



# ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Registered by Australia Post  
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6/9 Austral Street,  
KOGARAH 2217

September, 1988

Dear Friend and Member,

The September Meeting will be held as follows:

Date Friday, 16th September, 1988 at 8 p.m.

Place Council Chamber, Town Hall, Princes Highway, Rockdale

Business General

Syllabus Item

Our very good friend, Vaughan Evans, will tell us about "Shipbuilders and Society". This talk is to illustrate how an interest in one aspect of our history leads to a realisation of the relationship between the city, the bush and the sea. Do come along, Vaughan travels a long way for our pleasure.

Supper Roster Can we have two volunteers please ??

LADIES PLEASE BRING A PLATE - THANK YOU

Mr. A. Ellis,  
President and Research  
Officer

587 1159

Mrs J. Price,  
Minute Secretary

587 7407

Mrs B. Perkins,  
Secretary and  
Publicity Officer

587 9164

Mrs E. Wright,  
Treasurer

599 4884

Mrs E. Eardley,  
Bulletin Editor

59 8078

Success has nothing to do with what you gain in life, or accomplish for yourself. It's what you do for others that counts.

Danny

Thomas

2NBC .. FM .. 90.1 ..ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1988 .. MONDAY EVENINGS .. 5.15 to 5.30p.m,

TAPE 268 ..	5th September	. Scarborough Park	. J.Scholer
TAPE 269 ..	12th September	. St.George Hospital.	J.Scholer
Tape 270 ..	19th September	. Frederick Meredith.	H. Loring
Tape 271 ..	26th September	. St.George County Council	. H. Loring
TAPE 272 ..	3rd October	. James Cook Part 1	. C. Turner
TAPE 273 ..	10th October	. James Cook Part 2	. C. Turner
TAPE 274 ..	17th October	. Rosevale Nurseries.	C.Wilding
TAPE 275 ..	24th October	. Smithson's Wine Bar.	J. Price & Goat Island
TAPE 276 ..	31st October	. Thomas Birkby's Letter	. C.Wilding
TAPE 277 ..	7th November	. Arthur Phillip Part 1	. C. Turner
TAPE 278 ..	14th November	. Arthur Phillip Part 2	. C. Turner
TAPE 279 ..	21st November	. The Man & The Collection... Mitchell Library	. A.Ellis
TAPE 280 ..	28th November	. Brighton.le..Sands	. J.Price
TAPE 281 ..	5th December	. Parramatta River Part 1	. A. Ellis
TAPE 282 ..	12th December	. Parramatta River Part 2.	. A. Ellis

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This list completes the weekly Historical Sessions broadcast over 2NBC..FM by the St.George Historical Society, since May 1983.

A sincere thank you to all who have participated in preparation and presentation, week by week.

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LETTERS .. APPRECIATION AND INTEREST ..

Sent to Mrs Eadley - from Mrs Lorraine Bettesworth  
(nee Davenport) - printed for our interest  
with permission.

Peridon Retirement Village  
Daley's Point 2256.  
31st December 1987

I wish to congratulate the Historical Society (St. George) on the publications in regard to the old Arncliffe-Bexley Steam Tram and also the St. George District ones, in particular. I have been perusing these collections with much pleasure as I am an old "Arncliffeite".

I was born on 26th December 1908 in Knight Street - the day after a terrific storm when a greengrocer and his horse were struck by lightning and killed - in Knight Street.

I attended the Superior Public School at Arncliffe, in Miss Allen's Kindergarten, Mrs Bingham and Miss Rigby's classes with Miss Molster as Head Mistress.

I attended Bexley Public School from 4th class when Bexley had classes in Albion Street Church Hall, with long desks and forms.

From 6th class in Miss McClintock's class I went to St. George Girls' High School in 1922 - when it was only an old cottage and many wooden classrooms. Later my daughter and three granddaughters attended there.

In 1929 I returned to Arncliffe Domestic Science School to teach as my first appointment and taught many children from the Salvation Army Home - "The Nest". Miss Allen was still in charge of the Kindergarten.

My mother - Mrs A Davenport - was a concert pianist and taught music for many years to numerous pupils in the area and was very well-known. She was organist at the Presbyterian Church in Rocky Point Road for many years also.

I have been told that I went with my parents to see the steam tram inaugurated, as well as to witness Halley's Comet, and I was pleased to see the old tram's last trip after the many times I had travelled on it to Wilson's Lane from Arncliffe Station.

I can remember the Hansom Cab that stood at the station opposite Campbell, the Dentist, and that recalls an unhappy first visit to that dentist, too. Mrs Caddy had a haberdashery shop opposite, which we frequented.

My grandparents - John and Julia Lentell - lived in Hirst Street for many years from just after the turn of the century. They had many friends there, including the Farleighs.

My mother also acquired "Alloa" in Bayview Street about 1924 where they lived until 1942, when they returned to Knight Street, until they died. "Alloa" became a Nursing Home.

