

Kogarah Historical Society Inc

Carss Cottage Museum – Carss Park
Postal Address PO Box 367, Kogarah 1485
www.kogarah.historicalsociety.com.au

Patron: The Mayor of Kogarah

President: Mavis Ward

Newsletter

May/June 2016

Volume 8 No 2



— *Another historic house under threat. Primrose House, at Dolls Point is now superfluous to the needs of St George Hospital and will be sold unless ‘people power’ is successful. See inside*
Photo by Joseph Brokenshire, featured in the History of Primrose House by Dr Garry Darby. —

Meetings and Speakers

Thursday 12 May 2016

Alasdair McGregor, Author – “A Forgers Progress” The Life of Francis Greenway.

Thursday 9 June 2016

Inspector Tim Fox, Fire & Rescue NSW – 2011 Christchurch Earthquake – The response.

Meetings start at 2 pm in the School of Arts, Bowns Rd/Queens Ave Kogarah. Enjoy the speaker, then chat over afternoon tea. A short business meeting follows. Apologies for non-attendance at meetings should go to the Secretary, Gill Whan (9546 4623). Visitors welcome.

Find us on Facebook



Mondays at the Museum

23 May 2016 – Wendy Cornish

Wendy Cornish is returning with yet another fascinating topic. This time she is talking about the Armstrong boys, namely Louis, Lance and Neil. Do they have anything in common apart from the surname? Come and find out. As always we will start at 10 am with morning tea in the courtyard and stay outside for the speaker if the weather permits. Cost is \$5 which covers morning tea and gives you the chance to win a door prize. **Please book** as space is limited and it helps with catering. To reserve your place, ring Adele Ryan on 9529 6730 or leave a message on her answering machine.

Sunday Museum Roster

May 2016		June 2016	
1 st	Carole Tier & Ken Grieve	5 th	Gill Whan & Deirdre Schroeder
8 th	Mavis Ward & Betty Reynolds	12 th	Adele Ryan & Joe Spinelli
15 th	Betty Goodger & Pat Young	19 th	Betty Goodger & Pat Young
22 nd	Warren & Irene Selmon	26 th	Warren & Irene Selmon
29 th	Leo & Cath Sullivan.		

Hours 1 pm – 5 pm (1 pm – 4pm from June).

Problems – If you need to exchange days with someone please try and do so between yourselves, otherwise contact Gill Whan, 9546 4623

Committee 2016 (*denotes Executive)

President:*	Mavis Ward	Ph: 9546 5704
Vice Presidents:*	Beverley Earnshaw	Ph: 9546 1091
Secretary & Public Officer:*	Gill Whan	Ph: 9546 4623
Treasurer:*	Cath Sullivan	Ph: 9579 6149

Committee Members: Wendy Agzarian, Beryl Butters, Trudy Johns, Glynn Pulling, Robert McGarn, Rodger Robertson, Adele Ryan, Pat Young

Committee meeting venues

- 9 May 7.00pm** Beverley Earnshaw, 15 Hamer St., Kogarah Bay (9546 1091)
- 6 June 7.00pm** Pat Young, 25 Culver St., Monterey (9588 5835)
- 11 July 7.00 pm** Gill Whan, 11 Dewrang Street, Carss Park (9546 4623)

Welcome

New members Gayle Adams and Linda Beattie.

If you haven't renewed your subscription yet, it is overdue!! Only \$15 per annum single and \$20 a couple. Includes your newsletter, wonderful speakers and free entry to the Carss Cottage Museum on a Sunday afternoon. Pay our Treasurer at the meeting or mail to PO Box 367, Kogarah, 1485

KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY AGM 2016 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I am happy to report that Kogarah Historical Society now has a membership of 116. Regular monthly meetings are held at Kogarah School of Arts, Bowns Road, Kogarah on the second Thursday of the month at 2 pm. Attendance is usually between 30 and 35. Meetings commence with a speaker followed by afternoon tea and a short business meeting. We are grateful to a team of willing workers who arrive early to make our meetings flow smoothly. David Martin sets up the chairs and the afternoon tea things. Glynn Pulling also helps. Fred and Beverley Scott welcome members and visitors, collect money and sell the society's publications. Garry Darby sets up the electronic equipment. Our secretary, Gill Whan, checks prior to meetings to ensure all helpers are coming. Gill also arranges our program of speakers and Adele Ryan attends to publicity. It takes a strong team to run a society and at the moment we are in need of people to organize afternoon tea.

