

# Kogarah Historical Society Inc

## Carss Cottage Museum - Carss Park

Postal Address PO Box 367, Kogarah 1485 – [www.kogarah.historicalsociety.com.au](http://www.kogarah.historicalsociety.com.au)



Patron: Cr. Kathryn Landsberry

President: Gill Whan (0439 667 843)

# Newsletter

September/October, 2024

Volume 16 No.4



*Kingston, Norfolk Island. See story Page 8*

## Meetings and Speakers

**Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**

Claire Baddeley, Curator Hurstville Museum,  
*The Curious Case of Captain James' Ostrich Farm.*

**Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>**

Jim Haynes, Author/Entertainer (2GB)  
*Australia's most unbelievable True Stories*

Meetings start at 2 pm in the School of Arts, Bowns Road/Queens Avenue, Kogarah, with the Speaker. This is followed by afternoon tea and a chance to mingle with other members. A short business meeting follows. Visitors are always welcome. Apologies for non-attendance at meetings should go to Adele Ryan (Ph.0444 566 329). If unanswered please leave a message.



## Our September Meeting

We are in for a treat at our next General Meeting on September 12, when Claire Baddeley, Curator of the Hurstville Museum, will speak on her prize winning entry in our 2023 Local History Award, *The Curious Case of Captain James Ostrich Farm*.

Meeting starts at 2 pm at Kogarah School of Arts. Members and Visitors all welcome.

## Sunday Museum Roster

### September

1<sup>st</sup> Anne Williams & Janice Latham  
 8<sup>th</sup> Open Day  
 15<sup>th</sup> Gill Whan & Robert McGarn  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Helen Gould & Adele Ryan  
 29<sup>th</sup> Laurel & Bob Horton

### October

6<sup>th</sup> Wendy Agzarian &  
 13<sup>th</sup> Adele Ryan & Joe Spinelli  
 20<sup>th</sup> Gill Whan & Fiona Johnstone  
 27<sup>th</sup> Miryam & Niver Rodriguez

Emergency List: Anne Field, Heather Campbell, Cath & Leo Sullivan, Olga Sedneva  
 (If you need to change your date, please try to do it with another volunteer. Otherwise, contact Wendy Agzarian on 0402 136 407 or Gill Whan on 0439 667 843)

### Committee (\* Denotes Executive)

President*	Gill Whan	Ph.0439 667 843
Vice President*	Adele Ryan	Ph.0444 566 329
Secretary*	Gill Whan	Ph.0439 667 843
Treasurer*	Anne Williams	Ph.0425 215 589
Public Officer*	Robert McGarn	Ph.0425 706 579

Committee Members: Wendy Agzarian, Glynn Pulling, Beverley Earnshaw, Pat Young, Elaine Filewood, Helen Gould, Laurel Horton.

### Committee Meetings

**September 9<sup>th</sup>:** Wendy Agzarian, 8/52 Menai Rd, Bangor, (0402 136 147)

**October 7<sup>th</sup>:** (Holiday Monday) Gill Whan, 11 Dewrang St, Carss Park (0439 667 843)

On August 13 2024, the Australian Red Cross celebrated their 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We offer our congratulations and look forward to hearing Annette Ruhotas talk to us about the organisation on 23 September at Monday at the Museum.

# The Chinese Market Gardeners at Kogarah

Dr Garry Darby - 2024

In August 1937 the Beverley Park area was resumed by Kogarah Council in its entirety and prepared as a modern, high quality, residential estate which boasted, at its centre, an 18 hole golf course and parklands. The Chinese market gardens which had flourished in that same area for 65 years were finished. Such gardens had accounted for the main occupation of the Chinese immigrants who continued their lives here after the gold rushes. It will be seen that there were many Chinese market gardens established in the Kogarah/Kogarah Bay area. Indeed, one report, describing conditions at the Sydney markets suggested that,

*From 1880 ..... the Chinese began to take up land in several districts near Sydney, and thus created a big influence in the markets. Today (i.e. 1931) there are considerably over 100 Chinese gardens in the Metropolitan area. <sup>i</sup>*

By 1886 the Sydney Morning Herald could claim, ‘the Chinese will before long monopolise the industry of raising certain kinds of vegetables, if not colonial gardening ‘in toto’’. <sup>ii</sup>

Through the 1880s residents of the St George came to rely on Chinese market gardens for their supply of fresh vegetables. Hawkers selling vegetables door to door throughout the district were a common sight and householders valued the service and quality they provided.

