

Kogarah Historical Society Inc

Carss Cottage Museum - Carss Park
Postal Address PO Box 367, Kogarah 1485

Patron: The Mayor of Kogarah

President: Beverley Earnshaw (9546 1091)

Newsletter

Nov/December 2010

Volume 2 No.5



Our members view Sir Joseph Banks' Statue during the trip to the pleasure grounds which bear his name. Story Page 8

Meetings and speakers

Thursday 11 November 2010

Denis Overton, Restorer of Heritage Buildings
Will speak on Windsor Castle – *Excuse me, Elizabeth, Your House is on Fire!*

Thursday 9 December 2010

Our Christmas Luncheon,
Oatley RSL at 12.30 pm

Meetings are held at the School of Arts, Bowns Road Kogarah at 2 pm. Enjoy the speaker, then the opportunity to chat over afternoon tea. A short business meeting follows. For assistance with transport please contact Carole Tier (9527 2403)



Happy Christmas

This November/December Newsletter is also our Christmas issue. The members and committee of Kogarah Historical Society wish one another and all our friends a happy and holy Christmas.

We hope to see you all at our Christmas luncheon, details of which are enclosed.

Museum Roster

November

7th Carole Tier & Ken Grieve
14th Mavis Ward & Mary Williams
21st Trudy Johns & Elizabeth Emerson
28th Betty Goodger & Janette Hollebhone

December

5th Evelyn Buckingham & Adele Ryan
12th Gill Whan & Deidre Schroeder
19th Trudy Johns & Elizabeth Emerson
26th Betty Goodger & Janette Hollebhone

Hours are 1 pm to 5 pm. Any problems, please contact Elizabeth Emerson on 9579 4118. Any members who are willing to take a spot on the museum roster, to attend once every two months or to be on the Emergency List, please contact the President or any Committee Member. We also need volunteers to help on Australia Day, Tuesday January 26, when the museum will be open from 1 pm to 6 pm.

Committee 2010 (*denotes Executive)

President:*	Beverley Earnshaw	Ph.9546 1091
Vice President (1):*	Janette Hollebhone	Ph: 9529 7117
Vice President (2) *	Betty Goodger	Ph: 9570 1101
Secretary:*	Gill Whan	Ph: 9546 4623
Treasurer:*	Cath Sullivan	Ph: 9579 6149
Museum Custodian:	Vacant	
Committee Members:	Beryl Butters, Mavis Ward, Trudy Johns, Carole Tier, Lawrie Corry	

Committee Meetings

1 Nov, 7.00 pm	Trudy Johns, 2/900 Forest Road, Peakhurst
6 Dec., 7.00 pm	Beverley Earnshaw, 15 Hamer Street, Kogarah Bay
3 Jan.	Public Holiday so no meeting

THE MELBOURNE CUP

The Race that stops a Nation

Like Christmas, the Melbourne Cup comes round once a year and is universally known as *The Race that Stops a Nation*. The first Tuesday in November hosts one of the world's great races, and a national institution. Melbourne declares the day a Public Holiday and across the nation Australians stop to listen to or view the race which is held at Flemington Racecourse.

The first Melbourne Cup was run in 1861. Melbourne was a thriving young city whose population had leapt to 140,000 as a result of the Victorian gold rushes. Many who had prospered at the diggings now lived in Melbourne and spent their money freely.

With the population clamouring for bigger and better attractions in the racing calendar, the Victorian Turf Club in September 1861 decided to introduce a new race to the Spring program. It was to be a handicap event over two miles for horses of three years of age and over. The prize would be 220 sovereigns and a gold watch, but because it was envisaged that someday the prize would be a cup, the race was called the *Melbourne Cup*.

Acceptances were declared in the Subscription Room of the Albion Hotel on October 30, 1861. The favourite was a local horse, Mormon, a six-year-old which had won the 2000 Guinea Stakes two weeks before by eight lengths.

However, many punters favoured a NSW entry, Archer, a five-year-old bred by a Braidwood farmer, Mr E.de Mestre. He would be ridden by J.Cutts and carry 9 st 7 lbs.

As horse floats were yet to be invented, the pampered contenders arrived in Melbourne on the back of bullock drays. Those from interstate came by ship. As the day drew near, the horse racing fraternity watched the shipping arrivals with anticipation. When Archer failed to arrive the punters became alarmed, but their alarm turned to dismay when Archer reached Melbourne after walking the 500 miles (805 km) from Braidwood over rough bush tracks, led by his strapper, David Power.

Power's plan had been to take the journey in easy stages, travelling from 24 km to 48 km per day and staying each night at a town or village. Far from being worn out, the horse arrived in Melbourne in the peak of condition.

But the first Melbourne Cup was almost cancelled because on the Saturday before, news had reached Melbourne of the tragic death of explorers, Burke and Wills, who had perished at Cooper's Creek the previous June. A pall of gloom fell over the city and the newspapers wrote of nothing else for the next week. With news of the Melbourne Cup thrust into the background, fewer than 4000 people turned up to see the race.

As the horses entered the straight for the run home, Archer and Mormon hit the front together, but Archer strode away to win by six lengths in 3 minutes 52 seconds. An aged black gelding called Prince ran third. Archer won again in 1862.

In 1864 the Victorian Racing Club took over the liabilities of its two predecessors. The cup trophy was not introduced until 1916. Over the years the race has had as few as seven and as many as 39 starters. For safety reasons it is now limited to a maximum of 26 horses. In 1972 the distance was reduced from 2 miles (3218 m) to 3200 metres.

Over the years the Melbourne Cup has led the field in women's fashion. Mark Twain wrote after his tour of Australia in 1895, *'It is the Melbourne Cup that brings the multitudes together. Their clothes have been ordered long ago at unlimited cost and without bounds as to beauty and magnificence, and have been kept in concealment until now, for unto this day they are consecrated I am speaking of the ladies' clothes, but one might know that.'*



