



ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPONSORED BY ROCKDALE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

81 Watkin Street,
BEXLEY. 2207.

11th December, 1970.

Dear Friend and Member,

The Final Meeting for 1970 of our Society will be held as follows:-

Date: Friday Evening Next, 18th December, 1970, at 8 p. m.

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

A short business meeting will be held.

A selection of Films by courtesy of "The Rural Bank Library" will be shown. This will be then followed by a "CHRISTMAS SUPPER".

Would lady members please bring a plate as usual, and Mrs. Eardley would appreciate any help in preparing supper from the lady members. Gentlemen kindly donate 20¢.

Your President and the Executive thank the members of the Society for their help and support during 1970, and take this opportunity to wish them A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR to all.

D. H. Sinclair,
PRESIDENT.

(Miss) J. Noble,
HON. SECRETARY.
59.6796.

Mr. A. Ellis, RESEARCH OFFICER - 587.1159.

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CORRECTION. Winner of Cup Saucer & Plate donated by Miss McCartney was Mrs. Lee.

PLEASE NOTE. Due to the Centenary Celebrations of the Rockdale Municipality, it has been decided that the Society hold a JANUARY MEETING on Friday Evening, 22nd January, 1971, Guest Speaker, Mr. W. Marshall.

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"LYDHAM HALL"

I am sure members will be pleased to learn that, during last month, Rockdale Council completed the purchase of Lydham Hall. This old home in Lydham Avenue, Bexley, is to be used as an historical museum where items of interest may be displayed for all to see.

Whilst the Council has assumed responsibility for the restoration and maintenance of the outside of the building, our Society has undertaken to restore and furnish the interior. This work has already been commenced, and some members have spent recent Saturday afternoons in painting ceilings and walls, and cleaning the cedar woodwork so that the timber may be restored to its original condition.

The task of restoring a home 115 years old calls for a lot of patient work, and we are in need of assistance from all members who are able to help. This help may take a number of forms - by spending a few hours either mid-week or at week-ends in cleaning timber, assisting the ladies committee to raise funds, or by giving or lending furniture and items for eventual display.

Any assistance members may give would be greatly appreciated.

D.H. Sinclair.

PRESIDENT.

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.

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1971.

FEBRUARY - 27TH SATURDAY. FORT DENISON INSPECTION.

Limited to 50 persons, please make bookings early. Details later.

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DATES TO REMEMBER !

FEBRUARY 6TH Vintage Train Rockdale Centenary Celebrations.

FEBRUARY 20TH ... Official Opening of "LYDHAM HALL".

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"LYDHAM HALL FUND RAISING COMMITTEE"

STALL. A very successful stall was held at Rockdale on Saturday morning 21st November, to raise funds for the restoration of Lydham Hall, Bexley. The amount raised was \$249.90.

The Raffle "A XMAS HAMPER" donated by Miss Dunsmore was won by Mr. Hayman of Kogarah.

COOKING DEMONSTRATION by courtesy of St. George County Council. Ninety eight persons attended this entertaining Evening on Wednesday, 25th November.

The raffles were donated by Miss Noble. Results: 1st Prize, Mrs. Bushell, 2nd Prize, Mrs. R. Moar, Jnr.

FILM EVENING. A successful Film evening on the recent visit to Gulgong was held on Saturday Evening, 28th November, at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Piper, of Bexley. We would like to thank Mr. & Mrs. Piper for opening their home to us.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking those members who have contributed to the Stall and other fund raising activities during the past few months, and also thanks to the members of the Ladies Committee, who have helped to make our efforts such a success. Our Bank Balance now stands at \$713.55.

(Mrs) E. Wright. 30.11.70.
President of the Fund Raising
Committee.