Our *Speakers* for the year were:

Edmund Capon AM OBE, - The Archibalds

Dr David Stephens – Anzac and Anzackery

Merv Rosen – Bass and Flinders

Stewart Reed – May Gibbs, Her Life and Works

Beverley Earnshaw – The Fanny Letters

Rodger Robertson – History of the Silk Road

Gail Davis – Pandora's Box and

Prof. Douglas Newton – “Hell bent: Australia's Leap into the Great War”.

Cars Cottage Museum The cottage continues to be the society's showpiece. This year the museum received 767 visitors which included tour parties and school groups. The museum is staffed by volunteers and opens on Sunday afternoons from 1-5 pm in summer and 1-4 pm in winter and by appointment for groups. School groups in particular are labour intensive.

Mondays at the Museum is held five times a year. It begins with morning tea in the courtyard, after which patrons go into the museum or sit in the courtyard, weather permitting, to hear a speaker. They can later browse the collection. Adele Ryan is the convenor of this event. Thank you, Adele.

This year's speakers at *Mondays at the Museum* have been

Laurel & Bob Horton – The Gannon family

Angela Thomas – The Hanging of Mary Ann

Judith Carrick – Talking your way through the Royal National Park

Kevin Skelsey - Collectables and

Winsome Allen – History of Sydney Mechanics School of Arts

There is always room for more helpers on the Museum Roster on Sunday afternoons. Most come bi-monthly, four attend once a month and we have vacancies both on the permanent roster and as back up when somebody is ill or away. The work is pleasant. The St. George Concert Band plays outside the museum on the second Sunday of the months in summer. We do not open on Public Holidays or Mothers' Day.

The bi-monthly newsletters have been typeset by Gill Whan and sometimes by Beverley Earnshaw. They are printed by Cliff Lewis Print, and Mavis Ward folds and despatches them. We have a diversity of contributors and would like to receive more articles from members. This year the contributors to our newsletter have been, Paul Brownlow, Beryl Butters, David Martin, Janette Hollebone, Roger Robertson, Betty Goodger, Gill Whan, Beverley Earnshaw, Pat

Morand, Rod Fielder, Mary Salmon and Andrew Papworth.

Enquiries from the Public were answered by Betty Goodger.

We deeply regret the passing of two of our members during the year, Bob Whan, husband of our secretary and Lorna McClelland.

To celebrate the Sesquicentenary of Carss Cottage we had two very successful social events. The first, on September 12th, was a Garden Party at *Karuah*, the historic house in English Street, Kogarah, owned by Dr Terry and Mrs Suzanne O'Connor. We thank them both for their hospitality in opening their lovely home and garden to our members.

On October 31st we celebrated the 150th Anniversary of Carss Cottage and the life of William Carss with a festival run in conjunction the Scottish Australian Heritage Council. On this occasion our Secretary, Gill Whan, carried an enormous workload to bring the event together. Proceedings started with the St. George-Sutherland Pipe Band leading a procession to the grave of William Carss where there was a speech by Malcolm Buchanan, President of the SAHC and the laying of a wreath by Jan Magrath. There were stalls run by the SAHC, The Little Scottish Shoppe, the Botany Bay Family History Society and a bookstall by Garry Darby. Afternoon tea was prepared by the Georges River Lioness Club, and artistic contributions were made by sculptor, Takis Kozokos, and painter, Don Kibble.

A commemorative plaque was attached to the exterior of the building. This was organized by Gill Whan and unveiled by Mayor, Stephen Agius.

