

KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY INCORP.

Postal address: P.O. Box 367, KOGARAH. 1485

NEWSLETTER.

MAY - JUNE 2000.

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Patron – The Mayor of Kogarah. Life Patron: K.R.Cavanough A.M. J.P.

President – Mrs. B. Butters (9580 6954)

Vice Presidents: Mr. K. Johns and Mrs. B. Goodger.

Hon. Secretary: Dr. D. J. Hatton. (9587 9970}

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. F. Pilot (9546 5551)

CARSS COTTAGE MUSEUM is open each Sunday and Public Holiday
(Except Good Friday and Christmas Day)

From 1.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. Admission – Adults \$2.00 – Children 50 cents.

Groups by special arrangement – contact Joan Hatton or Beryl Butters.

MEMBERSHIP OF KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY is \$6.00 per
annum (Single) or \$9.00 per annum (couple)

MONTHLY MEETINGS.

All meetings are held in the Kogarah School of Arts, Bowns Road, Kogarah on the
second Thursday of each month.

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|------|----|---|-----------|--|
| May | 11 | - | 1.00 p.m. | Committee Meeting |
| | | | 2.00 p.m. | General Meeting – Speaker. Bridget Mahoney “Moth to Cloth” The story of Silk and the Silkworm. |
| June | 8 | - | 1.00 p.m. | Committee Meeting |
| | | | 2.00 p.m. | General Meeting – Video of the History of Peakhurst & Lugarno. |
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KURNELL - 2000.

Australia's most historic place is having its second most historic year. Captain Cook's landing in 1970 and Captain Phillip's First Fleet landing in 1788 determined that Kurnell Peninsula is the most historic place of the Australian Nation.

The landings also saw the historic first major meetings on the continent of European with Aboriginal culture – the huge ‘culture clash’. Aborigines had lived here for at least 9,500 years ‘in tranquility’, as Cook put it, with the natural environment.

In this year 2000, the prior Aboriginal occupation is at last recognised by the official name-change, Kamay Botany Bay, linking ancient with modern.

‘The Meeting of Two Cultures Ceremony’ was held on 29th April, being the 230th anniversary of the landing of Captain Cook. Four Dharawal Elders and one Kurranulla Elder were present. Mrs. Beryl Timbery-Beller a Dharawal Elder gave a welcome to the country on behalf of the Aboriginal people.

In September the Olympic Torch will begin at Kurnell for the climactic Sydney leg of its across-the-world journey. That will signal to the world that here the history of Australia's nationhood began.

It is also hoped the Peninsular's major surviving sand dune will be protected by Heritage Listing.

MUSEUM ROSTER

May 21 Flo Pilot and Gilda Tillia
28 Rae Reed and Norene Burns
June 4 Glad Baldwin and Thellie Tatum
11 Betty Goodger and Janette Hollebone
12 (Queens Birthday) Volunteers please.
18 Jack Lean and Ken Grieve
25 Trudy Johns and Maree Wheatley
July 2 Flo Pilot and Gilda Tillia
9 Betty Goodger and Janette Hollebone

MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO GO ON DUTY AT THE MUSEUM. I KNOW HOW DISAPPOINTING IT IS NOT TO HAVE MANY VISITORS. IT WAS PARTICULARLY SO OVER THE EASTER - ANZAC HOLIDAY PERIOD. WHEN WE WEREN'T ABLE TO OPEN ON ONE OCCASION THE RANGER SAID A MINI-BUS LOAD HAD BEEN DOWN. WE CAN'T FIND THE ANSWER! Please advise Beryl Butters (9580 6954) if date is not suitable.

CATH SULLIVAN HAS ARRANGED A BUS TRIP FOR MONDAY 29th MAY TO LEAVE KOGARAH AT 9 A.M. COST \$15.00. YOU CAN CONTACT CATH ON 9579 6149 IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GO.

ANNUAL LECTURES.

Bankstown Historical Society - Saturday 27th May 2000 at 2 p.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church Hall, Bankstown - Edgar Pensig "Australia's Wild Colonial Days".