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| 3. | FEBRUARY | - An Incident in Castlereagh Street, Sydney. (as reported in the Sydney Herald, 14.11.1831) - Extract from the Hurstville Propeller dated 13th May, 1921. "A Link With The Past". Mr. Fred Gannon. |
| 5. | | - Old St. David's Church of England - Arncliffe. Illustrated. |
| 13. | MARCH | - The Latter Day Personnel of the Sans-Souci Tramway. |
| 15. | | - Extract from "Back to Mortdale School". A Brief History of Mortdale. |
| 17. | APRIL | - Captain James Cook, R.N. Illustrated. |
| 23. | | Cont. Extract from "Back to Mortdale School". A Brief History of Mortdale. |
| 30. | MAY | - A Brief History of the Garden Island Dockyard. |
| 35. | | - The Affairs of Rose Vale Villa, Rockdale. Illustrated. - Pilgrimage to Kurnell. |
| 39. | JUNE | - The History of Tempe House, Tempe. |
| 40. | | - Cooks River - The History of its Early Homes & Bridges. |
| 45. | JULY | - Cobbitty. A Village of the Cow-Pastures. Illustrated. |
| 50. | AUGUST | - A Hospital in Contrast. |
| 53. | | - The Blacksmiths and Farriers of Rockdale. |
| 56. | SEPTEMBER | - The Affairs of James Beehag. A Rockdale Pioneer. |
| 60. | | - "Lydham Hall". Illustrated. Illustrated. |
| 62. | OCTOBER | - Our Cruise on the Harbour. |
| 63. | | - Reminiscences of Early Hurstville Families. |
| 65. | NOVEMBER | - Visit to Gulgong. |
| 75. | DECEMBER | - The Chinese Market Gardeners of St. George District. Illustrated. |

PUBLICATIONS OF THE ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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| 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
reaily 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.