As a matter of routine, vegetables from the local gardens were also transported, in primitive two wheel horse drawn carts, to the city market where agents bought in bulk. The market opened early morning and this meant that growers from the Kogarah area were ‘on the road’ to market well before sunrise. On the return journey they would bring straw and manure to fertilise their gardens.

## The 1922 ‘Cultivation Blocks’

The higher grounds surrounding Kogarah Bay were utilized by Australians such as Edmond English (1818-1912) and John B Carroll (1843-1897) while the Chinese were experts in the cultivation of the low-lying lands so typical of Kogarah Bay before 1937.

The Kogarah area, including gardens at President Avenue and on either side of the Carss Estate, became known as ‘The Salad Bowl of Sydney’. Despite rapid development in the area, some gardens were still producing, as they always had, up until 1937 when their garden lands were resumed. Seven blocks were put up for sale in 1922, and land agent Arthur Rickard promoted the sale strongly on behalf of the Carroll family. The vendors were John Louis Carroll and Caroline Cecelia Carroll.

## Sun Tiy Sang

One group that was an early occupier of land in this area traded as Sun Tiy Sang. Different groups with tenancy in common operated on that land between 1921-23 and again in 1932-35. From the 1880s Chinese gardens were mostly worked by informal partnerships of up to ten or twelve men. The fluid nature of these

communities was adequately demonstrated by one particularly significant market garden at the head of Kogarah Bay.

During the early 1920s the garden which had the overall name of “Sun Tiy Sang” was run by a loose co-operative of Chinese gardeners. Change in the tenants in common was a regular occurrence as one member would move on to another garden or perhaps return to China.

This farm was originally part of Matthew Carroll’s grant. Through time it passed to his son John Bartholomew Carroll and eventually it became the



*The truck used by the ‘Sun Tiy Sang’ Gardens of Burgess St Kogarah - 1923/4*

property of his daughter, Caroline Cecelia Carroll. (1878-1941) Caroline had married the Rockdale dentist, Ralph Eber Bull Burgess (1878-1959) who gave his name to Burgess Street Kogarah. He died on 5 January 1959 in Mona Vale, New South Wales, at the age of 80.

Kerry Choy's article reveals that the driver of a truck used by the garden is Ah Young - his Great Grandfather. Furthermore Ah Young was a nickname. This man's traditional family name was Choy Mun Seui. <sup>iii</sup>

### What's in a Name ?

Kerry Choy, makes the situation very clear, 'To reconcile these differing accounts it's important to realise that Sun Tiy Sing is not a personal name but the name of the farm itself. A rough translation might be "New Mountain Life" which was a lucky or auspicious name for a farm. The NSW Firms Index at State Records lists a business named "Sun Tiy Sang" at Burgess St, Kogarah. <sup>iv</sup>

### Ah Young: (c1880-1968)

In 1926, for example the market garden in question, measuring 6 acre - 2 roods - 11¼ perches, and stretching from Carroll Street, across Burgess Street and on to the area which became Beverley Park Golf Course, supported eleven proprietors; Ah Young, Ah Long (Ah Young's brother) Choy Bun, Chung Hong, Ah King, Yee Fun, Kwong Tart, Ah Sang, Jarm Ching, Ah Marn and Ah Yut. <sup>v</sup>

The first man mentioned here is of particular importance. He was Ah Young, born in Canton, c1880. Ah Young arrived in Australia aged about 16 in 1896. He went straight to work on John B. Carroll's Estate as an employed gardener. J.B. Carroll had passed away during the previous year and his son John Louis Carroll (1874-1961) took control. All the dealings Ah Young had on the Estate were with him. Then in January, 1914 J.L. Carroll furnished a reference for Ah Young. He wrote,

