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ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BULLETIN

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563A Princes Highway,
BLAKEHURST 2221

April, 1986

Dear Friend and Member,

The April meeting will be held as follows:

Date: Friday, 18th April, 1986

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

Business: General

Syllabus Item: Dr. Peter Orlovich, our speaker for this Heritage Week meeting, has chosen to speak on our early history. His subject - "Captain Cook and Botany Bay" - Peter has been a member of the Society for a very long time and we have had the pleasure of hearing him speak on previous occasions, which we have found most interesting and entertaining.

Supper Roster: Captain, Mrs Thompson, Mrs Troughton and Miss Callister

LADIES PLEASE BRING A PLATE

Mr. A. Ellis,
President and
Research Officer

Telephone: 587 1159

Mrs B. Perkins,
Publicity Officer

Telephone: 587 9164

Mrs K. Hamey,
Secretary

Telephone: 546 3355

Mrs E. Wright,
Treasurer

Telephone: 599 4884

SOCIAL SECRETARY??????

Mrs E. Eardley,
Asst. Secretary &
Bulletin Editor

Telephone: 59 8078

Miss D. Row, Asst. Treasurer

A little splash of humour to brighten up the way, A little joy to follow and linger through the day: A little touch of laughter to cause a little mirth, Is simply what we're needing to gladden this old earth.

Hope Spencer

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"	)	
No. 2	"Kogarah to Sans Souci Tramway"	)	Book Nos.1-8
No. 3	"Saywells Tramway - Rockdale to Lady Robinsons Beach"	))	$2.50 each
No. 4	"Arncliffe to Bexley Tramway"	)	plus postage
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 Settlers of the St.George District" Volume 1 (Price $4.00 plus postage)	)))	Books Nos.9-10
No.10	"Early Settlers of the St.George District" Volume 2	))	$4.00 each plus postage

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   -   Telephone 59 4259 (after 8.00 p.m.)

Mrs E. Eardley   -   Telephone 59 8078

Mr. A. Ellis   -   Telephone 587 1159

Mrs K. Hamey   -   Telephone 546 3355

NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS ARE WELCOME

S P E C I A L   N O T I C E

HERITAGE WEEK - 13TH TO 20TH APRIL, 1986

CAN YOU HELP?   PLEASE DO

LYDHAM HALL WILL BE OPEN FOR INSPECTION

Saturday and Sunday   12 noon to 4 p.m.

HELPERS NEEDED

Afternoon Teas will be served

Historical Society Books will be on sale.

2NBC-FM 90.1 - ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1986 - Tuesday evenings - 6.30p.m. - 6.45p.m.

TAPE 155 - 15th April   - **This Australia - Strange and Amazing Facts**   - D. Row

TAPE 156 - 22nd April   - **This Australia (cont.) Greenwich Mean Time and Concord**   - D. Row

TAPE 157 - 29th April   - **Melbourne's Century Old Botanic Gardens and Academically Speaking**   - D. Row

TAPE 158 - 6th May   - Review of Three Years   - A. Ellis

TAPE 159 - 13th May   - Life in the Grand Style, As Australian as the Lamington, St. Giles Presbyterian Hurstville -A. Ellis

TAPE 160 - 20th May - Fanned Into Flame - Sunday School Movement Part 1   - B Perkins

TAPE 161 - 27th May - Fanned Into Flame Sunday School Movement Part 2   - B. Perkins

TAPE 162 - 3rd June - Sydney's House of History & The Signal Drops on 109 Years of Trade   - C. Wilding

TAPE 163 - 10th June - In Perth - A Piece of Olde England & Historic Prince of Wales   - C. Wilding

TAPE 164 - 17th June - Making Amends to Truganini - T.Allison

TAPE 165 - 24th June - Highlights of the 2CH Story & Extracts Diary of Alexander Brodie Spark   - S.Cran

TAPE 166 - 1st July - Illawarra - First with Electricity   - T.Allison

TAPE 167 - 8th July - Garden Island Dockyard Church   - S.Cran

TAPE 168 - 15th July - N.S.W.Fire Brigade & Frog Hollow Rockdale   - S.Richter

TAPE 169 - 22nd July - Store Founded on Cobb & Co Route, & Inn Was Council for City Father's   - S.Richter

TAPE 170 - 29th July - Sydney First Horse Tram   - S.Richter.

RAILWAY STATION NAMES   -   ST. GEORGE AREA ...

- Edward A Downs
April 1985.

These notes have been compiled from
information provided by Mr John H Forsyth,
Archives Officer, State Rail Autnority of
New South Wales, to whom appreciative thanks
are due.