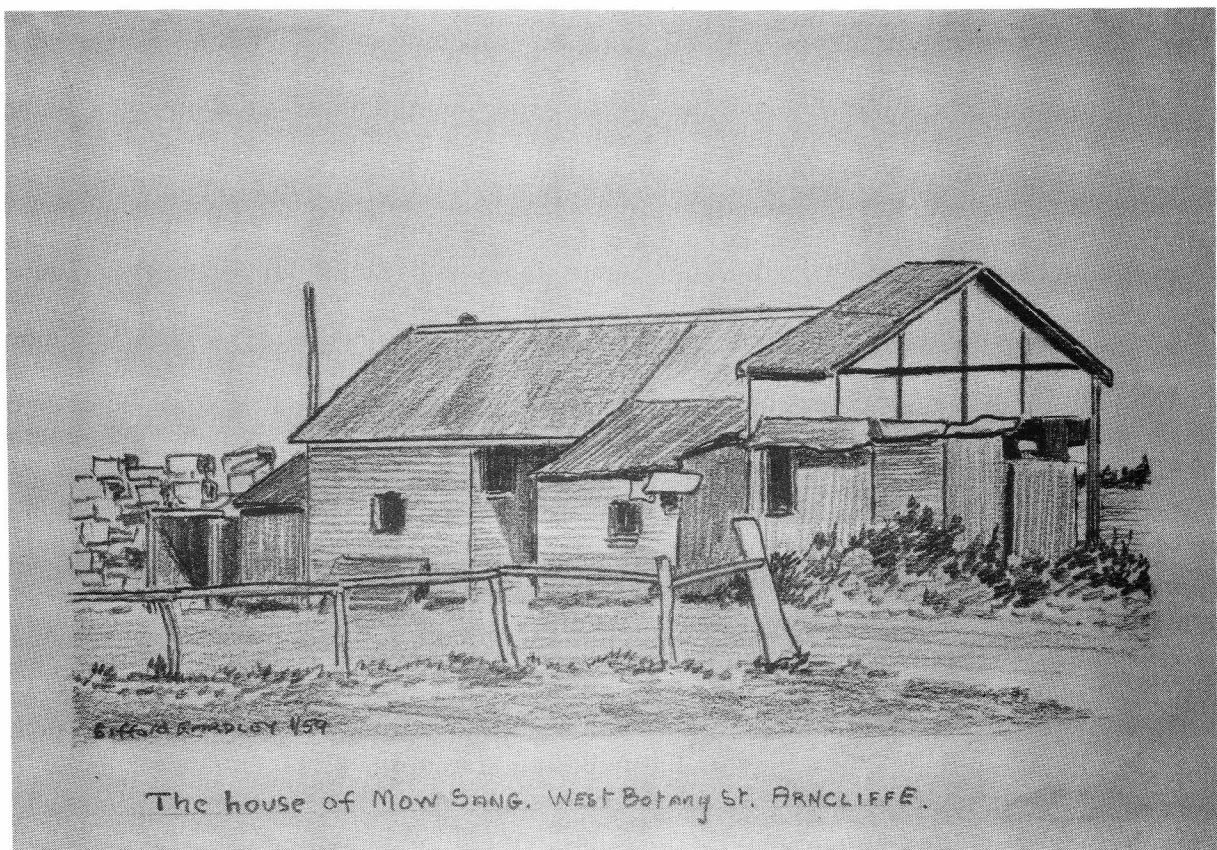
OR

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

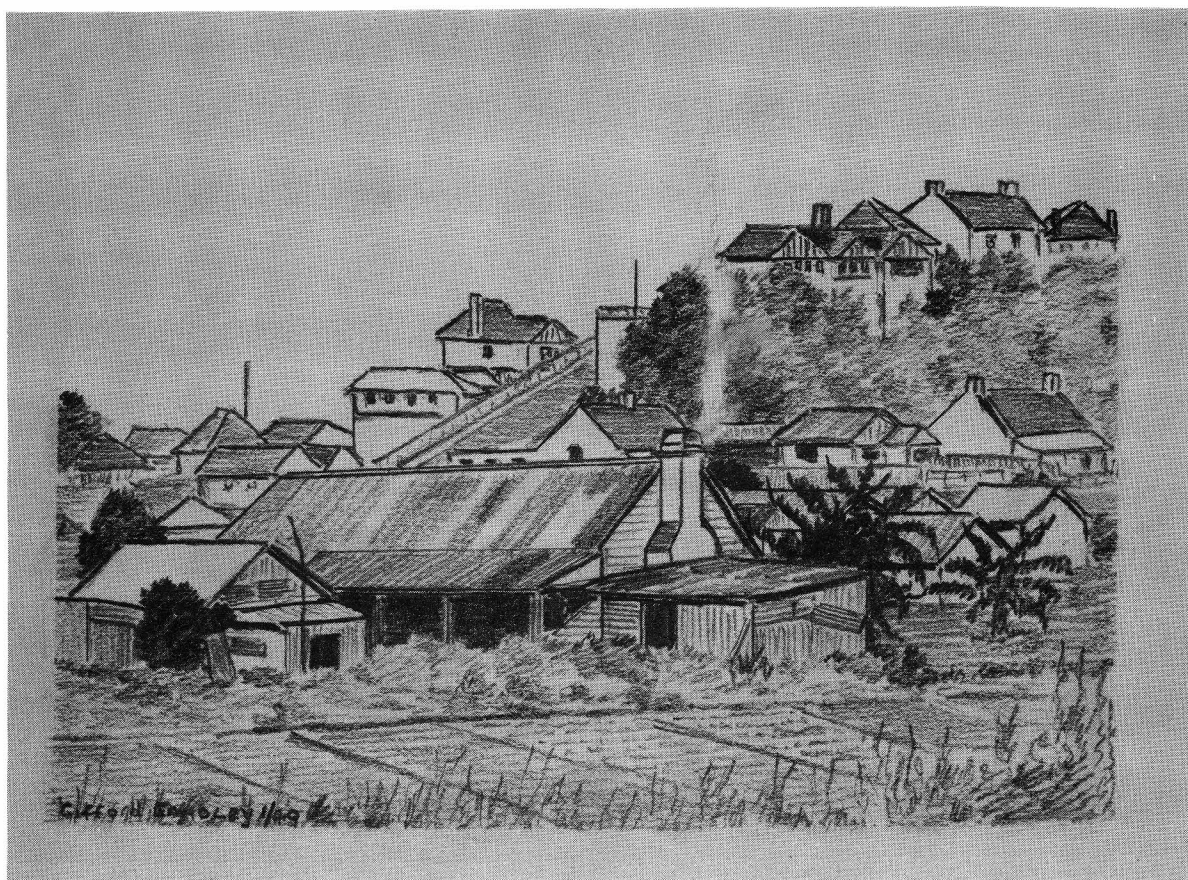
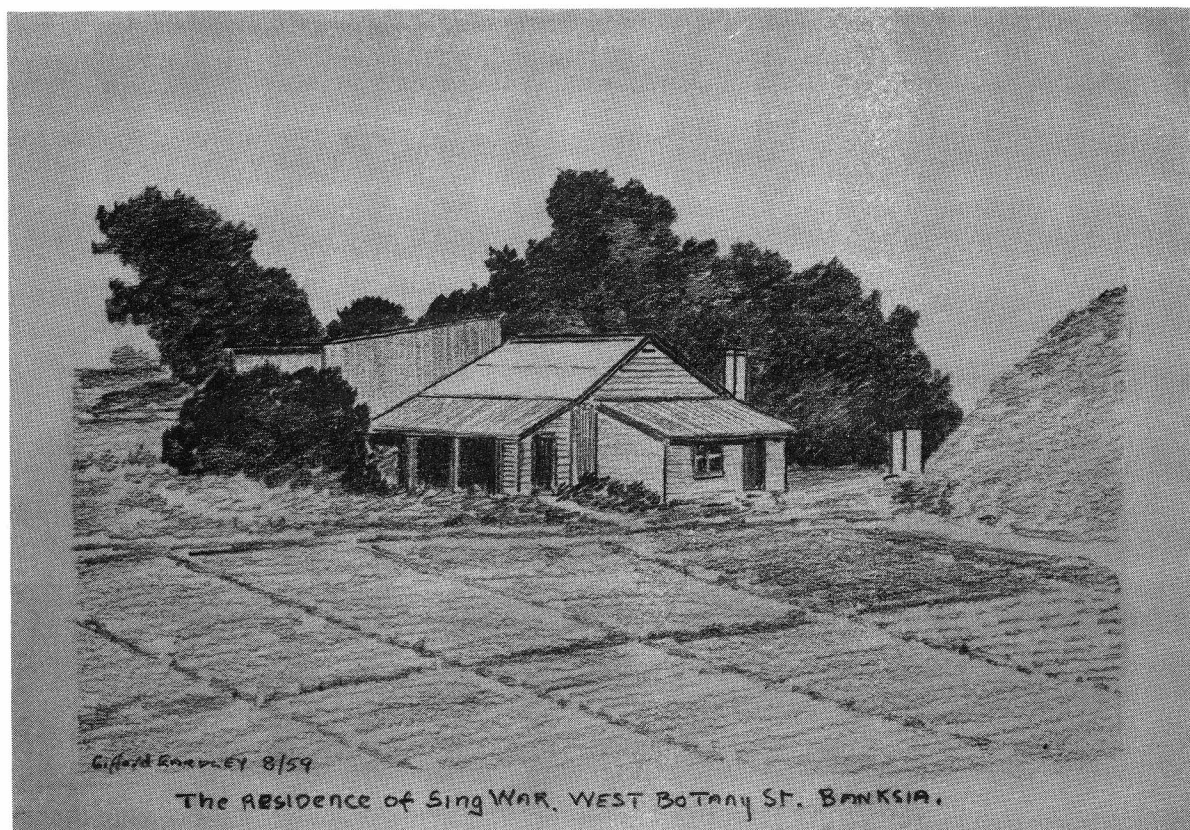
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SAM HOP'S RESIDENCE. EVE ST. ARNCLIFFE.



