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PRICE 5 c.

# ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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24 Duff Street,  
Arncliffe. 2205  
May, 1982

Dear Friend and Member,

The May Meeting will be held as follows:

Date: Friday Evening, May 21st, 1982, at 8.00 p.m.  
Place: Council Chamber, Town Hall, Princes Highway, Rockdale.  
Business: General  
Syllabus Item: Peter Sage presents. "Items of Australian Interest,  
leaning towards Historical." This should be a very pleasant  
and interesting evening. Come early, to get your seat.

## Supper Roster:

Captain: Mrs. Kell, and Mrs. Welch and Mrs. Teychenne.  
Ladies please bring a plate.

Mr. R. Lee, <u>President.</u> Phone: 570.1244	Mrs. B. Perkins, <u>Publicity Officer.</u> Phone: 587.9164	Mrs. E. Eardley, <u>Sec. &amp; Bulletin Ed.</u> Phone: 59.8078
Mrs. E. Wright, <u>Treasurer.</u> Phone: 599.4884	Miss D. Row <u>Social Secretary.</u> Phone: 50.9300	Mr. A. Ellis, <u>Research Officer.</u> Phone: 587.1159

Much as worthy friends add to the happiness and value of life, we must in the main depend upon ourselves, and everyone is his own best friend or worst enemy.

Lord Evebury.

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

Heritage Week 1981 and 1982 were outstanding successes. Put your thinking caps on--we need suggestions for Heritage Week 1983.

#### 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 reprinted and are now available. No. 8 Book was compiled by Mrs. Bronwyn Perkins.

- No. 1 "The Wolli Creek Valley"
- No. 2 "Kogarah to Sans Souci Tramway"
- No. 3 "Saywells Tramway -- Rockdale to Lady Robinson's 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"
- No. 8 "Early Churches of the St. George District"
- No. 9 "Early Pioneers of the St. George District" -- should be available later this year.

All books now available at \$1.25 per copy - plus current rate of postage.

For your copy of the above books, please contact one of the following:-

Mrs. E. Wright - Phone 599 4884, Miss B. Otton - Phone 59 4259 (After 8pm.)  
Mrs. E. Eardley - Secretary - Phone 59 8078, Mr. A. Ellis - Phone 587 1159.

Also available is a very interesting book - "Tempe - East Hills Railway", by B.J. Madden. Published by Hurstville Historical Society. Price \$1.80 per copy. Postage extra. Phone 599 4884, 59 8078.

The Research Project. "Early Pioneers of the St. George District" --undertaken by some of our members, is progressing. Much information has been gathered. However, there is still a long way to go. Help from interested members would be greatly appreciated. Can you help towards "Book No. 9" in our series of books on history? We would like to thank those members who have contributed. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings.

Social announcements at May Meeting.

BUSHFIRES SWEEP DISTRICT ...

- B J Madden  
Kingsgrove  
December 1977.

A disastrous bushfire which swept over several miles of country in the southern suburbs on Thursday, 6 February 1902, caused the loss of a number of houses, miles of fencing and large areas of grass and bush. The temperature in Sydney that day was 96°, but unofficial readings put the Parramatta maximum at 104°. The first report in the Sydney Morning Herald said that the fire commenced in the vicinity of Bonds Road and swept with terrible rapidity through the bush known as Griffith's. The next day, the Herald said that the fire was believed to have started from a swagman's camp in lower Bankstown (presumably the Peakhurst-Riverwood area). The Daily Telegraph on Friday, 7 February said that the fire broke out at Peakhurst, probably when some careless person dropped a lighted match, and then 'swept the country almost clear for a distance of about six miles', as far as Belmore and Moorefields.

A dense pall of smoke soon covered the district and large numbers turned out to fight the fire. Fed by the dry grass and dense scrub and bush, the fire soon had a complete mastery of the area. It widened as it advanced speedily, speedily, and in a very brief time, fences were being consumed and homesteads threatened.

