



ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPONSORED BY ROCKDALE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

81 Watkin Street,
BEXLEY. 2207.
9th October, 1970.

Dear Friend and Member,

The October meeting of the Society will be held as follows:-

Date: Friday Evening next, 16th October, 1970, at 8 p.m.

Place: Council Chambers, Town Hall, Princes Highway, Rockdale.

At the conclusion of the Business of the meeting, Mrs. W. Foster will show a collection of slides on a recent visit to "CENTRAL AUSTRALIA".

"NOTICE OF MOTION"

"that the following clauses be included in the Society's Constitution:-

- (a) The assets and income of the Society shall be applied solely in furtherance of its objects and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to its members except as bona fide compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the organisation.
- (b) Upon the winding up or dissolution of the Society the net assets of the Society shall be given or transferred to some other institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of the Society and which shall also prohibit the distribution of its or their property amongst its or their members. "

BUSINESS: General.

Would lady members please bring a plate and gentlemen kindly donate 20¢ towards the Museum Fund.

D.H. Sinclair.

President.

(Miss) J. Noble.

Hon. Secretary. 59.6796.

Supper Roster. Miss Binns (Capt), Miss Russell, Miss Row,
Mrs. Buckingham and Mrs. O'Meara.

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A DATE TO REMEMBER SATURDAY AFTERNOON - 17th OCTOBER.

Mrs. Long has invited Society Members and their friends to visit "LYDHAM HALL", Lydham Avenue, Bexley, to view the Society's future home. A donation of 20¢ will be charged towards Funds.

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"LADIES MUSEUM FUND COMMITTEE"

A stall will be held on "Senate Election Day", Saturday morning, 21st November, 1970, at the Presbyterian Church, cnr. Watkin and Herbert Streets, Rockdale, to raise funds for "LYDHAM HALL".

Donations such as jams, pickles, cakes and fancy goods etc., would be appreciated to stock the stall. Please contact Mrs. Wright - 59.6796.

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"SOCIETY'S RAFFLE"

Enclosed with this month's Bulletin, is a book of 10 Raffle tickets at 10¢ each.

Mrs. Mitchell, of Bexley, has kindly donated a most attractive "Lampshade and Base" to raise money for the restoring and refurnishing of "LYDHAM HALL".

Please return your tickets along with money to the Hon. Secretary not later than the November Meeting. Raffle to be drawn at the Society's Christmas Party.

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The Ladies of the "LYDHAM HALL COMMITTEE" would like to express their thanks and appreciation to Mr. & Mrs. J. Faulkner for presenting an entertaining evening of slides last month.

An Audience of approximately 40 people was shown scenes of the Bi-Centenary Celebrations. Proceeds of the evening were donated to the "LYDHAM HALL FUNDS".

Bark Picture donated by Mrs. Hogg, was won by Mrs. A. Callister.

Cushion donated by Miss B. Binns, was won by Mrs. E. Wright.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FUTURE OUTINGS & SOCIAL EVENTS.

Please ring Mrs. Eardley, Asst. Secretary, for the following bookings.
Phone 59.8078.

We would like the support of all members and their friends on our various Outings and Social Functions.

October - 18th - Sunday. INSPECTION OF OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
and SURROUNDING AREA. FULL DAY.

Bus leaving Rockdale Town Hall at 9 a.m. SHARP.

An inspection of "OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE" at 10 a.m. (Admission 50¢)
Lunch at "LAKE PARRAMATTA" where refreshments will be available.
After Lunch, a visit will be made to "HAMBLEDON COTTAGE" (Admission 25¢)
and other places of Historical Interest -- Time permitting.

Returning to Rockdale approx. 5.30 p.m.
Cost \$2.00 inclusive. Bring your Morning, Afternoon Teas and Lunch.

November - 22nd - Sunday. TO ATTEND 11 a.m. MORNING SERVICE AT
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT EBENEZER - which is claimed to
be the oldest existing Church in Australia.

Bus leaving Rockdale Town Hall at 9 a.m. SHARP.

Lunch at Ebenezer - Hot Water provided.

