



ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

24 Duff Street
ARNCLIFFE 2205.
July 1974

Dear Friend and Member.

The Annual Meeting of this Society will be held as follows:-

Date: Friday Evening, July 19th 1974.
Place: Council Chamber, Town Hall, Princes Highway, Rockdale.
Business: Opening and Welcome.
Apologies.
Minutes of Previous Annual Meeting.
Annual Financial Report.
Lytham Hall Annual Report.
Report from President of Fund Raising Committee.
President's Annual Report.

Election of Officers for 1974-1975

Patrons (4)
President
Senior Vice President
Vice Presidents (3)
Hon Secretary
Hon Asst. Secretary
Hon Treasurer
Hon Auditors (2)
Committee of Management. (President Secretary Treasurer
and 7 Members)

Lytham Hall Committee

Ladies Social Committee. It has been suggested that all Ladies
who are able - go on Roster?

also:

Research Officer. Publicity Officer. Editor & Social Secretary.

Correspondence
General Business

Syllabus Item: A short talk by Mr. Don Sinclair.

Supper Roster: Captain Mrs. O'Shea. Mesdames Farrar. Preddey,
Longhurst. Samuelson

Ladies please bring a plate

Mr. D. Sinclair
President Phone 587. 4555

Mrs. E. Wright
Treasurer & Social Sec. Phone 599. 4884.

Mrs. E. Eardley
Secretary Phone 59. 8078.

Mr. A. Ellis
Research Officer. 587. 1159.

Members please note:-

The Treasurer, Mrs. Wright would appreciate Members filling in Subscription Forms enclosed for 1974-1975, attaching the necessary amounts and giving same to her at the July 19th meeting. Receipts will be forwarded with your August Bulletin. Thank you.

Special Notice.

The "Lydham Hall" Local Committee extends, with pleasure, an invitation to all Members of the St. George Historical Society to visit "Lydham Hall" on Saturday July 20th and or Sunday July 21st, 1974 between 1.30 p.m. and 4 p.m. Afternoon Tea will be served. Do come along, you will enjoy your visit to this lovely old Home; there is no charge on this occasion.

The St. George Historical Society's Seventh Booklet.

In the quaint and ancient phraseology of the printing industry it is pleasing to announce that the seventh booklet to be published by the St. George Historical Society "has been put to bed". Prepared and illustrated by Gifford Eardley, a former President, it is entitled "TEMPE AND THE BLACK CREEK VALLEY" and covers "TEMPE HOUSE" and the adjacent village of Tempe (located south of Cooks River in what may be regarded as North Arncliffe) and continues along the course of Black, or Muddy, Creek, dealing with the pioneer homes and buildings en route, to terminate at the pig farm of Konrad Francks, located at the southern end of James Street, Rockdale. Some twenty-one pencil sketches serve to illustrate the text, together with a sketch map of the locality. Readers may delight in the extraordinary architecture of the dwellings occupied by the Chinese market-gardeners.

Special Note

A Harbour Cruise, September 21st, 1974, landing at Clark Island for lunch has been suggested. ARE YOU INTERESTED??? Our Social Secretary, Mrs. Wright, finds it most difficult and disappointing when endeavouring to arrange outings for the pleasure of the Members. The lack of support, and lack of interest is not encouraging for future Social Excursions. In the past we have had some lovely trips hither and yon, can't we revive the interest??? Canberra Weekend October 5th, 6th, 7th, 1974. Deposits please. Details later.

Please notify Secretary of any change of address

Syllabus Items

July 19th. Election of Officers. At conclusion Mr. Don Sinclair will give an address.

August 16th. Mr. Bill Bayley - Travels in Historical Research Illustrated.

September 20th. Mr. Vaughan Evans - River Steamers of the Murray and Darling Illustrated.

SANS SOUCI. N.S.W.JOTTINGS from Lieutenant-Commander R.F. Moag, MBE., RAN.

This record of events relating to the Sans Souci area, arranged in chronological order, and compiled by Lieutenant Commander R.F. Moag, MBE., RN., is of great historical value and will be of interest to many of our Members.

