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ROCKDALE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL



PRICE 5 c .

ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

24 Duff Street,
Arncliffe. 2205.
June 1975.

Dear Friend and Member,

The regular meeting will be held as follows:-

Date: Friday evening, June 20th, 1975, at 8 p.m.

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

Business: General.

Syllabus Item. Mrs. Goodyer from Bankstown Historical Society has kindly offered to give an Illustrated Address titled:
"The Man and The Collection".

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

Ladies please bring a plate.

Mr. D. Sinclair.

President.

Phone 587.4555.

Mrs. E. Eardley.

Secretary.

Phone 59.8078

Mrs. E. Wright,

Treasurer & Soc. Sec.

Phone 599.4884.

Mr. A. Ellis.

Research Officer.

Phone 587.1159.

"Strange how much you have got to know before you know how little you know."

.... Duncan Stuart

A Special note to our Members.

Due to increased costs it has become necessary to increase the Annual Subscription - \$2.00 per Member, \$3.00 Family Rate (2 or more Members), due to be paid July 1975.

This is the first and only increase since the Society was formed in June 1961.

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A limited supply of the following books, written and illustrated by the late Gifford Eardley (re-printed by popular request) are now available, cost \$1.00 each, postage 10¢ extra:

- Book 1. "The Early History of The Wolli Creek Valley".
- Book 2. "The Kogarah To Sans Souci Tramway".
- Book 3. "Thomas Saywell's Tramway. 1887 - 1914. Rockdale to Lady Robinsons Beach".
- Book 4. "The Arncliffe To Bexley Steam Tramway".

Also available are: (By the same Author)

- Book 5. "Heritage in Stone (Limited Stocks)
- Book 6. "All Stations to Como" (Limited Stocks)
- Book 7. "The Early History. Tempe & The Black Creek Valley".

Contact Secretary 'Phone 59.8078.

or Miss Otten 'Phone 59.4259.

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Miss Otten, Curator of "Lydham Hall", is in need of Ladies and/or Gentlemen to assist with the weekend roster. Visitors come from far and wide to see this lovely old Home, and your presence would greatly facilitate inspections. Ring Miss Otten, Phone 59.4259, your call will be appreciated.

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CAN YOU HELP? The following are needed for 'Lydham Hall'....

- 1. Pair of brass or silver candlesticks.
- 2. Odd candlesticks.
- 3. Pair of mantel vases.
- 4. Old music.
- 5. Bust of Queen Victoria.
- 6. Wax flowers, stuffed bird (we have the dome).
- 7. Circular piano stool (we have the piano).
- 8. Doyleys and place mats, any shape, any size, any quantity.
- 9. Mantel Mirror 6' x 3'.
- 10. Set of fire irons.
- 11. Anything suitable for sitting room.(Work basket. Tapestry or embroidery on frame.)
- 12. Brass candle holders for piano.

Donations to "Lydham Hall".

Mrs. E. Wright, Rockdale.	Pair Willow Pattern Doyleys.
Mr. & Mrs. C. Hagger, Bardwell Park.	Hand made nails. " " spike. 1 very old Rotisserie.
Mrs. Chatto, Carlton.	Collection of very old crockery.
Miss M. Cheetham, Rockdale.	1 small cedar table. 1 Delft cup and saucer. 1 tea measure of King Edward VIII.
Mr. Giannos, Arncliffe.	Stove over 100 years old.
Misses Everison,	Very large collection crockery, and ornaments. 1 Brass decanter. 1 Glass " 1 Glass water jug. 1 book on Early Sydney.
Mrs. Leonard, Arncliffe.	3 Blue Sweet Plates.
Mrs. B. Austin, Arncliffe.	2 Willow pattern vegetable dishes <u>on loan</u> . 2 very old plates <u>on loan</u> .
Mr. Field, Arncliffe.	2 money boxes 1835. Bootmakers implements.
Mr. A. Robertson, Snr., Miranda.	Rocking chair over 100 years old.
Mr. R. Robertson, Miranda.	Skillet for cooking over open fire.
Mrs. Hay, Arncliffe.	Piece black guipure lace over 100 years old.
Mrs. V. Coleman, Blakehurst.	Red velvet pin cushion, coloured beads design, over 100 years old.
Mr. C. Semmler, Bexley.	1 pair old gold rimmed glasses. 1 huckerback guest towel.
Mrs. M. Flood, Rockdale.	Willow pattern traycloth and 2 doyleys.
Mrs. W. Dixon, Bexley.	Pair handworked net pillow shams.
Misses E. and R. Curtis, Arncliffe.	6' x 4' photograph of Arncliffe Quarry c. 1906.
Miss Fahy, Rockdale.	1 Iron hoop very old. A willow pattern tablecloth. A " " handworked apron. 1 pair white silk stockings.

