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ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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August, 1989

Dear Friend and Member,

The August Meeting will be held as follows:

Date Friday, 18th August, 1989 at 8 p.m.

Place Council Chamber, Town Hall, Princes Highway, Rockdale

Business General

Syllabus Item Ms Lesley Muir will be Guest Speaker, her subject, will be 'Developers and The Illawarra Railway Line.' You should find this interesting and enlightening. Please come along.

Supper Roster Our ladies do a wonderful job with the Supper for your enjoyment. Thank you ladies. Show your appreciation fellow members for this opportunity to get together for a chat.

Mr. Bernard Sharah,
President
599 1971

Mrs H. Loring,
Minute Secretary
599 2847

Mrs B. Perkins,
Secretary,
587 9164

Miss C. Wilding,
Treasurer
597 3215

Mr. A. Ellis,
Research Officer
587 1159

Mrs E. Eardley,
Bulletin Editor
59 8078

Hope Keep the lamp of hope burning brightly, even on the darkest day:
And set it in Life's window, to guide those who come your way (Quote)

The ability to forget is the true token of greatness.
Elbert Hubbard

The President, Mr. Bernard Sharah, and Members send best wishes to Mrs Essey Wright, who has been very ill. At the time of writing she was in hospital, but we hope that she will soon be well again.

ANNUAL CIVIC CHURCH SERVICE

On Sunday evening, 20th August, 1989, The Annual Civic Church Service will be held in the Rockdale Town Hall at 7.00 p.m. The Service should conclude at approximately 8.15 p.m. and will be followed by supper to which all present will be invited.

The Guest Speaker this year will be Dr. Bill Anderson, who is the International Chairman of the Scripture Union.

The Service which is non-denominational in character is supported by the Rockdale Ministers Fraternal and the music will be supplied by the Rockdale Salvation Army Band together with the choir from the Rockdale Assembly of God Church.

This representative service has been held annually since 1971.

The St. George Historical Society is again asked to attend.

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MORTDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL CENTENARYOCTOBER, 1989

ENQUIRIES FOR THIS CELEBRATION SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO

"THE MORTDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL CENTENARY COMMITTEE"

Phone Enquiries: Mortdale Public School (02) 57-5243/57-5244

The following article by Mr. Bryson Wild, was published in the March, 1989 issue of the Hurstville Historical Society, "Newsletter".

Bryson and his wife Marcelle are also members of the St. George Historical Society.

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MORTDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL AS I SAW IT 1926-1933

Mortdale Public School on 28th October, 1989 will be celebrating 100 years of schooling in Mortdale. Plans are now being made for this outstanding event to happen.

Actually the school was built in 1888 but schooling did not start until 1889 according to the records.

At the time I was at this school we were at the heart of the Big Depression, most kids were poorly dressed and some of the boys didn't even wear shoes. In the winter I remember we used to get free cups of soup every day which was made by some of the parents.

The teachers as I remember in the Kindergarten were Miss Knight; her father used to bring her to school in a horse-drawn sulky every day and pick her up at 3.30 p.m. to take her home. Miss Bessie Young who had 2nd Class, was an Irish lady from Belfast and lived with her Mother at 28 Universal Street, Mortdale. She was a very stern, but kind teacher and had a habit of sniffing all the time in class!

In the Big school Miss Bruce had 3rd Class, a very young and kind teacher. There were two 4th Classes - Mr. Bland and Miss Sarah Berryman; she always wore a long black dress and seemed to me to be very old. 5th Class was in charge of Mr. Percy Larkin who lived at Como and also Mr. Walker - both teachers were very popular with the boys. 6th Class was Headmaster Mr. T.C. Watters, a very stern but kindly teacher. Also Mrs Street, a white haired older teacher in the other 6th Class.

The games we used to play at the 11.00 a.m. recess and at lunch time were many. Marbles was generally the most popular with the boys. 3 Holes, Poison and Big Ring; spinning tops with a cord was another popular game. Pins was another game where two players participated, one would sit on a bench, each player had a straight plated pin and took it in turns to try to cross the pins with one finger; then the player who crossed the pins tried to pick up the pins by pressing the palm of his hand on the pins.

If he picked them both up they were his to keep. At the time we all thought this a very intriguing game but nowadays I guess it might seem a bit silly!

The girls mostly played Hopscotch with a taw and also skipping with a rope was popular.

The back fence of the school was adjacent to the Railway Line and at the time there was a new, very long streamlined steam engine that had come into operation and when it came into view, someone would shout "Here comes Lazy Lizzie" and we would all race over to the fence and watch it go past.

Empire Day which was on the 24th May, Queen Victoria's Birthday was a Big Day for us. The whole school would go over to the Paramount Theatre in Railway Parade for a function where we were told what the Day meant. We received a half-day holiday on this day and spent the time making our Bonfires for Cracker Night.

We didn't have much money in those days, but we had a lot of fun.

Bryson Wild

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As Bryson mentioned in his article, 28th October will be the main celebration of the Centenary. A Street Parade is planned which will proceed through the shopping centre of Mortdale and end up at the School; there will be a program of entertainment by the School pupils, an exhibition of memorabilia and photographs relating to the school's history; souvenirs to commemorate this important event will be on sale and people will be able to enjoy a Devonshire Tea. Each child will receive a commemorative medal. An ecumenical Church Service will be held - the date is yet to be announced.

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Meetings regarding the SCHOOL CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS will be held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30 p.m. in the Staff Room of the School.

All members who are ex-students are invited to come along to the meetings and lend their support.

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