Shortly after 3.00p.m. the fire brigades from Kogarah, Rockdale and Hurstville were summoned to Moorefields. They saw that most of the country extending from Stoney Creek Road at Hurstville to the St. George Hotel (at the corner of Canterbury and Kingsgrove Roads) was being swept by fire. Assistance was first given to saving Mr James Forester's house on the Croydon Road (probably the present Kingsgrove Road), where sparks were continually falling on the roof. Across Wolli Creek, on the Walker Estate (this was probably the Meadows Farm near Beverly Hills Station) some hundreds of acres of grass was consumed. The homestead on the property was said to be one of large dimensions, surrounded by numerous outhouses, and despite all efforts, a number of the latter were destroyed, but the house was saved. The house was one of the oldest residences in the district, and was said to have been erected by the convicts in the early days. On the farm of Mr James Forester, Senior, which was next reached, a shed and half a ton of potatoes ready for the markets were consumed and the main building was for some time in danger of destruction. After travelling down Wolli Creek, the flames ignited the woodwork of a bridge spanning the stream, and the structure was only saved by the prompt arrival of the firemen.

A large haystack, estimated to contain over 100 tons, on the property of Mr P Scahill, was enveloped in flames. Moorefields was next threatened. The fire swept towards the cemetery adjoining the Wesleyan Church in Moorefields Road, and was soon licking up all the

vegetation and the wooden railings about the graves. For a considerable time the Church itself was menaced. The Hurstville brigade then had an exciting few minutes to keep the Public School (then in Moorefields Road near Ada Street) from being destroyed, and at the same time Kogarah Brigade was similarly engaged in saving a cottage next door. A number of houses were burnt. Premises occupied by Messrs Lees and Walters and Constable Mannell was entirely consumed and others damaged. One of the largest buildings in the district, the St. George Hotel, seemed at one time to be doomed to destruction, but when hopes of saving the property were reduced to zero, the wind changed. So narrow was the escape that the out-buildings were almost reached by the flames. Adjoining property, occupied by Mr Ware, became ignited and was reduced to ashes.

Other houses destroyed included those of Mrs Mary Waters, Mrs Mary Ridgewell and Mr Hendry Thick.

In many instances, the fruits of long and arduous labour by the settlers were destroyed within a few minutes. Such was the case with a large stack of firewood, containing some hundreds of tons, which had been cut and carted together by the members of a family named Fitzgerald, and which were a prey to the conflagration. A poultry farmer lost over 400 ducks.

Damage was expected to reach several thousands of pounds.

The violent southerly change towards evening checked the destructive progress of the fire, which burned throughout the night and was still smouldering in some localities the following day. The scene on Thursday night was described as magnificent, the flames having ascended to the tops of hundreds of trees, and lighting up the country for a great distance on all sides.

On Monday, 10 February, the Herald reported: 'The more fortunate folk whose residences were untouched showed much compassion for those who had been rendered homeless, and this feature of the fire was the most pleasing to record.'

#### References:

- .Daily Telegraph, Friday, 7 February 1902, 7c, & Saturday 8 February 11b.
  - .Evening News, Friday, 7 February 1902, 4e.
  - .Sydney Morning Herald, Friday, 7 February 1902, 6d, Saturday, 8 February 1902, 8h, and Monday 10 February 1902, 11g.
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TELEPHONE SUBSCRIBERS ON THE KOGARAH EXCHANGE AT  
1st January 1906.

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- John Lumsden.

