

Kogarah Historical Society Inc

Carss Cottage Museum, Carss Park

Postal Address PO Box 367, Kogarah 1485

www.kogarah.historicalsociety.com.au

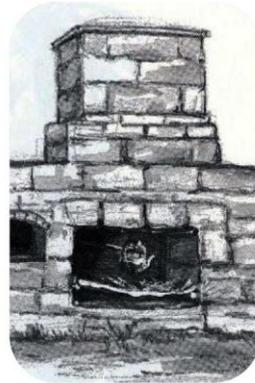
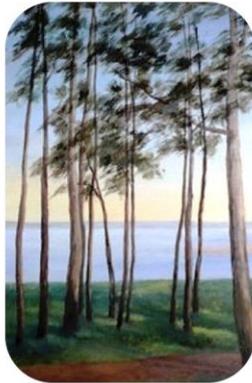
Patron: Kevin Greene, Mayor

President: Beverley Earnshaw

Newsletter

March/April 2020

Volume 12, No 1



Images by Daphne Kingston, artist and member of KHS . Obituary inside.

Meetings and Speakers

Thursday 12 March 2020

Betty Goodger, Researcher/librarian

Myles McRae. AGM

Thursday 9 April 2020

James Dunk, Historian/writer

Bedlam at Botany Bay

Meetings start in the School of Arts, Bowns Rd/Queens Ave at 2 pm with the speaker. This is followed by afternoon tea and a chance to mingle with other members, then a short business meeting. We aim to finish by 4 pm. Apologies for non-attendance should go to the Secretary, Gill Whan (9546 4623).

Find us on Facebook



Mondays at the Museum

23 March

The Lord Wellington's Women

For our first meeting at the Cottage in 2020 we will welcome Beverley Earnshaw OAM, our current President and Author of note. I think we can look forward to an excellent and fascinating presentation. Come and enjoy a lovely morning tea and then the speaker. Visitors are welcome. Lots to look at in the Museum after the talk.

We start at 10 am. Admission is \$5.00 which covers your home-cooked morning tea and gives you a chance to win our lucky door prize. For bookings please contact Adele on 9529 6730. Leave a message on her answering machine if she is not there.

Sunday Museum Roster

Opening hours 1pm – 5pm (summer hours)

March 2019

1st Anne Williams & Robert McGarn
8th Adele Ryan & Fiona Johnstone
15th Betty Goodger & Gill Whan
22nd Pat Young & Harvey Langford
29th Cath & Leo Sullivan

April 2019

5th Wendy Agzarian & Elaine Filewood
12th Closed for Easter
19th Betty Goodger & Gill Whan
26th Miriam & Niver Rodriguez

Problems: If you need to exchange days on the regular roster, please try to do so amongst yourselves, otherwise contact Wendy Agzarian (9774 3667) Emergency roster – Cath & Leo Sullivan (9579 6149).

Committee 2019 (*denotes Executive)

President:*	Beverley Earnshaw	Ph: 9546 1091
Vice President:*	Adele Ryan	Ph. 9593 1898
Secretary :*	Gill Whan	Ph: 9546 4623
Treasurer:*	Cath Sullivan	Ph: 9579 6149
Public Officer*	Robert McGarn	Ph: 0425 706 579

Committee Members: Wendy Agzarian, Barbara Davids, Glynn Pulling, Rodger Robertson, Mavis Ward, Pat Young.

Committee Meeting Venues:

9 March 2 pm Adele Ryan, 5 Endeavour Street, Sans Souci (0444566329)
6 April 2 pm Pat Young, 25 Culver Street, Monterey (9593 1898)
11 May 2 pm Beverley Earnshaw, 15 Hamer Street, Kogarah Bay (9546 1091)

Notice of
Annual General Meeting of the Kogarah Historical Society
Thursday 12 March at 2pm
Election of Office Bearers for 2020-2021

The *Endeavour* reaches Botany Bay

By Beverley Earnshaw

With the observation of the Transit of Venus now accomplished, the time had come for James Cook to open the sealed orders given to him by the Admiralty before the ship sailed.

