



KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

INCORPORATED

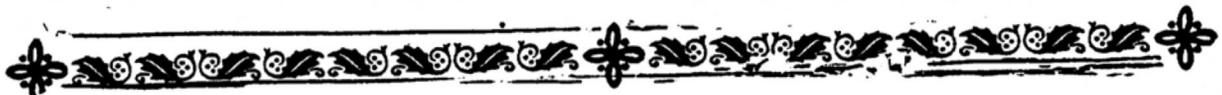
NEWSLETTER



JANUARY - FEBRUARY, 1992



HAPPY NEW YEAR



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KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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(Sponsored by Kogarah Municipal Council)

Patron: The Mayor of Kogarah, Ald. Ross Green

Life Patron: K. R. Cavanough, A.M., J.P.

Society's Postal Address: P.O. Box 367, Kogarah, NSW, 2217

<u>President:</u> Mrs. B. Butters Tele. 580 6954	<u>Vice Presidents:</u> Miss G. Coxhead Mr. L. Curtis
<u>Hon. Sec.:</u> Mrs. B. Curtis Tele. 546 4539	<u>Hon. Treasurer:</u> Mr. K. Johns } Tele. 587 Assistant: Mrs. G. Johns } 4848
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<u>House Convener:</u> Mrs. L. Gilmour Tele. 587 2937	<u>Hon. Auditor:</u> Mr. W. Brown
<u>Property Convener:</u> Mr. Ron Armstrong - Tele. 522 5311	<u>Hon. Solicitor:</u> Mr. R. McClelland

CARSS COTTAGE MUSEUM is open each Sunday and Public Holiday (ex. Easter Friday and Xmas Day) from 1.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. ADMISSION CHARGES - Children 20c each, Adults \$1.00. Groups by special arrangement - Tele. Mrs. G. Lean 580 5940 OR Mrs. B. Butters Tele. 580 6954)

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP - \$6.00 p.a. single; \$9.00 husband and wife or couple. NEWSLETTER is sent to members every two months.

MEETINGS: 2nd Thursday each month, 7.45 p.m., 2nd Fl., Civic Centre, Belgrave Street, Kogarah, followed by a guest speaker or films, then light refreshments. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE meetings are held monthly (ex. December and January) on the 4th Tuesday at Carss Cottage from 7.45 p.m.

N O T I C E S

MONTHLY MEETING:

The first meeting in 1992 will be on Thursday, 13th at 7.45 p.m. in Kogarah Civic Centre. This will be in February.

Guest Speaker:

Ald. Ron Rathbone will talk on an historical subject.

Management Committee Meeting will be on Tuesday, 25th February at

Carss Cottage, commencing at 7.45 p.m.

SUPPER ROSTER: VOLUNTEERS, please!

Working Bee: From time to time the Society has maintenance work to be done in and around the museum. Anyone interested in helping in this would be most welcome and should advise the President or Hon. Secretary so that a suitable time for a group to go into action can be arranged. Transport can be arranged if this is a problem.



Take no notice of this

* I discovered this "notice" among some old papers:

Notice

"There is absolutely no purpose in reading this notice. It is to be completely ignored, although we know that despite this warning you will read it to the very end.

"Thank you."

A committee is often made up of the unable, asked by the unwilling to do the unnecessary.

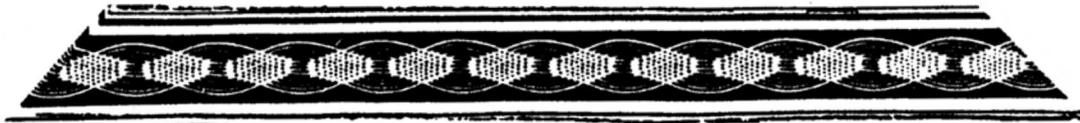
Worry is like a rocking chair—it gives you something to do, but it won't get you any place.

PADDY the Irishman walked into a bar one night and ordered 19 pints of Guinness, which he drank steadily one after the other.

"Why do you drink so many pints in a row?" asked an incredulous fellow drinker at the bar.

