

SPONSORED BY  
ROCKDALE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL



PRICE 5 c .

# ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

24 Duff Street,  
ARNCLIFFE 2205  
April 1976

Dear Friend and Member,

The regular meeting will be held as follows:

Date: Friday Evening, 23rd April, 1976, at 8 p.m.

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

Business: General

Syllabus Item: Mr. Bill Foster, F.R.A.H.S., who is a member of the Society will tell us of: "An Historic Part of Sydney". You will enjoy this talk, which will be most interesting and informative.

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

Ladies please bring a plate.

Mr. D. Sinclair,  
President.  
Phone 587.4555.

Mrs. E. Eardley,  
Hon. Secretary.  
Phone 59.8078.

Mrs. E. Wright,  
Hon. Treas. & Soc. Sec.  
Phone 599.4884

Mrs. B. Perkins,  
Publicity Officer.  
Phone 587.9164.

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

"In the old days when things got rough, what you did was "without".

Bill Copeland.

## NOTE TO MEMBERS:

Please advise Secretary  
(Phone 59.8078) of any change  
of address - this will save  
disappointment when your  
Bulletin is posted to you.

## SOCIAL NEWS

May 29th, 1976 (Saturday Afternoon) A MYSTERY TOUR (TO KEEP YOU GUESSING),

Meeting Place: Town Hall, Rockdale.  
Time: 12 45 p.m. Sharp.  
Cost: \$2.00 per person. Children \$1.00. Pay at April meeting.

If you are interested, and we hope you will be, contact Mrs. Wright, phone 599 4884 for details and bookings. You will enjoy this tour.

REMINDER FOR OCTOBER LONG WEEKEND TRIP Date: 2nd - 3rd & 4th Oct.

A tour of Yass and the Western Districts is being arranged and bookings are being taken; (quite a number have already been taken) again, if you wish to be on this weekend, ring Mrs. Wright, phone 599 4884, and she will give you particulars. Details will also be in the Bulletin as they come to hand. This should be a most enjoyable weekend.

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We are sorry to hear that Miss Bea Binns and also Mr. Malone have been far from well, and trust that the best wishes of the President, and Members, will help them on the road to recovery.

It was very wonderful to welcome Mrs. Coote back to the meeting, after a long period of hospitalisation. We trust that she will now have good health.

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A limited supply of the following books, written and illustrated by the late Gifford Eardley (reprinted by popular request) are now available, cost \$1.00 each, postage 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 Otton 'Phone 59 4259 (after 8 p.m.)

ALSO Smith's Florist Shop, Tramway Arcade, Rockdale.

Society Badges are available - \$1.00 each.

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Miss Otton, 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 Otton, Phone 59.4259 (after 8 p.m.) Your call will be appreciated.

PLEASE NOTE Admission to Lydham Hall from 1st April, 1976, will be Adults 30¢ Children 10¢. Weekday Group Visits 25¢.

Phone Calls to Lydham Hall after 8 p.m. - 59.4259.

LYDHAM HALL. Items donated:

Mr. & Mrs. Chatto, Bexley.	Blue & White Salt Box 1 Wash board 4 Small picture frames Sugar tongs. Butter knife Jam Spoon Button Hook Marmalade Jar Primus 2 Green and white plates.
Mrs. Thompson,	Old picture Blue and white ornament.
Mrs. E. Nicholls, Bexley.	Silver egg cups in holder.
Mrs. Tournay, Bexley.	Miniature newspapers 2 head lights Portable writing desk.
Miss B. Jackson, Kogarah.	Large blue and white cup 2 irons and 1 stand 1 moustache cup
Mrs. Downes,	1 washstand jug.
Mrs. Sullivan, Bexley.	Gravy boat 1 jug 1 flower holder pair knife rests.
Miss Geeves, Bexley.	Pair knife rests. Silver and mother of pearl.
Mrs. Hatton, Kogarah.	12 Flower vases.

EXCERPTS FROM - KOGARAH CENTRAL BAPTIST - SILVER JUBILEE.

1933 - 1958.

- Rev. A T Whale, D.D.

" Jubilee means "a ram's horn trumpet" or great rejoicing, and is commonly held every 50 years so that 25 years is a silver jubilee and 50 is a golden jubilee.

The scribes for the Jubilee of 50 years will look to see what sort of folk we were 25 years ago.

A great effort changed a cottage into a church and many hours of labour were freely given.

Ministers:

The church has been served generally with ministers of great standing, ability and devotion. Only heaven will reveal the blessings which have come into hundreds of lives as a result of the service rendered by these brethren. Their names are inscribed hereunder:

Pastor N.F.Reeve	1933-35
Rev F.J.Dunkley	1935-36
Pastor H.E.Evans	1937-38
Pastor A.L.Burrow,B.Sc.	1938-40
Pastor J Drakeford	1940-41
Rev. E. Clatworthy	1941-42
Pastor P.N.Simmons	1942
Pastor E.A.Walsham	1943-47
Pastor J.N.Allen	1947-50
Rev J. Hunter	1950-52
Pastor D.K.Barrett	1952-53
Pastor A.J.Munday,L.th.,Dip.RE	1953-1955
Pastor K. Sweeting	1955-56
Pastor R.C. Briggs	1956-57
Rev. A.T.Whale, D.D.	1957-58.

