

# KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

INCORPORATED



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KOGARAH MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

## NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 1993

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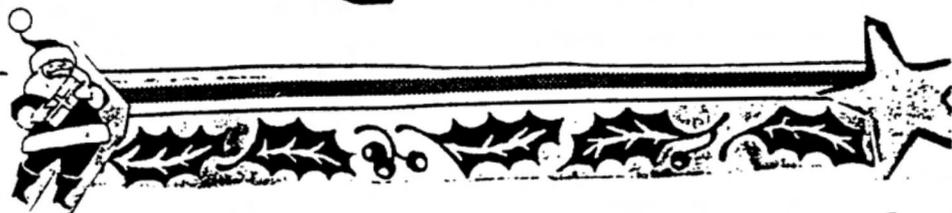
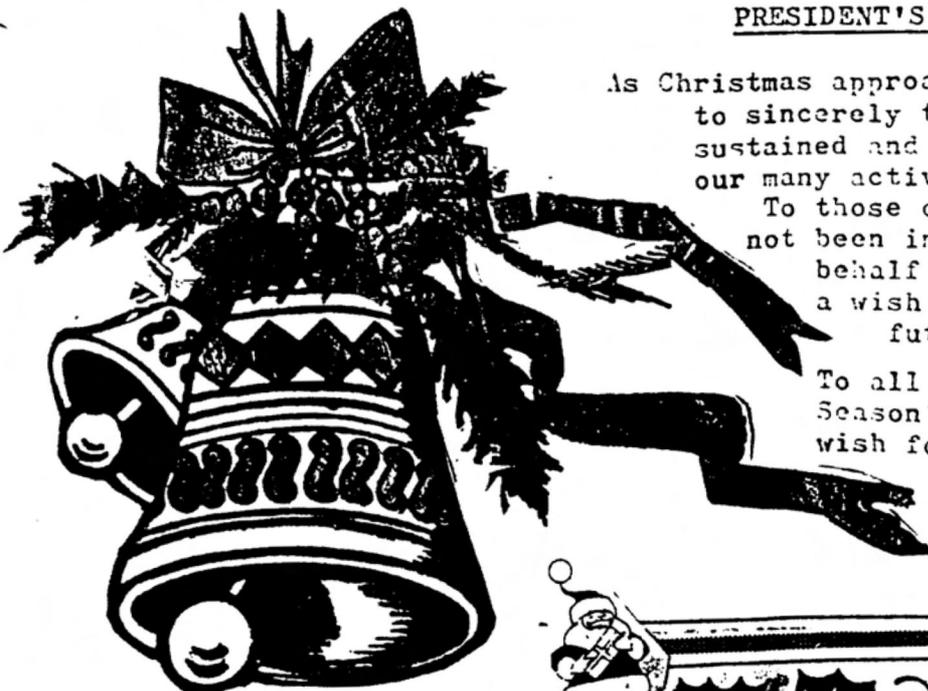
### PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE:

As Christmas approaches it gives me pleasure to sincerely thank our members for their sustained and enthusiastic support of our many activities during the year.

To those of us who have recently not been in good health may I, on behalf of the Society, express a wish for better days in the future.

To all members may I extend the Season's greetings and every good wish for 1994.

JACK LEAN  
President.



— M E E T I N G S —

NOVEMBER 11, Thursday, 7.45 p.m. - Monthly meeting, Kogarah Civic Centre  
Guest speaker - Mr. J. Gibbs (MEMAS Kuttubul) will tell the history of a Potts Point mansion.

23, Tuesday  
Management Committee meeting, 7.45 p.m. at Carss Cottage  
SUPPER ROSTER - volunteers, please! Arrange with Mrs. G. Johns

DECEMBER 9, Thursday will be our annual Xmas night at Kogarah Civic Centre.

Please note there will be no further meetings until February, 1994.

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SOCIAL REPORT - Mary Armstrong

Next outing will be to Manly with a visit to St. Patrick's Seminary and the Artillery Museum on North Head. BYO lunch. The date is Thursday, 18th Nov. Departure will be from old Kogarah P.O. at 8.30 a.m. Payment of \$15.00 must be received at the November meeting.