Dates of Opening and Change of Name, with Meaning or Origin.

In addition, Opening, closing etc., dates of local public
schools and post offices are included.

Distances from Sydney Station are in kilometres.

(1km = 0.621 miles)

Heights above sea level are in metres (1m = 3.280 feet)

Areas in hectares

(1ha = 2.47 acres)

The 16 railway stations - 10 on the Illwarra Railway and
6 on the East Hills Railway - are located in St. George
Parish, County of Cumberland.

ILLAWARRA RAILWAY.

ARNCLIFFE   8.420km   14.3m

Opened 15.10.1884.
Named after David Hannam's grant of 1833 which had asn area
of 24.3ha. He was the Government Overseer of Brickmaking,
and the Land Surveyor, William Brownrigg, suggested the grant
be named ARNCLIFFE, after a town in West Riding, Yorkshire,
England. The name is ARNECLIF in the Domesday Book of 1086,
and means "Eagle Cliff."

School opened 11.1861   ..... Post Office opened 1.4.1878

BANKSIA   9.604km   15.2m
Opened 21.10.1906
Named after the plant "Banksia or Bottlebrush" discovered
by Sir Joseph Banks at Botany Bay in 1770. The name was
first suggested by Mr David Stead.

Post Office opened 6.8.1924.

ROCKDALE   10.405km   15.8m

Opened 15.10.1884.
Said to have been named by Mrs Yeoman Geeves, local post-
mistress in 1878, who first suggested "Rockvale", but this
was rejected and changed to ROCKDALE, as the village lay
in a shallow valley surrounded by rocky outcrops.

School opened as ROCKY POINT 1.1883, changed to Rockdale 1884.
Post Office opened 15.4.1882.

KOGARAH   11.607km   20.7m

Opened 15.10.1884
An Aboriginal word meaning "Place of rushes".

School opened 7.1870   Post Office opened 1.8.1863

CARLTON   12.741km   36.5m

Opened 1889
The station is located on Captain John Townsend's 911ha
grant of 1810, later sold to Simeon Lord. Named after a
suburb CARLTON in Nottingham, England, and thought to be
a Scandanavian isation of the old English word - "Ceorlatun"
meaning the"village of the free men or peasants."

School opened 6.1918   Post Office opened 26.5.1890

ALLAWAH   13.691km   52.7m

Opened 25.10.1925.
An aboriginal word meaning "Rest" or "Stay Here" or
"Sit Down".

Post Office opened 8.5.1933

HURSTVILLE   14.837km   65.8m

Opened 15.10.1884
The area was within the grant of Captain John Townsend,
later sold to Simeon Lord, and then to Michael Gannon
when the area later became known as "GANNON'S FOREST".
In 1875 the residents applied for a school and suggested
the name "Forestdale", but this was rejected and the school
inspector, Mr McIntyre, recommended "HURSTVILLE", which
was accepted. There is a suburb of Manchester, England, named
"HURST", which means "Wooded Hill."

School opened 10.1876.

Post Office opened as Gannon's Forest 1.10.1864.
Changed to Hurstville, 1.3.1881, then to Forest Road 23.12.1889.
closed 31.5.1895, second post office opened as Hurstville
Railway Station 17.9.1889, and then to Hurstville 1.12.1889.

PENSHURST   16.124km   56.0m

Opened 1886 - moved to new site 4.4.1905.
Named after "PENSHURST" in Kent, England. The name was first
used in 1869 when Lord De L'Isle, whose family seat was
"Penshurst Place", commented on the resemblance to the
English location, the latter meaning "Pefen's hurst" or
"Wooded Hill".

School opened 5.1925.   Post Office opened 20.1.1902.

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MORTDALE 17.069km 44.1m

Opened 20.3.1897, moved to new site 14.9.1922.
Named after Thomas Sutcliffe Mort, an early district
landowner and a shareholder in the Sydney Railway Company.

School opened 1.1889. Post Office opened 15.11.1889.

OATLEY. 18.281km 37.7m

Opened as "OATLEY" 1886, changed to "OATLEY'S PLATFORM"
1889, then to "OATLEY" 1890.
Named after James Oatley who had a 121.5ha grant through
which the railway passed. Oatley arrived in Sydney in
1815 as a convict, and later opened a watch and clock
business in George Street, Sydney, opposite the present
Town Hall site; he built the turret clock in the Barracks
on corner of King and Macquarie Streets.

School opened 9. 1917. Post Office opened 14.4.1903.

EAST-HILLS RAILWAY.

TURRELLA 8.632km 4.2m

Opened 21.9.1931.
An Aboriginal word meaning "Water Weeds".

