



ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPONSORED BY ROCKDALE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

24 Duff Street,
Arncliffe. 2205.
October 1976.

Dear Friend and Member,

The regular meeting will be held as follows:-

Date: Friday Evening, October 15th, 1976.

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

Business: General.

Syllabus Item: Mr. Ken Tye, a Member of the R.A.H.S. Excursion's Committee, will give an Illustrated Lecture on:

"Crossing The Blue Mountains"

Mr. Tye has spoken previously to our Society on Major Edmund Lockyer, and Historic Buildings of the State. We are assured of an enjoyable evening, for he is both an authority on Blue Mountains history, and an excellent photographer.

Supper Roster: Mrs. Hunt, Captain, with Mesdames "Troughton, Grace, Kalucy, Thompson.

Ladies please bring a plate.

Mr. D. Sinclair,
President.
Phone 587.4555.

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

Mrs. B. Perkins,
Publicity Officer.
Phone 587.9164

Mrs. E. Eardley,
Secretary.
Phone 59.8078

Mr. A. Ellis,
Research Officer.
Phone 587.1159

"The glory of the garden lies in more than meets the eye."

Rudyard Kipling.

Rhododendron Festival - Blackheath.

Date: November 6th, 1976.
Meeting Place: Town Hall, Rockdale.
Time: 8.30 a.m.
Cost: \$2.75 per person (Pay October Meeting)
Bring your Morning & Afternoon Tea and Lunch.

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).

DONATIONS TO LYDHAM HALL.

Mrs. E. Crutch, Beverly Hills.	Coloured bead lady's handbag. Silver and Glass Cruet.
Mrs. Zammit,	British Domino Set.
Mrs. Davies, Oatley.	Willow Pattern Plates.
Miss B. Thomas, Bexley.	Glass Slipper Pin Cushion. 2 Hat pins. Pearl tops. No.13A. Kodak Portrait Attachment.
Mrs. McNamara & Miss Lambert, Carlton.	2 Photos in Frames of Relatives.
Miss Mascord, Bexley.	Collection of forks & spoons, 120 years old.
Miss Sinclair, Ramsgate.	Aquatint picture.

"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.

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.

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.

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.

<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>

BANKSIA FREE CHURCH - EVANGELICAL

ESTABLISHED - 1890.

*- Supplied by Pastor W.G.Kirton
as prepared for the 80th
Anniversary.*

The fact that this Independent Church has been able to continue a fruitful ministry for Christ our Lord over a period of 80 years gives us the opportunity of recognition of His Divine guidance in leading our forefathers to establish this place of worship on this present site on 4th May, 1890.

The circumstances prompting this decision are both interesting and unusual. On September 6th, 1885 a place of worship was opened at Kogarah by a small group of people who wished to keep together until circumstances allowed them to return to their own Church. Others joined them until it became an active and progressive work, until 24th July, 1889, this Church, which had fulfilled its purpose decided to close.

From the Supervisor's closing report, when operations were suspended on September 30th, 1889, I quote:

"This Church has been closed, not because of any lack of interest or financial difficulty, or decrease of its prosperity, but on the other hand, in the midst of its prosperity, at the brightest moment of its existence, surrounded with abundant proof of the value of its operations in the direction of spiritual advancement. The Church only being considered as a 'temporary expedient' was kept open until a successful accomplishment of the object of its establishment had been attained. Such object being realized it has closed amidst expressed regret from its congregation and many who had watched its successful career."

After the closing of this Kogarah Church it was felt by many people who had attended the services and were not involved in the circumstances under which it closed, that there was a real need to continue the work of an Independent Church. It was these people who requested that they be allowed to erect a new building on another site and continue to worship and work together under the same name. (Free Church).

Their request being granted, the present site at Banksia (Princes' Highway) was purchased with freewill donations, a Church building erected by Mr J. W. Syman and opened on 4th May, 1890.

This Free Church then established, was governed by a Committee of 6 men, with Mr.W.A.Beehag, Secretary; Mr W McKern, Supervisor; and Mr James H Perry as Chairman. Robert Allars, W Lawrence and S.Schofield, Messrs. S.A.Beehag, Henry Caton and Frank Beard were added to the Committee before the end of 1890.

The first Trustees were:

Messrs H.W.McKerne, W.A.Beehag, J.E.Cooper, J.Schofield and A. Walker.

The original Church building was demolished in 1960 to make provision for the widening of the Princes Highway, and the new Church building was erected by Mr Bate, builder, and Mr K. Werry, architect. The Church was opened by Mr.A.L.Perry, (former Pastor) on 7th October, 1961. New amenities were added in 1965.

