



ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPONSORED BY ROCKDALE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Registered by Australia Post
NBH 0335

6/9 Austral Street,
KOGARAH 2217

August, 1989

Dear Friend and Member,

The August Meeting will be held as follows:

Date Friday, 15th September, 1989 at 8 p.m.

Place Council Chamber, Town Hall, Princes Highway, Rockdale

Business General

Syllabus Item

Our very good friend, Vaughan Evans, who has recently returned from a trip abroad, will tell us about 'Maritime America'. We always enjoy Vaughan's experiences, at home and abroad.

Supper Roster

Once again we depend on your generosity, thank you ladies for just being you.

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

Susie, a London girl went to visit her Mother who had moved to a quiet country village. She was amazed by the unhurried pace of life. One day she ran to catch the bus, thinking the driver would not wait. As she entered out of breath, the driver said, "Take your time, luv, there's plenty of it. There's tomorrow not touched yet."

Of course, for most of us life has its deadlines to be met, its appointments to be kept and so on, yet it might help to take a bit of the fuss and fret from our lives if we reminded ourselves now and again that "There's tomorrow not touched yet."

Francis Gay - Friendship Book
1983

BURIED ALIVE ...

- Arthur Ellis

This paper was presented at the St. George Historical Society on Friday evening, 19th August 1988.

Hannam's Creek, that shy tiny stream which drains a considerable portion of Arncliffe, has been concealed underground in earthenware and cement pipes for over 70, and possibly 100 years. Hundreds of people who live beside it, and hundreds more who cross it every day, all their lives, do not realise it exists.

This stream begins to form in the vicinity of the intersection of Lorraine Avenue and Fripp Street. Its effluent flows down Athelstane Avenue and passes through the grounds of "Athelstane", a land lot once the property of William George Judd, and now Athelstane School.

Emerging into Horsell Avenue, which it crosses, it passes through the lot which is No.2 Dowling Street and flows North East, passing under streets such as Kembla, Walters and Mitchell, thence through Arncliffe Park, where part of the pipe line was recently exposed, during drainage works in the streets North West of the park, including Hirst, Duff, Park and Denison Streets.

Pressing on and gaining momentum, it passes under LA Broe Avenue, and through a large bit of land rear of houses in Wollongong Road, on which lots of tennis courts have been created.

Emerging under Kelsey Street, it passes under land occupied at the intersection of Bonar and Hirst Streets, through the Arncliffe Bowling Club grounds to emerge at the intersection of Martin Street and Lower Wollongong Road.

Here it passes under the Railway Line and crosses Arncliffe Street to disappear again under very low-lying land occupied by a variety of factories which run North from Allen Street, past the big elevated Sewer Main.

Here it is running generally North through land which was originally very marshy, and fully occupied only by Market Gardens worked by Chinese.

If you travel North along Princes Highway and are approaching Cooks River Bridge, where the road is lined on the right by Cahill Park and on the left by Car and Wagon Sale Yards, you may notice that at one point, the road seems to go over a short rise and fall. If you do notice this, you may wonder what causes this.

This is where Hannam's Creek passes under that road and enters Cahill Park, where it then makes a wide curve left-ward to flow into Cook's River.

This creek does not run very strongly in dry weather, but only becomes really lively during and immediately after rainfall.

We feel certain that Hannam's Creek was named for Reuben

-2-

Hannam or his son, David. Both were well and favourably known at Arncliffe, and both owned land through which the creek runs, or in its near vicinity. Both had land with a common boundary quite near the intersection of Wollongong Road and Kelsey Street.

This was the locality where there was, in the 1840s, a small but growing population. If you look at the land facing Wollongong Road, between Kelsey Street and Bonar Street, you will find three buildings.

One, at Kelsey Street corner, is a fine old, early suburban cottage, No.49.

At Bonar Street corner, we find another cottage..No.45.

Between these two, is a semi-detached pair, Nos.47 and 47A. It was exactly on this site that once stood an early roadside Inn - the Yorkshireman's Coat of Arms was conducted by Thomas Kelsey.