He found that his brief was to explore the south Pacific in search of 'The Great South Land', a vast continent which was believed to exist south of the equator. In reality, he was being sent to find something that did not exist.

The *Endeavour* left Tahiti on Thursday July 13th, 1769 and after exploring previously unknown islands headed south in search of the

mysterious continent. At the beginning of September in latitude 40°s they encountered violent storms, and having found no land, turned north and then west. Safety was paramount as there was no hope of rescue if an accident happened to the ship.

On Saturday, October 7th, 1769 they sighted the coast of New Zealand which had previously been visited by Abel Tasman in 1642. They remained there for four months, circumnavigated both islands and thus proving it was not part of a great south continent¹. In March 1770 the ship's officers met to decide a route home to Britain. The ship had been at sea for 19 months without routine service and they felt it was perhaps too fragile to withstand the stormy passage around Cape Horn. Therefore it was decided to return via the East Indies, seeking to fall in with the east coast of New Holland which had never before been explored or charted.

At daylight on April 1st they left New Zealand, sailed west and in the next 16 days covered 1200 miles. On April 19th came an excited shout from Zachary Hicks, "**Land ahead!**". It was the eastern extreme of the Australian continent which Cook named *Cape Hicks*.

At 1.30 pm on April 29th the *Endeavour* glided into Botany Bay under a gentle breeze and in fair weather. The unpolluted waters of the bay revealed schools of fish and an extraordinary number of stingrays, which led Cook to initially name the bay "Stingray Harbour". The seascape was framed by a backdrop of the Australian bush with its forests of ancient trees stretching skyward. Cook was very anxious to make contact with those he referred to as 'the natives' and records in his journal that as the ship came in there were men, women and children watching from the shore. Cook launched the small boat in the hope of speaking to them but as the boat approached they all ran away except for two men who seemed resolved to oppose their landing.

Richard Pickersgill, Master's Mate on the *Endeavour* describes this first encounter:-
The captain went on shore in the pinnace to where we had seen some Indians and huts, two of whom opposed their landing, armed with targets and lances² but upon two or three muskets being fired, one of which was fired at and wounded one of them with small shot he dropped his lance and run (sic) away into ye woods as did all the rest³.

The Aboriginal people were confronted with a new sight. About 1833, Father John McEncroe asked an Aboriginal man if he had any recollection of Cook's landing at Botany Bay. He said no because he was not born then but his father had been there. The priest then asked "*What did your father and the Botany Bay tribe think about Cook's ship and its crew?*"



Cook and Banks

¹ For an account of Cook's sojourn in New Zealand see *The Journals of Captain Cook* prepared from the original manuscripts by J.C.Beaglehole, Penguin Classics 1999, p.68-125.

² Shields and spears

³ Historical Records of NSW Vol.1part 1 p.214

He said they thought at first it was a big bird...and saw something like opossums running up and down the legs and wings... but on viewing them closer they thought them to be people⁴.

In the next few days there was a frenzy of activity aboard the *Endeavour*. Parties went ashore to gather firewood. Waterers began filling the ship's casks with the 80 tons of water needed for the next leg of the voyage. Fishing parties went out. With a plentiful supply of firewood the blacksmiths and the armorers cranked up the forges to repair items. Sailmakers spread their canvas on deck to service the sails while a party of seamen were assigned to scrape the ship's bottom.

Cook and his 'gentlemen' set out to explore the bay in the pinnace as the larger boats were needed by the wooders and waterers. The chart Cook made of Botany Bay is now in the British Museum. It records the shoreline of the bay until they rounded a 'rocky point' and entered a small inlet believed to be Kogarah Bay⁵. Richard Pickersgill, Master's Mate on the *Endeavour*, recorded his impressions of the country –

The bay is about 4 miles broad and has a regular tide.... We saw a large tree which grows alone and yields a sap like dragon's blood ... besides we saw a wood which has a grain like oak and would be very durable if used for building; the leaves are like pine leaf. The soil is a light sandy, black earth mixed, but is very shallow...

