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ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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24 Duff Street,
ARNCLIFFE. 2205.

July 1979.

Dear Friend and Member,

The regular meeting will be held as follows:-

Date: Friday evening, July 20th, 1979, at 8 p.m.
Place: Council Chamber, Town Hall, Princes Highway, Rockdale.
Business: Opening & Welcome
Apologies
Minutes of Previous Annual Meeting
Annual Financial Report
Lydham Hall Annual Report
President's Annual Report

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1979 - 1980

Patrons (3)
President
Senior Vice President
Vice Presidents (2)
Hon. Secretary
Hon. Asst. Secretary
Hon. Treasurer
Hon. Auditors (2)
Committee of Management (President, Secretary, Treasurer,
and 7 Members).
Lydham Hall Committee
Ladies Social Committee (It has been suggested that all ladies
who are able - go on Roster).
Research Officer
Publicity Officer
Social Secretary
Editor (Bulletin)

P. T. O.

(2)

Correspondence:General Business:

Syllabus Item: Mr.. Dixon, one of our Members, will give an illustrated address on his flight over "Antarctica". You will enjoy this unusual journey.

Supper Roster: Miss M. Callister, Captain, & Mesdames J. Preddy, W. Farrar and L. Barrack, and Miss Smallwood.

Ladies, please bring a plate.

Mr. A. Ellis,
President.
Phone 587.1159.

Mrs. E. Eardley,
Secretary.
Phone 59.8078

Mrs. B. Perkins,
Publicity Officer.
Phone 587.9164

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

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

"What you keep to yourself you lose, what you give away, you keep forever."

Excerpt from: "The Story of San Michele"
by Alex Munthe.

(3)

Many of our Members have been and still are ill. We are sorry to hear this and hope you will be well again soon.

Of Interest.

This year September marks the Centenary (1879-1979) of the Sydney Tramways System. For the occasion there will be numerous Celebrations in Sydney. On Saturday, September 29th, the South Pacific Electric Railway will operate its Electric Trams at Loftus, with a special historical display to mark the occasion. The Tramway Museum is located by the Princes Highway at the National Park railway crossing at Loftus, where visitors may enjoy a variety of Tram rides. On Sunday, September 30th, the New South Wales Steam Tram Preservation Society will be operating its Steam Trams in Parramatta Park. Visitors will be most welcome to participate in the Celebrations, riding the tram and viewing the exhibition of old photographs, and also enjoy the lovely Parramatta Park. Also, on Sunday, September 30th, Central Railway Concourse will be the venue for a Static Historical Display of old Sydney Trams, Models, and Photographs etc. for the Centenary. All of these (or any) are events which should be of great interest to Society Members in view of the Tramway History of the St. George Area.

Special Notice. The St. George Historical Society is pleased to announce that the following books, written and illustrated by the late Gifford H. Eardley, for the Society, have been re-printed and are now available. Price: \$1.00 per copy. (Postage extra).

- No.1. "The Wolli Creek Valley"
- No.2. "Kogarah to Sans Souci Tramway"
- No.3. "Saywells Tramway. Rockdale to Lady Robinsons Beach"
- No.4. "Arncliffe to Bexley Tramway"
- No.5. "Our Heritage in Stone"
- No.6. "All Stations to Como"
- No.7. "Tempe and the Black Creek Valley" is also available. (Limited stocks only)

For your copy of the above books, please contact one of the following:
Mrs. E. Wright - Ph. 599.4884, Miss B. Otton - Ph.59.4259 (after 8 p.m.)
Mrs. E. Eardley - Sec. Ph.59.8078, Mr. A. Ellis - Ph.587.1159.

SOCIAL. OCTOBER LONG WEEKEND.

Mrs. Wright, Social Secretary, has organised for your pleasure, a three-day tour to Tamworth - Armidale, for the long weekend, September 29th, 30th and October 1st, 1979. Full amount of \$75.00 by August meeting please. For details ring Mrs. Wright - 599.4884 (81 Watkin Street, Bexley.).