*"Carrolla", Lacey St, Kogarah*

*This is to certify I have known Ah Young for eighteen years and during that time he has resided on my estate as a market gardener and during that period we have always known him a very industrious, honest and hard working Chinaman.*

*J Carroll, Carroll's Estate, Kogarah, Jan 7th 1914. <sup>vi</sup>*

Ah Young was preparing documentation for a trip to China where he was to marry Chu Moy. <sup>vii</sup>

He was to make a number of trips back to China before he passed away in 1968. Records show that Ah Young rose from being a farm labourer to being a shareholder in at least 3 market gardens in the Kogarah Bay area. His older brother, Ah Long (1877-1939) was involved with him as a shareholder in a range of leases for these gardens between 1920 and 1938. Both men worked on the Carroll Estate soon after their respective arrivals in Australia. To see family and friends in China, both took extended stays which ranged from one to three years.

The first of these gardens was a small section of land (27½ perches - 695 sq m) in Sybil Street, Kogarah Bay. In May 1918 Ah Young had a one sixth share together with Bing Hen, Yum Ching, Wong Kwok Tin, Yet Hin, and Thomas Choy. The land, part of the original Matthew Carroll Estate, had passed down through the Carroll family from Matthew (1912-1979) to his son John Bartholomew and on to his children, John Louis and Caroline Cecelia. This was a small patch and it seems that Ah Young was more ambitious and hard working than most. By July 1926 Ah Young was a shareholder in two much larger market gardens. A 6 acre 6½ perches block close to the corner of Stubbs and Sybil St., Kogarah Bay, had become available.



*Kogarah residents came to rely on fresh vegetables being made available by local Chinese gardeners*



A Block Plan (#22) (lot160) of 1938 in Kogarah Council records shows the name “Ah Young 417/19 Sussex St” in pencil. This may indicate that he was the single proprietor. This notion is backed by a resumption notice in 1938 describing;

*that piece or parcel of land in the Municipality of Kogarah ... being lot 160 - having an area of 6 acre 6½ perches ... and said to be in the possession of Ah Young.* <sup>viii</sup>

The third market garden in which Ah Young had a share was, of course, the one in Burgess St Kogarah, described above. This was the former “Sun Tiy Sang” garden. Land Title documents here reflect changes in some detail as tenancy in common was recorded. Phonetics have led to some confusion over names. Frequently men worked under an alias or even a nickname. The Sun Tiy Sang garden had had its share of problems and in 1933 an unusual event occurred.

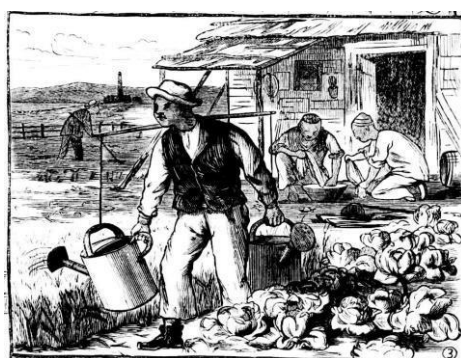
*RAIN DAMAGE Kogarah Resident's Request*

*A complaint that portion of his ground in Burgess Street, Kogarah, had been washed into a Chinese market garden during the heavy rain was made to Kogarah Council last night by Mr. Churcher. He requested that, as the council was now repairing the street, some of the soil should be transferred, to his property to fill up the hole.*

*The matter was left to the engineer.* <sup>ix</sup>

Leases were generally short term (3 years) and this contributed to the turnover of tenants and to changes in tenancy in common.

All of that came to a halt in 1937 when the Kogarah Council began the resumption low-lying land as part of the overall re-working of the Kogarah Bay swamp areas. Ah Young’s 6 acre garden in Burgess Street was officially resumed by Kogarah Council on 11th August 1937.



*Kogarah's Chinese gardeners laboured from sunrise to sunset, 7 days a week*

Ah Young possibly shared in a number of other market gardens after his Kogarah Bay farms were officially resumed in 1938.