I have lived in Bexley, Peakhurst and Cronulla since my marriage to Dudley Bettesworth - who lived near Banksia Station.

We both have many old friends still in the district. My husband has been associated with the Scout Movement from a scout to a Commissioner, entailing 54 years. 1st Arncliffe with Hector Robb, then 1st Scout in Banksia Troop, Group Scoutmaster at Bexley. An Area Commissioner and member of the State Training Team, while I was attached to Arncliffe Guides, Carlton Brownies and then I started the 1st Bexley Brownie Pack at the Presbyterian Church.

My childhood was spent in Arncliffe and I can remember Knight Street when it was half bushland. We played on the area which is now a park - Hopeton and now Gardner's Park, and among the rocks on the northern side.

My Mother has told me of how she was offered the land on the southern side of Knight Street for 1/6 per foot, from a Mr Cornish, when she came there early 1907.

There are so many memories I could recall now - the time spent in Arncliffe Gully with the Guides - standing on the bridge at Banksia Station over the old steam trains which made our socks so dirty - the old box carriages that we were not allowed to ride in to school at Kogarah. It certainly is lovely to recall these pleasant memories and have recourse to some of the facts in the books I have been shown, produced by your society. I would certainly have liked to have been associated with it.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) Lorraine Bettesworth  
(nee Davenport).

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29th February 1988

I was delighted to receive your letter and the two books. They both have stimulated my interest in reminiscing on my early life in Arncliffe-Bexley area, especially.

It fascinated me - the story of Wolli Creek Valley. The old Arncliffe Gully as we called it was the Mecca of much activity for the Girl Guides where we had numerous sessions passing tests, cooking our sausages and chops etc.

My grandparents (J & J Lentell) lived in Hirst Street until about 1925, under the rock cliffs on the other side of which extended the mass of bush - the old gully - "Bridges" lived in the large house up on the ridge at the end, I remember.

I can't imagine a main highway through that area.

Our friends the Ayres, Fortesques, lived on the outskirts.

I have compiled my memoirs into writing with a collection of old prints and some illustrations. I keep adding to my collection, which is going into 3 volumes already. It seems much easier to remember the action of my young days than now.



I have had a most interesting life, one that I would like to record for my family.

I lived in Knight Street, then in "Alloa" Bayview Street until I married in 1933, thence to Bexley near the terminus of the old tram, then we lived in England and India from 1939 to 45 and returned to Peakhurst, after the war, near the old stone school and Church there. Certainly a scene of much history for me.

I returned to teaching and taught at Kogarah Home Science, (not Superior then), and Peakhurst, until we were transferred to Cronulla and ultimately to Tamworth.

We finally retired to Coff's Harbour, recently, after 18 years came to this Village at Woy Woy. We have frequently met old identities of our early days, as we both have been associated with many organisations.

My husband says he knew a Gifford Yeardley at Arncliffe Scouts, no doubt a member of your family.

I certainly would give you permission to use my letter if you think it would be of any interest. I will also enclose \$7.00 which be used perhaps for me to be an Associate Member of the Historical Society or you could send me a copy of your Bulletin from time to time.

I could not attend any meetings though I do visit Brighton-le-Sands and Miranda, where my sister and daughter resides and glean much of the district's activities from them and their families.

Thanking you again,

I am yours very sincerely,

(Sgd) Lorraine Bettesworth.

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The hand writing of these two letters is firm, clear and steady. A sheer delight to read. It would put many a person half the writer's age to shame.

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THE VILLAGE WHERE TIME STANDS STILL ...

- Sunday Telegraph  
4th May 1980.  
Colin Mackay.

If your idea of heaven is an English-style country village set in green and rolling hills, where a four-bedroom house costs \$1.20 to rent, and fillet steak is 60c a kilo - Kameruka is the place for you.

The reason is clear to anyone who makes the journey. With air that is champagne-clear, Kameruka is a place smog-bound city slickers dream of.

Kameruka, near Bega, on the far south coast, has just been classified by the National Trust as a rural estate whose buildings and setting should be preserved as part of Australia's heritage.

The families who work Kameruka's nine dairies and tend the estate's prize jersey and hereford herds and 8000 pure-bred merino sheep pay those low prices for rent and meat.

There is a nine-hole golf course, a village cricket ground and all the conveniences that go with modern living. A beach is 20 minutes drive from the main homestead.

Little wonder that when the Dairy Industries Union delegate makes his annual visit to the property he drops in only for a cup of tea and a friendly chat.

Kameruka is an Aboriginal word meaning "wait until I return" and anyone who has visited the 30,000ha Kameruka estate always wants to go back.

And many of the families who have worked on the estate since it was first properly developed by Sir Robert Lucas Lucas-Tooth in 1864, have never wanted to leave.

Kameruka's lush hills and valleys nestle at the foot of the blue-hazed Bemboka mountain ranges and its lakes and streams provide a haven for the area's wildlife, which mingles undisturbed with the cattle and sheep.