KOGARAH PUBLIC SCHOOL - Part 3.

- J.J.Fletcher
 Division of Planning
 N.S.W. Dept. of Education
 - July 1970.

The Evening Public School.

The Public Instruction Act, 1880 had made provision for the establishment of Evening Public Schools for young people who had left school but who wished to continue their education. For the Minister to agree to establishing such a school, he had to have a guarantee that at least 10 persons over the age of 14 years would regularly attend.

A request for this type of school was made in January 1902, with the promise that 20 young people would attend: of the 20, 18 were young men between 15 and 21 years, some of whom were employed during the day as woodcarvers & as opticians; the other 2 were girls - & this was most unusual as in those days it was considered improper for young men & women to be attending schools together at night - think of the moral dangers!

The school began in 1902 under the charge of a trained teacher, Mr Douglas Staples, who during the daytime was an assistant teacher at Kogarah Superior School. The school met three times a week for about 2 hours a time in one of the rooms at Kogarah Superior School. (The Dept. of Education possesses a photograph showing the school in operation about 1910, at which date it was a Commercial Class as part of the Evening Continuation Course. It appears to have been held in the 1891 building.)

For most purposes, the subjects taught in the Evening Public Schools, were the same as those taught in the day schools.

More Growing Pains.

In 1909 the enrolment at the Superior School had risen to over 1,500 with a staff of 37. The Headmaster, Mr E Wilson requested that the school be raised to the highest status because of this large enrolment and added:

...considering the wide range of instruction & the importance of Kogarah as an educational centre, I venture to hope that this application will receive favourable consideration.

It did.

The class sizes in 1914 were very much larger than what is now experienced in the primary school. For example, in the infants' classes 2A had 48 children & 2B had 63. In the primary:

3A - 63	4A - 56	5A - 54	5C - 37
3B - 56	4B - 64	5B - 42	5D - 48

In the same year another deputation waited on the Under-Secretary of Education, Peter Board, claiming that accommodation was again inadequate. According to the deputation's figures, railway usage at Kogarah had increased 100 per cent in the previous three years, & not only Kogarah (enrolment 2,042 & average attendance 1,635), but all schools in the area were "congested".

Mr. Board in reply noted that -

- (1) the State's school population had grown by 13,000 in 2 years & the Dept. had built 254 of the 260 classrooms needed;
- (2) the Illawarra suburbs had the most "congested" schools because the Illawarra district was growing at the fastest rate;
- (3) though Kogarah was an educational centre, Board had plans for 173 children attending Kogarah school who lived nearer to other schools to be restricted to using these schools*;
- (4) he was hoping to establish a separate High School to provide for the needs of secondary education in the district; the Minister had already authorized the purchase of three acres of Mr Schofield's property so that this High School could be established. It was to be called the St. George High School & would cater for both boys & girls;
- (5) as a further step to alleviate the overcrowding, the Minister had authorised the establishment of an Infants' School at Carlton which would take about 150 infants' children from Kogarah School. When these two new schools became operational, nearly 400 children would be withdrawn from Kogarah School, & accommodation would then be adequate.

The leader of the deputation, Mr. Bagnal, M.L.A., was well pleased: "I thank you for the way that you have received us & we go away satisfied."

While these plans were being put into action, the Girls' School used the Church of England Hall as a temporary classroom, & the Oddfellows' Hall was again used.

By the end of 1915, temporary accommodation was completed for the St. George High School, but at some stage & for some reason, the school became restricted to girls. In 1918 only about 10 new girls enrolled in St. George Girls' High School from Kogarah Superior School. Yet at the end of 1917, over 70 girls had passed their Qualifying Certificate enabling them to enrol at a High School. This fact worried Peter Board so much that he wrote to the Mistress, Miss Anne Molster, for an explanation thinking that there must have been some misunderstanding. She assured

* In 1915 this restriction was brought in.

the Under-Secretary that there had been no misunderstanding in the parents' minds. The parents preferred their girls to take the short course offered by the Domestic School; as well the girls liked the Domestic - Commercial subjects such as cookery, business principles & shorthand. Not only that, three well-known ex-students who did a High School course & gained their Leaving Certificate were refused admission to the Teacher Training College. Besides, said Miss Molster rather proudly, parents were quite satisfied with the progress their girls make at this school, the girls being very proud of its tradition.