Kelsey was among the very first few white persons to settle in Arncliffe, he became a licenced inn-keeper, and has his Inn beside the then new road called - "Sir Thomas Mitchell's New Line of Road to the Illawarra".

This road name is now reduced, over only about 2 kilometres, to "Wollongong Road".

The Inn stood at a point on the west side of Wollongong Road, and occupied the land now occupied by No.47 and 47A.

Kelsey came in 1841 and stayed until 1846, when he departed to take over the Licence of the "Canterbury Arms" Inn at Canterbury.

In 1847, the Inn became known as "The Bold Forester", Licensee, William Trimby, who stayed till 1853.

In 1854, Levi Barden became the Licensee and stayed till 1858, followed by Mary Barden, his wife, in 1859.

A newspaper advertisement of 1844 for a land sale in the vicinity, gives the name of the Creek, and contains other interesting historical information. Land Sale advertisements are often highly exaggerated, but this one is an excellent guide to other sources.

Hannam's Creek is described as "fresh water" - never known to fail in the driest seasons. The flat around the creek is of that fine rich loam so much sought after by market gardeners and nurserymen and has a north-ward aspect, sheltered on all sides.

At about the same period, the newspaper carried another story of convicts and police. "Inspector Smith caught some more convicts in Public Houses on Sunday morning. He took his ride towards Cooks River this time, and found them drinking at Kelsh's. The men were sent to the House of Correction. Someone attempted to induce Smith to release the men, by giving him a pound (now \$2.00). This, Smith took, and after the men had been dealt with, asked the magistrate what he was to do with it.

Captain Innes said he knew nothing at all about it, so of course, Smith pocketed the affront."

..The Australian 23rd November 1841.

Of course, very few settlers had come to Arncliffe. Settlement could only take place along the water courses, or creeks as we called them. This was because without a water supply, no farming could succeed. There was not yet any reticulated water, as we take for granted to-day. The only people who could settle away from the creeks, had to have ready money to build houses and catch all the roof water in tanks beside the house, which could never be enough to feed live stock, like cows, pigs or poultry. So it was back to the creek.

As mentioned at the outset, Hannam's Creek was a shy, tiny stream. At least, this was so at its upstream reaches, like the vicinity of Dowling Street and Kembla Street.

But, by the time it reached the area we now know as Arncliffe Park, it was receiving the run-off of rain water from the steep hillsides which now have Duff, Park, Hill, Realm and Hirst Streets, to the North West and Union, Stanley, Towers and Station Streets, to the South East.

Deep wells could be dug in the sandy soil to save water for dry times. And this is what happened, for Arncliffe Park was once the scene of Market Gardens worked by Mow Sing, a Chinese, with the help of many compatriots, as were just about every bit of the creek side flood prone land in Arncliffe. These wonderful men showed a capacity to turn this otherwise un-used land into beautiful Jewel Box of the widest variety of vegetables. Brown, red, green, yellow tops and stalks all set out in neat beds, slightly raised above the pathways between the beds, where Chinese Gardeners trotted, always with bare feet, some carrying huge watering cans - two suspended from a yoke - and filled by dipping each one in turn into a well or a deep pool of water, dug into the creek bed, returning to the vege bed to carefully water each plant, by trotting back and forth over the bed.

Other Chinese Gardens bordering Hannam's Creek, were - Ah Jack on land at lower Wollongong Road, and facing the Allen Street Railway Tunnel. There was Sun Sam Long - opposite Done Street, and of course, those already mentioned on land running North from Allen Street, on the east side of the Railway.

Other Market Gardeners, working land a little upstream in the vicinity of Walters and Kembla Streets, were Europeans - John Ferris, James Peapel and John Surfield.

Sadly, they are all gone, though there are two gardens in nearby towns.