- 1830. On New Years Day Robert Cooper (Junior) married Catherine Rutter at St. James Church, Sydney. Some months later the Governor (Sir Ralph Darling) made a grant of 100 acres of land to the bride. This land was to be named CHARLOTTE POINT in honour of the bride's mother. It soon lost this name which was replaced by the more descriptive - ROCKY POINT.
- 1840. A later (1838-46) Governor, Sir George Gipps, took Robert Cooper to task for not attending ST. PETERS CHURCH (at what is now St. Peters) regularly. When told of the absence of roads, the Governor ordered the Superintendent of Convicts to get some men and clear a track - so began Rocky Point Road from Cooks River.
- 1846. The Coopers daughter CAROLINE was born at ROCKY POINT HOUSE in 1846 and baptized at St. Peters, the journey being made by pack-horse. Caroline's father was engaged at this time, in distilling spirits (his father's trade) which he also transported to Sydney by packhorse - sometimes via KINGSGROVE in bad weather.
- 1853. THOMAS HOLT bought land along ROCKY POINT ROAD including Rocky Point House which he re-named SANS SOUCI (after the palace in POTSDAM) in honour of his wife, who was from GERMANY.
- 1858. JOHN & MARIA STOCKDALE (with infant son SAMUEL) came to SANS SOUCI. John Stockdale was the coachman. In July of that year their second child ANN ESTHER was born, after which the couple moved to CARROLL'S HILL to commence Market Gardening.

During the '60's SANS SOUCI was taken over as an hotel by WILLIAM EDWARD and EMMA JANE RUST. RUST was originally a sailor from the MERCHANT SERVICE and his wife was skilled in the running of hotels and restaurants. Mr. & Mrs. RUST gained further experience at the SIR JOSEPH BANKS HOTEL, BOTANY, before coming to SANS SOUCI.

- 1867. In 1867 the RUSTS moved from SANS SOUCI to STRIPPERS POINT, where they built the first PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL and re-named the locality. SANDRINGHAM after his birthplace (1829) in England. During that year PRINCE ALFRED, DUKE OF EDINBURGH visited the PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL, thus showing that the good name of the RUSTS had quickly spread, not only to SYDNEY in general, but Government House in particular.

1883. The RUSTS built a residence, named ELLESMERE, overlooking Kogarah Bay, which was first occupied by WALTER and ANN MOYSE, after they were married on 12th SEPTEMBER, 1883. ANN MOYSE was the daughter of the STOCKDALES, born in 1858 at SANS SOUCI.
1884. In January 1884 the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT received a petition signed by W. E. RUST and WALTER MOYSE, on behalf of the citizens of SANDRINGHAM and SANS SOUCI asking for a school. They were told that it would be granted if they could muster 20 potential pupils. It is interesting to note, that as these gentlemen drove through the area they were only able to count 8 children including aborigines. However, a further count produced the required number and approval was given on 25th March, 1884. Walter Moyse chose the site of the school because it is the highest point of Sans Souci.
1884. On 15th October, 1884, the first stretch of the ILLAWARRA RAILWAY was opened to HURSTVILLE. After the opening of the railway the Moyse's moved across VISTA STREET to their own home called "BROUGHTON", which had been built for them by Mr. & Mrs. RUST, as a belated wedding present. The RUSTS then took up residence in ELLESMERE. A Young, SUPREME COURT Attorney named JOSEPH HECTOR McNEIL CARRUTHERS came to live at DOLLS POINT.
- Now back to the school - in November 1884 the land, part of the ELLESMERE ESTATE, was purchased for £330. The school was designed for 42 pupils and the cost of its construction was £299. 4. 0d.
1885. It was opened in 1885 with 21 pupils (just one over the minimum number - MR. WILLIAM ROSS being the first headmaster and teacher. My mother (LUCY EMMA MOYSE) was born at BROUGHTON on 18th March, 1885.
1886. The RUSTS sold the PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL, Sandringham, and went for a trip to England. During their absence WALTER MOYSE died, aged 32 years.
1887. Mr. J. H. CARRUTHERS entered parliament as the member for CANTERBURY which included ROCKDALE, KOGARAH and SANS SOUCI. Mainly through the efforts of the member, the SANS SOUCI steam-tram was opened on SATURDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER, 1887. There had been great rivalry between BRIGHTON LE SANDS and SANS SOUCI. The steam train replaced a coach driven by JIM SELMON. The first tram drivers were MR. FROST and Mr. PADDY TUFFY, while the first guards were MESSRS. JIM SELMON and ABE RICHARDS.
1889. Mr. CARRUTHERS became the MINISTER for PUBLIC INSTRUCTION and as such was responsible for that very fine school at KOGARAH. He also justly earned the honour of being called the Father of TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