The house of MOW SANG. WEST BOTANY ST. ARNCLIFFE.



THE CHINESE MARKET GARDENERS OF ST. GEORGE DISTRICT.

Gifford and Eileen Eardley.

The search for gold in Australia during the eighteen-fifties and later brought a great number of Chinese people, mostly from the southern provinces of that fascinating land, to seek their fortunes in this our wonderful continent. With the passing of the years and the petering out of the gold resources many of the Celestials returned to their homeland, some rich materially, others rich in experience. However, many elected to remain, and found a living in market gardening and the manufacture of furniture. These industries were financed by the more wealthy members of their community, who sought out avenues for the employment of their brethren. To this end the various market gardens farmed by Europeans along the fertile bottoms of Wolli Creek and Muddy Creek, and as far afield as Scarborough Park and Blakehurst were, with few exceptions acquired, and the houses on these properties were occupied by the employees of the new owners. In other instances it was necessary to erect small cottages in the cheapest possible fashion, built from such second-hand material as was readily available, and designed in principle to give shelter from wind and rain. These shanties were purely functional in every way and had no architectural pretensions. They were built without levels or plumb-lines, and always in a glorious higgledy-piggledy fashion.

It has been truly said that beauty is only in the eye of the beholder, but the authors must confess that the not so obvious charms associated with what may be regarded as the Chinese huts of yester-year have not escaped their admiring notice. This primitive style of architecture follows no fixed order or design and was solely dictated by the material at hand, covering the length of available tree trunks for uprights, and also the lengths of galvanised iron sheets obtainable at the lowest possible cost. A communal living room with its wide open fireplace at one side was essential for the general well-being of the community, whilst off this were ranged a number of smaller chambers providing sleeping accommodation, each with its tiny casement window for lighting. Ceiling heights were low, perhaps about seven feet, and oftimes unlined, a fine view of the interior roof timbers with a glimpse of the blue sky far above through badly fitting sheets of iron often being a reward for those who like just these things.

