P. \$5.95.

Australians have used almost every conceivable mode of transport in the past 200 years of colonisation. Through comprehensive text and an excellent collection of photographs and drawings every type of transport is illustrated from convict labour for drays, wagons and ploughs, through horses, carriages, bullocks, coaches, camels, early cabs, steam trains and trams, riverboats and sailing ships. Then to the turbulent first days of flight, the era of motor vehicles down to today's plethora of technologically advanced systems and methods of transport that contribute to making our immense country more accessible. Again a book of high general interest but also a very useful, well written, well researched history reference.

Jill B. Bruce

- September 23, 1985 EDUCATION

The Editor welcomes contributions of articles etc., preferably single space type written. Items published are not necessarily the view of the Society.

## Kogarah Historical Society NEWSLETTER

**NEXT MEETINGS:** At Kogarah Civic Centre, commencing at 8 p.m.  
November, Thursday 14th. Guest speaker is Prof.  
R. I. Jack will speak about Spain and Portugal.  
December, Thursday 12th. Christmas Night at  
Carss Cottage 6.30 p.m.

**LADIES ON SUPPER ROSTER:** November, Miss D. MacLean and  
Mrs. P. Thornley

**RAFFLE PRIZE DONORS:** Miss M. Shanahan.

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

With the change over to a bi-monthly Newsletter it seems rather strange to be penning this Christmas message in October but the sentiments remain the same - and are as relevant in October as at Christmas.

Our Society has been particularly active this year with the participation in so much of the Kogarah Municipal Centenary celebrations, these added to the social events planned and attended by members have resulted in a very active time for all.

The growing awareness within the community of their heritage is evidenced by the increased number of requests for the Society to provide speakers to the various meetings, also has been the acknowledgement of the significance of the Carss Cottage area and its inclusion in the planning for the Centenary and Bi-centenary projects.

The Cottage has been the centre of focus for a number of functions and it's emergence as a centre of interest is undoubtedly growing. It is fortunate that this has been foreseen by the Society and much has been done towards making the museum area a really workable enterprise.

The activities at the museum over the past year have made a great difference to the presentation and operation of the museum and the visitors and members who have commented favourably on the progress is very heartening.

The finale to our year's activities is our Christmas Night at which everyone is assured of a very pleasant evening. I look forward to seeing and speaking with you, so come along, enjoy yourself and inspect all the improvements which have been completed and get an idea of what is possible for the future.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year, I hope all goes well for you.

- Jeff Veness

## Herbarium has some plants collected by Joseph Banks

By JOSEPH GLASCOTT,  
Environment Writer

A little-known wonder of Sydney, the NSW National Herbarium in the Botanic Gardens, will be open to the public for the first time tomorrow and Monday.

The herbarium is not a place to find herbs. It is a collection of dried plant specimens for botanical research and reference which includes some of the first plants collected in Australia by Dr Joseph Banks and Dr Daniel Solander at Botany Bay on Captain Cook's voyage in 1770.

These immensely valuable specimens were given to the Botanic Gardens in 1900

by the natural history section of the British Museum in London.

"This is the soul of the Botanic Gardens," the director of the Royal Botanic Garden's and the Domain Trust, Dr Laurie Johnson, said yesterday.

"This is where the work is done to obtain the detailed knowledge of Australian native plants and the relationship between plants and the ecology.

"The herbarium is the reason why the Botanic Gardens is not just another park.

"Gardens without a scientific base usually become parks without any special significance."

The herbarium research involves the

study of native plant species, their localities, growing habits and the soil conditions in which they flourish.

Dr Johnson's research has discovered that there are between 700 and 800 species of eucalypts, about 200 more than were recognised 15 years ago.

"I was visiting Brunette Downs Station in the Northern Territory a few years ago and found three new species of the coolabah tree," Dr Johnson said.

"I announced my discovery and excitement to the station manager, but he said he had known about the trees for years. Botanists hadn't recognised them before."

Herbarium research has revealed that some plant species have become extinct and others very rare because of pastoral clearing and interference with their habitats.

The Sydney Morning Herald, Sat, Oct 12, 1985

# MUSEUM ROSTER

N.B. Volunteers are needed for all Public Holidays! Your assistance will be much appreciated. Please phone 57-5940 as soon as possible, if you would like to attend the museum or any of the days mentioned below. All members welcome. Hope to hear from you!