The inhabitants are so shy we had no kind of intercourse with them. They used to come down every evening armed with lances and wooden swords. They appeared very thin and had their faces daubed over with something white... This was all we saw of them except when they were fishing off in their canoes, which are very small and made of bark; they carry one man, who paddles with two small pieces of wood; they use them in striking fish on ye flats...the people have nothing to cover themselves, but go quite naked, men and women...⁶

The tree which Pickersgill describes as having pine-like leaves is the Casuarina, or She-oak, which is still the dominant species on the flat land behind Carss Park beach. The species with 'gum like dragon's blood' would be the red bloodwood (*Eucalyptus gummifera*) which is still present at Carss Park today⁷. Cook also mentions the mangroves at the head of the bay.

On April 30th, Able Seaman Forby Sutherland died of tuberculosis and was buried the next day, the first white man to be buried in Australian soil. He had been ailing ever since the ship left Tahiti. Cook named the area **Sutherland**.

The botanists, Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander, were out every day, excited with the large number of new species, both flora and fauna, they discovered. They marveled at brightly coloured Cockatoos, Lorryquets (sic) and Parrots, never before seen by white men. Water Fowl of a new and unknown species were abundant on the mud flats. There were pelicans. Black crows identical to those in England circled overhead. Shellfish abounded on the rocks and the huge quantity of oyster shells in the middens indicated that oysters had been a staple food for the indigenous people for centuries. The proliferation of specimens brought back to the ship caused Cook to write in his log – '*The great number of new plants &c Mr Banks & Dr Solander collected in this place occasioned my giving it the name of **Botany Bay**.*'

Cook's great disappointment was that he had not been able to communicate with the Aboriginal people. Each day he had approached them but they usually fled into the bush. The *Endeavour* stayed in Botany Bay only until Sunday May 6th and Cook wrote - *having seen everything that this place afforded, we at daylight ... put to sea*. By noon that day they were 2 or 3 miles from the land and abreast of a bay or harbor where there appeared to be safe anchorage, and which Cook called **Port Jackson**.

⁴ C.H.Bertie quotes Fr.John McEncroe to Dr Douglass MD: *Captain Cook and Botany Bay*, RAHS Journal Vol X 1924 Part V p.237

⁵ C.H.Bertie, Fellow of the RAHS identifies the inlet as Shipwrights Bay. See RAHS Journal Vol.X op.cit.p.273.

⁶ HRNSW op.cit. p.215

⁷ National Trust 1996 native species vegetation survey – Carss Bush Park.

Mayor Hanigan and the Influenza Epidemic

By John MacRitchie

Part 3

At the end of part 2, it had just been reported by the St George Call that pneumonic influenza had reached St George. It was March 1919.

The first local fatality appears to have been Mr James Patrick, who died on the 19th March, after being admitted to the Coast Hospital on the 16th. His wife and children resided at a shack on the corner of Mercury and Kingsgrove Road, Penshurst and were left in reduced circumstances. A working bee of his mates built a habitable room for them in the following month,⁸ and in May, a benefit concert was arranged at Hurstville Masonic Hall.

There is a difficulty in knowing who died from influenza. Sometimes the cause of death was recorded in the newspaper, and sometimes there were clues in the death announcements; for example, Reverend Wiles, Methodist minister at Sutherland, died of cerebral haemorrhage following an attack of influenza.⁹ More difficult to assess are cases where influenza may have contributed to the patient's death but for one reason or another, this was not given as a contributory cause. As the epidemic went on, newspapers may have felt the requirement to allay panic, although it might be worth noting that the public were probably inured to the publication of casualty lists after four years of war.