The Boys' Commercial High School (Intermediate High School.)

In 1919, the Parents & Citizens' Association pressed the Minister, Hon. A. James, to establish a Commercial High School to serve the boys who, at the time, were travelling long distances to attend a High School after obtaining their Qualifying Certificate (Q.C.) at the end of their primary schooling. Kogarah had about 60 boys in the post-primary 7th & 8th classes, & about 75 boys sitting for the Q.C. This was the third largest enrolment of such boys in the State, (after Mosman & Hamilton). Chief Inspector James Dawson recommended as follows:

Boys come to Kogarah from Helensburgh & Cronulla, & Kogarah has a Science-room. I think there is a need for a central Commercial School in this district & recommend that one be formed at Kogarah Superior School.

It was established at the beginning of 1920.

In the following year a new three-storey building was completed to accommodate the Boys' Commercial School. At the same time, the 1891 building was being used by the girls & infants was renovated & remodelled. The tiered galleries in the rooms were pulled down & new horizontal floors laid. The total cost of the Boys' building & the renovations cost pounds 15,388.0.0.

A magazine produced by the school in 1921 showed on its cover the new building, the Girls' & Infants' building, the school staff & a panoramic view of Botany Bay as seen from the new building.

A Change of Hours.

In 1923, instead of the one-and-a-half hours for lunch, & school ending at 4.00p.m., lunchtime was reduced to one hour & school ended at 3.30p.m. Strangely enough this alteration was caused by the comparatively small play ground - there was not enough room to play & not enough seating accommodation to allow time to sit for one-and-a-half hours.

The Infants' School.

The 1920's were a time for the Infants' school to expand. In 1920 the Infants had the use of 5 upstairs rooms in the 1891 building.

But there were 550 children enrolled, 518 attending regularly, & 11 classes to accommodate in these 5 rooms, whose furniture consisted of long high desks & long backless forms. This situation was relieved when some of the boys moved into the 1921 building.

By the end of the 1920's a separate Infants' School was being considered. Infact, the Inspector was informed that "plans are being prepared for a new Infants' School." But finances were low*.

Further consideration was given in 1933. Again plans were drawn up, this time for a two-storey building on the land at the back of the Anglican Church. This idea was shelved when it was decided to build a separate St. George Boys' High School. The Kogarah site, thus relieved of secondary boys, would provide ample accommodation for the Infants' School.

By 1938 the proposed plan for education in Kogarah was summed up in the following quotation:

The ultimate development of Kogarah will be that the infants will occupy a new building to be erected on the Gladstone St. site; the Intermediate High School boys to be transferreed to a new boys' High School at Jannali; the Domestic School classes to occupy the present boys' department building & the primary department to be housed in the existing girls' school building.

What was more, it was expected that it would be "from two to three years at least before the scheme is accomplished."

For the reader unacquainted with the later development, it is necessary to state that the above plan was only achieved in one point - in 1954 the Infants later occupied a new building erected on the Gladstone Street site at the back of the Anglican Church. The primary department subsequently joined them in 1962, leaving the Regent Street site solely for secondary pupils.

In a somewhat sentimental vein, it is interesting to note that the present public school at Kogarah stands on the site of the old Anglican cemetery at the back of the Church. Some of the folk buried in this cemetery include Joseph Shelton, one of the original patrons of the school, & Rev. John Done.

The school, begun 100 years ago largely as a result of Shelton's effort, has now moved back almost to its original site, & is a living headstone to its early founder.

* Remember this was the period of severe depression.