"See that sign over there?" said Paddy, pointing. "It says, 'Nobody served under 18'."

NEWSLETTER



MUSIC OF CHILDHOOD DAYS

Most of us now in our declining years can still remember the pleasure we derived as children from a ride on a merry-go-round and the music that was associated with it. Even before the magic moment came when we sat astride a wooden horse, so gaily painted and caparisoned, the sound of the music would be leading our footsteps towards it in anticipation of the treat.

Maybe our elders found the music loud and far from tuneful, and classed it as a noise rather than true music. The tendency to discordancy was deliberate. Fairground rides needed loud, out-of-tune music to draw the crowds - the sound was the carousel's call sign.

The instruments responsible for the music were barrel organs or street organs. There are still thousands of street organs in Europe as Australians travelling overseas have discovered. For many the novelty of hearing one playing can make a holiday in a distant country more memorable.

Most of these instruments were built in Holland and France and sold to English showmen. Here in Australia there are only about thirty organ grinders and about twelve street organs left.

On 17th November last Sydneysiders had the chance to see and hear eight of these, which had been assembled at Darling Harbour for a Street Organ Festival, the purpose of which was to raise money for the Children's Hospital, Camperdown.

Street organs have a big cult following and these days they are carefully kept in tune and not voiced purely to make lots of noise although the sound still carries far. They have become fashionable with collectors in this age of preservation when almost everything old is sacred. In the 1960's when their popularity was on the wane and electronic music had made an appearance numbers of them were scrapped or burnt. A collector will usually pay more the louder the organ's sound is, although the variety and quality of music also affects their value. An organ can cost between \$60,000 and \$120,000. Old ones often have to be virtually rebuilt by their proud new owners.

There could be marital strife if the husband was an organ collector and the wife was not well disposed to his hobby - and the storage of such a bulky instrument could be a problem too!

Based on a Sydney Morning Herald article
18th November, 1991

THE NO SMOKING CAMPAIGN

There is apprehension in the small North Queensland town of Mareeba, 80km. west of Cairns. The reason is that 60% of Australia's tobacco production comes from its district which depends on the industry for its survival.

Fears are held that NO SMOKING bans could put most tobacco farmers out of business and this would be disastrous for their families as well as the town's survival.

THE FIRST SYDNEY-HOBART YACHT RACE

This annual ocean race from Sydney to Hobart is fast becoming one of the world's blue water classics, attracting more and more entries from overseas. Undoubtedly it has become the premier yachting event in the southern hemisphere.

Its history makes a good story. In 1945 members of the Sydney Cruising Yacht Club were socialising at dinner. As a change to the usual pattern of events over Christmas the Commodore suggested it would be a good idea to cruise down the coast from Sydney to Hobart. Another member went further and proposed that the cruise would be more challenging if it were competitive and so the race was born.

On Boxing Day, 1946 nine yachts set sail in fine weather, some large, some small. The second smallest yacht was the Rani, a Bermudian cutter just over 34 ft. long. Heading the bigger boats was the Winston Churchill.

This first race was to excite the public imagination by tantalising doubts, fears and surprises. The finish was climactic.

For the first 320 km all yachts made good time and travelled well. Suddenly the weather changed. A severe southerly gale blew up. Very heavy swells and squalls sent most of the fleet scurrying inshore toward the coast, but Rani disappeared. Six days passed with neither news nor sign of her and grave fears were held for the safety of the boat and those aboard.

During this time the Winston Churchill had set up a big lead over other yachts and Rani was listed as missing.

Near the finishing time excited crowds gathered in Hobart waiting for the leader to appear in Storm Bay. There was a thick fog over the ocean. At last, through the grey mists, the shape of a boat could be seen. Surely it would be the Winston Churchill! Once it was fully in view there was wonderment for this boat had a white hull whereas the Winston Churchill had a black hull.

Everyone was astonished when it was identified as the Rani!

Her skipper, an experienced Navy man, had played a hunch and at the height of the storm had taken his little vessel well out to sea to take advantage of the strong southerly currents. Good speed was maintained thereafter and history was made.