- Gwen Lean

Date	Attendants	To Open and Close Museum
3rd November	Mrs. A. McOnie Miss M. Foley	Mr. J. Veness
10th November	Mrs. B. Butters Miss P. Harry	Mrs. B. Butters
17th November	Mrs. G. Johns Mrs. G. Taylor	Mrs. G. Johns
24th November	Mrs. B. Martin Mrs. H. Parkes	Mr. J. Lean
1st December	Mr. & Mrs. R. Fitzhardinge	Mrs. R. Fitzhardinge
8th December	Mr. & Mrs. J. Hunt	Mr. J. Veness
15th December	Mrs. M. Grieve Mrs. P. Thornley Miss K. Moore	Mrs. M. Grieve
22nd December	Mr. K. Grieve Mr. R. Armstrong	Mr. K. Grieve
26th December (Boxing Day)	Volunteers needed!	
29th December	Miss D. Maclean Mrs. N. Owens	Mr. J. Lean
1st January (New Years Day)	Volunteers needed!	
5th January	Mr. & Mrs. L. Bell	Mr. J. Veness
12th January	Mrs. G. Watson Mrs. L. Gilmour	Mrs. G. Johns
19th January	Mrs. G. Cootes Mrs. M. Armstrong	Miss G. Coxhead
26th January	Mrs. B. Martin Mrs. H. Parkes	Mr. J. Lean
27th January (Australia Day Holiday)	Volunteers needed!	

Please Note: Any given date which is inconvenient will be changed on request when possible by ringing Gwen Lean, 57-5940.

## SOCIAL CALENDAR

### CHRISTMAS NIGHT AT CARSS COTTAGE

THURSDAY, 12th DECEMBER  
at 6.30 p.m.

Choice of Chicken or  
Fish dinner  
\$5.50 per person, paid in  
advance to help  
finalise figures.  
If you require extra comfort  
bring your chairs  
and table.

### TRAIN TRIP

SATURDAY, 23rd NOVEMBER

From Hurstville for a trip round  
Sydney at 5.30 p.m.  
Dinner to be served on  
train. Plus entertain-  
ment later. Seats must  
be booked. Limited  
number.  
\$25.00 per person.



If you are interested in any of these outings please make sure your name is placed on the list in the book or notify Mary Armstrong 579 6448, Beryl Butters 57 6954 or Gwen Cootes on 53 5854.





## CHRISTMAS or IMAS ?

There is really no question as both forms are acceptable and are similar in meaning. Both are associated with Christ: the one retains the symbol of the Cross on which He died and therefore becomes synonymous with the Saviour Himself. (Deriv. Greek "Ki" = Christ),

"Maesse" is an Old English word, later contracted to "mass". It describes the rituals and celebrations which commemorate the life of Christ. In a Eucharistic Mass the priest or clergyman performs the Christian sacrament of consecrating and distributing bread and wine for consumption by the worshippers who solemnly file in procession before the Altar.

Christians therefore find a deeply religious significance in Christmas and to the devout it is a very holy period of the year, equal to Easter.

The purpose of Christmas, unlike Easter, is to celebrate the birth of Christ and so a joyful atmosphere prevails. At this time of year carols are sung at church, in public places and at home. "Carols by Candlelight" is a popular way of listening to and joining in carol singing.

The joyousness is evident in the festivities that always accompany this special season, an important part of which is usually a decorated Christmas Tree. Traditionally this is a young fir, or the branch of a fir tree, because the practice originated in Europe where Christmas falls during winter and the dark green of the fir contrasts with the whiteness of the snow and is a perfect foil for the colours with which the tree is adorned. A decorated tree placed indoors provides a bright and gay appearance, particularly if the weather is not so good out of doors. The fir was chosen because it does not wilt, is strong enough to have objects suspended from its branches and, being stiff and springy, the branches hold their shape.

We in Australia whose forefathers came from the northern hemisphere have carried on the traditions and rituals they introduced. When a live Tree cannot be procured an artificial one is substituted.

Big cities burst out in a rash of Christmas decorations from November (or even late October) until the festive season has ended. Most of this is promoted by traders to attract business. London and New York are really resplendent in December and each has a huge Christmas Tree as a focal point. Sydney and other major Australian cities have begun to follow this fashion and for some years past a large decorated and illuminated pine-tree has been erected at the appropriate time in Martin Place.