On June 17 a group of Society Members with Lawrie Corry and two of his children, assisted by staff from Kogarah Council, gathered to plant a tree on the Elizabeth Corry reserve on the corner of Wyee Street and Wharf Road, Kogarah Bay. The tree was donated by Lawrie Corry having been propagated from a seed brought from Lone Pine at Gallipoli. The location is significant as it is near Sydney's second War Service Homes Estate built to accommodate veterans returning from World War 1.

Other events were a trip to Berrima on May 28th and a very successful Christmas Party at Bexley RSL organized by Mavis Ward.

We were very sorry to lose the services of Janette Hollebone who had a stroke on June 14, 2015. Janette was a true leader. She was always first to arrive at meetings and last to leave. She served on the Museum Roster and helped with tour groups. She was on the committee, was our Public Officer and helped with answering enquiries. Her duties were so many and varied that it took 4 people to replace her when she became ill.

Adele Ryan looks after Mondays at the Museum and also our advertising. Carole Tier looks after gifts for the speakers, We regret that Lawrie Corry has had to resign from the committee due to ill health. Marjorie Pritchard keeps the museum beautifully clean and neat. We invite and encourage more members to come forward to assist in running the society and new ideas and suggestions are always welcome.

David Shaw has once again been our honorary *auditor* and his help is appreciated.

I thank all the members of the committee for their support during the year and especially I thank the Society's members for their loyalty and attendance, for without the members there could not be a society.

I look forward to Kogarah Historical Society growing in strength and reputation during the coming years. The text of this report will be published in our next newsletter.

Beverley Earnshaw
President 2015/2016

Maths Quiz

By Rodger Robertson

(I think Rodger set this to give the editor an inferiority complex – he does say that grandchildren are allowed to help!)

1. 30 divided by $\frac{1}{2}$ plus 10 ? (hint remember BODMAS?)
2. 1010 plus 92
3. A right angled triangle has a hypotenuse of 10 metres and another side of 6 metres. What is the third side's length?
4. The sum of the internal angles of a triangle is 180 degrees and of a rectangle is 360 degrees. What is the sum of internal angles of a pentagon?
5. $29 \times 23 =$
6. Now a tricky one- we work in a decimal numbering system – so $9 + 3 = 12$. The 1 represents 1 lot of 10 and the 3 represents 1 lot of 3. In a binary system which is the system that all computers and digital equipment work on, it's different- here $1+1=10$. The one represents one lot of 2 and the zero says no units. So what is $1+1+1$ in binary?
7. What is the square root of -9?
8. What is the difference between a square and a rhombus?
9. Don Bradman scored 5,996 runs in test cricket and was out 60 times. We know he got a duck in his last innings so what was his average before that last innings? So if he had batted one more time what score would he need to average 100 exactly?
10. Algebra was invented by the Arabs who built on their discovery of Greek mathematics whilst Europe was in the Dark Ages. It allows us to solve problems like find x in $x + 42 = 2x - 5$?
11. The next number in the sequence 1,4,9,16,25 is 36 of course- hope you got that? What about the next in this sequence 1,3,7,15,31,?

Answers:

1. 70; 2. 1102; 3. 8 metres; 4. 540 degrees; 5. 667; 6. 11; 7. Not possible in real numbers but for mathematicians it is 3i where "i" is the square root of -1; 8. Square has all angles and all sides are equal; 9. $5996/59=101.6$; second part either 4 not out or 104 out; 10. $x=35$; 11. 63=2 to the power 6 minus 1.



What's On

The Fascinating History of Kogarah Revealed: Our own Beverley Earnshaw will be presenting a talk on **Thursday 5 May** at 11 am at the Community Hub, 49 English Street. Admission free. Bookings 9587 6622. There are things about Kogarah that only Beverley knows! Come and listen.

Thursday 26 May, 10 am – 12 midday at Kogarah Library. Genealogy Workshop: Researching WW1; **Soldiers, Nurses and the Home Front.** A seminar aimed at giving you access to a variety of sources you may not know about. Can bring own laptop/tablet etc or use a library PC. Bookings 9330 9527.