In the conditions that had prevailed his was a daring manoeuvre, especially with such a small boat but his gamble paid off handsomely. Rani's performance was remarkable. Not only did she have the honour of being first yacht over the line but was the overall race winner, coming in 17 hours ahead of the crack Winston Churchill!



© Jimera P/L

It was indeed a dramatic ending to the inaugural Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race, the forerunner of so many thrilling races since then.

ANNIVERSARY

The comic strip, Ginger Meggs, has been running for the past 70 years. Ginger and his mates must have the secret of eternal youth as today they look and behave no older than when the strip was first published.

Although its creator Jim Banck has died another cartoonist, Jame Kemsley, has continued Ginger's escapades, at the same time bringing him and his "gang" into the modern age.

N A M A T J I R A

The man himself is no longer with us but his name still creates a ripple of excitement in art circles world-wide. Connoisseurs jostle to acquire one of his watercolours, many of which hang in important galleries overseas.

Albert Namatjira, a full-blood aboriginal, was born in 1902. In his youth he was closely associated with the Hermannsburg Mission, a Lutheran haven for people of his race, where the rudiments of European education and culture were learned.

By the time he was 21 he was a trusted and reliable worker, carrying out many responsible tasks and setting a good example for his people. The Mission is in the Alice Springs region. In the 1920's Albert was entrusted with running an express buggy service between the Mission and Oodnadatta, then the railway terminus. He would collect passengers and baggage for a journey across country in an open vehicle drawn by four horses.

During the late 1920's he began making small wood plaques, decorating them with fine precision by using a piece of fencing wire heated in the gleeds of his camp-fire.

Visiting artist Rex Batterbee was to change Albert's life enormously. An exhibition of his work was held in the Territory, to which Albert went. He was greatly impressed and was immediately attracted to this form of art. The watercolours fascinated him. Little did he then know what the future held in store for him - that his skill in tribal decoration was to be turned to watercolour painting and eventual fame!

On his return to the Mission he asked Father Albrecht if he could get watercolours and painting materials for him. So began his new career. He persevered in the new medium, producing a fine study "The Fleeing Kangaroos" which he presented to an admiring Mission Board member.

Rex Batterbee returned in 1934 and began instructing Albert in formal art. Albert was an eager and apt pupil, soon producing many striking paintings. Father Albrecht took ten of these to a Territory Synod gathering where, at very modest prices, he sold six, thus encouraging Albert in his quest for artistic satisfaction. So well did he progress that in 1939 an exhibition of his paintings was held in Melbourne and opened by the Queen. All forty-one were sold; the critics were rapturous. Overnight Albert was a rising star. The rest is history.

He continued producing his uniquely Australian watercolours, his affairs being managed at first by the Mission Art Council, and then by the Aranda Art Council headed by Rex Batterbee. It was during this time that Albert left the mission, settling with his family near Alice Springs under much less favourable conditions. Without the protection of the Mission the simple aboriginal fell victim to exploiters, some of whom plied him with alcohol to procure paintings cheaply - later reselling them for high prices.

Commercialism was Albert's undoing. When Batterbee withdrew from the Council in 1958 the painter went downhill. From eminence he plunged into disgrace, even into prison. Alcohol became his master and his last years saw him in a pitiful state. He died destitute on 8th August, 1958 - less than three months after completing his gaol sentence.

His paintings survive and are increasingly important, fetching thousands of dollars as prestigious works of art.

The man may be dead but his name does not die.

Undoubtedly Albert Namatjira has been the most successful and famous of all Australia's indigenous people.



Albert
at the
peak
of his
career.

SOME Aborigines in Western Australia could have European ancestors.

Many Dutch and Portuguese sailors were shipwrecked along the coast during the 16th and 17th centuries and there is some evidence that they mated with Aboriginal women.

When the first settlers arrived there were persistent stories of the existence of fair-haired, blue-eyed Aborigines.

Early this century, Daisy Bates lived with Aborigines in the Murchison area. "There was no mistaking the flat, heavy Dutch face, curly fair hair, and heavy, stocky build," she wrote.

