



ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

24 Duff Street,
Arncliffe. 2205.
September, 1975.

Dear Friend and Member,

The regular meeting will be held as follows:

Date: Friday evening, September 19th, 1975, at 8 p.m.

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

Business: General.

Syllabus Item: Miss Sally Slaney has kindly consented to give an Illustrated address on "Old Sydney Town". This talk should be most interesting. We may learn more of the early history of our wonderful City and how it grew.

Supper Roster: Mrs. McNamara, Captain, Misses Lambert, White, Frost, Marsden, Mrs. Greenlees.

Ladies please bring a plate.

Mr D. Sinclair,
President.
Phone 587 4555.

Mrs. E. Eardley,
Secretary.
Phone 59.8078.

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

Mr. A. Ellis,
Research Officer.
Phone 587.1159

Walking is a way of being somewhere rather than striving to arrive.

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.

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.

Social: A Bus will leave the Town Hall, Rockdale - Time 1 p.m., Date - 20th September, 1975, Cost - \$1.50 per person, to view the Historical Head Stones at the Botany Cemetery. Afternoon Tea Stop, La Perouse. (Bring your own thermos). For further details ring Mrs. Wright, Social Secretary - 599.4884.

We would like to say "Thank you" to all who have either Donated or Loaned their precious "Bits and Pieces" to make Lydham Hall so interesting and attractive.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Mrs. L. Barrack | A large picture - "Turner Bros. Dept. Store, Kogarah 1906-1975.
An era of Family Retail Trading" (On loan).
1 SSW. Model figure. Donated |
| Mrs. Marsden,
Carlton. | Pink Venetian Glass Fruit Bowl, scalloped edge. |
| Mrs. Archibald,
Monterey. | Willow Pattern Cake Plate. |
| Mrs. MacHardy,
Bexley | Hand knitted white sox 1871. |
| Miss M. Callister,
Bexley. | Captain's cap and baton (belonged to the late Mr. Callister). |
| Mr. B. Childs, | Large Chinese teapot, 1 flat iron. Sheet music. |
| Miss R. Leach,
Bexley. | Hand made wedding frock 1836. Worn by Grandmother of Miss Leach and Mrs. M. Baker. |

Miss F. Lambert,
Carlton.

Willow Pattern Centre Piece & Doyleys.
Hand worked.

Mrs. Parker,
Carlton.

3 Willow Pattern Doyleys
3 Assorted Doyleys.

Miss Stacy,
Bexley.

Uniform of Volunteer Air Observer's Corps.
World War 2. 1939-45.
Motor Spirit Consumer's Licence & Ration Tickets.
World War 2. 1939-45.
1 Willow Pattern Plate. 1 Blue & White Plate.

Mrs. Baddock,
Bexley North.

Willow Pattern Pepper Grinder (China).

Mrs. Rice,
Rockdale.

Blue & White Salt & Pepper Shakers.

THE ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Lydham Hall, Fund Raising Committee, Balance Sheet.

For the Year Ending 30th June, 1975.

<u>RECEIPTS.</u>		<u>PAYMENTS.</u>	
Raffles	\$101.90	R.W. Rathbone (Gallery)	\$93.59
Cake Sales	11.15	Mr. J. Lee (Rest, B, Room)	427.00
Gents Supper	15.90	St. Geo. His. Soc. Books	37.40
Donations	55.35	U.P.L. Wallpaper (W.R.)	72.20
Historical Books	165.00	Farmer & Co. (Curtain-D)	20.00
Century of Progress	62.00	R.W. Rathbone (Blue Room)	180.00
History Sheets	40	Petty Cash	20.00
Lydham Hall Admittances	<u>382.60</u>	Mansours (Curtains W.R.)	110.00
Total	\$794.30	Glass Show Case, A.F.	60.50
		Tiki Upholstery for	
Bank Interest	\$17.89	Restoration Hall Settee	193.00
		Farmers, Bal (Curtains)	186.14
Profit on Sale of St. Geo.		Grace Bros. (Carpets, B.R)	44.00
Historical Books	5.32	A. Penrose (Glass, Slides)	112.00
Cash in Hand as at		U.P.L. Wallpaper (D. Room)	98.30
30th June, 1974	1607.94	R.W. Rathbone (Will, Room)	116.70
Transfer, from St. Geo.		Grace Bros. (Light etc.)	106.35
Bldg. Society	500.00	Petty Cash	10.00
Transfer from St. Geo.		R.W. Rathbone (Sundries)	66.84
Bldg. Society a further		A. Penrose (Glass)	<u>46.65</u>
sum of	<u>500.00</u>	Total	\$2,000.67
		Plus Cash in Bank	<u>471.43</u>
		Total	\$2,472.10
		Less, Un-presented	
		cheque.	<u>46.65</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$2,425.45</u>	<u>Nett Balance</u>	<u>\$2,425.45</u>

