



ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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1/46 Oatley Ave.,
OATLEY. 2223.

August 1977.

Dear Friend and Member,

The regular monthly meeting will be held as follows:

Date: Friday Evening, August 19th, 1977, at 8 p.m.

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

Correspondence - Accounts.

Business - General.

Syllabus Item: This meeting will be a "Norfolk Island Slide Night", Members are invited to show 10 - 12 of their best slides which were taken on their recent holiday organised by the Society, which, by all accounts, was a huge success.
This was due to the untiring efforts and enthusiasm of the Treasurer, Mrs. Wright, in her capacity as Social Secretary.
Don't forget your projectors.

Supper Roster: Mrs. Lee, Captain, Mesdames Ronson, Samuelson, Turner, and H. Jones.

LADIES PLEASE BRING A PLATE.

Mr. A. Ellis,
President.
Phone 587.1159.

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

Mrs. B. Perkins,
Publicity Officer.
Phone 587.9164

Miss A. Lang,
Secretary.
Phone 57.2608
(after 6 p.m.)

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

Discussion is an exchange of intelligence. Argument is an exchange of ignorance.

.... Friendship Book 1976.

ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

President's Report for year ended 30th June, 1977.

It gives me pleasure to present the President's Report for the year ended 30th June, 1977.

Following the pattern of previous years, we have met on twelve occasions since our last annual meeting. At these gatherings, we had the opportunity to further our knowledge by listening to guest speakers, many of whom showed slides to illustrate their address.

Outings were arranged by our Social Secretary and many members availed themselves of the opportunity to visit places of interest. For some years now, a three day trip has been organised over the Eight Hour week-end and on this last occasion members toured the Western Districts. It is pleasing, and also very encouraging, to be able to report that these outings proved popular, and on several occasions, we were unable to accommodate all those wishing to participate.

Of course, the highlight of this past year was the organised visit of 34 of our members to Norfolk Island. This was a most ambitious project and the response which we received was overwhelming. I'm sure there are few Societies who could obtain the support which we received, and which, from all reports, resulted in an interesting and enjoyable nine days at this old settlement.

Our Society has now been in existence for sixteen years and membership stands at 236. We may take pride in the attendances at our meetings and I think there are few Societies of any type which could match our figures.

At our August meeting, 92 people were present, In April - 90, and for the full twelve months, the average attendance was 75. This reveals a steady growth, the figures for the previous three years reading backwards being 69, 60 and 55.

Members were recently supplied with a copy of the Lydham Hall Local Committee's Annual Report and will have noted the progress made with our Museum. The existence of Lydham Hall is now well known and it is proving popular with visitors, a fact highlighted by the attendance for April this year, when 149 adults and 329 children visited the house.

Our financial strength is revealed by the Treasurer's statement at the June meeting when we had \$2,700 in hand.

May I once again pay tribute to those members whose efforts make the very existence of our Society possible - the Office Bearers, and those on the ladies' Fund Raising Committee, Lydham Hall Roster and the Supper Roster.

At this time, I would particularly like to mention Mrs. Eardley who has been Secretary of the Society for a total of six years and has indicated that she now wishes to step down. Her contribution to the Society's success has been large indeed, and even now she is willing to continue to assist with the Bulletin. On your behalf, I record our deep appreciation for the help and untiring efforts of Mrs. Eardley.

I have now been an Office bearer for thirteen years - four as Treasurer and nine as President - and feel a change would be good both for the Society and myself.

I trust there will be other members willing to continue the work of the Society by standing for these two positions at the election of officers.

Donald H Sinclair

15th July 1977.

President.

ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE, 1977.

INCOME.

Members Subscriptions \$425.00
R.A.H.S. Grant 100.00
Donations 32.00
Sale of Badges 26.00
Sale of Society Books 119.00
Proceeds Bus Trips
and Raffles 558.70
Bank Interest \$16.24
\$16.38 32.62
Bank Balance \$707.84
Less Unpresented
Cheque \$32.43 675.41

TOTAL \$1.968.93


EXPENDITURE.