In 1943, it was reported that

Dutch Aborigines

Pieter, the last of the Ingarra tribe, had a blonde beard and a strange passion for the sea.

Two possible Dutch ancestors were Jan Peigrøm and Wouter Looes, who were marooned on the mainland after the *Batavia* shipwreck and massacre in 1629.

Dr Carl von Brandenstein has found many Portuguese words in the language of two Aboriginal tribes between Dampier and Port Hedland (WA).

Stone balls possessed by these tribes could have been granite cannon balls from a Portuguese shipwreck.

* Daisy Bates — she lived with the Aborigines.



This interesting article comes from AUSTRALASIAN POST, 8.1.1987

BOTANY BAY 50 OLD

L.

Oh, Botany Bay you're old
And countless seas have rolled
Against your sandy shore
And will for evermore.

Your name has come of late
When white men changed the fate
Of those who once dwelt here.

They were to disappear
Inept to stem the tide
Of change: their rights denied;
A hapless race, they saw
The death of tribal law
Once white men ruled the land
And plundered out of hand.



2.

These tales and more you'd tell
Old Botany Bay so well
If only you could speak;
Of days when all seems bleak
And wind and waves are high
Or weeping is the sky.
At other times there's peace
When warring forces cease
And everything is calm -
A landscape full of charm.
Now gone your erstwhile life -
It's lost in urban strife
As people onward press
And place you under stress.

2.

You knew the black men's ways;
You saw their life's new phase
When they could not adjust -
The betrayal of their trust
And a sense of hatred grow
When the strangers would not go.
Resentful to this day
That they were forced away
Left exiled to exist
In sorry plight: dismissed
To barren land out where
Deprived of natural fare
They live in aqualid state -
As equals never rate.



4.

Yes, Botany Bay, such things -
The joy, the sufferings;
The clash 'twixt black and white,
The overturn of right;
The push that claimed the land
And racial hatred fanned;
One's rise, the other's fall -
Indeed you saw it all.
You've seen the forests die;
The creeks and pools run dry
And cities outwards creep
Where once the 'roos would leap
And wildflowers grew -
Perhaps this change you rue?

G.C.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The teacher was new and had to ask the children for their names. To her first request the child said he was called "Jule" whereat the teacher said he should not use contractions. His first name must be "Julius".

When she turned to the next boy he was ready.

"My name is 'Billious', Miss," he told her.

MUSEUM'S ITEM OF INTEREST

An attractive item now on display at Carss Cottage Museum is a 3D-type portrayal of an oldtime wooden sailing ship.

This was donated to the Society many years ago but was not ever shown as its condition was such that it could not be hung until restoration of the faded painted surface was done.

Thanks to May Grieve and an artistic friend this job was completed a month or so ago and the result is most commendable. Already quite a few visitors have expressed their admiration of this attractive work.

It can be found hanging in the hallway where it has replaced the school projects from St. George Girls High School, the latter being returned at our November meeting via Miss C. Moss, our guest speaker.

A PROUD RECORD INDEED!

Crack cartographer

SIR: Captain Cook was an early mapmaker who worked by "rule of thumb", according to the Australian Army, which is currently advertising for cartographers (*Herald*, August 31).

Even for the Army, this is a pretty inadequate description of the Royal Navy's supreme master of the cartographic survey, who used the most advanced techniques of his time.

It is worth recalling that, before Cook's remarkably accurate exploratory surveys of the coasts of New Zealand and eastern Australia, he learned his skills in North America, where his daring survey of the St Lawrence River enabled Wolfe to take Quebec. In the words of the French Governor of Quebec: "The enemy have passed six ships of war where we dare not risk a vessel of 100 tons by night or day."

In a 1766 dress rehearsal for his voyage to Tahiti to observe the transit of Venus, Cook witnessed a solar eclipse from an island off Newfoundland, marking his observation point by a cairn that survives to this day. His calculation of that point differs in longitude by only a few hundred feet from modern calculations.

Some thumb!

Peter Hardie,
Weston (ACT).

