



# ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

24 Duff Street,  
Arncliffe. 2205.  
August 1976

Dear Friend and Member,

The regular meeting will be held as follows:

Date: Friday Evening, August 20th, 1976.  
Place: Council Chamber, Town Hall, Princes Highway, Rockdale.  
Business: General  
Syllabus Item: Mr. & Mrs. A. F. Day are taking us on a tour of South Africa & Rhodesia, per medium of their lovely slides. This tour should be of tremendous interest to all  
Supper Roster: Mrs. M. Roots, Captain, with Mrs. Waddington, Mrs. Havilah, and Miss V. Heath.  
Ladies please bring a plate.

Mr. D. Sinclair,  
President  
Phone 587.4555

Mrs. B. Ferkins,  
Publicity Officer.  
Phone 587.9164

Mrs. E. Eardley,  
Secretary.  
Phone 59.8078.

Mrs. E. Wright,  
Treas & Social Sec.  
Phone 599.4884

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

The confidence which we have in ourselves gives birth to much of that which we have in others

Y W C.A. Newsletter.  
Brisbane.

The following were elected to hold office for the year 1976 - 1977:

<u>Patrons:</u>	Mayor of Rockdale, Ald. H E Kibbey Ald. R. Rathbone Mr. R. Stark, Town Clerk
<u>President:</u>	Mr. D. Sinclair
<u>Senior Vice President:</u>	Mr. W. Napper
<u>Vice Presidents:</u>	Mr. B. Foster Miss M. Dunsmore
<u>Hon. Secretary:</u>	Mrs. E. Eardley
<u>Hon. Asst. Secretary:</u>	Miss A. Lang
<u>Hon. Treas &amp; Social Sec:</u>	Mrs. E. Wright
<u>Hon. Auditor:</u>	Ald. A. Ford
<u>Committee of Management:</u>	President, Secretary, Treasurer, Mr. V. Smith, Mr. R. Lee, Misses M. Callister & M. Dunsmore.
<u>Lydham Hall Local Committee:</u>	Mr. D. Sinclair, Mrs. E. Eardley, Miss B. Otton.
<u>Ladies Social Committee:</u>	All Ladies who are able will go on Roster.
<u>Research Officer:</u>	Mr. A. Ellis
<u>Publicity Officer:</u>	Mrs. B. Perkins
<u>Lydham Hall Fund Raising Committee:</u>	Miss B. Otton, Mrs. M. Fry, Mrs. Blackshaw and Mrs. D. Frebble

#### SOCIAL

Special Note: Final payments for Holiday Weekend to be paid at August Meeting  
Please

#### Norfolk Island Trip:

Date: June 4th - 11th, 1977.

Cost: Plane Fare - Return - Approx. \$222.00

Accommodation - Twin Room, ? Bed & Breakfast - \$13.00.

This will be "Bounty Week" A Holiday not to be missed, with Duty Free Shopping.

A wonderful opportunity for all

If you are interested, will you please contact Mrs Wright at the next meeting, to enable her to make a firm booking. (numbers permitting).

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Many of our Members are on the sick list. We are sorry to hear this, and trust that you will all be well again soon.

A Special Note to our Members

Annual Subscription - \$2 00 per Member, \$3 00 Family Rate (2 or more Members)  
- payable now please.

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A limited supply of the following books, written and illustrated by the late Clifford Eardley (re-printed 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" - (Limited Stocks)
  - 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, your call will be appreciated.

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<p><u>NOTE TO MEMBERS</u></p> <p><u>Please advise Secretary</u> <u>(phone 59.8078) of any change</u> <u>of address - this will save</u> <u>disappointment when your</u> <u>Bulletin is posted to you.</u></p>
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ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President's Report for year ended 30th June, 1976.

I am happy to present the President's Report at the termination of the fifteenth year of the Society's existence.

It is pleasing to report that our meetings this year were well attended with an average of 69 people present - this compares with 60 last year and 55 in the previous twelve months. At our March meeting our attendance numbered 98 persons, the second highest number ever.

Members of the Society spoke or presented slides on five occasions during the year, whilst guest speakers entertained us at a similar number of meetings

Our outings were far better supported in the year under review than for some time past and on several trips, we were unable to accommodate all those wishing to partake in the day's activities.

Our museum at Lydham proved equally as popular with historically-minded folk as evidenced by the fact that 2597 people inspected this old home in the last twelve months.