Strangely enough, although extremely primitive in its concept, the main living room was very snug, and was certainly well lived in. The little casement window, which usually opened outward, often had a covering of chaff-bag material nailed along the lintel, an arrangement which to a certain extent kept out the all pervading house-flies and mosquitos, but one missed any attempt at beautification, and colour of any shade was a missing refinement. The glow of the small fire of sticks burning on the hearth, surrounded by sundry cooking pots, some dangling above the flames on pieces of wire, was the very heart of the indoor scene and gave an air of comfort to an otherwise somewhat cheerless existence.

Mother earth formed the floor of these abodes in some instances and was kept in a reasonably dry condition by the presence of a narrow open ditch

which ran around the outside of the external walling. Beds, chairs, and tables etc. were generally purchased cheaply and call for little comment, being of the standard type. Floors were invariably well swept and the place, apart from cupboards, had a lining of favourite hoes, pitch-forks with either two or three sharp pointed prongs, spades, and other accoutrements essential to the market gardener.

Adjacent to the roughly built horse and cart stable was the large manure heap, a mass of pungent bedding straw and other unmentionable commodities, which, when well spread and dug in, gave fertility to the soil. Nearby was the evil smelling "Loo", with its surround of broad-leaved castor-oil trees for shade, shelter, and privacy. At times the shanty was placed within a girdle of ailanthus trees, which have a religious significance for Chinese people, and are known by them as "The Tree of Heaven". The presence of these trees around any area is usually the sign of one-time Chinese occupancy. The construction of the "Loo" would have made a modern sanitician's hair stand on end. A rough framework of upright poles supported the side and back walls of galvanised iron, and in most cases the pleasures of a roof were missing. The so useful chaff-bag, suspended from the front top crossbar of the doorway by a row of nails, gave a front covering to good effect. Health inspectors have been known to express disapproval of the little out-house and its internal arrangement. A flower garden of any description was a missing refinement, although the shrub bearing a large white pungent-smelling trumpet shaped flower was occasionally to be seen together with a sprinkling of tiny mauve coloured opium poppies. This latter plant has disappeared nowadays from these former haunts of the men from China, but an occasional bloom may be seen at times around the low-lying lands of Arncliffe.

The absence of dogs around the place was noticeable, the animals by all accounts being more noted for their culinary propensities. However some gardens kept several skinny specimens chained up to act as watch-dogs against vegetable thieves. There were always plenty of cats who eked out a living from the mouse tribes frequenting the stables. The cats had fur coats which showed a wondrous range of colour, from pure black, off white, to ginger and grey. They were not domesticated to any extent and did not court friendship in any way.

Leading from the always crazily constructed entrance gateway at the street alignment, a three furrowed pathway led to the house and around to its packing shed and stables. The two wheel ruts were often surfaced with dead reeds, or with leather scraps which were obtained gratis from the boot and shoe factories, thus tending to bind the sandy track together, whilst the centre track, between the narrow grass verges, was devoted to the path of the horse and was generally left in rough condition to give better hoof grip. Along the route of the path, on both sides, was a rank growth of grass intermingled with weeds and herbs of various distinctions, each of interest to a botanist and each a botanical wonder in its own particular way.

Essentially agriculturist way back into the dim past, it was a pleasure to meet these kindly Chinese people. They worked hard and lived hard, their only pleasures would appear to be an occasional trip of a weekend to see their compatriots in the Haymarket or Waterloo area, where, in some instances,

they enjoyed a quiet pipe of opium, thereby gaining relaxation from the rigours of everyday life, or played Fan-tan, a gambling entertainment which often led them, in batches, to the local police courts and a subsequent fine. Women folk of their own nationality were few and far between, and perhaps with one exception, appeared to be a missing disturbing element in the normal tranquil life of the Chinese community of St. George.

The usual everyday attire of the gardeners consisted of somewhat baggy pants of much soiled blue denim with a loose shirt worn outside the trousers. When the sun was hot a huge wide-brimmed hat, with a low crown, gave facial protection, the same cane head-gear was also used in the rain, together with a thick cornsack over the shoulders, while a cape of long ribbon-like grass, dried to a light yellow shade, has also been noticed. Everyday ablutions were usually carried out under the shade of the open verandah extension of the hutment, where a four-legged stool of sorts held the enamel dish of water, and a tin sufficed to hold the household soap. The towel, in common use, was strung out to dry either on the nearest convenient bush, or draped over a piece of cord tied between the verandah posts. It was all very elementary, but evidently very satisfactory for the needs of John Chinaman.