Often trees in parks, gardens and private homes are illuminated: Bathurst's McHattie Park is worth seeing at Christmas with virtually every tree ablaze with coloured lights which make an impressive display.

Santa Claus is also prominent. He may be seen popping out of chimneys, riding his reindeer across suburban rooftops, beaming out at passers by from doorways and windows. And of course real live Father Christmases abound wherever parents and children visit department stores and shopping centres. He makes a spectacular arrival at parties and picnics, coming in all sorts of conveyances - to the delight of the children!

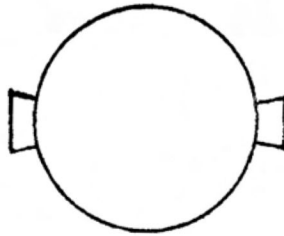
Churches are decked out with Nativity scenes; likewise many shops, and frequently miniatures of these are to be found in homes.

Larders are stocked up with all sorts of goodies, including Christmas cakes and puddings, mince tarts, poultry (kept frozen, of course!), hams and gaily wrapped confectionery. Gifts are lovingly wrapped and carefully put away where inquisitive children will not be likely to find them, to be brought out on Christmas Eve for the youngsters, or on Christmas morning for older members of the family. There is a delightful secrecy about this old practice.

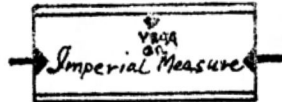
Christmas revolves around families: there may be two or three generations gathered together, perhaps for the only time in the year. It is a time to be charitable and on many tables a Christmas Bowl is placed to receive gifts of money for the needy.



## Museum's item of interest



SCALE 1:10  
1838



IMPERIAL PECK

### THE IMPERIAL PECK

From Webster's Dictionary I gained the following information:

A Peck - origin uncertain,  
the fourth part of a  
bushel - a dry measure  
of 8 quarts.

The principal system of weights and measures used in a few nations, the only major industrial being the United States.

It actually consists of two related systems - the U.S. Customary System of units and the British Imperial System.

In bygone days these tables were printed on the back cover of exercise books.

The main ones were Avoirdupois Weight, Linear Measure and Square or Surface Measure and Dry or Corn Measure. These measures are used for certain dry goods such as grain, peas and some kinds of vegetables.

However, the measuring of such things by volume is being gradually superseded by their measure in weight.

The peck measure was usually made from tin or enamel, (the one in the museum is bronze). For convenience it had two small handles, one on each side of the container.

When the word peck becomes obsolete, people will be puzzling over the old nursery rhyme,

"Peter Piper picked a  
peck of pickled pepper".

- M. Grieve

## New books

A Pictorial History of Bathurst, by Theo Barker (Robert Brown and Associates, Bathurst, \$24.95). Bathurst this year achieves its 100th anniversary as a city, and the centenary is celebrated by this coffee-table-size picture history, published in association with the Bathurst District Historical Society. The account of Bathurst's rise to city status actually starts in 1813, with the arrival of explorers and settlers. The book draws on photographs from the Holtermann Collection, as well as other sources, and brings the Bathurst story through a couple of world wars, and up to the present day.

- Sydney Morning Herald, Sat, Sept 21, 1985

THE BICENTENNIAL may not be running smoothly, but 100 years ago, the centennial celebrations were not entirely free of controversy. Irene Cunningham, of Wahroonga, came across the following item in the *Daily Telegraph* of September 25, 1886:

"THAT the unhappy centennial celebration project would come to condign grief was a foregone conclusion. It came into the world a wretched monstrosity, for which the best thing that could be hoped was a speedy and quiet ending. That it has now received, and so far all felt out as was to be expected. The result of Sir Patrick Jennings' deplorable blundering is to leave the country without a scheme at all."



Memorial to the unknown  
Bicentennial celebrant.

### MY FIRST DAY IN HEAVEN

I dreamed death came the other night,  
And Heaven's gates opened wide.  
With kindly grace an angel  
Ushered me inside.  
And there to my astonishment,  
Stood folks I'd known on earth.  
Some I'd judged and labelled  
Unfit - of little worth.  
Indignant words rose to my lips  
But never were set free;  
For every face showed stunned  
surprise;  
No one expected me!