These included the one from Roy Harrang in Kendall St., Sans Souci in the 1940s. Choy had also been mentioned in farms at Rockdale, Milperra and Kellyville before establishing ‘Choy Brothers’ at Sans Souci. This brought him back together with his brother, Ah Long. The Rockdale garden was in French Street and sometimes was described as being in Kogarah. The group was styled “Sun Sang War”. By 1939, at least, Ah Young was involved there and remained until 1949 or 1950.

Gardeners such as Ah Young gave up land he had worked for the past 18 years. His case, of course, was not unique. Many Chinese in the area lost their livelihood at that time or were forced to relocate.

Ah Young had returned to Kogarah by 1937 as he was noted as being in the country in the council's resumption correspondence. It is presumed the family photo would have come with him from China at the time. He died in 1968. <sup>x</sup>

As early as 1886 it was recognized that the Chinese community in Sydney was making a really worthwhile contribution to daily life. Indeed, in a long and detailed study of Chinese market gardens in the Sydney suburbs it was assessed that, if the Chinese had not taken up gardening, vegetables would not be nearly so cheap and abundant as they are. <sup>xi</sup> Indeed, the Chinese played their part in changing the dietary habits of Sydneysiders - for the better. By the 1880s there was a growing awareness of the benefits of consuming fresh vegetables. Chinese gardeners were, consciously or not, improving the health of their customers. From early times there were many Chinese living in the St George District. This notion is borne out by many press reports of the type below. However, this particular one gives an insight into official numbers.

The inspector of nuisances reported that he had inspected the various Chinese quarters in the (Kogarah) municipality, and found that the population numbered 46, and that the premises were found to be in a satisfactory state. <sup>xii</sup>

Many of the Chinese men supported families in China and it was understood that visits to the home country took precedence over the work in the gardens. The money individuals earned here was frequently used to support families in their home country.

Long serving tenants Ah Gee and Ah Long were given an excellent reference by John Louis, Carroll in 1908 when NSW Customs and Excise sought the recommendations.

Carroll, giving his address as Carrolls Hill, Kogarah, wrote;  
9th December 1908.

*This is to certify that Ah Gee and Ah Long have been known to me for a number of years. Ah Gee having been employed on a farm belonging to me for a period of 15 years, and Ah Long for the past 10 years. I have always found them honest, sober and industrious men. I understand it is their intention to take a trip to their native land and intend returning here.*

*Yours faithfully, signed, J L Carroll*

Some returned; some did not. Ah Gee had arrived in Australia from Canton in 1886 when he was 25 years old. As Carroll's reference suggests he began work on the Carroll Estate in 1893 and remained there for 15 years. J.B. Carroll was a sympathetic employer but he also realized that Ah Gee, like so many of his countrymen had special skills in market gardening.

After he left Carroll he was in demand by other market gardeners along the Rocky Point Road. He was always able to send reasonable amounts of money back to his family in China. <sup>xiii</sup>

1907 - Chinese market gardener, named Mow On, living at Kogarah – was thrown out of a cart.

*A collision occurred this morning in George-street, near Campbell-street, between a horse and cart, occupied by a Chinese market-gardener, of Kogarah, and an inward bound Leichhardt tram. It appears that Mow On, the driver of the horse and cart, attempted to cross the street at the rear of an outgoing tram, not noticing the car coming in the opposite direction, with the result that the tram struck the cart with terrific force, killing the horse instantly, and completely smashing the cart. Mow On was thrown to the ground, but escaped injury. <sup>xiv</sup>*

It has been discovered that Chinese market gardeners are tilling an area of three-quarters of an acre of land at Kogarah Bay belonging to council. They are to be asked to pay £5 per annum in future for their trouble. <sup>xv</sup>

### **Harrang - Fontainebleu St - Sans Souci & Chinese Market Gardeners.**

Hector Roy Harrang (1901-1965) made a great name for himself as a market gardener at Sans Souci. He improved swampy land near Fontainebleau Street which was inundated from time to time by Gooman Creek. Locals sat up and took notice when a long article sang his praises for his support of Chinese people in the district, some of whom had been displaced from the Kogarah Bay gardens.