Early History:

The first Baptist Church building in Kogarah was erected in what is now known as Carss Park, off Prince's Highway, in about the year 1880. This was built by Mr and Mrs Climpton, who laboured almost single-handed. The timber was obtained from the bush near-by. Services were held in the building so erected until passers by of those early days used it as a wayside shelter and subsequently the building fell into disrepair.

The first Particular Baptist Church was erected in Gray Street, Kogarah, nearly opposite the present Fire Station. It was a weatherboard building and was later used as a storehouse; subsequently an electricity sub-station was erected on the site.

It was in the home of Mr & Mrs E. N. Sandilands, of 34 Neilsen Avenue, Kogarah, that the Kogarah Central Baptist Church had its beginning. On 15th January, 1933, 15 young people met in that home and a Sunday School class was formed. Subsequently, the class moved to the residence of Mr & Mrs S.E.Gilding, 10 Station Street, Kogarah.

The class having assumed large proportions, the Rechabite Hall, Ocean Street, Kogarah, was secured, and a large Sunday School was formed and met for the first time on 12th March, 1933, in that hall, there being 29 present.

Subsequently, it was decided to commence evening worship, and on 2nd. April, 1933, the first service was held in Brett's Hall, Derby Street, Kogarah, the Rev. Stanley Eaton of the China Inland Mission being the preacher.

On 16th April, 1933, the Sunday School was transferred from the Rechabite Hall to Brett's Hall.

Between 2nd, April 1933 and 2nd, June 1933, representatives of the new assembly met Rev. P.J.Hayes, who in turn arranged with his people to receive baptized believers of that Assembly into membership with the Sans Souci Baptist Church.

The first members were: Misses N. Wheeler, M. McNeil, I. Johnston, T. Boyd and W. Sandilands. Mesdames E.N. Sandilands, J. Summons and G.H. Pritchard. Messrs. S.E. Gilding, G. Adams Jnr., J. Foster, G.H. Pritchard, M.J. Pope, E.N. Sandilands, J. Lane and R.E. Peelgrane.

#### Formation of Independent Church:

The Baptist Union of N.S.W. formed the Believers into a Baptist Church under the Union on 15th July, 1934. Approximately 200 persons were present at the service and 48 were received into membership, the first being Pastor N.F. Reeve, who had commenced his ministry with the Kogarah people on 16th July, 1933. Rev. F.J. Dunkley presided at the service.

First Officers of the Church:

Messrs G.W.Stephenson (Senior Deacon), F.Kifford, F.D.Davies, S.E.Gilding, J.Foster, Leslie, G.H.Pritchard (Treasurer) and E.N.Sandilands (Secretary).

Church Building:

It was through the kindness of Mr and Mrs A.S.Bown that the erection of a church building was made possible. A two-storied property in Belgrave Street, Kogarah, was made available to the church as a reasonable cost by these good folk. The demolition of that building was commenced on Monday, 10th July, 1934, and a willing band of workers under Mr.G.W. Stephenson, the builder of the new church, carried out the work. The principal workmen's names are inscribed in a tablet in the church. These workers also carried out the erection of the church building. The building in question follows the plan of the first church erected in Britain in the time of Oliver Cromwell.

On Saturday, 11th August, 1934, the foundation stones of the new building were set by Rev. F. J. Dunkley, Supt. of Baptist Home Missions, Rev. A Jolly, President of the Baptist Union of N.S.W., and Pastor N.F.Reeve, Minister of the church.

Rev. G.H.Morling, M.A., Principal of the Baptist Theological College, presided at the gathering. Others present were: Mr.W.Porter, M.A., Mr.W.Tate, President of the St. George C.E. Union, Alderman Ferry represented the Mayor of Kogarah, Mr. Albert Lane, M.H.R., for Barton, Pastor A.H.Orr, Vice-President of the Illawarra District Baptist Association, Rev. P.J.Doran, Minister of the Kogarah Congregational Church, and Rev. J. Hannen, Minister of the Kogarah Presbyterian Church.

The church building was opened on 20th October, 1934, in the presence of approximately 300 people. The Deputy Mayor of Kogarah presided, viz., Alderman S.R.Bell. The official opening was performed by Mrs. A.S.Bown, who was presented with a gold key in the form of a brooch. Then two tablets in the church were unveiled, one by the secretary, Mr.E.N.Sandilands, to "Mr and Mrs Bown" and the other tablet by Mrs.G.W.Stephenson, "to the men who worked on the building."

Miss Hutton sang a specially composed song by Miss Mae Conrad. The presentation of gifts was then made by the minister, Pastor N.F.Reeve, including a pulpit donated by Mr J. Summons, an organ by Mr & Mrs S.E.Gilding, a smaller organ by Mr & Mrs J. Christie, and numerous other gifts.

Two trowels used in the laying of bricks in the building were at the conclusion of the work suitably engraved and presented to Messrs G.W.Stephenson and E.Lane, the latter being responsible for the top brickwork at the front of the church building.