Miss Otten Petty Cash \$16.30
Mrs Eardley Petty Cash 20.88
Mrs. E. Wright, Crockery 26.00
H.A.H.S. Two Delegates 30.00
Bond Printing Co. 132.68
R.A.H.S. Annual Sub-
scription 17.50
National Trust 10.00
Mrs. Eardley Books -
Hill End 17.00
Miss Lang - Postage 344.25
Carlton Bus Co. 235.00
Leisure Tours 155.00
Balance in Bank as at
30/6/77 964.23

TOTAL \$1.968.93

Having examined the Books concerned with this audit I have found them in good order and correct, and kept in a satisfactory manner, and certify them as a correct record of the sterling work carried out by Mrs. Wright, in her capacity as your treasurer.

14th July, 1977.


Signed: Alderman Arthur Ford J.P.

Hon. Auditor.

The following were elected to hold office for the year 1977 - 1978.

<u>Patrons:</u>	Mayor of Rockdale, Ald. P. Bryant. Alderman R. Rathbone Mr. R. Stark, Town Clerk.
<u>President:</u>	Mr. A. Ellis
<u>Senior Vice President:</u>	Mr. D. Sinclair.
<u>Vice Presidents:</u>	Mr. B. Foster Miss M. Dunsmore
<u>Hon. Secretary.</u>	Miss A. Lang
<u>Hon. Asst. Secretary, & Bulletin Editor.</u>	Mrs. E. Eardley
<u>Hon. Treas. & Social Sec.</u>	Mrs. E. Wright
<u>Hon. Auditor.</u>	Ald. A. Ford.
<u>Committee of Management.</u>	President, Secretary, Treasurer, Mr. Kell, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. R. Lee, Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Eardley, Misses M. Callister & M. Dunsmore.
<u>Lydham Hall Local Committee.</u>	Mr. A. Ellis, Miss A. Lang, 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. Prebble.

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 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 extra:

- Book 1. "The Early History of the Wolli Creek Valley" - very limited stocks.
Book 4. "The Arncliffe to Bexley Steam Tramway" - very limited stocks.
Also available: (By the same Author)
Book 7. "The Early History/Tempe & The Black Creek Valley"

Contact Asst. Secretary 'Phone 59.8078.
OR Miss Otton 'Phone 59.4259 (after 8 p.m.)

Society Badges are available - \$1.00 each. (See Mrs. Wright).

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.

There is now a large glass display case upstairs in Lydham Hall. At present it contains a few souvenirs from the various wars. Can you help to enlarge this display by exhibiting some of the war relics which you might have? These will be greatly appreciated, and good care taken of any souvenirs which you might care to loan or perhaps donate. Ring Miss Otton 59.4259.

NOTE TO MEMBERS . . . Please advise Secretary (phone 57.2608 - after 6 p.m.) of any change of address - this will save disappointment when your Bulletin is posted to you.

SOCIAL

21/8/77 Bus Trip to Hawkesbury College, at Richmond, "Open Day".
Leave Rockdale Town Hall at 9 a.m. sharp.
Cost \$3.00 per person.

October 1st, 2nd & 3rd . . . October Long Weekend.

Saturday - Bus leaves Rockdale Town Hall at 7.30 a.m. sharp.
Ferry trip on Lake Burley Griffin.

Sunday - Braidwood & Majors Creek.
Return Monday via Batemans Bay & South Coast.
Cost: Dinner, Bed & Breakfast - \$60.00
Ferry Trip \$2.50 extra. (will take 90 minutes).

Ring Mrs. Wright - 599.4884, for details).
Balance of money at August Meeting please.
... Waiting List Only.

ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

- Edward A Downs... 1976.

