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ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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24 Duff Street,
ARNCLIFFE. 2205.

July 1985.

Dear Friend and Member,

The July Meeting will be held as follows:-

Date: Friday Evening, July 19th, 1985, at 8.00 p.m.

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

Business: ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS 1985 - 1986.

Syllabus Item: This being the Annual General Meeting & Election of Officers, time will be the deciding factor.

Supper Roster: Captain: Miss Row, together with Mrs. Buckingham, and, if well enough, Mrs. Lee.

Ladies please bring a plate.

Mr. L. Abigail,
President.
Phone 599 2363

Mrs. B. Perkins,
Publicity Officer.
Phone 587 9164

Mrs. E. Eardley,
Sec. & Bulletin Edtr.
Phone 59 8078

Mrs. E. Wright,
Treasurer.
Phone 599 4884

Miss D. Row,
Social Secretary.
Phone 50 9300

Mr. A. Ellis,
Research Officer.
Phone 587 1159

"Adversity strengthens character" Anon.

"The gem cannot be polished without friction, nor man perfected without trials" Chinese Proverb.

"The wonderful thing of excellence - its option is renewable" ... Anon.

A cheerio to our friends who are not so well. Our best wishes to Mr. Collins for a speedy recovery.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

The St. George Historical Society is pleased to announce that the following books, Nos. 1 - 7, written and illustrated by the late Gifford H. Eardley for the Society, have been reprinted and are now available. Books Nos. 8 and 9 have been compiled by Mrs. Bronwyn Perkins.

No. 1.	"The Wolli Creek Valley" (Reprint now available)	
No. 2.	"Kogarah to Sans Souci Tramway") Book Nos.
No. 3.	"Saywells Tramway - Rockdale to Lady Robinsons Beach") 1 - 8
No. 4.	"Arncliffe to Bexley Tramway") \$2.50 ea.
No. 5.	"Our Heritage in Stone") <u>Plus</u>
No. 6.	"All Stations to Como") <u>Postage</u>
No. 7.	"Tempe and the Black Creek Valley")
No. 8.	"Early Churches of the St. George District")
No. 9.	"Early Settlers of the St. George District"	No. 9
	Price \$4.00 <u>plus postage</u>	Vol. 1. \$4.00
No.10.	"Early Settlers of the St. George District", <u>will be available soon.</u>	Vol. 2.

All books are available at our meeting, also members badges.

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

Miss B. Otton - Phone 59 4259 (after 8 p.m.)

Mrs. E. Eardley - Secretary, Phone 59 8078

Mr. A. Ellis - Phone 587 1159

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NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS ARE WELCOME.

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2NBC-FM STEREO 90.1 - St. George Historical Society
Tuesday Evenings 6.30p.m. - 6.45p.m.

- Tape 110 - 4th June - Bridge Marks 50th Year - D Row
and Cocatoo Island.
- Tape 111 - 11th June - Surgeons of the 1st Fleet - M.D.Fleming
- Tape 112 - 18th June - Bexley (1895-1917) - D. Row
(Repeat by request).
- Tape 113 - 25th June - Persistence Rewarded - C Kennedy
(R.A.H.S)
- Tape 114 - 2nd July - The Aboriginal Tribes - D Row
of the Sydney Region,
Wood Carters of early
St. George & The Great
Australian Verandah.
- Tape 115 - 9th July - James Cook - C. Turner
Birth - Master.Prt.1.
- Tape 116 - 16th July - James Cook - Prt.2 - C. Turner
Master - Endeavour
1st voyage.
- Tape 117 - 23rd July - James Cook - Prt 3 - C. Turner
Endeavour 1st voyage -
Cook's Journal.
- Tape 118 - 30th July - James Cook - Prt 4 - C. Turner
Cook's Journal -
Nth West Passage.
- Tape 119 - 6th August - James Cook - Prt 5 - C. Turner
Nth.West Passage -
Cook's Death.
- Tape 120 - 13th August - Phillip - The Failure - D. Sinclair
Who Became Our 1st
Battler & Sydney as
it was.
- Tape 121 - 20th August - Old Kogarah Township - A. Ellis
(Repeat by request).
- Tape 122 - 27th August - Turner Bros. Kogarah - D. Sinclair
(Repeat by request).

MELBOURNE'S CENTURY-OLD BOTANIC GARDENS.

- *Wild Life*
- May 1946 pp154-155.