For the first time since the Society was formed, it was necessary to increase membership fees to \$2 per member and \$3 family rate from 1st July, 1975. Whilst this increase was regretted, the Society has done well to absorb all increases in costs over a period of 14 years, and although the former fees were doubled, the new rates may still be regarded as being of a nominal amount only.

I think we may take pride in the strength of our Society, for I believe our achievements and the attendance at our gatherings compare more than favourably with other groups. This is only achieved by the efforts of our members to whom I must pay tribute. In this regard, I would particularly mention the office-bearers, Miss Otten and the ladies on both the supper and museum rosters - we are deeply indebted to each one for the work done during the past year.

*D. H. Sinclair*

16.7.'76

St. George Historical Society

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ending 30th June 1976.

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Members Subscriptions	\$ 418.50	R.A.H.S. Delegate	\$ 15.00
Donations	\$ 38.86	R.A.H.S. Annual Sub.	\$ 17.50
Sale of badges	\$ 15.60	National Fitness Sub.	\$ 10.00
Sale of Scy.books	\$ 429.60	Carlton Bus Co.	\$ 220.00
Proceeds of Bus Trips		Jannali Bus Co.	\$ 55.00
Raffles.	\$ 441.90	Rockdale Council Books	\$ 19.80
Sale of Calendars.	25.00	Mrs Eardley-Petty Cash	\$ 15.35
Bank Interest	\$ 19.25	Miss Otten - " "	\$ 8.20
		Mrs Wright - " "	\$ 30.00
		Mrs Williams & Miss	
		Lang - Cash for Post.	\$ 278.90
		G.A.Miller, Scy.Bdgs.	\$ 197.50
Bal.b/fwd. from Bank		Bank Balance, 30.6.76	
at 30.June 1975	\$ 103.95	-\$707.84, less	
		-\$ 32.43 unrepresented	
		cheques	\$ 675.41
<hr/> TOTAL: \$1542.16		<hr/> TOTAL: \$1542.16	

St. George Historical Society

Lydham Hall Fund Raising Committee - Balance Sheet - for the Year Ending 30th June 1976.

<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Raffles	\$ 137.40	Historical Books	\$ 111.50
Cake Sales	\$ 11.20	Rockdale Council	\$ 75.00
Social Events	\$ 131.00	C.L.Hirsch-Table	
Donations	\$ 136.60	Purchase	\$ 240.00
History Books	\$ 176.40	Petty Cash	\$ 10.00
Centenary Books	\$ 75.00	Miniature Framing	\$ 5.00
Lydham Hall Admissions	\$ 442.00	St.George Bld.Scy.	
Sale of goods	\$ 400.00	Investment	\$ 500.00
Bank Interest	\$ 12.47	R.W.Rathbone	\$ 88.80
Profit on books	\$ 19.30	Grace Bros.	\$ 77.64
		St.George Historical	\$ 88.40
		Miniature Framing	\$ 41.60
		Petty Cash	\$ 10.00
		A.Ford, sundry repairs	
		electrical etc.	\$ 16.10
		St.Geo.Hist.Scy.	
		book sales	\$ 68.90
		Value Cent.Prog.books	
		on hand	\$ 18.75
Cash at Bank on		Cash in Bank 30, June.	\$ 614.46
30th June 1975	\$ 424.78		
<hr/> TOTAL: \$1966.15		<hr/> TOTAL: \$1966.15	

Both sets of books audited and found correct. (Sgd.) Arthur Ford. 30.6.'76.

ONE SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

- *Ralph Dunsmore.*

On the 29th May ('76), Mrs Wright organised a Saturday afternoon excursion known as a Mystery Tour. We assembled opposite the Rockdale Town Hall and left by Bus at 12.45p.m.

It was a nice day and we were all guessing as to where the trip would take us. Later it was disclosed that we were heading for National Park. We proceeded down the Prince's Highway to Sutherland where we stopped at a small but nicely appointed and well-kept park.

Here we were met by Mrs. Hutton Neve of the Sutherland Historical Society, who conducted the tour and gave us a very interesting commentary. In the Park they had among other things the 17th mile stone used on the old South Coast Road, also a drinking trough used by horses in the past era. Mrs Hutton Neve was a foundation member of our St. George Historical Society. She told us a little of the history of Sutherland and of the Steam Tram that ran from here to Cronulla in the early part of the century. We followed the route of the old tram line to Cronulla, then along the waterfront to North Cronulla, past the turnoff to Kurnell, back almost to Sutherland, then on to the old picnic grounds at Como, which brought back memories to many of us as it was a favourite spot for Sunday School picnics in the old days.