Travelling via Windsor to Ebenezer and returning via Galston and
Dural, where time permitting a visit to the historic "St. Jude's".

Returning to Rockdale approx. 5.30 p.m.
Cost \$1.50. Bring your Morning, Afternoon Teas and Lunch.

SOCIAL FUND- RAISING EVENINGS.

OCTOBER - 24th - SATURDAY EVENING ... CRAZY WHIST NIGHT, will
be held at Rockdale Town Hall, Rockdale, at 8 p.m.

Ladies please bring a plate. Donation 50¢.

A most enjoyable and entertaining evening can be guaranteed - so please -
a knowledge of cards is not necessary. Bring a friend.

NOVEMBER 21st - SATURDAY MORNING - STREET STALL, will be held
at the PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, cnr. WATKIN & HERBERT STREETS,
ROCKDALE.

NOVEMBER - 25th - WEDNESDAY EVENING - COOKERY DEMONSTRATION,
by courtesy of St. George County Council, in the Binder Auditorium, Kogarah,
at 7.30 p.m. Donation 50¢.

To make this a successful Evening, we have to guarantee 70 persons to attend,
so please support the function and bring your friends.

DECEMBER - SLIDE EVENING. by Mr. E. Town. Date to be fixed.

DECEMBER - 18th - FRIDAY EVENING CHRISTMAS PARTY.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

We are pleased to announce the release of our 5th Publication entitled "OUR HERITAGE IN STONE" copies of which will be available at our October meeting.

Book 1.	THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE WOLLI CREEK VALLEY.	65¢	75 cents posted
Book 2.	THE KOGARAH TO SANS SOUCI TRAMWAY.	65¢	75 cents posted
Book 3.	THOMAS SAYWELL'S TRAMWAY ROCKDALE TO LADY ROBINSON'S BEACH.	65¢	75 cents posted
Book 4.	THE ARNCLIFFE TO BEXLEY STEAM TRAMWAY.	65¢	75 cents posted
Book 5.	OUR HERITAGE IN STONE.	70¢	80 cents posted
Book 6.	ALL STATIONS TO COMO.		In Preparation

The above list of the St. George Historical Society's publications can be readily obtained, subject to stocks in hand, from -

The Secretary: Miss J. Noble,
81 Watkin Street,
Bexley. 2207.

OR

Mr. F.C. Smith, Florist, Tramway Arcade, Rockdale.

OR

Mr. W.J. Spence, Newsagent, 449 Forest Road, Bexley.

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OUR CRUISE ON THE HARBOUR.

Members of the St. George Historical Society and their many friends spent a most enjoyable day cruising around Sydney Harbour on Saturday, September 12th, 1970, a very spacious launch being chartered for the occasion.

The "Radar", our vessel for the day, wound her way in and out the bays and inlets along the Southern Shores of the Harbour, returning along the Northern Shores. A ripple of excitement ran through the crowd as the Spit Bridge "lifted", and our launch passed through. The cruise was made more enjoyable as we listened to a very interesting and entertaining commentary, given by Alderman Ron Rathbone on the points of interest, historic, and otherwise.

The day was perfect and the Harbour beautiful.

A lunch stop was made at Clark Island, where the Ranger had the "Kettle" boiling. This was appreciated by all. The Island is delightful, and can be completely circumnavigated on "foot", while beautiful views may be captivated by the camera on climbing the hill.

All aboard! and the launch proceeded along the Parramatta River, where many interesting places were observed. Cameras were very much in evidence so we will look forward to a "showing" of "Our Harbour Cruise" later in the year.

During the afternoon the sky clouded over, and a chill wind made its presence felt, but the spirits of the party were not dampened in any way. As we neared Circular Quay, Mr. Gifford Eardley moved a vote of thanks to Alderman Rathbone and this was carried by acclamation.

A very happy crowd dispersed quickly on arrival at the Quay, all declaring that the Harbour Cruise was the "best outing ever" - and "let's do it again next year".

Eileen Eardley.

REMINISCENCES OF EARLY HURSTVILLE FAMILIES.

