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ROCKDALE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL



PRICE 5 c.

ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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563a Princes Highway,
BLAKEHURST 2221

October, 1985

Dear Friend and Member,

The October Meeting will be held as follows:

Date: Friday, 18th October, 1985 at 8.00 p.m.

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

Business: General

Syllabus Item: Mr. Vaughan Evans will speak about "Our Maritime Heritage". Mr. Evans recently visited a number of Overseas Maritime Museums and will illustrate his talk with colour slides of items in their collections, to indicate what we may expect to see in our own Maritime Museum in 1988.

Supper Roster: Mrs Thompson, Captain together with Mesdames Troughton and Hunt

Ladies Please Bring a Plate

Mr. A. Ellis,
President & Research
Officer

Phone: 587 1159

Mrs B. Perkins,
Publicity Officer

Phone: 587 9164

Mrs K. Hamey
Secretary

Phone: 546 3355

Mrs E. Wright
Treasurer Phone: 599 4884 A VOLUNTEER PLEASE!!!

Social Secretary

Mrs E. Eardley
Asst. Secretary
& Bulletin Editor

Miss D. Row, Asst. Treasurer

Some people are like blotters - they soak up everything, then get it all backwards.

If you can't make light of your troubles keep them dark.

Friendship Book 1971

A cheerio to our friends who are not so well. Our best wishes to all 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))	Book Nos.
No. 2.	"Kogarah to Sans Souci Tramway")	1 - 8
No. 3.	"Saywells Tramway - Rockdale to Lady Robinsons Beach")	\$2.50 ea.
No. 4.	"Arncliffe to Bexley Tramway")	<u>Plus</u>
No. 5.	"Our Heritage in Stone")	<u>Postage</u>
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 Settlers of the St. George District")	No. 9
	Price \$4.00 plus postage		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 - 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 90.1 - Stereo - St. George Historical Society

Tuesday Evenings 6.30p.m.-6.45p.m.

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- Tape 128 - 8th October - Arthur Phillip - Prt 2 - M.D. Fleming
1787 - Work Starts.
- Tape 129 - 15th October - Arthur Phillip - Prt 3 - M.D. Fleming
Surgeons Busy - Explorations
- Tape 130 - 22nd October - Arthur Phillip - Prt 4 - M.D. Fleming
Explorations - Bennelong & Colbee
- Tape 131 - 29th October - Arthur Phillip - Prt 4 - M.D. Fleming
1790 - his death - 1814
- Tape 132 - 5th November - St. George County Council - A. Ellis
(Repeat by request)
- Tape 133 - 12th November - Rosevale Nurseries - C. Wilding
(Repeat by request)
- Tape 134 - 19th November - Miles Franklin - Authoress - C. Wilding
(Repeat by request)
- Tape 135 - 26th November - I Remember Old Arncliffe - A. Ellis
(Repeat by request)
- Tape 136 - 3rd December - Paddy's Market 1920-1971 - A. Ellis
(Repeat by request)
- Tape 137 - 10th December - Flynn of the Inland - D. Sinclair
(Repeat by request)
- Tape 138 - 17th December - Flynn of the Inland (cont.) - D. Sinclair

This completes the weekly segments for 1985
Programme should recommence February, 1986

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ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE 1985

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

INCOME

Members' Subscriptions
Members' Donations
Cultural Grant R.A.H.S.
Bus Trips
Raffles
Sale Society Books
Sale Society Badges
Sundries
Bank interest

Balance in bank 30/6/84

810.00
91.30
100.00
1074.00
42.20
584.75
5.00
4.50
34.88
2746.63
404.19
\$3150.82

Mrs. Eardley - Postage
Mrs. Eardley - Petty Cash
Mrs. Eardley - Book Shelves
Canterbury Bus Co.
Highway Tours
Mrs. Perkins - Stationery, Postage etc.
Miss Row - Petty Cash
Miss Row - Christmas Party
R.A.H.S. Conference & Dinner
R.A.H.S. Annual Subscription
National Trust Annual Subscription
Australia Post
Miss Utton - gift for Mr. Hapgood
F.I.D. \$4.60 and F.I.D. .77

280.56
82.41
44.00
430.00
535.00
162.52
5.00
50.00
100.00
40.00
33.00
36.00
18.00
5.37
1821.86
1328.96
\$3150.82

Balance in bank 30/6/85 1358.68
Less unrepresented cheque 29.72

I certify that I have examined the books of account vouchers, cheque butts and bank statements presented by Mrs. E. Wright as treasurer of the above society and in my opinion this represents a true statement of its financial affairs as at 30th June, 1985.