- 79 Allen Albert Jnr - "St.Kilda" Regent St Kogarah
- 120 Allen A Wigram - "Moonbara" Port Hacking
- 156 Alerdice & Co. Undertakers - Forest Rd. Hurstville
- 46 Arncliffe Pharmacy (P.S.Harris, Manager) Firth St Arncliffe
- 83 Arnold Edward - "Lynton" Sackville St Bexley
- 11 Astridge F.W. Grover - Rocky Pt.Rd., Rockdale
- 151 Austin C.H. "Oswego" - Gladstone Bexley
- 96 Australian Gas Light Co., Governor House Bexley
- 143 Barnsley John J. - "Hurstville Hotel" - Hurstville
- 5 Barsby C.H. - Storekeeper - Rocky Point Road Kogarah  
and residence - Webber Rd Kogarah
- 57 Beales J.A. - "Cornhill" - Montgomery St Kogarah
- 116 Bexley Council Chambers
- 145 Blaxland R.F. - "Laldreen" Riley Street Kogarah
- 150 Boler J & Sons, Produce Merchants, Rocky Pt. Rd.,  
and Residence - Gibb & Bryant Sts., Rockdale
- 94 Booth R G - "Cader Idris" - The Avenue Hurstville
- 47 Bowden Percy K - "The Point" - Connell's Bay Rd. George's River
- 148 Brady E.J. Hurstville Grove, Penshurst
- 87 Brett's Bakery, Railway Parade Kogarah
- 66 Brown F. House, Land & Estate Agent - Forest Rd., Hurstville
- 78 Brown P., Contractor - Flora St. Arncliffe
- 119 Budge H.C. - "Ballarat" - Gladstone St., Bexley
- 23 Bull Charles - "Bolaro" Bexley
- 64 Burnett J - Grocer & Wine Merchant - Forest Rd., Hurstville
- 12 Burns William - Timber Merchant - Rockdale
- 93 Butchart Mrs - "Rosslyn" - Forest Rd., Arncliffe
- 46 Campling George - Dentist - Lyne St., Arncliffe
- 25 Carruthers Hon.J.H., M.L.A. - "Ellesmere" Sans Souci
- 104 Casson H.J. - Chemist - Railway Pde., Kogarah
- 72 Cater T. - "Yarra Mundi" Queen's Road, Hurstville.

- 10 Chapman Isaac - "Delmonte" - Monomeeth St., Bexley
- 56 Chilcott H.F. Forest Rd., Arncliffe
- 42 Christian David & Co. Printers - Regent St Kogarah
- 90 Cormack Donald- "Dunvegan" - Harrow Rd., Rockdale
- 60 Cox Frederick - "Corra Lynn" - Frederick St., Rockdale
- 3 Cox W., Produce & Fuel Merchant - Rockdale
- 1 Cox William - Produce Merchant - Forest Rd., Hurstville
- 131 Crane Henry E - "Hillcrest" - Woniora Rd., Hurstville
- 144 Cutler Frank - Provision Store - Ocean St., Penshurst
- 105 Dannevig H.C. -"Brodian" - Harrow Rd., Bexley
- 124 Doust W B. Gore St., Arncliffe
- 140 Edmondson E.J., Butcher - Rocky Pt. Rd., Rockdale
- 97 Elliott Edward - "Araluen" - Belmore Rd., Hurstville
- 149 Ercole Dr.Q - "Braeside" - Bown's Rd., Kogarah
- 166 Everett Mrs - "Myerla" Connel's Bay
- 146 "Excelsior" - Macaroni Co. (Factory) - "Gordon House"  
Gordon St., Brighton-le-Sands.
- 58 Ferguson F. & Sons - "Australian Nursery" - Hurstville
- 31 Finch Arthur E., Chemist & Dentist - Council Chambers  
Hurstville
- 127 Ford M.E.D., - "Collingwood" - Kenwyn St., Hurstville
- 76 Formby M.R. - "Brandlesome" - Forest Rd., Bexley
- 81 Forsyth Robert - "The Towers" - Sharp St., Belmore
- 136 Fortescue & Sons - IXL Rabbit Poisoning Machine Manufacturers,  
Fresh Food & Ice Co. (Agent) Arncliffe
- 135 A.Carlyle - Agent - Rocky Pt.Rd., Rockdale
- 65 Fry Charles - "Mayfield", Railway Parade North Kogarah
- 16 Gannon Hon. J.C., Doll's Point, Sandringham
- 41 Garthon & Small, Timber Merchants, Forest Rd., Hurstville
- 110 Gilchrist John - "Ercildoune" - off Rocky Point Rd., Kogarah
- 167 Gissing S., Painter, Glazier & General Contractor -  
"Olleyville" - Railway St., Rockdale
- 45 "Grand Hotel" - A. Trornley, Rocky Point Road Rockdale.
- 158 Grant E.Glencross - "Alabama" - Forest & Webber's Road Bexley
- 29 Griffin J.G. - "Thalinga" - Mill St., Carlton
- 75 Hall A.J. Wickham St, Arncliffe