(Sgd). Alderman Arthur Ford.

Hon. Auditor.

July 1975.

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LYDHAM HALL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 28th FEBRUARY, 1975.

It is now four years since Lydham Hall was opened to the Public as part of the Council's Centenary Celebrations and without doubt the most constructive and successful year has been the one just ended.

The highlight of this year of highlights was the surrendering of their tenancy by Mr & Mrs Long on 30th September. This left the whole building in the hands of the Local Committee which has worked at top pressure ever since to restore and open as much of the house as possible to the public.

The first task was to renovate the caretaker's quarters which were in a very poor state. These have been painted out and comfortably furnished and Council has renovated the bathroom.

Then followed restoration of the remainder of the gallery and the placing on exhibition of the vast quantity of historical items that have had to be stored ever since the building was opened.

This was followed by the painting of the room that is to be the Exhibition Bedroom and the stripping and polishing of the cedar woodwork. Only sanding and polishing of the floor remains to be done to complete this room.

Finally, the ante room between the proposed Dining Room and the Exhibition Kitchen has been restored and furnished and will be used to exhibit the almost unique collection the Committee now has of Willow Pattern China.

Second only to the securing of the full control of the property was the appointment by Council of Miss Bet Otton, to be Curator of Lydham Hall.

No words can adequately express the Committee's indebtedness to this lady, who during the most difficult period of the last four years has acted as unofficial caretaker, cleaner and guide. By common agreement she is the right person in the right place and is a public relations officer without equal.

Third in the list of highlights was the extensive publicity given to Lydham Hall by the St. George and Sutherland Shire Leader, which resulted in a television documentary by Channel 10 which was shown twice within three months and declared by the Station to be one of its three best features of 1974. This resulted in a veritable flood of visitors. In 1974-75, 2050 people visited the premises compared with 1303 the previous year and bringing the total number of people who have visited Lydham Hall in the four years it has been opened to 6,446. During the year, also, a further \$576.75 has been raised for the Restoration Fund.

By far the largest single group of visitors was 180 members of the National Trust Younger Set who were ecstatic in their praise of what the Local Committee has achieved in such a short space of time and of the quality of the work undertaken.

Together with a flood of visitors has come a flood of items of interest. Several valuable items of furniture have been acquired, notably a fine cedar hall sofa (by Alderman Ford); a magnificent walnut hallstand (presented by Mrs Todd of Kingsgrove) and a marble washstand (presented by Mrs F Watson of Carlton).

Special thanks must be extended also to Miss J Wright of Cammeray (China Doll 1860); Mrs R Clarke (Wedding and Bridesmaid dresses c.1910); Miss A Porter and Mrs F Watson (numerous domestic items c. 1880); Mr F Dyer, Mrs A Hungerford, Mrs E McMillan, the Misses Everson and Mrs Eardley for items too numerous to detail.

During the year, Mrs. Victoria Hindmarsh, last surviving grand-daughter of Joseph Davis, builder of Lydham Hall, visited the house and was delighted with all she saw.

To conclude this report the Committee wishes to place on record its thanks to Alderman Ford for the many maintenance jobs he has carried out and for maintaining the surrounds and to Council's Superintendent of Parks, Mr Franklin, and Properties, Mr Daly.

- *Alderman R. W. Rathbone,
Hon. Secretary,
Lydham Hall Local Committee,
8th April, 1975.*

MEMORIES OF THE PAST.