REPORT OF THE  
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S JOINT CONFERENCE WITH AFFILIATED  
SOCIETIES and N.S.W. FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES  
18-20/10/1985

Conference Theme: "Working Together for the Future".

Host Society: Dubbo Museum and Historical Society.

Kogarah Historical Society: Mrs. B. Butters and Miss G. Coxhead.

Delivering his Presidential Address Mr. J. M. Bennett of the R.A.H.S. first of all expressed the hope that under the new administration his Society will be able to take a more active and paternal interest in the Affiliated Societies. He felt that with the proximity of the Bicentennial Year it was necessary to have a united front, so that all Societies could work together to ensure that history remains at the core of the Bicentennial festivities. There should be regional conferences which would include local societies and members of the general public all taking part.

Next speaker was Dr. Carol Liston, a Councillor of the R.A.H.S. and a principal organiser of the present conference.

Dr. Liston pointed out there were many kinds of historical groups striving to investigate and interpret the past while resolving present day questions. She said local communities were generally extended families, commencing with a family unit that in time was superseded by social organisation built up by the community. The R.A.H.S. itself had begun in a small way in 1890 when a history group was formed which developed into the Society as it is known today. The Parramatta Historical Society was formed in 1920 but it was not until the Clarence River Historical Society, formed in 1931, took the step that the first affiliation of a society took place. Newcastle, Richmond, Gosford and Parramatta then affiliated and most other societies joined the affiliation trend after World War II.

She said new groups with community interests have been formed in later years, such as Conservationists, Cultural Groups and Family History Research groups. In 1932 the first genealogical society was formed. Genealogists have been helpful in breaking down taboos about origins - Chinese, convicts, Aborigine, European origins and the stigma of bigamy, illegitimacy and desertion.

It was a good thing, she felt, for people to get together in groups and to work from a common base such as history, e.g. the family research groups, groups working in liaison with the local library, historical societies, groups undertaking the compilation of registers of old buildings, and gazeteers of buildings that once existed.

Indexes are becoming increasingly important as they enable people to get access to information.

Dr. Liston then spoke of the roles of Historical Societies, chief of which are collecting, preserving and making information available. She reminded her audience that possession means care. There was no point in keeping information if it could not be researched. Where storage and access were problems then the society should ensure that there was a local history collection in the local library. Societies should devise a system of management so that there is order in their establishment.

She next discussed relevance and significance in local history. History, she said, is interpretative: there will never be a definitive history. Important evidence is to be found in things past, such as the inscriptions on cemetery headstones, streetscapes, place names, etc.

Reminiscences are unreliable, she went on to say. It is better to acquire the actual records of local businesses, etc. Family history queries made to an historical society should be recorded and any information supplied noted in a register.

Regarding heritage status generally, there should be a thematic

history of the area, covering such things as buildings, landscapes, streetscapes and so on. This advice was also applicable to Bicentennial groups. Already some centres were concentrating on recording and/or collecting Aboriginal paintings found in their area; the poems and writings of people from the area; contrasting photographs taken in 1888 with photographs taken in 1988 and so on.

Dr. Liston was followed by Mr. Richard Gore from the Archives Authority of New South Wales who spoke on the "The New Genealogical Kit and other Local History resources held by the Archives".

He outlined the contents of the Genealogical Kit and explained how it could be and should be used. Archives, he said, are working records of an organisation and are a valuable source of information. There are indexes to these records which could comprise files of official correspondence, for example, and there is a difference between what is classed as and kept as archives and what is collected in libraries.

The material kept as archives must be retained in its original form and order. Anyone carrying out research requiring reference to archives should first work out where government would have been involved. This facilitates reference to archives and establishes a known starting point for research.

In the Genealogical Research Kit there are about 26 films, dealing with such matters as all major shipping into Australia, convict records, etc., which have now been covered based on 35 microfilm and microfiche records. Stage I has already been published and Stage II is now being distributed. There are records of land grants, surveyors' maps and the like; births, deaths and marriages. For the period 1792 to 1865 there are indexes and registers of early land grants. From these records may be obtained the name of the grantee, number of acres, terms of lease or grant, dates, use of land and other relevant information, e.g. district.

The Blue Books, Returns of the Colony: 1822-1857 are sets of statistical returns of the Colony of New South Wales (which originally included what are now Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania) compiled over those years. These are records of the information sent by the Colonial Secretary to the Home Secretary in London. They gave information on the population of the Colony and all facets of life and thus provided an important overview. Even civil servants' occupations and personal details are listed.