Post Office opened as "WEST ARNCLIFFE" 26.4.1933,
changed to "ARNCLIFFE WEST" 1.1.1948, then to "TURRELLA"
1.8.1952, closed 21.12.1970.

BARDWELL PARK 10.095km 6.4m

Opened 21.9.1931.
The construction name was "EARLWOOD". Named after
Thomas H Bardwell, whose grant was bounded by Wolli Creek,
Dowling Street, Forest Road and Wollongong Road.

School opened 9.1943 Post Office opened 1.5.1946

BEXLEY NORTH 11.367Km 12.1m

Opened 21.9.1931.
The construction name was "BEXLEY". Named after
Bexley in Kent, England, by Joseph Chandler who purchased
40.5ha and was granted 486ha. in the area in 1822, his
property named "Bexley Farm". The English word "Bexley"
has a similar meaning to "Bexhill", in that "Bex" is
derived from "Box".

School opened as "KINGSLAND" 9.1924, to "KINGSLAND ROAD"
12.1929, and to "BEXLEY NORTH" 1.1942.
Post Office opened 1.9.1941.

KINGSGROVE   12.623km   18.5m

Opened 21.9.1931.
Named after Hannah Laycock's 202ha "Kings Grove Farm"
granted to her in 1804 by Governor King.

School opened 5.1918.

Post Office opened 1.2.1870, closed 31.8.1870;
re-opened 15.6.1883, closed 18.6.1887;
re-opened 1.1.1927; then to "Benhill" 5.8.1940;
to "Bexley West" 1.11.1942.
Second Post Office opened as "KINGSGROVE" 5.8.1940.

BEVERLY HILLS   14.645km   27.4m

Opened as "DUMBLETON" 21.9.1931.
Changed to "BEVERLY HILLS" 24.8.1940.

"Dumbleton" was the name of a local farm commenced in the
1850's. The name probably came from a town in
Gloucestershire, England, and means "A prominent hill".
Local residents secured a name change to "Beverly Hills"
after a city in California, U.S.A.

School opened as "HURSTVILLE WEST" 4. 1892; then
"DUMBLETON" 9.1915; and to "BEVERLY HILLS" 11.1940.

Post Office opened as "DUMBLETON" 15.2.1917, and changed
to "BEVERLY HILLS" 1.10.1940.

NARWEE.   15.785km   39.6m

Opened 21.12.1931.
The construction name was "PODMORE": an Aboriginal name
for "The Sun".
The name "GRAHAM PARK" was suggested after the Graham Park
Estate, a sub-division of the Podmore grant in 1900.
Richard Podmore received the grant of 40.5ha in the 1820's,
bounded by Broadarrow and Penshurst Roads, Shorter Avenue
and Karne Street, and was named "SUNNING HILL FARM".

School opened 1.1950
Post Office opened 1.10.1948.

WAR DEAD ARE REMEMBERED ---

This year (1985) is the centenary of Australia's first
war involvement.

To celebrate the occasion, a large stained-glass memorial
window has been erected in the Hall of the Garrison Church
at The Rocks, by the Royal New South Wales Regiment.

The window will be unveild at 6.0p.m. on Friday, June 21st,
by the Governor of N.S.W., the honorary colonel of the
regiment, Air Marshall Sir James Rowland.

The regiment colonel, Major-General G.L.Maitland, said the
window was dedicated as a memorial to all who had contributed
to the regiment's traditions. There were not only those who
gave their lives, but also to the many who served in years
of war and peace and those,particularly the women, whose
love and support entailed sacrifice.

"A site was first sought that would be visible to the public",
Major-General Maitland said, "that had a military background,
was historic and provided a setting compatible to such an
important memorial. Through the suggestion of the honorary
architect of the Garrison Church, Mr N.C.Maitland, and the
co-operation of the rector, Rev. J. Steers, with the Parish
Council, the west window of the church hall was selected."

Major-General Maitland said the traditions of the Royal New
South Wales Regiment were the oldest in the Australian Army,
dating back to the Loyal Associations of 1800 and the NSW
Corps (the Rum Corps).

The Regiment upholds the great traditions passed on by its
predecessor infantry and light horse units, which won battle
honours at Suaking (1885), South Africa (1899-1902), and
the two World Wars.

"The site for the regiment's memorial window in the hall
associated with the first Garrison Church of Australia, erected
in 1840, is most appropriate", Major-General Maitland added.