N.S.W. Military Historical Society - Saturday 13th May 2000 at 2.30 p.m. Randwick Barracks Conference Centre - "The Korean War - The Static Period".

ST. GEORGE DAY - 23rd April - Unfortunately because the 23rd was Easter Sunday celebrations had to be held a week earlier. Once again we sold Red and White Lamingtons to our Members and will be sending a cheque to the St. George Committee. All monies raised go towards buying special equipment for St. George Hospital.

MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARY THAT THE LAUNCHING OF BEVERLY EARNSHAW'S BOOK - 'CARRUTHERS - THE BUMPY ROAD TO FEDERATION' - WILL BE LAUNCHED AT KOGARAH SCHOOL OF ARTS AT 2 P.M. ON SATURDAY 4TH NOVEMBER

When in Montgomery Street, Kogarah, next, have a look at the Forecourt of the St. George Bank. Thanks to The Bank and Kogarah Council the old Foundation Stones from the St. George County Council building have been restored and relaid in a quite impressive form. The Society can take some credit as we were the go-between with Mr. Reub Deakin (who had preserved these and other items), the St. George Bank and Kogarah Council.

CARSS BUSH PARK

Anniversary Day 1924 was a great day when the Carss Park recreation area was opened to the public. Gradually improvements were made in the facilities. Mr Coxhead, the Ranger, had the ability and interest for working in stone and he built the stone seats, the archway, the garden beds and the stage. The crowds attending at week ends increased and in May 1929 the Ambulance First Aid Dressing Station was opened by Mrs Stuart, dedicated to her husband James Stuart. In 1930, she donated a bed for the room.

About this time, the Life Savers' Club was formed. The members soon required a meeting place at the Park and the Council provided the land. The Life Savers' Social Committee and the Ladies Auxiliary raised money for the building and for fitting it out. They paid 100 pounds to Kogarah Council for the purchase of building materials and the members provided the labour. The foundation stone was laid by Mrs Stuart on June 4 1934, the King's Birthday holiday.

The popularity of the Park as a recreation area for the public increased rapidly in the early 1930s and one event which certainly contributed to the public's recognition was the Venetian Carnival held over the three days of the eight hour weekend of October 1934. This was organised by the Blakehurst Parents and Citizens Association in aid of the funds of the St George District Hospital and the P & C Association.

The Carnival began with a procession commencing at Kogarah School, headed by the Rockdale Municipal and Hurstville Boys' Bands. All types of vehicles took part, including motor and horse drawn vehicles, sulky turnouts, in addition to boy and girl riders. Prizes were given for best lady's hack and best gent's hack, best pair of hacks, best pony hack (under 11 hands), best pony hack (under 13 hands and over 12 hands), best pair pony hacks, best girl riders and best boy riders, each under 12 and under 14.

Silver cups were presented for the best marching displays by various sporting groups - vigoro, cricket and football clubs, also Junior Red Cross and Lifesaving Clubs. Special prizes were offered for fancy costumes - best dressed girl, most original girl and boy, best advertising costume, most comical girl and a consolation prize. The prizes for the procession and sporting events were presented at a carnival night dance at St Cuthberts Church Hall, Park Road, on the next weekend.

The St George County Council made special arrangements for the supply of electricity for the carnival, at a reduced rate because proceeds were to be given partly to St George District Hospital. The County Council agreed to provide power at threepence per unit, rather than the usual rate of fourpence per unit, as at the lower rate more lights would be used and so the overall charge would not be affected. The grounds were illuminated by 500 electric lights fitted with Chinese lanterns.

As an addition to the usual carnival attractions, such as merry-go-round, charoplane, housie housie, hoopla, wheels, etc., a sex appeal register and other side shows were

arranged. A further attraction was a "Find your partner contest". Boating, sailing and other aquatic events were arranged.