Therese
Auditor 6/9/85

LYDHAM HALL FUND RAISING COMMITTEE
FOR YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE 1985

INCOME

Lydham Hall Admittances	358.50
Cake Sales	5.20
Raffles	120.60
Donations	71.50
Century of Progress Sales	24.00
St. George Historical Society books sold	197.00
Lydham Hall Tea Spoons & Cake Forks sold	105.50
Hurstville Historical Society books sold	4.80
Bank Interest	23.79
Cash in hand	70.40
Cash in bank 30/6/1984	<u>1343.60</u>
Grand Total	<u>\$2324.89</u>
Capital Investment in St. George Building Society A/c No. 111 973 702 at 30/6/84	1971.76
Interest	119.40
Less F.I.D.	<u>.03</u>
Paid Rockdale Council on A/c showcases	2091.13
Balance to credit	1000.00
Value of 48 Teaspoons and 55 cake forks on hand at \$2.50 each	<u>\$1091.13</u>
	<u>\$257.50</u>

LYDHAM HALL FUND RAISING COMMITTEE
FOR YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE 1985

EXPENDITURE

Perfection Plate Pty. Ltd.	185.44
Rockdale Council - showcases (on account)	1000.00
St. George Historical Society books	67.20
R.W.Rathbone - Herald Advertisement	13.20
Rockdale Council - balance showcases	770.00
Petty Cash	50.00
St. George Historical Society books	104.50
F.D.T. & F.I.D.	2190.34
Cash in bank	<u>3.27</u>
	<u>131.28</u>
Grand Total	<u>\$2324.89</u>

I certify that I have examined the books of account, vouchers, cheque butts, bank statements and building society passbook presented by Miss B. Otton as treasurer of the above committee and in my opinion this represents a true statement of its financial affairs as at 30th June, 1985.

A. H. Dunne
Auditor 6/9/85

As Australian as the Lamington.

- R. Brasch.

- S.M.H. 26th January 1976.

Australia Day is celebrated as the birthday of our nation, and it is customary today to recall early significant historical events. The more mature we grow as a country, the more conscious we become of our indigenous values and unique features.

Who ever realises how even a simple piece of cake recalls our early history and something special of Australian character? Indeed, nothing could be as Australian as a lamington.

The lamington is an Australian speciality. This square piece of sponge, coated with a soft chocolate icing and rolled in desiccated coconut, once was part of every garden party and church fete. Although its ingredients are easy to obtain, its origin is difficult to ascertain. Certainly - and in spite of such a claim - lamingtons have no connection with Leamington Spa in England. Its name, in fact, shares the distinction of Peach Melba and Melba toast - it honours a person.

However, it is odd to note that though everyone knows who Melba was, Lamington is hardly remembered. It is equally interesting to discover what made a "lamington" so famous and liked by people that they came to associate the name with a sweet.

Lamington was the (titled) name of Queensland's eighth Governor. During his tenure of office he endeared himself so much to the Australian people that he became one of their favourites. Charles Wallace Alexander Napier Ross Cochrane Baillie (!) was the only son of the Baron of Lamington, of Lamington in the Scottish county of Lanark. Born in 1860, he was educated at Eton and Christchurch, Oxford, where he graduated in arts.

