

# KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

INCORPORATED



Sponsored by Kogarah Municipal Council  
Postal Address: P. O. Box 367, Kogarah. 2217.

## NEWSLETTER

January---February 1995

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Patron: The Mayor of Kogarah  
Hon. Secretary: Mrs. B. Curtis.  
Tel 522-7654.  
P.O. Box 367, Kogarah, 2217.  
Soc. Secretary: Mrs G. Baldwin.  
Tel. 546-1988.

Life Patron: K R Cavanough R. M. J.P.  
President: Mr. J. Lean. 588-5940.  
Vice Presidents: G Johns B. Butters.  
Hon Treasurer: Mr. E. Hodgkinson. 546-7308  
Museum Enquiries: Mrs G. Lean. 588-5940  
Property Convenor: Mr. K. Johns. 587-4848

CARSS COTTAGE MUSEUM is open each Sunday and Public holiday [except Good Friday and Christmas Day] from 1.00pm to 5.00 pm.  
Admission Charge Adults \$1.00 Children 20c each.  
Groups by special arrangement-contact Mrs G. Lean. or Mrs B. Curtis

### MUSEUM ROSTER.

<u>1995</u>	<u>Attendants.</u>	<u>Open/Close</u>
Jan 1	Volunteers - E. & Z. Hodgkinson	
2	New Years Day - closed	
8	C. Shaw and friend	C. Shaw
15	A. Murray & M. Foley	J. Lean
22	L. Gilmour & G. Watson	G. Johns
26	E. & Z. Hodgkinson	E. Hodgkinson
29	A. & M. Tregonning	A. Tregonning
Feb. 5	L. & B. Curtis	L. Curtis
12	B. Butters & N. Owens	B. Butters
19	J. Fiegel & A. Ellis	J. Lean
26	G. Coxhead & G. Baldwin	G. Coxhead

Please advise Gwen Lean (588 5940) if dates unsuitable.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: THIS NEWSLETTER IS PRINTED BY KOGARAH MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, CIVIC CENTRE, BELGRAVE STREET, KOGARAH. 2217.  
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OUR FLAG.

Our flag bears the stars that blaze at night,  
In our southern sky of blue.  
And a little old flag in the corner  
That's part of our heritage, too.  
It's for the English, the Scots and the Irish  
Who were sent to the ends of the earth,  
The rogues and the schemers, the doers, the dreamers  
Who gave modern Australia birth.  
And you who are shouting to change it,  
You don't seem to understand,  
It's the flag of our law and our language,  
Not the flag of a far away land.  
Though there are plenty of people who'll tell you  
How, when Europe was plunged into night,  
That the little old flag in the corner  
Was their symbol of freedom and light.  
It doesn't mean that we owe allegiance  
To a forgotten imperial dream  
We've the stars to show where we're going  
And the flag to show where we've been.  
It's only an old piece of bunting,  
It's only an old piece of coloured rag,  
But there are thousands who have died for its honour,  
And shed their best blood for our flag.



Author unknown

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Last year our Australian Citizenship Pledge was changed, again.  
Who had a say in this? Newcomers can now choose which of the  
following two pledges they make.

"From this time forward, under God, I pledge my loyalty to  
Australia and its people, whose democratic beliefs I share, whose  
rights and liberties I respect, and whose laws I will uphold and  
obey."

"From this time forward, I pledge my loyalty to Australia and its  
people, whose democratic beliefs I share, whose rights and liberties  
I respect, and whose laws I will uphold and obey."

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OLD BOTANY BAY.

(Mary Gilmore)

I'm old Botany Bay  
Stiff in the joints  
Little to say.  
I am he who paved the way  
That you might walk  
At your ease today.  
I was the conscript sent to hell  
To make in the desert  
The living well;  
I bore the heat, I blazed the track -  
Furrowed and bloody  
Upon my back.  
I split the rock;  
I felled the tree:  
The nation was --  
Because of me!

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At 8 a.m. on Sunday 18th December, five members of Kogarah Historical Society boarded a Captain Cook Catamaran at Circular Quay to be among the hundreds on the water and along the foreshores of beautiful Sydney Harbour to welcome the "Endeavour" after its maiden voyage from Perth. The weather was wonderful, we were treated to a delicious breakfast and once the "Endeavour" came through the heads our catamaran travelled beside her until she docked at Circular Quay.