Mr. Harrang persevered in spite of much natural adversity, and now he is able to claim that he has one of the best market gardens around Sydney. As time went on he was able to add to the area of his property, until, within the last year or two, he had enough surplus land to lease a considerable part of it to Chinese gardeners. In fact, Mr. Harrang is himself co-operating with some of the Chinese in establishing the new gardens. In recent months there has been quite a rapid expansion of this systematic market gardening in the one area, mostly because of the moving-in of several Chinese who had previously been "kicked out" from their old gardens at the head of Kogarah Bay, and from parts of Rockdale Municipality. But the biggest part of the credit for commencing the draining of the swamp and laying out the first acres of



Ah Young - in 1954  
aged 76

gardens, must go to Mr. H. R. Harrang, who has been a resident of Sans Souci for many years, previously being connected with a local dairy.<sup>xvi</sup>

### **One Section of the Beverley Park Estate : 1941**

The former Burgess and Carroll St Gardens provide a perfect example of how the landscape was altered following reclamation and resumptions that culminated in residential development around sections of the Bay.

These gardens had been known by several names, the most recognizable being ‘Sung Tiy Sang’. Nevertheless it has been shown above that several small, different, informal groups had leased and worked the property since 1918. The most notable of these was headed by Ah Young and his brother, Ah Long. The six acre garden with fronts to Carroll Street, Hastings Road and Burgess Street, Kogarah sloped downhill from Carroll Street. The eastern section above Burgess Street was subdivided into 47 ‘Choice Residential Sites’, in November 1941. The vendor being Kogarah Municipal Council meant that detailed results of the sale emerged in Council and local press reports.

Forty of the forty seven lots were sold which meant that the sale was particularly successful. More than £5,000 was realized. The success seen here was repeated around the reclaimed area that formed the Beverley Park Estate. Ah Young and his brother were very closely connected with the Carroll Estate and with John Louis Carroll who administered it. John B Carroll, John Louis’ father, has been called “The Father of Kogarah.”

A sense of the times and the place is relatively easy to establish if we take into account the fact that Ah Young was a market gardener in the Kogarah Bay area and nearby for a period that stretched over 65 years. For some of that time he returned to China. The resumption of land to create the new suburb of Beverley Park, is an important aspect of our local history.

It is also a circumstance that brought to an end Chinese market gardening in the area. It is interesting the way that chain reactions can change the face of a suburb or an industry.

There is no denying that a crossing at the head of Kogarah Bay was necessary. However, well before that occurred in 1906 there were thoughts that the triangle of swamp that was isolated should then be filled and utilized. Once the crossing was in place those thoughts took on a more tangible face. Although delayed, the next step was to resume, develop and subdivide the new land. In the act of realizing that, Ah Young and his countrymen were displaced. A chain reaction had altered the landscape forever.

### **Endnotes:**

- 1 Sydney Morning Herald, Monday, 14 December 1931, p7 - Sydney’s vegetables
- 2 Sydney Morning Herald, Tuesday 21 December, 1886, p 11
- 3 Choy, Kerry, ‘One Photo, Two Stories’, Kogarah Historical Society Newsletter, January 2014, p4
- 4 Choy, Kerry, ‘One Photo, Two Stories’, Kogarah Historical Society Newsletter, January 2014, p4
- 5 Dun’s Gazette for NSW, Vol 37, No 16, (April 25 1927) p308.
- 6 Customs & Excise Reference, NSW, C00182, 12 JA-14
- 7 Naturalisation Statutory declaration - 5th July,1957
- 8 Government Gazette of the State of NSW (Sydney, NSW : 1901 - 2001) Fri 13 Aug 1937 Page 3302
- 9 Daily Telegraph Tuesday 30 May 1933, page 7
- 10 Choy, Kerry, ‘One Photo, Two Stories’, Kogarah Historical Society Newsletter, January 2014, p4
- 11 Sydney Morning Herald, Thursday, 2 December 1886 p4
- 12 Evening News , Tuesday 14 March 1893, page 7
- 13 Earnshaw, B., The Land Between Two Rivers , p17
- 14 Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate Wednesday 20 March, 1907, Page 5
- 15 The Propeller Friday 17 Sep 1926 Page 3
- 16 Propeller, Thursday 10 August 1939, page 8

## Volunteers are Needed

The Society needs helpers who will occasionally volunteer their skills. A volunteer does not have to come on the Committee, but is someone who is willing to help out.