- 59 Halliday Dr J.C. - "Aroer" - Railway St, Rockdale  
& at Firth St Arncliffe
- 54 Hanks Frederick - "Lynwood" - Harrow Road, Bexley
- 40 Hegerty J.F., Estate & Insurance Agent, Rockdale
- 67 Hill Mrs. J. - "Fernland" - Forest Road Penshurst.
- 154 Hill Rev. T. - "Boronia" - Forest Road Bexley
- 13 Hillard C.W., Butcher, Montgomery St Kogarah
- 73 Hillard T., Butcher, Forest Rd. Hurstville
- 125 Hillsdon, Watts & Co., Wholesale Florists, Nurserymen & Co.  
Chapel Lane Rockdale
- 130 Holderness Thomas - "Langi Ghiran" - Patrick St. Hurstville
- 26 "Hotel Brighton" - Lady Robinson's Beach
- 101 Hume William C., J.P., Chemist, Forest Rd., Hurstville
- 31 Hurstville Council Chambers
- 17 Hurstville Steam Brick Co., Works, Hurstville
- 155 Jobbins H., Ironmonger, Bay St & Rocky Pt. Rd., Rockdale
- 82 Kay Rev. Robert - "Gladwyn" - Queen's Road Hurstville
- 6 Kinsela Charles & Co., Undertakers & Embalmers,  
Rocky Pt. Rd., Rockdale
- 128 Kinsela H. - "Kinsel Grove" - Bexley
- 21 Koenneritz L. von "Saint Cloud" Riley Sn., Kogarah
- 24 Kogarah Council Chambers
- 22 Kogarah Fire Station
- 102 Ladd Nurse, E.J. - "Fermanagh" - Frederick St Rockdale
- 14 Lamrock Dr. James, Belgrave St., Kogarah
- 109 Lazarus K., Clareville Hall & Pleasure Grounds, Sandringham
- 4 Lincke C.W., "Prince of Wales Hotel" Sandringham
- 44 Lockyer N. - "Oaklands" Forest Road Bexley
- 62 Louder A - "Meryla" - Gloucester Road Hurstville
- 34 Lovett G.H. - "Lovett's House" Rocky Pt. Rd., Sans Souci
- 71 McConochie Mrs - "Norwood" Forest Rd., Hurstville
- 88 McFarland Samuel, Produce Merchant, Forest Rd., Hurstville
- 9 Mackenzie H.V. - "Barragowa" - Belmore St Arncliffe
- 65 McLeod Dr James, Queen's Rd., Hurstville
- 92 McLeod Dr James, Rocky Pt. Rd., Rockdale