- *Frank Pickering Esq., Hurstville.*

My great-grandfather Pickering's parents arrived in Australia in a sailing ship in the year 1810 from Yorkshire, England. Grandmother Pickering was an Ibbotson, coming to Australia as a member of the household of Governor Macquarie and later married Captain Robin McAlister, Captain of the Guards, who brought out the Rebels of the Irish Rebellion, 1798, and remained here. He built a home and married lived near the Tank Stream, where Mary Ann Ibbotson was born.

Grandfather George Pickering was born at the Cow Pasture, Appin, on 15th August, 1824. Six weeks later he was brought to the area which was later named Peakhurst. He married Miss Mary Ann Ibbotson in 1847 and the first white child born in Peakhurst arrived in 1848, in the name of George Pickering who later married and resided in Mortdale and raised a family of ten children. Grandfather and Grandmother had a family of ten, George being the eldest.

My father was the second son. He was born on the Estate and was married to my Mother on 7th January, 1853. Father and Mother reared twelve children; the names are as follows: William, George, Oswald, Lloyd, Frank (myself), Amy, Emily, Clifton, Richmond, Harry, Stanley and Vera.

I was born at Peakhurst along with all my brothers and sisters, on the 13th February 1884. I was present in my Mother's arms when the first official train steamed into Hurstville in October, 1884. My Grandmother was the first white woman to cross Botany Bay. She was rowed across by King Kooman, Leader of the Aboriginal Tribe.

My Great-Grandfather's Estate comprised 34 acres. Many years passed when the land was subdivided by Mr J. G. Griffin, a licensed Surveyor, who divided it into 5 acre blocks. At the corner of Isaac and Lorraine Streets stood the original entrance to the east side of the Estate and today stands an original fence post which was erected by Great-Grandfather

Peakhurst was named after Mr Peake and his friend, Mr Hurst, and it is believed that Hurstville's name is associated with Mr Hurst. Both Mr Peake and my Grandfather made an offer to the Methodist Church in the early days to give land to erect a Church. Mr Peake's offer was accepted on account of its location.

My wife was born at Petersham and brought to Hurstville at an early age. Her Mother was the licensee of the Old Blue Post Hotel which is now enclosed. It was situated in Forest Road, almost opposite the Hurstville Public School. My wife's Grandfather erected the ladder at South Head, a little below the existing signal station, which was known as Jacob's ladder. It has been out of use for many years.

In my early days there were few shops in Hurstville. I will mention the majority. Mr Fred Mumford had a Bakery at Bridge Road. He later built a residence and bake-house at Forest and Gloucester Roads, the last occupant being the well-respected personality, Mr Jack McColl. Mr Thomas Hilliard kept a Butcher's Shop adjacent to Bridge Road. His name is still on the shop in the Hurstville Shopping Centre. Miss Jeffs kept a Ladies' Outfitters Shop where J & C Hardy, Undertakers, now stand. Mr Hills kept a Mixed Business, Mr John Garthon kept a Grocery and Produce Store.

Hurstville Hall, known as Hudson's Hall. Mr Arthur Croft kept a Fruit and Vegetable Business. Then came Hurstville Council Chamber, which was replaced to its present position. Mr Tom Wearne was the Council Clerk in my young days.

The original Volunteer Fire Station stood right where the present Council Chambers now stand. Hurstville Hotel is the original, but has been added to in recent years. Mr Wall Austin had a Saddle and Harness Business, Mr Malcolm Hoy had a Butcher's Shop. Mr Robert, a Blacksmith's Shop and Forge. Mr Peter Low had a Newsagency, he was also a member of the Council. Then a Chemist Shop, I forget the Proprietor's name. Mr Arthur Croft had a second Fruit Business. Mr Jack Chaplow was a Hairdresser. Mr Sam McFarlane had a Produce Store. Then came unused land. Drainage came from the Railway, Forest Road, East and West. A two rail fence was erected to prevent the people falling into the swampy land. Next came Mrs Humphry's property. Mrs. Humphry originally kept an Hotel on the site. I might mention here, the first Hotel in Hurstville stood in Gloucester Road. This information was handed down by my Father.

A son of Mrs Humphry, named Al, had a Hansom Cab, which he placed for hire. There was also a Mr Millican who had a Sociable, which he also placed for hire. The South side of Forest Road, from the Traffic Bridge, was Railway property. The only dwelling was for the use of the Stationmaster, Mr G Hall. This dwelling stood almost opposite where Allen Bros., has a store.