For March 1919, however, we know of the following local deaths from influenza¹⁰: Augustine Daly of Pitt Street, Mortdale; Gordon Board, of Station Street, Kogarah; Elsie Franks of Rocky Point Road; William Brown of Gungah Road, Oatley; and George Forward of Crump Street, Mortdale. All of the men were comparatively young – Forward and Brown were in their twenties. A characteristic of the so-called Spanish flu was that it affected fit young men more than the usual victims of flu – children and the elderly. Brown was another to have died at the Coast Hospital, where infectious cases were taken in the epidemic's early stages, but as April drew on, cases were increasingly taken to St George Hospital, whose new wards were suddenly filling.

Mayor Hanigan addressed Kogarah Council on “the dangerous epidemic raging in our midst” on 31 March.¹¹ He called for the necessity of the united efforts of the whole community to stamp it out. St George Hospital nurses were overtaxed, having at that moment fourteen cases to accommodate over and above their usual caseload, and were experiencing great difficulty in obtaining night orderlies. Mr Hanigan stated that he himself would do his turn that night, “so that when he was appealed to he could show that he was not asking others to do anything he might not do himself. (Hear, hear).” Messrs Anderson and Laws detailed what arrangements had been made with the Kogarah Relief Depot that had opened that day.¹²

Public health measures were applied haphazardly. By 4 April, for example, some school classes were shut down, but Hurstville Superior Public School classes 6, 7 and 8 were still at school, and an atomiser had been supplied for those pupils who wanted inhalations. Despite the prohibition on public gatherings, Mortdale Churches Patriotic League held a meeting at the picture show grounds attended by 1,200 people. Another large crowd had assembled at

⁸ *Propeller* 25 April 1919.

⁹ *Propeller* 1 August 1919, p1.

¹⁰ *Propeller* 28 March 1919.

¹¹ *Kogarah Council Minutes* 31 March 1919, item 315.

¹² *Propeller* 4 April 1919, p4.

Pryde's Hall in Carrington Avenue to welcome home Gunner H Ford and some of his mates.¹³ On the other hand, the St George Memorial Ambulance Carnival at Rockdale Town Hall was not well attended – it seemed that many had bought tickets but had declined to attend.

The new Mayor of Hurstville Council, Ernie Field, advertised for trained nurses to register with the Hurstville Influenza Relief Depot. Their salary would be £4/4/- per week, or £2/2/- for untrained nurses. Trained nurses were no doubt aware they could earn more at one of the several private hospitals in the district, so there was some difficulty experienced in filling the posts.

The wearing of masks, supposedly compulsory, was widely ignored. Bearded men were among those who objected to wearing a mask; a cartoon published in the *Propeller* on 4 April 1919 showed a man in the barber's chair complaining "When I have had my glass of beer, there will be nothing left of it in my beard to remind me of it."

There were widespread misconceptions about the epidemic. Kogarah barber Charlie Herbert advertised: "*A cure for the flu, get your smokes at Herbert's.*"¹⁴ On 8 February an advert stated, perhaps tongue-in-cheek: "*The flu is growing and so is your hair; also a preventative for the flu, a close shave and a neat haircut.*"¹⁵ Most bizarrely, Cornell's Pharmacy advertised: "*Don't forget it is the optimist that dodges the flu.*"¹⁶ Cornell's Pharmacy also warned against the proprietors of patent medicines and their fancy concoctions which promised to cure all ills; "*when all that was needed was Nyal's Catarrh Balm rubbed in the inside of the nose every day, 1/3d a tube.*"

In the first week of April, more local deaths were reported. Among them was Mrs Kate Poulton, of Rosebery Street, Penshurst, who had a son just returned from the Front, and another son still overseas; she was the wife of the builder and former Mayor of Hurstville, Henry Poulton. Another casualty was Frederick Bisset of Bexley, the General Manager of the Fraser Film Co, which supplied movies to local cinemas. He left a widow and three children. Maud Leach, 32, of Garside Street, Kogarah; George Tinning, 26, of Forbes Street, Arncliffe; and Richard Southey, 41, of Railway Parade, Kogarah, were other fatalities.¹⁷