Miss Sullivan,	Cameo Jewel Box.
	Willow Pattern soap dish.
Mrs. Eileen Rouen, Campbelltown.	Small blue and white jug <u>on loan</u> . 4 Willow pattern cups and saucers over 100 years old - <u>on loan</u> .
Mrs. Mary Smith, Carlton.	1 willow pattern plate. 1 " " " small. 1 " " cup.
Mrs. Flieschmann, Carlton.	Assorted plates.
Mrs. M. Johnson, Carlton.	1 large medical book. 1 book of music.
Mrs. Whitley, Carlton.	Jug and basin, roses and violet design.
Mrs. Gosvel, South Hurstville.	1 book William Shakespeare.
Mrs. R. Dunsmore, Epping.	1 Violin 80 years old. 1 home cook book, very old.
Miss Helen Turner, Carlton.	1 Mutual Life Insurance Diary 1901.

It is sad to have to report the loss of one of the original members of the St. George Historical Society.

Mrs. Callister passed away on 26th May, 1975.

Until failing health prevented her from attending meetings Mrs. Callister was always present at our gatherings.

Those of us who knew her will remember her quiet manner and delightful sense of humour.

We are sorry to hear that Mrs. McNamara and Mrs. Aitken have been hospitalised, and Miss White and Miss Lambert have been on the sick list; we send best wishes for a speedy recovery.

SOCIAL NEWS.

ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HUNTER VALLEY TOUR

OCTOBER 4th, 5th & 6th, 1975. \$55.50.

SAT:

Depart 8.00 a.m. from Rockdale Town Hall and travel via Hornsby, the Expressway and Peats Ridge to Newcastle for lunch. After lunch we travel on through Maitland to the vast grape growing area of the Hunter Valley where we will visit a winery and have an inspection. After our inspection we come back and have a look at the historic buildings of Maitland. The Post Office 1881, Court House 1895, and Grossman House which is now a Museum, before going to our Motel for our night's accommodation.

SUN:

After breakfast we will take a leisurely drive out to the township of Morpeth which is over 150 years old. We will have an inspection of the Folk Museum and other points of interest. Leaving Morpeth we come back to Gessnock and Wollombi where a lot of early history is to be found.

MON:

Today we travel over the Hexham Bridge out past the Tomago Sand Basins through to Stockton and Newcastle. Time will be spent looking around Newcastle before we start on our homeward journey.

TOUR INCLUDES:

All coach travel, dinner, bed & breakfast accommodation and lunches.

NOT INCLUDED:

Morning and afternoon teas or inspection fees.

ITINERARY SUBJECT TO ALTERATION WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE.

THE MANLY FERRY - "SOUTH STEYNE".

For those interested in things historical, the withdrawal of the Manly Ferry "South Steyne", after it was burned may have robbed Sydney of something quite unique - the world's largest and fastest ferry-boat.

It has probably also hastened the decline of the Manly ferries as Sydney and indeed much of the world has known them, for close on a century.

At the time of the writing of this article, September 1974, the writer stated that it would be extremely doubtful if the South Steyne would ever again roll majestically on the ground swell as she traversed the open waters between Sydney Heads.

At that date, the State Government had declined to buy the vessel in its fire-damaged condition and Port Jackson and Manly Steamship Company looked like soon being out of business as ferry operators.

Two aged ferries, the "North Head" and the "Baragoola" were to be re-conditioned to provide the remnants of the once proud fleet of ferries. In recent years, the "Dee Why", "Curl Curl" and the "Belubera" had all ceased to operate.

Manly folk have been very proud of their ferries but so have many other folk who have never even lived on that side of the Harbour. A trip to Manly has always been a great attraction for people from other parts of Sydney and for country folk coming into the City.

There was an eternal fascination in the smooth pounding beat of those triple expansion steam engines, built by the famous Harland and Woolf, of Belfast. South Steyne rarely ever used their 3250 horse power, which could give her more than 17 knots.

Like her two sister ships, "Dee Why" and "Curl Curl", she travelled out here under her own power from her builders, Henry Robb Ltd., of Leith, Scotland. She was built in 1938 to carry 2000 passengers in the days when Manly-Warringah trams fed commuters to the ferries. Nowadays, with buses, private cars and hydrofoils taking away the ferry trade, perhaps she is too big and costly to run. But the time could come in the not-too-distant future when road congestion will force people back to public transport and South Steyne would be sadly missed. The two to be reconditioned at a cost of \$400,000 for operation by the Public Transport Commission are much older than the South Steyne.

It is difficult if you love fine ships, not to feel very sad about the undeserved fate of the South Steyne.

There are so many ugly hulls stacked with containers around the harbour these days. If South Steyne is finished as a ferry, she may be worth restoring for the Lady Hopetoun Museum.

This article was written by Mr. Tom Mead and appeared in the "Leader" on September 11th, 1974, and he closes his article with the comment that "never will I go to Manly without seeing her towering above the wharf at Circular Quay or riding gracefully out of a trough on her way across the heads.

Only a week ago, it was the pleasure of the Writer, to once again traverse the waters of the Harbour on the Manly Ferry. So much to see, so many changes, but still the same appeal that invites one and all to take a trip to Manly. "

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