The boundary fence of the average Chinese garden consisted of a post and rail fence, a carry-over in most cases from the former European ownership of the market garden. This fence and its immediate vicinity was a sort of no-man's land where flourished unhindered a wild unkept hedge of blackberries intermixed with pink and white lantana canes, a prickly unapproachable mass of foliage which afforded shelter to a multitude of small birds such as Zebra Finches, Blue-wrens, Redheads, Silver-eyes, and the humble but cheeky house sparrow.

The vegetable gardens were always well-tilled, each a model of rectangular rectitude. Ploughs were not used and every inch of the arable land was industriously dug over by fork or spade. Each plant was kept in its row and straight alignment, and between each row was a narrow watering footpath, kept absolutely free from weeds of any kind. Weeding the beds was a never ending occupation and a back-breaking chore to say the least. It was carried on regardless of weather conditions. Another never ending job was the watering of the vegetable plants per medium of a pair of large capacity watering cans, each slung from the end of a stout wooden shoulder yoke. Here and there amongst the vegetable beds was a water pond, about twelve feet in diameter, which collected the drainage from the various paths and conserved it for future use. A single plank served these wells, which permitted the gardener to enter a short distance below the surface of the water and thus fill his cans with a minimum of effort. There was always a spread of duckweed floating on the pond and also a congregation of yellow and bronze-green frogs who found conditions suitable for their tranquil existence, free from interference unless, perchance, a heron or a white egret discovered their hideout.

The varied market garden produce was usually taken by horse drawn two-wheeled carts to the City Vegetable Markets, the vehicles leaving the yard at a very early hour, and after the disposal of the wares to the whole-

salers, a call was made, in a cleansing capacity, at the various stables where a return load of straw and manure was gathered. The fertility of the soil and its high productivity was maintained by this constant enrichment of otherwise waste products. Another source of vegetable disposal was the local round to nearby residents per medium of a pair of wickerwork carrying baskets of semi-circular shape, one of which dangled by cords from either end of a nicely tapered shoulder yoke. One of the oldtime sights of Rockdale was to see John Chinaman jogging along with his fully loaded baskets, calling here and there to his numerous customers, most of whom were gratefully thanked at Christmastime by a present of a large green glazed jar of preserved ginger, said jars nowadays being eagerly sought after by collectors of such bric-a-brac.

In the early nineteen-hundreds, at weekends and holidays, the market gardeners reaped a harvest of money at Brighton le Sands where they foregathered at the terminal of Saywell's Tramway. Here they awaited the picnicking crowds and did a roaring trade in tomatoes, lettuce, and cucumbers, all bright and fresh for eating at the picnic lunch in Shady Nook, or on the sands of the then wonderful beach. There was also a regular system of customer rounds made on a larger scale by horse drawn carts from which fruit was sold in addition to garden produce. An opened cornsack was spread-eagled beneath the cart with cords radiating to the four corners of the vehicle. Ensconced within the sacking were potatoes, onions and swede turnips, items which would not be seriously affected by road dust and grime.

It is of interest to recall the location of these fertile Chinese market gardens, as most of them, under the lack of wise planning, have been given over to factory sites, or have lain fallow because their leases have expired. The production of essential green foodstuffs for an ever-growing city community is obviously regarded as being of secondary importance in municipal circles.

Commencing from the north-eastern portion of the Rockdale Municipality, in the vicinity of the Cooks River Bridge, we would have found the first of these old gardens off the eastern side of Illawarra Street, the growing area being bisected by the magnificent brick sewer viaduct which spans the low-lying area, at one time a tidal marsh, and also the small creek which spills down from what might be regarded as the Wollongong Road Valley. The southern fence of the garden property, a rickety post and rail affair, followed the alignment of Allen Street, Arncliffe. The garden house was a low pitched galvanised iron cottage of rambling disposition, intermixed with shaky packing sheds, cart-sheds, and stables, and surrounded by the inevitable castor-oil trees set off by occasional clumps of the feathery plumed pampas grass. A row of New Zealand flax plants was also in evidence, the spiky leaves of which were torn into thin strips for the binding of spinach, carrots, parsnips, and swede turnips. It was a picturesque assembly of primitive buildings of all sorts, sizes, and shapes, although comfortable withal it was a group that would not be sanctioned by present day over-bearing building regulations. Unfortunately in recent years this garden has been replaced by a number of factories and foundries and little if anything remains to mark the site of the one time fertile growing area, even the creek has been channelled to discharge through brick lined walls and the water-rats are no more.