The Communion table was donated by the Partridge family and Communion chairs by the Kirton family in memory of their parents. The organ was purchased by Church members in memory of Mr.S.A.Beehag and the new pews were all donated by members and friends.

The opening meetings of the Church in 1890 were well attended and like the previous Church at Kogarah, it grew and expanded rapidly, at the close of its first year with a Sunday School of 144 scholars, and 12 teachers, and in its 5th year with 267 scholars and 11 teachers. For many years the work of the Sunday School and Youth Organisations have been a feature of the importance of the work of this Church.

Various organisations over the years have been a Band of Hope, 1893-1903; Debating Society 1899-1903; Dorcas Society, Young People's Institute established in 1917 and still meeting today as Young People's Fellowship. The Junior Christian Endeavour Society established in 1901 is still meeting regularly without any recess over all these years. The I.C.E and U.P.C.E. are now in recess. The Women's Devotional Fellowship commenced in 1936 and is still an active work of the Church. The midweek Prayer meeting and Bible Study, commenced in March 1947, is still a regular feature of the Church work.

The Banksia Free Church for the past 80 years has been ministered to by lay preachers and ministers of various denominations, including its own pastors, and have been helped and encouraged by their faithful preaching and ministry of the Word. Some have continued regularly for many years.

The first minister of the Church was James H Perry, 1890-1900,
followed by -
Henry Phillips , 1900-1938,
A. L. Perry, 1938-1955,
D. Woodward, 1955-1959
W.G. Kirton, 1961- present.

Of all these Pastors, only Mr D.Woodward, a student of Sydney Bible Training Institute and Mr K Napper, an assistant Pastor were on a stipend.

Since the passing of Mr.S.A.Beehag, who was elected to the Committee in 1890, his position as Supervisor of the Church from 1895-1938 has been discontinued.

The Church Secretaries: Mr.W.A. Beehag - 1890 - 1897
Mr. M. Tuck - 1897 - 1903
Mr. T. Barlow } -
Mrs F.W.Bye } - 1906 - 1933 (27 yrs.)
Mr.T.D.Pearce } -

Mr K Matta - 1933 - 1941
Mr. W. G. Kirton - 1941 - 1961
Mr. E. Hunt - 1961 - 1965
Mr. Colin Kirton - 1965 - present.

Treasurers: Mr H. W. McKern - 1890 - 1895
Mr. Jas. Mackie)
Mr. A. E. Green) - 1895 - 1900
Mr. A. H. Willison - 1900 - 1902
Mr. H. Phillips - 1902 - 1903
Mr. W. J. Buckland) -
Mr. A. L. Perry) - 1903 - 1940
Mr. C. A. Perry - 1946 - 1956
Mr. W. Unsworth - 1956 - present.

Auditors: Messrs. W. M. Onions, W. H. Cadagon, W. B. Doust, H. C. Martyn,
C. B. Doust, W. Davies - present Auditor from 1949.

Organists: Messrs. H. W. McKern, S. Sherlock, A. H. Willison, C. A. Pain,
Miss D. Beehag, Mr C. Martyn, Miss P. Partridge,
Miss F. Pearce; Mr. M. Larkinson also served for many
years as assistant Church organist. Mr V Kirton from
1951 - present.

Many people have given effective service to this Church and we would like to mention the long years of service as J.C.E. Supt., given by Mrs M Pearce, the present J.C.E. Supt., Miss N Tester since 1947. Miss Tester is also the National Supt. of J.C.E. Mr A Perry, from early youth as a teacher in the Sunday School, C.E. Leader, Kindergarten and Sunday School Supt., Church Treasurer and Pastor.

We acknowledge also the faithful services in the Y.P.I of Mr N Sachisthal, Mr K Matta, and Mr J Wrightson, of long service in the Kindergarten by Mrs W Kirton and in the Beginners of Mrs I Perry and Mr I Perry in the Sunday School; and their long editing of the Church News.

A very interesting history can be recorded of men and women who have entered the ministry of other Churches, or who are engaged in missionary work, open air work etc., after service with Banksia Free Church. Mr K Napper - Borneo, Rev K Matta, Rev. A Dube, Rev. A Tester, Rev. A. Gardner, Mr D Gibb, Mr E Porter, Mr K Graham and Mr E hunt.

The oldest member of the Church today (1970) is Mrs L Perry, who joined the Church on 6th October, 1905.

Unfortunately we cannot live in the past, and we are rejoicing that the work commenced here in 1890 has been so wonderfully blessed of God over 80 years. For this work to continue it requires the help and co-operation of all who have any interest in its activities.