1892. The first POST OFFICE was opened at Sans Souci - the postmaster being Mr. HENRY DOSE. The post office was in various shops up and down Rocky Point Road until it was properly housed on the corner of MYERS STREET with Mrs. RICHARDS (wife of the first tram guard) in charge.
1894. Mr. CARRUTHERS was appointed MINISTER FOR LANDS and it was during this time that he secured KURNELL for the nation. He was also responsible for the preservation of what is now the ROYAL NATIONAL PARK. Developers of that time wanted it for a coal mine.
1896. 1st OCTOBER, 1896, the telephone exchange was opened at KOGARAH. Both ELLESMERE and BROUGHTON were connected. Mr. CARRUTHERS was resident in ELLESMERE at this time.
1897. Mr. JOSEPH CARRUTHERS purchased ELLESMERE, 12th December, 1897.
1899. Mr. CARRUTHERS became COLONIAL TREASURER.
1904. Mr. CARRUTHERS was the PREMIER of N.S.W. from 1904 to 1907, when he retired for health reasons. ENDEAVOUR STREET was probably the first street in SANS SOUCI to have a tar-sealed footpath, because it was down this street (TO ELLESMERE) that POLICEMAN TOM GEER escorted the PREMIER after alighting from the tram. ALICE STREET, RAMSGATE, was named after LADY CARRUTHERS and IDA STREET, SANS SOUCI, was named after the oldest Carruthers girl. During 1908 a knighthood was bestowed on the ex-PREMIER and following a trip to England, the CARRUTHERS family moved from the district. Sir Joseph Carruthers died in 1932.
1909. The road from DOLLS POINT to BRIGHTON LE SANDS (LADY ROBINSONS BEACH) was named CARRUTHERS DRIVE, but since then part of it has been renamed GRAND PARADE. The exception being the road on the actual waterfront of DOLLS POINT, proper.
1913. On 27 OCTOBER, 1913, MR. W.E. RUST died at "BROUGHTON" 27 ENDEAVOUR STREET - the home of his foster-daughter, ANN STOCKDALE (later Mrs. WALTER MOYSE) and in 1904 remarried to Mr. ALLENBY JOHN COMMINS. Mr. Rust at the time of his death was in his 85th year.

Mr. Rust was responsible for building the first Prince of Wales Hotel at Sandringham in 1867 which was a collection of single storeyed buildings. The second Prince of Wales Hotel, two storeys, was built about 1885 and demolished in 1960's. In addition to the hotel buildings Mr. Rust built at SANS SOUCI:-

- (a) 1883 - ELLESMERE now 23 VISTA STREET.
 - (b) 1884 - BROUGHTON now 27 ENDEAVOUR STREET (Mrs. Rust's maiden name)
 - (c) about 1888 DENBIGH (now called JOYHOME) now 1 PLIMSOLL ST.
 - (d) date not known LYNWOOD now 42 THE BOULEVARDE
1916. A steam punt to TAREN POINT was opened to traffic in 1916.

Extract from the St. George District News - Wed. July 14, 1971.

History of Sans Souci Post Office

In December 1891, the press reported "an agitation" for the establishment of a post and telegraph office at Sans Souci. People in the district had to travel to Kogarah to conduct their postal business.

The postal inspector who visited Sans Souci reported that an office at or near the junction of the Sandringham and Rocky Point Roads, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Kogarah would accommodate "fully 60 householders". Some of the buildings were "substantial", and a public school was situated within 200 yards of the proposed site. Letters were delivered from the Kogarah P. O. once a day, the postman having to deliver over a very large area of Sandringham, Sans Souci and Dolls Point.

The Inspector recommended that a post office be established; a daily letter delivery be provided; and that the conveyance of mails be arranged twice a day between Kogarah and Sans Souci for the sum of £52 a year. Early in 1892 Edwin J. Collis applied for the position of postmaster and letter carrier at Sans Souci. He did not give the address of his business which he claimed was in the most central and populated portion of Sans Souci. He kept a "refreshment place" which the inspector did not consider very conveniently situated for a post office.

A petition of some residents supported Collis's application for the office. In the meanwhile J. H. Carruthers, P. M., advised that he was having difficulty in finding a suitable building and person to take charge of an office. He asked that the matter be allowed to stand over.

Some residents forwarded another petition in October 1892, nominating Henry Dose for appointment as postmaster, and advising that Dose was willing to erect at his own expense a place suitable for the office. They described Dose's land as being about 150 yards from the public school.

In the meanwhile J. H. Carruthers agreed to the suggestion that Henry Dose be appointed postmaster but added that Dose should be required to "fence off his land neatly so that his back premises were not, as they now are, exposed to the gaze of people using the post office".

Post Office.