Dominating the estate is a 90-year-old clock tower. The clock chimes softly across the pastures every quarter-hour.

And twice-daily the 1000 milking cows went their way slowly past the 111-year old chapel on their way to the milking bails.

At their heels are the cattle dogs who do their job quietly and unobtrusively as though they don't want to disturb the stillness of the green hills and rolling pastures.

It is the type of life that suits the present laird of Kameruka, Frank Foster, a 27-year old Scot, who came to Australia in 1975 to take over the estate that has been owned by his family since 1864.

Mr Foster is the great-grandson of Sir Robert Lucas Lucas-Tooth whose family came to Australia from Kent in the early 1800s



and established the Tooth's brewery empire. When Robert Tooth decided to diversify, into farming he did everything in a grand manner.

At first he set up a model farming community in Bowral where he housed his tenants in six-room cottages and provided them with amenities such as recreation halls, a general store, a post-office, a church and schools.

When Robert Tooth inherited Kameruka from his uncle, Frederick Tooth, he left his Bowral estate, shipped his prize jersey herd to the south coast and brought out expert cheese makers from Germany.

The cheese industry continued in the family for more than 100 years until the Kameruka estate sold its factories to the Bega Co-Operative in 1971.

Today only one cheese factory still operates on Kameruka and that is also leased by the Bega Co-Operative.

"Until 1971 all our cheese was made by hand on the property but we were forced to give that away when new health laws were introduced preventing the practice," Mr Foster said.

Mr Foster owns Kameruka in partnership with his Mother, a grand-daughter of Sir Robert Lucas Lucas-Tooth.

His family owns big farming estates in Scotland and Mr Foster was asked by his Mother in 1975 if he would like to go to Australia to take over the running of Kameruka. "I jumped at the chance when I was told I could run the property the way I wanted without any interference", he said.

"At first I worked on Kameruka as a jackaroo to get to know the people and how things worked. I was made very welcome by the other employees, who for years had seen a member of the family company visiting the estate from England or Scotland only every two or three years and then going back home and leaving things to managers."

Mr Foster's mother inherited Kameruka from her father, Sir Archibald Lucas Lucas-Tooth, one of Sir Robert Lucas Lucas-Tooth's three sons to die in World War 1.

"With no male heirs left, my grandfather's will provided that the estate should go to the first of his two daughters who produced a son", Mr Foster said. "My Mother's sister did not have any children and my elder brother chose to stay in Scotland to help my father run our rural properties there. I chose to come to Australia and do my own thing. It's been a move I have never regretted."

In January 1979, Mr Foster decided to open Kameruka to tourists to raise money to restore the property.

"Many of the buildings were becoming run down and in the past 12 months we have spent more than \$15,000 on paint and renovations", he said. "The money we get from guided tours of the property only goes toward paying the paint bill."

The original Kameruka homestead built by Mr Foster's great-

grandfather is now used as a French restaurant run by Mr Foster and Susie Pfeiffer, who trained in London as a Cordon Bleu chef.

Mr Foster grins wryly when he discusses his imperious forebears. "They must have been colossal imperial snobs, particularly Sir Robert Lucas Lucas-Tooth", he said.

The longest serving employee on the Estate is Frank Best. He has worked there for 40 years and his 33-year-old son Tony has lived and worked on the estate all his life.

At the end of 1980, Frank Best will retire to live rent-free in four-bedroom house for the rest of his days.

When he dies he will be buried in the 140-year-old cemetery that rests on a high hill overlooking the estate.

That's the way things are at Kameruka.

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#### FATE OF OLD BREWERY IN FERMENT...

- Daily Telegraph  
17th May 1980  
Ronnie Gibson.

Brewery workers at Resch's Waverley plant may be concerned for the future of their jobs - but they are also concerned about the future of the "Old Wedding Cake". For the building constructed in 1896 which fermented a product that didn't sell well has a place in the history of Sydney.

The Resch family had been brewing at Wilcannia, where their ale was a huge success.

In 1896 Mr Edmund Resch Senior moved to a factory in Waverley but by 1900 he considered his amber fluid would be better produced closer to the city. He bought the 5ha property opposite Moore Park golf course from the NSW Lager Beer Co., for a sum which has never been disclosed. He took the name Resch's Waverley Brewery with him....Mr Resch had died by the time Tooth & Co. took over in 1929 and knocked out most of his competitors.

The plant has had assorted new buildings and attachments added which are out of character with the original design of 1896. The trimmings and adornments gave the affectionate name "The Wedding Cake".

The Resch story is one of Australia's greatest rags-to-riches epics. Edmund Resch senior came to Australia from Germany in 1863 with only 10/- in his pocket. By the time his son and heir, also named Edmund, died in 1963, the family fortune had grown to a gross value of more than \$13 million. There was a moral in the secret of the Resch success. Edmund Jnr rarely drank alcohol - only ever a small glass of beer - he knew that, if you want to be rich - make alcohol, not drink it.

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