There were several instances of businessmen taking out advertisements to counter rumours that they had influenza. On 4 April, William Fenley denied that he was sick. Herb Stocker, a motor car hire proprietor at Rocky Point Road denied he was suffering from influenza, merely a recurrence of an old ailment. It was almost as bad for business to be suspected of being sick as it was to be sick.¹⁸

By 11th April there had been nine influenza deaths so far at St George Hospital. In an attempt to isolate the influenza patients as far as possible, hospital authorities had moved the patients in the children's ward into the main building, and had knocked through the children's ward into the adjoining cottage to form one ward capable of accommodating up to 25 patients. If more room should be required, the hospital intended to pitch a marquee in the grounds. However the hospital was desperately short of funds, and had only £49 to its name. Their chief trouble was to secure nurses.¹⁹ The Sisters of St Mary's Convent, Hurstville, offered their services.

¹³ *Propeller* 4 April 1919, p4.

¹⁴ *St George Call* 4 April 1919.

¹⁵ *St George Call* 8 February 1919.

¹⁶ *St George Call* 27 June 1919.

¹⁷ *Propeller* 4 April 1919, p3.

¹⁸ *St George Call* 14 June 1919, p3.

¹⁹ *St George Call* 11 April 1919 p2.

KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR 2019-2020

EXPENDITURE:	\$
Energy Australia	413.48
Telstra	605.68
Insurance and Affiliations	486.00
Museum Cleaning & Post Box	1,554.67
Museum Expenses & book purchases	115.00
Prizes, Donations, Catering and Coach Trips	2,537.00
Petty Cash	800.00
Newsletters and Postage	1,563.34
Administration, Equipment and Publications	632.42
Total	8,707.59

INCOME:	\$
Annual Subscriptions	1,262.00
Museum Admission - Sundays	981.00
Groups, Mondays at the Museum	1,137.45
Christmas Lunch, Outings	1,640.00
Publications, book sales	200.00
Thursday raffles	522.00
Interest from IBD	1,470.00
Grants and donations	1,200.00
Total	8,412.45

RECONCILIATION STATEMENT 2019-2020

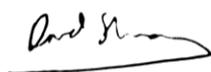
Balance at Bank as at 1 February 2019	5,432.08
Add Income to 31 January 2020	8,412.45
Total	13,844.53

Less Expenditure from 31 Jan 2019 – 31 Jan 2020	8,707.59
Total	5,136.94

Bank Balance as per statement 31 January 2020	5,136.94
Fixed Deposits at St George Bank	60,000.00

I have audited the records of Kogarah Historical Society Inc. and in my opinion the records are well kept and the financial statements drawn up for the period 01-02-2019 to 31-01-2020 reflect fairly the position of the organisation.

Signed



David Shaw
CPA 1443198

(NB: Originals held by Secretary)

Trivia Quiz

By Rodger Robertson

The Solar System

1. The size order of planets is ?
2. How many moons has Jupiter got?
3. What is the name of Jupiter's frozen Moon?
4. The atmosphere of Mercury is mainly what?
5. The liquid that makes Neptune look blue is what?
6. The solar system is around (i) 13 billions years old, (ii) 3.4 billion, (iii) 4.6 billion years old.
7. What element is the Sun mainly made of ?
8. How far is the Sun from Earth and how long does light take to travel this distance?
9. Pluto is no longer a planet. What is it now called and what is its nearest significant neighbour?
10. Is the Moon getting nearer to the Earth, the same distance or going away from the Earth?
11. What was the name of the comet that crashed in Jupiter in 1994?

Answers:

1. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Earth, Venus, Mars, Mercury, in size but Neptune and Uranus swap in terms of mass. Note that in terms of diameter a couple of moons are bigger than Mercury.
2. 69 but this is growing as new ones are discovered including 2 in 2017. So if I had asked in 2016 it would have been 67.
3. Europa.
4. No real atmosphere but there is some Hydrogen, Helium and Oxygen in very thin quantities.
5. Methane absorbs red light so the planet looks blue.
6. (iii) Note the Universe is 13 billion years old but our solar system was formed late than that.
7. Hydrogen 91% and Helium 9% and a little bit of a lot of other elements.
8. 149.6 million Km and 8.3 minutes.
9. Pluto is dwarf planet and its nearest object of size is its moon Charon.
10. Going away.
11. Shoemaker-Levy 9.