Another important information source is Summaries of Census Materials. From the agriculture returns details of acreage granted, name of grantee, slaughtered stock, stock held, land cleared, etc. may be obtained. From the ecclesiastical returns come particulars of churches, outlying parishes, minister's names, etc. The education returns give types of school, the educators employed, running costs, etc. All these returns are held for the years from 1822 to 1857.

Records of land sales can give information on factories, mines, quarries, fisheries, ship-building yards and the Government's public works among other things.

Charitable institutions were recorded between 1855 and 1857.

In 1843 representative government began. Electoral rolls were prepared in 1842 and are useful information sources about early settlers up to 1864. Prior to 1843 people had been appointed to official positions but from that year they were elected. At first the franchise was limited to land owners or leaseholders. In 1893 the property vote was abolished and women were able to vote from 1903. The electoral rolls after 1869 are now held at the Mitchell Library.

The coverage of State centres between the 1840s and 1850s is incomplete, Mr. Gore said.

From 1830 to 1861 there are records of publicans' licences, and these and records of the naturalisation of aliens have been transferred to microfiche.

The Archives approach to identifying records is either chronological or thematic.



Summarising, Mr. Gore said that the major records held in Archives are those from the Colonial Secretary; the Blue Books; land records; muster and census or electoral rolls; Court records; education records - in fact there is an enormous range of records available. The Colonial Secretary's correspondences is important because it extends from 1789 into the 20th century.

Maps are of many kinds: land maps and plans and explorers' journals; parish maps; surveyors' field notes and the correspondence of surveyors are all useful sources.

Ms. Jan Worthington was the first speaker in the afternoon session. Her topic was "Computers as an aid to researching and writing family and local history".

From the outset it was obvious that her remarks had little application to small museums and financially struggling societies such as ours. She began by defining hardware and software and described how computers could be used as an aid to writing local and family history. Word processors are now very useful assets in many fields. Computer systems facilitate reference and relieve researchers of unnecessary expenditure of time, effort and money.

Probably the best received address of all those given at the Conference was that of Miss Kimberley Webber who spoke in practical down-to-earth terms about matters relevant to historical research. Her chosen topic was: "People and Places: Researching and mounting local and family history exhibitions".

She said when we are finding out facts about our past and when we wish to produce information, e.g. as when mounting an exhibition, we should look to the artefacts. Include parks, streets, railways, houses and so on. Refer to maps, plans, documents, photographs, chronologies of events and include copies of some of these in exhibitions. Objects should be made meaningful. To make them identifiable to present-day viewers may require some interpretation. Labelling should be clear with concise, even though brief, information.

Sunday morning was spent in general business and discussion. Four Board Members were elected: Metropolitan - Mrs. B. Goodger and Mr. B. Madden; Mr. R. Littlejohn and Mr. R. Cox for the country. There was a walking tour of historic Dubbo followed by a light lunch at Dubbo Museum which was open for inspection.

## Historic British frigate found

NEW YORK, Friday: A salvage expert claims he has found and intends to raise HMS Hussar, a 26-gun Revolutionary War three-masted frigate that was carrying a British army payroll in gold coins and 80 American prisoners when she sank in New York's East River in 1780.

Using the same type of sonar equipment that helped find the Titanic, the salvage expert, Mr

Barry Clifford, located the Hussar in 25 metres of murky water near Hell Gate, off the South Bronx.

The Hussar - 38 metres long, 11 metres wide and weighing 619 tonnes - was sailing upriver from The Battery on the evening of November 23, 1780, bound for Newport, Rhode Island, when it struck a rock in the treacherous Hell Gate waters and sank.

Mr Clifford said that early 19th-century newspaper accounts and historical records reported that the Hussar was carrying £960,000 in gold coins and 80 American prisoners chained below deck.

Dozens of unsuccessful attempts have been made to find the Hussar since the early 19th century.

The New York Times

- The Sydney Morning Herald, Sat, Sept 28, 1985

KEEP  
AUSTRALIA  
BEAUTIFUL



Keep  
Australia  
Beautiful  
Council



### THE REMINISCENCES OF A YOUNG NURSE

I, Miss Morehead commenced as probationary nurse in the old Lemongrove Hospital on February, 1904 and remained till April 1905. Miss Sharpe and I were the two probationary nurses. The Matron was the late Dora Naismith, who was anything but popular with the staff.