- 162 Maddern Rev. M., Bay St., Rockdale  
141 Medcalf Joseph, Beaconsfield Street, Bexley  
108 Monro H.R., - "Myee Villa" - Doll's Point Sandringham  
7 "Moorefield Hotel" - James Cusick, Rocky Pt.Rd.Kogarah  
95 Morgan Harold T - "Teluba", Segenhoe & Avenal Sts., Arncliffe  
133 Moss Harry C.G. - "The Nook" - Endeavour St., Sans Souci  
35 Moyse Mrs A.R. - Vista St, Sans Souci  
70 Mumford Frederick, Excelsior Bakery, Forest Rd., Hurstville  
50 Napper James, Produce Merchant, Rocky Pt.Rd., Rockdale  
113 Newton Mrs Manfield - "Holmleigh" Harrow Rd, Bexley  
121 Nielson N.P. Belgrave & Kensington Sts., Kogarah  
30 Norman W.C., Doll's Point Sandringham  
63 O'Brien John, Belmore Rd, Hurstville  
68 Pitt A.E. - "Balgownie" - The Avenue, Hurstville  
36 Rand William, J.P. - "Meryton" - Roach St, Arncliffe  
147 Rate Thomas, Boot Manufacturer, Ethel & Mills St., Carlton  
32 Richardson Mrs C.T. - "Wickham" - Arncliffe  
134 Richardson William W. - "Coronga" - Kogarah  
129 Roberts W.S.de L. - "Kenilworth" Laycock Rd Penshurst  
55 Roberts Wynn - Sylvania, George's River  
49 Rockdale College - Rev.C.F.Forscutt B.A., Principal  
Gladstone St, Bexley  
80 Rockdale Town Hall  
51 Saunders Lieut. J.A. "CLEVELAND" Riley St Kogarah  
164 Saywell Frank H - "Pelham" Harrow Rd., Bexley  
2 Saywell George F - "Avenel" - Brighton le Sands  
91 Seller Alfred - Surgical & Mechanical Dentist -  
Railway Pde, Kogarah.  
161 Sharp H.W.Ramsay, Electrician - Electro-Medical Appliances  
Forest Rd., Arncliffe  
20 Smalley Mrs J - "St.Elmo" - Forest Rd Bexley  
115 Sproule J - The Avenue Hurstville  
74 St.George's Bowling & Recreation Club, Rockdale  
18 St.George's Cottage Hospital, Kogarah  
157 Stone C.J., Butcher, Wollongong Rd, Arncliffe  
89 Swindale Thomas P., Chemist, Rockdale  
48 Taylor Frederick, General Store Keeper etc.,  
Forest Rd., Hurstville.



- 152 Taylor William - "Ercildoune" - Forest Rd Rockdale  
139 Toomey Mark - "Eblana" - Cecil St., Penshurst  
27 Turncock (E.Wilson), Water & Sewerage Board,  
Rocky Pt.Rd., Kogarah  
84 Turncock (Fleming, assistant), Water & Sewerage Board,  
Laycock Rd., Penshurst  
102 Ure James - "Fermanagh" Frederick St., Rockdale  
39 Vincent Mrs J., Eucalypte Nursery, Rocky Pt.Rd., Arncliffe  
103 Wallace L., Woniora Rd., Kogarah  
125 Watts A Spencer, Rockdale.  
112 White Frederick W - "Taunton" - Watkin St Rockdale  
19 Wilkinson Armitage - "Iona House" Belgrave St Kogarah  
77 Wilson H - "Camelot" - Forest Rd., Bexley  
132 Wilson Herbert A - "Tilney" Dunmore St Bexley  
38 Wimble Fredrick T - "Scarborough House" - Dolls' Point  
69 Woodley Henry - "St.Elmo"- Ormonde Rd., Hurstville  
138 Woodward Dr Ernest - "Glenevie" Firth St Arncliffe
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MANLY'S STONE PALACE ...

- Lesley Walford  
Sydney Morning Herald  
14th March 1980.

It is a palace, a tall castle on the bleak hill facing the broad sea. It is grandiose, impressive, all of heavy stone, alone and sufficiently off the beaten track in Sydney to be rather unknown, a trifle mysterious.

Even though the foundation stone of St. Patrick's College at Manly was laid in 1885, I feel most of us know little about it, which was my reason for arranging to visit the college in the castle and to learn its history.

I drove out of Manly towards North Head, then up the drive to the Victorian palace in its large and somewhat bleak grounds. Down a long black and white marble floored corridor, in the Masters' Common Room, I met some of the priests who are the teachers at this great Roman Catholic college.

Dr Grove Johnson is the Father responsible for the well-being and functioning of the building itself, and also for guiding the students towards their priesthoods.

Dr David Coffey, who showed me around the college, is responsible for the academic life of the students. It was the day before term started at the college. The huge building was nearly empty, waiting to do its work.

Over lunch with the dedicated dons at one table in the great dining hall, the story of St. Patrick's was related to me.