Tracing our footsteps along the old Arncliffe Road and entering the Valley of Wolli Creek the first and now long abandoned Chinese garden was Pine Farm, occupying the site of the junction of the East Hills Railway. The position of the former cottage is still marked by a lovely American Magnolia tree, which flourishes against the railway signal-box. Immediately north of the junction, on the salt marsh bordering Wolli Creek, is a large patch of Autumn Crocus displaying a mass of dainty white bell-shaped flowers in season.

Continuing on our way in a westerly direction, and passing beneath the huge sewer viaduct, the old road reached a second garden placed on the site now occupied by the National Cash Register Company. Later than 1901 the industrious Chinese lived in the small brick built Primitive Methodist Church, then no longer in use for worship. This edifice was on the garden property and was quickly surrounded by packing sheds and stables of typical Chinese design. Then came a small garden which was located on the former Reuben Hannam grant adjacent to the water splash of Arncliffe Road across Wolli Creek. This garden was fringed along its road border by a grove of lofty age-old *Pinus Insignis* trees and Weeping willows and *Casuarinas* grew thickly along the banks of the creek. The double-frontaged weatherboard cottage was obviously one of the Hudson "Ready-built" type. The garden has long been abandoned and factories now occupy the site.

Crossing the footbridge over Wolli Creek the road passed between two market gardens, that on the south lying within the bend of Wolli Creek, and its quaint little cottage, flanked by coral trees, was on higher ground nestling beneath the rocky escarpment of Nanny-goat Hill. The northern garden was once distinguished by two tall Norfolk Island Pine trees and a grove of white-flowered acacia trees. There was the usual conglomeration of small buildings of various sorts and sizes, one being noted for its galvanised-iron roof, the sheets on the south side overlapping at the top by some three feet those set on the northern side of the building. Successive floodings of Wolli Creek in the nineteen-thirties wiped out both gardens, consequently their distinctive cottages as well as the Pine trees were demolished. Their lands, still subject to flooding, are still vacant and covered with reeds. A large "dipping" pond still remains, full of tiny fish, and sheltered by scarlet flowered coral trees.

Retracing our steps and proceeding eastward along Arncliffe Road, and from thence into Princes Highway, we cross over to Marsh Street and come to the former vegetable farm of Thomas Beehag. This small garden, now operated by Chinese people, is still in production and its collection of buildings are assembled together in a discarded section of Marsh Street. The garden is bordered by a thick hedge of wildlings and is most picturesque. Also on the former William Beehag's property, but ranged against the lower northern side of Eve Street, Arncliffe, was another garden, complete with a Chinese built cottage and outhouses of wondrous design, flanked by a dense cluster of Camphor Laurel trees intermixed with Castor-oil trees. One particular end-gabled out-house had its galvanised-iron roof about one foot higher at one end than the other, giving rather an unusual effect but what can one do without a level. This garden has long been abandoned, although the buildings, in derelict condition, remain, together with the splendid trees. A small allotment, without any housing arrangement, was located on the

southern side of Eve Street, immediately opposite the last mentioned garden, but it too has been abandoned.

Reverting to West Botany Street and going in a southerly direction we reach Spring Street, on the southern side of which once lay the extensive gardening property of William Beehag. This rich bottom land was leased to a number of Chinese gardeners and at least two groups had their residences placed thereon. The westernmost was the usual conglomeration of buildings, whilst that on the east was built of brick and was a single room wide. This place was featureless, but distinguished at times by a smelly row of fish, pegged by their tails on to a clothes line, drying in the sun. On the eastern side of West Botany Street, opposite to the intersection of Spring Street, were two other gardens, the southernmost still being in occupation, its housing clustered on higher land at the southern end and flanked by the ubiquitous Coral trees.

Turning into Bestic Street and crossing Muddy Creek Bridge the former farms owned by the Goode brothers are now cultivated by Chinese who live in the original farmhouses ranged along the length of Occupation Road. It is believed that large quantities of shallots are grown on these fertile acres which are bounded on their western side by the mangrove fringed Muddy Creek. There was another garden located near the northern end and on the western side of Francis Avenue. The weatherboard residence was rectangular in shape, devoid of paint, gaunt, and unadorned.