The "Bounty" and other tall ships were in full sail. The ferry, "Lady Hopeton" from the Maritime Museum was amongst the hundreds of other craft there to give a spectacular welcome as was the fire boat with its water spout spraying continuously. The overall effect was wonderful and it was a very happy and memorable day for everyone. In our hearts we did say "thank you" to Alan Bond who in 1988 instigated the commencement of the building of this exact replica of "Endeavour" which was so much part of our history.

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We sadly report the death of another of our members, Ada Stead. Members may remember an article we printed in our Newsletter some years ago which told of her experiences during the Depression Years.

Many of our Members who attended our Christmas Night at Kogarah R.S.L. Club thought this night was one of our best. It was a very enjoyable night and we were delighted to have Doris Beavan with us. She and her husband, Len, always attended our functions until Len became ill.

The Museum is back to normal since the upheaval while eradicating the white ants.

Repairs have been made to the matting.

Margaret McArthur recently spent another day down at the Museum polishing the silver and brass. Thank you, Margaret, for a job well done.

Gwen Coxhead is preparing another display for the box room. She also decorated the Museum for Christmas.

Zena Hodgkinson is working on a display for Australia Day.

AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS are under way. Our Museum will be open on Thursday 26th January from 1 p.m. when we will sell Devonshire Teas. Any donations of scones or any assistance would be appreciated. The Celebrations in the park are always enjoyable and well attended thanks to Council and the Australia Day Committee.

The AUSTRALIA DAY DINNER is to be held at the Motor Boat Club on Tuesday 24th January. The cost is \$35.00. Tickets are available from Zena & Ed Hodgkinson.

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#### MONTHLY MEETINGS.

JANUARY - No meetings were held.

FEBRUARY 9 - GENERAL MEETING - 7.45 p.m. Kogarah Civic Centre -  
Speaker - Miss Margaret Fleming - "Famous last resting places".

FEBRUARY 28 - MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - Carss Cottage -  
7.45 p.m.

MARCH 9 - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

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#### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE

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## ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

The election of Office Bearers will be held at the Annual General Meeting on the 9th March.

The following articles from our Constitution will apply:-

4(c) Only financial members shall be eligible to stand for election.

4(d) All contested elections to office shall be by secret ballot. In the event of a tie, a new ballot shall be held.

4(e) A member who may not be able to be present at the Annual General Meeting may indicate in writing his willingness to accept nominations for a position.

4(f) The Committee may replace any committee member absent from three (3) consecutive meetings without approved excuse.

### VISIT TO FEATHERDALE WILDLIFE PARK, 20th OCTOBER, 1994

Sixteen members and friends had an interesting visit to this well known tourist attraction at Doonside last year.

The morning began with rain showers but luckily for us these tapered off as the day wore on, returning just as we boarded our coach for the homeward journey.

Featherdale began as a sanctuary for Australian birds, being a showcase for exotic, rare and endangered species. This is still the park's main function. As tourist trade has grown animals such as the koala and wombat have been introduced to give people from overseas a closer acquaintance with some of our more popular fauna. The albino emus and kangaroos have a safe haven there, thus protecting their rarity. There is even a small section of those animals which appeal to children, such as a lamb and some farmyard animals.

The upkeep of Featherdale which is noteworthy for its spacious enclosures and animal husbandry must be enormous and the concession rate of \$6 a person is therefore not unreasonable.

So many birds are rare and there is an amazing variety in their colour, plumage and size. One may see birds as small as wrens, robins and tits to those as large as eagles, hawks and broilgas.

Most of us took full advantage of the three hours or more we spent looking around. Refreshments may be had at the park's shop where tables and chairs are placed on the terrace under sun umbrellas, or for those wanting a reminder of the visit there is a well stocked souvenir shop.

On our return trip a quick call was made at Auburn's beautiful Japanese Gardens where spring roses in full bloom evoked our admiration.

It is not anticipated that the outing will result in a profit for the Society as a couple of late withdrawals lessened this prospect. If there is one when all costs are met, it will be modest. In future everyone booking on an outing will be required to pay in advance and will forfeit all or part of their money if unable to make the trip. The support of members is vital to the success of trips planned for their enjoyment. It is disappointing for those looking forward to a tour when it has to be cancelled and a charge to the Society when it runs at a loss.

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Extract from "Sydney Morning Herald" 3/12/1860.

RABBITS -- Those who recall an English warren, and know how large a part it contributes to the provision market, will be glad to hear that an attempt is now to be made on a sufficient scale to introduce the wild rabbit on the estate of Mr. Holt at Cook's River.