A baby show was to be held during the weekend, but owing to inclement weather it was postponed for two weeks. Prizes were offered for babies up to 12 months, and over 12 months to 2 years. Judges were Matron Pritchard and Dr Saxby. On the same weekend the memorial fountain to late Alderman Nichols was dedicated and Mrs James Stuart and her family planted trees along the foreshores of the park. Kogarah Municipal Band was in attendance as well as stalls, chocolate wheels, etc.

At the next social function of Blakehurst P & C, the President, Mr Ken Cavanough was presented with a fountain pen, suitably inscribed, as a mark of appreciation for his services during his two years of office. (Ken Cavanough says he still has this fountain pen). "In making the presentation Ald. Ferry stressed the esteem in which Mr Cavanough was held by members and friends and spoke of his energy and ability as organiser of the recent successful carnival at Carss Park. It was also mainly owing to the efforts of Mr Cavanough that the shark proof enclosure at Carss Park was now an established fact". In asking him to accept the small token of regard, Ald Ferry expressed the wish that his future activities would meet with the same success as those he had undertaken in the past.

"In reply, Mr Cavanough thanked the members for their kindly action and also for the co-operation and help they had always given him. He felt sure that while members worked together in the same spirit of enthusiasm much could be accomplished of which the association could feel proud."

By the end of 1934, it was reported that the improvements at Carss Park during the year would attract more visitors to the Park - the seawall was nearing completion, the Life Saving Club's building was well under way with bricklayers and carpenters very busy on the job. However, funds were still urgently needed and for this purpose a euchre party was held at Langlea Hall, McPherson Street, Carlton (off Andover Street).

The Life Savers' Club House was officially opened on Anniversary Day 1935. The day commenced with a procession which left Kogarah Station at 10 a.m. This included tableau displayed by Thatcher and Oberg, timber merchants, of Mascot, when seven of their waggons took part, displaying timber from the bush to the builder. Huge logs were shown on the first two jinker waggons and the following lorries showed the various stages the logs were put through until they reached the tiniest atom used in the building trade. Lifesavers waggons were very popular as "pretty girls in swimming costumes" were engaged in throwing out samples of lifesavers along the route of the procession.

A great crowd had gathered outside the Club House by 2 p.m. Lifesavers from various clubs in the district and members of Carss Park Ladies' Vigoro Club formed a guard of honour through which the patron, Mrs James Stuart, walked to be welcomed by the Mayor of Kogarah. He made a speech outlining the beauties of the foreshores of Botany Bay and stressed the great and valuable services rendered by all life saving clubs. He

introduced Mr A Lane, Federal Member for Barton, who congratulated the club on having its own clubhouse. He cut the ribbons at the entrance and handed the keys to Mrs James Stuart who officially opened the club premises to loud applause.

Mrs Stuart, in a charming manner, gave an entertaining speech, inserted the key in the doors and opened them, amid loud applause. She invited the people to inspect the premises and then afternoon tea was partaken of by the Ladies Auxiliary and the official visitors.

The sharkproof enclosure was officially opened in March 1936 as the concluding event of the Kogarah Council Jubilee celebrations. The work had been estimated to cost 500 pounds, with the net costing 300 pounds and walls 200 pounds. The length of the net was 600 feet and the depth from 12 feet to 8 feet. On the same day, the Mayor, Ald Battye, laid the foundation stone of the new dressing sheds built in the park.

The entertainment included childrens' races, a ladies' water polo match between Bondi and Metropolitan and an exhibition swim by Miss Margot Rawson, junior champion of Australia. In addition there were life saving displays of rescue and resuscitation work by the Carss Park and Ramsgate Clubs. Other attractions were motor boat races on Kogarah Bay. The celebrations concluded with a display of fireworks.

References: Various issues of St George Call and Hurstville Propeller

MUNICIPALITY OF ROCKDALE

Official Opening of Carruthers' Drive

The public of St. George District are invited to be present at the corner of Bay-street and Marine Parade, Brighton-le-Sands, at 3.30 p.m., on Friday next, 26th inst., when His Excellency Sir Harry Rawson, Governor of New South Wales, will officially open Carruthers' Drive—the beautiful road recently made round the foreshores of Botany Bay.