His was an early extraordinary distinction. Possibly he was the only man ever to have started public life "at the top." Without having to ascend the ladder, as a youth of 25 he was appointed (assistant) private secretary to Lord Salisbury, Prime Minister of England. Subsequently elected a Member of Parliament, he represented the vested interests of his constituency of North St Pancras. In 1890 he succeeded his father to become the (2nd.) Baron Lamington. So far, his life had followed the typical conservative, aristocratic tradition of an Englishman and was far removed from the Australian scene and robust democracy.

In 1895 he was appointed Governor of Queensland. When, in the following year, he took up his duties, his entire life style seemed to have changed and assumed a typical Australian outlook. Although considered to be

reserved, he suddenly learned to unwind. On his way out, he mixed freely with the ship's crew. Down in the bowels of the ship he joined the stokers, not only talking to them but actually sharing their work. Indeed, he showed himself to be a man of the people. In spite of his vice-regal status he did not stand apart or appear finicky in his eating habits. When oatmeal water was served, he did not shrink from drinking it with the sailors and did so out of a pannikin that had been dipped into a common bucket. Surely, such "manners" must have made him most popular with the Aussie who, no doubt, heard about them.

His youthfulness was yet another quality in his favour even at a time when age was still revered. Records tell how, when the new Governor drove in state after his arrival through Queen Street, Brisbane, an enthusiastic well-wisher called out at the top of his voice: "That's the man for us. We want young men for Queensland." And he must have expressed what all felt.

Lamington also shared the Australian's love of the outdoors and of sports. An ardent golfer, he was also an agile polo player. No least, he became renowned as a bicycle "expert". And cycling was the most democratic of all pastimes. Was it any wonder then that even his official garden parties had some unique features which were talked about?

Typical was the celebration (in 1898) of the christening of his daughter, Grizel Gem Annabella. A public event, it made many Australians share the proud parents' joy. But what intrigued the guests most of all was a feature never seen in the country before. The christening cake was decorated with genuine heather, specially imported for the occasion from Scotland. The heather attracted some of the visitors so much that not a few of them clandestinely (mis)appropriated some of it for themselves, hiding the precious Scotch pinkish-purple flower in their handkerchief. This did not go unnoticed by Lamington. Before the cake had been completely bared of heather, he had it put under special guard.

When in 1901 Baron Lamington left Queensland, he had exceeded by several months, the usual term of office of five years. It was certain that he would never forget Australia. His two children - a son and a daughter - were born here. On the other hand, it was not surprising either that even after his departure Australians recollected his governorship with deep affection.

Somehow Lamington seemed to have become part of the Australian scene. In fact, this was true, even literally so. A plateau in the McPherson Range in South Queensland and a mountain in Papua New Guinea were named after him. A homburg hat carries his name, most probably because he favoured it. But, Lamington entered every Australian home when the people called one of their "special" cakes after him.

Knowing of the baron's popularity, this is easily understood. However, no one knows for certain the actual circumstances.

Was the lamington first served at the Governor's garden parties? Did he himself enjoy eating it so that this coconut-coated sponge was identified with him? Or was the name chosen (actually only when the Governor had left) because people felt that he should not be forgotten and ought to be remembered by something that was really sweet?

What fond memories do readers have of the ever popular lamington?

Is it that first lamington that re-appeared after World War II, following the austerity of lack of such delicacies?

Who can recall the little shop in Warialda Street, West Kogarah, run by the Cochrane family? Mrs Cochrane in the 1930's made batches of lamingtons every Friday and Saturday. They sold for 1d. and were approximately 6" in length. She made the sponge in long trays, iced and dipped the lamingtons till all hours of the night. All cooking was done on the fuel stove in the kitchen belonging to the dwelling at the rear of the shop. Thrifty housewives of that era would buy 1 doz., take them home, cut them in half, re-dip the cut end and have twice the amount for 1/-.

By the time the children of that era had grown up, the lamingtons were half the size for twice the price !

When in 1901 Baron Lamington arrived in Australia, he had exceeded by a long way the usual number of children who accompanied a Governor. He was accompanied by his wife and several children. He was a very popular figure and his children were very popular. He was a very popular figure and his children were very popular. He was a very popular figure and his children were very popular.

LIFE IN THE GRAND STYLE.