What are your skills? Can you help on Sunday afternoons at the cottage? Do you have expertise in Accounting? Our treasurer needs an assistant. Have you any experience in research or event management? Can you fill in when someone is away or sick?

It takes a whole team to run an organization. Do come and join the happy band of KHS Volunteers.

Ring Gill 0439 667 843 or Wendy 0402 136 147



## Heritage

It is pleasing to see more blue plaques being installed to commemorate some of our noted citizens.

One instantly recognisable name is **Chips Rafferty** (He starred in the film Bush Christmas made in Carss Park). He has been honoured in Broken Hill.

**Arthur Stace** – Mr Eternity – remember the words on the Harbour Bridge on New Years Eve of 2000? A plaque has been placed at St Barnabas Church on Broadway.

**Grace Emily Munro**, Co-founder and first President of the Country Womens' Association has a plaque in her memory in the Senior Citizens Rest Centre, Bingara.

## Success for a Society Member

Our member, Garry Darby, has written the history of the Sutherland Shire Cycling Club. Recently, Maryanne Stuart MP, Member for Heathcote, introduced the book to the NSW State Parliament. A transcript of her speech was recorded in Hansard.

### ***SUTHERLAND SHIRE CYCLING CLUB***

#### ***Ms MARYANNE STUART (Heathcote):***

*The Sutherland Shire Cycling Club is a club for all riders. Last year it celebrated its sixty-fifth anniversary with a special book launch, Sutherland Shire Cycling Club, authored by local historian, Dr Garry Darby. The book provides an insight into aspects of the history of Sutherland Shire and speaks not only of cycling but also family history and important aspects of the Shire's social history, including transport and the development of the Sutherland township.*

*This meticulously crafted book is a testament to the club's enduring impact on our community. Within its 95 pages, adorned with captivating illustrations, the book traces the evolution of the club from its inception in 1908, when bicycle club racing was first introduced to the shire by the pioneering Mr Ted Boyle. Through various name changes and racing formats, the Sutherland Shire Cycling Club has remained steadfast in its commitment to fostering athleticism, camaraderie and community spirit. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Dr Garry Darby for his dedication to bring this story and history to life.*



## What's On

- September 8** (Sunday) **OPEN DAY !** To celebrate History Week the Cottage will be open from 12 noon to 4 pm with **FREE ENTRY**. Afternoon tea will be available in the courtyard for \$5 and there will be a bring and buy table.
- September 12** Claire Baddeley, Curator Hurstville Museum – will speak on her prize winning entry in our 2023 Local History Award -- *The Curious Case of Captain James' Ostrich Farm*.
- September 23** Mondays at the Museum – Annette Ruhotas, Vice President St George District Branch ARC will speak on *The Australian Red Cross*. To support this charity, there will be a voluntary donation box available.
- October 10** Jim Haynes, Author/Entertainer (2GB) – *Australia's Most Unbelievable True Stories*.
- September 14 & 15** Open Weekend, tour of **Denbigh**, 531 Cobbity Rd, Cobbity 2570, a working farm with outbuildings and studios. Entry \$15. For more information or to book contact [info@hha.net.au](mailto:info@hha.net.au)
- September 21 & 22** Open weekend Camden Park House, Camden Park Road, Menangle 2568. Guided tours are booked out. Entry to garden 10 am to 4 pm, \$15.
- September 18** *Sister Act Musical*, Capitol Theatre (prebooking), \$80 + \$15 bus fare. St George Community Transport, Ph.9585 3000, [harvey@stgct.org.au](mailto:harvey@stgct.org.au) .

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### Valé Kevin Skelsey



We are sad to acknowledge the passing of our valued member, Kevin Skelsey, who passed away on July 27, 2024. Kevin was highly regarded as a teacher and educator and in his retirement he kept an antique shop in Beverley Hills. He joined the Society in 2016 and made a valuable contribution through his expertise in antiques and old wares. It was Kevin who restored the Edison Phonograph which is now on display in the museum.