Cadets and children from local public schools, and the Sobraon Band will be present and take part in the programme, and the Automobile Club of Australia will be well represented in a procession of motor cars.

PERCIVAL SOMERVILLE,

Town Clerk and Hon. Sec.,
Town Hall, Rockdale,
February 18, 1909

No. 577

ILLIOTT STILL AT KYLE BAY.

The eight men arrested at Kyle Bay, on May 16, in connection with the discovery of an illicit still, appeared at the Kogarah Police Court on Tuesday and Wednesday last, before Mr. Butler, S.M. The case excited considerable interest.

J. M. Whelan, a hotelkeeper, was charged with having on his premises an illicit still; John Keating, a barman; Arthur Francis Hickey, a taxi-cab driver; Francis Augustus Lewis, a baker; William Robert Whittaker, a barman; Charles John Greaves, lately a barman; Wallace Campbell Greaves, steward; and Joseph Andrew Whelan, a hotelkeeper, were charged with being found, without lawful excuse, in a place where excise goods were being illegally manufactured.

Mr. W. D. Mc'Mahon appeared for J. A. Whelan and John Keating. Mr. J. W. Abigail defended the other six men. All the defendants pleaded not guilty.

John Thomas Donoghue, Inspector of Customs, said that in company with Inspector Milne and a number of police officers he went to a house situated at the foot of Stuart-street, Blakehurst, on George's River. He saw Charles Greaves walking towards an outhouse. Witness said, "I'm an officer of the Customs with a search warrant. What business is being carried on here?" Greaves replied that he didn't know that any business was being carried on.

The key of one door could not be found, and when the room was broken into an illicit still was found set up. The still comprised a boiler, condenser, both connected, galvanised tank, barrels, a stone jar, and other utensils, which all contained fermented wash in various stages.

The names and occupations of the men were then taken. There was a strong smell of spirit noticeable before entering the premises.

Cross-examined by Mr. Abigail, Inspector Donoghue said the still was one of the largest he had seen during the 30 years he had been in the service.

On resuming the hearing of the case on Wednesday, the magistrate said he did not see that there was any evidence against the seven defendants who were charged with being unlawfully on the premises, and those cases were dismissed.

John Michael Whelan then gave evidence on his own behalf.

His Worship, after hearing evidence, convicted the defendant, and imposed a fine of £500, the maximum allowed by the Act.

On the application of Mr. Abigail three weeks were allowed in which to pay the fine, on defendant finding security for the amount.

After the evidence of the witness Westall was concluded he was arrested by the police, and later brought before the Court on a charge of having on May 16 last, at a house at Kyle Bay, unlawfully manufactured exciseable goods. On the application of Mr. Street, Westall was remanded until Tuesday next, and bail was allowed, himself in £100 and a surety of £100.

Official Opening of Carruthers' Drive

The following is the official programme of the opening of Carruthers Drive by Sir Harry Rawson this afternoon, as arranged by Town Clerk Somerville.

- 1.—His Excellency will be received at Brighton-le-Sands by a guard of honor comprising cadets from the Arncliffe and Kogarah Public Schools in command of Captain Fuller, and the "Sobraon" Band.
- 2.—Part Songs (a)
(b)
Pupils of Arncliffe and Rockdale Public Schools.
- 3.—The Mayor, Ald. W. Taylor, M.L.A.
- 4.—Official Opening of
"CARRUTHERS DRIVE"
Sir Harry H. Rawson, G.C.B.
- 5.—Presentation of Souvenir to the Governor.
- 6.—Sir Joseph Carruthers, M.L.C.
- 7.—Mr. Samuel Cook, Chairman of the Cook Park Trust.
- 8.—Hon. T. Waddell, Colonial Treasurer
- 9.—Part Songs (a)
(b)
Pupils of Arncliffe and Rockdale Public Schools.
- 10.—Wand Display
Pupils of Arncliffe Public School.