Tuesday 24 May, 11am – 12 md at the State Library, Metcalfe Auditorium – **Notes from a Book Addict** (also the title of her newsletter and blog) with Susannah Fullerton. Susannah Fullerton is President of the Jane Austen Society of Australia, a popular literary tour leader and acclaimed writer. Bookings 9273 1770. (\$25)

Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries Costume Exhibition, at Old Government House, Parramatta until 19 June 2016. Costumes from Series 3. Open from 10 – 4pm (closed Mondays). Book on line or contact 136 246.

The History of the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts

This is part three (the conclusion) taken from a talk given by Winsome Allen, Vice President of the SMSA to the Kogarah Historical Society in November 2015

Patronage

SMSA had always had the patronage of the governor of NSW, but in 1935, Sir Phillip Game's tenure came to an end and the committee declined to ask his successor, Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven to become patron, making only the cryptic note 'to be discontinued'. One theory is that this was related to the controversial dismissal of the Lang government. SMSA was without a patron for 73 years, until the then-governor Dame Marie Bashir consented to resume the patronage in 2008 for the 175th anniversary. His Excellency General The Honorable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), the current Governor of New South Wales is now the patron.

SMSA Staff

Over the years there have been many staff. While most of the staff members were dedicated and hardworking, the records show that there were some problems along the way. In 1851 an external Committee of Enquiry found that there was fraudulent behaviour on the part of the School's Secretary-Librarian and "many other matters of concern". In 1892, legal action had to be taken against the Secretary over a missing £2500. It's difficult to convert £2500 to today's currency, but it would be at least at \$350,000. There was also a Secretary who got into trouble for hiring maids and butlers using the School's money.

Fortunately, these seem to have been isolated incidents.

Mr Martin, an Assistant Librarian at the school for 27 years, drowned at Terrigal in March 1914. In recognition of his long and loyal service, the Board generously arranged for his salary to be paid to his widow to the end of the year.

WWI and After

During World War I, the School's membership dropped and many classes were suspended due to the men away at war. Collections of books were taken to support soldiers about to leave for England, and classes were run in conjunction with Dept. of Education for returning soldiers.

After the war, things began to look brighter for the School, with increasing membership and financial stability. The period from 1914 to 1929 was one of growth and optimism and by 1927, membership peaked at 3,934. The Depression however, affected everybody. Membership numbers fell to 492 by the end of the 1930s - members were not able to afford the fees; The building was ageing, needing costly repairs during these lean years, and the Reduction in Rents Act in 1931 meant that income from tenants dropped significantly,

Around this time, the School made the difficult decision, in the face of decreased demand, to stop running its remaining classes for economic reasons.

Despite this, throughout the early to mid-20th Century, the SMSA and other Schools of Arts in general remained at the hearts of their communities, offering library and other services to their members, as well as being a meeting place and social venue for dances, billiards, chess and cards. Most Schools of Arts ran subscription libraries, which enabled members to read books, magazines and newspapers that they would not have been able to afford otherwise.

As the century progressed, the movement towards **Public Libraries** gathered steam. In 1944 the Public Libraries Act was passed which allowed Councils to take over Schools of Arts libraries as the basis of their new public libraries. Many Schools of Arts supported the move, possibly for financial reasons, and either donated or sold their Libraries to local councils at a nominal cost.

The Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts did not take up this option and a significant number of Schools of Arts also declined to give up their independence.

Youth Culture and TV

There were other changes, too. Youth culture came to the fore, and teenagers rejected the staid social scene of their elders. Other forms of entertainment grew, from radio in the 1930s to greater access to cinemas and drive-ins. The advent of television in 1956 was the worst blow of all. These factors contributed to some very lean years in the second half of the 20th Century. But the members, management committee and staff remained steadfast.

This despite (where the story began) a decaying building that was costly to maintain, an aging library on an upper floor only accessible via a very dingy corridor and an equally dingy lift. But, the story of the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts does not stop there.

The Alan Bond Moment

Kerry Packer famously said that “You only get one Alan Bond in your lifetime” and in 1987, the School had its Alan Bond moment. The project almost did not happen when Bond's business empire crumbled and the project was on-sold but eventually it did, giving the School financial independence and enabling them to buy an 11-story heritage building as their new home. The new building at 280 Pitt Street was fully restored – the School moved in in 1999 and the building was officially opened by Hazel Hawke in 2000.