Museum Visitors

This group of ladies visited the Museum recently with Community Gateway. They travelled up from Wollongong and thoroughly enjoyed their visit.

You, as members can of course visit on Sundays at no cost but please encourage other groups that you belong to to come and do a tour. We charge \$5 per person, carers and drivers are exempt and one of our

Committee gives a talk on the Carss family, the history of the area, how the Cottage was built and then there is a tour inside the Cottage which always evokes many memories of days gone by. Visitors are offered a walk around the park as well but most of our groups are elderly and are happy to just look around the Museum.

What's On

I hardly know where to start, there are so many things you can do.

- 11 March, 11 am-1pm** at the School of Arts. SHARE (organisation which offers programs for older people) is partnering with Georges River Council for an event to celebrate Senior's Week and International Women's Day. Free. Morning tea, gentle exercise demonstration, entertainment and fun activities. All welcome. To RSVP contact SHARE on 8580 0628 or info@share.org.au
- 26 March, 9.30 am-1.30pm** – Cruise with the Heritage Fleet “*Up the Lazy River*” – details below
- 27 March, 9 am-2.00pm** at Marana Auditorium, Hurstville – Seniors Festival dance party finale. Music by the 18 piece Music Shed Big Band, cultural entertainment and light refreshments. Come and dance or just enjoy the entertainment with friends. Bookings essential: Visit the What's On page at www.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au
- 30 April, 1 pm** – Explore nature in Carss Park with Heather Stolle as the guide. Meet at Carss Cottage. Free.
- 18 April, 1.30 pm** – Sutherland Historical Society book launch, *East Coast Encounters 1770: reflections on Cultural Clash*, at Club on East, 7 East Parade, Sutherland. The book is a compilation of ten articles by different authors. All welcome.
- 22 April, 10.30 am–12.30 am** at Oatley Library – Bruce Watt, President of Sutherland H.S. will talk about his book on Aboriginal history – *Dharawal: The first contact people*
- 5 May, 10 am-12md** at the School of Arts –View an exhibition of historical photographs of Kogarah, share your own photos and memories and enjoy delicious refreshments. Free but bookings required on georgesriverlibraries.eventbrite.com

Until May at the State Library of NSW – Exhibition – Dead Central. Thousands of people travel through Central Station every day, but how many know what once lay beneath it? Fascinating and well worth a visit.

Up the Lazy River

Thursday 26 March – meet at ‘two anchors’ at 9.30 am

Trips with Maritime Heritage are always popular so when we saw there was a new trip, we had to book. Join us at the Maritime Museum, near the large anchors to meet our guide. We will have morning coffee, then board the 1943 heritage motor launch Harman for a trip up the Parramatta River with commentary. It finishes at Newington and you can bring your own lunch or pre-order from a limited menu at the café in the Armory. The cruise finishes at 1.30 pm.

The cost is \$45, payable when you book.

Please make your bookings with Cath Sullivan or Gill Whan

Maximum number is 24.

Newington Armory



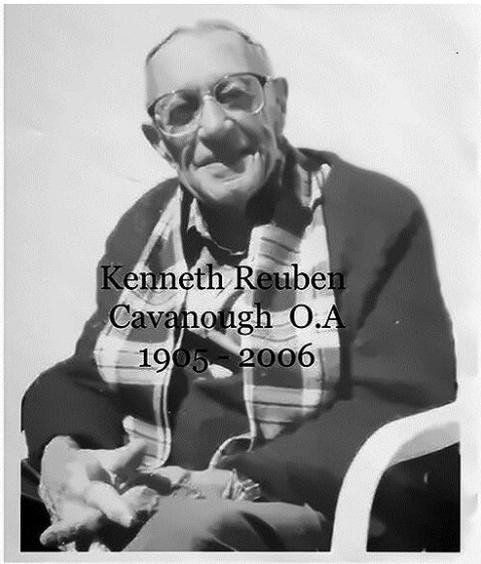
1943 Harman

*This year it is the 50th anniversary of Kogarah Library and a small celebration to mark the occasion was held on 14 February. Local Studies Librarian, **John MacRitchie**, presented the following talk which we thought you would like to read. Thank you John.*