Kogarah Public School

<u>Principal Teacher</u>	<u>Year Appointed</u>
J. McDonnell	1870
W. Chapman	1872
M. Nevin	1882
J. Bardsley	1886
J. Murray	1890
M. Wilson *	1903
M. Anderson*	1910
E. Arnold	1930
J. O'Neill	1936
D. Fraser	1949
D. Crowley	1955
R. Fry	1956
H. Burke	1962
A. Noonan	1967
J. Hart	1970

* typed from carbon copy, initials indistinct, presumed to be "M".

ANNEX TO APPLICATION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL.

AT Rocky Point Road.

We the undersigned Parents (or Guardians) of Children residing within the undermentioned distances from the site of the proposed Public School at ... hereby undertake that our Children, whose names are inserted below, shall attend the said School.

Parents or Guardians	Distance from school	Name of child	Age	Religious Denomination.
X William Simpson	1-1/2	Emily Jane	6yrs	English Church
Hannah Bush				Roman Catholic
X Mary Ba....				R. Cx
John Stockdale		Samuel	14"	C. Eng.
		Anne	11	
		Wm.	8	
		Fanny	6	
		Hetery	4	
		Sally	1	
John Berghofer				Church England
Joseph Clarke				Presbeterian
Philipp T....		Frederig	4	English Church
X				Wesleyan
P... Geeves				Baptist

..... Smith					Lutheran
G... Smith					Church of England
J... ..					Wesleyan
William.....					Church of England
Anna					Church England
		John	11		
		Andrew	9		
		James	7		
				
George Lang					
Thos. Wilson					
Wm. Berghofer	one	Elizabeth	12		Presbeterian
	mile	Andrew	10		Lutherean
		a gret..	8		
		George	6		
Henry Berghofer	one	Rhoda Jones	12		Church of England
guardian	mile				
John Duncan	"	Jane Duncan	11		
		Robt. Duncan	9		Church of England
		Thomas Duncan	6		
		George Duncan	5		
Wm. Smith	"	Jane Smith	13		
Wms. mark X		Emily Smith	9		Church of England
		Elizabeth Smith	6		
		Wm. Smith	4		
Charlotte Rolfe	"	Charlotte Lamb	13		
John T....	"	George T....	12		Church of England
		William	7		
James Watson	"	Jeftsie Ann	11		Church of England
		Jane Elizabeth	10		
Daniel Phillips	"	Daniel	7		Church of England
		Sarah Ann	7		
		Wm.	5		
James Oxley	1/2 m	Thomas Oxley	12		Church of England
H Lambert	"	Mary Lambert	11		Church of England
		Wm. "	8		
		Elizabeth "	9		
		Olive "	5		
		George	4		
P. Ritter	"	Charles Ritter	11		Church of England
Thomas Morse					
John Iliffe					
William Lonvece		Eloner Lorome	11		W
		Alice	9		Congregational
		George	7		
		Elizabeth	5		
James Cambell					
George Edwards					Presbeterian
George Moore					Church of England
D.. Moore					Church of England
Joseph					Church of England
William	"	Kenneth Jenner	4		Church of England
John Shuman		Mary Shuman	13		Church of England
		.. Shuman	10		" " "
		Matilda Shuman	8		" " "

H.....	1/2 m	Henry	8	Luther
P.Mutthaasen		Phillipp M...	13	Luther
John Tuchin	3/4 m	John Tuchin	8	Church of England
William Parkes	1 m	Edward Parkes	5	Church of England
		Thomas Parkes	12	
Charles Richard	1/4 m	Agnes Richard	12	Church of England
		Frances Richard	3	
Frederick Skidmore		John Skidmore	13	Church of England
		William Skidmore	11	
		Sarah Skidmore	9	
		Florence Skidmore	7	
		Elizabeth Skidmore	3	
John South	 South	9	Church of England
		John South	11	
		Christopher South	7	
		Mary South	5	
Isabella Elliott		Adelaide Campbell	11	Church of England
George		
James Wilson		James Wilson	5	Presbeteiran