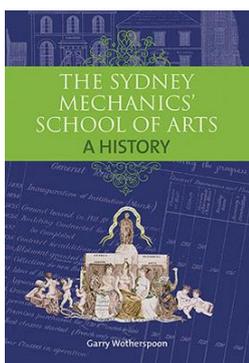
Conclusion

The Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts has survived many challenges over the years, including the Depression, Two World Wars, the relinquishment of the Working Men's College, the introduction of Public Libraries and financial woes. It has basically remained true to its founders' values and ideals.

Many Schools of Arts have been taken over by local Councils or become derelict. Some have been lucky enough to fall into private ownership, which has breathed new life into them. Others are managed under the original Act, either by a board of trustees or a committee. Many are now hired as wedding reception venues, dance studios or similar. Some have been reborn as cinemas or guest houses.

Most trustees of the smaller Schools of Arts are getting on in years and are finding it very challenging to encourage the younger generation to take over the management of the Schools. The buildings are also becoming increasingly difficult to maintain as they age. Those interested in Schools of Arts, must endeavour to find ways and means to keep the small schools viable and keep up to date with any changes to legislation.

SMSA today provides an excellent series of talks and events in keeping with the core values. A website keeps members informed and also reaches the general public. The School is home to Mah Jong classes, Poetry and Reading Groups for members. The Tom Keneally Centre opened in **2011 as a drop in centre, a library that members can borrow from and a venue for literary events.** There are also meditation classes, opera and public speaking groups.



Groups are invited to visit and to read the history of the SMSA in book form. The more interest that is shown the more likely the Schools are to survive into the next century. The history of the SMSA is certainly not dull, it is like an elaborate tapestry woven with colourful characters, unique and significant events and the love of members who have helped it survive for 182 years. *The End*

THE STORMS OF KOGARAH

By Barry Johnson

Serenity is not freedom from the storm, but peace amid the storm - anon

In December 2015, Kurnell was struck with a sudden cyclone, tearing roofs from homes and warehouses, the first such occurrence on the Australian mainland in recorded history. This is not the first time adverse weather has ravaged the southern regions of Sydney, including the suburbs of the Kogarah municipality.

Since Kogarah's establishment in 1885, thousands of thunderstorms have drenched local streets. While the features of these storms, including heavy rain, lightning, gusting wind and occasional hailstones, are consistent, our response has steadily evolved as our community changed. Examining the circumstances and response to the most significant storms from a century ago provides a fascinating contrast of these changes.

In 1908, one week before Christmas, Vincent Cahill was riding in a horse-drawn cart, carrying grocery parcels in Connemarra St, Bexley. While waiting for his brother to deliver a parcel, the cabin of his cart received the full force of a lightning strike. The bolt of electricity split Cahill's straw hat, leaving him lying prostrate and knocking the horse to the road. As the smoke's acrid odour of gunpowder cleared and the horse recovered, Alderman Ingham, of Bexley Council, attempted to animate Cahill using a technique taught by the Life Saving Society. Unfortunately, his efforts were unsuccessful.^[1]

In the beginnings of 1909, lightning struck again, injuring 14-year-old Claude Ay while he emptied a galvanised metal tub of water in his backyard in Marshall St, Kogarah. In this instance, the flash was not fatal, briefly paralysing him and bruising his leg as the current surged through his hips. The tub was destroyed by the force of electricity.^[2]

Over 3 long days in July, 1910, the low-lying areas of Kogarah became like a great lake as a deluge poured over the area. Streets were flooded as Cook's River grew to a mile in width, swallowing sporting grounds and engulfing bridge crossings, heaped with the wreckage from damaged boats. Winds lifted iron roofs from homes and drove sailing ships ashore. Railways were left in darkness as the trackside kerosene lamps were drenched. Phone lines were congested after trunk cables were damaged by fallen branches and debris.