The Como Hotel which is very old is still there in all its glory of iron lace etc. It has been added to and is very well kept, but still retains the atmosphere of the olden days.

After driving around the expanding parts of Como and Jannali we went on to Heathcote. We crossed the railway line and went to see Heathcote House with its Tower. It is not in a very good state of repair and we could only catch glimpses of it through the trees. At the present it is used as a Riding School and the grounds are full of stables and horse yards. We were told that during the War it was suspected of being a hideout for spies, that messages were being flashed from the Tower at night. Upon investigation it was found that the Flashing light from the Lighthouse reflected in the windows of the Tower, giving the impression that signals were being sent.

On to Waterfall, again crossing the railway line we followed the river with its chain of pools past the Falls themselves to the junction of the Audley-South Coast Road. Turning left we made our way towards Audley, stopping at Governor Game Lookout for afternoon tea. This was a lovely spot and all admired the grandeur of the view.

Proceeding we came to and crossed the Causeway then passed the site of the old Allambie Guest House which was burnt down some years ago and up the hill which we all remember walking after a day's picnicking and boating in the Park, in days gone by.

On to Loftus, where there is an Electric Tram Museum. By this time it was getting late and there was not too much daylight left. The Curator

met us and was very keen to show us everything. We had rides on three different types of trams, for which we paid 25c, and were issued with a Souvenir Ticket being a replica of those used in the day of the trams. There were the old Toast Rack, the Sydney-Bondi and a Melbourne Tram. They have about a quarter of a mile of track and we were taken up and back in each tram. By this time it was getting dark. We went into the big shed which houses their collection of a dozen or more trams, including a police tram that was used to take the prisoners from Darlinghurst Court House to Long Bay Gaol, also trams from Brisbane. They don't usually open the Museum to the public on Saturdays, but did so as a special favour to us.

After thanking the Curator and his Staff we set off down the Highway to Sutherland where we said good-bye to Mrs Hutton Neve with many thanks, and on to Rockdale arriving back about 6.30p.m. after a very enjoyable afternoon.

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"ON THE STREET WHERE YOU LIVE".

How was your particular street named?

When was it named?

Is the present name, the original one?

Has your street always come under its present municipality?

What do you know or remember about the person or place, after which your particular street is named?

How long have you lived in your street?

For example - Bruce St, Bexley. Who was Bruce?

Fontainebleau St - Isn't there an old home by this name?  
What is the story?

Prince Edward St - Was this really named in honour of  
Queen Victoria's son - away there at Carlton?

A paper is under way concerning "On the street where you live" and members are asked to submit whatever information is available.

- Bronwyn Perkins  
Publicity Officer.

## BEATING THE RETREAT.

- A.F. Day.

Mr Kluss, in his address to the Society on June 15th 1973, on "The Story of the St. George Regiment" mentioned the "Beating the Retreat" ceremony. This is held on the regimental parade ground, on a Saturday afternoon, usually in June each year. As a matter of possible interest to members, the following is an extract from the official programme:-

" The ceremony of "Beating the Retreat" as we know it today, appears to have its origins in the 16th Century when it was originally called "Retreat" or "Watch Setting".

Humphrey Bland, a military historian, wrote in 1727 that at sunset the drummers would go upon the ramparts of fortified places and beat the "Retreat". This was to warn all those outside the gates, that the gates would be closed when the drummers had finished the "Retreat".

"Beating the Retreat" had, by 1779 gained added significance. In encampments, it was the practice at the setting of the sun, for the drummers of the regiment to play and troop before the regiment. This was to warn all soldiers to be alert for the night, for sentries to challenge until dawn, to warn soldiers not to fire and for picquets to form. It was also at this time used to call to arms if firing occurred during the night."

In the ceremony at Arncliffe, the trooping by the Band and Drummer Corps, which symbolizes the ancient practice of warning the approach of night, is carried out very impressively.

In army camps or on troopships, when the bugler sounds the "Retreat" all army personnel who are on the parade ground or deck (if a troopship) cease movement and stand to attention facing the flag (or stern of the ship) until the flag lowering ceremony and bugle call are complete.

The infantry bugle call is of about 100 notes and takes approximately three-quarters of a minute. The artillery trumpet call is similar, but an octave lower.

Normally this ceremony takes place at sundown, but where this would be inconveniently late, as with "daylight saving time" or in summer at high latitudes, the commanding officer fixes a suitable time.

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*Correction - June Bulletin.*

*Bexley Swimming Pool, line 17 - Substitute "were" for "was".*