Ken Cavanough's Library

Today is the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of Kogarah Library, on 14 February 1970. Its foundation was the result of the action of a small group of determined individuals. The name of the leader of that group, Ken Cavanough, is not as well remembered in Kogarah nowadays as it might be, so it is fitting that a few words are said today in recognition of what he and his team achieved.

Kenneth Reuben Cavanough was born at Auburn in 1905, and grew up at Newtown. His father was the night station-master at Central Station, so it is no surprise to learn that Ken himself joined the Railways Department when he left school. He studied accountancy at night school, and progressed through the various offices of the Railways Department, ultimately becoming Deputy Chief Cost Investigator. This meant a good deal of travel around the state, and inter-state, and a great deal of responsibility.



He married Mabel Jackson in 1924, and they moved to Blakehurst in about 1928. They had five daughters. Ken interested himself in his girls' education, and became President of the Blakehurst Public School P&C, and later the Blakehurst High School P&C. He and Mabel were very active fundraisers for the P&C, and this brought him into contact with the various Aldermen of Kogarah Council, giving him a taste of how local politics functioned.

In the late 1950s, there was a move to improve the existing swimming facilities at Carss Park. Ken spearheaded the Carss Park pool committee, and as the campaign director of the committee, helped to raise funds to contribute to the building of the new pool, which opened in 1966.

At the same time, in his role as President of the Blakehurst High School P&C, Ken was fund-raising to provide teaching aids for the school, such as televisions and library books. At that time, there was no public library in Kogarah Municipality; it was one of the few Sydney municipalities which had yet to consider public library provision. The Council of the day cried poor, but Ken thought it was regrettable that there was no public library in Kogarah Municipality at that time to support the children's learning, and also to assist students and citizens who wanted to better themselves. As far as he could see, as long as the incumbent Aldermen were in control, no library would be forthcoming.

He formed the Kogarah Ratepayers Protest Association, with himself as President, whose aim was to knock off the sitting Aldermen at the next Council elections. He campaigned in the press, attacking the Aldermen for supporting large increases in local rates. At the same time, he was actively campaigning for the provision of a public library. The Aldermen were aggrieved, perhaps with some justification. But in any case, at the 1968

Council elections, Ken Cavanough and several of his supporters were duly elected, and formed the majority on Kogarah Council. Ken was elected Mayor of Kogarah.



Spurred on by this success, he pushed ahead with the matter of getting a library built. A little over a year later, and at a cost of \$121,000, the library was ready for opening. His fellow-Aldermen voted to name it the Ken Cavanough Library, in recognition of the considerable efforts he had made to achieving it. It was opened on 14 February 1970, by Milton Morris, MLA, the NSW Minister for Transport. (Milton Morris died last year, only a few months ago.)

In his Mayoral term, Mr Cavanough also opened the Oatley Library and initiated the building of the Council Chambers Civic Centre. In 1971 he was on the committee which founded the Kogarah Historical Society, and acquired Carss Cottage as a folk museum for the Kogarah municipality, although of course it draws visitors from much further afield. In recognition of this, he was elected a Life Member of the Society.

He had stirred things up, however, and like anyone who stirs things up, he faced pushback from his opponents. It was elementary for them to suggest that, having campaigned on reducing rates, Cavanough and his team had embarked on a programme of spending. At the next Council elections, the balance of power shifted away from Cavanough's bloc. The incoming Aldermen, led by the new Mayor, Frank Baker, thought that having Cavanough's name plastered all over the façade of the library was, quote, "wretched glorification", and promptly removed it. The building became Kogarah Municipal Library, and all the stationery with 'Ken Cavanough Library' on it was binned.