St James Church ruined



West Kogarah's St James' Church of England, only recently opening after construction by local parishioners, was destroyed. The nearby Church of England in Arncliffe, still under construction, was also damaged, and heavily criticised by local councillors for the apparently substandard construction method. After an amended design plan with Council, the church was completed. A temporary

marquee allowed church-goers to attend Sunday services.^[3]



St James' Church builders. Rev. J. Howell Price is seated 4th in the front row. The first Sunday School Superintendent, Mr Henry Stringer, and the construction supervisor, David Knox are on his left. [7]

Six months later, in January, 1911, St James' Church reopened after enthusiastic repairs from local volunteers, working on Saturday afternoons and evenings by lamp and candle light to rebuild and enhance the church, without any debt. The reopening was attended by the Archbishop of Sydney and Rev. J. Howell Price, also pictured on the left with the volunteer builders.^[4]

In December of 1916, John Bates, the popular station master at Mortdale, was alerted by the deafening echo of

lightning striking his chimney. The intense electricity cleaved a metal grating and knocked ornaments from his mantelpiece. The bright explosion rekindled memories of his first encounter with lightning. During the Boer War at the turn of the 20th century, Bates' survived another near miss when his armoured vehicle was struck, killing the other passengers.^[5]

A “cyclonic” storm with winds reaching speeds of 120km/h hit Kogarah in September, 1917. The storm winds shook homes and their sheltering residents, fearful of venturing outside without being knocked over. It tore trees and fences from the ground, destroying a number of bush homes. The unsentimental gales toppled blooming rose bushes and flowering native plants, spoiling the efforts of the area's keen gardeners. After the sun rose on a new day, the storm suddenly dissipated, allowing residents to step into sunshine and assess the damage.

For meteorologists, a drop in barometric pressure is a tell-tale warning of a looming storm. However, the monitoring station at Observatory Hill failed to register this alert. An assortment of shops, including 2 grocers, a butcher, fruiterer and a chemist suffered roof loss and water damage. Shopworkers received head gashes and fractures. On Railway Parade, Mr Mackintosh's Grocery shop was separated from its roof, as it tumbled onto the nearby railway line. St Paul's Parish Hall also lost its roof, causing over \$3,000 (inflation adjusted) in damage.^[6]

Since these events, technology, formal emergency services and construction methods have developed to minimise the damage and injury from storms despite our much larger population. While the curious mixture of excitement and anxiety heralding an oncoming storm isn't likely to change, Kogarah is perhaps better equipped to endure these events than at any time in our history.

SOURCES:

1. *St. George Call*, 19.12.1908
2. *St. George Call*, 9.1.1909
3. *St. George Call*, 23.7.1910
4. *St. George Call*, 28.1.1911
5. *St. George Call*, 9.12.1916
6. *St. George Call*, 22.9.1917
7. Rockdale City Library 2015, *Image Catalogue*
<http://library.rockdale.nsw.gov.au/Montage/Gallery.aspx> accessed 1.3.2016



Seven Islands Cruise

Nineteen members and friends of the Society met under the ‘big anchor’ outside the Maritime Museum on 7 April to start their tour with the Sydney Heritage Fleet. It began with morning tea on the *James Craig* which was moored at Wharf 7 Pyrmont.