We offer our sincere sympathy to his wife, Wendy, and to his family.

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At the museum in the Coxhead Room what is behind these doors? Unknown to many people, a library. Previously locked and difficult to access it is now available for perusal during cottage opening hours. Among the books you can discover the history of local areas, schools and churches, directories and catalogues. These can be borrowed. Just write your details in the book at the front desk.

## Norfolk Island Holiday

By Anne Williams

In April 2024 I visited this small island for the fourth occasion, part of a tour group. Today there are around 2700 people living permanently on Norfolk, including many descendants of the Bounty Mutineers. Also there are those who have moved from Mainland Australia, New Zealand and Polynesia. They all mix very well and are a friendly and happy society.

They still rely on ships and planes to bring supplies, which are very expensive. All rely on tourism for most of their economy but during COVID they had no visitors for 2 years. The island used to be part of NSW but is now reliant on Queensland. The education system has changed and teachers now come from Queensland instead of NSW. The school goes to Y6 after which children come to the mainland for further education.

The residents love showing their beautiful homes by entertaining tourists with all sorts of fun and interesting events. There are progressive dinners where meals are cooked and served in family homes. There are Glass Bottom Boat rides to see the gorgeous coloured corals and amazing varieties of inquisitive fish below the pristine waters of Emily Bay. This is the safest bay for swimming, being protected by the reef. The main part of town, Burnt Pine, has cafés, restaurants and duty free shops, also the RSL and Bowling Clubs. Their produce is seasonal and they have made many recipes using bananas ripe and unripe, sweet potatoes and, of course, there is trumpeter fish (so tasty) and their own beef cattle meat.



The north west area holds the National Park and Forestry areas, full of Norfolk Island pines, ferns and birds, with views out to sea showing two more islands, Nepean and Phillip. This is a must walk place which we did early one morning guided by John Christian, ending with a full breakfast cooked and served by the locals at Captain Cook Monument Park.

We enjoyed a fun night dressed as convicts with entertainment by the locals and more yummy food. There is much to see and do on this small island which we tried to fit into a 7 day stay.

The area known as Kingston is where the early settlements took place. It overlooks Slaughter Bay and now has a pier to receive goods from the ships. The beautiful Georgian style homes (made from nearby quarries), built for the various Governors, Captains, Officers and Ministers and a beautiful church remain and are all World Heritage listed.

Captain James Cook on his second voyage round the world on HMS *Resolution*, discovered Norfolk Island on October 10, 1774 and named it after Mary Blount, the 9<sup>th</sup> Duchess of Norfolk. He landed on the north-west shore and noted the tall straight pines and abundance of flax. Fourteen years later, the First Fleet arrived at Port Jackson and soon suitable people and convicts were chosen to go with Lieutenant Philip Gidley King to settle Norfolk. They took supplies for six months and came ashore on a sandy beach. Deserving people were given land which they cleared to build homes and barns and a 3m x 7m 'Government House'.

In 1790 Governor Phillip, knowing the food situation was better on Norfolk than in Port Jackson, sent 200 convicts and 2 companies of marines with their dependants to Norfolk aboard the *Sirius*. This ship ran aground on the reef at Slaughter Bay, Kingston Town (formerly known as Sydney) but all survived.

This raised the population from 150 to 500. Later in 1790, 80 crew from the *Sirius* returned to Sydney aboard the *Supply*. Others, including King had to wait until the end of 1791 to return to Sydney. King went back to England where he married and returned to Norfolk.

With the loss of the *Sirius* Major Ross put the island under Martial Law. He was unpopular and very harsh compared to the humane leadership of Philip Gidley King. In King's absence two more villages had been built and the population raised to 1000. Previously the convicts had been housed in weatherboard huts but there were frequent nightly and daily robberies necessitating the building of a gaol 24ft x 14ft (7.4m x 4.3m).