Designer and maker of the memorial window is Terrance Plowright,
of Wahroonga,who is highly regarded for his beautiful and
imaginative work with stained glass. Of his concept of the
window he said: "In my work I wanted to convey my own sadness
through the figure, which is neither male nor female. It
transmits a deep sadness for those lost, but also represents
the dead, ghostly, contemplatively, hovering over the grave.
The weapon of war - the rifle - is shown at rest. To the left
and right is the curtain, nurturing enveloping sadness,
softening the loss death has delivered and yet, itself stained
with blood. Above is the sun, as well as an Australian Army
emblem, a symbol of illumination, the pouring out of new life".

DO YOU REMEMBER

-Author not known

        I remember the cheese of my childhood
        And the bread that we cut with the knife
        When the children helped out with the housework
        And the men went to work - not the wife
        The cheese never needed an ice chest
        The bread was so crusty and hot
        The children were seldom unhappy
        And the wife was content with her lot
        I remember the milk from the billy
        With yummy rich cream on the top
        Our dinner came hot from the oven
        And not from some fridge in a shop
        The kids were a lot more contented
        They didn't need money for kicks
        Just a game with their mates in the paddock
        And remember the Saturday flicks
        I remember the shop on the corner
        When a pennyworth of lollies was sold
        Do you think I'm a bit too nostalgic
        Or is it I'm just getting old.

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Of Interest - from the Sydney Morning Herald 4.2.1986

        "The State Library of N.S.W. has bought a
        letter written by the convict-made-good
        Mary Reibey, who was transported to Australia
        for seven years in 1790, for stealing a horse,
        but shrugged off the convict stigma to become
        a successful Sydney business-woman.

        The 168 year old letter contains detailed
        observations on life in the colony, and the
        Library picked it up at Sotheby's for 495 pounds,
        Australian $980. "

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A LITTLE PIECE OF HISTORY ......

- Robyn Ferrell and
  Therese Murray
  Sydney Morning Herald
  23rd January 1986.

Ordinary people all over Sydney own a little piece of
history. They live in historic houses, but not necessarily
the grand mansions with parkland attached that this suggests.

Living in an historic house is part of our "incredible
nostalgia kick", says Mark O'Neill, but he adds it's a trend
in no danger of dying. Mark should know - he works for the
National Trust Real Estate Service, which sells properties
of historical significance in conjunction with other agents.

A unique innovation, the service was started in 1979 to help
trust members, many of whom were requesting information on
properties for sale.

"We tend to get the above average or more grand home", Mark
says. He points to the growing "heritage" industry with
real estate agencies that capitalise, for example, on the
popularity of inner-city terrace houses of Paddington , Glebe
and Balmain.

The popular areas in which the service deals are the lower
North Shore, along the North Shore railway line, and at
Hunters Hill. There is not the same feel in the eastern
suburbs, Mark says, where properties have frequently been
given a "mediterranean" renovation. A liveable, 3 bedroom
house with historic significance in Mosman would cost at
least $250,000, Mark says.

The service's properties come from all over the State, and
although are not necessarily classified, they are judged
classifiable if the service takes them on. An independent
architect's report is made on each property and it is
advertised in the National Trust's magazine. The architect's
report is handed on to prospective purchasers, but is not a
sales brochure. Properties are often handled in conjunction
with other real estate agents.

Mark says the market has been patchy since 1981. It was good
in the first half of the year, but has quietened down lately.

Historic interest can add to the price of a property but this
depends on the area and the surrounding development, Mark says.
Every suburb has its market limit, and Mark warns against
renovating where the investment cannot be recovered.

The National Trust lists properties in an advisory capacity
only, and a listing places no legal constraint on the owner.
However, a local council will often take advice from the Trust
when considering renovation plans. A Heritage Council order,
however, does involve legal constraints and can severely
restrict what the owner can do to the property.

Federation homes are the most sought-after, which does not
surprise Mark. He describes them as the "Australian" house,
decorated at a high point of nationalism with waratah, flannel
flower and other indigenous motifs.....

. SHANNON GROVE --

The Cox family moved into their sandstone home in
waterside East Balmain, just before Christmas. The
house, known as Shannon Grove and part of the original
Balmain Estate, dates from 1848, and is an example of the
late colonial Georgian style.

Old photographs show the house was something of a landmark
on the Balmain peninsula. The house was National Trust
listed in the 1960's. Alan and Kerin Cox are now beginning
what they expect will be a 3 years task, to restore the
house to its original condition.

Alan said ti was the elegant cedar French windows, leading
on to the wide verandahs from the formal rooms, which
persuaded him to buy the house. They are typical of the
period, he says. A study and another downstairs room
comprise the original building, and two little attic rooms
were added in the 1880s.

The Cox's plans for the house include a formal garden near
the front entrance. An original pepper tree, popular in
the period, will be retained....Restoration plans include
painting the formal rooms in authentic colours, re-doing
the wooden floors in the traditional style and removing
the more modern modifications.......