Harman on Sydney Harbour

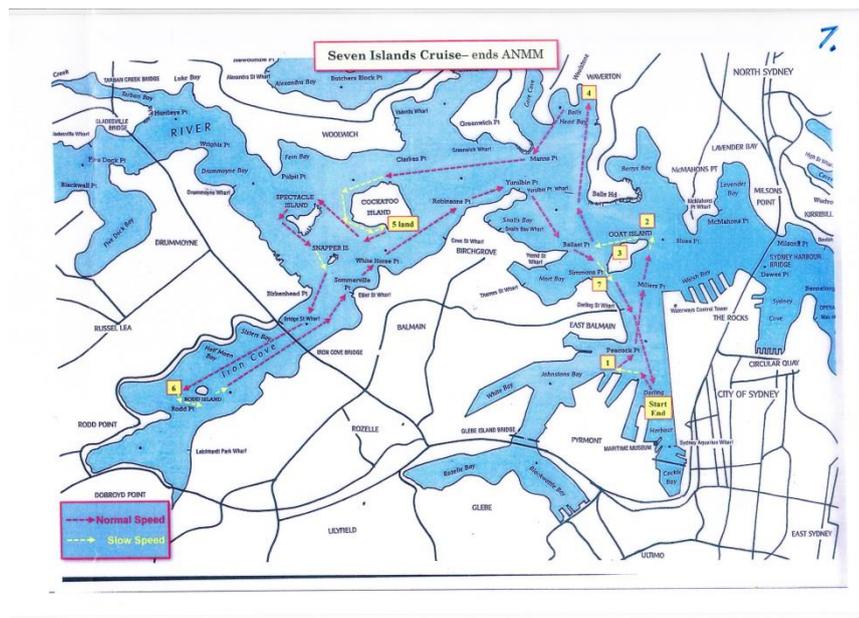
After an interesting talk by the guide concerning the salvaging of the *James Craig* and further restorations being done, the group was ushered onto the comfortable 1943 launch *Harman* for the cruise.

The first Island passed was Darling Island, now joined to the mainland, then Goat Island, home to Sydney Harbour Trust Water Police. It was originally cut in half to divide convict barracks and the National Park Area. Island No 3 was Berry Island, now joined to the mainland.

After passing Balls Head, it was on to Cockatoo Island where some time was spent inspecting two dry-docks and absorbing its history. From 1859-1869 Cockatoo was a convict prison. Many damaged warships were repaired there during World War 2. Now, a large modern Tented area is available for tourists to stay and for recreation.

Next was Spectacle Island, a naval installation where Gunpowder was previously stored.

The cruise continued to Snapper Island, a training area for Naval Cadets, then under the Iron cove Bridge past Birkenhead Point to Rodd Island, owned by Sydney Harbour National Park. Rodd Island was used in previous years for experiments to try and eradicate rabbits.



The return journey passed Callan Park, now used by Sydney University, and also Balmain and Birchgrove. A very informative commentary was given on this area and its history including the Dawn Fraser Pool.

The cruise ended with lunch near the Maritime Museum and the ‘trippers’ were all agreed that it had been an excellent tour on a beautiful harbor and on a perfect autumn day.

Cath & Leo Sullivan

Earliest records reveal that the first Post Office in the Rockdale area was established at Kogarah on 1 August 1863, with Mr William Blake as Postmaster at a salary of £12 per annum. In 1882 mail was carried to and from the GPO via Newtown, Macdonald Town, St Peters to Tempe by horse drawn coach 12 times a week. There were two mail runs from Tempe, one through Arncliffe, Rockdale, Kogarah and Woniora (Tom Ugly’s Point) and the other Tempe, Bexley Hurstville. Both services were performed six times a week (return).

Given the current proposals for postal deliveries, one wonders if things have improved!

A show of support for saving Primrose House

The launch of a new book on the History of Primrose House at Doll's Point written by Garry Darby was the opportunity for people to show their support for this icon of the district.

A large crowd attended including a number of Rockdale Councillors who are supporting the preservation of *Primrose House* and heard Garry Darby outline the long and varied history of the House. Interest was such that the book sold out very quickly and has already been reprinted.



Garry Darby addressing the crowd



Velda Langford, Leo & Cath Sullivan, and Pat Young attended.

Initially built by James Eve in 1890 as the “Scarborough Hotel”, the building has been many things – *Scarborough House*, frequented by the local social set, a Red Cross convalescent hospital for wounded soldiers returning from World War 1, a Dr Barnardo’s Home for immigrant boys being brought from England, briefly a boys’ boarding school, then in 1937 it was opened as an annex to St George Hospital for convalescent patients and renamed *Primrose House*. In the mid 1990s it was turned into administrative offices for the South Eastern local Health District; in 2015 plans were abandoned to convert it into a satellite dialysis unit for kidney patients and a statement made that it is now ‘no longer meeting our requirements in planning for future healthcare provisions for the community’.