Melbourne's famous Botanic Gardens have passed their century of age. The interest is not merely a local one for Melbourne people, nor indeed is it of only Australian interest, for in the 100 years that have passed, the gardens have achieved fame throughout the world. Melbourne's much maligned climate has something to do with that, though two famous men, Baron Ferdinand von Mueller and William Robert Guilfoyle, had a hand in it too.

It was on March 1, 1846, when the settlement on the banks of the Yarra was barely ten years old, that John Arthur was commissioned to make a public garden on an unprepossessing area of bleak land on the south bank of the Yarra, opposite the settlement which at that time was mainly on the north side of the river. Arthur proceeded to fence in five acres of hillside that sloped down to a muddy tea-tree swamp - the north-east corner of the 100 acres that form the Botanic Gardens of today - and try to coax it to grow some flowers.

But John Arthur lived for only three years after his appointment, and he was succeeded as Government Botanist by John Dallachy, a man of undoubted ability, but who found gardening tame work while there was a whole unknown hinterland to be hunted for new botanical specimens. Dallachy's name survives in the specific names of several of our native flora - the lovely *Grevillea Dallachiana* is one of them. He clung grimly to his work in the gardens for eight years, forsaking it every now and again to roam the bush and collect new specimens, and from what one may gather of his natural inclinations he was not sorry to be relieved by a tall, gaunt German, one Ferdinand Mueller, who was appointed in his place in 1857, leaving Dallachy free to roam the bush again.

It was this Mueller who is still discussed with awe and reverence by Australian botanists as "the great Baron". As a systematic botanist he has never had an equal in Australia, and he transformed the gardens, now extended from their original five acres, into a veritable living text-book of systematic botany - and very little more.

Honored by Britain's Queen, and by his native land, he became Baron Sir Ferdinand von Mueller, K.C.M.G., etc., but his honors were rather in recognition of his scientific attainments than for any ascendancy of artistic perception. His severe laying out of the gardens, plot by plot, was systematic in the extreme, but it had little to please people who were not botanists.

So, after 16 years of his regime, the posts of Director of the Botanic Gardens and of Government Botanist were separated. Dr von Mueller was given the National Herbarium, outside the gardens boundary, as his field of work, and to direct the gardens themselves came William Robert Guilfoyle, a sound botanist who had already, though a young man, made a reputation for himself as a landscape gardener.

The Magic of Guilfoyle.

It was Guilfoyle who waved his spade over the hills, and the gully, and the swamp, and transformed them by the magic of artistry and hard toil into the shape they bear today. There is a pretty tradition that Guilfoyle had a motto - "There's always something nice around the corner". True it is that, even if he did not put it into words, that is the plan on which he worked. None of his garden paths goes straight for long, and at each turn there is something - a little summer-house, or a fine specimen tree or a striking border - which seems to beckon the stroller to follow and see what lies beyond.

From the hillside paths there are marvellous vistas, followed by avenues where tall trees meet in arches overhead, but always there is the impression of something good beyond, so that one may walk there all day and never tire of the gardens and their changing beauty.

Guilfoyle worked with unabating zeal. When in 1898, it was decided to straighten and deepen the course of the Yarra over its swampy reach, Guilfoyle begged for the old cu-off loops of the river to add to his swamps that lay to the south. He got them. The area of the gardens was increased by more than 30 acres, and of the swamps and the remnants of the river bed he made ten acres of lovely lakes which are now the refuge of a greater variety of wild waterfowl than may be found anywhere else in the metropolitan area.

It is really unfortunate for his successors that Guilfoyle's work was so perfect, for he made the gardens a single gem, a harmonious whole, and all that was left for those who came after was to maintain Guilfoyle's tradition - his artistry and enthusiasm left little scope for later creative work. It may be said, though, that the four men who followed have worthily carried the torch that Guilfoyle handed on in 1909, after 36 years as director.

Not the least of the many charms of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens is the series of lovely lakes, ten acres or more of them, which Guilfoyle converted from a tea-tree swamp when the Yarra was widened and straightened half a century ago... they are an oasis of peace in a desert of worldly troubles.

ACADEMICALLY SPEAKING:

- Donald McLean traces a link with Governor Macquarie.

- S.M.H. 17.3.1970.

THE CHANCELLOR'S CHAIR.

When Lachlan Macquarie, Governor of New South Wales (ret.) sailed for England in the *Surry* on February 15, 1822, he had among boxes and bales of his luggage two chairs, described as "state chairs of government house, Sydney." Since Macquarie had had them made and carved by convicts, the people of New South Wales had presented them to the departing Governor.