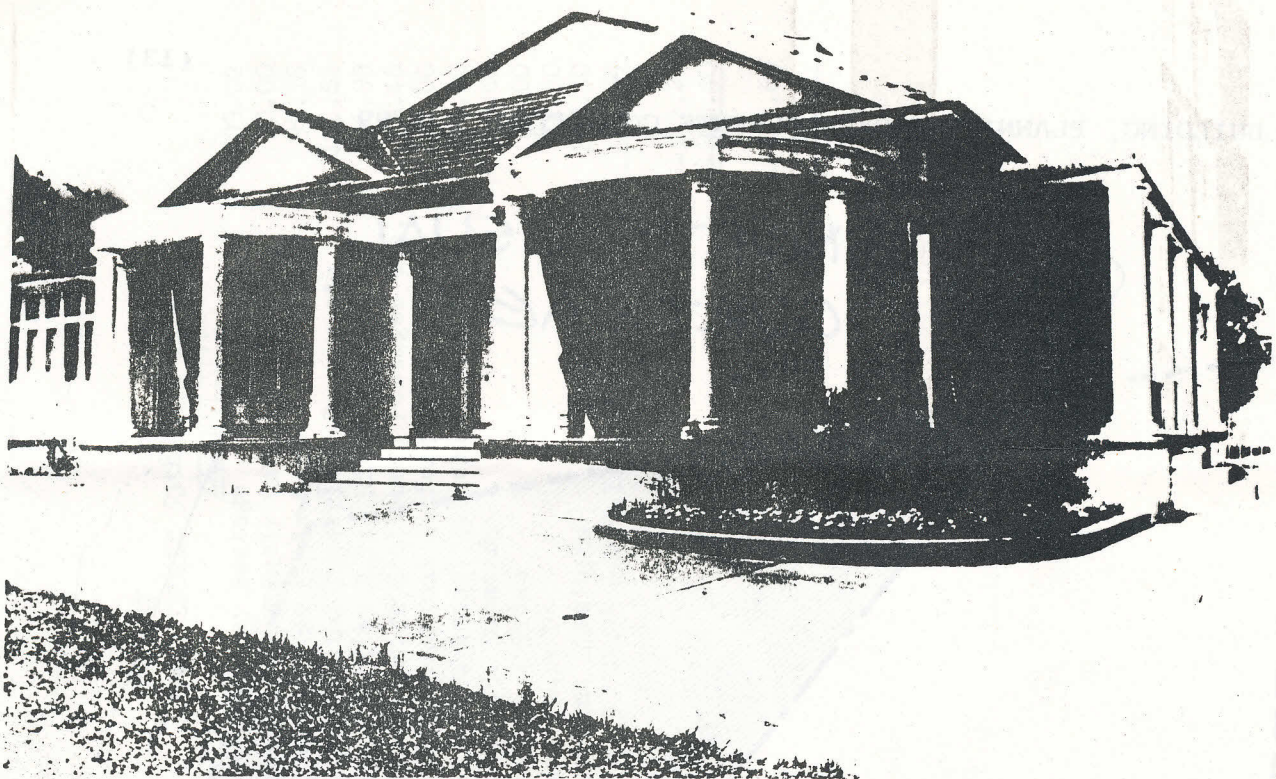
One is at Occupation Road, off Bestic Street, Kyeemagh - another at Kogarah - best viewed from that bit of Scarborough Park, on the left side of Barton Street, as you go from Rocky Point Road to Botany Bay. But you must walk across the park and look over the embankment and some bushes.

By 1884, a railway was laid from Redfern to Hurstville and it passed through Arncliffe. This made it possible for people to work in industries in Sydney and inner suburbs but "live out of town".

By 1906 a steam tramway was laid from Arncliffe, along the full length of Wollongong Road and then Forest Road and Stoney Creek Road to a point a chain or two beyond Preddey's Road.

Of course, it passed right by the land on which Athelstane School is built, though the land was then occupied by Mr and Mrs Judd and family, in a fine large house seen in a picture on the wall opposite the school office.

