



ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

Dear Friend and Member,

24 Duff Street,
Arncliffe. 2205.
July 1975.

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

Date: Friday Evening, July 18th, 1975

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

Business: Opening & Welcome.

Apologies

Minutes of Previous Annual Meeting.

Annual Financial Report

Lydham Hall Annual Report.

President's Annual Report.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1975 - 1976.

Patrons (4)

President

Senior Vice President

Vice Presidents (2)

Hon. Secretary

Hon. Asst. Secretary

Hon. Treasurer

Hon. Auditors (2)

Committee of Management: (President, Secretary, Treasurer, &
7 Members).

Lydham Hall Committee

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

Research Officer

Publicity Officer

Social Secretary

Editor (Bulletin)

Correspondence:

General Business:

Syllabus Item: The President, Mr. Don Sinclair, will give a short talk.

Supper Roster: Mrs. Grace, Mesdames Hunt, Troughton & Thompson.

Mr. D. Sinclair,
President.
Phone 587.4555.

Mrs. E. Eardley,
Secretary.
Phone 59.8078.

Mrs. E. Wright,
Treas. & Soc. Sec
Phone 599 4884.

Research Officer: Mr. A. Ellis, Phone 587.1159.

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) - (payable now please).

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

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.

Society Badges are also available.

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.

We hope you will enjoy reading the following pages of -

"Snippets of Historical Interest".

HISTORICAL RELICS -

Sir - I have been engaged lately in research on the period 1830 in Australia in connection with a film to be made here this year. The research is mainly into costume and domestic paraphernalia of that time.

I have been shocked by the paucity of all visual evidence of our past, and it is surely high time that a colonial museum was established to house everything from a nineteenth century shop-front to a pair of convict boots - a museum, in short, that collects and preserves our social history with the same zeal and care devoted by the Mitchell Library to its own specialized field.

Every year sees more material that rightly belongs in such a museum lost for ever through ignorance and indifference.

Anyone who has visited the London Museum or the Folk Museum at York will remember the fascination of those collections; to the historian and student their value is incalculable.

- Cedric Fowler
Darling Point.

- Letters to the Editor -
Sydney Morning Herald
(date unknown - but snippet
yellowed with age).

INTERESTING SNIPPETS:

THAT OLD CANNON - I had an old identity from Brighton in to see me last week. He wanted to tell me what happened to the old muzzle loaded cannons that used to stand on the beach facing Botany Bay heads.

He was surprised when I told him where one was. He thought he would be the only one that knew.

They have shifted the other one down Cook Park from the end of Gordon Street to somewhere near Banks Street.

In the 1930's, when they built the first Life Saving Club at the bottom of Bay Street, which was washed away in a storm, the cannon was in the way. Too heavy to shift, they just dug a big hole in the footpath and toppled it in.

- News cutting - July 1974.

ROCKDALE'S OLD SMITHY -

The old blacksmith's shop which has stood next to the Royal Hotel, Rockdale, for nearly half-a-century, has outlived its usefulness and now must go. At the last meeting of Rockdale Council its demolition was ordered.

The structure is of timber and galvanised iron, and since it was erected thousands of horses have been shod there, not to mention the repairing of thousands of vehicles and the sharpening of workmen's tools.

With the advent of motor cars, and the gradual passing of the horse, business declined and the shop was closed. The structure, which has been untenanted for a long time, has become dilapidate and dangerous, hence the demolition order.

- Propellor 1920.

BEXLEY LADIES' COLLEGE -

At the annual break-up of the Ladies' College, Bexley, the principals delivered farewell addresses, as they were both retiring from school work, after 28 years of continuous teaching. The pupils presented Mrs. Forscutt with a vase and centre table cover, as a token of appreciation. They also presented the principal (Rev.C.T. Forscutt) with a life-size painting of himself. It was the work of Mr. D. S. Cohen, and had been among that artist's collection at the last exhibition of the Royal Art Society.

The principals announced that they had decided to retire from active work of the college, and transfer the college to their daughter, who had been teaching for years.

The dux of the college was Miss Evelyn Webb, who was awarded a gold medal. The good conduct prize, also a gold medal, was awarded to Miss Myie Etherden; dux of the lower form, Miss A Stone.

- Propellor Dec.17th,1920.

Readers: *Has anyone sufficient information concerning the Bexley Ladies' College to trace these "girls" mentioned?*

Where was the College located? Didn't it run through from Gladstone Street to Monomeith Street?

What of the painting and the gold medals?

HURSTVILLE COUNCIL -

At last night's meeting of Hurstville Council it was decided to co-operate with Paddington Council in urging upon the Minister for Works the necessity for the State Metal Quarries Department reverting to the purpose for which it was originally brought into being, the supply of metal at reasonable prices.

A letter was received from the Salvation Army asking for a donation of 20 pounds towards the Army's band fund. The request was refused.

A letter was received from the Penshurst Progress Association referring to the conditions of various gutters at Penshurst. The matters were referred to the engineer.

It was decided to co-operate with Tamworth Council in asking the Government to consider the urgent necessity of increasing the old-age pension.

With regard to the "flat" method of housing the people the Minister for Housing informed the council that the only effective method of achieving the objects sought by councils was for the Government to continue to build homes until the present shortage is met, and so obviate the necessity for people to rent flats.

It was decided to confer with Kogarah and Bexley Councils in getting a blue metal storage bin erected at the Hurstville goods siding.

The inspector stated that only two cases of infectious disease had been reported in the municipality during the past fortnight.

The deputy Town Clerk reported that at the present time the council's bank balance was in debit to the extent of 2605 pounds.

- Propellor - 17th December 1920.