The Cox family bought the Balmain House through the National
Trust Real Estate Service. They had already faithfully
restored a terrace in Birchgrove.....

Alan, who works in the computer field, describes the house
as his hobby: "I like old stuff. I get pleasure out of
putting things back the way they were."

. ARDEN COTTAGE --

Deeta Colvin saw her dream house on a Saturday morning
eight years ago. She bought it at an auction the following
Tuesday, having only seen the outside.

The house is large and Victorian and is situated near the
harbour in North Dydney. It was originally known as
Arden Cottage.

Built in 1871, it was one of the first houses in the area
and still has some of the original trees. Older people in
the area can just remember when it was still a school.

Large lawns and a wide verandah set off the roomy four-bedroom
house complete with formal drawing room, dining room and
sitting room.

The outside of the house looks much as it would have back
in the 1870's. The addition of a laundry at the back is the
only structural change. Inside, there are marble fireplaces
in every room.

The formal rooms are furnished with Victorian or other
antique pieces. The house, nevertheless, has a lived-in feel,
geared to Deeta's family which includes two children, aged 6
and 4.

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Deeta has restored the garden, planting bougainvillea,
jasmine, agapanthus and azaleas, just as it would have
been in Victorian times.....

. HISTORY HOUSE --

There are 2 flagpoles on the balcony of History House
in Macquarie Street, the headquarters of the Royal
Australian Historical Society.

The Chief Executive Officer, John Vaughan, is a big
flag enthusiast and a noted vexillologist, as flag
scholars are known. He was hanging a rare 1830's
flag of N.S.W., which features a Union Jack, the
Southern Cross and a white and blue cross which was
the forerunner of the Eureka stockade flag, on the
morning he spoke to the Herald. The flag, John siad,
was proposed by the Harbourmaster, Captain John
Nicholson, for use by the merchant navy in the colony.

History House is one of the remaining examples of the row
of mid-Victorian terraces that made up the Macquaire
streetscape last century. It was built in about 1872 by
a Member of Parliament, George Oakes. Oakes bought the
site from another parliamentarian, Dr William Bland, who
had been transported to Australia for killing a man in a duel.

The Royal Australian Historical Society bought the house in
1969. It has restored the formal downstairs rooms to the
original with the help of the architects Clive Lucas and
Partners, who have been made benefactors of the society
for the donation of their time. The society received some
funds from the National Estate for the renovations.

The elaborate cornices and abundance of red cedar and
mahogany joinery, with carved flannel flowers and plaster
flower motives, are two ofthe features of the house that
have been restored to their original state. Gold-patterned
wallpaper, typical of the period, has been hung in the
drawing room. The dining room has wallpaper of a deeper red
and heavier furnishings, also Victorian.

On the top two floors live John Ferguson, his wife and baby
daughter. The Fergusons run their small publishing business
from the first floor and John is a former honorary treasurer
of the Society.

The house has a ghost, a not-so-famous acress called Rebecca,
who luckily is quite friendly.

. GLOUCESTER --

For Dr David Sullivan and his wife, Melinda, the excitement
of buying an historic home five years ago, was highlighted
by the fact that it was their first home.

"The house was pretty run-down when we arrived - more like
a rabbit warren than a house because it was so dark. But
it was our first home together and we just wanted to make
it ours," Melinda said.

Their small sandstone cottage in Randwick was built in
the 1850s and was the first home in the area. The builder
was Simeon Pearce, the first Mayor of Randwick.

Today, owing to its historical and architectural relevance, it is part of Randwick Council's conservation area.

Simeon Pearce named the house "Gloucester" - he was born in Randwick in Gloucestershire, England. The original nameplate is still intact and the Sullivans are having it restored.

When they moved in, initial excitement gave way to feelings of doubt - the house was so gloomy. But sheer determination made them want to go on with the task of renovating.

Melinda explained that they didn't want to restore the house to its original glory as the colours of the day did not reflect their own taste. "The older houses have softer lines and colour was important to me to accentuate this. We got rid of the darkness and dirty browns and used pink, green and lots of white."

The house is really a mixture of old and new and Melinda said her friends complain tha thte white kitchen and bathroom are too modern for the house. There had been dark timber ceilings and when these were removed, they found not plaster ceilings, but the original pressed-metal ones with ornate patterns.

On entering the house, you walk straight into the lounge room with the original fireplace. Another fireplace adorns 2 year old Timothy's room.

The main bedroom, opposite the lounge room, also has an elaborate ceiling and the Sullivans have added a pale pink gaslight, converted to run from electricity.