Our annual Xmas Night will be on Thursday, 9th December. Details will be given at the November meeting when names will be taken of those intending to participate. Payment on the night would be appreciated (approx. \$10.00 ea.)

The trip to Berowra with the luncheon aboard the cruise ferry was most enjoyable. All who went voted it an excellent day.

Members on the Sick List - Arthur Ellis, Kerrie Duggan, Dot Hurry and Lil Gilmour. All are or have been in hospital. We wish them all a full return to better health.

CONGRATULATIONS to Norm and Beryl Butters, and John and Thel Tatum who recently became grandparents once again.

I wish you all a happy Christmas.



## GIVING HISTORY THE JUSTICE ITS DESERVES

### AFFILIATED SOCIETIES CONFERENCE AT GOULBURN 9 - 10 October 1993

I attended the Conference as delegate for Kogarah Historical Society. Not all papers given at the Conference were relevant to the theme, but all were of interest.

In Sunday, Hilary Golder, author of the book, "High and Responsible Office", dealt with magistrates and the way in which the English system of J.P.'s, being "gentlemen" of the upper class, operating on a voluntary basis, changed to our modern system of stipendary magistrates, and finally, professionals, and Stephen Garton spoke on "Deserving Justice: social outcasts and Australian history. His social outcasts were the poor, abused women and those in gaol and mental hospitals.

David Huggonson spoke on his forthcoming book, "Too dark for the Light Horse" dealing with the struggle for civil rights, and demonstrating very clearly that aborigines did not get the justice they deserved and earned in the first World War.

His work served as a most interesting example of how official records may not always help in research. They did not reveal the race of the recruits, so he needed publicity to locate relatives of a dark skinned soldier in a photo, in order to identify those aborigines who did serve in the Forces.

There was a series of short talks by members, all but one of which addressed the theme. Jim Kohen, of Blacktown Historical Society, spoke on "Giving Justice to the Dharuks", and told of the many living descendants of the Dharuk tribe who live in his area, especially around South Creek. A book published in 1961 had claimed they were extinct! Joan Medway of Goulburn Historical Society, a dignified aboriginal lady, linked her talk on Goulburn to her own aboriginal heritage; Gloria Carlos of Yass Historical Society, did justice to a historical figure of Yass, Henry O'Brien, called "Black Henry", the tyrant. Her detailed study of court records of the 1830's, showed that of 3 magistrates, he was the most lenient and understanding. Although she has not found a portrait, she now believes that he may have been of a dark complexion, or had dark hair and a careless historian has misinterpreted the name "Black Henry". Judith Baskin, of the Anglican Historical Society of the Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn, spoke of their archive project to collect and preserve documents, in particular those pertaining to early aboriginal Christians. Some were present at the first service at St John's.

There appeared to be a secondary theme on migration. Richard Reid, of the Australian War Memorial, spoke, in a delightful soft Irish accent, of the women who had passed through the Barracks in Macquarie Street, mainly the young Irish girls, who stayed there until they were hired, generally as servants, and went to an Australian home. One of his quotations concerned a complaint about the noise of laughter coming from the Barracks late at night. He made a plea that we should remember these happy associations as well as the sadness of the convict days.

Dr Judd spoke on "Outside the Mainstream: Ethnic minority histories in Australia", reminding us that we are "a nation of immigrants", of which the English happened to be the largest single group. He pointed out that there are institutions overseas, who are researching their emigrants, those who came to Australia. In concluding, he stressed that while study on migrants should be done, there is no need to throw away our British heritage and flag. There was applause from the delegates at this point.

Ann Mari Jordens then spoke on "From Alien to Australian: the integration of non-British migrants into Australian society 1945-1975". She used statistics heavily and demonstrated the change in Government attitudes from that in 1945 of assimilation to today's multicultural approach.

World War 1914-1919 seemed to be the third theme of the Conference.

Besides David Huggonson's talk on aboriginal soldiers, Peter Dennis of the Australian Defence Forces Academy, gave an account of the data base prepared on every serviceman in World War I using Central Army Records, and sometimes extra information given by the family. People can obtain a certificate for framing, giving a service record for a fee of \$20, or a fuller account for a larger fee. It is proposed to begin work on the men who served in World War II.