Major Joseph Foveaux, Commandant for 4 years, had a very bad reputation for cruelty and use of the cat-o'-nine-tails. Both men and women were flogged. The original intention had been that Norfolk Island should be a permanent British Settlement but there were insurmountable difficulties in keeping the settlement going. The failure of both flax and pines to be of use, the lack of a safe harbour and nine months between ships bringing supplies meant that by 1808 a large number of settlers had gone and in 1814 the settlement was finally closed down. Most of the Islanders were settled in Van Diemens Land where although they were promised compensation, they never received any.

The buildings were burned to discourage settlement by anybody else.

The second settlement came in 1825 when the British Government said criminals could only be reformed by severe punishment and degradation, so Norfolk Island would be reopened as a Penal Settlement. No women or free settlers were sent. There were no assignments or land grants,

Horrendous records exist of tortures and sensory deprivation, but between 1825 and 1855 those who did as they were told were never treated harshly. In 1836 a Pentagon style gaol was begun by convicts but it was another eleven years before it was fully completed. Prisoners quarried the stone from Cemetery Bay using basic tools. It was a hard, cruel life with hunger, disease, the wearing of leg irons and the constant threat of punishment by hanging or flogging handed out by those in command.

There were four notable Commandants during the second settlement, Major Anderson, Captain Macconochie, Major Joseph Childs and John Giles Price who was the longest and harshest of all and who left in 1853 to become Inspector General of Penal Establishments in Melbourne. When Major Anderson arrived in 1834, two fine buildings, the new Military Barracks and the Commissariat Store (now a Church) were erected under his supervision. There was also a Parade Ground, two Causeways, the Pier, the sea wall and the re-draining of the swamp.

The convict population varied over the next years with a steady climb from 57 who first arrived in 1825, peaking by 1840 to 1900.

The final 10 years saw a slow decline in the number of convicts and by the closure of the settlement in 1855, only 9 remained. Three officials and their wives and 2 children made up the caretaking party. They would wait for the arrival of people from Pitcairn Island.

The Pitcairners, amongst them descendants of the *Bounty* Mutineers with their Tahitian wives had arrived on Pitcairn Island in 1790, but now the inhabitants were overcrowded and running out of room. In 1855 they had written to Queen Victoria begging her help. She wrote back saying that she would give them Norfolk Island to settle on. On July 8<sup>th</sup> 1856 the ship *Morayshire* landed the Pitcairners at Kingston.

Today there are many families who carry the surnames of *Bounty* Mutineers, Christian, Adams, Buffett, McCoy, Hobbs, Quintal to name a few. They mix with Tahitians, Polynesians, New Zealanders and mainland Australians – a varied cultural mixture who get along and remain happy and friendly and welcome everyone who visits.

### **Did you know?**

The first country in the world to give women the vote was Corsica in 1755.

The second country to give women the vote was Pitcairn Island in 1838



*Captain Cook's Landing Place, Norfolk Island*

## ***KHS Quiz***

### ***BUILDINGS OF KOGARAH***

- (1) *In what building was Kogarah's first Council Meeting held?*
- (2) *Where was Kogarah's sanitary depot?*
- (3) *Where was the War Memorial originally erected?*
- (4) *Where was Kogarah's Silent Movie Theatre?*
- (5) *Where was the Rechabite Hall?*
- (6) *What building has a unique rounded spire?*
- (7) *What building was replaced by Carlton South Public School?*
- (8) *What building had a Flemish hollow bell tower?*
- (9) *Where was Kogarah Bay Scout Hall?*
- (!0) *In which building did Don Bradman celebrate his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday?*

**ANSWERS**

- (1) *In the Gardeners' Arms Hotel, Rocky Point Road*
- (2) *On the corner of Railway Parade South & Harrow Road in Hogben Park*
- (3) *In Gray Street outside the Fire Station*
- (4) *Corner of English St & Railway Parade*
- (5) *In Ocean Street*
- (6) *The old Kogarah Post Office*
- (7) *The Homestead, home of Edmund English*
- (8) *St Patrick's Church*
- (9) *In Carss Park near Carss Cottage*
- (10) *In Palmyra, Vista St, Sams Sout!*