- Joseph Glascott
The Sydney Morning Herald
 25th March 1980.

The grand resort hotels of the Blue Mountains belong to another era. But they are experiencing a tourist revival, together with the mountains, as Sydney people resist rising petrol prices and, we like to think, rediscover the natural wonders on their back doorstep.

The oldest and grandest of the mountain hotels, the Carrington, at Katoomba, celebrated its centenary last weekend. Some 300 guests, many in period costumes, were invited to a formal dinner and ball to mark the old lady's century.

The Glascotts, fulfilling the role of energy conserving environmentalists, decided to eschew the motor car and travel to the mountains the traditional way - by train. It was a nostalgic beginning to an evening of nostalgia.

The 2.10p.m. to Orange from Central's No.1. platform was crowded to the luggage racks. (While public transport authorities close down country passenger train services on the grounds of falling patronage, my experiences in recent times of trains to Wagga and Dubbo have been the same. They have been packed like troop trains.)

The regular commuters looked on in amusement as we craned like eager children to identify the passing stations and catch the views long forgotten in the hassle of the highway. Warrimoo, Blaxland, Springwood, Leura and Katoomba by 4.20p.m. - only four minutes behind schedule.

In much earlier days porters from the hotel would have met the train to carry luggage and escort guests to their lodging. But at the Carrington, just across the road from the station, nothing much else has changed.

Well, that's true in one sense.

However, the management of the Carrington is in the process of restoring and refurbishing the hotel. But it retains, and will continue to retain, the atmosphere and style of an early century hotel which provides its special charm.

The National Trust in 1978 classified the hotel for preservation as a building important to the heritage of Australia. The hotel was built over two years from 1880 by a Sydney hotelier and businessman, Mr Harry Rowell, who recognised Katoomba as a "health and tourist" resort soon after the railway line to Mt. Victoria was opened in 1868.

It was first called the Great Western but, the next owner, F.C.Goyer, a pastoralist from Queensland, renamed it in honour of a frequent guest, Lord Carrington, Governor of the State in the 1880's.

A prominent Sydney businessman and newspaper proprietor, Sir James Joynton Smith, bought the hotel in 1901 when Katoomba was undergoing an earlier depression caused partly by competition from the new resort area on the southern line in the Sutton Forest district.

Sir Joynton added 200 bedrooms and a new facade. Katoomba and the hotel revived to experience its heydays from 1927, the year of a visit by the Duke and Duchess of York.

The historic hotel relived its days of glory on Friday evening as ladies and their gentlemen strolled the spacious gardens and promenaded on the wide entrance patio and huge leadlight vestibule. A hotel historian records that that the pillars supporting the front balcony came from the members' stand of the old Victoria Park racecourse while the brass hand-rail on the entrance steps is a memento from the original Sydney Opera House.

The Lithgow Pipe Band paraded through the grounds and vestibule as guests were seated for the birthday dinner. The hotel dining room, seating 300 with its lofty ceiling, chandeliers, enormous vase, wall paintings and rather bizarre wallpaper, is the old hotel's showpiece.

The huge cedar corner cabinet in the cocktail lounge, the adjoining ballroom with its old-time orchestra and the foyer with its marble water fountain are reminders of hotel life long before the international towers.

The scene certainly excited the director of the National Trust, Mr John Morris, who exclaimed more than once, "Isn't this magnificent?"

The gleaming timber stair-ways, with a creak or two, or the lift with its manually-closed doors, lead to the bedrooms. Many of these rooms are still serviced by communal bathrooms down the corridor. But what bathrooms - huge marble floor areas where water from the showers splashes over the tubs.

The Carrington's present owner, Sydney businessman and real estate owner, Mr Theo Morris (formerly Theodoros Mountzouropoulos when he arrived in Australia 31 years ago) and his manager, Mr Leo Mitchell, are proud of the National Trust listing. Their stylish centenary celebration showed great sympathy for Katoomba's history.

If Petrol restrictions and energy conservation policies force us to return to closer holiday resorts, Sydney people will not be deprived. They have the Blue Mountains.