This theme was continued by Richard Reid in his after-dinner speech, "If only I could see your grave..." He is going to France to bring back our Unknown Soldier ready for 11 November 1993.

Other talks, not on the Justice theme, were nonetheless of great interest.

The keynote address was given by Dr Chris Cunneen, Deputy General Editor of the Australian Dictionary of Biography. He called it "Peopling Australia", and said the role of ADB was to give justice to the deserving. He pointed out that there have been changes in the selection for entry, more women are included and an attempt is being made to have a wider representation, e.g. a notorious murderer. He also wanted researchers to be aware that they hold information on many Australians who did not get into the published volume. This information can be used.

Baiba Berzins spoke on "Women in the Hotel Trade: The North Coast Experience" This has arisen out of her research on the history of the North Coast done as the holder of the RAHS Catherine Jane Livingstone Award, a bequest to the Society. It was an interesting survey of the social history of women attempting to earn an independent living.

Michael Saclier, archivist at ANU, talked about the archives, newly named The Noel Butlin Archives Centre, which contain mainly Australian business records, such as the Australian Agricultural Society, and Tooth's Brewery (used by Baiba Berzins to supplement her work on women publicans), records of federal trades unions and employers associations. He made clear the terms of access and how the records could be used.

During the Conference awards were presented to people who had been outstanding in the work for their Society and the Cultural Grant Awards were presented. It seemed to me that this year there were less grants for publications and more for the production of journals and copying photographic collections.

There was also a session for members to report on their activities and projects, which were most varied.

The Conference was well organised. The venue at the Police Academy was satisfactory and as always, the contact and discussion with other members very stimulating.

I do have a few minor criticisms and have made my suggestions to the Development Officer, Mar Metzke. Chiefly, I felt there were too many speakers, and it might be better to have fewer speakers, allow them a little more time, and ensure that question time is not sacrificed to a tight schedule.

This was a good Conference, transmitting much information and certainly enthusing the participants.

I thank the President and members of Kogarah Historical Society for sending me as their delegate.

BETTY GOODGER

(The Society thanks Betty for this excellent report of Conference proceedings)

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**ACKNOWLEDGMENT** - This Newsletter is printed by Kogarah Municipal Council, Civic Centre, Belgrave Street, Kogarah - Postal Address: Locked Bag 8, Post Office, Kogarah, 2217

### AUSTRALIA'S NOTRE DAME

The Sydney residence of the Margolin family, "Notre Dame" at Mulgoa, has hosted many many visitors since it was first opened to the public. There was a period of closure but once again the gates of this grand property are wide to welcome all who care to come.

Sited among landscaped gardens and park-like, undulating countryside east of the Nepean Gorge, Notre Dame and its associated buildings make an immediate impact on the environment yet blend magnificently. The extended architectural group comprises the impressive main dwelling, a sports complex, a tennis pavilion and a cabana, as well as staff and farm buildings, a shop and restaurant, and a gatehouse. The western boundary of the 40 ha property is the Blue Mountains National Park of 216,000 ha.

The main building of 570 squares includes the family's private residence, living area, pool, horse arena, stables and aviary. Of special interest are the horse arena and stables because Mr. Margolin's name is closely associated with his magnificent imported dancing Spanish horses. These alone, without the added splendour of the surroundings, lure crowds of admirers to watch their regular performances.

Built to the contour of the land the widely stretched sections combine smoothly in a series of curves and rectangles. The wonderful use of brickwork disguises the massiveness of the main complex.

Begun in 1980 Notre Dame is an Australian house with European overtones. The home itself is built to deal with our sun. It was designed to harmonise with the environment, using natural materials, with a minimum of upkeep. The mellow sandstock bricks (there are 3,000,000) are spaced by laying a thick mortar to give an older look to the house. Underlying the cantilevered balconies formed by the suspended concrete slabs of the roofing is a decorative section of diagonal cedar panelling. In the building of the house, its courtyards and terraces, 750,000 paving bricks have been used. There is a private helipad on the roof complete with mini departure lounge.