May I seek to tell you some more at a future date?



CLIVE LUCAS TO RESTORE TEMPE HOUSE

Clive Lucas, widely regarded as Australia's leading restoration architect, has been engaged by Qantek, the new owner of TEMPE HOUSE, to restore the building to its former glory.

It is fitting that someone of Mr Lucas' standing be entrusted with such an important undertaking.

The recently completed TEMPE ESTATE CONSERVATION PLAN deemed Tempe House together with the St Magdalen's Chapel and sections of the dormitory complex to be of "exceptional significance". "Exceptional significance" in this context is considered to be of State or National importance.

Qantek, a subsidiary of Qantas, acquired the property earlier this year from the Sisters of the Good Samaritan who had occupied the site since 1885. The Sisters have kept Tempe House itself much the same as it was in the 1830's. There has been some unsympathetic alteration but it is anticipated this will be removed under restoration.

Qantek intend to use the site as a computer back-up and training centre with possibly some provision for staff accommodation in the long term.

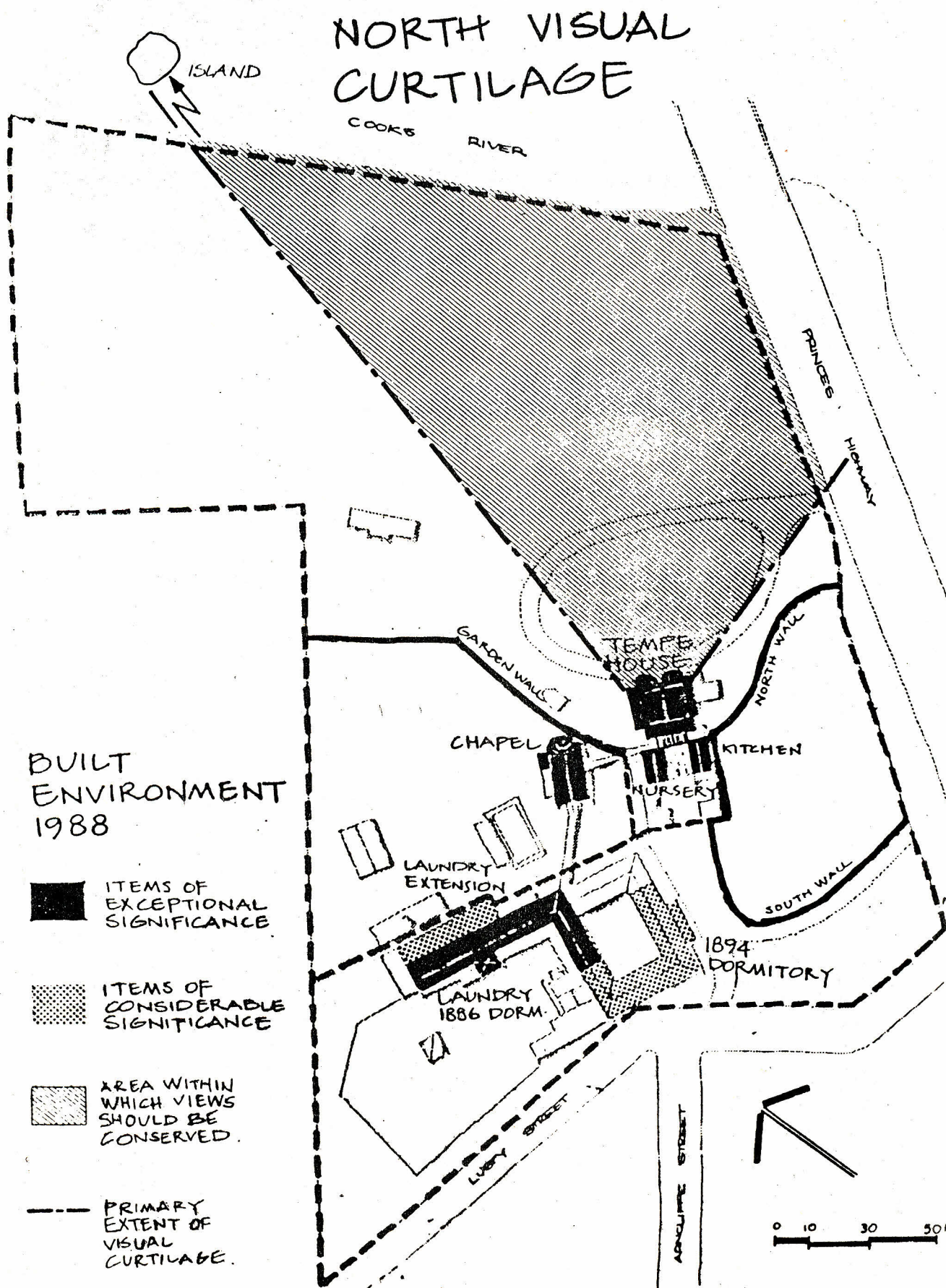
The Conservation Plan identifies a zone to the front of the house "within which views should be conserved". Whether it means that no buildings will be allowed to be constructed in this area is probably open for debate.