Macquarie used the chairs as part of the furnishing of the cottage on Gruline, his estate near the village of Salen on the Isle of Mull. His younger brother, Colonel Charles Macquarie, inherited them, and they travelled far before returning to Australia.

In 1967 Mrs J.E.Taylor, of Comely Bank Edinburgh, a descendant of Charles Macquarie, wrote to Mr A.J.Thompson, official secretary of the New South Wales Government Offices in London: she would like one of the chairs, which was in her possession, to go back to N.S.W.

Mrs Taylor had been in communication with the late M.H.Ellis, biographer of Lachlan Macquarie, who had suggested that the most fitting place for the chair would be at the university named after our "building" Governor, who had found the colony "barley emerging from an infantile imbecility" and left it well established with organised commerce, finance and agriculture, its frontiers pushed well to the north, south and west.

The chair arrived here in a very dilapidated condition. The university Registrar wrote to Mrs Taylor: "It is in the view of those who can judge such things, a very imposing and artistically interesting piece, as well as being historically interesting. We could have it restored either to stand in the council room in a place of prestige as a museum piece or have it restored for use. We came down for use as the Chancellor's Chair on ceremonial occasions - such as the conferring of degrees."

In September 1968, a letter from Mrs Constance Carter (nee Macquarie and a sister of Mrs Taylor) who lives in Natal, South Africa, provided the first clue to the fate of the second Macquarie chair. "We three children were 'brought up' with this old chair and it is an old friend to us. There were two of these chairs presented to my great-grand uncle by the people of N.S.W. The other chair is, I think, in a museum in Vancouver, British Columbia."

The Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Sydney, was asked to recommend a suitable firm to repair the first chair. Mr Brown, Keeper of Exhibits, informed the university that the museum already had a chair made by convicts for Governor Macquarie, which they had supposed to be the only one of its kind. It had been sent to the museum by the Curator of the City Museum, Vancouver, in 1959 (it is not on display).

The Macquarie chairs are made from Australian rosewood, leather-upholstered with kangaroo skin. The back panels of kangaroo fur are surmounted with the Macquarie crest: arm and dagger.

It is fitting that one of them will be used by the Chancellor of the University, Sir Garfield Barwick, for Macquarie's first ceremony of the conferring of degrees on Saturday. It will be a little over a century and a half since those excellent carpenter convicts made the State chairs for Lachlan Macquarie.

ACADEMICALLY SPEAKING:

- Uniken - No.5 or 1976
University of New South Wales.

What Happens at Graduation Ceremonies?

Each year thousands of former students, together with their families and friends, return to the University for ceremonies which mark the successful completion of their courses of study. The graduation ceremony links the graduands to the scholars of the past. From the mace carried in the procession, an ancient symbol of power, to the robes worn by the graduands, similar to robes worn by scholars in the 14th century England, the ceremony is encrusted with ritual and tradition.

What is a Testamur?

The testamur is the paper certifying that the holder has been admitted to the degree noted. The word comes from the Latin *testamur*, "we testify", and is used to describe a certificate from the examiners testifying that a candidate has satisfied them.

What do the Graduands wear?

All of the graduands wear academic dress for the degree-conferring ceremony. The black robes worn are thought to be monastic in origin, dating from the early beginnings of educational institutions. Robes and hoods were the normal clothing of the monks and students and were worn to protect them from the cold and draughty rooms and corridors of the early universities. On their heads graduands wear the traditional trencher caps or mortar boards with a tassel attached to its square, flat top.

There are no formal rules of dress for graduands other than the requirement of appropriate academic dress. Under their robes a white dress is suggested for women and a suit, collar and tie for men. However, a dignified dress or pants outfit is acceptable for women and the old rule of white gloves has been dropped.

Who is in the academic procession?

The academic procession consists of staff of the Faculty, the Dean and Chairman, other members of the staff and Council, and the Chancellor and occasional speaker. Preceding the Chancellor is the mace bearer. The mace, symbolising the dignity and authority of the University, was originally an offensive weapon carried into battle by medieval bishops. Later it took on a ceremonial function and was decorated with precious metals and jewels.

The UNSW mace was presented to the University in 1962 by BHP. It is made of satin-finished stainless steel embellished with silver and its shaft of eumung wood. The mace was made by BHP under the supervision of Chief Engineer, Dr Frank Mathews, one of the original members of the UNSW Council and now Deputy Chancellor.