In June 1961 a small group of people, 12 in number and mainly Aldermen and Officers of the Rockdale Municipal Council, met in the Council Chamber and thus was formed the *Rockdale Historical Society* with the object of researching and recording the history of the locality and supportive of the preservation of suitable buildings, furniture, items of manufacture and commerce, and old domestic relics and artifacts of interest within the district.

The following year in August, the group changes its name to the *St. George Historical Society* to broaden the geographical scope of historical objectives to embrace the whole of St. George District from Cooks River in the north to Georges River in the south, with particular attention to historic Botany Bay and its association with Captain Cook and the planting of the British Union Flag on Terra Australis more than 200 years ago.

Since that small beginning the fifteen years have seen the St. George Historical Society grow to a membership of more than 250 persons, and during those years they have organised a variety of inspections and tours of sites of historical interest within the district and beyond, often extending to week-ends in the country.

The Society's monthly journal has recorded a wealth of historical facts, stories and anecdotes, with sometimes note a little legend, which may otherwise have well been lost for all time, as many of the elders in the community who personally related their reminiscences have since crossed the Great Divide themselves.

A number of small publications have from time to time been produced by the Society, so ably written and illustrated by a late esteemed member, under the following titles.....

"The Early History of the Wolli Creek Valley"

"The Kogarah to Sans Souci Tramway"

"Thomas Saywell's Tramway from Rockdale to Lady Robinson's Beach"

"The Arncliffe to Bexley Steam Tramway"

"Heritage in Stone"

"All Stations to Como"

"The Early History of Tempe and Black Creek Valley"

Some are currently available at \$1.00 each, plus postage, and provide some indication of the extent of the Society's activities and interests.

Not least of the St. George Historical Society's functions is the operation and maintenance of a local history museum in "Lydham Hall" an early home located in Lydham Avenue Bexley. The house was erected in 1855 on the highest ridge of land between Cooks River and Georges River, and was built

of locally quarried sandstone in the architectural style transitory from the Georgian to the mid-Victorian colonial eras. Originally named "Lydham", this historic old home later became "Lydham Hill" and prior to World War I assumed its present name of "Lydham Hall".

Following 115 years of varied ownership, "Lydham Hall" was purchased by Rockdale Municipal Council in 1970 with the express objective of preserving one of the oldest dwellings still existing between the Rivers, and it has been the Council's patronage and support which has enabled the St. George Historical Society to establish a quality museum containing a fine range of colonial furniture dating from the 1860's and mostly on loan from the National Trust, along with a surprising variety of glassware, china, silverware, decorative ornaments, clothing, household items, books, photographs, etc. "Lydham Hall" is certainly well worth a visit and is open to the public on Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays from 2.00 to 4.00 in the afternoons, and mid-week group bookings by arrangement with the Curator. It is of interest that during the last year some 2,600 people inspected "Lydham Hall".

The St. George Historical Society welcomes new members and inquiries, so interested listeners may like to note these telephone numbers

Asst. Secretary	---	Mrs E Eardley	---	598078
"Lydham Hall" Curator	---	Miss B Otton	---	594259

The Society's publications are available from these ladies or at Smith's Florist Shop, Tramway Arcade, Rockdale, right by the railway station. Meetings are held in the Council Chamber at Rockdale Town Hall at 8.00p.m. on the 3rd Friday each month. Perhaps we can look forward to seeing you there.

This article is the script of a broadcast made on behalf of the Society.

The names of the original twelve referred to above -
Alderman T.J.McCarthy, Mayor;
Aldermen W Alder & R W Rathbone,
Messrs N.C.Guess (ex-Mayor), C.W.Napper(ex-Alderman), J.Nightingal,
W Foster, J.Ellison(Chief Librarian), J.I.Swann, E.W.Town (Town Clerk)
and Misses J.S.Halires and R Johnson (St.George Leader).

- Item No.4, Town Clerk's Report -
Rockdale Council - 19th June 1961.