We commenced at 6 a.m. doing two weeks kitchen and two weeks wards. We received no wages for the first three months, five shillings a week thereafter. We did all the cooking, ironing and scrubbing with never time to shell peas and cut beans, these we did in our bedroom at night. Kerosene oil lamps were lit at night.

The wooden kitchen table was scrubbed with bathbrick (a sandsoap block) and the kitchen stove blacklead (a blacklead paste) at 4.30 a.m. once weekly. There was not a dispensary in the hospital then, the prescriptions being made up at Judge's Pharmacy in High Street, Penrith - a distance of  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile.

I or Miss Sharpe was sent down to bring the basket of mixtures and often I sat on the bridge at Lemongrove to rest awhile. Doctors Higgins and McMartin were the hospital doctors.

A boy named Stanley Henderson was brought in one night and I being the night nurse called matron who gave the boy a morphea needle. He had fallen onto the railway line and a leg above the knee was almost severed. He was about 17 or 18 years of age. The two doctors were away at a boy theatre so he had to lay in the surgical room with a tourniquet wound around the leg until the theatre train came in from Sydney.

How he pleaded to have the tourniquet loosened a little and kept calling until the doctors came. Dr. Barber was not on speaking terms with the hospital Board, so they did not call him in. They amputated the leg not that night, but a few days later.

My first dressing was to syringe that stump. There was no operating theatre at the hospital, all operations were done in the surgical room.

The isolation ward was in a galvanised building at the back of our quarters in which was housed the diphtheria cases. The junior nurses were near the surgical room, the seniors in the main building.

The typhoid crockery was kept separate and the pans put into a disinfectant. We carbolicised the beds, and bedding mattresses were taken away. Whilst on night duty I contacted typhoid fever and after breakfast I scrubbed the men's ward. I could hardly stand up with the pain in my back. Matron was very kind to me and had me carried to her room for a few days. There was then a six bed male ward, six bed female ward and six in the "King Ward".

One morning I was in the act of making a large meat pie when matron came in and told me to go to isolation, a bad case of diphtheria was on the way up and told me what I had to do. The doctor arrived at the same time as the patient so there was no time to even remove his shoes. I stood and held his dear little head without anaesthetic. Doctor Higgins opened the trachea putting a silver tube in it. They then did artificial respiration, but the dear little boy had gone. The doctor put a few stitches in the incision then walked out to speak to the parents. They rushed in on me but by then I had his throat covered. We all cried.

It was a shock to me, my first operation. Soon matron's voice was calling to send the boy's parents to her office. I did the boy's laying-out, carrying afterwards to the morgue. After carbolicising I was told to take a lysol bath and that night Dr. Higgins told matron to bring me along to a concert at which Mr. Eddy Fulton and Mr. Price were singing. Well, I did go and the two doctors, dressed in dinner suits, were enjoying themselves. I did wonder, how could they? But we live and learn, don't we?

By to-days standards nursing at the old hospital was indeed primitive. We had no such thing as toilet rolls, we covered the pans with newspaper. Stanley, the man about the place, would call out "Nurse! Pan please" and "World News" were the best, they being nice soft paper magazines (World News was a weekly magazine priced 2d long time defunct). One item I've often looked back

on was the tank in which we emptied the bed pans, the typhoids as well.

It was a large galvanised iron tank out in the open with a wooden cover, the opening being at the top for the purpose of emptying the pans. We had a tub of chloride of lime and put a trowel of this in each time. The pans were rinsed under a tap of running water.

When on night duty it was often difficult to leave the ward unattended to take each pan down to the tank, so I would leave and take them a little later after daylight - and here her story of the hospital ended, but continued to tell of herself afterwards in which I was not interested . . .

Diphtheria and typhoid was prevalent here in the early days due to a few small creeks or water courses becoming polluted; one in particular was known as "typhoid creek". Infant mortality was high.

The old hospital of which she wrote still exists but much added to and is called "Governor Phillip" hospital for the aged.

- As told to by A. Evans

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#### FORMATION OF SYDNEY CHAPTER OF THE MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

On Thursday, 26th September Dick Burghart and Gwen Coxhead represented the Society at the Annual General Meeting of the Sydney Chapter of the M.A.A.I.

