



KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY INCORPORATED

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

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1998.

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Patron: The Mayor of Kogarah Life Patron: K R Cavanough A. M. J.P.
President: Mrs. G. Johns 9587-4848
Hon. Secretary : Mrs. B. Curtis 9522-7654
(P.O.Box 367, Kogarah 2217)
Hon Treasurer: Mr. L. Curtis. 9522-7654.
Social Secretary: Mrs M. Armstrong. 9567-6336
Newsletter Editor: Mrs. B. Butters. 9580-6954

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 \$2.00 Children 50c each.
Groups by special arrangement contact — B.Curtis or B.Butters.

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



CARSS' COTTAGE MUSEUM will be reopening on Australia Day after a long closure. We are so happy about this and hope we can count on your support again on the Roster. Thank you. We will be in touch.



MONTHLY MEETINGS.

All Meetings are now held in the Kogarah School of Arts, Bowns Road, Kogarah, on the second Thursday of each month. Committee Meetings at 1.00 p.m. and General Meetings at 2.00 p.m. No Meetings were held in January.
February 12 - Speaker Mr. Peter Sage - Slides and Talk on "Iceland".



AUSTRALIA DAY
January 26th



Protect our Constitution -our Flag-our Freedom.

In what is being billed as the biggest gathering of tall ships since 1988, eighty tall ships will spend a week moored at Darling Harbour and Pyrmont Bay from January 19 to 26. On Australia Day they begin their journey toward the Harbour Bridge for the tall ships parade of sail, led by Young Endeavour, before the start of a tall ships race to Hobart. The event celebrates the bicentenary of the first circumnavigation of Tasmania by explorers Bass and Flinders, the tenth anniversary of the opening of Darling Harbour in Sydney and the United Nations International Year of the Ocean.

NEWS FROM THE SECRETARY.

AUSTRALIA DAY - CARSS PARK.

Monday 26th January, 1998.

The celebrations will commence at 12 noon, with jazz and bush bands, roving street theatre, children's rides, clowns and face painters, an animal farm, citizenship ceremony, a barbecue and multicultural food stalls. The celebrations will finish with a fireworks finale at 9 pm.

Kogarah Historical Societys contribution will be the sale of Devonshire teas, at Carss Cottage from 2.30 PM - 4.30 PM.

The Committee would appreciate the donation of scones by members (to be delivered to the Cottage on the day) OR help with serving the teas, either would be much appreciated, would you please let either Mrs. G. Johns or myself know, before the day.

ALSO

BOOK LAUNCH.

The Society will hold the Official Book Launch of the Societys' most recent publication,

"THE CARSS FAMILY CARSS COTTAGE AND CARSS PARK." Researched and written by Dr. J. Hatton.
Dedicated to our dear friend Gwen Coxhead.

The launch will be held on the front lawn of Carss Cottage at 3 PM., AND WE WOULD REALLY LOVE TO SEE AS MANY MEMBERS AS POSSIBLE ON THE DAY, Australia Day, Monday, 26th January, 1998. Time 3 PM.

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A REMINDER

Membership fees are due for renewal before the March Annual General Meeting you will find a renewal form enclosed, please fill it in and return with your fees to Secretary/Treasurer.

All Executive positions will be open for election.

Wishing Members Health and Happiness for the New Year 1998.
Bernice Curtis . Hon. Secretary.

WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY CHEERIO AND SEND OUR BEST WISHES TO PEG DUNPHY. PEG HAS BEEN A LONG TIME MEMBER AND REGULAR ATTENDER AT OUR MEETINGS. UNFORTUNATELY SHE HAD A STROKE A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO AND HAS BEEN IN HOSPITAL AND RESPIRE CARE SINCE. SHE HOPES SHE MAY BE ABLE TO GO HOME ON AUSTRALIA DAY. TAKE CARE, PEG.

THE CARSS STORY

The story of the Carss family, Carss Cottage and Carss Park is now available. This has been a research project extending over 28 years since Ken Cavanough and his supporters promoted the formation of the Kogarah Historical Society. It was then first mooted that Carss Cottage with its setting beside Kogarah Bay would be excellent as a museum for the display of the history of Kogarah. And so it has proved. I have detailed previously in the Society's newsletter how difficult was the process in Council to bring these plans to fruition.

In 1970, my mother and I commenced to research the Carss family and the district. We visited the Sailors' Home in George Street North and took photos of the building when it was still under the control of that organisation. On our holidays in 1974, we visited the village of Duns in Scotland. We went to the pub in the main square, saw the red granite headstone in the old cemetery paid for by William Carss in memory of his parents and also saw the new cemetery where the relatives he left behind are buried.

Subsequently, there have been many visits to the Mitchell Library, the Land Titles Office, the Probate Office, relevant cemeteries, and searching of the local newspapers - St George Call and Hurstville Propeller. It was pleasing to talk to people who had knowledge of the times going back to the presence of Mary and James Carss.

The historical and heritage importance of Carss Cottage and its curtilage has led to the preparation of authoritative analytical reports prepared by heritage architects. These have added to our knowledge of the area.

Finally, the importance of Gwen Coxhead in the recording of the history must be stressed. Her family moved into the Cottage in 1924 when she was a young girl and they lived there almost 24 years. An inveterate writer, she recorded her life in the Cottage and a selection has been made from her articles in the Society's newsletter, to illustrate the life of a family in an isolated cottage but yet not far from the adjacent suburbs.

Naturally, the book has been dedicated to Gwen. Her enthusiasm, her influence and her counsel still are felt by her friends.

Joan Hatton

Recently, I had occasion to recall a wise little poem that my mother had told me but I couldn't remember it completely. Can anyone help me with corrections and the two missing lines

Somebody said it couldn't be done
So he with a grin replied
Well maybe it couldn't but maybe it could
But he wouldn't say no till he tried.

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And he tackled the job that couldn't be done
And he did it.