Thelma Hayman.

In 1911 when I went to live with my grandparents in Matthew Street, the lower end of which is now known as Hillcrest Avenue, this particular section of Hurstville was then being opened up as a residential area. It was not until the closing of the 1914-1918 World War that Hurstville Grove began to be closely settled.

On the opposite side of the street to where my grandparents resided was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Webb. It may be mentioned that Mr. Webb held the responsible position of foreman in the paint shop division of the Eveleigh Railway Workshops and that his good wife, before her marriage, was Miss Anna Hall, the eldest daughter of Mr. Hall, the first stationmaster at Hurstville. Because of our friendship with Mrs. Webb I came to know Mrs. Hall and her other two daughters and their families. The second daughter was named Lavinia and she married Mr. Albert Schloeffel, a member of the long established firm of estate agents, still operating in Hurstville as Messrs. Schloeffel and Paul. The other girl, Martha, was wedded to Mr. Horace Hearn. I believe there was a son named Thomas, but I was not acquainted with him.

The house of the Hall family is still standing at the corner of Pearl Street and Gloucester Road, opposite the present Hurstville Community Hospital. In my recollection the latter premises, known formerly as "Goshen", was the home of the Loudon family. Mr. Loudon being a boot and shoe manufacturer. The house was eventually utilised as the Goshen Private Hospital and, in due course, became the Community Hospital. The original building was a large white-painted weatherboard cottage, surrounded by wide verandahs, and set amidst beautifully kept gardens and shrubbery. Underneath the house was a large cellar which, in the days before household refrigeration became almost universal, was most useful for keeping food-stuffs cool.

It was customary for suburbanites to keep numerous ducks and fowls confined within wired enclosures at the rear of the house, a hole generally being cut in the base of the dividing fence to let the birds forage at will on the adjacent vacant paddock. The Hall family were no exception to this rule and much exchanging of broody hens and ducks, together with settings of eggs, went on amongst the neighbours. The merits or otherwise of the various roosters were also discussed and their exuberant crowing at the break of day was, perhaps, the principal sound to be heard in old-time Hurstville.

The good ladies of the Hall household were great makers of jams, preserves, pickles, etc., made from the fruit and vegetables grown in their back yard garden. It was a great delight in those now far off days to go down to the cellar where Mrs. Hall kept good things to eat. The rows of neatly labelled jars standing in order along the various shelves were, in modern parlance, a "finger-licker" attraction. The dimly lit cellar, especially in the hot summer months, was always delightfully cool and well aired.

Of course, living so close to the Webb family my memories of them are the strongest. There were three girls and two boys, who were Mrs. Webb's step-children (Mr. Webb having been left a widower with a very young family to rear). These children all attended Hurstville Public School. It was quite a distance to walk and there was no form of public transport for local services in those days. Quite often, instead of walking the full length of Hillcrest Avenue, we children would turn off at Belmore Road, now King Georges Road, and proceed across the overhead traffic bridge at Penshurst, this deviation being made to take eggs, and sometimes ducks and fowls, to Mrs. Hall's place, the birds being placed in a sugar-bag in which a hole was cut at a convenient height to permit the unfortunate bird to have a last look at the surrounding world in general. The long trek to the school was then resumed. After school we would, on occasion, call at Gloucester Road again to carry back similar items to Mrs. Webb.

There were many employees of the Railway Department living close to our home at Hurstville Grove and I well remember the 1917 Railwaymen's Strike and its often uncontrolled happenings. Mr. Webb remained loyal to the Department, being a "Staff" man by his very position, and it became necessary for him to have a police escort from the nearby railway station to his home, the strikers of the locality walking along the opposite side of the street calling out "Scab", an opprobrious name totally undeserved in his particular case. The strikers also exhibited their fury by throwing stones on the roof of Mr. Webb's house at all hours of the day and night. It was an offensive period to say the least, and its rancour lasted for many a long year after the event. Upon his retirement from the Railway Department, Mr. and Mrs. Webb went to live at Tahmoor where the good wife died about 1960, Mr. Webb having predeceased her.

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