September 2

Monday, September 9, 1991 |
The Sydney Morning Herald

SYDNEY HARBOUR TUNNEL

In 1992 Australia will gain its first underwater highway when the road tunnel beneath Sydney Harbour is completed.

The 4-lane marine expressway to link the southern and northern suburbs of Sydney from the Opera House to the north side of the bridge will be the most expensive artery of communication in our island continent. Costing between \$50m.-\$60m., it will provide a much needed alternative route across the Harbour and is scheduled to open in August.

It is anticipated that when finally in operation the expressway, sealed in a concrete tube between rock walls, will carry about 60,000 vehicles in a day. It is linked to a vast ventilation system that supplies a constant stream of fresh air.

Its ingenious design should make it proof against ships dragging anchors, or being hit by ships or earthquake, and it is designed to cope successfully should fire break out inside the tunnel.

The flow of traffic will be controlled by closed circuit television and there are other innovations and precautionary measures to ensure that the tunnel is safe and effective.

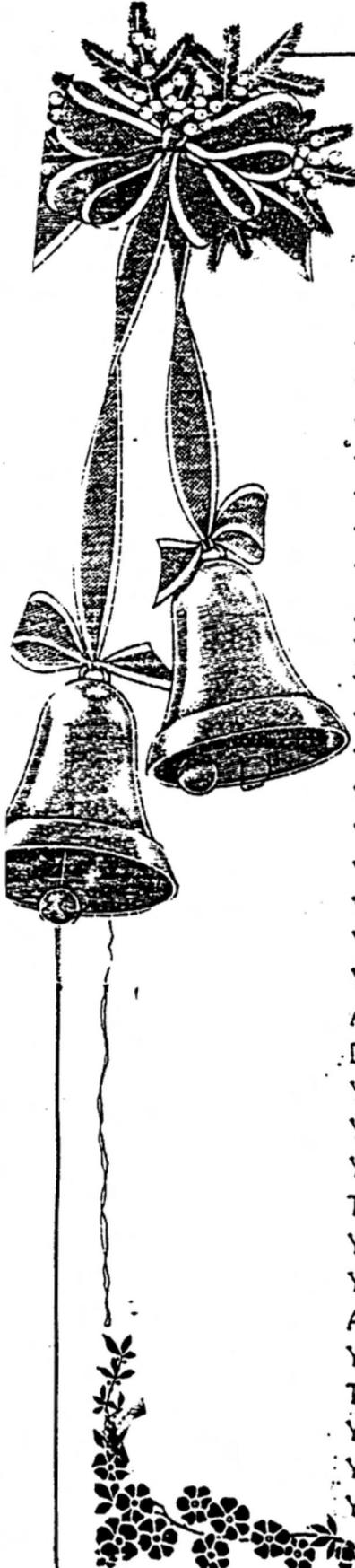
By completion its construction will have taken four years and the tunnel will rank as one of the most complex engineering feats in Australia.

POWERHOUSE MUSEUM - Since September an admission charge has been required at this museum. But there is a ray of light in this gloom. On the first Saturday of each month, beginning last October, admission will be free.

Otherwise, it will be \$5 per adult, \$2 concession/children. A family ticket will cost \$12. Children less than 5 years old will not be charged.