An apology was received from the retiring President, Ms. Nancy Harbison Evans, who advised she did not wish to stand for re-election. As this was the first A.G.M. there were no previous Minutes to be read.

The meeting was chaired by Ms. Mari Metzke who was later elected as the new President. Mr. I. Dolstra will continue as Secretary/Treasurer. His address is c/o P.O. Box 464, Smithfield, N.S.W. 2164. Tel. 604 6383.

The new Deputy President/Chairman is Ms. Shirley Ball.

Committee members are: The above three officers, Mr. A. Duigan and Mr. P. Kahn.

A report from a Committee meeting held on 16th July recommended that the Chapter should encourage the membership of the smaller museums and individuals working in or with an interest in museums, as the larger museums with paid staff would be served by a proposed regional curators' association. Small museums often felt isolated and it was considered that by holding a series of seminars, workshops and social functions they would be brought together for their mutual advantage.

The experience and expertise of the larger museums would still be called on and they were not excluded from membership if they so desired.

The first one day workshop is to be held at Hornsby Historical Society's museum on 1st February, 1986 on conservation of paper products. Fee: \$10.00. A Christmas Function is proposed for the 4th December which may be at Elizabeth Bay House.

Advice has been sent to the M.A.A.I. of the formation of the new Chapter and a grant of \$50.00 can be expected. This should cover stationery and the running costs for the time being.

Mr. Richard Wesley of the M.A.A.I. addressed the meeting, supported by his colleague Miss Mary-Louise Williams.

The business part of the A.G.M., apart from the election of officers, was given over to discussion on the proposed by-laws, which were finally adopted as the Constitution.

After the meeting there was an inspection of the Hyde Park Barracks Museum and the evening closed with light refreshments.

- Gwen Coxhead

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NEXT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - Tuesday, 28th January, 1986 at 7.30. at the Cottage.

NEXT WORKING BEE - Early in the new year.

# SOCIETY CHIT CHAT AT THE BACK . . .

Well our last bi-monthly "Newsletter" this year so a happy Christmas and New Year greetings to one and all.

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The Society these days is living with the inclement weather that must be plaguing the Centenary Celebrations of Kogarah Council. The street parade and carnival at Jubilee Oval was marred by high winds and eventually rain as well as the next day. And our street stall too copped a wet day - success though, to the tune of \$365.00. Wonderful ladies! A fine day was at the South Hurstville Uniting Church, chosen for Council's Centenary Church Service. The Society was represented as well as several other members, to hear the Rev. Gordon Dicker speak. Rev. G. Dicker is the immediate past Moderator of the Uniting Church in N.S.W.

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Hullo to Laurie Curtis, who has been in hospital and out again - hope you are feeling better already, Laurie.

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From correspondence this month is a letter from Mr. A. Evans of Kingswood, who was employed at the St. George District Hospital up to the end of 1953. He then moved to the Nepean District Hospital, this in turn introduced him to the elderly lady from Glebe, who was a probationary nurse there in 1904. Her story is inside . . . Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society, October . . . Settlement in the South . . . Sir Thomas Brisbane in NSW . . . St. George Historical Society, Bulletin . . . Australian Lamingtons . . . Carrington Hotel, Katoomba . . . Hurstville Historical Society, Newsletter . . . Dr. Robert Townson . . . Early Racing in Australia.

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Don't forget, if you are coming to the Christmas Dinner at the Cottage in December, it would be preferable to have your tickets before the night and also if you like comfort, chairs and perhaps a table.

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Sympathies from the Society are extended to the families of Mrs. Gwen Cootes and Mrs. Bernice Curtis.

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Fresh from her weed's article in the last "Newsletter", Maisie Grieve told a few of us that the small yellow daisy which grows by the fields around the place, an agricultural friend told her it was known as Cape Weed brought back by soldiers in the chaff for their horses from the Crimean War.

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"Pioneer record is put straight" said the St. George Sutherland Leader. Last month it was mentioned in the Leader that the Propeller a newspaper in Hurstville was established by Mr. Holger Wennholm in 1911, with some assistance from his brother Sigfrid. It was not however, the first newspaper in St. George; the St. George Call's first issue was in 1904.

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Favourable comments were received from viewers who watched the Centenary Procession with our Carss Cottage float; the chickens even laid eggs for the President's breakfast!

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