Notre Dame is surrounded by pools, fountains, man-made streams, lakes dams and waterfalls amidst manicured lawns and colourful gardens. The extravagant use of water has been made possible because after boring to 259 m. the property now has an independent water supply with a 91,000 litre storage tank. It also has its own electricity substation.

From a front lake overlooking the upward-sloping approach water pours over three waterfalls with a cascading stream at each side. Jets at each level increase the water flow. The total effect is a fitting introduction to the luxury and grandeur that soon confront the visitor. One can fish for rainbow trout from a small palm-planted island at the bottom. Underwater pumps of 85 h.p. can turn 5,000 gallons of water per minute.

The property has been constantly developed and improved by the owner, Mr. Margolin and includes numerous attractions, not least of which are the performing horses and a private zoo. Among later additions are the shop and restaurant.

For eleven years prior to erection of the splendid chateau-like house, Mr. Margolin held ownership of the land which is of an undulating character. Clever use of its natural features has transformed it from an expanse of scrub into a park-like area into which the grand home and its associated buildings now form an architecturally integrated complex. The sweeping curves of sealed red gravel driveways define and unify the extended group.

Surprises come at every turn with such things as a Buddhist temple, beautiful statuary, caged and uncaged animals, the well appointed and scrupulously clean stables where the thoroughbred Spanish dancing horses regularly draw admirers to watch them being groomed and dressed for their colourful performances; the aviary above the horse pavilion with brightly plumaged birds that call attention to themselves; the Japanese fish in their specially designed pond and setting; the wandering wildlife - wallabies, deer, emus pelicans, black swans and even fowls and geese!

The property has its own small rainforest, created within weeks. This was achieved by bringing almost full-grown palms and ferns from Queensland, trucking them by semi-trailer. Often they were more than 25' in height and so large that only four could be brought in each load. They were lifted out and planted by crane. Hey presto! There was a tropical rainforest, complete with creeks and waterfalls and a winding forest path that was also created within weeks. There are Cocos palms, tree ferns, royal palms, Chinese fans, travellers' palms, oil palms, birds' nest palms, Roebelini palms, while underplanting adds colour and individuality.

It is here that the cabana is found - a charming open-walled circular bure with a pointed shingle roof not unlike the roof of the aviary. It is furnished with cane and batik in keeping with its island character.

Much more could be written - only a personal visit can make one fully appreciate the vastness, splendour and opulence of this amazing place.

MUSEUM ROSTER.

<u>DATE.</u>	<u>NAMES.</u>	<u>TO OPEN</u>
Nov. 7	Mrs.B.Goodger & Mrs.C. Shaw	C.Shaw
14	Mrs.B.Pullar & Mrs.N.Owens	J.Lean
21	M/ O.Herrick & Mr.A.Ellis	G.Coxhead
28	Mrs.G.Johns & Mrs.G.Taylor	G.Johns
Dec. 5	Mr. & Mrs. A. Tregonning	A.Tregonning
12	Mrs.A.Murray & Miss M.Foley	J.Lean
19	Mrs.T.Tatum & Miss G.Coxhead	G.Coxhead
26	Volunteers please.	
27	" "	
28	" "	
Jan 1 or 3	NEW YEARS DAY - Volunteers please.	
2	Mrs.M.Valadis & Mrs.P.Selby	J.Lean
9	Mr. & Mrs. L. Curtis	L.Curtis
16	Mrs.B.Goodger & Mrs.B.Butters	B.Butters
23	Mrs.J.Fiegal & Mr.A.Ellis	G.Coxhead
26	AUSTRALIA DAY!!! VOLUNTEERS PLEASE.	
30	Mrs.D.Hurry & Mrs.T.Tatum	D.Hurry

As the Christmas & New Year Holidays approach please contact me as early as possible for any changes to dates given. I will do the best I can to oblige everyone, but with members ill or with family comittments we will need your usual co-operation and goodwill.

BEST WISHES TO ALL FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR!

GWEN LEAN (580 5940)

PROPERTY CONVENER'S REPORT - The telephone which has been out of order has now been fixed. However negotiations are still proceeding to have the museum's ornamental exterior lamp put in working order.

Of fresh concern is the theft of the chain at the entrance which cannot be replaced immediately.

K. Johns