In Kogarah, there had been a long record of street-names, parks, reserves and other facilities being named after Aldermen. This was the first occasion when something had been 'un-named', and the Aldermen responsible came in for criticism in the Sydney press. But they were unmoved, and to this day, Ken Cavanough remains unacknowledged as the prime mover behind the establishment of Kogarah Library. It does not appear to have troubled him; he had not sought the naming in the first place, and the main thing was that the library was a going concern.

Mr Cavanough continued to serve the local community in many ways. For example, he only retired from Council's traffic committee in 1997, at the age of 92.

He was awarded the AM in the 1976 Australia Day Honours, and his wife Mabel was also awarded the OAM for her fund-raising for the community. Typically, he realised that there was no group for those who had received this award, and founded and became the National Secretary of the Order of Australia Association.

He was active in and held office in a wide range of other local and state bodies, including the St George County Council, the Parents and Citizens Association of NSW, the Combined Ratepayers and Residents Associations of the City of Greater Sydney, the Oatley Senior Citizens' Association, the Carss Park Amateur Swimming Club, and the Society of First Fleeters. He was proud to be descended from Owen Cavanough, a sailor on the First Fleet.

He achieved one final extraordinary milestone. In December 2005 he celebrated his 100th birthday.

Daphne Kingston

11 November 1928-30 October 2019

Daphne Kingston was an active member of the Society from the 1970s, attending meetings and events. I remember her at the 40th anniversary celebrations of Carss Cottage, at that time we were featuring her in our exhibition of noted local artists.

She was the first person that I interviewed for a member profile in 2009 (Volume 1 of this newsletter!). She was an artist and a photographer and travelled extensively over the years taking with her ‘two important pieces of luggage, her camera and sketchbook’. She admitted to ‘trespassing at times’ to get the perfect picture, which might be a slab hut or the inside of a disused building. “The camera must be light and portable” she said, “in case I have to climb over a fence”.



Exhibition 2009

In 2009 also, she had an exhibition of Drawings & Painting St George Area & Sydney Basin at Hurstville Museum and Gallery and several of us attended the official opening.

Daphne spent her last few years in New Zealand with her daughter but before she left, she wrote her own story and this is an abridged version:

She was born in Earlwood in 1928. Her father George Watt was a Mechanical Draughtsman, her mother came from Mackay. After her father’s death on Christmas Day 1934 she and her mother returned to Mackay to live in the family home – she left school ‘proficient in practical life skills’ and went to work in a Wholesale Merchants office. War was drawing to a conclusion, most of the men were still away, staff were mainly young people

and Mackay was a paradise for young people at that time – beaches, easy access to the Barrier Reef Island, rainforest etc. In 1950 she came to Sydney for a holiday and stayed, joining the Snowy Mountains Hydro Electric Authority as secretary to the accountant. She met and married Jeff in 1952, living first in Hurstville, then Mortdale where she gave birth to a daughter after which they moved, in 1964, to Penshurst.

It was not until 1964 that Daphne began art lessons, she spent her 40th birthday at Julian Ashton Art School where she was taught by a tough but inspiring teacher, Richard Ashton, and she stayed there part time for several years by which time she was committed to art. After a while she began teaching drawing and painting and helped to establish the Pole Depot at Penshurst. She also taught Evening College classes at Bankstown and Strathfield and in 1984 began teaching at the studio attached to her home at Penshurst. She also became increasingly interested in history and joined several historical societies, National Trust and Historic Houses Trust. She had begun in the 70s to record vernacular architecture specialising in slab houses and barns in semi-rural areas around Sydney.



Over time she produced six books and a series of one-woman exhibitions combining her interest in art architecture and history. In 2011 she had an opportunity to exhibit ‘Vanishing’ at the Mint. (one can still find exhibits from that exhibition on the web)

Daphne finishes her story with the words ‘she loved and valued her Family, her many Friends, Cats and Slab Barns.

Vale Daphne, your memory and your many works will live on.

Gill Whan