How to know you're growing older

- 
- Everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt doesn't work.
- The gleam in your eyes is from the sun hitting your bifocals.
- You feel like the night before, and you haven't been anywhere.
- Your little black book contains only names ending in M.D.
- You get winded playing chess.
- Your children begin to look middle-aged.
- You finally reach the top of the ladder, and you find it leaning against the wrong wall.
- You join a health club and don't go.
- You begin to outlive enthusiasm.
- You decide to procrastinate but never get around to it.
- Your mind makes contracts your body can't meet.
- A dripping faucet causes uncontrollable bladder urge.
- You know all the answers, but nobody asks you the questions.
- You look forward to a dull evening.
- You walk with your head held high trying to get used to your bifocals.
- Your favorite part of the newspaper is *Twenty-Five Years Ago Today*.
- You turn out the light for economic rather than romantic reasons.
- You sit in a rocking chair and can't get it going.
- Your knees buckle but your belt won't.
- You regret all those temptations you resisted.
- You're 17 around the neck, 44 around the waist, and 105 around the golf course.
- You stop looking forward to your next birthday.
- After painting the town red, you have to take a long rest before applying a second coat.
- Dialing long distance wears you out.
- You are startled the first time someone calls you Old-Timer.
- You remember today that yesterday was your wedding anniversary.
- You just can't stand people who are intolerant.
- The best part of your day is over when the alarm clock goes off.
- You burn the midnight oil after 9:00 p.m.
- Your back goes out more often than you do.
- A fortune teller offers to read your face.
- Your pacemaker makes the garage door go up when you watch a pretty girl walk by.
- The little old gray-haired lady you help across the street is your wife.
- You get all your exercise being pallbearer for your friends who exercise.
- You've got too much room in the house and not enough room in the medicine cabinet.
- You sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there.

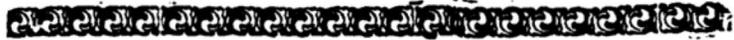
CONTRIBUTED BY Dot Hurry

BICENTENARY OF MOZART'S DEATH - This year music lovers around the world are remembering that great Viennese composer and musician, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. The film "Amadeus" gave the story of his life.

Mozart was born in 1756, died in 1791. The cause of death was never ascertained, although he had been in ill health for some time. Nowadays a theory is held that the medical treatment he was given actually caused him to die.



CHIT CHAT



GREETINGS! May 1992 be a good year for all our members and friends.

We finished the Old Year with our tasty Xmas dinner on Thursday, 12th Dec., with a group of entertainers keeping the evening rolling along with their musical items.

Please note carefully the changed time for the commencement of our monthly meetings in 1992. Members should try to be seated by 7.45 p.m.

We were sorry to hear Mrs. Aiken had to return to hospital and that Ron Armstrong's spate of worries have apparently resulted in a nervous muscle condition. The effects do not seem to be as bad as they might have been and we hope both these members will have better health over the coming year.

On a brighter note - Bena and Ed Hodgkinson celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on Friday, 20th November. It is understood the night was a great success and congratulations were many.

How good it is to know that a decision has been made to preserve the old home of May Gibbs, known so well for her writing and illustrations in the series of the Gumnut Babies books.

In November the dilapidated waggon was taken away from Carss Cottage. It will be missed but its poor condition rendered it unsafe as something on which children (and some bigger ones too!) liked to climb. We are now looking for suggestions for something appropriate to serve as a promotion of the museum to replace it. Do put on your thinking caps!

As has happened in recent years (weather permitting!) the museum will remain open during the Australia Day celebrations in the park. Volunteers to attend at the museum, possibly in shifts, are being called for. Anyone willing to give a little time on 26th January is asked to pass on this information to Gwen Lean (tele. 580 5940).

Jean Hatten has been busy, making another model of Carss Cottage to give visitors a better understanding of how the interior looked when the Carss family was in residence. Fitting out the model with tiny pieces of furniture, etc. needs ingenuity and skill, so any member who feels capable of helping and has time to give will be received with open arms by the display committee.

Australia's weather is notoriously fickle and 1991 certainly lived up to this reputation. Week-ends are so often spoiled by the elements when admissions to the museum fall. As the week-end takings are an essential part of the Society's income the effects financially are not good. Suggestions for fund-raising, other than tours, would be appreciated along with more member participation.

With Laurie and Bernice Curtis moving to Sylvania next year yet another house in Carss Park will go up for sale. It is to be hoped this popular couple will not sever their connections with the Society, although, clearly, they will have to devote themselves to immediate concerns. Settling in, itself, will take time. Our best wishes will follow them to the new address.

At the end of November Sydney's museums had increased by two with the opening first of the Museum of Contemporary Art in the old Maritime Services building then the long overdue Maritime Museum at Darling Harbour. It will be interesting to know what impact on the public the imposition of admission charges to Sydney's museums will have.



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