Retracing our steps to West Botany Street and proceeding southwards we reach the former property of Mr. Wilson whose house is claimed to be the first cottage built in the Rockdale area. This edifice still stands in good condition and its garden nowadays is cultivated by Chinese people. Across Muddy Creek Bridge, south of the former Napper property, now occupied by the Elizabethan Bowling Club, was another garden of which little is known. Chinese also farmed the section of land on the western side of West Botany Street between Muddy Creek and Bay Street. There were two market gardens on the southern side of Bay Street, one either side of the James Street intersection, their sites being now occupied by modern suburban residences.

We now adjoin to the Princes Highway where a fine vegetable garden once flourished on the property, so it is understood, of the Skidmore Family, but later by a team of Chinese gardeners who resided in a slab built humpy at the north-western corner of the land. Although a post and rail fence bordered this property on its northern side a hedge of wild growth, intermixed with a line of tall *Pinus insignis* trees lined a trickling stream on the western side, said creek flowing from the Frederick Street area at Rockdale. The bank of Muddy Creek on the southern side was covered with a dense impenetrable mass of lantana, whilst on the eastern frontage along the alignment of Princes Highway, the old post and rail fence was covered with masses of the orange flowered *Buddleia*. The Skidmore homestead, of three small buildings built of brick, was against the main road on the southern side of Muddy Creek and was always occupied by Europeans. The humpy mentioned above conformed in every way to the description given in the early part of this essay.

Against the eastern side of the Princes Highway, on the site now occupied by the Southside Plaza, was an extensive garden at first farmed by Samuel Schofield, and later by the Reuter family. In recent years this land was in the hands of the Chinese, likewise the neighbouring Twiss garden further to the east. At the corner of Moore Street (now an extension of West Botany Street) and President Avenue was another small garden of later vintage, the little residence, now derelict, being constructed of fibrolite sheets. Passing beyond the old Moorefield Racecourse area to Toomevara Street, Kogarah, the vegetable farm originally owned by James Beehag is nowadays cultivated by a Chinese lady with the help of her compatriots. The house is of brick and almost obscured by a huge packing shed. The southernmost farm in what may be regarded as the Pat Moore's Swamp area nestles beneath the eastern face of Clarke's Hill at Ramsgate and is bordered on its eastern side by the boundary fence of Scarborough Park. The residence is low and squat and built of galvanised iron and both it and the adjoining garden are maintained in excellent order.

We now cross over Clarke's Hill in a westerly direction to gain the flat lands at the head of Kogarah Bay. Here the early farms of John Carroll and James English came into Chinese hands and were assiduously cultivated. Then onwards to Blakehurst where there was another Chinese garden on the shallow northern slopes leading downward to Kogarah Bay Creek. Much of this land has been subdivided in recent years for housing requirements. At the north-eastern corner of the junction of the old Kogarah Road with Woniora Road at Blakehurst there was a wide expanse of garden, the southern outpost so to speak, where the Chinamen resided in a little brick building clear of the vegetable plots and facing towards Woniora Road. A little while ago the garden was reclaimed as a playing field while the erstwhile cottage has been demolished.

No more will we hear the jingle of harness on the road and the steady plod-plodding of the horses as they passed on their way to and from the city markets. The old order has passed and the motor age, with its crazy desire for speed, has come to stay. Scanning over the long list of local market gardens one reaches the conclusion that the greater part of the arable land came into the hands of the men from China. These lands were taken over, in their productive stage, from European ownership, after the pioneering work had been accomplished, the marsh lands drained, and the encroaching forest felled. The pioneers first grubbed and tilled the garden beds with their hand tools and excavated the numerous watering ponds. They erected their primitive houses, barns, and stables, from such materials which came readily to hand. Theirs was a hard life of unremitting toil and it is quite understandable that these people should have sold, at presumably satisfactory prices, to the Orientals, particularly when the bank depression years of the early eighteen-eighties so sadly hit the fortunes of the community at large. The industrious Chinese, with their frugal habits, and so few needs, weathered the financial storm and their gardens became widely known as "The Vegetable Bowl of Sydney". It is unfortunate that so few of these gardens remain in production.

The authors trust that they have graphically presented a short history, covering most if not all of the market gardens, and what may be tersely regarded as the Chinese invasion of the Land District of Eastern St. George.