God Save the King.

Tree Planting.

The Band of the "Sobraon" will play selections during the afternoon.

Light refreshments at the close of the Ceremony at Brighton Hotel.

(The following article is one of a number given to us by Ruth Foster – one of our society members).

ST. ANDREW'S DAY.

No more joyous opportunity of recalling "the land of brown heath and shaggy wood" could the colony provide for Scots than the celebration of St. Andrew's Day, 30th November.

On 30th November 1832 the Australian reported that "A St. Andrew's Dinner will be discussed at Cumming's Hotel, Macquarie Place. Colonel Snodgrass will take the chair, Major Mitchell will be croupier." Subsequent issues gave no details.

St. Andrew's Day in the following year (1833) was a happy day for the Scots, for there were two functions to gladden their hearts. During the afternoon, in the presence of one thousand people, one of whom was Major Mitchell, Colonel Snodgrass laid the foundation stone of St. Andrew's Church of Scotland in Kent Street, behind the Old Burial Ground, which is now the site of the Sydney Town Hall.

"As daylight departed, many of them made their way for the St. Andrew's Dinner, in the long room of the Pulteney Hotel embellished with a profusion of evergreens, amongst which the hardy thistle was conspicuously displayed ("Australian", 2nd December 1833). One hundred and twenty sat down, including many of the colony's leading officials and citizens – Colonial Secretary Alexander MacLeay of Ross-Shire, Executive Councillor Kenneth Snodgrass of Renfrewshire, Colonial Treasurer Campbell Riddell of Argyllshire, Major of Brigade Archibald Innes of Caithness-Shire, the Rev. J.D. Lang of Renfrewshire, successful business man Alexander Brodie Spark of Moray, and Major Mitchell, the "doughty Major" of Stirlingshire, a descendant of the Lords Livingston, as Chairman. Some wore the costumes of their clans, some military uniforms, and others dress suits. The airs played by the orchestra in the hall were punctuated by pibrochs from the verandah. As the hours went by, and toast succeeded toast until twenty-three had been drunk, each to the accompaniment of an appropriate air by the musicians, the more enthusiastically did the sons of Scotland recall scenes of earlier days, and recount deeds of their ancestors or national heroes.

One toast evoked particular acclaim – that to Colonel Kenneth Snodgrass, who, on that day, had laid the foundation stone of St. Andrew's Church of Scotland in Kent Street."

Lieutenant-Colonel Kenneth Snodgrass of Paisely, Scotland, came to the colony in December 1828 as Major of Brigade in Sydney, and subsequently acted as Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemen's Land from the departure of Governor Arthur in October 1836 to the arrival of Governor Sir John Franklin in January 1837, and as acting-Governor of New South Wales from the departure of Governor Sir Richard Bourke in December 1837 until the assumption of power by Governor Sir George Gipps in February 1838. From 1809 to 1814 he had served in the Peninsular War, where he received decorations for his part in five major actions, and after the cessation of hostilities had remained in the Portuguese Army until 1822. Mitchell,

with an almost identical military background, was naturally drawn to Snodgrass; and for the rest of their lives they remained firm friends. Mitchell would assuredly have agreed with the verdict that Snodgrass was a "friend of sterling merit, never mentioned by those who knew him but with united esteem and respect".

Governor Bourke left at 12.30 a.m. to be followed by Mitchell who departed for "Craigend", but many, under the chairmanship of Snodgrass, continued the celebrations for several hours longer.

According to custom the chair was occupied by a different Scot each year. Although present on other occasions, Major Mitchell must have regarded the night of 30th November 1833 as his most memorable St. Andrew's Day Celebration.

For Mitchell 30th November was a day to be remembered and celebrated: if in Sydney, at the annual dinner, if on survey or exploratory work a toast was proposed in which all – free or in bond – were asked to participate - "This being St. Andrews Day I did treat Mr. White with a glass of mountain dew in honour of the saint who was not only the guardian saint of Scotland, but under whose auspices we had commenced this Expedition".