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## RAHS ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1994

HELD AT HOTEL LAWSON, 8 & 9 OCTOBER 1994

THEME: KNOWING PLACES, UNDERSTANDING SPACES

This year's Conference was, in my opinion, better than that of 1993 at Goulburn. My main criticism then was that many of the papers seemed irrelevant to the topic. At this conference, 12 papers were given, all of uniformly high standard and all relevant. The speakers were enthusiastic and many had good visual aids.

In her opening address, Dr Rosemary Annable made a humorous reference that historians and scientists seeking to know places were often astute enough to pick an exotic place such as the Great Barrier Reef. Several speakers picked up this point most amusingly. Shirley Fitzgerald, who spoke on Pymont, pointed out that she had been perhaps foolish in choosing inner Sydney as her place, while Dr John Pickard, studying the significance of fences in the arid Western Division of NSW was happy to report that his research had taken him all over the world, including the only place that has no fences - the Antarctic!

Dr Annable noted that understanding places is in how we perceive them. Early 18th c. paintings show how Europeans perceived the landscape, and later paintings show how attitudes altered as we became Australians instead of aliens. This point was made again by an aboriginal speaker. Dr Annable stressed that a good history book should make the reader want to visit and see the place.

I append a programme listing the speakers. Speakers were allowed only half an hour and question time was usually a quarter of an hour, at the end of the session, after all three speakers.

Last year in my personal written report to Mari Metze, I criticised this, stating my preference for less speakers, longer papers and question time following each person. However, in discussion, she told me that most younger people elected to speak for half, rather than three-quarters or an hour.

The Proceedings of this Conference will be printed so I will not attempt to summarise each speech, but I have made notes and can expand if any member has a particular query.

The Proceedings of the 1993 Conference were printed in time to distribute them on the second day of the Conference. A member from the floor requested that these Proceedings be made available without such a delay and this was unanimously passed. Miss Metze explained that the delay was caused by speakers not supplying a copy of their paper.

### BUSINESS SESSIONS

The Hon. Peter Collins, Minister for the Arts, presented the Cultural Grants cheques. The RAHS had \$20,000 to distribute and gave grants to 40 societies for a variety of projects, including publication of books, pamphlets and journals, microfilming newspapers, cemetery records and parish registers and the conservation of records.

Brush Farm and Narooma Historical Societies each received \$2,500 (the largest amount given) for innovative projects of maps to supply historical

information for tourists.

In a later business session, Councillor Brian Madden stated that the general standard of publications in 1994 was low and called for improvement. He demonstrated by showing some recent Canterbury HS publications and commenting on the design of the book, size, use of illustrations, funding, etc.

Much discussion on funding ensued.

The Affiliated Societies Committee for 1995 was elected: 2 City members, Mrs Eileen Price of Randwick HS and John McClymont of Brush Farm HS and 2 country members, Mrs Cynthia Hunter of Dural HS and Jack Tinder of Mid-Richmond HS. and consultants, Geoff Ostling on Education and Jim Kohen on Aborigines.

#### REORGANIZATION OF RAHS STAFF

The salary of Mari Metze, who looks after the affiliated societies was formerly paid from a grant from the Ministry of Arts, which has ceased. Also Pat Parker, Executive Officer, has retired for health reasons. The administrative duties have been divided between 2 managers; Frances Sims, formerly Librarian, is now in charge of Information and Corporation Services and Mari Metze is Outreach Officer.

#### NEXT CONFERENCE

It has been the practice to hold Conferences alternately in Sydney and the country. City costs are becoming prohibitive and it is proposed to hold 2 Conferences in the country and 1 in the City. The venue for 1995 is still under discussion. Goulburn has invited delegates for 1996.

#### BUSINESS SESSION

Various societies reported on their activities.

One Councillor remarked that no complaints had been received from any Society which he took as a compliment to the present Committee.

#### TOUR

The Conference tour was a short walk from the old Sydney Technical College, along the Haymarket to the Capitol Theatre. With Dr Peter Reynolds architect and Kevin Cork, theatre and cinema enthusiast as guides, it took an interesting 2½ hours.

I take this opportunity to thank Kogarah Historical Society for sending me as a delegate to the 1994 RAHS Conference of Affiliated Societies. It was informative and enjoyable.

B. GOODGER  
13/10/94