The windows at the front of the church were donated by Mr & Mrs S.E.Gilding.

#### Church Furnishings:

The oaken pulpit in the church was dedicated on February 12, 1939, to the memory of Mrs E.M.Sandilands (mother of the then secretary) who passed away the preceding July. The beautiful silver communion plates inlaid with gold, were the gift of that lady.

The communion chairs in the church were donated by Mesdames. F. Richardson, E.N.Sandilands, G.Adams, E.Martin and E.Lane and Messrs F.Kifford and J.Christie. The dedication of same took place on 20th August, 1939.

The lamp in the porch of the church was dedicated on February 3rd., 1938, to the memory of Gordon Sandilands, a former scholar of the school.

On 14th August, 1938, the beautiful communion table in the church was dedicated to the memory of George Frederick Adams, a foundation member of the church and the first treasurer of the Sunday School. The table was the gift of Mr and Mrs. G.H.Adams and their son, Mr Alfred Adams. A beautiful vase, the gift of Miss Isobel Wallace (the lady friend of George) was then placed by her on the communion table.

The offering plates were the gift of Messrs G.Adams Jnr., J.Lane, M.J.Pope and R.E.Peelgrane.

The hymn notice board is in memory of Mrs. E.Carloss, whilst one of the oak communion trays commemorates the life of Mr Fred Kifford (a former life deacon) and the other that of Mrs. E. Carloss.

A vase for the front of the communion table was also donated in memory of Mrs. J. Adams.

Mrs E Lane and Mrs E.N.Sandilands were mainly responsible for the securing of the present church organ. These ladies raised over 100 pounds through their own personal work.

The principal communion chair was placed in the church by Mr.H.D. Warner in memory of his wife, who passed to her eternal reward on 26th January, 1954.

#### Ladies' Guild:

On Wednesday, 7th February, 1934, approximately 20 ladies, members and adherents of the church, attended a meeting at the home of Mrs. A.S.Bown, of Bown's Road, Kogarah, to form a Ladies' Guild. The following officers were elected: President, Mrs J Christie, Vice-President, Mrs Denner, Secretary, Mrs. M Pearce; Treasurer, Mrs H.Harvey.

#### Sunday School:

From Brett's Hall the Sunday School moved to the church building in Belgrave Street.

Miss Shirley Lipman (now Mrs E Crawford) was the first scholar in the newly constituted Sunday School.

In the 1956 examination, four scholars gained State Prizes, and David Warner gained a second Federal Prize.

#### Organists:

For nearly 20 years Mr I Casos had served the church with distinction and still continues as assistant organist. He commenced this work on 29th March, 1938. Tribute is also paid to his daughter, Miss Joan Casos, for the use of her splendid talents as organist. Mrs F.L.Price also assisted in the early days.

#### Membership & Baptisms:

Two hundred and ninety-six members have been received into membership in the 25 years of the history of the church, 122 persons have been baptized in the church in the same period. Present membership is 64.

#### Early Pioneers and Worthies:

Mr Fred. Kifford, who was born in John Bunyan's county of Bedfordshire was one of the first deacons, subsequently a life deacon, and laboured for many years in faithful service. He was called to higher service in August, 1946.

Mr. C.H.Newsham also served the church in its early days as a deacon, and passed to higher service in August, 1939.

The first baptisms in the church were those of Mr.J.W.Emery and Mr H.A.Roams, on 2nd., December, 1934.



The first dedication was that of Beryl Davies on 25th, February, 1934, by Pastor Reeve.

Mr V.G.Fisher has been with the church since 1936, assisting in many ways, principally with work on our buildings.

#### Ramsgate Work:

The church sponsored the work in Ramsgate, commencing activities in 1944. A number of Kogarah's best workers became foundation members when the Ramsgate Church was formed in 1950. Kogarah Church also assisted in building the structure in which the Ramsgate church worships. It also donated the land and contributed largely to the finance needed for the building.

#### The Manse:

In 1957 a building was purchased in Bellevue St., Kogarah, for the purpose of a Manse. On 28th November, 1956, at a special meeting concerning the purchase of the Manse and funds for same, the Treasurer announced that the required sum of over 700 pounds, had been received by either loan or gift.

The church have placed lino. in three of the rooms, and thank the ladies for carpeting the hall. Mrs Whale donated wire doors and Dr Whale donated the MANSE nameplate.

#### Distinguished Preachers & Visitors:

During the 25 years of its history, eminent personages have either preached or spoken in the church.

The Rt. Hon.H.V.Evatt, when Deputy Prime Minister of Australia, spoke on his work as President of the United Nations Assembly.

Rev. F.F.Buchanan, Chaplain to the United States Navy, told of his experience at Pearl Harbour.

Rev. Ivor Powell, of Wales, a missionary known throughout the world, conducted a number of services.

Krishnabai Gadri of the Ramabai Mukti Mission, India, Dr.R.V. Bingham of the Sudan Interior Mission, Rev. & Mrs G. W.Playfair of Nigeria, and Rev. R.B.Fraser, a world famous Scottish Evangelist."

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