Primrose House faces possible demolition and a waterfront development. A campaign, led by concerned residents, is still running. It is hoped to save the house and its surrounds as a community resource.

If you would like to read its fascinating history, contact garry@garrydarby.com to purchase the book.



Did you know that if you see a statue of a person on a horse which has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle?

If the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died because of wounds received in battle.

If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

Statue of the Duke of Wellington, London, and yes he died of natural causes.

Who does what in your Society. Committee and Volunteers 2016

Name & Position	Responsibilities	Contact details
Mavis Ward President	Chairs mtgs. Distributes newsletters. Door prizes & speakers gifts Museum roster.	9546 5704 (0418 459 604) mavisward@tpg.com.au 2/14 Resthaven Rd Sth Hurstville 2221
Beverley Earnshaw Vice President *	Research, Museum tours, speaker, author, newsletter team. Publications Coordinator. Society news.	9546 1091, earnshawb@bigpond.com 15 Hamer St., Kogarah Bay
Gill Whan Hon Secretary* Public Officer	Mail, correspondence, minutes, speakers, Museum tours & roster. Newsletter team.	9546 4623 (0439 667 843) gillwhan@bigpond.net.au 11 Dewrang St., Carss Park 2221
Cath Sullivan Treasurer*	Payments in and out. Treasurer's reports, Museum roster & tours.	9579 6149 (0488 191 175) 10/35 Letitia St, Oatley 2223
Adele Ryan Publicity Officer	Organises and chairs MAM. Publicity to Leader, Council etc. Museum roster.	9529 6730, adelepenta@hotmail.com 5 Endeavour St, Sans Souci 2219
Pat Young Assist Secretary	Assists Secretary, Museum tours and roster. Helps with teas at general mtg.	9588 5835 25 Culver St., Monterey 2217
Wendy Agzarian Committee	Museum tours and takes bookings. Assists at Museum.	9774 3667 (0402 136 147) wagzarian@yahoo.com 16 Valley Rd, Padstow Heights 2211
Robert McGarn Committee	(Away at present)	0425 706 579 mcgarnr@bigpond.net.au PO Box 135 Kogarah 1485
Glyn Pulling Committee	Kogarah Council issues for Society. Assists set up for meetings.	95874869 84 Harslett Cres, Kogarah Bay 2217
Rodger Robertson Committee	Newsletters to disk, contributes to newsletter	9570 7471 (0408 232 874) rodgerr@comcen.com.au 48B Annette St., Oatley 2223
Beryl Butters	Founding/life member	9580 6954, 36 Louisa St., Oatley 2223
Trudy Johns	Life member.	9534 7737, 2/900 Forest Rd., Peakhurst 2210
	<i>Non Committee helpers</i>	
Garry Darby	Technical assistance. registration of photos, security at School of Arts	9583 9916, garry@garrydarby.com
Betty Goodger	Research, newsletter articles. Museum Library/filing, tours and roster.	9570 1101 Unit 3/2 Nelson St., Penshurst 2222
David Martin	Newsletter articles, assists at gen mtgs	9599 1867, djm.bp@hotmail.com
Rosemary Maughan	A/teas at gen mtg.	9588 3946, rmary12@bigpond.com
Elaine Filewood	A/teas at gen mtg. Museum backup	9580 5584
Leo Sullivan	Asst Treasurer, Museum Roster	9579 6149
Gilda Tilia	Caters for MAM	9546 2516
Fred Scott	KHS Website and assists at meetings and MAM	9597 3234, mail@fredscott.net
<p>Museum Roster – Ken Grieve (9558 7172), Carole Tier (9527 2403), Betty Reynolds (9587 1547), Deirdre Schroeder, (9546 2131), Irene and Warren Selmon (9521 1670) Joe Spinelli (9587 9212). Other volunteers - Harvey & Velda Langford (9531 2770), Jan Magrath (9587 6589), Bev Scott (9597 3243), Janette Hollebone (9529 7117), Barbara Davids (9389 6742)</p>		