Overall, however, our members should be pleased with recent events. A highly reputable company is in possession of the property and has employed the top man in the field of restoration architecture. Clive Lucas is a man of uncompromising standards.

Certainly, Qantek have been very co-operative in dealing with our enquiries and have indicated their willingness to assist us in any way they can.

Bernard Sharah
PRESIDENT

BUILDING, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENTS COMMITTEE, 7/6/89



ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR

INCOME

Members' Subscriptions	770.00
Donations	83.00
Raffles	40.10
Sale Society Books	291.70
Bank Interest	<u>59.93</u>
	\$1244.73
Balance in Bank 30/6/88	<u>1678.96</u>
	\$2923.69
In hand 18 Society Books at \$2.50 each	<u>45.00</u>
9 " "	36.00
59 Society Badges	59.00

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, 1989.

Th. O. Dunsmuir
Auditor 14/7/89

SOCIETY
YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE 1989

EXPENDITURE

Mrs. Eardley Postage	309.02
Mrs. Eardley Petty Cash	30.00
Mrs. Perkins Petty Cash	99.16
Mrs. Perkins Typewriter Repair etc.	105.82
Mrs. Perkins Daisy Ribbon etc.	196.93
Mrs. Perkins Stationery Postages etc.	51.46
R.A.H.S. Annual Conference	157.00
R.A.H.S. Annual Subscription	40.00
R.A.H.S. Donation	20.00
National Trust	50.00
Australia Post	42.50
NuPrint Envelopes	209.30
F.I.D. \$3.75 and F.I.D. 29c	<u>4.04</u>

Balance in Bank 30/6/89
\$1315.29
1608.40

\$2923.69

LYDHAM HALL FUND RAISING COMMITTEE
FOR YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE 1989
INCOME

Lydham Hall Admittances	290.60
Cake Sales	2.10
Raffles	147.40
Donations	82.60
St. George Historical Society Books sold	211.00
Lydham Hall Teaspoons & Cake Forks	47.50
Bank Interest	61.51
Cash in bank 30/6/88	<u>1787.57</u>
	\$2630.28
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Capital Investment in St. George Building Society A/c No. 111 973 702 at 30/6/88	\$1339.57
Interest	<u>74.57</u>
Less F.I.D.	<u>.02</u>
	\$1414.14
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Value of 16 Teaspoons and 33 Cake Forks on hand at \$2.50 each \$122.50

LYDHAM HALL FUND RAISING COMMITTEE
FOR YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE 1989
EXPENDITURE

Petty Cash	40.00
St. George Historical Society Books	203.70
Dining Room Carpet	890.00
F.I.D. & F.D.T.	1.56
Cash in Bank	<u>1495.02</u>
	\$2630.28
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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, 1989.

John Cunningham
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Auditor 14/7/89