Henry Dose was appointed postmaster on the 16th November, 1892. He was paid £52 a year plus an allowance to employ a "mail-boy" to make a daily letter delivery, by horseback. Arrangements were made for an exchange of mails between Kogarah and Sans Souci twice daily.

At the time it was mentioned that mails were not being conveyed by the tram as the Tramway Department had refused permission.

In April 1893, the postmaster at Kogarah suggested that the Tramway officials should be asked to convey the mails, as he had been informed that the Tramway Department was to be transferred to the Railway Department. (Apparently this was approved in later years).

In September 1897, Samuel J. Moore advised he had purchased the premises which were occupied by Mr. Dose and used as a telephone exchange and Post Office. He asked for appointment as postmaster.

S. J. Moore became postmaster on November 8th, 1897.

Mrs. Eleanor Richards succeeded Moore in charge of the post office on November 27th, 1900. About the same time the post office was transferred to Mrs. Richards premises. Her husband, Mr. Adiah Richards was a Tram Guard. Mrs. Richards was paid a salary of £1. a week plus an allowance of £43 a year for the conveyance of the mails.

In 1907 representations were being made for improved facilities. An earlier morning delivery of letters was requested by residents on the Sandringham and Dolls Point side of the post office; facilities for the weighing and despatching of parcels from the Sans Souci office instead of Kogarah were asked for; and it was requested that a Sunday night clearance be made of the letter box on the tram at 8.10 p.m. At that time, there was morning and afternoon delivery of letters. It was reported that there were 230 houses on the beat, and an average of 200 letters were delivered daily. Whilst the letter deliveries were being made, telegrams, instead of being delivered from Sans Souci were delivered from the Kogarah Post Office. The Postal Inspector reported that additional expenditure for another letter carrier for deliveries on the Sandringham side of Sans Souci was not justified. There were no business places except two hotels and four boatsheds on that side in addition to one or two small stores in the vicinity of the Sans Souci post office.

Arrangements were made for scales to be sent to Sans Souci so that the parcels could be weighed and despatched from there, and the Postmaster at Kogarah was instructed to clear the letter box on the Sans Souci tram at 8 p.m. on Sundays.

It was mentioned in another report that because of the 'very scattered nature of the district' it was not possible to give a more expeditious letter delivery.

Another difficulty at Sans Souci was that portions of the district off the main road were very sandy so that a bicycle could not be used for letter deliveries.

In May 1910, approval was given for the post office to close at 6 p.m. instead of 8 p.m.

In October, 1912, the Postmistress sought approval to move the Post Office to a new brick residence which she was having built. This included an office measuring 20 feet by 18 feet. The new building was described as being about 200 yards from where the office was then being conducted. The removal was completed about February 12th, 1913.

POSTAL BUSINESS.

A return forwarded in 1913 showed that in the past twelve months the following business had been conducted:

Articles posted	35,003
Mails sent and despatched	1,622
Telegrams despatched per annum	426
Telegrams received per annum	1,395
Postal notes issued	766

Mrs. Richards asked for the appointment of a telegraph messenger in September, 1913. She reported that owing to the greatly increased population the work of letter carrier and messenger combined had become too much for one person, as the hours of duty were twelve to thirteen hours continuously, daily.

Following approval, Mrs. Richards advised that she had engaged a lad, Leslie Knight, as a messenger on November 3rd, 1913.

Apparently facilities were available at the post office for Commonwealth Bank deposits. In February, 1917, it was mentioned that as the Office was not a Money Order office, it was not possible for the office to become a full Agency of the Commonwealth Savings Bank so that payment of withdrawals could be made, as well, as the receipt of deposits.

In May, 1911, it was mentioned that a twice daily mail service had been in operation between Kogarah and Sans Souci for many years. Mails from Kogarah were conveyed by the letter carrier (Postman) attached to that office. Letters which arrived at Kogarah from Sans Souci at 9.10 a.m., 1.10 p.m. and 8.10 p.m. were placed in a letter box attached to the tram, by the Postmaster at Sans Souci. Apparently this tramway letter receiver had been in use from about 1898, and was one of several of this type being used in the Metropolitan area.

Mrs. Richards was still in charge of the office in 1913. Others appointed were:-

V.S. Thomas	1.1.1920.
Robert Frame	1.2.1927.
Mrs. Frame	1.5.1940.
Henry James Hughes	16.8.1942.
Frederick Ernst	16.11.1942.

Did you know?

That Steamers used to call at the wharf at Sandringham in 1907 to take people on trips around Botany Bay?

An advertisement of the time mentions that it cost one Shilling (10¢) return first class, and ninepence (?) second class by train.