The site was granted to the Roman Catholic Church in 1859 when the N.S.W. Legislative Council decided that Archbishops of the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church should be granted land on which to build episcopal residences. Archbishop Polding was granted about 20 hectares with waterfrontages to the sea and Harbour.

Funds for building were not easily gathered but Archbishop Vaughan eventually managed to amass a sum that his successor Archbishop Moran used to build a college and an episcopal residence. At a cost of pounds 60,000.0.0., the architects

Sheerin and Hennesy and the contractor Jennings erected the building. It is Gothic Perpendicular in style, with a slightly Spanish influence. The stone was quarried locally and sea spray and winds have kept it very clean. The scale of the building is immense, especially when one considers it was originally intended for only 12 students (nicknamed the 12 apostles).

Their subjects, as today, were in the fields of theology, scriptures, philosophy and humanities.

The student body today number 112, 85 of these living in college and studying specifically for the priesthood. Cardinal Moran must, certainly, have been very far-sighted in his concepts to have ordered such a bast building, which was confidently embellished with his coat of arms and profusely inset here and there with "M" which stands not for Manly as some imagine, but for Moran.

The wasted space is positively aristocratic, as in some ancient European palace. The building has hugely tall ceilings on all floors, starting with 5.5 metres on the ground floor. Even the skirting boards are about 60 cm high.

The building is long and thin, with a tall central tower. Each floor has a great corridor running its length and on ground level it is floored in lavish squares of black and white marble. The door frames are tall, carved, in cedar and of Gothic form. On this floor is the library, some offices and the dining room.

On the first floor are lecture rooms, staff quarters and the "Aula Maxima", the great hall where degrees are conferred. Portraits of the archbishops hang there, and at the end of the long room the portrait of Pope Leo XIII.

The two top floors provide some student accommodation and also storage for books. Each student has his own room, and just beyond the main building is the 1954 addition for more student rooms, which detracts from the style of the original building with its plebian and basic red-brick nature. It is a necessity - added in a simpler age. In front of the college on a lower level are football fields, and a disused swimming pool from the days when students were not allowed out.

Now many have cars, as well as greater freedom of personal action.

There is a full time academic staff of 12, plus visiting staff, and a seminary staff of 5 providing plenty of personal attention for each student.

The students begin with a morning lecture; there is always mass and occasions for prayer, and long hours in the library are encouraged. Essays must be written for tutorials, examinations are held, and the courses are recognised by the Higher Education Board. The afternoons are mostly free for sport.

In a hallway hangs a framed proclamation by Governor King, date 1803, granting permission for the public celebration of mass in Australia which up to that time had been illegal.

Descending to the ground floor again after my inspection of the building, noting the complex stonework of the great staircase at the base of which is a statue of St. Patrick, I came to the library which is a pride of the college. It owns a first edition of Martin Luther's Pamphlets 1520 - 1550, the Sarum missal of 1550 and a Flemish or Burgundian 14th century breviary.

The college also owns a set of 130 etchings by Piranesi, probably purchased by Cardinal Moran. There are about 60,000 books in what is the most important theological library in Australia. Open cases display vestments of the first convict priests, 1803 and 1810.

At St. Patrick's in 1936, a large Gothic chapel named in honour of the Papal Legate, Cardinal Caretti, was constructed next to the main building. As in English college chapels, the pews face each other across the aisle. The stained glass window came from England, depicting the Apostles and St. Patrick. The brass tabernacle on the high altar is inlaid with opals. The chapel is a very impressive building, and the heart of the college. Across from the main road to North Head and the drive to St. Patrick's is the Archbishop's house built at the same time as the main college. It is also known as the Cardinal's Palace, a name often mistakenly given to the college building itself. It is Gothic with iron lace to soften it, built for a Cardinal and his retinue, and today housing in simplicity three of the college staff.

Cardinal Gilroy was the last to occupy it as his own residence. It has a throne room and a private chapel. All these are the buildings of an ambitious dream which today still serves the future. At night the great building of St. Patrick's is fully illuminated, firmly stating its majestic presence as a beacon of learning and belief.

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